Welcome to SS Peter & Paul and St. Mary's Catholic Churches

Mailing: 600 Locust Street, Atlantic, IA 50022
www.sspeterpaulandmary.org | Office hours: 8:00 AM—2:00 PM (Mon—Fri)
Phone: 712-243-4721 | Email: petepaul@metc.net

DECEMBER 1, 2019 : FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Dear Friends,

Advent is one of my favorite liturgical seasons of the year! I'll readily confess it's not really for any great deep theological or spiritual reason, but simply, as an organist, I have an affinity for the music traditionally associated with Advent (old French Noels and the like). It's a beautiful time of year. We are reminded we must prepare for the coming of Christ among us. It's also a challenging time of year; society pushes us to rush right to Christmas, so finding Advent balance can be hard.

Advent was born as a reflection upon Lent. Lent, of course, is the great fasting period before Easter which has come to be associated with penance. Advent was originally the great fasting period before Christmas, but, while it still has a sort of penitential character to it (for example, we refrain from singing the Gloria), it is distinct from Lent. Lent is a time of purification. Advent, rather, focuses on preparation, upon making room for our savior. To that end, I often think our modern 'tensions' around Advent are helpful. As we all rush about trying to get ready to celebrate Christmas, Advent bids us reflect upon two deeper questions: First, am I keeping the meaning of this time of year in focus? Is my focus on Jesus or the trappings of the season? Second, what in my life is holding me back from fully accepting Jesus? Jesus constantly tries to reach our hearts, but we put up obstacles. What's one obstacle this Advent we could get out of His way to our hearts?

Come, Lord Jesus. Fill our hearts once again with your love. We await you with bated breath. We know you are all we need. Help us get ready to welcome you again. Come, Lord Jesus.

In Faith,
Fr. Trevor Chicoine

DECEMBER 1, 2019 : FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Parish Priest..... Rev. Trevor Chicoine
Bookkeeper.....Maureen Doherty
Office Manager.....Kris Wernimont
Faith Formation Coordinator.....Julie Williamson

LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation 3:30 PM Saturday (SSPP) 8:00 AM Sunday (St. Mary's)
Weekend Masses 4:30 PM Saturday (SSPP) 8:30 AM Sunday (St. Mary's) 10:30 AM Sunday (SSPP)
Weekday Masses 7:00 AM Tuesday & Friday (SSPP) 9:30 AM Wed (Care Facilities) 9:00 AM Thursday (St. Mary's)
First Friday Devotion Mass 7:00 AM followed by Eucharistic Adoration until Noon (SSPP)
First Saturday Devotion Mass 8:00 AM (SSPP)

WEEKLY READINGS

DECEMBER 1ST: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Is 2:1-5/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

Monday, December 2nd
Advent Weekday
Is 4:2-6/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday, December 3rd
Saint Francis Xavier, Priest, *Memorial*
Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday, December 4rd
Advent Weekday
Saint John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church
Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday, December 5th
Advent Weekday
Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday, December 6th
Advent Weekday Saint Nicholas, Bishop
Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday, December 7th
Saint Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

DECEMBER 8TH: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 30th 4:30 PM (SSPP)
People of the Parish

Sunday, December 1st 8:30 AM (SM)
+ Bruce Ehrman

Sunday, December 1st 10:30 AM (SSPP)
+ Trevor Fredricksen

Tuesday, December 3rd 7:00 AM (SSPP)
+ Beulah Eblen

Wednesday, December 4th 9:30 AM
Allen Place
+ Mary Angell

Thursday, December 5th 9:00 AM (SM)
+ Patricia McDermott

Friday, December 6th 7:00 AM (SSPP)
+Rosemary Leonard
7:30 AM—Noon Adoration

Saturday, December 7th 8:00 AM (SSPP)
+ Tom Marshall

Saturday, December 7th 4:30 PM (SSPP)
+ Grace Lamberty

Sunday, December 8th 8:30 AM (SM)
+ Kate Johnson +Andy Johnson

Sunday, December 8th 10:30 AM (SSPP)
People of the Parish

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

GOAL	REMAINING
$49,372.00	**$10,652.00**

A commitment to tithing is a reflection of our faith and accounts for the joy of being a parish family.

REFLECTION WITH YOUR FAMILY

In Advent, we wait.
We wait for the coming of Jesus—in that stable in Bethlehem, in our hearts and at the end of all things.
Let us open our hearts to the possibilities of renewal and generously welcome the Lord into our lives.

DECEMBER 1, 2019 : FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, Dec. 3rd	6:00 PM SM Finance Council
Wednesday, Dec. 4th	After School Program
	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
	FF Class Grades K – 5
	4:00 PM – 5:15 PM
	FF Class Grades 6th – 12th
	7:00 PM – 8:15 PM
Thursday, Dec. 5th	Festival of Trees
	10:00 AM – 8:00 PM PC Gym
Friday, Dec. 6th	Festival of Trees
	10:00 AM – 6:30 PM PC Gym
Saturday, Dec. 7th	Festival of Trees
	10:00 AM – 5:30 PM PC Gym
	DOES Cookie Walk
	9:00 AM – 1:00 PM PC
Sunday, Dec. 8th	Festival of Trees
	10:00 AM–3:00 PM PC Gym

Christmas Flower Offering

Christmas Flower Offering envelopes are available in the pews during Advent.

This memorial money will go toward parish Christmas decoration fund.

All memorial names will be recognized with our bulletin insert.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Signs of Christmas

Our K–5th Faith Formation Christmas Program will be
Saturday, December 14th at 5:45 PM
in the Parish Center Gym.

Knights of Columbus will host a Soup Supper immediately following the program.

All parishioners are invited to join in this celebration!

WALKING WITH PURPOSE SOCIAL

Enjoy fellowship with other women from SSPP and St. Mary's among the beautiful Christmas atmosphere of the **SF Martin House**
Sunday, December 8th at 6:00 PM
RSVP text/call Haley Bagley (720)548-0011

FESTIVAL OF TREES

The *American Cancer Society* is sponsoring the **Festival of Trees** once again this year.
December 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th
SSPP is privileged to continue being the host site for this honorable fundraiser.
Join in this worthwhile community cause.

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT FUND

Religious Retirement Fund Collection is next Sunday.
Most senior religious ministered for little to no pay resulting in religious communities with inadequate retirement savings. Rising health-care costs compounded the problem. 94% of this donation, directly aids senior religious.

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

GOAL	REMAINING
$9,785.00	$600.00

ADA 2019

Please help finalize St. Mary's Annual Diocesan Appeal. Any money beyond our pledge is returned to our parish.
Thank you for your generosity!

PRAY FOR PARISHIONERS IN CARE FACILITIES:

Clara Baggenstoss, Helen Blum, Margery Crotty, Mary Faust, Cindy Hensley, Lynn Lawson, Brenda Norman, Wayne Rice, Ruth Richter, Donna Rourick, Helen Schmitz, Florence Thelen, Dave Testa, Ron Wittrock, Irene Rydl

PRAY FOR PARISHIONERS SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Jason Thelen and Austin Flescher