

The Community of Blessed Sacrament

Community Connections

Volume 3, Issue 1

Advent Season 2012

Upcoming Special Events

- November 28: FIRE Celebrating Advent; 5:30 Parish Center
- December 1: 8:00 AM Blood Drive; 9:00 AM Santa's Workshop
- December 1-2: First Sunday of Advent
- December 4, 6 (All Tuesdays and Thursdays) Confessions 7:40 AM (Before 8:00 AM Mass)
- December 16: 4:00 PM Communal Penance
- December 19: Confessions 3 PM and 5 PM
- December 20: Confessions 5 PM, 6 PM & 7 PM
- December 21: Confessions 12:00 PM (Noon)
- December 22: Confessions 2 PM and 3:30 PM
- December 23: 2:00 PM Communal Penance at Saint Edward's
- 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 31: 5:30 PM Liturgy Vigil
- January 1, 2013: 5:30 PM Solemnity of Mary
- January 5, 2013: 4:30 PM Liturgy
- January 6, 2013: 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM Epiphany

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SCRIP News

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Standing Tall in Anticipation

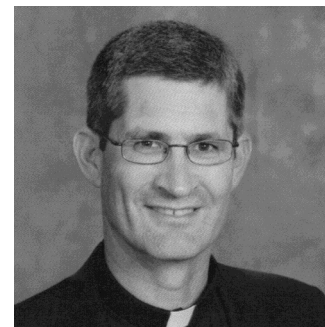
Advent, is upon us! The seasons of the Church year, of which Advent is one, each focus us on qualities of being a disciple of Jesus. The word *Advent* means *coming*. Advent intends to focus us on the coming of Christ first in Bethlehem, then in our lives today, and in the future at a time Jesus says the stars, the Mayans, nor even the Son of God knows! Are we anticipating His coming... or not?

Our Advent theme "Standing Tall in Anticipation" comes from Advent's first Sunday Gospel. Jesus in St. Luke's 21st chapter describes events that would leave one fearful of what is coming, and questioning God's power to save from it. Instead of ducking for cover, Jesus says to "raise your head and stand erect; your redemption is at hand!"

Our redemption is truly at hand *now*! Yes, the Word becoming flesh in Jesus at Bethlehem began the redemption of human nature. Yes, when Christ returns in His risen and glorified body, the bodies of the faithful will rise to everlasting life! But what Jesus *started* and will *finish* depends on my seeing the *redemption at hand*—opportunities *here and now*—to embody His life and way of love as *my own*.

Why do we keep our heads down at times? Our answers include: fears, grief, work, loss of hope, lack of self worth, loneliness, and more. In each situation, Jesus encourages us to stand and *look through* the "head down" *reason* to find *redemption*—Jesus there with me—to deepen my saving faith. We need to be able to *look* at life, *to see* the Lord of life with us! *Head down*, we will miss so much!

What allows us to stand before challenges that otherwise might make us look away is that saving faith: the trust that God is indeed with me. This Advent falls at the start of a "Year of Faith" wherein the Catholic Community will look into why we believe, why we are Catholic, and what it means to trust God. Our goal is to be better at helping our neighbors to that same faith so we can *stand* together, *tall* in hope before life, *anticipating* an encounter with our Savior coming to us with our redemption *now*! Come Lord Jesus!



Fr. Tom McDermott
Pastor

Fr. Tom

School News



This year Blessed Sacrament School has made the transition to a PreK-5 school setting. We said farewell to the “big kids”

and several long-time Blessed Sacrament teachers who moved on to the new Blessed Maria Assunta Pallotta Middle School.

We’ve “re-purposed” some of the spaces in the building since we needed fewer classrooms. One room became the 4-year-old Kid Zone room (and the “white building” addition was removed.) Another room is now used for school-aged child care before and after school rather than having those students in the cafeteria. The

third vacated classroom is being used for various adult faith formation activities. Every program that has found a new home seems to fit in just right!

As for the new look of the student body, the 5th graders have stepped up to the plate and taken on leadership roles in many areas. They raise and take down the flag each day, take more responsibilities as Mass servers, and volunteer to be on Mrs. Johnson’s “fast set-up crew” for funeral dinners. 4th graders created the 2013 calendar with photos of Blessed Sacrament students. More opportunities for service and leadership will arise as the year progresses.

We are having a good year! We extend our sincere gratitude to our supportive families, parishioners, and benefactors. Please keep us in your prayers, and we will

(Julie Niemeyer, Principal)

keep you in ours.

Removal of the School Addition



New Parish Nurse



Blessed Sacrament Parish has a new Parish Nurse and her name is Carol Eastman. Carol will be performing her stewardship of time and talent by sharing her

expertise and experience as a health care professional in the parish.

As Parish Nurse, Carol will coordinate Parish Blood Drives and she will contact parishioners when they complete their stay at a hospital.

Additionally, Carol will have inserts in our weekly bulletin promoting personal health care.

Carol’s experience as a nurse began when she graduated from Allen Memorial Lutheran School of Nursing, now known as Allen College.

After her graduation she used her nursing skills working for Allen Hospital, Sartori Hospital and the hospital in Waverly. During her 39 years in the practice of nursing, she spent the entire time working in Emergency rooms. The love of caring for others has led Carol to volunteer for Parish Nurse.

(Deacon Jim Freet)

Carol and her husband Tom have been members of our faith community for 7 years. Carol’s primary interest during retirement is caring for her family, which includes two children and three grandchildren.

We also wish to express our gratitude to Jean Rolinger, our first Parish Nurse, for the many years she was our Parish Nurse.

Please remember that we have a Blood Drive in our Parish Center on December 1.

December 1, 2012

Blood Drive - Parish Center — 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Santa’s Workshop - School Cafeteria — 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM





This issue's Daily Disciple is Bev Seger. Bev's "behind the scenes" work has earned her this recognition. Bev does so much to support the parish in many ways that most parishioners do not see. Bev is most comfortable working "behind the scenes."

Bev has served on the Parish Council, Faith Formation Committee, Waterloo Faith Formation Commission and is currently on the Stewardship Committee. She often serves as usher with her husband Chuck. It is

Daily Disciple: Bev Seger

(Deacon Bob Stirm)

her living out her life as a true steward that impresses me the most. She lives her life as a true steward of God's gifts and talents. This is summed up in her own words:

"The word stewardship brings to my mind the stories in the Bible about being a good steward and investing wisely what God has given me. He has given me much – a wonderful husband, parents with a strong Christian faith, children and grandchildren, many friends, good health, work for both myself and my husband and now retirement, American freedoms and the one thing I always thank the Lord for every night as I lie down, a warm bed! The list goes on and on. The Community of Blessed Sacrament and my faith are on that list and I find that here is one good place to return some of what God has given me. I believe it is used wisely here."

Bev was raised in a strong Lutheran farming family. She learned at an early age to "trust in God (My dad was a farmer and a farmer soon learns that he isn't in control) and to love my neighbor (My par-

ents were always helping others.)" She also learned from her Dad that if she saw something that needed to be done, just go ahead and do it.

This is evident in the many things Bev has done. When we learned that Fr. Tom was moving to Blessed Sacrament, Bev helped organize a group to clean and paint Fr. Tom's office and apartment. She has also been instrumental in organizing the "Welcoming Packet" and activities. Bev served on the group that put the Parish Directory together.

Bev became Catholic after meeting Chuck. They have been married 44 years and have two children; Kurt Seger (Cedar Falls) and Lora Nissen (Moneta, Virginia). They have three grandchildren. Bev is retired from the Cedar Falls School System and brings her experience as Secretary to the Director of Education in all that she does here. Bev still has time for golf and sewing.

Faith Formation Celebrations

(Barb Duggan, Dir. FF)

The Year of Faith has been kicked off in great style! We have been learning many things about our Catholic faith heritage. Our Forward In Faith (FIF) children have had tours of the church. Many signs and symbols are present in our worship environment and we learned why we use them and their importance in our community and individual worship experiences. We celebrated the month of October with a Rosary prayer experience. The 7th & 8th graders were our prayer leaders.

The children in our Forward in Faith Wednesday night program, led us in a great celebration of saints. We learned that in our liturgical year, we dedicate the month of November to focus on our Catholic understanding of the *communion of saints*. We recall those who have died and the gift of faith they passed on to us. The 3rd and 4th grade children each learned about a saint of the Americas, including two that were recently canonized in October. They dressed up like the saint and told their story to the large group. We all

learned more about the saints who worked in North and South America in bringing the gift of faith to the people of God. We are grateful for their sacrifices.



Second grade children and their families have prepared over the last few months to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation...the sacrament of love, forgiveness and healing. We used a new approach this year whereby all four Waterloo Catholic parishes collaborated together on the parent meeting as well as celebrating together. After working with their children and completing the lessons, the families could choose one of two places to celebrate—at Queen of Peace or at St. Edward. The Gos-

pel story of the Prodigal Son was used. Children made a "fine garment" as part of their preparation. When returning to their pew from confessing with the priest, the parents met their child, hugged them and put the fine garment on them.



A "fine feast" was held afterward to celebrate the love and mercy of God by the forgiveness of our sins.

We are eager to learn more about our faith this year!

THE COMMUNITY OF BLESSED SACRAMENT

650 Stephan Avenue
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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If You Are Hospitalized

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. I hear some don't because they feel it's a bother to pastoral staff. Bringing faith to the challenges of human life is what we are in ministry to do! Some don't want to be prayed for at Mass. I hope you want the prayers of the community, but do know that we never name anyone at

Mass without asking first. Some are confused by how the question is phrased. Allen Hospital will ask "Would you like to be listed on your faith community roster?" Please say "Yes!"

The result of saying **yes** is that when pastoral staff call the hospital and ask if any parishioners are there, Allen 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. The only thing I want for Christmas is you all **not** in the hospital. If I can't have that, we want to know when you are there! Anything else is definitely a lump of coal!

(Fr. Tom McDermott)