

The Catholic Parishes of: St. John The Evangelist, St. Joseph, St. Stephen & St. Patrick

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St. Patrick Church Office & Staff

Mon. - Fri. 9am - 12pm & 1pm - 3pm

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Mrs. Amber Sievers, Communications
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@stpatschool

December 14, 2025



Mass Times & Intentions

TUES. Dec. 16/ 8:30 AM, St. Patrick: Abby Rosencrans

WED. Dec. 17/ 8:30 AM, St. Patrick: Margaret Frasher-Bishop

THURS. Dec. 18/ 8:30 AM, St. Stephen: Dennis Liegl

FRI. Dec. 19/ 8:30 AM, St. Patrick: Gary Larson

SAT. Dec. 20/ 4:00 PM, St. Patrick: Beth Scheckel

SAT. Dec. 20/ 6:30 PM, St. John: Mike Ohlhauser

SUN. Dec. 21/ 8:00 AM, St. Stephen: For the People

SUN. Dec. 21/ 10:30 AM, St. Patrick: Abby Rosencrans

Reconciliation: 3:30 p.m. on Saturday at St. Patrick; 7:30 a.m. on Sunday at St. Stephen or by appointment.

For all other Sacraments, please, call or stop in either parish office.

North Linn Cluster Office & Staff

Hours

Tues. 8:30 am - 3:00 pm
Thur. 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

PO Box 496, Central City, IA 52214
319-438-6625
www.northlinncc.org

Emily Ruley, Secretary/Bookkeeper
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From Father Sean

Dear Friends in Christ,

Gaudete! (Gow-DAY-tay!) Rejoice!

See, a little bit of Latin isn't so tough!

The entire season of Advent is oriented toward preparation for the birth of Christ, his coming again at the end of time, and his coming into our lives every day. We prepare our hearts and our homes, our minds and our mantles, for the one who is to come, but in the midst of our preparations, we are invited to rejoice! This is an anticipatory joy, like a child counting down to their own birthday long before the day arrives. We await with joy the birth of Jesus even as we prepare for his birth. It is for the sake of the joy that we are preparing, and this is just a small taste of that joy!

When St. Paul lists the fruits of the Holy Spirit in his letter to the Galatians (Gal 5:22-23), the first is love and the second is joy! Just as God shares his love with us when he shares his Holy Spirit with us, so too does he share his joy. Jesus speaks of his wanting his joy to be in us and our joy to be complete (cf. John 15:11). Jesus also tells parables in Luke 15 about going after the single lost sheep and the finding of a lost coin, that those happy findings end with a call to rejoice! And the father in the parable of the prodigal son tells the older son that he had to "celebrate and rejoice" at the return of the younger son.

During this Advent season, we will also "find" something, or rather, someone. We will find the Savior that restores our relationship with the God who made us out of love in his own image to be his beloved sons and daughters! How can we not rejoice?!

St. Paul stresses the importance of rejoicing! In his first letter to the Thessalonians (most likely the first written text of the New Testament), he tells us to "Rejoice always" (1 Thess 5:16), and he tells the Philippians even more powerfully, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice" (Phil 4:4)!

So as you continue your preparations for Christmas during this Advent season, don't forget the joy! Take a little break from the hustle and bustle, and remember "the reason for the season": Jesus, our Light, our Savior, our King, and our Lord is coming!

Gaudete!

+Peace,
Fr. Sean

LITURGICAL MINISTERS	December 20 4:00 p.m. St. Patrick	December 20 6:30 p.m. St. John	December 21 8:00 a.m. St. Stephen	December 21 10:30 a.m. St. Patrick
Lector	Jayson Wagner	Dan Huber	Ruthanne Weighton	Bennett Clark
Children Liturgy	N/A	N/A	N/A	Shannon Clark Chelsie Engelbart
Eucharistic Ministers	*Barb Capron Larry Huinker Jennifer Koopmann *clean vessels	Dave Francois Kris Oswald Jim Oswald	Karen Dunlap Chuck Meeker Karrie Hempstead	*Steve Engelbart Linda Kirsch Ruthanne Weighton *clean vessels
Altar Servers	Brielle Gravel Jonah Wagner	TBD	Adelaide Weighton Natalie Pangburn	Finley Clark McCoy Clark
Greeters	Darci Wagner Jayson Wagner	Steve Welter Jim Oswald	Cheryl Hagermann Carol Peterson	Malinda Engelbart Steve Engelbart
Ushers	Rick Cook Marcia Finn	Steve Welter Jim Oswald	Cheryl Hagermann Carol Peterson	Michael Finn Jeff Fliehler
Sacristan	Charlene Knutsen	Gifts: Steve Welter & Jim Oswald	Gifts: Mark and Lori Rochford	Carol Husmann Greg Husmann
Rosary	TBD	N/A	Craig Pilcher	Charlotte Niederhauser

St. Patrick News



LET US PRAY FOR...

Mary Barnes, Dale Breon, Matthew Corpstein, Jordan Darrow, Mike Fitzsimmons, Amanda Gardner, Connie Gogel, Nancy Haefner, George Helle, Bob Holland, Esther Hudson, Jennifer Jeffrey, Matthew Jennings, Alvin Johnson, Cheryl Leiferman, Lavonne Ludwig, Shannon McManus, Morgan Meyer, Dennis Moss, Sharon Nakielski, Ember O'Donnell, Angie Osterkamp, Deb Paustian, Edith Schwers, John Secrist, Candy Shada, Cooper Sievers, Samuel Simko, Catherine Skarbek, Robert Skarbek, Caro Thompson, John K. Tigan, Mary Jo Yotty, those homebound and in care centers, those listed in our Prayer Intention Book

Our Sanctuary Lamp will burn for
The Morrissey Family
 the week of December 14
**Christ be our light
 shine through the darkness**

St. Patrick Inclement Weather Cancellation Policy
 Winter weather is upon us and may change your routine travel plans. Scheduled daily and weekend Masses will not ordinarily be canceled due to weather conditions, even in the case of school being delayed or canceled. Use your best judgment for travel. To read the full Weather Cancellation Policy, which includes instruction for Faith Formation classes, head to our website <https://stpatchurch.us/weather-closings>

St. Patrick's Caring and Sharing Tree
 We are winding down the St. Patrick Caring and Sharing Virtual Giving Tree but there may be a few slots left to be filled. Please help a family in need by logging in to Sign-Up Genius and clicking on the following link or use the QR code from your phone.



This is the week that gifts should be returned to the church hall! Please drop off your donated items Saturday, December 13th to Thursday, December 18th. The church hall is open 9am to 3pm weekdays and during church hours on the weekend. Please put the gifts on the numbered table that matches the child/family's number which can be found on the top line of the sign-up slot.

Cash donations should be returned to the church office.
 Thank you for your generosity and Happy Holidays!

Choir for a Season
 Singers ages 9-90 are invited to join "Choir for a Season" with the specific purpose of singing at 4PM Masses on December 20th, 24th and 27th

Practice Thursdays at 6:30 PM



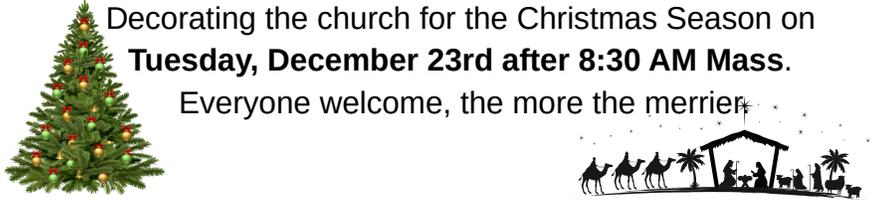
St. Patrick Youth Faith Formation Classes
Wed., Dec. 17th -- Grades 1-11 class at 6:15 pm
Wed., Jan. 7th -- Grades 1-11 class at 6:15 pm



What a Sunday afternoon! Our families had the best time at the Anamosa Care Facility — decorating cookies, making crafts, playing Christmas bingo, and singing carols together. A special thanks to the Anamosa Care Facility for hosting us, Sweet Creations by Jenn providing the delicious cookies, and the St. Patrick's PTO for helping make it all happen. It was such a fun way to spread holiday cheer and share the season's joy!




Decorating the church for the Christmas Season on
Tuesday, December 23rd after 8:30 AM Mass.
 Everyone welcome, the more the merrier!



Women do you want to support our pastor through prayer. ? A new ministry is being introduced called Seven Sisters Apostolate. Women will commit to prayerful support of our pastor, Fr. Sean through offering a Holy Hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament, either exposed or in the Tabernacle, on a specific day each week. During that Holy Hour, prayers would be offered for Fr. Sean, his intentions, for his ministry and for his sanctification. **For more information about this Apostolate, or to make your prayer commitment, contact Linda King at 319-540-6817**



Walk Together in Hope This Advent
 As the Church continues its Advent journey, all are invited to grow closer to Christ through daily prayer and reflection. The Archdiocese of Dubuque is sharing short Advent meditations each day on social media to help hearts prepare for the coming of the Lord. This season's reflections highlight saints who show us how to live in faith and love— St. Francis Xavier's zeal for mission, Mary's trust in God, St. Nicholas's generosity and St. Juan Diego's humble peace. Rejoice—the Lord is near! Let these reflections renew your spirit and remind you that Christ is our light. Follow the Archdiocese of Dubuque on Facebook, Instagram, or X (@DBQArch).



St. John, Coggon | St. Joseph, Prairieburg | St. Stephen, Central City

LET US PRAY FOR...

Don Beranek, Anita Besler, Pat Cameron, Ruby Drexler, Karen Dunlap, Lauren Foss, Glenda Grant, Jean Greif, Barb Heller, Diane Korte, Cheryl LloydRyan, Skip Powers, Dan Reiter, Sharon Reiter, Zora Ronan, Steve Walker, Sam Weller, James Weighton, Kenneth Zieser,

Inclement Weather Policy

If public school classes are cancelled or delayed on mornings when daily Mass is scheduled, Mass / prayer service will be cancelled at St. Stephen's

If public school classes are either cancelled or released early because of bad weather, youth faith formation classes and all parish meetings will be cancelled on that day.



Announcements concerning cancellations will be sent to KCRG (channel 9), KWWL (channel 7) and KGAN (channel 2).

Announcements referring to North Linn Catholic Cluster will apply to the site(s) where the Mass or activity was to take place. Information will also be posted on the web-site and Facebook.

NLCC Youth Faith Formation



- December 17- Christmas Program
- December 24-January 7- No Classes- Winter Break
- January 4- Confirmation Mass and Class
- January 7- Inservice for Faith Formation teachers.

The North Linn Catholic Cluster is sponsoring a new Adult Faith Formation study this winter: CATHOLICISM

This *Catholicism* series is a Rich and Beautiful presentation of the Faith: Rediscover the Beauty of the Catholic Faith!!

Journey with Bishop Barron and prepare to be inspired as he explores the richness, deep beauty, truth, history, and godness of the Catholic Faith.

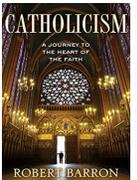
What is this Word on Fire Series? It is a breath-taking, high-definition exploration of Catholicism, filmed across 50 locations in 15 countries. It illuminates every aspect of the Church and connects it to the person of Jesus Christ.

This acclaimed series will be presented in 10 sessions. George Weigel (Catholic author, theologian, best known for his acclaimed biography of Pope John Paul II) said that this series was "*The most important media project in the history of the Catholic Church in America*".

It's the perfect New Year's resolution! This study will deepen your knowledge and move your heart as Bishop Barron lets us experience our faith through powerful words (Scripture and Saints) and transcendent beauty (art, architecture, holy sites).

Starting on January 11th – All are welcome!

More detailed information will be coming in future Church bulletins. Contact David Allen (319-329-5750 or email: dallen@aol.com) with questions.



St. Joseph Parishoners: There will be a meeting in the Church Hall on December 15th at 6:30PM St. Joseph Parishoners only please.

meeting

CANCELLED



Check out the North Linn Catholic Cluster **FACEBOOK** page!

Get the most up to date announcements about happenings in the Cluster on Facebook.

It is at <https://www.facebook.com/NorthLinnCatholicCluster>

Make sure to LIKE the page and follow.



Next Sunday's 3rd Sunday, Social Justice Loose Change Collection will benefit Central City's own Senior Dining Program, provides meals for seniors in our area. Meals are served daily in the Falcon Center as well as delivered daily by volunteers to the homebound.

There are still spaces left for the 2026 Summer Catholic Heart Workcamp service trip. Students going into the 8th grade through highschool are invited to attend. Sign-up now before spots are filled!



Hot Chocolate & Donuts

Coffee too!

St. Stephen Gathering Space
Sunday, 21 December
After Mass

Please Join us, as we move into the week before Christmas, and share in some Advent fellowship

Sponsored by the North Linn Knights of Columbus

All Parish News

Weekly Offerings—12/8

St. Patrick—\$4,554.00
 St. Joseph—\$190.00
 St. John—\$375.00
 St. Stephen—\$1,845.00
 Mt. Olivet Cemetery \$0
 St. Joseph Cemetery \$100.00

Weekly offerings can be made through automatic ACH withdrawals. Forms can be found on the parish websites. Completed forms can be mailed, dropped off or put in the collection basket at Mass.

The Week Ahead

Tue. 12/16 8:30 a.m. Rosary: SP
 1:00 p.m. Pray Group: SP
 Wed. 12/17 9:00 a.m. Coffee Club: G & G

Scripture For The Week: Dec. 15 - Dec. 21

Mon. 12/15	Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a	Matthew 21:23-27
Tues. 12/16	Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13	Matthew 21:28-32
Wed. 12/17	Genesis 49:2, 8-10	Matthew 1:1-17
Thurs. 12/18	Jeremiah 23:5-8	Matthew 1:18-25
Fri. 12/19	Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a	Luke 1:5-25
Sat. 12/20	Isaiah 7:10-14	Luke 1:26-38

Sunday, December 21 Readings

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



Advent Materials/Readings for all ages are available at all the churches.

December Feast Days - Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve: Wednesday, December 24th

4:00 PM St. Patrick, Anamosa
 4:00 PM St. Stephen, Central City
 6:30 PM St. John, Coggon
 6:30 PM St. Joseph, Prairieburg

Christmas Day: Thursday, December 25th

9:00 AM St. Patrick, Anamosa

Mary Mother of God: Wednesday, December 31st

4:00 PM St. Stephen, Central City

Mary Mother of God: Thursday January 1st

10:30 AM St. Patrick, Anamosa

Eucharistic Miracle of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque of Paray-le-Monial, France 17th Century

Reprinted from Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition
<http://www.miracolieucaristici.org/en/Liste/list.html>

The message received by the nun, Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque of Paray-le-Monial, contains the "Twelve Promises of the Sacred Heart," in which Jesus reveals the graces linked to this devotion. Love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus is directly tied to that of love for the Eucharist.
Promise 7: Lukewarm souls will become fervent with the practice of this devotion.

Donations for Christmas Poinsettias

We are inviting you to donate poinsettias for Christmas decorations at all of our parishes. Please indicate your name, parish, the amount of donation, and if you would like to give it in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone special.

Place this completed form and your donation in an envelope. **Drop it in either the collection basket or at the parish office on or before Monday, December 15th.**

Name: _____

Parish: _____ Amount of donation: _____

In memory/honor of (please circle which): _____





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