

# ALL SAINTS

CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL



*Love God • Serve Others • Form Disciples*



**November 29 & November 30, 2025;  
First Sunday of Advent**

*Therefore,  
stay awake!  
For you do not know  
on which day  
your Lord will  
come.*  
Matthew 24:42

### WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday 4:00 pm  
Sunday 9:00 am

### WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

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



NO Daily Mass

***Get Ready! Be Prepared!***



Image: young-catholics.com



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@AllSaintsCedarRapidsIowa



@allsaintscr

All Saints Catholic Church † 720 29th Street SE † Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403 † (319) 363-6130

## Please Pray for the Following People

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



Dawn Bembenek & Sarah Rollins

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



Stewards who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily and you begin to see God's active presence in your life. You grow in gratitude, each day, for all that we have been given.

## A Weekly Tip on Caring for Our Common Home



### Conventional or Organic?

Organic is defined as a category of products which, in the purest form, is grown without chemical fertilizers or pesticides and sold without adding preservatives. Conventional is defined as using scientific and technological developments to grow products for human or animal consumption. Conventional may contain antibiotics, synthetic fertilizers, growth hormones, pesticides or herbicides. It is not only imperative for you to make an informed decision on what is best for both your own health and the health of your loved ones – it is also a decision that can greatly impact the health of our planet.

## For the Married Couples



*“Keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come”* (Matt 24:42). One way to prepare spiritually for Jesus' coming is to try to correct a bad habit. Have you been overly critical of your spouse? Judgmental? Too preoccupied to really listen? Pick one fault and work on it.

# Everyday Metanoia



Welcome to the first Sunday of Advent. Let's walk together this Advent Season. Let's make purposeful choices on where to spend our time. Let's stop creating stories in our mind and be fully present to the life we are living. Let's stop being afraid of silence and learn to grow from stillness. These are my prayers and hopes for us all this Advent Season.

For someone who started off with a very rocky relationship with St. Paul, his letters have really been connecting with me lately. Scott Hahn and Curtis Mitch in their commentary on the Letter to the Romans identify Romans 13 as the final appeal to the Romans - a culmination that brings our earthly behavior, the gift of salvation and the final judgment in communication with one another. It's an interesting passage to use as the steering wheel for our Advent journey.

"Brothers and sisters: You know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep." While our calendar year is coming to a close, our liturgical year has just begun. As a beginning, we are invited to awaken our senses and to shake off any lethargy present. We can allow Advent to be a new beginning for our Christian lives, also. As someone who has tried this often in the past and has not quite succeeded, Paul's letter is also a reminder that this is not an easy, one and done task. "Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light..." The armor of light is the graces received at baptism, regularly reading and reflecting on the Word of God and an active prayer life. And yet, there is something missing from that list. Too many times, we have encountered someone who looks like all of this on the outside but whose heart is corrupted by the works of darkness, as evidenced by their hurtful words and their self-centered and self-serving actions. What's missing is our willingness to allow God to transform us. Claire Dwyer in her Advent reflection book, *In Time*, illustrates this through a story.

"Imagine your Heavenly Father giving you a gift. He puts a perfectly wrapped little package into your outstretched hands, and giddy with suspense, you loosen the satiny ribbons and let them fall to the floor. Slowly you lift the box's lid and inside you see - nothing. He kneels down and looks into your eyes with such tender love. I've given you a special grace, He says. This hollowness is openness, a capacity for the greatest gift I can give you. He pauses. The gift is nothing less than Me. Gathering you into His arms, He whispers, Guard my gift carefully. The world will want to steal it from you. It doesn't like emptiness because it doesn't understand it. It will try to stuff your box full - full of itself. When I come, I and I alone will fill this nothingness. But there must be room. So keep vigil. Hold this space and keep it sacred."

This story is similar to Paul's call to the Romans to wake up. Open the lid on the box God gave us at baptism. Is there room for God or is it too full of busyness, noise, distractions and cheap trinkets? Advent is a gift of time given by our Heavenly Father. It is a time to look at the contents of the box, to sort through what is inside and clear out space for God. Discard the junk; give away that which no longer helps us to live our baptismal commitment; recapture the emptiness through the gift of silence. Claire Dwyer continues, "We must reclaim our sense of the sacredness of the wait. The hush of before. And the realization that in the space of waiting - and only in that deliberate, intentional lack - there is room and time for us to become who we must be to receive Him and be received into His Kingdom."

Let's prioritize waiting with God this Advent Season. Let's be a people who wait in hope.

Come Holy Spirit!

Praying with you always, Tracy Huk, Parish Life Coordinator

# All Saints Giving Tree Gifts Needed by December 7<sup>th</sup>



This is the last weekend to choose an ornament from the All Saints Giving Tree. Ornaments can be chosen from the tree, purchased and wrapped. After attaching the ornament to the gift, it can be returned to the church by the December 7th deadline. Thank you to everyone who has helped us share Christmas blessings with many families.

## Marriage is a Journey



A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend can help you enrich your marriage and add some pizzazz to your journey. Whether you've been married 1 year or 50, a Marriage Encounter Weekend may be just the thing you need to put a breath of fresh air into your relationship. Upcoming weekends are: February 13-15 in Dubuque, April 10-12 in Marshalltown, October 9-11 in Epworth. For more information call Denise and Greg at (563) 920-9419 or register at [wwme.org](http://wwme.org).

## Mass Intention Stipends



Archbishop Zinkula has issued a decree that beginning with all Mass stipends accepted on January 1, 2026 or after, the customary offering will go from \$5.00 per Mass to \$10.00 per Mass. All Mass stipends accepted prior to January 1, 2026 will still be honored at the \$5.00 offering. If you have any questions or concerns, please call or email Dan Alpers, Office Manager at 319-363-6130 ext 100 or [officemgr@allsaintscr.com](mailto:officemgr@allsaintscr.com).

## St. Ludmila Christmas Market



**Saturday, December 6, 2025 • 9:00am to 3:00pm**

Held in the St. Ludmila Community Center, 211- 21st Ave. SW Cedar Rapids

Shop from over 50 crafters and vendors including St. Ludmila sponsored.

Kolaches - Cookie & Candy Sales - Silent Auction - Crafts - Fresh Cut Greenery Arrangements – Café Ludmila

Kolaches will be sold starting at 9:00am until sold out! There is no limit to the number you can buy!



## Service to Others

### Metro Catholic Outreach



#### **Green Prairie Garden** - Christine Kirpes, Garden Coordinator

We've had a very successful garden season as far as end-of-season cleanup & prep for winter/spring. Last Wednesday, we hosted a dozen students plus a couple of parents & staff in our garden for the annual Xavier Service Day (see photos). They helped us mix raised bed soil, cover more beds with compost & straw, weed here & there, lay out & dig in some log edging, & a few other tasks. The nice warm fall weather has been very helpful and we've progressed farther in our fall tasks than usual. Next spring should be easier after all that work!

SEASON PRODUCTION — Our season was successful, but the abundant rain did help the weeds & pests as much as our veggies. **We grew over 3100 lbs of produce and brought almost 1100 lbs to MCO.** However, many tomatoes & other veggies were split & damaged too much for pantry use. Our cucumbers & summer squash did not produce well before succumbing to wilt. About 280 lbs of our veggie total were salvaged “seconds” which were given away to gardeners & offered to Prairiewoods guests. Unfortunately, over 300 lbs of our grand total, mostly tomatoes, had to go to the yard waste pile. Many in our community have shared that their tomatoes and gardens in general did not do well this past season, so we are grateful for our relative success. We will focus on how to minimize these issues next season.

We wish our gardeners and all of you a restful holiday season. We'll share more with you early next spring as we get another garden season started!

For more information, contact Christine: [cmckirpes@gmail.com](mailto:cmckirpes@gmail.com)

## Grateful and Blessed



This November we will be focusing on naming our blessings and sharing our gratitude with God and with each other. We invite you to help us create a “Blessings and Gratitude” bulletin board in the ambulatory. Our bookkeeper, Jeremy Lutz, pitched this idea and we love it (Thanks, Jeremy!) We will have hearts available for you to write the people, places and things that you are grateful for. These hearts will then be used to showcase all of our blessings on the bulletin board located by the entry to the church by the baptismal font. All of what we have comes from God. We own nothing - we are stewards of God's generosity. Help us say ‘thank you’ to God as we name and lift up these blessings in prayer!



## Catholic Daughters



Catholic Daughters, Cedar Rapids Court #1768 Will meet Tuesday, December 9th, starting at 6:00 PM a Christmas Party Soup Supper and Ugly Sweater Contest. A gift exchange (\$5-\$10) collections of Baby Items for Birthright or Bridgehaven.

Contact: Roberta - 319-366-0999 or Stephanie - 319-540-7193.

# Adoration During Advent



This year, we will once again offer Adoration on Monday evenings during Advent, combining it with the Advent Stations. Please note: there will be no Adoration on Monday, December 8th due to the holy day of obligation, evening Mass is at 5:30 that day. The schedule will be as follows:

\*\*Advent Stations\*\* will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Social Hall.

\*\*Adoration\*\* will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel and conclude at 6:30 p.m.

We invite you to sign up for a volunteer position for Adoration using the following link: <https://signup.com/go/FgWeKJS>.

To sign up:

1. Click the link above.
2. Review the available options and select the spot(s) you prefer.
3. Sign up! You do not need to register an account or manage a password on SignUp.

\*Note: SignUp does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me directly at [peg@schmitzia.com](mailto:peg@schmitzia.com) or 319-329-0155, and I will sign you up manually.

Thank you, Peg Schmitz

## LaSalle Catholic Middle School Presents: Moana Jr.



Set sail on a musical adventure as the students of LaSalle Catholic Middle School bring Disney's Moana Jr. to life on stage!

Where: Regis-LaSalle Theater at Xavier High School

When: Thursday, December 4th at 12:30 PM & 7:00 PM

Friday, December 5th at 7:00 PM



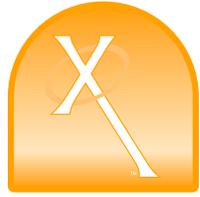
Tickets are available online only beginning Friday, December 5 at 7:00 pm at Xavier High School and Regis-LaSalle theater. Tickets are available online only beginning Friday, November 14th at <http://www.gobound.com/ia/schools/xavierms/tickets>. All are welcome—please come support these talented students.

## Thank You!



On behalf of the All Saints Pastoral Council and Finance Council, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the members of the All Saints Journey in Faith Team. The All Saints Journey in Faith Team includes Stacy Cataldo, Steve Schmitz, Stephanie Klappholz, Ann Jeffries, and Ed Martin. Their leadership during this process exemplified stewardship and the giving of their time, talent and treasures as they walked our parish through some uncertain times. We want to thank them for their time, dedication, and love for our parish in all they said and did. We appreciate their guidance during this process!

# 2025 Holiday Scrip Schedule



## ❄️ 2025 Holiday Scrip Schedule ❄️

To pick up your order on:	Place your <b>online</b> order before:	Drop off your <b>paper</b> order form before:
<del>Nov 14</del>	Nov 10	<del>Nov 10</del>
<del>Nov 21</del>	Nov 17	<del>Nov 17</del>
Dec 5	Dec 1	Dec 1
Dec 12	Dec 8	Dec 8
Dec 19	Dec 15	Dec 15
Jan 9	Jan 5	Jan 5

**The All Saints Scrip Office will be closed Nov 26-30 and Dec 19-Jan 4.**

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

Contact Lori at [scrip@allsaintscr.com](mailto:scrip@allsaintscr.com) / 319.535.3570 or scan the code to visit [scrip.allsaintscr.com](http://scrip.allsaintscr.com) for more details.



❄️ *Thank-you for supporting All Saints!* ❄️

## Christmas Eve Mass



Thank you for your patience, everyone. Because of the success we've experienced with the Ticketleo reservation system, we've chosen to use it again to take reservations for 4:00 Christmas Eve Mass in both the church and the Social Hall.

For those of you who may not have experienced it last year, Ticketleo is an online system that allows you to reserve your seats at Christmas Eve Mass just as if you were attending a movie at Collins Road Theatres. At **9:00 am on Tuesday, December 9**, we will send an email reminder to visit the All Saints website. Our talented website guru, Ethan will install the same flashy holiday-themed button that appeared on the front page of the website last year. Clicking that button will take you to the Ticketleo reservation system. Just like at the movie theater, Ticketleo will allow you to choose seats for you and your family. You'll then receive an e-mail confirming your chosen seat locations. It's as easy as that!

This year, we're making one change. Many were concerned with the idea of entering a credit card number to reserve seats. During the reservation process, many people's screens were cluttered with ads that, if clicked on, took them to a different website that did, in fact, request credit card numbers. This year, we will be taking steps to eliminate those confusing ads. You will **NOT** be required to provide credit card numbers to reserve seats.

The email I mentioned earlier will be sent using the same system that we use to distribute this bulletin. If you or someone you know is not yet on that email list, please sign up now by visiting: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/AC8HJ6J>. As always, please be sure to tell your friends, neighbors, and family members all about how to reserve their seats. We know that with everything that's been happening in the world and in our own little All Saints Community, Mass will be absolutely packed. It's also Father Eric's first! If you can't make it, though, we will also offer Mass at 6:00 pm and Christmas morning at 9:00 am. Reservations will **ONLY** be requested for 4:00 pm. We look forward to seeing everyone here.

## Mass Intentions

Tues. Dec. 2	8:00 am
† Charles Vermeersch	
Thurs. Dec. 4	8:30 am
† Molly Kempf	
Fri. Dec. 5	8:00 am
† Doreen Maroney	
Sat. Dec. 6	4:00 pm
† Marian Serovy	
Sun. Dec. 7	9:00 am
For the People	

## Scripture Readings

*Week of November 30, 2025*

### Sunday:

Is 2:1-5/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44 (1)

### Monday:

Is 4:2-6 (second choice)/Mt 8:5-11 (175)

### Tuesday:

Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24 (176)

### Wednesday:

Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37 (177)

### Thursday:

Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27 (178)

### Friday:

Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31 (179)

### Saturday:

Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8 (180)

### Sunday:

Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12 (4)

## Metro Catholic Outreach

### Calling All Volunteers



Can you give a couple of hours once or twice per month to help those with food insecurity right here in our city?

Our volunteer shifts only last about two hours, morning or afternoon, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays.

Our pantry volunteers organize incoming donations, check expiration dates, stock shelves, bag up snacks, toiletries, produce, and pack the food boxes.

Our distribution volunteers add the fresh items to the food boxes on the dock, greet our clients as they arrive to pick up their groceries, and help load the cars.

Our volunteers in the office answer the door and phones, schedule clients for their food pick-ups, assemble and distribute the homeless bags, organize clothing donations and other supplies.

We are in need of more volunteers, in the pantry, the distribution dock, and in the office. We promise you will never be bored!

Contact us if you would like a tour and maybe try out a shift to see if it is a cause you would enjoy. You won't regret giving your time to help families in need! 319-739-5490.

## 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 Bea Rethwisch (319-651-4831 or [pbr8675@msn.com](mailto:pbr8675@msn.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 Office Hours



- Monday - Friday - 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Saturday and Sunday - 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

## Our Upcoming Holiday Schedule

- December 1- Advent Prayer Service
- December 8-8:30 Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception Holy Day
- December 9-9:00 a.m. Preschool Christmas Concert
- December 9-6:00 p.m. K-5 Christmas Concert-Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
- December 11-No School Mass
- December 23-12:15 Early Dismissal for Christmas Break
- January 5-School Resumes

## A Note from Principal Starr

I'd like to take a moment to say thank you to all of our families, friends, and students. All Saints is a special place and our community, teachers and staff are reminders of that every day. We wish all of you a tremendous time with your families over Thanksgiving. We pray you enjoy fun, food, family and a lot of laughter. For those that are struggling in their homes with food or family turmoil, we pray for peace over the next week. I ask that we say a special prayer, as sometimes, holidays don't bring cheer to every household.

We look forward to welcoming the month of December, with Christmas celebrations around the corner. Thank you for your partnership in your child's education.

In Faith,

Ms. Starr

## November PBIS Winners

Congratulations to this month's PBIS winners! We are so proud of you! In so many different ways, you have shown you know how to live The Bruins Way.



[www.allsaints-crschool.org](http://www.allsaints-crschool.org)

## Ministry Schedule

November 29, 4:00 PM Saturday

### Sacristan

Mary Pat Wilkinson

### Extraordinary Ministers

Connie Deutmeyer

Ellen Mouw

Joan Murrin

Kourtne Powell

Mike Powell

Stephen Schmitz

Becky Weininger

### Altar Servers

Bo Dittmar

Emerson Eichhorn

Kannon Pfeiler

### Lectors

Lisa Stephenson

Kathy Ulrich

### Hospitality Ministers

Elie AbouRaad

Daniel Greene

Dick Kettelkamp

Barb Lindstrom

Marcia Myers

Theresa Werner

November 30, 9:00 AM Sunday

### Sacristan

John Michael

### Extraordinary Ministers

Cate Biro

Sherry Casey

Nicole Johnson

Bill Knapp

Dianne Knapp

Loesje Shema

David Shema

### Altar Servers

Addison Johnson

Henry Johnson

Charles Schmitt

### Lectors

Joseph Cataldo

Kathy Ulrich

### Hospitality Ministers

Maureen Dale Ernst

John Ernst

Chase Philpott

Tony Satariano

Stacey Schmitt

Eric Schmitt

## Ministry Schedule

December 6, 4:00 PM Saturday

### Sacristan

Jean Bell

### Extraordinary Ministers

Connie Deutmeyer

Andrew Lang

Ellen Mouw

Mike Powell

Kourtne Powell

Daniel Prentice

Alison Prentice

### Altar Servers

Ainsley Bosch

Veronica Cruse

Zachary Prentice

### Lectors

Theresa Harker

Kathy Ulrich

### Hospitality Ministers

Sue Bright

Ryan Donnelly

Dick Kettelkamp

Peg Schmitz

Tom Takes

Mike Votroubek

December 7, 9:00 AM Sunday

### Sacristan

Chris Conway

### Extraordinary Ministers

Cate Biro

Brian Conway

Bob Helgens

Mary Beth Helgens

Wade Johnson

Dennis Mullarkey

Loesje Shema

### Altar Servers

Mason Osen

Ben Richards

Evelyn Richards

### Lectors

Robin Brown

JoAnn Hand

### Hospitality Ministers

Mike Klappholz

Stephanie Klappholz

Diane Weimer

Theresa Werner

Maureen Wolf

Dave Wolf

# Family Ministry

November 30, 2025 • 1st Sunday of Advent • Matthew 24:37-44

## Stay Awake

*Our first Scripture reading is the Gospel for the first Sunday of Advent. Its purpose is to remind us that Christmas is not just the day on which we celebrate Jesus' birth: it is also a celebration of Jesus' Second Coming at the end times. Matthew is telling us how important it is to be watchful so that we are always ready to greet the Lord when he comes.*

This Gospel reading is a sober beginning for a weekly journal. Yet Matthew's advice to be ready for anything is certainly still valid today. Somehow, we have to balance living in the present with a healthy concern for tomorrow. We need to concentrate on living one day at a time—fix breakfast, go to work, and plan for that special vacation, always aware that no plans are set in concrete. We are never quite in control.

I may wake up in the morning to discover there's no milk and then be late for work because of bad traffic. Worse yet, I could get to work and find out the company is cutting back and I'm going to be laid off. So much for that hoped-for vacation. We can plan for all sorts of contingencies, but we cannot control what curve balls life will throw at us.

I used to think that God was testing me, but now I realize God doesn't play that way. As Christians, we believe in a God of abundant love who doesn't test his children to see if they will fail. What I do know is that God is with us in every step and misstep. Indeed, Jesus tells us that he is not just with us but in us.

So we plan and re-plan and count on God to be at every crossroads. We grieve over our losses, but find strength in knowing we have Jesus' endurance and courage to lean on. We stay alert for what may come, but we find God in the present. If we remember Jesus is always with us, as close as our next breath, we can better stay alert and recognize Jesus when he comes again.

## FAMILY RESPONSE

Together, draw up a list of ways each family member can show his or her love for each other in the New Year. Post the list on the refrigerator.

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

As you begin this journal, what are your hopes and concerns for the year ahead? What were the highlights from last year? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?

*Bringing Home the Gospel: Parent Reflections on the Sunday Gospels • Copyright © 2025 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.*

# Angel of Hope Prayer Service

## ANGEL OF HOPE PRAYER SERVICE

BE A LIGHT

*Spread Hope*

The Angel of Hope Statue  
residing at Xavier Catholic High School  
is a beautiful symbol of hope for all grieving the loss of a child.  
This Advent season we are called to pray for everyone seeking  
hope and light throughout their days.

**All are welcome to join us on December 6th  
as we pray for hope, light, and grace this  
Advent season for all those in need.**

### ANGEL OF HOPE PRAYER SERVICE

**7:00 pm - 7:30 pm**

**Xavier High School**

**6300 42nd St NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52411**

*This is an outdoor event so please dress appropriately.*

For more information, please contact  
Kristi Bowers • 319-721-2286  
kristine.bowers@gmail.com

## Ministry Schedule

*Immaculate Conception*

*December 8, 5:30 PM Monday*

### Sacristan

Cynthia Gunsolly

### Extraordinary Ministers

Joseph Cataldo

Gregory O'Connell

### Altar Servers

Lewis Benfield

Tucker McGee

Ilyzza Shea

### Lectors

Mick Erdman

Kathy Ulrich

### Hospitality Ministers

Maureen Dale Ernst

John Ernst

Tyler Martin

Beth Martin

Bea Rethwisch

Diane Weimer



# Save the Date - Beauty in Christ



Start the New Year off right! Join All Saints to virtually to attend the 2026 Archdiocesan Women's Conference, Beauty in Christ: Grace for the Journey on Saturday, January 31, 2026, 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM at the All Saints Social Hall. Inspirational speaker and singer/songwriter Kitty Cleveland and Kelsey Kaiser, authentically joyful wife and mother from Bellevue, IA

will help us begin the new year by sharing their stories of how the Lord has filled them with "Grace for the Journey"! Their witness will captivate our hearts and lead to conversation, praise, and thanksgiving. Check out the website for more information about the speakers, invite your sisters and friends, and be ready to receive His grace! For more information about the speakers go to: <https://www.archwomensconference.org/>.

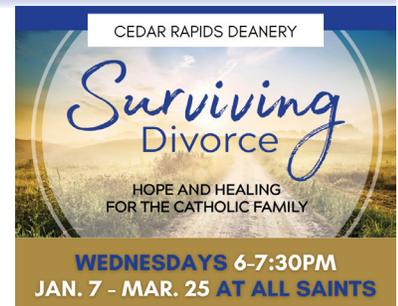


Information on how to register to attend this event at All Saints will be coming soon! We will have breakfast, lunch, prizes and great conversation!

## Divorce Ministry



Surviving Divorce is a facilitated, small-group Catholic conversation that is endorsed and promoted by the Archdiocese of Dubuque. The sessions are a 12-week process and are led by trained facilitators using the program: Surviving Divorce, published by Ascension. The local team for Surviving Divorce has planned the Winter session: The sessions will run on Wednesday evenings, January 7th to March 25th 2026, from 6-7:30pm at All Saints.



This is our thirty-second session in the Cedar Rapids metro area since beginning in the winter of 2009. We have trained staff members who function as the directors of the program from each parish in our Deanery. All session facilitators are parishioners who have personally experienced divorce and are trained through our Archdiocese.

## Christmas Collection Goal and End-of-the-Year Giving



As the calendar comes to a close, the Finance Council invites you to remember All Saints as end-of-the year and Christmas gifts are planned. The goal for our Christmas collection is \$70,000.00. All Saints depends on your generosity at Christmas to cover operational costs such as snow removal and the extra cost for heating and lighting during January, February and March. End-of-the year financial gifts will be accepted for 2025 through the Vigil Mass for Mary, Mother of God on December 31. Additionally, any gifts received via USPS with a postmark of December 31 or prior will be credited for 2025. Thank you for your generosity - Come Holy Spirit! If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to one of our Finance Council members or Tracy Huk, Parish Life Coordinator.

# The Gospel at Home

## This Week's Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

The Church's three-year cycle of Lectionary readings begins again on the first Sunday of Advent. We start reading from Year A, which is organized around Matthew's Gospel. The prophet Isaiah's words are used prominently in Advent. They are read as the First Reading each week and are quoted by Matthew in the Gospels. We begin the new Church year by hearing Jesus speak of his coming in glory. He cautions us always to be ready for him and to live each day in the light of God.

## Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds (Preschool):** Your child's lesson this week features an Advent wreath on the cover. Over the next four weeks, there will be a flame to cut out and paste on the wreath candles. This wreath should be displayed where your child can see and reach it in order to paste a new flame each Sunday after Mass. Talk with your child about how you celebrate his or her birthday and relate that to preparing for the birthday of Jesus.

**Promise (Grades K-1):** Your child made a simple Advent calendar in class this week. Display the calendar and open one panel each Sunday leading up to Christmas. The class learned different ways to prepare for Christmas. Ask your child to share some of these ways. Help your child choose one or two things to do for Advent. Using the pictures as a guide, request that your child tell you the story, "The Video Game Problem." Discuss what choices Frank could have made so he could have spent time with his family.

**Good News (Grades 2-3):** In class this week, your child reviewed the Ten Commandments. Talk with him or her about how to live the Commandments. The class also performed a play to learn about the prophet Isaiah. The words of Isaiah are used during Advent and Christmas. Ask your child to tell you how Isaiah spoke for God. Talk about ways your family can be ready for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

**Venture (Grades 4-6):** At the beginning of this new Church year, look together at the liturgical year calendar in your young person's lesson booklet. Talk about the importance of following the life of Jesus throughout the year. Your youngster also learned about the prophet Isaiah. Have your child share Isaiah's vision with the family and discuss why peace is a necessary goal for everyone. In preparing for Christmas, plan things to do as a family. Use the Week 1 Calendar List in the lesson booklet to give you ideas for this coming week.

**Visions (Grades 7-9):** In class this week, the young people considered how they could make Jesus' birth meaningful during this Advent. As a family, brainstorm activities that will help prepare your family's hearts and home for Christmas. Make sure what you choose to do is realistic. Your youngster can share some of the ideas discussed in class. Use a large format calendar to record the activities your family completes. Advent is also a reminder of Christ's Second Coming.

**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

Plan to have a family Advent wreath. The wreath traditionally has three purple candles and one pink, but four, all-white candles will do. During the first week of Advent, light one candle each evening. During the second week, light two; during the third week, light three. If you have colored candles, the third week is for the pink candle. All four candles will be lit during the fourth week. Say a prayer that shows how you are excited for Jesus' coming. It can be as simple as: "Come, Lord Jesus, come."



# Parish Office (319) 363-6130

## Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

<b>Parish Life Coordinator</b>	Tracy A. Huk	<a href="mailto:plc@allsaintscr.com">plc@allsaintscr.com</a>	Ext. 111
<b>Sacramental Priest</b>	Rev. Eric Saah	<a href="mailto:e.saah@dbqarch.org">e.saah@dbqarch.org</a>	Ext. 116
<b>Deacon</b>	Mike Klappholz	<a href="mailto:deaconmike@allsaintscr.com">deaconmike@allsaintscr.com</a>	Ext. 107
<b>Deacon</b>	Ed Martin	<a href="mailto:deaoned@allsaintscr.com">deaoned@allsaintscr.com</a>	Ext. 105
<b>Bookkeeper</b>	Jeremy Lutz	<a href="mailto:bookkeeper@allsaintscr.com">bookkeeper@allsaintscr.com</a>	Ext. 108
<b>Medical Emergencies &amp; Funerals</b>	Tracy A. Huk	<a href="mailto:plc@allsaintscr.com">plc@allsaintscr.com</a>	Ext. 111
<b>Dir. of Music Ministries</b>	Matthew Burrier	<a href="mailto:music@allsaintscr.com">music@allsaintscr.com</a>	Ext. 106
<b>Dir. of Adult Formation</b>	Bob Lillibridge	<a href="mailto:adultformation@allsaintscr.com">adultformation@allsaintscr.com</a>	Ext. 109
<b>Dir. of Children's Formation</b>	Stacy Cataldo	<a href="mailto:catechesis@allsaintscr.com">catechesis@allsaintscr.com</a>	Ext. 114
<b>Office Manager</b>	Dan Alpers	<a href="mailto:officemgr@allsaintscr.com">officemgr@allsaintscr.com</a>	Ext. 100
<b>IT Director</b>	Ethan Weiland	<a href="mailto:it@allsaintscr.com">it@allsaintscr.com</a>	Ext. 104
<b>Scrip Coordinator</b>	Lori Giacinto	<a href="mailto:scrip@allsaintscr.com">scrip@allsaintscr.com</a>	(319) 535-3570

## XCS: All Saints School (319) 363-4110

<b>School Principal</b>	Kelly Starr	<a href="mailto:kelly.starr@crxcs.org">kelly.starr@crxcs.org</a>	Ext. 234
<b>School Office Manager</b>	Elaine Collins	<a href="mailto:elaine.collins@crxcs.org">elaine.collins@crxcs.org</a>	Ext. 233
<b>Early Childhood Director</b>	Jenna Ackman	<a href="mailto:jenna.ackman@crxcs.org">jenna.ackman@crxcs.org</a>	Ext. 275

For a complete listing of Xavier Catholic Schools, go to <https://crxcs.org>



## Sacrament Information

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturdays at 3:15 p.m.

**Sacrament of Baptism:** Baptism preparation class is required for parents. Contact Deacon Ed Martin ([DeaconEd@allsaintscr.com](mailto: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](mailto:DeaconMike@allsaintscr.com)) to begin the process.

**Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA):** To schedule classes, contact Bob Lillibridge, Director of Formation, for more information ([adultformation@allsaintscr.com](mailto:adultformation@allsaintscr.com)).

**Confirmation:** Classes have begun. For more information, contact Alisa Pfab ([alisapfab@hotmail.com](mailto:alisapfab@hotmail.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](mailto: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](mailto:bulletin@allsaintscr.com).

## Opportunities for Prayer

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** Wednesdays, 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM in the Chapel.

**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 submit prayer intentions any time at: [allsaintscr.com/prayer](http://allsaintscr.com/prayer).