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Business Mgr: Linda Blomme

Dir. of Religious Education: April Brand

Office Hours

Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Thursday 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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St. Patrick's Church

116 E Division St

Audubon, IA 50025

Office 712-563-2283

St. Patrick's Parish Ctr

712-563-3300

Holy Trinity Church

218 Kilworth St N

Exira, IA 50076

Office 712-563-2283

Holy Trinity Hall

712-268-5466

ST. PATRICK'S / HOLY TRINITY MISSION STATEMENT

To share the good news of Jesus in word and deed; to gather in prayer, worship, and the celebration of the Eucharist; to facilitate life-long faith formation; to serve the larger community especially the poor and marginalized; and to sustain parish ministry through the stewardship of time, talent, and treasure.

SACRAMENTS

RECONCILIATION

ST. PATRICK'S:

4:30 PM SATURDAYS

HOLY TRINITY:

8:00-8:15 AM

2ND & 4TH SUNDAYS

ALSO BY APPOINTMENT

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

CALL THE OFFICE IF POSSIBLE WHEN HOSPITALIZED.

BAPTISM

CALL THE OFFICE DURING PREGNANCY FOR PREPARATION CLASS.

MARRIAGE

CALL THE OFFICE AT LEAST NINE MONTHS TO ONE YEAR AHEAD TO PLAN MARRIAGE PREPARATION. WEDDING DATE SHOULD NOT BE SET UNTIL PREPARATIONS HAVE BEGUN.

ANNULMENT/

MARRIAGE VALIDATION

CALL THE OFFICE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PROCESS WITH DIOCESAN TRIBUNAL IF YOU ARE DIVORCED AND REMARRIED OR NEVER MARRIED IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

RCIA

CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OR THE RCIA PROCESS.

MEMBERSHIP/REGISTRATION

IF YOU ARE NEW, WELCOME TO OUR PARISH. PLEASE REGISTER BY CALLING THE OFFICE. IF YOU ARE MOVING AWAY, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE TO NOTIFY US BEFORE MOVING.

BULLETIN DEADLINE:

WEDNESDAY NOON



**3rd Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025**

John the Baptist is a far different man from the one who prepared the people for Jesus' coming and then baptized him in the River Jordan. There was no mistaking the Son of God then, what with the dove and the voice of God from on high. But now? John has been arrested and thrown in jail for daring to speak out against Herod. Left alone in his prison cell for days on end, he begins to doubt. Where is this Messiah whom he had proclaimed? Listen to the deeds that Jesus ticks off, all quoted from Isaiah about the day of salvation. Sure the blind see and lame walk, but what about "liberty to the captives, release to the prisoners" (Isaiah 61:1)? Had Jesus turned his back on his cousin? Have we often wondered the same thing? If Jesus is our brother, where is he in times of trouble? If we are adopted sons and daughters of God, why do we sometimes feel abandoned?

It is ironic that Jesus leads with "the blind regain their sight" (Matthew 11:5), for John himself has lost his eyes of faith. With eyes of faith, John was able to see the kingdom of heaven at hand, trees bearing good fruit, and chaff thrown into unquenchable fire (as we heard last week), much as Isaiah could see flowers blooming in the desert, disabilities eradicated, and joy banishing sorrow. But in prison he can't see as he used to and can't see what Jesus' disciples are seeing. Can we see past the surface ourselves? Sometimes we feel stuck with our maladies, our problems, and our inadequacies and don't see the possibilities in the light of Christ. Sometimes reimagining or lives from God's perspective can make the difference in how we feel about our situation in life.

It seems incongruous for Jesus to say, "Blessed is the one who takes no offense at me," after ticking off all the miraculous things he's done (Matthew 11:6). Yet we know that many took offense. The well-to-do may have resented the poor being raised up. Many regarded lepers as beneath them and their sudden cures didn't affect the way they felt about them as people. It had been easier to ignore the disabled, the homeless, and the outcasts. But the end of his ministry, the inoffensive little baby in the manger becomes the condemned man on the cross. Radically remaking the world to reflect the kingdom of God threatens the status quo and offends many.

Question of the Week:

If I am honest with myself, what part of Jesus' message offends me?

DAILY READINGS:

Monday

December 15

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a

Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday

December 16

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13

Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday

December 17

Gn 49:2, 8-10

Mt 1:1-17

Thursday

December 18

Jer 23:5-8

Mt 1:18-25

Friday

December 19

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a

Lk 1:5-25

Saturday

December 20

Is 7:10-14

Lk 1:26-38

**4th Sunday
of Advent**

December 21

Is 7:10-14

Rom 1:1-7

Mt 1:18-24

JOY

Mass Schedule

Monday, December 15:

9:00 a.m.—Cup of Grace
7:30 p.m.—Knights of Columbus Meeting

Tuesday, December 16:

7:30 a.m.—Mass at SP [Marjorie Schultes]
7:00 p.m.—SP Finance Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 17:

7:30 a.m.—Mass at SP [Verna Mayer]
8:30 a.m.—Mass at HT
[Gene & Charlotte Zortman]

4:30 p.m.—RE grades K-8
7:00 p.m.—RE grades 9-10
7:00 p.m.—Choir Practice

Thursday, December 18:

7:30 a.m.—Mass at SP
[Healing for those who suffer]

Friday, December 19:

7:30 a.m.—Mass at SP [Paul Irlmeier]
8:30 a.m.—Mass at HT [For The People]

Saturday, December 20:

4:30 p.m.—Reconciliation
5:00 p.m.— Mass at SP [Don Irlmeier]

4th Sunday in Advent, December 21:

8:30 a.m.— Mass at SP [Irma Sander]
9:30 a.m.—Coffee & Rolls at SP
9:30 a.m.—SPCW Meeting
10:30 a.m.—Mass at HT [Rudolph & Irene Meyers]
4:00 p.m.—Reconciliation Service at HT
8:00 p.m.—RE grades 11-12

Liturgy Schedule

ST. PATRICK'S:

Saturday, December 20— 5:00 P.M.:

Ushers:
Reader: Ann Carter
Eucharist Ministers: Ann Carter, Volunteers
Music: Gary Keller, Rosemary Williamson
Servers: Lucy & Ella Stanerson, Gavin Carter
Sacristan: Maxine Klein

Sunday, December 21—8:30 A.M.:

Ushers:
Reader: Jennifer Mosinski
Eucharist Ministers: Don & Jennifer Mosinski,
Tom Chambers
Music: Linda Blomme, Deanna Kerkhoff
Servers: Marie, Mason and Grace Brand
Sacristan: Marty Hanson

HOLY TRINITY:

Sunday, December 21—10:30 A.M.

Ushers: Vernie Venteicher, Volunteer
Reader: Joe Rasmussen
Eucharist Minister: Abby Rasmussen
E.C.C.: Mike Bintner
Song Leader: Jean Madsen
Servers: Harper & Weston Rasmussen



Sympathy and prayers to Angie Petersen and family on the death of her husband Larry, who died December 4th.

December 7 Giving

	St. Patrick's	Holy Trinity
Tithes	\$5,560.00	\$425.00
Plate	\$120.00	\$14.00
Building Fund	\$540.00	
Holy Day	\$150.00	
Total	\$6,370.00	\$439.00

2025 ANNUAL
DIOCESAN APPEAL



St. Pat's Goal:	\$32,292.00	Donor	Yet to
Pledges & Gifts:	\$30,783.75	Households	Donate
Payments Rec'd:	\$30,083.75	58	75
Needed:	\$1,508.25		
Holy Trinity's Goal:	\$9,138.00	Donor	Yet to
Pledges & Gifts:	\$9,082.25	Households	Donate
Payments Rec'd:	\$9,082.25	19	21
Needed:	\$55.75		



Happy Birthday

- 16th** - Brylynn Petersen
Joey Sorensen
- 17th** - Lynn Klever
Pat Crosley
- 18th** - Brad Kerkhoff
Jon Bintner
- 19th** - Lennon Muhr
- 20th** - Gary Rasmussen



Holy Trinity's goal	\$40,000.00	Donor	Yet to
Pledges & Gifts	\$30,936.00	Households	Donate
Payments Rec'd	\$26,435.98	19	20
Needed	\$9,064.00		

BECOMING THE BEST DISCIPLE

The quote for this week that also appears on the whiteboard in the front of the church is:

*"Jesus came for you—
on purpose, with purpose."*

Take time this week to sit quietly, or perhaps as you drive to your destination, to reflect on this message.
REMEMBER TO LISTEN FOR GOD'S RESPONSE.



Reconciliation Service Schedule

December 14: 4:00 p.m. St. Patrick's
December 21: 4:00 p.m. Holy Trinity



A BIG thank you to all of our SPCW bakers, \$30 donors and day-of helpers! The selection of cookies was amazing and we sold out by 10:30 am.

Linda Blomme & Nikki Stanerson
Cookie Walk co-chairs

On this third Sunday of Advent, the Church bids us rejoice—*gaudete* in Latin. Our first reading, from Isaiah, intones our call (mandate) to rejoice with a wondrous prophecy in which God overcomes a variety of deficiencies. The first unfolds in the context of nature as Isaiah mentions different infertile landscapes. Through God's intervention, these ordinarily barren terrains bloom. As these wastelands grow lush, they rejoice. The landscape itself, seeing "the glory of the Lord," becomes elated.

After treating nature, Isaiah attends to human persons., Specifically, he considers those whose hands and knees have lost their strength. Once strong, these weakened individuals are exhorted to "be strong" once again on account of God drawing near. The basis for such strength lies in the promises that accompany God's approach. "Vindication" and "recompense" suggest that there will be a divine leveling of injustice; things that are wrong will be set right. Above all, there will be salvation. God's approach promises to save those whom Isaiah addresses.

After showing God's transform barren landscapes and weakened individuals, Isaiah attends to a third group, individuals with disabilities. For Isaiah, disability hindered ordinary participation in society. As a result, people faced with such conditions experienced a social deficiency. So as Isaiah presents blind people having their eyes opened, deaf people receiving functional ears, lame people leaping, and mute people singing joyously, their participation in society (seemingly for the first time) marks an astounding work of God. They can enjoy the goods of social interaction.

Finally, Isaiah speaks of individuals who have been "ransomed" by the Lord and enabled to return home to Zion. These once imprisoned people experience "everlasting joy" upon their homecoming. Thus, Isaiah weaves together a tapestry of people and things who find various reasons to rejoice in God's transformative work.



✝ All those involved in serving our country in any capacity. Special prayers to those on our prayer chain: Caleb Deist, Kellen Hemmingsen, LeAnn Hoffman, Ivan Blocker, Bill Ryan, Tina Madsen, Ellie Bennett,

Rosemary Hess, Joe Schulte, Lauren Bock, Larry Petersen, Jared Schliecher, Dawson Truitt, Lilly Hankemeier, Eleanor, Emilin & Enastatia Clark, Robbi Wittrock, Jenny Brabham, Oliver Turnbull, Vern Wagner, Ava Weitzl, Fred Miller, Dash Burr, Randy Clausen, Connie (Fox) Hawthorne, Sheri Jo Porsch, Don Heller, Leonard Baumhover, Larry O'Tool, Joey Wanninger, Fred Muhr, Nick Swanson, Linda Kerkhoff, Leon Ditto, Deacon Fred Cornwell, Wade Wilson, Father Gubbels, Helen Jorgensen, Dreva Rutherford, Marcia Hanson and all those who are facing very difficult situations and suffer in silence.

All those who are suffering and their families remain in our thoughts and prayers. Please contact the office if your loved one's status changes.

Mass Stipends to increase from \$5 to \$10

Starting January 1, 2026

-Any Mass Intentions received before January 1, 2026 will be honored at the \$5.00 amount.

-If any Mass offerings of \$5.00 have been received but not assigned until after January 1, 2026, they will be honored at the \$5.00 amount.



The Lions Club has a project to collect shoes for third world countries. It is called SOLES FOR SOULS. They can be new, or slightly used, any type, any size. They will also accept high heels, sneakers, etc. Also, if you have only one shoe, that is ok too. There is a box in the basement north-west entrance for collection.

What does pink (rose) symbolize in Advent?

In Advent, the pink (or rose) color symbolizes joy and rejoicing. Pink (or rose) is the second most common Advent color. It is used specifically on the third Sunday of Advent, known as "Gaudete Sunday." The word *Gaudete* means "rejoice" in Latin, marking a joyful pause halfway through [Advent's more penitential season](#) as Christmas draws nearer.

This Sunday's pink candle on the Advent wreath, often called the "Joy Candle," reminds the faithful to rejoice in the promise of Christ's coming. It's a day of hope, gratitude, and a renewed focus on the joy of the approaching Christmas celebration.

CHRIST OUR LIFE

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

September 26 & 27, 2026



A Christmas Gift For the Soul!

Give the perfect gift to others and yourself...
the love and joy of celebrating Jesus in the
company of thousands of Catholics

- World Class Speakers
- Adoration
- Beautiful Masses
- Reconciliation
- Superb Music
- Fellowship
- Vendor & Organization Booths

Let's Believe...Live...and Celebrate Our Faith!

Go to ChristOurLifeIowa.com for information & tickets

ST. PATRICK'S RAFFLE:

WIN \$1,000.00

We invite you to participate in a **Building Fund** fund-raising initiative with the potential to raise over \$45,000.

Each participant will receive an envelope containing a calendar on the front and a donor registration form on the back. We kindly encourage you to invite friends, family, neighbors, and colleagues to sponsor one or more days on your calendar. For example, if a donor selects days 1, 3, and 5, their total contribution will be \$9.00; selecting day 22 will require a donation of \$22.00. Every dollar donated qualifies as one entry into a drawing for a \$1,000.00 prize.

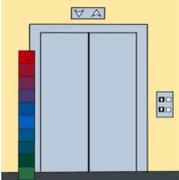
All collected donations should be placed in your envelope. Once your calendar is complete, please submit it to the church office. Envelopes can be obtained at the church office if you need another or did not receive one. Please note that purchasers must be at least 18 years of age to participate.

RCIA: If you or anyone you know is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, please call the church office. You do not have to make a commitment to join the church in order to attend. We have just started a new group. We are also looking for more members on the RCIA team.



We continue to collect coats that we no longer wear for those who could use them. Coats may be left in the box in the west entrance of St. Patrick's basement.

ELEVATOR



St. Patrick's Elevator Update!

Reminder: this project includes solving a long-standing water issue on the west side of the church building, plus removal of the crumbling north steps/landscaping as well as an elevator/interior stairs.

Building Fund balance to date = \$356,203.11

When donating, please be sure to note on your donation that it is for "Building Fund" or "Elevator Project"

PRAY FOR THEIR SERVICE:



Several of our members and relatives of members are currently serving in the military. Please pray for them and their families. We pray for their safety and when on a mission, their quick return home to

family and friends.

Chance McLaughlin
Hayden McLaughlin
Cole & Mary Turnbull
Taylor Kerkhoff
Mason Hjuler
Mark Otte

Daniel Buser
Rusty Dixon
Sara Kerkhoff
Robert Hjuler
Zachary Kirkpatrick
Madeline Bintner

*Please contact the office with any other names.

St. Patrick's Finance Council :

Annette Bruch
Alice Lauridsen
Alex Lopez
Kevin Wittrock
Charlotte Fett
Marty Hanson
Don Mosinski

Holy Trinity Finance Council:

Paul Christensen
Anita Hansen
Riann Hansen
Jean Madsen
Hugh Rossell

Corpus Christi Pastoral Council:

Cole Bruch
Aaron Kerkhoff
Brooke Klocke
Jennifer Brabham
Ben Hansen
Susan Osvald