



# CIRCLE OF SAINTS CIRCULO DE SANTOS

ST. PATRICK, TAMA • ST. JOSEPH, CHELSEA • ST. MICHAEL, BELLE PLAINE

## Office

900 Park St, Tama, IA 52339  
[641] 484-3039

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

**Friday**  
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

## St. Michael Office

1302 9th Ave  
Belle Plaine, IA 52208  
[319] 444-3106

**Wednesday & Thursday**  
8 AM - 3 PM

## **Our Mission**

*We are here to form spirit - filled missionary disciples of Jesus Christ for the Glory of God.*

## **Nuestra Misión**

*Estamos aquí para formar discípulos misioneros de Jesucristo llenos del espíritu para la gloria de Dios.*



**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**The Virgin Shall Conceive**

**December 21, 2025**

**Cuarto domingo de adviento**

**La Virgen Concebira**

**El 21 de diciembre del 2025**

## **Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Masses**

Times and locations will be confirmed soon. We appreciate your understanding as we work to secure a priest to celebrate the liturgy with our community. The most accurate and up-to-date information will be posted on our website at [cofsaints.org](http://cofsaints.org). You will also receive updates via text, if you have signed up for them. Call the office if you are not receiving text updates & would like to sign up!

# Christmas

## Why Is Christmas Celebrated?

The Church celebrates the “marvelous works of God” through public worship, or liturgy, commemorating the great events in salvation history. The Nativity of Our Lord celebrates the point in history when the Son of God became Man for our Salvation—an act of loving obedience to the Father, and saving love for us, that will culminate on the Cross.

**Philippians 2:5-8:** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

## Why did shepherds visit Jesus?

Angels appeared to the shepherds to announce that Jesus was born (Luke 2:8-15). The deeper significance of shepherds visiting Jesus is that He is the Lamb of God and our Paschal sacrifice (the Lamb that is slaughtered at Passover). This indicates that, even from His Birth, He was meant to die for our sins, as the perfect sacrifice.

## Who were the shepherds in Christ's Nativity story?

They were unnamed, but they have a significant role in the Nativity story. Instead of appearing in front of kings, the Son of God was first made known to humble shepherds.

## Why did God choose shepherds to receive heavenly messages?

Scripture portrays the Messiah both as shepherd of souls and victim for souls. David was a shepherd boy when he was chosen to shepherd God's people Israel as its king. Christ, his descendant, is the eternal shepherd of God's redeemed people.

Scripture also portrays the Messiah as a lamb, who will be led to slaughter. This was foreshadowed in the Paschal Lamb of Exodus 12, and spoken of by Isaiah (Is. 53). In the Gospel of John and St. John's epistles, Jesus is explicitly called the “Lamb of God.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (paragraph 608) says, After agreeing to baptize him along with the sinners, John the Baptist looked at Jesus and pointed him out as the “Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” By doing so, he reveals that Jesus is at the same time the suffering Servant who silently allows himself to be led to the slaughter and who bears the sin of the multitudes, and also the Paschal Lamb, the symbol of Israel's redemption at the first Passover. Christ's whole life expresses his mission: “to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Thus, it is fitting that the angels would revealed Christ's birth to shepherds and they, in turn, would be among the first to acknowledge Him.

# Parish News & Events

There will be **NO Faith Formation classes** due to the holidays on Wednesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 31. Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 7.

**In observance to the holidays**, the office will be closed Wednesday, December 24 – Friday, December 26 and Wednesday, December 31 – Friday, January 1, 2026.

**Christmas Flowers for all parishes:** If you'd like to help enrich our liturgical environment for Christmas consider giving a donation for Christmas flowers this year! There are envelopes available at the back of all the churches for Christmas flower donations. You can specify which church you'd like to support and make your donation in honor/in memory of a loved one. A list of intentions/memorials will be in the bulletin after Christmas. Thank you for your generosity and for helping make our churches beautiful for Christmas!

**St. Patrick Church Christmas Decorating:** We are inviting everyone to come help decorate our Church for Christmas on Sunday, December 21 after the 10:30 AM Mass.

**St. Patrick Date Night Christmas Party** will be on Sunday, December 21 at 5:30 PM in the cafeteria. Bring an hors d'oeuvres. Please RSVP for daycare at (641) 484-3646.

**St. Michael Men's Group** meets every Thursday at 6 AM at the Social Hall. All men are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**CCW Ladies — Annual Soldier Project:** Supporting men and women with local ties who are currently serving overseas. The unit we are assisting is stationed in the Middle East and will not be home for the holidays. A donation box will be located in the CCW closet and clearly marked “For the Soldiers.” Suggested items include cash donations to assist with postage, chips and snack items, flavored water add-ins, crossword and word-search books, beef sticks, crochet kits, or ramen noodles. These are only a few ideas—any thoughtful items are welcome. For questions or additional information, please contact Diane Novak at (641) 751-3960. Thank you for your generosity and continued support of our service members.

**Daily Mass Intentions for December 2025:** If you have Mass intentions scheduled for the month of December, please know that Father Michael will still be celebrating Mass and is able to offer those intentions. You may also choose to have your intention sent to the Archdiocese to be scheduled there, or you may request a refund if you prefer not to have the intention fulfilled. Please contact the parish office at (641) 484-3039 to let us know how you would like to proceed.

Thank you to all at St. Patrick Parish for your generous support with the Second Sunday Collection. - **STC Adopt-A-Family Team**

Sundays' Bulletin	Deadline to add to the bulletin
1/04/2025	12/22/ 2025 - By 12 PM

## Staff

### Pastor

Rev. Michael McAndrew  
m.mcandrew@dbqarch.org

### Deacons

#### Stan Upah

s.upah@dbqarch.org

#### Joe Behounek

### Hispanic Ministry

Cynthia Guadiana  
c.guadiana@dbqarch.org

### Business Manager

Elizabeth Monat  
dbq197bk@dbqarch.org

### Project Manager

Carol Hibbs  
c.hibbs@dbqarch.org

### Secretary

Lisandra Ordaz  
l.ordaz@dbqarch.org

### St. Michael Office Assistant

Carol Wonrau  
c.wonrau@dbqarch.org

### St. Patrick Pastoral Minister

Betty Hayek

## This Week

### Saturday, December 20

St. Joseph - Chelsea

3:45 PM - 4:15 PM Confessions

4:30 PM Mass - †

### Sunday, December 21

St. Michael - Belle Plaine

8:30 AM Mass - †

St. Patrick - Tama

10:30 AM Mass [English] - † Pro Populo

### Tuesday, December 23

St. Patrick - Tama

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Adoration & Healing Prayer

6 PM Las Posadas (Spanish)

### Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

Offices Closed

St. Joseph - Chelsea

9 AM - 12 PM **No Adoration**

6 PM Las Posadas (Spanish)

No Faith Formation Class [Preschool - 12th Grade]

### Thursday, December 25 - Christmas Day

Offices Closed

St. Michael - Belle Plaine

9 AM - 4 PM **No Adoration**

### Friday, December 26

Offices Closed

St. Patrick - Tama

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM **No Adoration**

## STAY UP TO DATE

 Cofsaunts.org

 Circle of Saints

 Rev. Michael McAndrew

## TEXT FOR UPDATES

 Text COFSAINTS to 84576

 Texto SANTOS al [202] 765-3441

## December 80+ Birthdays

December 3 - Rita Oetker

December 13 - Jan Konicek

December 15 - Martha O'Connor

December 15 - Lois Vorwald

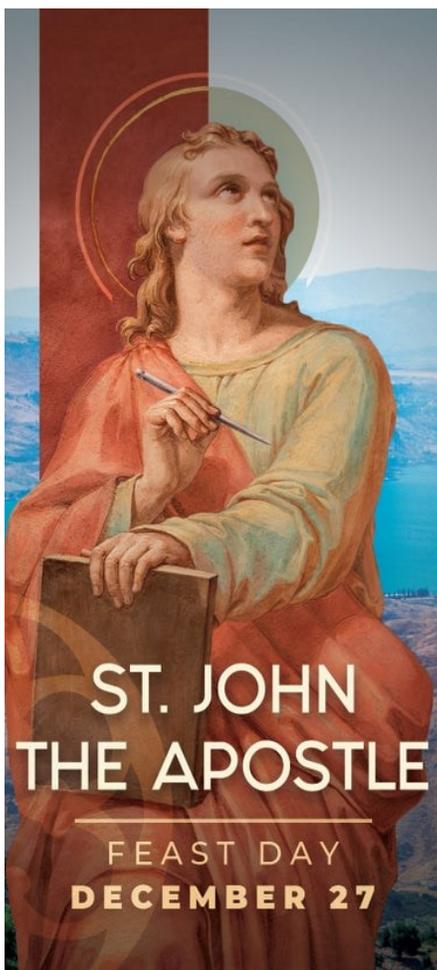
December 18 - Arlene Husak

December 21 - Doris Meier

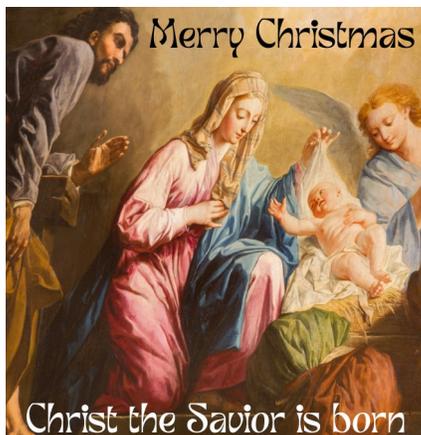
December 22 - Martha Breja

December 24 - Robert Howe

December 24 - Donna Moulton



# EMMANUEL



## Pray for..

Betty Hayek, Patricia Velky, Gael Valdez, Paula Eberhart, Dana Martin Kurovski, Rich Hookway, Shirley Delfs, Jack Cooper, Jeff Dvorak, Scott Posusta, Onnaha Dvorak, Anthony Dvorak, John Gessner, Shelbi Breja, Oliver Dvorak, Carol Walton, Matt Walton, Ted Sharer, Kathy Bacino, Sharon Hosek, Nork White, Brett Houghton, Sally Mason, Ryan Selken

*And anyone else suffering for any illness or injury including Veterans and the currently deployed military and their families.*

**Names will remain listed for three months. To add or renew a name, please contact the Parish Office at [641] 484-3039.**

## Minister Schedule

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary and Joseph

**St. Joseph - Chelsea**

**Saturday, December 27 at 4:30 PM**

† *Gloria Hlas*

**Lector:** Tom L. Upah

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Janice Upah, Sandy Supianoski,  
Jamie Kupka, Ron Kratoska

**Hospitality Ministers:** Jay Dvorak, Pat Supianoski

**Altar Servers:** Paul Dvorak, Annie Balvin

**Gift Bearer:** Sarah Silhanek

**Money Counters:** Paul & Barb Svoboda, Ellen Waterbury

**St. Michael - Belle Plaine**

**Sunday, December 28 at 8:30 AM**

† *Alice Smith*

**Lector:** Doug Johnson

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Alan Tichy, Leo Hlas, Connie  
Stadelmann, Carol Wonrau

**Hospitality Ministers:** Wayne Parizek, Rick Petersen

**Altar Servers:** Avery Schrader, Maria Argo, Ava Grieder

**Money Counters:** Melanie Shaull, Jessica Stamp

**St. Patrick - Tama [English]**

**Sunday, December 28 at 10:30 AM**

† *Pro Populo*

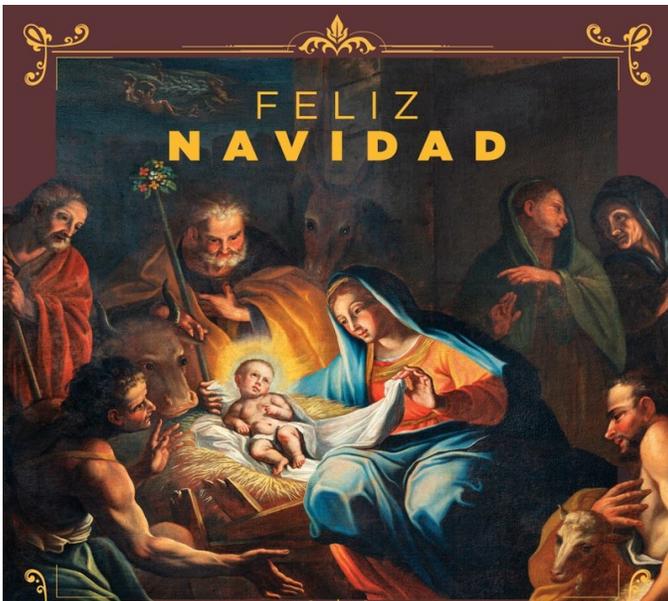
**Lector:** Jim Roan

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Laurie Velky, Pat Roan,  
Deanna Dickens, Kent Campbell, Matt Popelka, Nick Kubik

**Hospitality Ministers:** Eric Slagle, Ron Timm,  
Robert Husak,

**Altar Servers:** Wyatt Feisel, Arianna Slagle

**Money Counters:** Leonard Albright, Tom Doyle,  
Julie Hagerty



## Navidad

### ¿Por qué se celebra la Navidad?

La Iglesia celebra las "maravillosas obras de Dios" mediante el culto público, o liturgia, que conmemora los grandes acontecimientos de la historia de la salvación. La Natividad de Nuestro Señor celebra el momento en la historia en que el Hijo de Dios se hizo Hombre para nuestra Salvación: un acto de amor obediente al Padre y amor salvador para nosotros, que culminará en la Cruz.

Filipenses 2:5-8: Tened esta mente entre vosotros, que es vuestra en Cristo Jesús, que, aunque estaba en forma de Dios, no consideraba que la igualdad con Dios fuera algo que pudiera agarrarse, sino que se vació, tomando la forma de un siervo, naciendo a semejanza de hombres. Y al ser encontrado en forma humana, se humilló y se volvió obediente hasta la muerte, incluso la muerte en la cruz.

### ¿Quiénes eran los pastores en la historia de la Natividad de Cristo?

No tenían nombre, pero tienen un papel importante en la historia del Nacimiento. En lugar de aparecer ante los reyes, el Hijo de Dios fue presentado primero a los humildes pastores.

### ¿Por qué Dios eligió a los pastores para recibir mensajes celestiales?

Las Escrituras retrata al Mesías tanto como pastor de almas como víctima de las almas. David era un pastor cuando fue elegido para guiar al pueblo de Dios, Israel, como su rey. Cristo, su descendiente, es el pastor eterno del pueblo redimido de Dios.

Las Escrituras también retrata al Mesías como un cordero, que será conducido al matadero. Esto fue anticipado en el Cordero Pascual de Éxodo 12, y mencionado por Isaías (Is. 53). En el Evangelio de Juan y las epístolas de San Juan, Jesús es llamado explícitamente el "Cordero de Dios."

El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica (párrafo 608) dice: Tras aceptar bautizarle junto con los pecadores, Juan el Bautista miró a Jesús y lo señaló como el "Cordero de Dios, que quita el pecado del mundo." Al hacerlo, revela que Jesús es al mismo tiempo el Siervo sufriente que silenciosamente se deja llevar al matadero y que lleva el pecado de las multitudes, así como el Cordero Pascual, símbolo de la redención de Israel en la primera Pascua. Toda la vida de Cristo expresa su misión: "servir y dar su vida como rescate por muchos."

Por tanto, es apropiado que los ángeles revelaran el nacimiento de Cristo a los pastores y que, a su vez, fueran de los primeros en reconocerle.