

DEC. 15, 2019

SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

Schuchert-Lentz
Funeral Home & Crematory
Serving the Lakes Region
Spirit Lake 712-336-8471

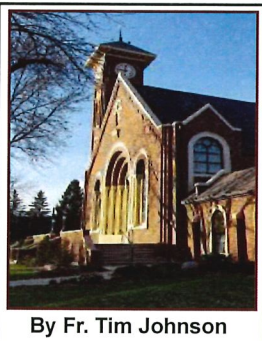
In relative anonymity the saints days of Our Lady of Guadeloupe (the 12th) and Lucy (13th) passed without notice. Within the whirlwind of activity in this month of December approaching the 25th, these two feast days provide a good bit of grace in our preparation for Christmas. Of course, Our Lady of Guadeloupe, the Blessed Mother Mary, appeared to a simple peasant (Juan Diego) while he was walking on a cold, snow filled day. Mary's appearance in the guise of the attire common to the native Indians who inhabited that certain area of Mexico, brought forth an inspiration upon the young peasant—and in the ensuing decades—conversion of faith to thousands upon thousands living in the country of Mexico. Mary's appearance as it was dignified the culture, the language and the purpose of people of that tribe, and the many who call Mexico home. She served notice of God's unconditional love and purpose within the lives of those so removed from our culture and way of life, and yet bonded by a Creator and our Savior who show no partiality regardless of the color of one's skin, the language spoken or the anonymity of their lives.

With little knowledge of St. Lucia's background, her feast day is still significantly placed near Christmas. What has been passed on over the centuries is the likelihood of her death by execution at the early age of twenty. In an environment during the third century rife with here say and violence against "believers" Lucy was accused of being a Christian but she was unrelenting in her beliefs even in the face of torture and painful death, (with her eyes gouged out). Her name stands for light, bright—like the morning star. Thus Lucy is the patron of saint of those who seeing impaired or blind. As darkness encroaches on our days, with that of the news so often despondent, St. Lucy is the patroness of hope, seeing the light through the darkness. Approaching Christmas these two saints provide a 'steady ship' so to speak, of the universal beauty of God's creation, and the light within and before us that no person or force can deprive from us regardless of the depth of pain within our souls. And may this Christmas "be a light to you in dark places, when all other lights go out." (J.R.R. Tolkien)

In conjunction with the surrounding parishes of St. Mary/Spirit Lake, St. Patrick/Estherville, Sacred Heart/Spencer we will host the Christ Renews His Parish retreat for men this February. A team from Carroll will lead the retreat, which is a national format shared by many parishes throughout the United States. More information forthcoming after Christmas.

Our Children's Christmas Pageant is this Sunday afternoon, 4:30 p.m., in our church. They are well rehearsed and ready to bring forth the spirit of our approaching holy day of Christmas. Social following in our parish hall. All are invited to the gathering.

"We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light." (Plato)



By Fr. Tim Johnson

FAITH FORMATION

By Sharon Mayer

Today is the day that all the practice we have done is put into action. The kids have been excited to tell this story and like being able to wear the special costumes. Every year I try to change it up a bit and somehow manage to find new ways to tell the timeless story. Come and watch the children of St. Joseph tell the Christmas story and enjoy pizza afterwards. This all follows Fr. Tim's Christmas open house from 2-4. It will be a day full of Christmas spirit.

It is also the third Sunday of Advent-Gaudete Sunday. This uncommon term is taken from the Latin language and means "joy". The candle we light is rose colored and is known as the shepherd's candle or Candle of Joy. The anticipation is building. Mary knows it is soon time for the birth of her Son and we focus on the shepherds to whom the angels made their announcement of the Savior's birth.

Just a few days ago, not only did we celebrate the Immaculate Conception but also, Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of North America. I have a special connection with Our Lady and keep her prayer card with me. It all started one day while I was teaching about Mary and different names for her. It is a long story but one I have shared with students. Be it safe to say, I know that help is there when needed.

Our last day of religious education classes is Dec. 18. Our younger students will celebrate Christmas within their classrooms and in the evening grades 5-12 will have reconciliation. They had their Christmas celebration here last week. We will not have religious education again until Jan. 8.

JUST A NOTE... Parish Offices will be closed Tues., Dec. 24 and Wed., Dec. 25. Offices will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 12 noon on Thurs., Fri., Mon. and Tues., Dec. 26, 27, 30 and 31. Offices will be closed Wed., Jan. 1 but will reopen Thurs., Jan. 2. PLEASE remember that all contributions that you want posted to 2019 must be in the office in 2019. Statements will be mailed the week of Jan. 20, 2020. Call the office if you have any questions or concerns.

REMEMBER a loved one or a friend with a beautiful poinsettia or Christmas flowers on the altar. \$13 each which includes foil wrap and bow. Deadline for inclusion in the bulletin is Wed., Dec. 18 at 12 noon. Thank you in advance.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Monday, Dec. 16

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

Tuesday, Dec. 17

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

6:30 p.m.: No RCIA

Wednesday, Dec. 18

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. 19

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

5:30 p.m.: KC/CDA Christmas party, PC.

Friday, Dec. 20

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

Saturday, Dec. 21

10-6: Private family Christmas in basement.

WELCOME to the Catholic Faith through the Sacrament of Baptism to: Maizy Ann Reiser, daughter of Joe and Kayla Reiser, who was baptized Sun., Dec. 8, 2019.

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.

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.

THE CENTENNIAL Photo Books won't be done until April at the earliest. The photos have been completed and we are now working on the extensive history of the parish.

Each of us has his or her own role to play in the coming of the Kingdom of God. John the Baptist was called to be the herald of the Messiah, preparing the way of the Lord. To what is the Lord calling me?

Weekly budget needs are \$7,582

Dec. 7-8, 2019

Weekly: \$9,623.74 Kids: \$14.10 Loose: \$994.00
Candles: \$76.00 Peace & Justice: \$165.00
Haiti Children: \$1,300.00 Concert: \$2,545.75
Misc: \$480.00



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

Saturday, Dec. 21 @ 4:30 p.m.

EMES: (6) Mary Ann Dunleavy, Deb Faulkner, Eldon Kraninger, Donna Elser, Steve Eral, Marlyn Nolan
GREETERS: Ted and Joanne Lyons, Lois Koelder
LECTOR: David Johnson
SERVERS: Jaden Heller, Brianna Swenson
USHERS: Jim and Kathleen Baumgard
GIFTS: Kirby Berhow Family

Sunday, December 22 @ 8 a.m.

EMES: (5) Jeff Knudtson, Jean Petitti, Mark and Deb Johnson, Cory Knudtson
GREETERS: Chris and Connie Bjornstad
LECTOR: Pat Carr
SERVERS: Jay Garcia, Andrew Frerichs
USHERS: Jim and Irene McCoy
GIFTS: Volunteers

Sunday, December 22 @ 10 a.m.

EMES: (6) Connie and Dick Mataloni, Susan Willette, Patti Scott, Mick and Jeanette Baack
GREETERS: Tom and Jan Johnson
LECTOR: Donna Clark
SERVERS: Jack Laven, Oliver Miller
USHERS: Wayne and Barb Woodley
GIFTS: Laven Family
CHILDREN'S LIT: Sharon Mayer

Can You Help? Ushers are needed for the 6 p.m. and midnight Christmas Eve Masses. Call the office asap to fill this spot!

THANK YOU for sharing this wonderful meal (Thanksgiving) with those of us that have no family in the area. Your kindness, hard work and support are a true blessing. --Pat

FR. TOM will be having open heart surgery on Thurs., Dec. 26 at Mayo Clinic, in Rochester, MN. to replace three valves. Your prayers are welcome. Visits will be welcome when he returns home again.

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.

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

2019-20 DAA UPDATE

Week 10

GOAL: \$53,247.00

TOTAL PAID: \$23,982.00

REMAINING: \$29,265.00

Families: 700

Responses: 159

% of Response: 22.7%

% of Goal Reached: 45%

THIS SUNDAY.....

✓ Plan to attend the Holiday Open House at the Rectory, 2 to 4 p.m. Refreshments and fun!
✓ At 4:30 p.m., plan to attend the annual Christmas Program presented by the St. Joseph Religious Ed department. Pizza to follow in parish center. This is always a great time.!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, Dec. 14

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

Sunday, Dec. 15

8 a +Mary Negus
10 a +Russel Drown

Monday, Dec. 16

7:30 a +Sr. Gerry Morrissey

Tuesday, Dec. 17

5:15 p Liv & Dec CDA members

Wednesday, Dec. 18

7:30 a +Halbur/Johnson
+Thomas John Oleson

Thursday, Dec. 19

7:30 a +Shobha Rani

Friday, Dec. 20

7:30 a +Lorraine Jungers
10:30 a Special Intention (JLW)

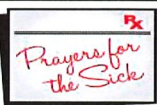
Saturday, Dec. 21

4:30 p +Dean Seehusen

Sunday, Dec. 22

8 a +Irene Clark
10 a +Bill Ruml
+Norma and +Fritz Thoma

A LAST MINUTE Christmas gift... adopt a Haitian child for Christmas. Your \$50 pays for their education for one year. Inquire at Parish Office. Cards are available.



Please pray for these St. Joseph Parishioners:

Fr. Tom Flanagan, 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 Stillely and Howie Holdenried.