

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2015**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

- 11:00 AM—Mass (Mike Bell)
- 12:00 PM—Coffee & Donuts

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 7**

Saint Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

- 7:00 PM—Opening of Holy Year for Deanery, Sacred Heart, Newton

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8**

**THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

- 12:05 PM—Mass in Newton
- 6:00 PM—Mass in Colfax

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9**

Advent Weekday (2); *Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin*

- 9:00 AM—Communion Service Followed by Coffee
- 6:30 PM—K-8 Faith Formation
- 6:30 PM—High School Faith Formation
- 7:00 PM—Communal Reconciliation Service

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10**

Advent Weekday

- 6:30—Knights Dinner & Meeting

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11**

Advent Weekday; *Saint Damasus, Pope*



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

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12**

**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**

- 9:00 AM—Church Cleaning for Christmas

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

- 11:00 AM—Mass (Darrell Holder, brother of Irma Bell)
- 1:00 PM—Altar & Rosary Christmas Lunch



In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee... the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. Luke 3:1-2

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday**

Is 35:1-10  
Ps 85:9ab, 10-14  
Lk 5:17-26

**Tuesday:**

Gn 3:9-15  
Ps 98:1-4  
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12  
Lk 1:26-38

**Wednesday**

Is 40:25-31  
Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10  
Mt 11:28-30

**Thursday**

Is 41:13-20  
Ps 145:1,9-13b  
Mt 11:11-15



**Friday**

Is 48:17-19  
Ps 1:1-4.6  
Mt 11:16-19

**Saturday**

Zec 2:14-17  
(Ps) Jdt 13:18bc, 19  
Lk 1:26-38

**Sunday**

Zep 3:14-18a  
(Ps) Is 12:2-6  
Phil 4:4-7  
Lk 3:10-18

**SOME DATES TO NOTE**

- Dec. 7—Bishop opens Holy Year of Mercy at Sacred Heart, Newton
- Dec. 9—Communal Reconciliation Service
- Dec. 10—Knight's Dinner and Meeting
- Dec. 12—Church cleaning for Christmas
- Dec. 13—Altar & Rosary Christmas Lunch

**Communal Reconciliation Service  
Wednesday, December 9, 7:00 PM**

We will celebrate and experience God's mercy at our Communal Reconciliation Service on Wednesday, December 9. Reconciliation service in Newton will be tonight, Dec. 6, at 7:00 PM. Father hears confessions every Saturday at Sacred Heart from 3:00 to 3:30.



**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 than after mass on Sunday, December 22 as the programs will be printed on Monday, December 23.

**Please join us as we celebrate God's mercy at our reconciliation service on Wednesday, December 9 at 7:00 PM.**



**Deanery Opening of the Year of Mercy**

**Monday, December 7  
7:00 PM**

**Sacred Heart, Newton  
Mass with the Bishop  
followed by a reception for all.**

This mass will fulfill your Feast of Immaculate Conception holy day obligation to attend mass. There will be a mass at Immaculate Conception on

Tuesday, Dec. 8, at 6:00 PM.

**Coffee and Donuts**



Thank you to the Bud and Paula Wilson and Claire and Kathy Williams for hosting coffee and donuts this week. If you would like to host the donuts and coffee in the future, please let Dc. Joe know.



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

Collection .....\$4,854.07  
(\$1,568.00 auto-giving)



## FROM THE DEACON'S DESK

From the USCCB web site

### MARY'S IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

On December 8, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which references Mary's conception in her mother's womb without the stain of Original Sin: An essential part of God's plan for the mother of his Son was that she be conceived free from Original Sin.

*"Through the centuries the Church became ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception" (CCC, no. 491).*

*In anticipation that she was to bear the Son of God, Mary was preserved from the time of her conception from Original Sin. We call this the Immaculate Conception. No sin would touch her, so that she would be a fitting and worthy vessel of the Son of God. The Immaculate Conception does not refer to the virginal conception and birth of Christ, but rather to Mary's being conceived without inheriting Original Sin.*

*In the course of time, the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception became more precisely enunciated, as its truth—long supported by the universal popular devotion of the faithful—was better understood by deepening theological inquiry. In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed this dogma infallibly: that is, in his role as supreme teacher of the Church, he declared that this doctrine is divinely revealed and must be accepted with faith by the entire Church. (United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, 142-143)*

Even before this tenet of the faith was formally declared, a long tradition of faith that held this belief that Mary was conceived without sin: This feast was celebrated in some monasteries before the beginning of the eighth century and became widespread in the eighteenth century. In the United States, celebration of this observance predates the Declaration of Independence. The bishops commended the nation to the patronage of Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception in 1846. It became a nationwide holy day in 1885. (Essential Guide to Seasons and Saints, 120) Copy right, USCCB, Used with permission

And of course, the Immaculate Conception is the patroness of our parish and our country. Please say a special prayer on her feast day that she will continue to pray and watch over our parish and country.

God's abundant blessings

De. Joe

### Altar & Rosary Society News

Altar & Rosary are sponsoring a church cleaning for Christmas on Saturday, November 12, at 9:00 AM. All help will be welcomed.

**Christmas Luncheon.** Altar & Rosary will have a Christmas pot-luck lunch on Sunday, November 13, at 1:00 PM at the church. Please bring a dish to share and a white elephant gift. The love offering will go to support the food pack-back for kids program through the school.

### Change in Sacred Heart, Newton, Mass Schedule

As in the past, Saturday evening mass at Sacred Heart in Newton will be at 4:00 PM in December, January, and February. Confessions will be heard from 3:00 to 3:30 PM



**ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL**  
**We are getting closer!**  
**We have pledges for \$16,005.00**  
**Our goal is \$17,840.00**

**We are 90% of the way to our goal**  
Thank you to all who have pledged. You are very generous as always. Those who have not yet had a chance to pledge, please do so soon.

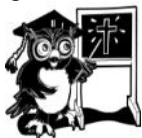


### Youth Ministry News

The high school will meet at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, December 9. At 7:00, they will go over to the church to join in the reconciliation service.

### FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Class will begin at 6:30. At 7:00 the students will go upstairs for reconciliation. Kindergarten and first grade may be picked up downstairs. All others may be picked up upstairs.

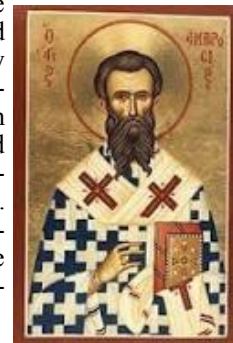


### SAINT OF THE WEEK

**AMBROSE: c. 340-397**

Memorial—December 7

The son of a Roman official in Gaul, Ambrose was practicing law in Rome when the emperor appointed him governor of the province whose capital was Milan. When that church see became vacant, Ambrose was chosen bishop by acclamation. A catechumen like many of his people, Ambrose was baptized, ordained, and consecrated bishop on the same day, December 7, 374. He battled paganism and the Arian heresy, publicly challenged rulers in the Western and Eastern empires, championed hymns as a form of praise, wrote theological treatises, and was beloved by his people for his generosity and accessibility. He also baptized St. Augustine of Hippo. One of the four doctors of the Latin Church, Ambrose is the patron of bees, stonemasons, and catechumens.



### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING

**Thursday, December 10**

**Dinner at 6:30, meeting at 7:00**

**Sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space.**

### Liturgical Ministers Schedule

**Ministers: December 6, 2015—11:00 AM**

**Lectors:** Nancy Hopkins & Brad Hagarty

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Sharon Jones & Karen Van Dusseldorp

**Altar Servers:** Dane Owens & Rita Krueger

**Greeters:** Bob & Joyce Brown

**Ministers: December 13, 2015—11:00 AM**

**Lectors:** Joann Carrothers & Phil Webb

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Jack Carrothers & Meta Hill

**Altar Servers:** Mackenzie Bussan & Lisa Bussan

**Greeters:** Van Dusseldorp Family



## Pray for God's Peace and Joy

Please pray for:

Greg Ernst, nephew of Rita Krueger

Susan Hildebrandt, sister of Sarah Hildebrand-Evans

Julia Jorensen, niece of Mary May

Wes and Donna Koebrick (parents of Linda Barnum)

Jeannette Weldon, mother of Irma Bell

JoAnn Besler, sister of Karen Van Dusseldorp

Michael John Nelson, cousin of Mike Wood, nephew of Diane Wood

James and Edward cousins of Janette Baldwin and Claire Gillan

For our parish and our faith formation program.

For all who have died and for vocations.



## THE LORD'S LAUGHTER

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

### Goat for Dinner

The young couple invited their elderly pastor for Sunday dinner. While they were in the kitchen preparing the meal, the minister asked their son what they were having. "Goat," the little boy replied.

"Goat?" replied the startled man of the cloth, "Are you sure about that?"

"Yep," said the youngster. "I heard Dad say to Mom, 'Today is just as good as any to have the old goat for dinner.'"



## Have Your Best Advent Ever Rediscover God's Mercy

Join Matthew Kelly and six other influential Catholic voices of our time on a life-changing journey through Best Advent Ever™

Rediscover Mercy. Each day you will receive an inspirational email with simple tools that will help you rediscover God's great mercy so you can be an instrument of mercy to others.

This program is simple and free! Let mercy transform your relationships, work, and ability to embrace and experience all of life. To learn more or sign-up, visit: [BestAdventEver.com](http://BestAdventEver.com)

## A Stewardship Moment The Second Sunday of Advent

In today's second reading, Saint Paul prays with joy and confidence for his friends in the Christian community at Philippi. He is encouraged that the community has partnered with him to proclaim the Gospel. He sees Christ's active presence and plan of salvation at work in the community. God's overarching plan is unclear to us. But when we see evidence of God working through others, doesn't it give us reason to believe that Christ is alive among us? Does the witness of others help our own prayer lives? Does it inspire us to promote the Gospel? During this second week of Advent take time to reflect on how you see Christ's presence in your community.

## Scholarships Opportunities to St. Ambrose University

St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa, is expanding Catholic scholarships, which may be awarded to students who are active members of parishes, who graduate from a Catholic high school and/or who intend to be involved in campus ministry during their time at St. Ambrose. An online scholarship application is available at [www.sau.edu/CatholicScholarships](http://www.sau.edu/CatholicScholarships). Priority deadline is Jan. 15, 2016. Admittance to the university is required for eligibility. Prospective students may qualify for multiple scholarship opportunities, grants and financial aid. For more information, call 563-333-6300.

## Advent Resources Available



In the gathering space, you will find the Little Blue Books from Saginaw. This book contains a six-minute meditation for each day of Advent. You will also find the Advent edition of *The Word Among Us*, both the regular one and the pocket edition. All are excellent ways to add more prayer and meditation to your Advent season.

## Flu Season is Here

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

**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 of concern, 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.

## 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](mailto:vac@diodav.org) or PO Box 232, Bettendorf, IA 52722-0004.