

DEC. 13, 2020

## SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

### 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

**Jones & Sons  
Construction  
712-338-2671**

As I write my column this particular day, December 8th, we as a Church give honor to our Blessed Mother. Her feast day, the Immaculate Conception, has been recognized since 1854 when Pope Pius IX solemnly proclaimed: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular

grace and privilege granted by almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin." In Luke 1:28 the angel Gabriel, speaking as God's "mouthpiece," addresses Mary as "full of grace" or "highly favored." Such reference means that Mary is receiving all the special divine help necessary for her calling as a mother and servant of God. She who stood courageously at the foot of the cross, continues to fulfill her calling, interceding on our behalf in circumstances where we struggle to find hope, to trust in the faith we have received. As Mother Teresa proclaims, "If you ever feel distressed during your day — call upon our Lady — just say this simple prayer: 'Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now.' I must admit — this prayer has never failed me." She shares in our humanity, seeking only to give us guidance to Christ Jesus' merciful love, to trust in the will of God our Creator. Mary continues to serve no less now within the company of the saints, as she did within her very human earthly life sharing the immortal words, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord."

She who was troubled at the angel Gabriel's words, understands our moments of weakness as St. Therese of Lisieux describes, "In trial or difficulty I have recourse to Mother Mary, whose glance alone is enough to dissipate every fear."

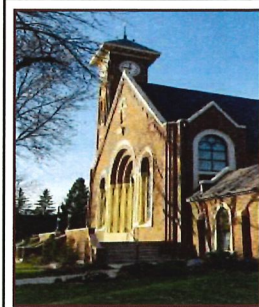
Fast approaching our celebration of faith—Christ Jesus' birth—the lyrics of our seasonal song Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming describes the gentle grace of our Blessed Mother:

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, This Rose I have in mind,  
With Mary we behold it, The Virgin Mother kind.

To show God's love aright, She bore to  
us a Savior, When half spent was the night.

First written in 1599 of German origin Es ist ein Ros entsprungen has been translated in English as Lo, how a rose e'er blooming. As it is written musically, the "rose" is a symbolic reference to the Virgin Mary, and references Isaiah's prophecies of the foretelling the Incarnation of Christ. For over 300 years this Advent/Christmas song has announced the gift of salvation, the gentle grace of Mary's "yes."

Knights of Columbus are accepting food donations for the care baskets they will give to individuals and families in need shortly before Christmas. You may leave your donations inside the main entrance on



By Fr. Tim Johnson

Fr. Tim ...continued from last column

the pews or likewise on the pew outside of our office. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Likewise, the Giving Tree in our church vestibule where you can leave gloves, mittens, stocking caps to be given to children in need. Thank you.

You may take a parish calendar at our entrances, or if you know of someone who hasn't been to church because of the virus, please take one for them. Thank you.

I will be in the Reconciliation Room today (Sunday) for our Advent Penance Service beginning at 1:00 pm. Advent Reconciliation sheets will be on the baptismal font. "Man has two great spiritual needs. One is for forgiveness. The other is for goodness." (Billy Graham)

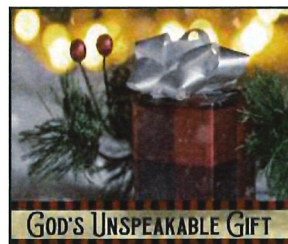
God Bless,

*Fr. Tim*

#### Food for Thought:

"And when we give each other Christmas gifts in His name, let us remember that He has given us the sun and the moon and the stars, and the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans—and all that lives and move upon them. He has given us all green things and everything that blossoms and bears fruit and all that we quarrel about and all that we have misused—and to save us from our foolishness, from all our sins, He came down to earth and gave us Himself."

(Sigrid Undset, Catholic author, Nobel Prize recipient)



All of the people in today's readings -- the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist -- seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?

#### Nov. 27-28, 2020

Weekly Env: \$3,880.00 Loose: \$845.00  
Online: \$1225.00 P & J: \$347.00  
Christmas Offering: \$1,300.00 R/A Candles: \$27.00  
Misc.: \$16.00

#### Dec. 5-6, 2020

Weekly Env: \$7,648.00 Loose: \$3,670.00  
Memorial: \$40.00 Cans: \$315.80  
Candles: \$451.00 Endowment: \$50.00  
Online Ministry: \$800.00 Endowment: \$40.00  
Peace & Justice: \$142.00 Haiti: \$950.00  
Building: \$845.00

### FAITH FORMATION

By Sharon Mayer

Last Sunday, we celebrated the basis for which we have the legendary "Santa Claus". That would be St Nicholas. He was a Bishop of Myra way back and is credited with many miracles, was known to bestow many gifts upon people and is the patron Saint of many things. This evolved into St. Nick another term for Santa Claus as "Santa means Saint and Claus or Klaus is short for Nicholas. Another Dutch term you may have heard is Sinterklaas. Whatever name he goes by the meaning is the same -the generous soul who brings gifts to children. This year we can all use the thoughtfulness of a Santa Claus in our lives or be one to another.

This past week we have also celebrated another monumental figure of our faith and that is Mary. On Dec. 8th we celebrated her feast day of the Immaculate Conception. Many times, children get that mixed up with the birth of Jesus but no, it refers to the birth of Mary. Her mother was Anne, and her father was Joachim and by the will of God in His plan, Mary was free of original sin from the moment of her conception and throughout her life. She was therefore worthy of being the Mother of Jesus, God's Son.

Mary's parents are also Saints. We don't often talk about the fact that Jesus had grandparents, but He did, and very holy ones at that.

This weekend is another feast of Mary and that is her celebration as Our Lady of Guadalupe. Although this is most likely more significant in Mexico where the apparition occurred with Juan Diego, it touches all of us as her message was for all. The cloak that she wore has been interpreted with many messages and she is the Patron of the Americas. As you enter our west entrance of the church and look off to the right, you will see her picture. If you are in my office, you will see I have several depictions of Mary by my desk and one of them is Our Lady of Guadalupe. I have a special story that I share with my students that involves Her, so I also carry her medal and Holy Card with me.

Congratulations to Grace Davis, daughter of Jennifer and Anthony Davis who made her First Eucharist last Sunday. She is now a full Catholic and we wish her many wonderful years of professing her faith.

**REMEMBER** your loved ones with a Christmas poinsettia on the altar. Deadline for inclusion is Wed., Dec. 23 at 12 noon.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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

#### Saturday, Dec. 19 @ 4:30 p.m.

EMES: Fr. Tim and Marlene Nelsen

LECTOR: David Johnson

SERVERS: John Garcia, Loretta Halbur

USHERS: KC's

#### Sunday, December 20 @ 8 a.m.

EMES: Fr. Tim and Need one here

LECTOR: Ron Swartz

SERVERS: Bob Moore, Ron Swartz

USHERS: KC's

#### Sunday, December 20 @ 10 a.m.

EMES: Fr. Tim and Paul Skopek

LECTOR: Sarah Laven

SERVERS: Jack Laven, Oliver Miller

USHERS: NEED HELP HERE

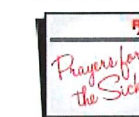
**THANK YOU** to Loretta Halbur, our resident baker, for baking the sugar cookies each family receives this weekend.

**THANK YOU** to the volunteers who assisted in the Christmas card project this past week. We appreciate your willingness to help.

**ARE YOU IN** need of assistance? The Knights of Columbus are ready and willing to assist people with food, grocery shopping or any variety of things you may need. Call Terry Abbas at 712-330-9131 to sign up for assistance.



**Christmas Masses:**  
Thurs., Dec. 24 @ 4, 6 and 12 midnight;  
Fri, Dec. 25 @ 9 a.m. only.



**PRAY for these members:** Bob Mulhern, Pat O'Brien, Jerry Delaney Family, Jean Elbert, Alberta Nolan, Nancy Crepeau, Mary Langel, Geneva Knudtson, Roger Wittrock, Rick DeMuth, Linda Higgins, Mary Ann Sigler, Dennis and Alma Klute, Jerry Clark, 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, Leona Spieker.

**PLEASE pray for these special persons:** Esther Morris, Harvey Baxter, Jr., Wayne Bellinghausen, Maxine Thompson, Lois Doran, Dale Gentry, Susan Barnes, Mike Cooper, Denny Daberkow, Louise DeWitt, Ray Langel, Kristin Meyer, Leo Trebbien, Kevin Wittrock, Charlotte Tiesler, Tailen Sturtz, Aimee Wallrich, Sara Springer, Jan Wolf, Peggy Price, Joan Mertz, John Bruening, Ann Willette, Ashlyn Clark, Jerry Wolford, Kami Svoboda, Darrel Wedeking, Dan Mulder, Leah Brevik, Colleen Mulder, Jamie O'Neill.

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, Dec. 12**

4:30 p: +Tim Schmit

**Sunday, Dec. 13**

8 a: +Bud Brooks

10 a: +Joan Langel

**Monday, Dec. 14**

7:30 a: +Patty Zweibahmer

**Tuesday, Dec. 15**

5:15 p: +Mary Negus

**Wednesday, Dec. 16**

7:30 a: Special Int. (JLW)

**Thursday, Dec. 17**

7:30 a: +Larry & +Jenny Pick

**Friday, Dec. 18**

7:30 a: +Jolene Trienen

**Saturday, Dec. 19**

4:30 p: +Jim Cates

**Sunday, Dec. 20**

8 a: +Jeffery Eggers

10 a: +Gina Tiefenthaler

+Ed Wollner

+Norma & +Fritz Thoma

**WELCOME** to the Catholic Church through the Sacrament of Baptism to Bowen Robert Brown, son of Ryan and Emily (Jacobs) Brown who was baptized Dec. 6, 2020 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Milford.

**PRAYERS and sympathy from the St. Joseph Parish Family to:**

✓ Janet Hodapp and Joann Chaffin on the death of their brother, +Herman Hodapp, 77, of Lakeland, FL, who died Dec. 1, 2020. His burial will be at a later date; and to ✓ Jerry Robinson on the death of his wife, +Susan Robinson, 84, of Okoboji, who died Sun., Nov. 29. A private family memorial service was held.

#### DAA UPDATE

Goal: \$57,241.00

Paid to date: \$19,406.00

Pledged: \$1,440.00

Remaining: \$36,395

# Families: 705

# Responses: 135

% of Response: 19

% of Goal Reached: 46