

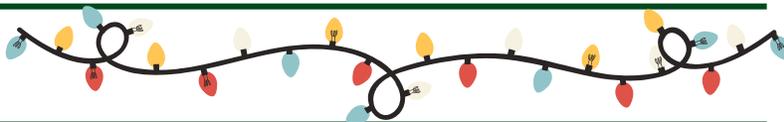


St. Patrick Faith Formation Anamosa



GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH

December | 2025



The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The title of the Immaculate Conception highlights Mary's exceptional gift of being born free from sin. Through the power of Jesus' Death and Resurrection, every individual can be liberated from sin at Baptism. This same divine power ensured that Mary was always sinless, even from the very moment of her existence.

On December 8, the Church commemorates this extraordinary privilege bestowed upon Mary. During the liturgy, we express our gratitude to God for the blessings He has granted our nation, and we also thank Mary for her watchful care and protection over our people.

- **Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** is a **Holy Day of Obligation**
 - Join us for Mass on Monday, December 8, at 6:30 p.m.



Upcoming FF Dates:

December 3 – 6:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

December 10 – 6:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

December 14 – Confirmation Prep Class & Christmas Activity

December 17 – 6:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

December 24 – No Class. Merry Christmas!

December 31– No Class. Winter Break

Family Resources for the Liturgical Season

The new liturgical year starts on the First Sunday of Advent. Explore family resources in the Archdiocese of Dubuque's new section: [Discover the Liturgical Seasons.](#)

Click the "Advent and Christmas" button or scan the QR code to celebrate with your family!





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St. Patrick's Caring and Sharing Tree

We are so pleased to continue our holiday tradition of helping members of our community.

We will again be using the great virtual tool, Sign up Genius. This is the [link to Sign Up Genius](#) where you are able to select a child or family you would like to support. Or you can use your camera on your cell phone to hover over the QR code below:



Please take a moment to review the available slots and click the button to sign up to help spread holiday cheer.

If you wish to participate but prefer not to use Sign Up Genius, feel free to call or text Carol Bildstein at 319-721-8275, and she will gladly assist you.

Gift Return Details:

- **Gifts should be returned to the church hall between December 13 and December 18.**
- Please place the gifts on the numbered table corresponding to the child's or family's number, which can be found on the top line of the sign-up slot.
- Note: Cash donations should be returned to the church office.

For any questions, please contact Carol Bildstein at 319-721-8275.

Thank you for your generous support, and happy holidays!



St. Patrick Coffee Club

Join us! Perfect blend of great coffee, easy conversation, and encouragement to get you through the week.

9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays at Grounds & Goodies





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What are 4 themes we can focus on during the 4 Sundays of Advent?

Advent always seems to fly by in an instant, and this year—given that Christmas falls on a Thursday—this season feels particularly brief. How can we intentionally pause and focus on our spiritual preparation?

A good way to stay focused is to pick a theme for each week, meditating on it during your daily prayer.

****Hope**** The first week marks the beginning of the new liturgical year. We return to the history of our salvation story, emphasizing the anticipation of the Messiah. This week enhances our hope for the Savior who will free us from sin and guide us as our Way and Light.

****Peace**** In the second week of Advent, we contemplate our lives and strive to become better versions of ourselves in preparation for Jesus' arrival. We remember the journey that Joseph and Mary undertook from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

****Joy**** The third week of Advent fills us with joy as we eagerly await Jesus' arrival on Christmas Day. What could bring us more happiness than the coming of God's greatest gift to us?

****Love**** In the final week of Advent, we celebrate the boundless love that God has for us, revealed through the birth of His Son. We reflect on the good news of God's love shared with us by the angel Gabriel.



Christmastide: The Celebration Has Just Begun!

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds towards Christ. While Advent prepares us, Christmas is a time for rejoicing in Christ's birth.

Although the world wraps up Christmas celebrations on December 25th, the Catholic Liturgical year, the Christmas season starts on December 24 and ends with the Baptism of the Lord.

Since the Church is celebrating, it's a great opportunity to leave your Christmas decorations up a little longer.

- The Nativity of the Lord
- Feast of The Holy Family
- Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
- We recall the Epiphany and the Baptism of Jesus!

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GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH



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St. Patrick First Reconciliation
Wednesday, November 12

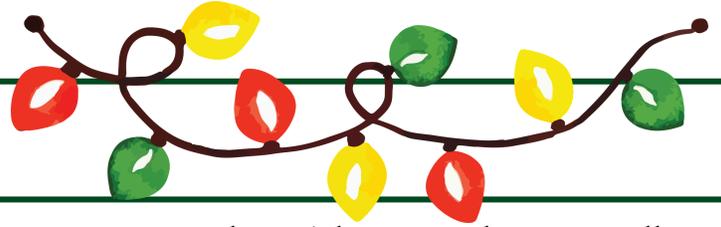


Top Left to Right: Ian Sievert, Father Sean & Stella Clark

Bottom Left To Right: Gavin Stout, Nile Gravel, Harrison Hallman & Ben Gogel

**Not pictured: Elu Deysie

Heavenly Father, we offer our heartfelt thanks and praise for the precious gift of the sacrament of Reconciliation. We seek your blessings and guidance for all those who made their First Confession last month. May they embark on a lifelong journey of regular confession and continually return to You during each moment of sin. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Join Us at the 36th Annual Tree Walk!

St. Patrick Church and St. Patrick School are excited to announce that we have secured a booth at the 36th Annual Tree Walk, taking place at the Lawrence Community Center. We will be there on:

- Saturday, December 13 from 12 PM to 8 PM
- Sunday, December 14 from 12 PM to 4 PM

We will be distributing FREE materials, welcoming visitors with warm smiles, and showcasing the joy of being Catholic and a member of the St. Patrick community.

If you would like to volunteer for an one-hour time slot, please register here: [2025 Tree Walk Sign Up](#).

We can't wait to see everyone there!





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GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH

First Friday Adoration - December 5
9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Attend First Friday Adoration as a family. This provides you and your children a chance to slow down and quiet yourselves before Jesus and to nurture and grow you and your child's relationship with our Lord.

Seeking Committed Adorers!

We invite you to enrich your spiritual journey by dedicating just one hour on the first Friday of each month for Eucharistic Adoration. This sacred time facilitates personal reflection, prayer, and communion with God. If you are willing to commit to one hour each first Friday, please contact the office at 319-462-2141.



SHARING THE JOYS OF MARRIAGE

For Your Marriage helps couples at all stages of life (dating, engaged, married, family life & parenting) to understand and live God's plan for happy, holy marriages by providing educational and spiritual resources. Visit *For Your Marriage*.



December Saints and Feasts

Connect with the Saints!

Saints can teach us many things. Here you will find information about Saints. There are brief descriptions about a few of the "Saints of the Month," as well as additional resources.

November 30 - First Sunday of Advent

December 6 - St. Nicholas

December 8 - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)

December 9 - St. Juan Diego

December 10 - Our Lady of Loreto

December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 13 - St. Lucy

December 25 - Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

December 26 - St. Stephen

December 27 - St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

December 28 - Feast of the Holy Innocents

December 29 - Feast of the Holy Family



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Catholic Heart
Workcamp
July 12-18, 2026

LOVE. SERVE. CONNECT.

*Join Us for an Amazing Summer
Opportunity!*

Limited spots are available for this fantastic chance to love, serve, and connect this summer!

This mission trip includes:

- Daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, and the Rosary
- 4-Corners activities and Live Music
- Service Projects and Youth Programming
- All Meals & Lodging
- Service projects
- Spiritual growth
- Authentic connections
- Summer camp fun!
- Open to those entering 8th grade and older.

Catholic Heart Workcamp invites you to love, serve, and connect. Our mission trips offer service opportunities, foster spiritual growth, and build lifelong friendships, empowering youth to make a positive impact and deepen their relationship with God.

Interested? Contact us at dbq005ff@dbqarch.org. *Spots are limited!*

Iowa Catholic Youth Conference (ICYC) Returns for Its 5th Year

The Iowa Catholic Youth Conference (ICYC) is back for its fifth year, featuring an event for high school students on the evening of **Saturday, March 21**, and a middle school gathering on **Sunday, March 22**.

Both events will take place at St. Ludmila Church in Cedar Rapids. Stay tuned for more information and registration details coming this fall!



Engaging in Conversations About Faith with Your Teens

Teens often have inquiries regarding their faith and the importance of being Catholic. Parents can find helpful answers at CatholicCentral.com! This website offers entertaining videos that explore the history and truths of the Catholic Church, presented with humor and heart to enlighten and inspire.

- Check out the [Episode Guide](#) for brief descriptions of each video.
- Topics covered include:
 - Catholic Basics
 - Vocations
 - Catholic Prayer
 - Catholic Social Teaching

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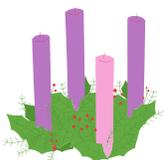
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SHE She Shall Be Called Woman

Our Fall Session of SHE has just concluded. We are all sisters of faith, and it was wonderful to surround ourselves with supportive and uplifting women. If you missed out, don't worry! There will be a Spring session. More info to come!



Making Advent Special for Teens

Are you looking for easy ways to enhance the Advent experience for your teens? Jennifer and Kate from Catholic Mom and Daughter provide a variety of simple ideas to help make this Advent Season truly blessed. For additional ways to engage with your teen, be sure to visit their Facebook page.

St. Patrick Family Activities

Create a Jesse Tree with your family
- [click here](#)

Count down the days with an Advent
Calendar - [click here](#)

Make and decorate a card to show
appreciation for relatives, parish
members, teachers, and friends -
[click here](#)

12 Catholic Activities for Families -
[click here](#)

Make an Advent Wreath - [click here](#)

O Come, O Come Emmanuel - Sing-
Along Advent Hymn! - [click here](#)

Family Christmas Movie Nights - [click
here](#)

O Antiphon Ornaments Activity for
Kids - [click here](#)

Blessing of a Christmas Tree- [click
here](#)

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Archdiocesan Women's Conference:
Beauty in Christ
Saturday, January 31, 2026
8:00am-1:30pm

Join us for the 2026 Women's Conference Beauty in Christ: Grace for the Journey! Gather with faith-filled women for this wonderful event! Be inspired to know that His grace is enough!

To sign up email dbq005ff@dbqarch.org or call at 319-462-2141. The first 15 to register will be placed in a drawing! \$15.00 to attend, breakfast and lunch provided!



Heads Up Men!

That Man Is You (TMIY) is Back for Its 4th Year - Saturday mornings at 6:00 am in the parish hall.

Other than the Knights of Columbus, TMIY is the most successful men's group in the last 50 years at St. Patrick. This season features new speakers (plus some of our favorites from the past), new conversations, and larger-than-ever attendance.

More than 20 men attended at least one session last year, and average attendance was 12-14 men ages 18-78 each Saturday.



2026 Archdiocesan Men's Conference
Saturday - *March 28, 2026*

Mark your calendars for 2026 Archdiocesan Men's Conference with keynote speaker Gabriel Castillo. More information coming soon!