

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2015**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 21**

Advent Weekday (4); *Saint Peter Canisius, Priest, Doctor of the Church*

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22**

Advent Weekday

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23**

Advent Weekday; *Saint John of Kanty, Priest*

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24**

**VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS EVE)**

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

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25**

**The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)** (for the people of Immaculate Conception)

- 9:00 AM—Christmas mass

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26**

**Saint Stephen, the First Martyr**



And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.  
Luke 2:52

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27**

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH**

- 11:00 AM—Mass (Becky Maher)



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

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday**

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

**Tuesday:**

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

**Wednesday**

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24  
Ps 25:4-5b, 8-10, 14  
Lk 1:57-66

**Thursday**

Is 62:1-5  
Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29  
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25  
Mt 1:1-25



**Friday**

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

**Saturday**

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

**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**

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

**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 20.

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

**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.

**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.

**Please Note:**

**No Communion Service Dec. 23 or 30.**

There will be no communion Service on Wednesday, Dec. 23 or 30. We will gather to pray and celebrate again on January 6.

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

Collection .....	\$1,157.25
(\$77.00 auto-giving)	
Flowers .....	\$345.00
Retired Religious .....	\$85.00

**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



## FROM THE DEACON'S DESK

We have entered into the final seven days of preparation to celebrate the Birth of our Lord, Jesus the Christ. God becoming man and living amongst us as man. Heaven and earth eternally united. The church has always set these seven days (Dec. 17 to Dec. 23) aside as a special time for preparation. It is during this period of preparation that the church prays the "O Antiphons"—ancient, liturgical prayers from scripture.

In the words of Kathy Coffey (taken from a Catholic Update), "We rejoice in he-who-is-to-come not only because of his greatness, but because he makes us great, not only because he is the light of the world, but because he tells us, 'You are the light of the world.' Surrounded by anxieties, we shout with confidence that

Christ is King—now and always, here and everywhere, defying the doomsayers."

The O Antiphons are prayed during evening prayer each day during these seven days. They are also the basis for our much loved Advent hymn, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. You may want to spend some time praying these ancient prayers in quiet preparation for the coming of the Light of the World.

- Dec. 17—O Wisdom of Our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: teach us to walk in the paths of knowledge.
- Dec. 18—O Lord of Ancient Israel, giver of the Law of Moses on Sinai, rescue us with your mighty power.
- Dec. 19—O Flower of Jesse's Stem, sigh of God's love for all his people, save us without delay!
- Dec 20—O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom, free the prisoners of darkness!
- Dec. 21—O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice, shine on those lost in the darkness of death!
- Dec. 22—O King of All Nations, source of your Church's unity and faith, save all mankind, our own creation!
- Dec. 23—O Emmanuel, God's presence among us, Our Kin, Our Judge, save us, Lord our God!

During these last few days of Advent, let us prepare to receive our Lord into our hearts—O come Emmanuel, God with us.

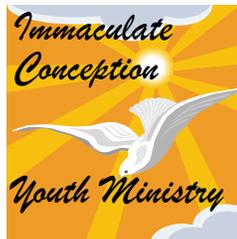
God's abundant blessings

Dc. Joe



### Great Fun Caroling at Country Christmas

Thanks to all who came out.



### Youth Ministry News

The high school will not meet Dec. 23 and 30 for Christmas break. They will meet again on January 6.



### FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Classes will not meet on Dec. 23 and 30 for Christmas break. They will resume on Jan. 6.

### 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.

### 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



### Liturgical Ministers Schedule

Ministers: December 20, 2015—11:00 AM

Lectors: Brad Hagarty & Rita Krueger

Eucharistic Ministers: Irma Bell & Joann Carrothers

Altar Servers: Mackensie Brown & Taylor Shepley

Greeters: Bussan family

Ministers: December 27, 2015—11:00 AM

Lectors: Nancy Hopkins & Sharon Jones

Eucharistic Ministers: Susan Heggen &

Elizabeth Birkenholtz

Altar Servers: Brooke Dross & Meta Hill

Greeters: Jack Carrothers & Joann Carrothers



## 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. 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

There are a few of the Little Blue Books and *Word Among Us* for Advent left in the gathering space. It is not too late. Take a copy and use them for this last week of preparation.



## THE LORD'S LAUGHTER

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

### Something for Mother

The Santa Claus at the mall was very surprised when a young lady about twenty years old walked up and sat on his lap. Santa doesn't usually take requests from adults, but she smiled very nicely at him, so he asked her, "What do you want for Christmas?"

"Something for my mother," said the young lady.

"Something for your mother? Well, that's very thoughtful of you," smiled Santa. "What do you want me to bring her?"

Without blinking she replied, "A son-in-law!"

## All I Needed To Know About Life I Learned From Santa

1. Encourage people to believe in you.
2. Always remember who's naughty and who's nice.
3. Don't pout.
4. It's as much fun to give as it is to receive.
5. Some days it's ok to feel a little chubby.
6. Make your presents known.
7. Always ask for a little bit more than what you really want.
8. Bright red can make anyone look good.
9. Wear a wide belt and no-one will notice how many pounds you've gained.
10. If you only show up once a year, everyone will think you're very important.
11. Whenever you're at a loss for words, say "HO, HO, HO!"

## 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.