

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2015**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 14**

Saint John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the church

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15**

Advent Weekday (3)

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16**

Advent Weekday

- 9:00 AM—Communion Service Followed by Coffee
- 6:30 PM—K-8 Faith Formation
- 6:30 PM—High School Faith Formation
- 6:30 PM—Decorating for Christmas

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17**

Advent Weekday

- 7:00 PM—Finance Council Meeting

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18**

Advent Weekday



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

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday**

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a  
Ps 25:4-5b, 6, 7bc, 8-9  
Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday:**

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13  
Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23  
Mt 28-32

**Wednesday**

Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25  
Ps 85: 9ab, 10-14  
Lk 7:18b-23

**Thursday**

Gn 49:2, 8-10  
Ps 72:1-4b, 7-8, 17  
Mt 1:1-17



**Friday**

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

**Saturday**

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

**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. 12—Church cleaning for Christmas
- Dec. 13—Altar & Rosary Christmas Lunch
- Dec. 19—Finance Council Meeting

**Father hears confessions on Saturday afternoons at 3:00 PM at Sacred Heart in Newton.**



"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."  
Luke 1:45

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19**

Advent Weekday

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

- 11:00 AM—Mass (William and Mary Hopkins)
- 12:00 PM—Decorating the Church for Christmas

**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 after mass on Sunday, December 20.

**Altar & Rosary Society News**

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

**Christmas Luncheon.** Altar & Rosary will have a Christmas pot-luck lunch on Sunday, December 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.

**Help Needed to Prepare the Worship Space for Christmas**

**Wednesday, December 16, 6:30 PM.** We will begin decorating by putting up the trees (but not lighting them) and the stable, (but no figures).

**Sunday, December 20, 12:00 PM.** (following mass). We will finish decorating. Lunch will be provided. Please join us. There is much to do but we also have fun doing it. And our church always looks so nice at Christmas. Come be part of it.

**Christmas Mass Schedule Immaculate Conception**

- Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve, 6:00 PM
- Friday, December 25, Christmas Day, 9:00 AM
- Thursday, December 31, Vigil of the Solemnity of the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, 5:30 PM
- Sacred Heart, Newton**
- Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve, 4:00 & 6:30 PM
- Friday, December 25, Christmas Day, 9:00 AM
- Friday, January 1, Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, 9:00 AM



**Thank you to Coburn Funeral Homes for Providing us with 2016 Calendars**

Pick yours up in the gathering space. Take as many as you can use.



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

Collection .....	\$2,161.15
(\$77.00 auto-giving)	
Food Pantry .....	\$77.00



## FROM THE DEACON'S DESK

Last Tuesday, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door at the Vatican and inaugurated the Extraordinary Jubilee, A Holy Year of Mercy. Today, December 13, all Bishops will open Holy Doors at their cathedrals, including our Bishop at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Davenport. Below is the logo for the Holy Year. An explanation of the logo taken from the Vatican web site follows:

The logo and the motto together provide a fitting summary of what the Jubilee Year is all about. The motto *Merciful Like the Father* (taken from the Gospel of Luke, 6:36) serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of the Father who asks us not to judge or condemn but to forgive and to give love and forgiveness without measure (cfr. Lk 6:37-38). The logo – the work of Jesuit Father Marko I. Rupnik – presents a small *summa theologiae* of the theme of mercy. In fact, it represents an image quite important to the early Church: that of the Son having taken upon his shoulders the lost soul demonstrating that it is the love of Christ that brings to completion the mystery of his incarnation culminating in redemption.

The logo has been designed in such a way so as to express the profound way in which the Good Shepherd touches the flesh of humanity and does so with a love with the power to change one's life. One particular feature worthy of note is that while the Good Shepherd, in his great mercy, takes humanity upon himself, his eyes are merged with those of man. Christ sees with the eyes of Adam, and Adam with the eyes of Christ. Every person discovers in Christ, the new Adam, one's own humanity and the future that lies ahead, contemplating, in his gaze, the love of the Father.

The scene is captured within the so called *mandorla* (the shape of an almond), a figure quite important in early and medieval iconography, for it calls to mind the two natures of Christ, divine and human. The three concentric ovals, with colors progressively lighter as we move outward, suggest the movement of Christ who carries humanity out of the night of sin and death. Conversely, the depth of the darker color suggests the impenetrability of the love of the Father who forgives all.

God's abundant blessings

Dr. Joe



### Great Fun Caroling Last Saturday.

Thanks to all who came out.

### 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

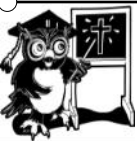
We are 90% of the way to our goal

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 16.



### FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Class will meet at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, December 16.



### Coffee and Donuts

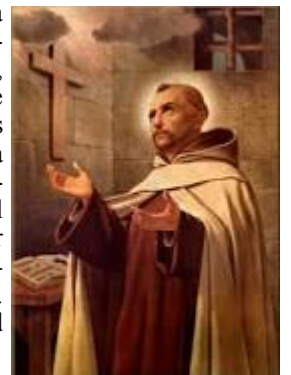
Thank you to the Bud and Paula Wilson and Claire and Kathy Williams for hosting coffee and donuts last week. If you would like to host the donuts and coffee in the future, please let Dr. Joe know.

### SAINT OF THE WEEK

John of the Cross 1542–1591

Memorial—December 14

A Doctor of the Church, John is also one of its great mystics and poets. Born Juan de Yepes de Alvarez in Spain, he was raised by his mother and entered a Carmelite monastery in 1563. He was ordained in 1567. Finding the Carmelites very lax, he joined with St. Teresa of Avila to reform the order. In 1568, he entered the first reformed house for men, taking the name John of the Cross. He encountered severe opposition and was even imprisoned for nine months in a monastery cell, where he began writing poems. The Dark Night of the Soul is his most famous work. Only after his death was John recognized as co-founder of the Discalced Carmelites. He is the patron saint of mystics and poets



### Liturgical Ministers Schedule

Ministers: December 13, 2015—11:00 AM

Lectors: Joann Carrothers & Phil Webb

Eucharistic Ministers: Jack Carrothers &

Altar Servers: Mackensie Bussan & Lisa Bussan

Greeters: Van Dusseldorp Family

Ministers: December 20, 2015—11:00 AM

Lectors: Brad Hagarty & Rita Krueger

Eucharistic Ministers: Irma & Joann Carrothers

Altar Servers: Mackensie Brown & Taylor Shepley

Greeters: Bussan Family



## Pray for God's Peace and Joy

Please pray for:

Greg Ernst, nephew of Rita Krueger

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.



## A Stewardship Moment

### The Third Sunday of Advent

In today's Gospel we hear the prophet John the Baptist being asked a profound 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. The message of John the Baptist 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 sacrifice in order to help others?

## 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. Admission 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.

## 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)

## 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.