

THE COMMUNITY OF BLESSED SACRAMENT

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

VOLUME 5, ISSUE I

The "Who" and "What" of Advent

Advent 2014

Upcoming Special Events

- November 29 & 30: First Sunday of Advent
- Reconciliation: 5:30-6:00 PM Each Monday of Advent
- Reconciliation: 7:40 AM Each Tuesday and Friday (Before 8:00 AM Mass)
- Masses: 6:00 PM, Each Monday of Advent
- December 6: 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Blood Drive, Parish Center; 9:00 AM Breakfast with Santa, School Cafeteria
- December 6 & 7: Second Sunday of Advent
- December 7: 2:00 PM, First Reconciliation
- December 8: 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 6:00 PM, Immaculate Conception Liturgy
- December 13 & 14: Third Sunday of Advent
- December 14: 4:00 PM, Communal Penance, Blessed Sacrament
- December 15: 6:00 PM, Mass
- December 20: Reconciliation 12:30-1:30 PM and 3:00-4:30 PM
- December 21: Reconciliation 5:00 - 6:00 PM
- December 20 & 21: Fourth Sunday of Advent
- December 22: Reconciliation 12:00 PM (Noon) - 1:00 PM
- December 22: 6:00 PM, Mass
- December 23: Reconciliation 7:30-8:30 PM
- December 24: 4:00 PM, 6:30 PM and 10:00 PM Liturgies, Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord
- December 25: 9:00 AM Christmas Day Liturgy
- December 27 & 28: Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
- December 31: 5:30 PM, Liturgy, Vigil of Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
- January 1, 2015: 9:00 AM Liturgy, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
- January 3 & 4: Liturgies, The Epiphany of the Lord
- February 18: 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM & 6:00 PM, Ash Wednesday

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SCRIP News

Please buy and use SCRIP

It was only after years of exposure to Dr. Seuss's The Grinch Who Stole Christmas, that the light bulb went on for me. The good Doctor set his story amidst the *Whos* and in *Whoville*, to subtly emphasize his point that Christmas was about *whos*: relationships between persons, rather than *whats*: getting presents.

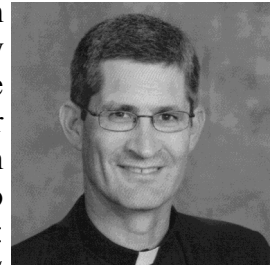
Advent means "coming." These next four weeks of Advent are given to prepare for a *who*: Jesus Christ, and much less to prepare for the *what* of Christmas. This *coming of Jesus* is not just a one day event. Rather, His coming to us is in every person and experience of one's life, every day of one's life.

Who Jesus is for me can take on a different emphasis depending on *how I need Him* on different days. Advent invites us to explore this because the Mass readings each day, even the Christmas cards you receive, hold many different names and titles for Jesus. Even as the angel tells Joseph about Mary's pregnancy (Mt 1:23) we are offered two names and meanings: *Jesus* means "God saves" and *Emmanuel* means "God is with us." Each name offers us another window into *who Jesus is*, and can be *for me* that day.

What might happen to your relationship with Jesus if you prayed with a name or title that fit that day's need? So when I need saving from some sin or stress, I address my prayer using *Jesus* or *Savior*. When I need to remember

that God is with me in scary things, I use *Emmanuel* or the title given by the angels to the shepherds: *Son of the Most High*. When might you want to call Jesus by any of the names referring to him in the reading from Isaiah (Is 9:1-6) at Midnight Mass: Wonder Counselor, Prince of Peace, etc.? The spiritual fuel that empowers us to share the Good News is one's love relationship with Jesus. How better to fall in love, than to invite the beloved into one's life *by name*?

Dr. Seuss did have it right: Christmas is about the relational love between *Whos*, not *Whats*. This Christmas can be a remarkable one for the rest of our days, if during this Advent leading up to it, we begin calling on our Lord with a title or name that expresses and deepens what we hope from that relationship *each day*. Don't forget to call upon Jesus to save us from our sins at the communal reconciliation celebration 4:00 pm on Sunday, December 14th! A blessed Advent to us all!



Fr. Tom McDermott
Pastor

Fr. Tom



Faith Formation News

Ellen Voegele, Assoc. Dir. of Young Adult Ministry

Introducing Catholic Young Adult Ministry to the Cedar Valley

Who are young adults?

Young adults are those in their late teens, twenties, and thirties as described by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) pastoral plan for ministry with young adults, *Sons and Daughters of Light*. Young adults are:

- Single, married, divorced, widowed, with or without children;
- Experiencing autonomy for the first time in family, work, society, and church as they begin college, their first job, or marriage;
- Transitional – often marriage is delayed, children come later in life, geographic and job mobility is high, second and third careers are common.

What is young adult ministry?

Sons and Daughters of Light creates a plan of action based on four goals that connect young adults with:

- Jesus Christ

- The Church
- The Mission of the Church in the World
- Peer Communities

Young Adult Ministry exists to build the bridges to connect young adults with each of these different areas.

So, what's the plan?

Bridge: Utilize existing opportunities within Adult Faith Formation, the Archdiocese, local retreat centers, online formation sites etc. to connect young adults to Jesus.

Bridge: Connect young adults with the Church by increasing functionality in technology and social media, making parish registration processes more efficient, sending cards and care packages, creating opportunities to relate to our pastors, and plugging young adults into existing parish ministries based on their skills.

Bridge: Form young adults into intentional disciples on mission by empowering engaged adults to evangelize, offering formation for young adult leaders to integrate their faith in their gatherings, training small group leaders, etc.

Bridge: Use what young adults are currently involved in such as recreational sports leagues, game nights, conferences, etc. to connect them with a peer community.

How can I find out what's happening?

* **Flocknote** – Text cvyoungadults to 85476 to input your contact information and preference what/how you want to receive content from us (flocknote.com/cvyoungadults)

* **Facebook** – Stay connected by liking our Facebook page (facebook.com/cvyoungadults)

* **Chat with Ellen** - Associate Director of Young Adult Ministry, dbqwcya@dbqarch.org, 233-8060 ext. 208



Ellen Voegele graduated from the Echo Faith Formation Leadership program from University of Notre Dame and moved from the beautiful St. Pete Beach in Florida to the cornfields

of Iowa. She loves the Midwest seasons, gardening, and snow!

First Reconciliation Celebrations: Parents have selected a date for their child to celebrate First Reconciliation. It is possible to attend any one of the following celebrations:

- Tuesday, December 2nd at 6:30 pm at St. Edward Church
- Saturday, December 6th at 10:00 am at Sacred Heart Church
- Sunday, December 7th at 2:00 pm at Blessed Sacrament Church

First Communion Parent Meetings: Parents of 2nd grade children who are planning to celebrate First Communion in the spring should plan now to attend ONE of the following parent meetings:

- Tuesday, January 20, 2015 from 6:30-8:00 pm at St. Ed's, church basement ~ or ~
- Thursday, January 22, 2015 from 6:30-8:00 pm at St. Ed's, church basement

Latino families should plan to attend a parent meeting on Sunday, January 25th following the 12:00 noon Mass at Queen of Peace in the church basement. A translator will be available for Spanish-speaking parents.

If you are unable to attend one of the above meetings, please contact Dave Cushing (234-9912) or Pam Johnston (231-6682) to schedule an appointment to receive the home study materials and important dates for the retreat, rehearsal, photo session, celebration options, etc.

Daily Disciple: Bernice Einck

Harland Robinson, Newsletter Editor



Our “Daily Disciple” for Advent is Bernice Einck. Bernice is the youngest of 10 children and was born on a farm

near St. Lucas, Iowa.

A lifelong Catholic, Bernice was a member of St. Luke’s Parish in St. Lucas and attended school at St. Luke’s for grades 1-12.

Bernice and Leo Einck were united in marriage in St. Lucas by Fr. Tiedman, Associate Pastor of Blessed Sacrament and became members of the parish in June of 1959 as the church was located

near their home.

Bernice began dedicating her time and talents to the parish as an aid at Blessed Sacrament School where her children were students. She and Leo also assisted with school fundraising efforts through such activities as bingo.

Bernice and Leo were also active supporting members of the parish community helping an elderly lady with no family by putting on screens in the spring and storm windows in the fall, as well as delivering meals through the Meals on Wheels program.

Bernice continues to deliver meals and recently resumed helping with the Community Meal; give rides to members of the parish who cannot or do not drive;

coordinates and works funeral dinners; and provides communion to the homebound; as well as helping setup and prepare for any special luncheon events at the parish.

Bernice has three children, Gary of Arizona; Scott in Parkersburg; and, Karla in Cambridge, Iowa. Bernice has also been blessed with five granddaughters.

In her spare time, Bernice enjoys visiting her grandchildren, playing cards, going to movies, and sharing breakfast and lunch with her friends.

Bernice enjoys being a member of Blessed Sacrament with its sense of family, friends, and support whenever she is in need.

Q & A: Why do Catholics offer Mass for a deceased loved one?

Offering Mass for a loved one who has died is among the most consoling and helpful actions we can take.

The Mass is our most perfect prayer because through it the Body of Christ—on earth, in heaven, and awaiting heaven in Purgatory—is gathered as one, offering ourselves in Christ to our Father in Heaven. We are never closer to our loved ones who have died than at Mass!

Most of us will die with some of the habits, attitudes, and unresolved relationships that keep our love from the perfection of God’s love. To be fully one with God, we will need to have those areas of brokenness transformed

so I can be one with Jesus in love. If I am still limited by old grudges or hurts, how could I be really one with the God of perfect love? This state of purification is what we call Purgatory.

The living can help the dead let God into those wounded places through our prayers—especially the Mass. One makes a special sacrifice of a donation (usually \$5 but the donation can simply be one’s act of faith in remembering this loved one) for a particular mass. The donation is an expression of love for this person. It is our love and prayers offered here in life, that helps the person open up to the mercy of God that finally and fully heals us into

Christ-like love.

Every Mass lifts up the prayers of God’s whole family. But when we remember them as the “intention” for a Mass, we are reaching out to them with the encouragement of our memories, our care, and our desire for a reunion with them in heaven.

I imagine my participation in that Mass as an embrace that says “don’t be afraid to let God touch that part of you.” You don’t need that to be your true self in God! Love helps us do hard things, doesn’t it?

Call the parish office if you want to offer a Mass for a deceased loved one on a particular date.

Fr. Tom

December 6, 2014

Blood Drive - Parish Center — 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Breakfast with Santa - School Cafeteria — 9:00 to 11:00 AM

From the Parish Nurse

Carol Eastman, Parish Nurse



Red Cross Blood Drive

"This Holiday Season, give something special. Give blood and you could help save three lives!"

Our goal this year is 52 units of blood on Saturday, December 6th from 8:00 am-1:00 pm.

If you have not already done so, you may still sign up after Mass the weekend of November 29 & 30. Or, if you prefer, you may call the Rectory during the week at 319-233-6179, and sign up for a time slot.

If you normally give at the Red Cross, please ask them to credit it to Blessed Sacrament's blood drive.

We also need volunteers to bake cookies and to help with the blood drive itself. You may call Carol at 319-266-6026 or call the Rectory to sign up as a volunteer.

Thank you for your support.

Hospitalization

We hope you don't need to, but if you ever end up in the hospital, please let them know when you are asked, that you want Blessed Sacrament Church to be notified.

When pastoral staff call the hospital and ask if any parishioners are there, they can tell us. If you say "no", Federal patient-privacy laws prevent us from being told. We want to know! We want to visit you if we can. Please help us! Tell family to call us if you go to the hospital; tell the hospital to notify your parish; and tell friends who don't read this to

do the same.

We are now allowed to make contact with you if you are admitted to Unity Point/Allen Hospital. Upon admission, you will be asked three questions:

1. Do you have a religious preference?
2. Do you have a church? (Please say yes and tell them Blessed Sacrament.)
3. Would you like your name to appear on a list for your pastor/church to know you are here?

Question #3 is particularly important for you to answer so that Fr. Tom and Sr. Madonna receive your name and know that they can come and visit you while you are in the hospital. If you wish, you may also contact the rectory directly at (319) 233-6179.

Caring Bag Program



The Social Justice Committee will once again be organizing our Caring Bag Program.

Last year we were able to reach almost 500 families with lunches during the holiday season. We

hope to beat that goal and we need your help.

Beginning the weekend of November 22 and continuing through the week of December 14th, we will have people in the gathering space at each Mass to hand out and receive bags for the program.

Bridget Hartmann, Social Justice Committee

The bags will have the items that need to be purchased outlined and we are again working with the Hy-Vee on University located near the church.

Tired of shopping? We will also provide envelopes for contributions for this project.

We appreciate your support.



Special Music for Christmas Liturgies

The Music Ministry is preparing for our Christmas Liturgies. As usual, there will be special music before the liturgies. Please come 10 to 20 minutes early to get into the spirit of Our Lord's birthday. Thank you!

~ Deacon John Herman, Music Director

Supporting School Choice in Iowa Education

To flesh out the Education Savings Account article on the next page, this link for the following video was produced by the Iowa Alliance for Choice in Education. Please take the time to watch this, it is very educational about the efforts to create Educational Savings Accounts in the state of Iowa.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yx1350eBtuA>



Iowa Advocates
for Choice in Education

Education Savings Accounts

Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) allow parents not enrolling their child in a public district or charter school to receive a deposit of public funds into government-authorized savings accounts with multiple uses (with restrictions). Those funds can cover private school tuition and fees; private instruction, tutoring, or training; and higher education expenses at an Iowa college or university.

We believe it is time to make sure parents of K-12th grade students have a maximum number of options during this critical time in their child's educational development. All Iowans agree that a quality education is vitally important and Iowa Advocates for Choice in Education believes parents are best suited to choose the most effective educational method for their children.

Key Components

- An Education Savings Grant (ESG) will be deposited to each pupil's Education Savings Account (ESA) equal to 100% of the average per-pupil State aid
- Parents will apply through the Department of Education and the program will be administered by the Department Of Management
- Qualified expenses will be identified and include tuition, fees, curriculum materials, and other related expenses
- ESAs may be opened for those in nonpublic schools or those who are homeschooled
- Fraud protection will be built in via insurance/surety bonds, audits, vendor approval, debit card administration, or other options much like many existing State programs with debit or payment cards.

For more information:

Executive Director, Trish Wilger

P.O. Box 12219 Des Moines, IA, 50312 Phone - 515.323.0787 Email – twilger@iowaace.org

www.iowaadvocates.org

www.iowaace.org

An informative video can be found at: <http://www.iowaace.org/education-savings-accounts/>

THE COMMUNITY OF BLESSED SACRAMENT

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Waterloo, Iowa 50701

Rectory Phone 319-233-6179
 FAX 319-233-6051
School Phone 319-233-7863
Day Care Phone 319-236-6131

Reconciliation 3:30 PM Saturday or see bulletin
Masses 4:30 PM Saturday
 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Sunday
 8:00 AM Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
 9:00 AM Wednesday during School

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Ways To Grow Closer To Christ This Advent Season

#1 – November 30 th - <u>WATCH</u> 1st Sunday of Advent	Be watchful by spending time with the Sunday readings, http://liturgy.slu.edu/ , and by praying each day with these Advent resources, http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/ . Read the entire Gospel of Mark as we enter a new liturgical year and download this Advent online calendar: www.bustedhalo.com/advent .
#2 – December 7 th - <u>WAY</u> 2nd Sunday of Advent	Prepare the way of the Lord, and bring deep peace into your life, through an examination of conscience, http://www.patheos.com/blogs/deaconsbench/2013/12/an-examination-of-conscience-for-the-internet/ , and the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in your parish.
#3 – December 14 th - <u>WITNESS</u> 3rd Sunday of Advent	Witness to God's love by serving others through a parish Advent project, such as Adopt-A-Family or through Catholic Relief, http://www.crsfairtrade.org/advent/ . Read about "Bringing Joy to Kids" through family service: http://www.catholiccourier.com/faith-family/features/shoebox-project-brings-joy-to-kids/ .
#4 – December 21 st - <u>WONDER</u> 4th Sunday of Advent	Be in wonder of God's works through the Annunciation, "for nothing will be impossible for God" (Luke 1:37): http://americamagazine.org/content/all-things/annunciation-and-you . Learn to pray the Angelus, an ancient prayer in wonder of the Annunciation and Incarnation: http://www.ourcatholicprayers.com/the-angelus.html .
#5 – December 24 th - <u>WELCOME</u> Christmas Eve	Invite your family members, friends, and neighbors to Come Home for Christmas: http://www.patheos.com/blogs/deaconsbench/2011/12/how-to-welcome-catholics-home-at-christmas/ . Welcome a stranger (invite him/her to sit with you or take your place) to the splendor of Christmas Eve Mass: http://www.news.va/en/news/christmas-midnight-mass-jesus-is-the-light-who-bri .