



Good Shepherd

CLUSTER

Sunday, December 21, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dear Padre

December 21, 2025

I went to confession, and then, months later, my priest was removed for alcoholism and theft. Is my confession still worthy?

Your confession is not dependent on the worthiness or the unworthiness of the priest. Your confession is made to Jesus; the priest is a witness who pronounces the words of absolution that Jesus intended in the sacrament. "From the moment that a sacrament is celebrated in accordance with the intention of the Church, the power of Christ and his Spirit acts in and through it, independently of the personal holiness of the minister" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1128).

The question of the efficacy of the sacrament and the unworthiness of the minister who performs the sacrament in the name of the Church is not new. During the time of persecution, in the early centuries of the Church, some people, including priests and bishops, avoided martyrdom by offering the required oblation to Caesar. Later, they repented and returned to the Christian community, a community that included the surviving family and friends of the men and women who were martyred. The question was asked, and with some animated energy, "How could these ministers who sinned to save their own lives now represent the Church?" The answer, arrived at with patience and discernment, is that the minister is only the representative of the sacrament, not the source of the sacrament. Jesus is faithful, even when his ministers have been unfaithful. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

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MONDAY

December 22
Advent Weekday
 1 Sm 1:24-28
 Lk 1:46-56

TUESDAY

December 23
Advent Weekday
 Mal 3:1-4, 23-24
 Lk 1:57-66

WEDNESDAY

December 24
Advent Weekday
 2 Sm 7:1-5,
 8b-12, 14a, 16
 Lk 1:67-79

THURSDAY

December 25
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
 Is 52:7-10
 Heb 1:1-6
 Jn 1:1-18
 or 1:1-5, 9-14

FRIDAY

December 26
St. Stephen, the First Martyr
 Acts 6:8-10;
 7:54-59
 Mt 10:17-22

SATURDAY

December 27
St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
 1 Jn 1:1-4
 Jn 20:1a, 2-8

SUNDAY

December 28
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
 Sir 3:2-6, 12-14
 Col 3:12-21
 or 3:12-17
 Mt 2:13-15,
 19-23

WELCOME TO THE GOOD SHEPHERD CLUSTER

HOLY FAMILY, NEW HAMPTON
 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, NW
 ST. BONIFACE, IONIA

313 W. Court St. New Hampton, IA
 Email Address: clustergs@gmail.com

GOOD SHEPHERD
 PARISH OFFICE HOURS:
 MON.-THURS. 8 AM-4:30 PM
 FRIDAY 8 AM-NOON

VISIT US ON OUR WEBSITE
www.goodshepherdcluster.com

MISSION STATEMENT

"As a Catholic faith community we strive to unite as a people of God whose life is centered in the Eucharist. We seek to live the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, called to be faithful stewards of God's gifts, growing in faith and attending to the spiritual and social needs of all."

Christmas Masses Schedule

Dec. 24	4 pm	Holy Family, New Hampton
Dec. 24	6 pm	St. Boniface, Ionia
Dec. 25	Midnight	Holy Family, New Hampton
Dec. 25	8 am	Holy Family, New Hampton
Dec. 25	10 am	Immaculate Conception, North Washington

GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF

Hours: Monday-Thursday 8 AM-4:30 PM

Friday 8 AM-Noon

Pastoral Office	641-394-2105
St. Joseph Community School	641-394-2865
St. John's School of Religion	641-394-2404
Pastor: Rev. Chris Podhajsky	641-394-2105
Principal: Michele Nehls	641-394-2865
Deacon: Victor DeSloover	563-429-2773
Cluster Business Manager: Becky Ptacek-Havlik	
Hispanic Minister: Gustavo Jimenez	
Interim Director Faith Formation: Tara Underwood	
Pastoral Assistant: Gladys Christoph	641-330-9223
Cluster Secretary: Marcia Howe	
Social Media: Chris Vital	
Custodian: Dave Roethler	
Music Director: Michelle Lau	641-229-6589
Adult Choir Director: Ann Bennett	641-394-5407
North Washington Choir: Sharon Heying	641-330-7714
Calvary Cemetery-Don Dixon	319-290-4991
St. Mary's, New Hampton-Mike Pickar	641-430-2446
St. Mary's, N. Washington-Jake Hackman	641-330-6841
St. Boniface-Dave Bonfig	641-394-4703

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULES

St. Boniface & Immaculate Conception Parish

Alternate Saturday 6 PM Mass

Holy Family Spanish Mass 1st & 3rd Sunday
11:30 AM

Saturday

4 PM Holy Family, New Hampton

6 PM St. Boniface

Christmas Eve, December 24

December 27 @ 6 pm

6 PM Immaculate Conception,

December 20

Christmas Day, December 25 @ 10 am

Sunday

8 AM & 10 AM Holy Family, New Hampton

SPOTLIGHT ON: We wish to recognize and thank our Advertiser of the Week **The Pub at the Pinicon**. Please patronize our advertisers. Let them know you appreciate their support of the parish bulletin.

RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation from 3-3:30 p.m. Saturday in the Reconciliation Chapel at Holy Family, New Hampton. Reconciliation may be celebrated on request at St. Boniface, Ionia & Immaculate Conception, North Washington. Sunday Reconciliation from 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Reconciliation Chapel at Holy Family, New Hampton.

Baptisms: Please contact Deacon Vic DeSloover @ 563-429-2773.

Marriage: Please contact the priest at least six months in advance.

Weekly Prayer & Faith Sharing & Ministry

1:30 PM-Rosary @ MercyOne Hospital Chapel on Tues.
2-4 PM Sharing Room, Pastoral Office on Wednesday
4 PM-Midnight-Holy Family-Adoration on Thursday
9-11 AM Sharing Room, Pastoral Office on Friday
9:30 AM-Coffee Talk after the 8:30 Mass in the Gathering Space
9 AM Bible Study, Pastoral Office on Saturday

Visiting the Sick or Anointing: If you would like a visit from Fr. Chris, please contact the Pastoral Office at 394-2105. The hospital and nursing homes do not notify us unless a family member requests.

PRAYERS for the SICK: We ask the Lord Jesus to bless all those in sickness, in weakness & in pain. Please join us in prayer for: Mary Wegner, Donna Leichtman Geerts, Ashley A. Boeding, Bob, Gary Grube, Lynn Bailey, Kevin Meissen, Bud & Patty Mowatt, Ardis Larsen, High risk pregnancy, Elizabeth Gomez Vasquez, Rhonda Dreckman, June Rosonke, Norbert, Alice & Tom Rasing, Louise Conry, Terry Lynn Rausch, Michele K, Bill Sinnwell, Joyce Lowe, Beatrice Miller, Patty Forkenbrock, all special intentions & cancer patients.

PRAYER NETWORK: For a prayer request, please call the parish office during the business day @ 394-2105 or after hours to Jan Gorman @ 641-229-6072, or Carol Schmitz @ 394-6072.

Please note: **Due to the length of our prayer list, we will list the special intentions for prayer for two weeks.** If you wish names to remain longer, please call the parish office 394-2105 & we will be glad to leave the names in for as long as needed. Thank you for your understanding.

Military active duty- SGT. Trevor J. Burgart, SGT Adam J. Burgart, Dylan Usher, Kaleb Macon, SGT. Andrew Kasuboski, SFC. Michael Messersmith, Adam Tieskotter, Michael Nosbisch, Staff Sgt. Nathan Schulz, Nichole Caldararo, Dustin Boeding, Paul Langreck

REST IN PEACE: Please remember those in your prayers who recently died:

CLUSTER NEWS

ST. BONIFACE ORNAMENTS: Did you (or someone you know) get baptized at St Boniface, receive your First Communion, Confirmation, or were you married there?

Then we have a collectable for you! We still have some ornaments available to decorate your Christmas tree and remember our 125th anniversary celebration last year.

They are \$10 and will be sold before and after Masses during December or contact Karen Bonfig (612-599-5037) if you would like to purchase some. Ornaments are also available at the Pastoral Office, New Hampton.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MINISTRY: Deacon Vic will be doing a training for anyone interested in being an Altar Server at Immaculate Conception. Young people to adults are welcome to the training. Also volunteers needed for Lectors, Greeters, and Sacristans. Let us all join together in the celebration in sharing our gifts of hospitality.

END OF THE YEAR GIVING: As we near the end of 2025, we ask that you please have your church donations in by **noon** on December 31, 2025. Donations received after this, including by mail will be recorded in 2026.

RECENTLY ENGAGED: If you are newly engaged and will be getting married in 2026. We will have a Pre-Cana Day at Holy Family on January 25, 2026. If you have questions or like more information, contact Deacon Vic DeSloover at 563-429-2773.

FAITH FORMATION & ST. JOHN REGISTRATIONS AND FEES: This is a reminder to parents - Please make sure you have completed registration forms for your students for St. John's and Faith Formation. Registration is available online or by contacting the office. You can also pay online or by cash/check. If you have questions, please contact the Pastoral Office.

HOLY FAMILY INTENTION CARDS: There are intention cards found at the back of the Church and at the Pastoral Office for any Holy Family parishioners who chooses to complete one. Please return to Becky by December 31, 2025. Thank you.

SHARING ROOM: Is in need of gentle used children's clothes all sizes welcome. Shoes, boots, mittens, socks...are also welcome.

HELP with MINISTRY: We are in need of volunteers to be greeters, lectors, and Eucharistic ministers at our weekend masses.

December 14, 2025	Budget Report		
Parish	Holy Family	Immaculate Conception	St Boniface
Yearly Collection Needed *	\$627,787.00	\$48,667.00	\$42,091.00
Yearly Collection Needed to 12.14.2025	\$289,747.92	\$22,461.60	\$19,426.56
Needed Weekly Amount	\$12,072.83	\$935.90	\$809.44
Received Last Week	\$16,208.78	\$2,115.00	\$775.00
Year to Date Recd to 12.14.2025	\$272,112.92	\$12,832.44	\$15,575.00
Difference	-\$17,635.00	-\$9,629.16	-\$3,851.56
Offertory	\$1,363.00		\$32.00
Hispanic collection			

*This is the amount determined to balance each respective church's budget. This includes only the adult budget envelopes and not a reflection of the actual income statement.

CLUSTER NEWS

JOURNEY IN FAITH Update and Next Steps.

Thanks to all of you who have shared your thoughts, hopes and concerns through the Journey in Faith process.

The feedback part of our process has come to a close. 34 Regional Meetings were held across the Archdiocese in the month of September. Over 8000 individuals attended these meetings to learn more about the proposed plan. In late September through November, we held more than 300 parish meetings and welcomed over 16,500 total participants to these meetings. Specific scribed feedback from each of these meetings was collected and submitted. Over the course of the past three months, the Archdiocese received more than 5000 submissions of individual feedback, either through the feedback form or via direct mail.

Click on the link below for accurate, helpful information about the process.

<https://www.dbqjourneyinfaith.org/faq>

I invite you to watch this video message outlining our feedback process and next steps in the Journey in Faith pastoral planning process.

<https://vimeo.com/1140932458#embed>

Rejoice—The Lord Is Near! Advent reminds us that *Love is coming. Love draws near.* As this holy season unfolds, parishioners are encouraged to take part in the Archdiocese of Dubuque's online Advent meditations—a daily opportunity to pause, pray, and be transformed in hope.

Through the witness of the saints— Mary, St. Francis Xavier, St. Nicholas, and St. Juan Diego—the Archdiocese invites all to trust, love generously, share peace, and carry the Gospel with joy.

Find joy in praying together and in the Eucharist, the source of our hope. Join the Advent journey on social media at @DBQArch and let your heart be renewed in the light of Christ.

Are you part of

THE INN CROWD



Step into the Manger
and snap a selfie!

- Grab a prop
- Strike a pose
- Share the joy!

#RoomInTheStable

Gathering Space at Holy Family Parish

AREA NEWS & EVENTS

COOKIES FOR CANCER: December cookie of the month ... decorated assorted Christmas cutouts 15/\$10. Or you may purchase gift certificates \$5.00 and up!!! Contact Rose Ann Schwickerath 641-557-8530. Thanks for your support.

LIFESERVE BLOOD DRIVE: Tuesday, December 23, 12:00 PM-5:30 PM at the New Hampton Community Center 112 E. Spring St. Call LifeServe to make appointment 800-287-4903 or visit lifeservebloodcenter.org
Your Blood their Holiday Miracle!!! Donate this month!!

MARRIED COUPLES - WANT TO GIVE A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING? Register for the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend - it's the best gift you'll ever give to each other and your marriage! For more information contact Denise and Greg at 563-920-9419 or visit wwme.org. Upcoming Dates: February 13-15 in Dubuque, April 10-12 in Marshalltown, October 9-11 in Epworth, IA.

Religious Education Teacher: Good Shepherd Cluster, New Hampton, is looking for a person to fill our role of Religious Education Teacher. This role can be part-time or full-time. We are flexible. The part-time role will be responsible for preparing 9th and 10th grade students for Confirmation at St John School of Religion. This person will also be responsible for maintaining their teaching space and tracking registrations and fees. The full-time role will include the part-time role responsibilities and assist with teaching religion to elementary and middle school students at St. Joseph Community School. Weekends are required as needed for preparation of the sacrament(s). This person should be proficient with technology and the internet, be organized and able to meet deadlines. It is preferred that this person hold some theological education or related field. However, this is not required if you are the right person for this role. Please contact Fr. Chris Podhajsky at 641-394-2105 or c.podhajsky@dbqarch.org



Pastoral Assistant - Good Shepherd Cluster, New Hampton, is seeking a part-time Pastoral Assistant. This person must be a Catholic in good standing with the Church. This person will be responsible for initiating and administering programs and activities intended for faith formation (primarily adults), coordinating local involvement in larger events (Women's conference, Men's conference, World Day of Prayer, etc), and assisting in the planning of liturgical celebrations for major feasts. When needed, this person will also meet with families to assist in planning funerals for loved ones. This person will also be involved in ordering liturgical materials for the Cluster. This person should be proficient with technology and the internet, be organized and able to meet deadlines. It is preferred that this person have 2 years of experience in parish-based ministry. However, this is not required if you are the right person for this role. If interested in this position, please contact Fr. Chris Podhajsky at 641-394-2105 or email at dbq141@dbqarch.org.

Now Hiring: Preschool Enrichment Staff Member

St. Joseph Community School is excited to announce an opening for a **Preschool Enrichment** team member! We are looking for a caring, energetic, and dependable individual who loves working with young children and helping them learn, play, and grow.

Position Details:

- **Schedule:** Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
- **Hours:** 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM
- **Role:** Preschool Enrichment (supporting students during extended learning and play activities)

What We're Looking For:

- Someone who enjoys working with preschool-aged children
- A positive and patient attitude
- Strong communication and teamwork skills
- Reliability and professionalism
- Experience in childcare or education is a plus but not required

If you—or someone you know—would be a great fit for this role, please reach out to us for more information or to apply!

Nativity Word Search

C A N O I T A V L A S D N S H S
 Q S H E P H E R D S R F A L L U
 R A T S A M T S I R H C T E J S
 N E M E S I W S H E E P I G O E
 J G N I K M A R Y G I U V N S J
 M O S Y I H X Q U R Q W I A E T
 D O N K E Y R E G N A M T D P M
 Z I L I N N K E E P E R Y O H F

- angels
- Christmas
- donkey
- innkeeper
- Jesus
- Joseph
- king
- manger
- Mary
- nativity
- salvation
- sheep
- shepherds
- star
- wisemen



•••••
 • "Dear Jesus, may the light of your
 • love always shine in our hearts. As
 • Christmas draws closer, we marvel
 • at your great love for us. Let your
 • love transform every aspect of our
 • lives and touch everyone we
 • encounter. Our hearts are open to
 • you, Jesus. Amen".
 •••••



Due to confidentiality regulations, hospitals and nursing homes do not automatically notify the church when members of our parish and cluster receive medical care.

We rely on family and friends to keep us informed when someone needs communion brought to the home, anointing of the sick or a pastoral visit.

Help Us find the Home Bound

The Good Shepherd Cluster of St. Boniface-Ionia, Immaculate Conception-North Washington, and Holy Family-New Hampton, is updating our list of people who are homebound due to age or illness, those in nursing homes and hospitals, and all who many need pastoral care.

Please fill out the information on the other side.

Name of Person to Visit	Name of contact person
Home Address or Facility Address	Phone/Cell number
Phone/Cell Number	
Type of services needed <input type="checkbox"/> Communion at home <input type="checkbox"/> Anointing of the Sick <input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral visit <input type="checkbox"/> Other	



LIGHTING THE PATH FOR A HIGHER PURPOSE

At St. Joseph Community School, we are proud to offer a rich Catholic education rooted in the Gospel values of faith, love, service, and community. As we begin our Annual Fund Drive, we invite you to join us once again in supporting this mission.

Thanks to your past generosity, our students are thriving—equipped with the tools they need to learn, and guided by dedicated teachers who are committed to helping each child grow in both knowledge and faith. Today, we need your help to continue this important work. Your gift ensures that every student receives individualized instruction, recognizing that each child learns differently and is wonderfully unique—created in the image of God.

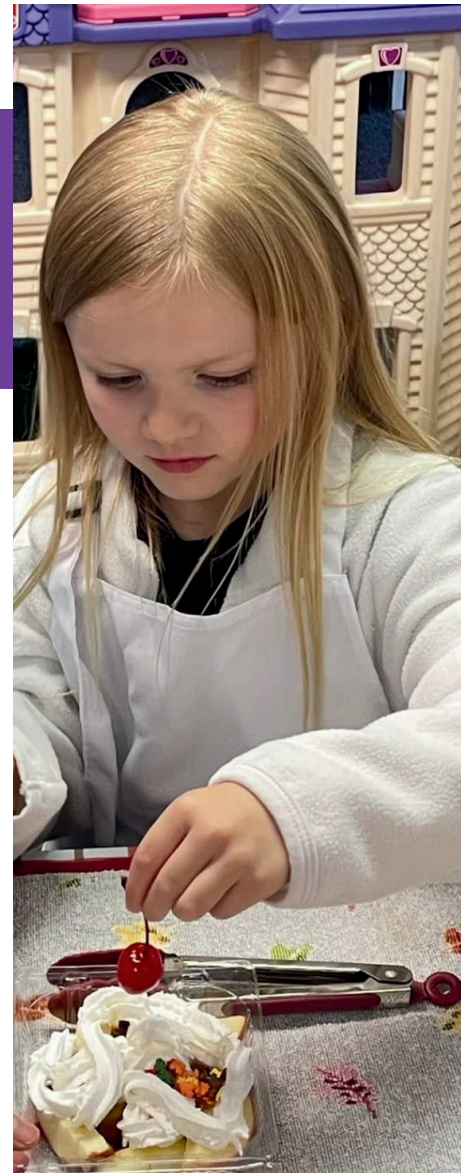
Please use the enclosed envelope to make your donation or pledge your support to St. Joseph Community School. Our students are counting on you—and we know you care. Whether you are a graduate, parishioner, parent, or friend, your gift will help sustain the legacy of excellence that generations before you have built.

Education is always evolving, but our mission remains strong. Your generosity makes it possible. Please give as generously as you can.

For our kids,

Mrs. Nehls

Principal St. Joseph Community School



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

- Yes! I support St. Joseph Community School, and I will remember the school in my prayers
- Yes! I support St. Joseph Community School. I will pray for the school, and I also have enclosed a financial donation in the amount of:
 - \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000

Name: _____

Address: _____

Street

City

State

Zip

- Yes! I have remembered St. Joseph Community School in my estate planning!

More Information to fill out on the back

2025-2026 ANNUAL FUND

GIVING LEVELS

- St. Joseph Activist.....\$1-\$249
- St. Joseph Advocate.....\$250-\$499
- St. Joseph Champion.....\$500-\$999
- St. Joseph Hero.....\$1,000+

Scan for quick online giving!
"Annual Fund"



bitly

Estate gifts and memorial donations are meaningful ways to honor loved ones while keeping St. Joseph Community School in your heart and legacy. If you are considering this type of gift, we invite you to reach out to us—we would be honored to discuss how your generosity can make a lasting impact.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

PLEASE CHECK ALL APPLICABLE BOXES

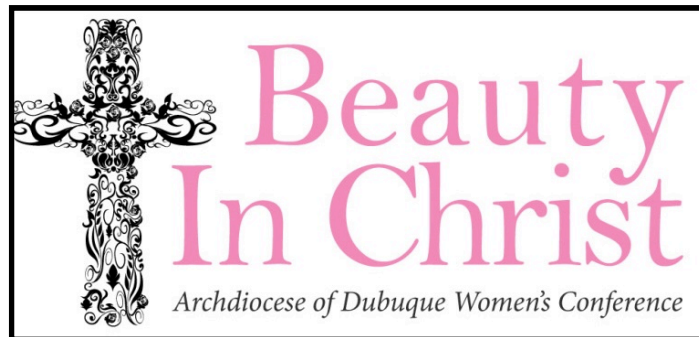
- Parishioner
- Parent
- Grandparent (Please list current grandchildren at St. Joseph Community School)

- Alum (Graduated in _____)
- Friend
- Business

DOES YOUR EMPLOYER OFFER MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM? PLEASE ASK YOUR COMPANY FOR DETAILS.



Checks can be sent to:
St. Joseph Community School
Annual Fund
216 N. Broadway Ave.
New Hampton, IA 50659



Attend the 2026 Archdiocesan Women's Conference, *Beauty in Christ*:

Grace for the Journey Saturday, January 31, 2026, 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM
Great Speakers! Great Company!

A Great way to journey with other Catholic Women of faith in our area
Come join us in a gathering with retreat and faith sharing vibes.
January 31, 2026. 8:00 am to 1:30 pm. Lunch provided.

Immaculate Conception Church, Charles City. Carpooling available.

Contact Gladys: at the office 641-394-2105...Cell [641-330-9223](tel:641-330-9223)...gchristoph9@gmail.com



Don't Miss the 2026 Men's Conference! Do you want to be inspired in your faith and experience fellowship with other men? Are you looking to grow in your prayer life? You're invited to the 30th Annual Archdiocese of Dubuque Catholic Men's Conference on Saturday, March 28, 2026! The conference theme will be: Rooted in the Power of Prayer, Inspired by the Witness of the Saints. The 2026 conference will feature Gabriel Castillo as the keynote speaker and Keith Nester as a breakout session speaker. It will take place at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Cedar Rapids. Learn more and register at www.ArchMensConference.org.



 <p>105 E Main - New Hampton 641-394-2500 office 319-240-6879 cell PAT SCHWICKERATH Broker/Owner www.PatsFirstChoiceRealty.com</p>	<p>Promotions ~ Anniversaries ~ Weddings www.MessersmithPromo.com</p>  <p>394-4557 - Bob@MessersmithPromo.com</p>	<p>Chickasaw Mutual Insurance Association 641-394-2158 or 800-767-5447 25 W Main St., New Hampton IA 50659 Randy E. Nusbich • Connie Boyd • Andrew Zweibohmer Insuring Homes and Farms Since 1875</p> 	<p>Gerard Glaser Construction New Homes & Cabinets</p> <p>New Construction, Remodeling Additions, Custom Furniture and Cabinets</p> <p>1807 200th St New Hampton, IA 50659 641-394-4668</p> 
<p>COUNTRY CARPENTRY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES WOOD BASEMENTS CUSTOM FURNITURE CUSTOM CABINETRY GARAGES REMODELING <p>LESTER GLASER 641-394-5157</p> 	<p>NEW HAMPTON Electric</p> <p>Serving All Your Electrical Needs Since 1970</p> <p>Duane Quirk, Lori Quirk, and Brad Quirk 641-394-2187 207 E. Main</p>		<p>COMPLETE AUTO BODY REPAIR - DAMAGE FREE TOWING</p> <p>New Hampton Auto Body, LLC</p> <p>STAN TRASK, OWNER 421 E. Main 641-394-3014 • fax 641-394-4288 stan@nhabody.com</p>
<p>Amway™</p> <p>Rose Holschlag (954) 579-7794 Parishioner</p>	 <p>On-site Crematory 641-394-4334 Your loved one never leaves our care</p>	<p>GEERTS <i>Plumbing & Heating</i></p> <p>913 N. Linn - New Hampton, IA 641.394.3369 - www.geertsphc.com Since 1978</p>	
 <p>KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS</p> <p>A Family Minded Organization</p> <p>Council #1697</p>	<p>Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Joan of Arc #388</p> 	 <p>Serving America's Landowners Since 1929</p> <p>Farmers National Company™ Randy Mitchell Real Estate Sales 1866 Linn Drive - New Hampton, Iowa 50659 Office/Fax: (641) 394-3676 - Mobile: (641) 220-3410 Email: RMitchell@FarmersNational.com www.FarmersNational.com</p>	 <p>VERN LAURES AUTO CENTER</p> <p>CHEVROLET JEEP</p> <p>1950 N. LINN P.O. BOX 377 NEW HAMPTON, IOWA 50659 641.394.3025 www.vernlauresautocenter.com</p>
<p>QEPIQUE REALTY</p> <p>JOANNE HEYING REALTOR 641.330.3859 focus.joanneh@gmail.com JoanneHeyingRealtor myiowarealestate.com Licensed to sell real estate in Iowa</p> 	<p>ECKENROD FARMS</p> <p>Jim and Julie Eckenrod New Hampton IA Parish and School Supporters</p>	 <p>2205 S Linn Ave New Hampton, IA 641-394-4430 https://www.pubatthepinicon.com/</p>	
<p>SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS</p>	<p>FIERCELY INDEPENDENT.</p> <p>JOHN BURGART • 641.229.5762 AL BOHR • 563.920.2536</p>  <p>Bank Iowa Lawler 563.238.2054 New Hampton 641.394.6800 Fredericksburg 563.237.5200 Waucoma 563.776.6414 www.bankiowa.bank Member FDIC</p> <p>It's your future. Let's protect it.</p> <p>9 E. Spring St. New Hampton, IA 641.394.2000</p>   <p>FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company* Western Agricultural Insurance Company** Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company**West Des Moines, IA. *Company provides of Farm Bureau Financial Services. PR-SMA (11-20)</p> <p>Auto Home Life Annuities Business Farm & Ranch</p>	<p>Hacker Nelson & Co., CPAs</p> <p>15 E. Main St. New Hampton 641-394-2245 Strength in numbers with a personal touch.</p> <p>Tile Dual Wall Metal Gutters Intakes Septic Systems PVC Hydrants Plumbing Supplies</p> <p>KAHN Tile Supply LLC 2176 225th Street - New Hampton, Iowa fax (641) 394-2258 - kahntile@gmail.com</p> <p>David Leichtman Linn Shekleton RTS (641) 394-2809 RTS</p>	
 <p>Old-Fashioned Homemade Cooking</p> <p>Jimmy Klunder Jim & Joyce Klunder 929 W Milwaukee New Hampton 641-394-4973</p>	 <p>Dr Barb Boeding Dr Kara Speltz Dr Kayla Carrothers Dr Sara Wernimont</p> <p>BOEDING SPELTZ WERNIMONT Family Dentistry 321 E Main St - New Hampton 641.394.3016 boedingspeltzandwernimont.com</p>	<p>Northeast Iowa Handyman LLC</p> <p>Service with Integrity</p> <p>Steven Lensing (owner) stevlensing63@gmail.com many types of plumbing & home repair</p> <p>Insured and Licensed 641-330-3553</p>	

Advertising Space Available For Rent
Contact Becky at Good Shepherd Cluster
Pastoral Office 641-394-2105

GOOD SHEPHERD MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY-DECEMBER 20, 2025

4 PM-Holy Family-Duane & Dave Lynch

6 PM-Immaculate Conception-Ray & Alice Tiemessen

SUN., DECEMBER 21, 2025 4th Sunday of Advent

8 AM-Holy Family-Collective

10 AM-Holy Family-Charlie Neville &

Living & Deceased members of the Zach & Jane Neville family

11:30 AM-Holy Family Spanish Mass-For the People

MONDAY-DEC. 22, 2025

Bulletin News Due at Noon-Send to clustersg@gmail.com

TUESDAY-DECEMBER 23, 2025

5:30 PM-MercyOne Hospital Chapel-Mary Raduechel

WEDNESDAY-DECEMBER 24, 2025

4 PM-Holy Family-Jeff Leach, Kuhn & Tierney Families

6 PM-St. Boniface-Kay Koenigsfeld

THURSDAY-DECEMBER 25, 2025-The Nativity of the Lord

Midnight-Holy Family-Mike Troyna

8 am-Holy Family-For the People of the Cluster

10 am-Immaculate Conception-Jack Seelhammer

FRIDAY-DECEMBER 26, 2025

No Mass

SATURDAY-DECEMBER 27, 2025

4 PM-Holy Family-Ila Mihm

6 PM-St. Boniface-For the People of the Cluster

SUN.-DEC. 28, 2025-The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8 AM-Holy Family-Mark Schwickerath

10 AM-Holy Family-Collective

Reverend Chris Podhajsky

313 W Court St., New Hampton, IA 50659

Very Reverend Brian Dellaert

227 Valley St., Dubuque, IA 52001

Reverend James Goerend

634 Stevens St., Jesup, IA 50648

Deacon Vic DeSloover

2599 Windsor Ave., Fredericksburg, IA 50630

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Good News!

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 7:10-14 / Romans 1:1-7 / Matthew 1:18-24

MIGUEL DULICK

It is the fourth Sunday of Advent. When Christmas is this close, one takes that final leap. Isaiah is centuries from Christmas, but he cannot wait! He sees the “sign” as clear as day: “the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son” (Isaiah 7:14). And how about that Son! None other than “Emmanuel” himself—God-With-Us! Paul, too, is bursting at the seams! Inspired by what he calls “the obedience of faith” (Romans 5), he is excited to see the gospel thriving even among the Gentiles. For him, the “Spirit of holiness” is a gift offered to all—Christmas every day, you might say.

Speaking of “obedience of faith,” Joseph is the perfect example. The word “obey” comes from the same root as “to hear,” and Joseph has almost supernatural ears! Matthew, the former tax collector, tells “how the birth of Jesus Christ came about” in today’s gospel reading like a bookkeeper—the Holy Spirit in Column A, Joseph in Column B, with Mary in the middle. But when an angel whispers to Joseph at night, his dream comes true: “he took his wife into his home.” Everything is set for Emmanuel!

So, the Bible is brimming with Christmas, that is, “God-With-Us,” from end to end. And when a virgin can conceive, are any of us exempt from “birthing” Jesus in our midst? Even when a “happy holiday” seems impossible in the midst of war or violence or poverty, when our ears hear only silence, let’s sing Christmas carols every day! ●

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COLLECTIVE MASSES

HOLY FAMILY DEC. 21 AT 8 AM: Bryce Kamrath, Ray & Virginia Schwickerath, Ed & Bev Breitbach, Theresa & Frank Martin, Bernard, Calista & Ginny Laures, Eileen Reyes, Jim & Doris Galligan, William Murphy, Curtis Schwickerath and Mike Troyna.

HOLY FAMILY DECEMBER 28 AT 10 AM: Marilyn Elenz, Tony, Mickey & Kristin Blazek, Joyce Cavanaugh, Madonna Flick, Midge Schlindwein, Don Lockwood, Living & Deceased members of the John & Charlene Brannon family, Art, Frances & Janis Bohr and Peggy Lester.