

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2018**

**Fourth Sunday Of Advent**

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

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 24**

**VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

- 6:00 PM—Christmas Eve Mass (for the People of Immaculate Conception)

**Tuesday, December 25**

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Christmas)**

- 9:00 AM—Mass (for the people of Immaculate Conception)

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26**

**SAINT STEPHAN, THE FIRST MARTYR**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27**

**SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28**

**THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29,**

**FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS; *Saint Thomas Becker, Bishop, Martyr***



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

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday**

Is 9:1-6  
Ps 96:1-3, 11-13  
Ti 2:11-14  
Lk 2:1-14

**Tuesday**

Is 52:7-10  
Ps 98:1-6  
Heb 1:1-6  
Jn 1:1-18

**Wednesday**

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59  
Ps 31:3-4, 6-8, 16-17  
Mt 10:17-22

**Thursday**

1 Jn 1:1-4  
Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12  
Jn 20:1a, 2-8



**Friday**

1 Jn 1:5—2:2  
Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8  
Mt 2:13-18

**Saturday**

1 Jn 2:3-11  
Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6  
Lk 2:22-35

**Sunday**

1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28  
Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10  
1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24  
Lk 2:41-52

**Some Dates to Note**

Dec. 23—Finish decorating for Christmas

**Decorating the Church for Christmas**

We will finish decorating the church immediately after mass today, December 23. Lunch will be provided. Please join us and help us.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2018**

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

- 11:00 AM—Mass (Patty Daft)



After three days they found him in the temple. Luke 2:46



**Congratulations to the members of Altar & Rosary Society for a really great cookie and candy walk.**

**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



**“There are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter. An evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral!”**

**Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium (Joy of the Gospel)**



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

Envelopes .....\$2,061.00  
(\$77.00) in auto tithing)  
Retired Religious .....\$10.00



### FROM THE DEACON'S DESK

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we continue to anticipate the coming of Jesus and the start of the Christmas season.

The Christmas season runs from the Nativity of the Lord until the Baptism of the Lord (January 13th this year). The first eight days of the Christmas season are the Octave, and we celebrate many feasts during that time, concluding with the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, on the octave day. The octave day is also recognized by the Vatican as the World Day of Peace.

The Christmas season continues through the Solemnity of the Epiphany (January 6th), which marks the arrival of visitors—identified in Scripture as magi—bearing gifts for Jesus. While we don't know much about the magi, Scripture tells us that they brought three gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Perhaps the oddest of these three gifts is the myrrh, as it is a resinous tree sap which is usually used in healing liniments and as an embalming ointment. The presentation of this gift at the beginning of Jesus's life on earth, foreshadows his death. (Note: while the feast is generally moved to the Sunday between Mary, Mother of God and the Baptism of the Lord, this year that Sunday happens to be January 6th, the original date for the Feast of the Epiphany. This is the twelfth day of Christmas.)

Finally, we close out the Christmas season with the Baptism of the Lord. ” Copyright © 2014, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.

God's abundant blessings

Dc. Joe

### What a Great Christmas Pageant

Thanks to all who worked so hard to produce a great Christmas pageant. It was truly beautiful. Video of the program may be seen at our Facebook page.

### 2019 Calendars Are Available

The 2019 Catholic calendars are available in the gathering space. Please help yourself. Thanks you to Coburn Funeral home for providing them for us.

### 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.

### 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

### 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.

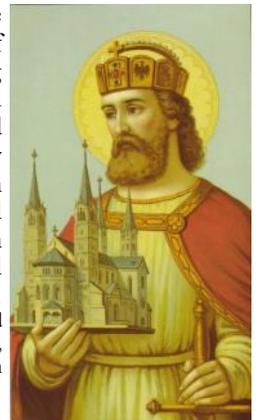
**Reception of Holy Communion:** While it is the teaching of the Church that the Fullness of the Body and Blood of Christ are contained in the Holy Eucharist, under the form of the Host that is distributed at the Mass, the Church has also extended the privilege to receive communion in the form of wine. 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

### Saint Stephan, First Martyr, First Century

Feast Day—December 26

Christianity's first martyr was probably a Greek Jew. Stephen's story is recounted in the Acts of the Apostles. He was among the first seven deacons chosen to serve the Hellenist Christian community in Jerusalem. But the wonders he worked rattled local Jewish leaders. Witnesses at his trial before the Sanhedrin gave false testimony, and Stephen defended himself with a stirring speech recalling the long history of Israel's relationship with God and calling the Jews "stiff-necked people" who "always oppose the Holy Spirit." As he was stoned to death outside the city, he cried out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." He is the patron of bricklayers, stonemasons and numerous individual Christian churches. Copyright ©2018 Catholic News Service–United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Used with permission.



**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

**December 30, 2018—11:00 AM**

**Lectors:** Joann Carrothers & Terri Rosonke  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Irma Bell, Kathy Williams, Linda Barnum  
**Altar Servers:** Matt Rosonke & Meta Hill  
**Greeters:** Ed & Mary Dell Flattery



### 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

No classes Wednesday, December 26, or Wednesday, January 2, for Christmas break. Classes will resume January 9.

### 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

### Baby

Jesus

A young girl went with her family to see the Christmas light displays at various locations throughout the city. At one church, they stopped and got out to look more closely at a beautifully done nativity scene. "Isn't that beautiful?" said the little girl's grandmother. "Look at all the animals, Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus."

"Yes, Grandma," replied the granddaughter. "It is really nice. But there is only one thing that bothers me. Isn't baby Jesus ever going to grow up? ... He's the same size he was last year."



### ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL (ADA)

#### WE MADE IT

Thanks to your generosity, we have made our goal this year.



### A Stewardship Moment

#### December 23, The Fourth Sunday of Advent

As we draw close to the great Feast of the Nativity, we hear the bold stewardship proclamation twice in today's second reading from the Letter to the Hebrews: "Behold, I come to do your will, O God!" Who is this Jesus? Who are we that we should follow him? Many want him as a friend, a guide, a king, an advocate. We long to see the face of God. Jesus reveals the nature of God, the servant sent to give us new life in Him. Take time to ponder: Do we have the courage to follow Jesus? To show others the face of God? To say to the Lord: "Behold, I come to do your will?"

### 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.