

305 East Howard
Colfax, IA 50054

Immaculate Conception of Colfax



**December
16, 2018**
**THIRD
SUNDAY OF
ADVENT**



“I am baptizing you with
water, but one mightier than I
is coming.
Luke 3:16

Parish Life Coordinator..... Deacon Joe Dvorak
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Sacramental Minister..... Fr. William Reynolds
Office phone: 641.792.2050
Rectory: 641.792.4625

Priest Moderator Fr. Ron Hodges
St. Mary's, Grinnell, 641.-236-7486

Coordinator of Faith Formation Peggy Dvorak
515-674-4406, peggy.dvorakia@gmail.com

Altar & Rosary Society

President.....Peggy Dvorak, 515.674.4406
Knights of Columbus—Council #11597

Grand Knight..... Brad Hagarty, 515.574.4634

Pastoral Council: Tracy Spry, 674.4143

Finance Council:..... Brad Hagarty, 674.4634

Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults

Director: Almeta Hill, 641-275-0849

Social Action Contact.....Tracy Spry, 674-4143

Family/Church Life Chair: Almeta Hill-641-275-0849

Liturgy Chair.....Sharon Jones, 994.2817

Prayer Chain.....

Deacon Joe: 515-641-3771
Almeta Hill, 641-275-0849

Mass Schedule

Sundays..... **11:00 AM**

Wednesday..... **9:00 AM, (Communion Service)**
followed by coffee

Baptisms and Weddings

For information concerning baptism and weddings or to schedule a baptism or wedding, please contact Dc. Joe. Weddings must be scheduled at least six months in advance.

Religious Education

Preschool..... Sunday during mass

k-8 Wednesday evenings, 6:30 PM

High School Wednesday evenings, 6:30 PM

Please call the office (674-3711) to register your child

Bulletin Available on Line

Remember if you are unable to attend services for any reason but want to remain aware of what is going on, the bulletin and a calendar of events is always available at our website: www.immaculateconceptioncolfax.org.

Announcements for Bulletin

If you have something you need published in the bulletin, please get the information to Deacon Joe no later than Thursday (the sooner the better). You may email (best) to imcofax@msn.com or you may bring a copy to the office (good—if no one is there leave in the mailbox by the office door) or give a copy to Deacon Joe (somewhat risky). Thanks for your help with this.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018

Third Sunday Of Advent

- 11:00 AM—Mass (Maria Tovar, Grandmother of Emigdio Camu)
- 5:30 PM—Christmas Pageant and Parish Chili Supper

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

Advent Weekday (3)

Tuesday, December 18

Advent Weekday

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Advent Weekday

- 9:00 AM—Communion Service followed by coffee
- 6:30 PM—Faith Formation, K-8
- 6:30 PM—Decorating for Christmas

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

Advent Weekday

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

Advent Weekday; *Saint Peter Canisius, Priest, Doctor of the Church*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22,

Advent Weekday



“I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming.
Luke 3:16

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK

Monday

Gn 49:2, 8-10
Ps 72:3-4
Mt 1:1-17

Tuesday

Jer 23:5-8
Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19
Mt 1:18-25

Wednesday

Jds 13:2-7, 24-25
Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6b, 16-17
Lk 1:5-25

Thursday

Is 7:10-14
Ps 24:1-6
Lk 1:26-38



Friday

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a
Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21
Lk 1:39-45

Saturday

1 Sm 1:24-28
(Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4-7, 8abed
Lk 1:46-56

Sunday

Mi 5:1-4a
Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
Heb 10:5-10
Lk 1:39-45

Some Dates to Note

- Dec. 16—Christmas Pageant and Parish Chili Supper
- Dec. 19—Begin decorating for Christmas
- Dec. 23—Finish decorating for Christmas

**Christmas Mass Schedule
Immaculate Conception**

- Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve, 6:00 PM
- Tuesday, December 25, Christmas Day, 9:00 AM
- Monday December 31, The Vigil of the Solemnity of the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, 4:00 PM

Sacred Heart, Newton

- Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve, 4:00 & 6:30 PM
- Tuesday, December 25, Christmas Day, 9 AM
- Tuesday, January 1, The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, 9:00 AM



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2018

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 11:00 AM—Mass (Betty Krueger)
- 12:00 PM—Decorating for Christmas

"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."
Luke 1:42

Decorating the Church for Christmas

We will begin decorating on **Wednesday, December 19, at 6:30 PM.** We will put up the stable and the trees but will not light them.

On Sunday, December 23, we will finish decorating immediately after mass. Lunch will be provided.

Please come and help us prepare for Christmas if you can.



Poinsettia Memorials

Envelopes are available in the gathering space if you would like to donate to the poinsettia fund in memory of deceased loved one. Names will be listed on the Christmas program and prayed for at Christmas mass. There is no set amount, whatever you would like to contribute. **Be sure the envelope is returned no later that Wednesday, Dec. 19.**



Give and it shall be given to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over... Thank you for your gifts.

Envelopes	\$872.00
(\$77.00) in auto tithing)	
Immaculate Conception.....	\$163.00
Retired Religious	\$124.00

“The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; wherever we take a step toward Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms.”

Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium (Joy of the Gospel)





FROM THE DEACON'S DESK

What is special about the Third Sunday of Advent? For much of the Church's history, this Sunday had a special name: "Gaudete" Sunday. The traditions surrounding this Sunday go back as far as the fourth or fifth century, as does the season of Advent itself. Advent, our preparation for Christmas, was originally a forty-day penitential season like Lent. In fact, since it used to begin on November 12 (just after the Memorial of St. Martin of Tours), it was called "St. Martin's Lent." "Gaudete Sunday" was the Advent counterpart to "Laetare Sunday," which marks the midpoint in Lent.

On Gaudete Sunday, the season of Advent shifts its focus. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus can be summed up in the phrase, "The Lord is coming." But beginning with Gaudete Sunday, the summary might be, "The Lord is near." This shift is marked by a lighter mood and a heightened sense of joyous anticipation.

Liturgically, the colors lighten as well. The priest usually wears rose-colored vestments, a hue seen only on Gaudete Sunday and Laetare Sunday. On this day, we light the third candle of the Advent wreath, which is also rose-colored, or if you prefer, pink.

The word "Gaudete" is Latin for "Rejoice." In times when the focus of our anticipation is often on the negative and fearful, this celebration is a reminder that God who loves us is still in charge and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous joy. Today's Second Reading, from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians, reflects this joy:

"Brothers and sisters: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." Copyright © 2014, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.

God's abundant blessings

Dc. Joe



Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 16, 5:30 PM All are invited

Immediately following the pageant, there will be a chili and hotdog supper for all the parish.



Liturgical Ministers for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

If you are willing to serve, lector, or be an extraordinary Eucharistic Minister for either Christmas Eve or Christmas day, please sign up in the gathering space. Thank you

Saturday Evening Mass at Sacred Heart, Newton is at 4:00 PM during December, January and February.

Father will hear confessions at 3:00 PM those months.

Flu Season is Here

While we will not be making any changes to the liturgy at this time please keep the following in mind:

Hand Sanitizer: There is a large bottle of hand sanitizer by the front door. If you are not feeling well, or just as a general precaution, everyone is urged to use the sanitizer as they enter the church.

Sunday Obligation: The Obligation to attend Mass on Sunday other Holy Days of Obligation, is the ordinary expectation of Catholics. Obviously, extraordinary circumstances such as sickness, travel, or severe weather excuse the faithful from this obligation. If you are not feeling well, especially during this time—flu season, please stay at home and do not risk spreading infection to others.

Sign of Peace: Members of our congregations should not be offended if someone chooses not to shake the other person's hand at the sign of peace. If you are ill (and still come to Mass), the appropriate response to someone extending a sign of peace might be to bow to them and say, "Peace be with You", to avoid bodily contact or one might wave slightly at the other person.

Reception of Holy Communion: While it is the teaching of the Church that the Fullness of the Body and Blood of Christ are contained in the Holy Eucharist, under the form of the Host that is distributed at the Mass, the Church has also extended the privilege to receive communion in the form of wine. However, if you are feeling sick, please receive communion in the hand, and refrain from receiving communion under the form of the Blood of Christ.

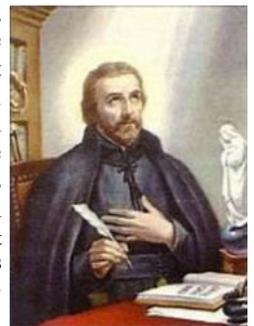
SAINT OF THE WEEK

Peter Canisius : 1521-1597

Feast Day—December 21

This Doctor of the Church was born in Holland and studied canon law in Belgium before turning to the study of theology in Germany. In 1543, after meeting St. Peter Faber, one of St. Ignatius of Loyola's companions, he entered the Society of Jesus and soon became a well-known preacher. He attended two sessions of the Council of Trent and was an important figure in the post-conciliar Catholic revival in Europe. After completing his doctorate, St. Ignatius assigned him to renew the Catholic faith in Germany. As the Jesuit provincial in southern Germany, Austria, and Bohemia, Peter Canisius started schools, colleges, and seminaries. He wrote three catechisms in German and is credited with keeping the southern German peoples Catholic.

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December 16, 2018—11:00 AM

Lectors: Brad Hagarty & Linda Barnum
Eucharistic Ministers: Irma Bell, Elizabeth Birkenholtz, Rita Krueger, & Claire Williams
Altar Servers: Mackensie Brown and Meta Hill
Greeters: Gordon Jones & Sharon Jones

December 23, 2018—11:00 AM

Lectors: Rita Krueger & Mary Dell Flattery
Eucharistic Ministers: Sharon Jones, Karen Van Dusseldorp Joann Carrothers, & Susan Heggen
Altar Servers: Abiel Erickson & Irma Bell
Greeters: Bill & Meta Hill



Pray for God's Peace and Joy

Please pray for:

Diane Wood
Wes Koebrick (Father of Linda Barnum)
Michael John Nelson, cousin of Mike Wood, nephew of Diane Wood
James and Edward cousins of Janette Baldwin and Claire Gillan
For all who have died.
For vocations, our parish, and our faith formation program.



Faith Formation News

Classes will begin at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, December 19. This will be the last class before Christmas break.

DIOCESAN PRAYER:

Vision 20/20 - From Pentecost to Pentecost

Bishop Zinkula has a new initiative, Vision 20/20. Prayer for the success of this initiative is so very important. Please consider praying the following prayer daily for the success of Vision 20/20

Send your Spirit, O God

To open our eyes

That we might see clearly your gifts and blessings,
Past and present,
And so be filled with gratitude.

To open our eyes

That we might see clearly where we have failed to proclaim
The Good News and welcome the stranger,
And so be moved to ongoing conversion.

To open our eyes

That we might see clearly the signs of the times
And where your Christ lies hidden at the margins,
And so see where and how we are being called to serve.

To open our eyes

That we might see clearly the vision that you, O God,
have for us, The Diocese of Davenport,
And so answer your summons into a future together.

Yes, O God, send us your Spirit in a new Pentecost:

Renew our hearts
Renew our Church
Renew our world.

Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



THE LORD'S LAUGHTER

“The One whose throne is in heaven sits laughing.” Psalm 2:4
Psalm 2:4

- She was only a whisky - maker, but he loved her still.
- A rubber - band pistol was confiscated from an algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
- A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
- A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
- A hole has been found in the nudist - camp wall. The police are looking into it.
- Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
- Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'
- I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
- The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
- Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too'

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL (ADA)

So close. **We need only \$1,118.00 to meet our goal.** We have pledges for \$16,528.00 of our \$17,646.00 goal or 94%. You will find fliers and envelopes in the gathering space To all of those who have contributed—thank you for your generosity. If you have not yet had a chance to make your pledge, please do so soon.



A Stewardship Moment

December 16, The Third Sunday of Advent

In today's Gospel we hear the prophet John the Baptist being asked an insightful stewardship question: “What should we do?” Each group wants to know the appropriate response to John's call; each reply points to how they should treat others. John does not simply say, “Be baptized.” Rather, he points them to their jobs and personal relationships. John's message is simple: judgment is near, and repentance includes treating others well. We should be willing to share what we have with those in need. To listen to John the Baptist is to be called to account. Do I give only of my excess, or am I the good steward who is willing to make daily sacrifices in order to help others?

Wounded by Abortion?

Project Rachel Can Help:

Project Rachel understands the emotional pain that follows an abortion. Please call the Helpline: 563-333-4107 or 1-888-456-HOPE. Calls are answered personally and confidentially Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Voice messaging is available all other times. Calls will be returned promptly and directly.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

To report child abuse contact: Iowa Department of Human Services Child Abuse Hotline: 800-362-2178 and if it involves clergy or church personnel also notify Alicia Owens, the Victim Assistance Coordinator, 563-349-5002; vac@diodav.org or PO Box 232, Bettendorf, IA 52722-0004.