

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2015**

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

- 11:00 AM—Mass (Becky Maher)

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 28**

**THE HOLY INNOCENTS**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29**

**FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30**

**SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31**

**Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**

- 5:30 PM—Vigil Mass of the Solemnity of the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2016**

**THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD**

- 9:00 AM—Sacred Heart, Newton, Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 2**

Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church



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

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday**

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

**Tuesday:**

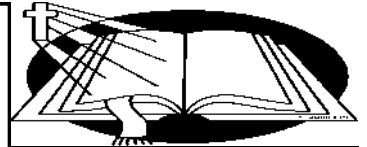
1 Jn 2:3-11  
Ps 96:1-3,5b-6  
Lk 2:22-35

**Wednesday**

1 Jn 2:12-17  
Ps 96:7-10  
Lk 2:36-40

**Thursday**

1 Jn 2:18-21  
Ps 96:1-2, 11-13  
Jn 1:1-18



**Friday**

Nm 6:22-27  
Ps 67:2-3,5-6,8  
Gal 4:4-7

**Lk 2:16-21**

**Saturday**

1 Jn 2:22-28  
Ps 98:1-4  
Jn 1:19-28

**Sunday**

Is 60:1-6  
Ps 72:1-2,7-8,10-13  
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6  
Mt 2:1-12

**SOME DATES TO NOTE**

- Jan. 14—Knights Dinner and Meeting
- Jan. 17—Retreat for Confirmation Candidates, Parents and Sponsors
- Jan. 19—Social Action Committee Meeting
- Jan. 21—Finance Council Meeting
- Jan. 28—Liturgy Committee meeting
- Jan. 28—Parish Council Meeting

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



And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. Matthew 2:9

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2016**

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

- 11:00 AM—Mass (The Hamer Family, living and deceased)
- 12:00 PM—Coffee and donuts following mass



**FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

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



**Youth Ministry News**

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

**Mass Schedule for the Feast of Mary, Mother of God Immaculate Conception**

Thursday, December 31, Vigil of the Solemnity of the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, 5:30 PM  
**Sacred Heart, Newton**

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.

**Please Note:**

**No Communion Service Dec. 30.**

There will be no communion Service on Wednesday, Dec. 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 .....	\$1,538.11
(\$77.00 auto-giving)	
Flowers .....	\$155.00



## FROM THE DEACON'S DESK

I hope everyone had a most blessed and peaceful Christmas. We are now in the middle of the Octave of Christmas and still celebrating. Christmas is such an important event in our lives as Christians that we celebrate it for eight days. Thursday we celebrated the feast of St. Stephen the first martyr. Friday, we celebrated the Feast of St. John the evangelist. Yesterday was the Feast of the Most Holy Innocents. Today is the feast of the Most Holy Family. Although Christmas season itself will not close until we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord on January 12, the Octave of Christmas or eight days of Christmas will end Wednesday with the Feast of Mary the Mother of God.

This is a holy day of obligation and I hope all of you will find time to attend mass. There is certainly no better way to begin the new year than by attending mass and praying with the community. It is also appropriate that we celebrate the new year with a feast to our Blessed Mother. She is the first Christian and an example for us all. She is the example that we should all look to as we celebrate the new year and make our resolutions—to resolve to be more like our Blessed Mother would certainly be a good resolution.

The holyday itself celebrate the churches teaching that Mary is the Mother of God. In the early church, there was a heresy that Mary was only the mother of the human Jesus, that some how Jesus became divine after his birth. The church declared that Jesus was both human and divine from the moment of his conception and therefore Mary was indeed the Mother of God.

I wish you all a very happy and peaceful New Year. The world is troubled right now. There is still war and violence. And yet despite it all we should live in joyful hope for God is truly with us. God's kingdom with come in its fullness and peace and justice will reign and every tear will be wiped away. God has promised it and he will do it. We must do all we can to bring about the kingdom. New Years Day is also the World Day of Prayer for Peace and I urge you all to offer a prayer for peace, in our country and in the world.

I look forward to a great year with our little parish accomplishing great things. I pray that our nation and the world will work for justice and peace. I also pray for each of you that 2016 is a great year for you and ask that you pray for me and for our parish.

Happy and blessed New Year.

God's abundant blessings  
Dc. Joe



## Poinsettia Memorials

- Ed & Mary Dell Flattery & family ----- Thor & Dorothy Nicodemus  
Ed & Helen Flattery
- Bill & Meta Hill ----- Deceased Pastors of Immaculate Conception  
Deceased Members of the Hill and Kintz Families
- Irma Bell and family ----- Mike Bell  
Darrell Holder
- Nancy Hopkins ----- William A. and Mary Hopkins  
Randy Hopkins  
Elizabeth Duich  
Aunt Ann Curtis  
Naomi Poston
- Dan and Mary Newton & Family ----- Jim & Betty Clarke  
Melvin Newton
- Michael and Michele Holmes family ----- Norma Hotovec  
Norma Kane
- Craig, Jessica & Jillian Moffitt----- Helen Moffitt  
Evelyn Junk  
All the deceased loved ones of the Moffitt and Junk families
- Dc. Joe and Peg Dvorak ----- Don Poage  
Don and Beaty Dvorak
- Robert & Deloris Shepley----- Charles & Florence Shepley  
James and Edith Shepley  
Pauline Williams
- Reg & Karen Van Dusseldorp and family ----- Members of the  
Werner and Van Dusseldorp Family
- Mike and Mary Holmes ----- Lewis and Blanche Myers
- Francis and Luanne Millburn----- The Millburn Family
- Rodger & Ceil Slings & Herbold family --- Gerald, Celeste, & Kathy Herbold
- Tanna and Drew Weyers ----- Drake Weyers
- Tim and Kathy Wikert----- Joe and Ruth Webb
- Pat and Ronda Teed----- George and Margaret Gibson Family
- Don and Nancy Earles----- Marguerite Hamer
- Jack and Joann Carrothers ----- Howard Crothers and John William Stinard  
John Laurance and Karen Holiday
- Theresa O'Roake ----- Charles O'Roake
- Rita Krueger----- Edward & Esther Ernst  
James Howe  
Christy Ernst  
Jerry P. Krueger
- Gen Gannon ----- Deceased relatives
- Mike Hanna----- The Hanna Family  
The Hagge Family  
The Hartnett family



Pray for these and all of the dearly departed during this Christmas season and for those who miss them..

### Liturgical Ministers Schedule

**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

**Ministers: January 3, 2016—11:00 AM**

**Lectors:** Meta Hill & Lisa Bussan

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Claire Williams & Rita Krueger

**Altar Servers:** Alexis Dross & Sharon Jones

**Greeters:** Van Dusseldorp 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.



## THE LORD'S LAUGHTER

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

### Children in Church

A little boy was in a relative's wedding. As he was coming down the aisle, he would take two steps, stop, and turn to the crowd. While facing the crowd, he would put his hands up like claws and roar. So it went, step, step, ROAR, step, step, ROAR, all the way down the aisle. As you can imagine, the crowd was near tears from laughing so hard by the time he reached the pulpit. When asked what he was doing, the child sniffed and said, "I was being the Ring Bear."

One Sunday in a Midwest City, a young child was "acting up" during the morning worship hour. The parents did their best to maintain some sense of order in the pew but were losing the battle. Finally, the father picked the little fellow up and walked sternly up the aisle on his way out. Just before reaching the safety of the foyer, the little one called loudly to the congregation, "Pray for me! Pray for me!"

One particular four-year old prayed, "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

## A Stewardship Moment

### Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

The ultimate aim of Saint Paul's Letter to the Colossians is to teach the community how to deepen its relationship with Christ Jesus. His list of virtues summarizes the ideals of communal stewardship: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. For Paul, practicing these virtues opens our hearts to Christ as individuals and as a worshipping community. This is how the Christian community ought to live. This is how its members should behave in their dealings with others, particularly with fellow believers. As we approach the new year, how might we embrace one or more of these virtues more fully in our parish community in order to deepen our relationship with Jesus?

## 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.

## 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.

## 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

### The Holy Innocents: First Century Feast—December 28

The Holy Innocents are the young male children from Bethlehem and its vicinity at the time of the birth of Jesus who were put to death by King Herod the Great. Herod ordered their death after the Magi who came from the East to pay homage to the child Jesus left without giving Herod news about "the newborn king of the Jews." This slaughter is recounted in the second chapter of Matthew's Gospel but is not mentioned in other sources, such as the writings of the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus. Estimates of the number of infants killed range from 10-12, based on the likely population of Bethlehem at the time of Christ's birth, to 64,000, a fantastic figure cited in the Syrian liturgy. This feast has been celebrated in the West since the fifth century. The Holy Innocents are the patrons of children, babies, and found-

