

DEC. 8, 2019

## SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

### FAITH FORMATION

By Sharon Mayer

Thank you to our very small ninth grade and their Catechist for helping with our ministries at today's Mass. This is our second Sunday of Advent and we focus on John the Baptist. Not only was he a prophet, but also Jesus' cousin; born just a short time before Jesus if you recall the visit between Mary and Elizabeth. He is trying to prepare the people for Jesus. Our candle is also called the "Bethlehem" candle as we are aware that Mary and Joseph are making their way to the city where Jesus will be born.

Tomorrow we celebrate Feast of the Immaculate Conception. As we teach children about our Feast Days this is one that they always think is about Jesus not Mary. This is however about Mary. Mary was born without any sin, hence the name of the Feast Day. God selected her even before she was born and no one else has received this highest of honors (Jesus, the Son of God excluded). She did not think anything special of her life until the angel appeared before her and although she was surprised she didn't run, hide, say "no way" or balk in any form. She simply had the grace of God within her to say Yes, I will do as my Lord asks. She trusted Him that much.

We all have doubts at times but ultimately should put ourselves in His hands. Mary never doubted God. Elizabeth, her cousin and mother of John the Baptist knew the specialness of what would be as soon as she saw Mary.

Next Sunday the timeless story of the Holy Family and the birth of Jesus will be retold by our K-4 students. The program will begin at 4:30 and pizza for our families will follow in the parish center. The program is short but meaningful and we welcome all.

Our religious education year will end on Dec 18 with Christmas celebrations with our K-4 students and reconciliation for our 5-12 students. There will be Children's Liturgy on the 22nd, but then it will take a break until January 5th. Family Formation will participate in the ministries at the January 4th Mass.

**COMMUNAL Reconciliation** for Advent Season is Sun., Dec. 8, 1 p.m. at St. Joseph.

**CALLING all KC and CDA members:** A joint Christmas party is set for Thurs., Dec. 19. Social at 5:30, dinner and fun to follow. Bring a guest. \$15 each paid at the door. RSVP the number of attendees by Dec. 10 to Deb. Johnson, 330-2980 or johnsonfam1108@gmail.com.

### UPCOMING EVENTS



**Monday, Dec. 9**

**8 p.m.:** AA in Nazareth Hall; Al-Anon in NW.

**Tuesday, Dec. 10**

**8 a.m. to 5 p.m.:** Eucharistic Adoration.

**6:30 p.m.:** NO class.

**Wednesday, Dec. 11**

**3:40-5 p.m.:** Rel. Ed grades K-4

**5:30 p.m.:** Choir Practice

**7-8 p.m.:** Rel. Ed for grades 5-12

**Thursday, Dec. 12**

**8 a.m.:** Bible Study in Nazareth Hall.

**11 a.m.:** Ones meet at Minerva's.

**Friday, Dec. 13**

**10:30 a.m.:** Mass at Milford Care Center.

**Sunday, Dec. 15**

**2-4 p.m.:** Christmas Open House @ Rectory.

**4:30 p.m.:** Christmas Pageant, church. Piz-za to follow in Parish Center.



**WELCOME to the Catholic Faith**  
through the Sacrament of Baptism to:

✓ Delane Fairchild Pryor, son of Keenan and Kathleen Pryor, baptized Sat., Nov. 30;

✓ Autumn Marie Davis, daughter of Anthony and Jennifer Davis, baptized Sat., Nov. 30, 2019;

✓ Rhett Charles Jones, son of Casey and Elizabeth Jones, baptized Sun., Dec. 1; and

✓ Ava Ann Brunsvold, daughter of Jonathan and Elizabeth Brunsvold, baptized Sun., Dec. 1.

**USHERS** are needed for the midnight Christmas Eve Mass. If you could fill this position, please call the parish office.

**THE KC's** will be distributing food baskets to less fortunate persons of our parish around Dec. 21. If you would like to help, non-perishable, in-date food items are being accepted as well as toiletry items. Please bring your donations by Dec. 18.

"At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come," says today's Gospel. Good stewards know that

they are accountable to God for all they have and are and strive to live in readiness for His coming.

*Weekly budget needs are \$7,582*

**Nov. 23-24, 2019**

**Weekly:** \$7,842.02 **Kids:** \$27.00 **Loose:** \$890.00

**Candles:** \$75.75 **Peace & Justice:** \$858.50

**R/A Dues:** \$10.00 **Youth Ministry:** \$150.00

**Misc.:** \$184.00

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Welcome to our visitors who are worshipping with us this weekend. May your time in the lakes region be special.

**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**Saturday, Dec. 14 @ 4:30 p.m.**  
**KC Mass**

**EMES:** (6) KC's

**LECTOR:** KC's

**SERVERS:** John Gracia, Mark Johnson

**USHERS/GREETERS:** KC's

**GIFTS:** KC's

**Sunday, Dec. 15 @ 8 a.m.**

**EMES:** (5) Jim and Irene McCoy, Marlene Nelsen, Faith Garcia, Charree Sweeten

**LECTOR:** Chris Bjornstad

**SERVERS:** Brianna Swenson, Ethan Weston

**USHERS/GREETERS:** Tom and Terri Rierson

**GIFTS:** Volunteers

**Sunday, Dec. 15 @ 10 a.m.**

**EMES:** (6) Donna Clark, Aaron and Erin Lorch, Bill and Cheryl Aumer, Connie Lange

**LECTOR:** Sara Laven

**SERVERS:** Addison Frerichs, Alyssa Wittrock

**USHERS/GREETERS:** Dick and Connie Mataloni

**GIFTS:** Doug Svoboda Family

**CHILDREN'S LIT:** Heidi Wittrock

**PRAYERS and sympathy** from the St. Joseph Parish Family to Mitzi Maranell on the death of her brother, +David Dalhoff, 81, of Fairport Harbor, OH, who died Thurs., Nov. 28. His Mass of Christian Burial was held Fri., Dec. 6 in Fairport Harbor.

**THANK You** to the St. Joseph parishioners for giving generously to the Cherish Center and Cherish House in the recent baby bottle campaign. To date, you have given \$951.35. (We have a few more to give them). **Karen Kosse, Baby Bottle Campaign**

**THE ONES** meet Thurs., Dec. 12, 11 a.m. at Minerva's. If you don't usually attend, but want to this month, please call the office by Tuesday.

**THE ROSARY ALTAR Society** will be delivering Christmas balloons to nursing home residents and shut-ins on Thurs., Dec. 19 at 9 a.m. Volunteers are needed to assist with this project. Please meet at Accura Care Center that day and time if you can help.

**LOOKING Ahead...**we need two dozen small sandwiches and two dozen holiday cookies for the Christmas Open House at Fr. Tim's on Sun., Dec. 15. Please call the office if you can help.

### 2019-20 DAA UPDATE

**Week 10**

**GOAL:** \$53,247.00

**TOTAL PAID:** \$22,247.00

**REMAINING:** \$33,313.00

**# Families:** 700

**# Responses:** 150

**% of Response:** 21.4%

**% of Goal Reached:** 43.6%

**The Arts At**  
**St. Joseph presents**  
**The Browns Family**  
**- A Classic Christmas,**  
**Dec. 8, 4:30 PM.**  
**Doors open at**  
**4 p.m.,**  
**A reception follows the**  
**free concert.**

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, Dec. 7**

**4:30 p** +Harold Eilers  
+Rita Wuebker  
+Tom Wuebker  
+Bo Schnetter  
+David Dalhoff

**Sunday, Dec. 8**

**8 a** +Sharon Knudtson  
**10 a** +Lorraine Kenney  
+Bill Ruml  
+Joy Walz

**Monday, Dec. 9**

**7:30 a** +Sr. Gerry Morrissey  
**5:30 p** +Jeffery Eggers

**Tuesday, Dec. 10**

**5:15 p** +Jim Cates

**Wednesday, Dec. 11**

**7:30 a** +Halbur/Johnson  
+Ann Leuer

**Thursday, Dec. 12**

**7:30 a** +Dorothy Schultz

**Friday, Dec. 13**

**7:30 a** +Ryan Ochoa  
**10:30 a** Special Intention (JLW)

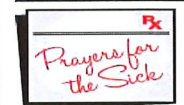
**Saturday, Dec. 14**

**4:30 p** +David Reiman  
+Clarence & +Vivian Reiman  
+Ted Christensen

**Sunday, Dec. 15**

**8 a** +Mary Negus  
**10 a** +Russel Drown

**ADOPT** a Haiti child for Christmas, \$50. Inquire at Parish Office.



**Please pray**  
**for these**  
**St. Joseph**  
**Parishioners:**

Bev Sporrer, Gordy Graves, Glatha Langel, Linda Higgins, Mary Ann Sigler, Dennis and Alma Klute, Jerry Clark, Joan Langel, Robert Rowland, Bill James, Marie Van Hofwegen, Ethel Wilson, Steve Painter, Ginny Yore, LaDonna Jansen, Dale Langel, Finley Brunsvold, Dee Bryant, Phyllis Hintz, Terry Abbas, Susan Robinson, Leona Spieker.

**Other Special Persons:** Charlotte Tiesler, Tailen Sturtz, Carrissa Mulder, Aimee Wallrich, Sara Springer, Betty Taylor, Mary Vogel, Diane De Vries, Marilyn Mertz, Jan Wolf, Peggy Price, Joan Mertz, John Bruening, Joene Edwards, Ann Willette, Ashlyn Clark, Jerry Wolford, Harvey Baxter, Jr., Kami Svoboda, Darrel Wedeking, Dan Mulder, Pam Meyer, Peri & Vern Hughes, Leah Brevik, Colleen Mulder, Jamie O'Neill, Carol Willette, Pat Juza, Bea Reiter, Paula Bernardy, Mary Jones, Andy Bensman, Todd Clausen, Zach Budden, Jan James, Sharon Forsman, Aden Remme, Jeff Harbst, Esther Baxter, Melissa Hruby, David Smith, Jean Stilley and Howie Holdenried.

### WELCOME TO SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

We hope your visit here will be a prayerful time as you enjoy the lakes region.

Please consider

St. Joseph's as your church away from home. Contact us at the Parish Office if we may serve you in any way.

We are committed to proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ and invite you to join us! May the Holy Spirit lead us in living as a welcoming Catholic community.

### SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

1305 Okoboji Ave.

Milford, IA 51351

OFFICE: 712-338-2274

FAX: 712-338-2191

stjosephmilford.org

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon.- Thurs.:

7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fri.: 7:30 a.m. - 12 noon

### RECONCILIATION:

30 minutes before each Mass

### BULLETIN DEADLINE

Tuesday 12 noon

### MASS SCHEDULE:

**Winter**

Saturday at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday at 8 and 10 a.m.

**Summer**

Saturday at 4 and 5:30 p.m.

Sunday at 7:30, 9 and 10:30 a.m.

Are you new to the community? Would you like to join St. Joseph Parish? Just fill out the coupon below and return to the office or in the collection basket.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

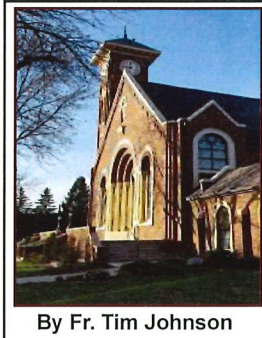
### ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

**Don Breuker**

Investment Advisor Representative

Fixed Assets & Risk Management

Spirit Lake 712-461-1321



By Fr. Tim Johnson

During this short season of Advent, we prepare for Christmas with the lights, the decorations, the music, cards of goodwill sent—and reconciliation. In the words of Pope Francis: "God places no obstacles in the way of those who seek him with a contrite heart, because he goes out to meet everyone like a father. I have received many testimonies of joy from those who encountered the Lord once more in the sacrament of Confession. Let us not miss the opportunity to live our faith also as an experience of reconciliation." Our Advent Reconciliation Service is this Sunday, the 8th, beginning at 1pm. Our parish offers the Sacrament before each weekday and weekend Mass. Interesting to note how Mary and Joseph not only accepted without complaint the less than comfortable conditions of a stable, but graciously set their attention on the gift of the infant Jesus. They asked for nothing more, for the gift before them lying in the manger gave them the grace of hope and wonder such as no material possession or comfort could replace.

Our Arts of St. Joseph Committee is again sponsoring a Christmas concert this Sunday afternoon beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the church. Performing a "Classic Christmas" program, the Brown Family will be entertaining and inspirational. Music for the entire family. Arts of St. Joseph will host a gathering following in the parish hall.

Our holy day of Immaculate Conception has been transferred to this Monday because the Second Sunday of Advent takes precedence. Masses will be at 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday. "Let us entrust to her intercession the daily prayer for peace, especially in places where the senseless logic of violence is most ferocious; so that all people may be convinced that in this world we must help each other, as brothers and sisters, to build the civilization of love." (Pope Benedict XVI)

During these days, however cold or filled with the encroaching darkness, God will place moments before us, giving us pause to receive a gift enfolding from the hands of Christ Jesus as profound as the scene depicted in today's first reading from Isaiah, chapter 11. Through our faith we can receive that gift, with wonder and awe, no less as described by the author Victor Hugo. "I met in the street a very poor young man who was in love. His hat was old, his coat worn, his cloak was out at the elbows, the water passed through his shoes, - and the stars through his soul."

God Bless.

*Fr. Tim*

Our parish will offer gluten free 'consecrated' hosts at each weekend Mass, with the priest holding the container during Communion.

**LIFE SERVE** blood drive Fri., Dec. 27, 1:30-5:30 St. Joseph. Call 1-800-287-4903 to make an appointment.