

ALL SAINTS

CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL



Love God • Serve Others • Form Disciples



**December 21 & December 22, 2024;
Fourth Sunday of Advent**



*Behold,
I am the
handmaid of the
Lord. May it be done
to me according
to your word.*

Luke 1:38

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday	4:00 pm
Sunday	9:00 am

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Tuesday	8:00 am
Thursday	8:30 am
Friday	8:00 am

*“Blessed are you among women, and
blessed is the fruit of your womb.”*



Image: young-catholics.com

Christmas Mass Info.

HOLIDAY MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve (Tuesday the 24th)	4:00 pm
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Reservations Encouraged

Seats are still available in the Social Hall and Narthex.

Christmas Eve (Tuesday the 24th)	6:00 pm
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Christmas Day (Wednesday the 25th)	9:00 am
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Two brief reminders: remember to be courteous of our neighbors when parking your vehicles. Please do not block driveways. Those who bring the elderly, the mobility-challenged or young children should utilize the drop-off spot under the overhang.



allsaintscr.com



@allsaintscatholicchurchinc9029



@AllSaintsCedarRapidsIowa



@allsaintscr

Please Pray for the Following People

(Why people want prayers isn't important, *the prayers are!*)



Brytta Fitzgibbons, Kim Truesdell, Ramona S., Judy B., Kim Witte, † Mark Dougherty, and † Fredrick Engel.

To add a name call Dan Alpers, at 363-6130, ext. 100. Names will be listed for four weeks and may be renewed. †, Recently deceased will be listed for two weeks.

Stewardship Corner



When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading at Mass, do you “leap for joy?” If not, don't blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. What are you doing as a Christian Steward to grow in friendship with Jesus? How do you prepare for Mass each week? Do you just show up and expect to be entertained? As the Body of Christ, we are called to be active participants, not just passive observers.

A Weekly Tip on Caring for Our Common Home



Consider sharing electronic devices rather than having a device for each person in your home. Consider buying refurbished devices rather than factory new, helping to reduce exploitive practices used to get the minerals needed to make the devices.

Thank You from the Conway Family



We'd like to extend our sincere gratitude for all the love, support and prayers offered as we said good-bye to Fr. Dennis. We cannot begin to describe how you strengthened us by extending God's loving care to us and each another. Everyone who organized, assisted, and participated in the visitation, funeral liturgy, and luncheon gifted us so much more than you will ever know! God's love, peace, and blessings to you all!

- Brian, Chris, and Aileen



Service to Others

Metro Catholic Outreach



MCO Will Be Closed For Two Full Weeks

December 23th through January 5th. We will reopen on Monday, January 6th.

MCO OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Answer phones, schedule clients for food boxes, assemble and distribute homeless bags, organize incoming donations, and greet clients coming into our office.

We can use any skill level, and you can volunteer as little or as often as you wish. We guarantee no two days are ever the same! Contact us at metrocatholicoutreach@gmail.com for more details about volunteering in our office.

All Saints Foundation



You can share your faith beyond your lifetime by careful estate planning that includes All Saints Parish in your will. During your lifetime you will have the joy of knowing that whatever you do not use in this life will continue in ministry through your church after your death. If you would like more information about leaving a legacy gift to All Saints Parish contact Tracy Huk at 319-363-6130 ext 111 or businessmgr@allsaintscr.com. If you would like information about gift planning, please contact our planning partner at the Catholic Foundation at 563-552-0176 or CFAD@OurCFAD.org.

Year-End Giving



Thank you to those who have donated generously to All Saints this calendar year. The office will be open from 8-4 on Monday, December 30. The office will be closed on Tuesday, December 31, but donations may still be dropped into the wooden collection receptacles after the 8:00 a.m. daily Mass or during the collection at the 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass celebrating the Holy Day of Obligation for Mary, Mother of God. The receptacles will be emptied after that Mass. Donations received in the mail after January 1 with a postmark date of December 31 or earlier will be included in your end-of-the-year statement. We are still in the midst of a cashflow challenge with budget giving down from this same time as last year. Thank you for your generosity in helping us to address this shortfall.

2025 Pledges



Our unrestricted donations are down \$136,702.18 (25%) from last year. We are asking our parishioners to review their contributions and make an increase if they are able. All donations are appreciated and make our community possible.

Please complete our 2025 pledge form at <https://allsaintscr.churchcenter.com/people/forms/859781> or by scanning the QR code below. Paper copies are available to pick up from Dan in the parish office.



Everyday Metanoia



This is the fourth Sunday of Advent and we continue our preparation for Christmas, where we remember the gift of Jesus Christ as he entered our world for the first time, as we celebrate that he is a part of our lives now, and as we look forward to the day when we will see him again at the end of time. The Gospel focuses our attention on Mary's visit to Elizabeth creating an opportunity to reflect on the words expectation and anticipation.

When we journey through Advent with expectations of Christmas, it implies that we have a specific ending already in mind. We are focusing the time and energy of Advent on what we want and our own will, not on conforming to God's plan and his will. I was wrestling with this thought when I went to Adoration on Monday evening. Talk about nothing going according to my expectation! Instead of getting there a few minutes early and settling into quiet prayer time with a few books or a journal as I usually do...this time I was late. So I rushed into the Chapel with nothing but a songbook. I let out a big sigh and resigned myself to what I thought would be a less than expected prayer time. But God had other ideas! Since I had brought nothing with me and I was frustrated that nothing was going according to the carefully crafted prayer plan that was in my mind, I slid to my knees and started to gaze at Jesus in the monstrance. I thought it would get boring and I would be counting the minutes until it was over, but the time flew by. The more that Jesus and I gazed at each other, the more longing that gaze became. At the end it felt like both of us yearned for a personal encounter with the other to such a degree that the air almost crackled. I feel that the key to that mirrored desire was that neither of us had expectations of the other. Like Mary and Elizabeth as they greeted each other, the feeling was one of anticipation; not sure of the final outcome, but entering into that leg of the journey with hope and joy. The light bulb clicked on and I started to ponder Advent in light of Christmas anticipations rather than Christmas expectations.

In his book, *Not God Enough*, by J. D. Greear, he says, "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory. When we see God [like Moses saw him], our hearts will glow like Moses's face did. We will catch fire with trust, passion and love. Spiritual life does not come from discipline or mastery of doctrine. It comes from divine vision. And here's the amazing thing: we get to see something even greater than Moses did! Moses only got to see the back parts of God's glory, but in the life of Jesus we behold God's very face." Greear continues, "When God opens our eyes to see the beauty of Jesus, his glory bursts through the cloud of our questions. When we truly behold his glory, we won't need to be compelled to trust or love God; we just will. In the depth of our hearts, we will be convinced that he's a God worth living and dying for. Others will see in our demeanor a confidence that goes far beyond personality, charisma or dogma. They will sense in our hearts a burning passion fueled by a genuine encounter with a glorious and living God." With this thought in mind, we can hear Elizabeth's reply to Mary's greeting with a new understanding. Elizabeth and the infant in her womb, encountered our glorious and living God through Mary. Mary's burning passion for God ignites the Holy Spirit within Elizabeth such that she cries out with joy, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

St. Augustine said, "You have made us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." Ronald Rolheiser in his book *The Holy Longing* sees "this restlessness as something vital and nonnegotiable lying at the heart of our lives." This restlessness is with us constantly. While we are to seek God always, Advent is one of the times in our liturgical year that we are encouraged to step away from the world in some fashion and to allow more time to "rest" with God, in order to rekindle the fire of our anticipation of the Christmas Jesus: past, present and future. J. D. Greear in his book *Searching for Christmas* states that "Christmas is a season of choice." He continues, "Choices can be glorious, and confusing, and empowering, and overwhelming, all at the same time." He connects these choices with how we choose to use our time and to whom and to what we give priority. "The traditional Christmas season is a strange time. In one sense, it's a time full of joy. Yet at the same time, for many of us, it's the time that we find it hardest to bury our struggles or ignore our problems or regrets. Jesus gets that. He didn't come for people who have it all together. He came for people with problems. He came for people whose lives were dysfunctional and messed up. He came for people who had driven their lives into a dead end. He came for those who had been mistreated, neglected, abused. And he came for those who had gotten everything they wanted out of life and still found it didn't give them what they were looking for." That same Jesus who broke into our world over 2,000 years ago is the same Jesus waiting for us to say in joyful, hopeful anticipation, "yes", and allow him to break into our lives now. Waiting with you with anticipation...Tracy

2024 Holiday Scrip Schedule



The holiday shopping season is upon us, and gift cards make great gifts!

To pick up your order on:	Place your online order before 8am on:	Drop off your paper order form before 8am on:
Jan 10	Jan 6	Jan 6

The All Saints Scrip Office will be closed Nov 20-24 and Dec 21-Jan 5.

Online orders will be available while the Scrip Office is closed. However, "Pay Coordinator" and "Ship to Coordinator" items will be delayed until the Scrip Office reopens.

Contact Lori at scrip@allsaintscr.com or 319.535.3570 for more details.

Thank-you for supporting All Saints!

Butter Braids!



Having unexpected Christmas guests or want a simple easy breakfast on Christmas morning? Or maybe you had enjoyed the first butter braid you want to purchase another one? Parish Life to the rescue! There are a variety of butter braids available for cash and carry purchases after each Mass the weekend of December 21st and 22nd. Looking forward to seeing you!
- Parish Life Committee

Help Wanted: Decorating All Saints for Christmas!



Our volunteers are planning to decorate the Narthex after the 4th Sunday of Advent Mass on December 22nd. We'll need lots of volunteers to help on this day.

The teardown this season will be after the Baptism of the Lord Sunday Mass on Sunday, January 12th.



Advent: The Beginning of a New Liturgical Year



Advent awakens us not only for the birth of Christ but also for the beginning of a new year in the Church. With Christ's coming, we start anew – on the first Sunday of Advent, December 1, we'll transition from cycle B to cycle C. Cycle A focuses on the Gospel of Luke, which we've heard during each Mass this Advent season.

Like Lent, Advent is a season of preparation, repentance, and regality. The color purple liturgically represents these spiritual themes for both seasons. While they share the same liturgical color and many thematic similarities, our prayers and intentions vary in Lent and Advent. In Lent, we focus our meditation on the suffering of Christ's 40 days in the desert leading up to His crucifixion and sacrifice of Love for us. In Advent, purple adorns churches as we await the coming of the true King.

The themes and lessons of Advent and Lent are most definitely related, illustrated by their sharing of the color purple, yet our prayer varies during these two seasons. The Scripture differs. And the homilies at Mass have a **hopefulness** that grounds them.

As Pope Benedict XVI said, *"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope."*

Advent Prayers

It is this abounding hope that guides our prayer during the season of Advent. **We pray to prepare our hearts to be like the manger in which Christ will soon lay – open and humble.**

We pray for patience, healing, transformation, and peace as our world, ravaged by war and turmoil, needs Jesus as much as ever this year.

<https://hallow.com/advent/>

December Prayer for Mental Health



*Heavenly Father, in your infinite mercy,
We come before you today humbly asking for your
Healing touch on those struggling with mental health challenges.
Comfort their troubled minds,
Ease their anxieties and lift the burdens they carry.
Grant them strength to face each day with hope,
Knowing that you are always with them.
Through the intercession of St. Dymphna, patron of those
With mental illness, bring peace
And restoration to their hearts and minds.
We pray this in Jesus' name.
Amen.*

Offering Envelope News



Offering envelopes for the first quarter of 2025 are mailing out now. You'll see that they're much different than the ones that we're used to. That's because we've switched envelope providers! By switching providers, parishioners will receive their orders reliably and on-time. As good stewards of our church resources and the environment, we compared and contrasted our previous provider and this new one. It was determined that switching providers would be very beneficial for a number of reasons.

We do, however, have a request of you, the parishioner. As you can see from the photograph, the new provider prints important information on what we consider the BACK of the envelope. Because of this, for ease, efficiency, and legibility of the information on (what is now on the back) the envelopes, we would ask that everyone refrain from the use of tape or stickers to seal their envelopes. Rest assured that your donations will remain secure from the time you drop it in the basket or box until it is processed here in the office.

Everyone in the Parish Office is excited about the change and we truly appreciate your assistance in this transition.



Sharing the Blessing



This year's financial stewardship campaign centers on a profound truth: **Sharing the Blessing**

In the Gospel story of Jesus feeding the multitude, we witness the beauty of what happens when gifts are shared. A boy offers his five loaves and two fish, and through Jesus' blessing, the small offering becomes a feast for thousands. It is a story of trust, generosity, and God's power to multiply even the simplest gifts.

When the crowd responded to Jesus' invitation, their collective sharing led to an overflow—twelve baskets of leftovers, more than enough for all. This moment reminds us that blessings, when shared, not only meet needs but create abundance.

As a faith community, we are called to embrace this spirit of sharing. Our stewardship is about more than maintaining our parish; it is about being a source of grace and hope for those around us. Together, we ensure that the blessings we receive extend beyond ourselves to meet the needs of our neighbors and prepare for the future.

This journey begins with a pledge—a response to God's blessings in our lives. Through our collective generosity, we live out His call to be a light in the world, a community rooted in faith, and a sign of His love for all. To make your pledge and help us share the blessing, please [[click here](#)].

'Double the Blessings' Year-End Challenge



On Giving Tuesday we introduced our 'Double the Blessings' Year-End Challenge for our Xavier Catholic Schools. Thanks to a generous dedicated donor, every dollar donated now through December 31 will be matched—up to \$25,000!

We invite you to reflect on the many blessings our schools have provided for our community. Your gift directly supports two priorities in our XCS schools:

- **Building Faith:** Providing resources for Catholic spiritual training, sacred spaces, and spiritual artwork to deepen the faith lives of our students, teachers, and staff.
- **Building Improvements:** Enhancing security and maintenance to create safe, Christ-centered environments for learning and growth.

Together, we can ensure that Xavier Catholic Schools continues to fulfill our mission of "Creating disciples unafraid to follow Jesus Christ."

Gifts of all sizes are appreciated! Visit CRXCS.org/Give to make your gift today or mail your donation to XCS Foundation, PO Box 10956, Cedar Rapids, IA 52410. Thank you for your generosity, and may the joy of Christ's birth fill your hearts with peace this season!

Surviving Divorce

CEDAR RAPIDS DEANERY

Surviving Divorce

HOPE AND HEALING
FOR THE CATHOLIC FAMILY

SPRING SESSION

TUESDAYS

6-7.30PM

JAN. 7 - MAR. 25

AT ST. PIUS X

4949 COUNCIL ST. NE
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52402

CONTACT CATE OR
JACKIE FOR MORE INFO:
catie22001@yahoo.com
jseals33@aol.com

The Disciple Maker Index Survey is Open!



Our parish, along with all others in the archdiocese, is participating in a parish Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey conducted by Catholic Leadership Institute. Many of us participated in the archdiocesan survey for the global synod during January and February of 2022. Archbishop Zinkula has reviewed the synod report generated by 16,000 household responses. The DMI survey is the next step in a process that will lead to new mission and vision statements, and pastoral priorities.

The DMI is an important survey tool that invites you to reflect on your discipleship journey here at our parish. Please take the survey today! Click the link to take the survey: <https://portal.catholicleaders.org/d/bpctab> or scan the QR code:

- Your input helps strengthen our parish.
- Results help our leadership councils prepare for the future.
- A report of the finds will be shared in early 2025.



The survey will be open until January 9. Paper surveys will be available by calling Tracy Huk at 319-363-6130 ext 111. Together we will identify our strengths and opportunities in greater detail as we strive to grow in missionary discipleship and help craft our common vision for the future. If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Huk at 319-363-6130 ext 111 or businessmgr@allsaintscr.com.

For the Married Couples



“May it be done to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38). Sometimes it can be frightening to embark upon a big change in life – a birth, a death, changing a job, retirement... Call to mind a fear from the past or a current concern. Bring your fears to God. Trust that you will be safe in sharing it with your beloved.

Reminder - Retirement Fund for Religious:



We will not be conducting this collection as a stand-alone collection this year.

*** As stated in the November 1 Official Bulletin, if you've received collection materials for the Retirement Fund for Religious this Fall, please DO NOT put these materials out in your parishes. Please recycle those materials***

This collection will be a part of the Spring Our Call to Share Campaign in May, for which we will be producing our own materials.

YTD Income and Expenses



As of November 30, All Saints Church has received \$140,345.000 less than it did the year before.

As of November 30, the parish has spent \$48,226 less than it did at this same time as last year. Despite inflated costs for supplies and utilities, the parish has tried to be a good steward of your generosity.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the All Saints Finance Council Members: Ann Jeffries, Mike Hattery, Ellen Mouw, Matt Osen, Jason Ainsworth, Tom Donnelly or the Business Manager, Tracy Huk (businessmgr@allsaints.cr.com)

Budget Income	2024	2023	
July	\$89,577.00	\$108,071.00	
August	\$66,017.00	\$74,281.00	
September	\$77,978.00	\$73,449.00	
October	\$60,001.00	\$112,194.00	
November	\$104,888.00	\$170,811.00	Difference
YTD Total	\$398,461.00	\$538,806.00	(\$140,345.00)

YTD Expenses			Difference
Parish Admin	\$29,772.00	\$27,958.00	\$1,814.00
Parish Life	\$256,398.00	\$327,807.00	(\$71,409.00)
Admin	\$98,461.00	\$100,674.00	(\$2,213.00)
Operations/Main.	\$44,700.00	\$30,105.00	\$14,595.00
Pastor Household	\$5,888.00	\$4,765.00	\$1,123.00
Fixed Charges	\$46,046.00	\$44,728.00	\$1,318.00
Capital Outlay	\$38,402.00	\$15,638.00	\$22,764.00
Adult Ed	\$15,263.00	\$14,564.00	\$699.00
PK-5 Ed	\$11,911.00	\$7,445.00	\$4,466.00
MS/HS Ed	\$3,783.00	\$25,166.00	(\$21,383.00)
Total	\$550,624.00	\$598,850.00	(\$48,226.00)

Mass Intentions

- Tues. December 24 8:00 am
For the People
- Tues. December 24 4:00 pm
Scherrman/Barry Families
- Tues. December 24 6:00 pm
† Rev. Paul Peters
- Wed. December 25 9:00 am
For the People
- Thurs. December 26 8:30 am
Kim Witte
- Fri. December 27 8:00 am
Michael Shea
- Sat. December 28 4:00 pm
† Margene & Jerry Rule
- Sun. December 29 9:00 am
For the People

Scripture Readings

Week of December 22, 2024

Sunday:

Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45 (12)

Monday:

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66 (199)

Tuesday:

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79 (200)

Wednesday:

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 (13)

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 (14)

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 (15)

Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14 (16)

Thursday:

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22 (696)

Friday:

1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8 (697)

Saturday:

1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Mt 2:13-18 (698)

Sunday:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/
Lk 2:41-52

Parish Life



Do you enjoy getting people together for fellowship and having fun as well? Parish Life Committee is looking for additional members to appreciate each event. If you are interested, please contact Ellen Mouw at 712-253-5540 or eamouw@aol.com.

Un-Committee



Don't have time for committees or meetings, but still want to help? Join the "Un-Committee" where you are contacted only for special events at All Saints Church. If interested, please contact Ellen Mouw at 712-253-5540 or eamouw@aol.com.

All Saints Nights at Green Square Meals



All Saints helps prepare and serve dinner at Green Square Meals soup kitchen, 2-3 times a month. Sign up to help at the link below or contact Melissa Peckosh (847-975-1785 or missypeckosh@yahoo.com).

ALL SAINTS NIGHTS: 2nd & 5th Tuesday, 3rd Monday
All volunteers in sixth grade and up are welcome. Sign up at:
<https://signup.com/go/vJYiFPm>

Parish (Holiday) Office Hours



Holiday Office Hours:

Monday, December 23, 8 am -4 pm
Tuesday, December 24, CLOSED
Wednesday, December 25, CLOSED
Thursday, December 26, 8 am -4 pm
Friday, December 27, CLOSED

The parish staff knows that your time is valuable. Please **call** or **email** the staff member you wish to speak with to ensure that they are available.



Bruins Beat

Welcome Home, Mr. Reitzel!

*Welcome back, Mr. Reitzel.
We're so happy that you made it home safely!*



www.allsaints-crschool.org

Ministry Schedule

December 21, 4:00 PM Saturday

Sacristan

Cynthia Gunsolly

Extraordinary Ministers

Jean Bell
Kathi Grainger
Suzanne Lammers
Andrew Lang
Peg Schmitz
Stephen Schmitz
Becky Weininger

Altar Servers

Emerson Eichhorn
Martin (MJ) Golobic
Jackson Keller

Lectors

Theresa Harker
Gavin Miller

Hospitality Ministers

Elie AbouRaad
Ryan Donnelly
Daniel Greene
Dick Kettelkamp
Barb Lindstrom
Marcia Myers

December 22, 9:00 AM Sunday

Sacristan

Sherry Casey

Extraordinary Ministers

Chris Conway
Brian Conway
Stephanie Guzman
Ann Hunter
Larry Hunter
Nicole Johnson
Bea Rethwisch

Altar Servers

Addison Johnson
Henry Johnson
Cayden Suby

Lectors

David Shema
Loesje Shema

Hospitality Ministers

Mike Klappholz
Stephanie Klappholz
Tony Satariano
Chris Shimon
Maureen Wolf
Dave Wolf

Ministry Schedule

December 24, 4:00 PM Tuesday

Sacristan

Joan Fishburn

Extraordinary Ministers

Mary Jo Goerd

Terry Goerd

Sara Lang

Ellen Mouw

Dennis Mullarkey

Kourtne Powell

Mike Powell

Daniel Prentice

Loesje Shema

Altar Servers

Bo Dittmar

Stella Lippe

Madison McCarville

Lectors

Mick Erdman

JoAnn Hand

Hospitality Ministers

Chris Colby

Ryan Donnelly

Chase Philpott

Stacey Schmitt

Eric Schmitt

Diane Weimer

December 24, 6:00 PM Tuesday

Sacristan

Cate Biro

Extraordinary Ministers

Kathi Grainger

Aaron Kelly

Stephen Schmitz

Altar Servers

Kendra Beeler

Katrina Golobic

Kannon Pfeiler

Lectors

Robin Brown

Tasha Tatara

Hospitality Ministers

Maureen Dale Ernst

Maureen Ernst

John Ernst

Marcia Myers

Peg Schmitz

Mike Votroubek

Family Ministry

December 22, 2024 • 4th Sunday of Advent • Luke 1:39-45

Mary Visits Elizabeth

Mary is pregnant when she sets off to help her cousin Elizabeth, who is also pregnant. Mary has just said "yes" to becoming the mother of Jesus. Elizabeth welcomes Mary, and experiences a special blessing for herself and her child. She praises Mary for her faith and rejoices with her over her miracle.

Mary was newly pregnant and not married when she left for Judah. She probably spent much of the journey wondering how her cousin would receive her. Imagine her relief when she saw Elizabeth's face and heard her greeting: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

Sometimes we forget that Mary was just a young girl, probably about fourteen, when she agreed to become the mother of Jesus. There is no questioning her courage and colossal faith, but she was probably still confused and scared after the angel left.

Mary came to help her cousin, but (as is often the case) she ended up being ministered to also. How affirming it must have been to hear Elizabeth, an older woman, praise her for her faith and trust in the Lord. Like all of us, Mary needed to know that she was not alone. Her courage and faith needed to be bolstered. Elizabeth gave Mary the reinforcement she needed.

Like Mary, we are also asked to have faith and to believe in the promises of a God we cannot see. We are asked to believe in God's unconditional love for us, and to say "yes" to that love so that like Mary we too can bring Jesus into the world. Amidst all our confusion and fear, God asks us to have the courage to share our faith, bolster the faith of those closest to us and make the presence of Jesus real in our households.

FAMILY RESPONSE

Ask family members to talk about the last time someone bolstered their courage. Who are the people in your lives who remind you of Jesus? In what way?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Who are the people who remind you of Jesus? In what ways?

Bringing Home the Gospel: Parent Reflections on the Sunday Gospels • Copyright © 2022 Judith Dunlap. Published by the Pastoral Center, PastoralCenter.com. All rights reserved. Scripture passages have been taken from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright ©1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., and used by permission. All rights reserved.

ST. PIUS X

Epiphany Concert


RADIANT LIGHT

FEATURING CHOIRS AND MUSICIANS FROM THE CATHOLIC CHURCHES THROUGHOUT CEDAR RAPIDS

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO "COME BEARING GIFTS" IN THE FORM OF A CASH DONATION OR NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS TO SUPPORT METRO CATHOLIC OUTREACH. ADMISSION IS FREE!

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN PIUS HALL

SUNDAY JANUARY 5, 2025
3:00 PM AT ST. PIUS CHURCH




Ministry Schedule

December 25, 9:00 AM Wednesday

Sacristan

John Michael

Extraordinary Ministers

Jean Bell

Stephanie Guzman

Bill Knapp

Dianne Knapp

Suzanne Lammers

Gregory O'Connell

Marvin Stallman

Altar Servers

Roman Kilburg

Ilyzza Shea

Lindsey Talyat

Lectors

Lisa Stephenson

Kathy Ulrich

Hospitality Ministers

Barb Lindstrom

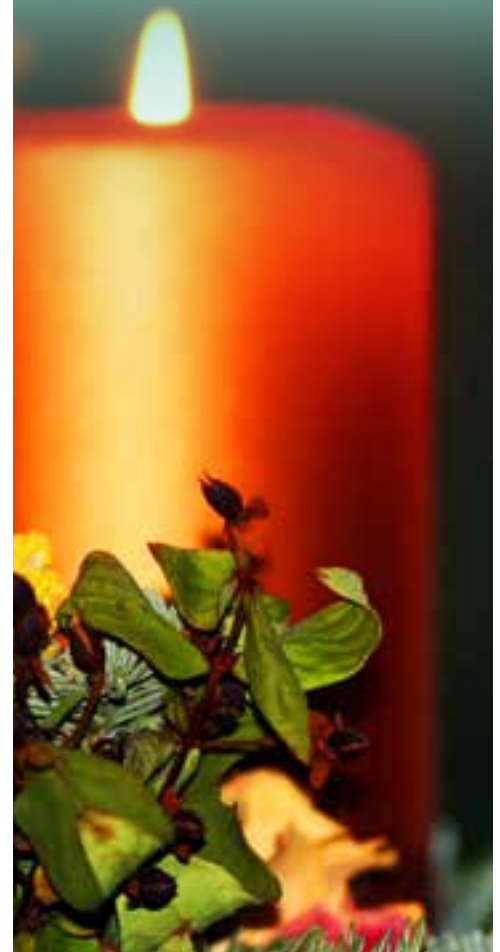
Bea Rethwisch

Lauri Talyat

Brian Talyat

Maureen Wolf

Dave Wolf



Ministry Schedule

December 28, 4:00 PM Tuesday

Sacristan

Peg Schmitz

Extraordinary Ministers

Aaron Kelly

Suzanne Lammers

Sara Lang

Ellen Mouw

Mike Powell

Kourtne Powell

Daniel Prentice

Altar Servers

James Lammers

Lindsey Talyat

Megan Talyat

Lectors

Joseph Cataldo

Riley Hoover

Hospitality Ministers

Jen Colby

Chris Colby

Ryan Donnelly

Marcia Myers

Brian Talyat

Lauri Talyat

December 29, 6:00 PM Tuesday

Sacristan

Cate Biro

Extraordinary Ministers

Tom Amosson

Maureen Dale Ernst

Maureen Ernst

Mary Jo Goerd

Terry Goerd

Stephanie Guzman

Dennis Mullarkey

Altar Servers

Katherine Osen

Eli Shane

Ellorie Shane

Lectors

Lynn Holverson

Todd Holverson

Hospitality Ministers

Jeanne Amosson

Mike Klappholz

Stephanie Klappholz

Chase Philpott

Chris Shimon

Diane Weimer

Gospel Weeklies

Pflaum  FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

Family
Guide

December 22, 2024
4th Sunday of Advent

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Luke 1:39–45

In Sunday's Gospel, Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth. The two of them demonstrate just how to trust God's word and to rejoice in God's blessings. They both praise God, and Elizabeth gives us the words that are central to the Hail Mary—"Blessed is the fruit of your womb." The mystery of the Incarnation—God taking on human flesh by the Virgin Mary—is the great sign of divine care for us all.

Exploring the Gospel Message


Seeds (Preschool): Your child decorated a Christmas tree with pictures of some of the characters and creatures from the Christmas story. Ask your child to tell you about each of the ornaments on his or her tree. If you decorate a tree this week, be sure to invite your child to help you. It is a good opportunity to talk about Christmas and its meaning for your family.

Promise (Grades K–1): During this week's lesson, the class shared the joy people feel when a favorite relative visits or when a new baby arrives. Ask your child to share with the family the story "Welcome Home, Donnie." Your child will also be happy to share with the family the story of Mary and Elizabeth. He or she can use the picture that was colored. A code from class shows where some of the words for the Hail Mary were first spoken.

Good News (Grades 2–3): During this week's class, your child played a game that dramatizes the journey to Bethlehem. Ask your child to teach the family how to play the game and play it together. Talk about all the people and information in the squares of the game board. Ask your child to tell the family about Saint Francis and the first Christmas crib scene.

Venture (Grades 4–6): Christmas is almost here! Your youngster learned about ways to live and to share the spirit of Christmas. They learned about the custom of Los Posadas (the inns) and how that public celebration spreads the good news of Jesus' coming into the world. What customs does your family or nationality have that help you celebrate the true meaning of Christmas? Let your youngster share with the family the Scriptural sources for the Hail Mary—based on the angel's greeting to Mary and Elizabeth's welcome when Mary came visiting. From the lesson, look at the story of Saint Stephen together.

Visions (Grades 7–8): This week, your youngster learned that Mary's visit to Elizabeth showed her generous response to God's call as well as her trust in God. Talk together about the family's need for trust and how each member can grow in trust. The readings throughout Advent have been filled with God's promises. A sign of Christmas spirit is trust in those promises. Read together Mary's beautiful response to God's action in her life—the Magnificat (Luke 1:46–55).

Awaken (Teens/Adults): Discover a new level of spiritual growth for parents with  *Awaken*, the new adult level of the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies, developed to deepen your faith journey alongside your children. Scan the QR code to learn more.

Pray Together

One Christmas carol is perfect for the last few days before Christmas—"O Come, O Come Emmanuel." The song contains all the longing, hope, and trust in God's Promise the season provides. You can use a YouTube video of this carol as your prayer for the week. You will find it at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xtpJ4Q_Q-4.

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Parish Office (319) 363-6130
Monday and Thursday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
CLOSED Tuesday (12/24), Wednesday (12/25),
and Friday (12/27)



Pastor	Rev. John R. Flaherty	fatherjack@allsaintscr.com	Ext. 116
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School Principal	Kelly Starr	kelly.starr@crxcs.org	Ext. 234
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Early Childhood Director	Kelly Starr	kelly.starr@crxcs.org	Ext. 234
Regis Middle School Principal	Zach Zeckser	zach.zeckser@crxcs.org	(319) 363-1968
Xavier High School Principal	Lynn Holverson	lynn.holverson@crxcs.org	(319) 294-6635



Sacrament Information

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays at 3 p.m.

Sacrament of Baptism: Baptism preparation class is required for parents. Contact Deacon Ed Martin (DeaconEd@allsaintscr.com or 319-364-7524) to schedule a class and date for the baptism (some date restrictions may apply).

Sacrament of Matrimony: Couples are to make arrangements at least six months before the intended date of the wedding in order to fulfill the necessary requirements. Please contact Deacon Mike Klappholz (DeaconMike@allsaintscr.com) to begin the process.

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA): Classes are scheduled for Monday evenings beginning in the Fall. Contact Bob Lillibridge, Director of Formation, for more information (adultformation@allsaintscr.com).

Confirmation: Classes will be led by Father Jack Flaherty after the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sundays in the Social Hall. Start date TBD (fatherjack@allsaintscr.com).

First Reconciliation & Eucharist: Second graders combine home study and retreats to prepare for these sacraments. Contact Stacy Cataldo, Director of Catechesis, for more information (catechesis@allsaintscr.com).

Anointing of the Sick: Please contact the office at 319-363-6130, ext. 100 to schedule anointings.

Miscellaneous Information

Newcomer Registration: Call the Parish Office at 363-6130, ext. 100, or register on line at <http://www.allsaintscr.com>.

Bulletin Deadline: Items must be submitted electronically to the parish office by Noon on the preceding Monday to: bulletin@allsaintscr.com.

Opportunities for Prayer

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Thursdays, 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM in the Church.

All Saints Prayer Group: Tuesdays at 3:00 PM in the church lower level.

Prayer Tree: Available to anyone who would like us to pray for their intentions. Please call Darlene Fandel at 319-560-4844.

Women's Prayer Group: Tuesday mornings after 8:00 AM Mass.

M.O.M.S Rosary: 7:30 PM 1st Monday of the month, Queen of All Saints Chapel.

Prolife Rosary: Fridays after 8:00 am Mass.

Parish Website: You may both submit and view prayer intentions any time at: <https://allsaintscr.churchcenter.com/people/forms/413117>.