

January 1, 2017
Mary, Mother of God

Saint John Catholic Church



Parish Contact Information

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Higgins
Pastor

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Dear Parishioners,

I would like to acknowledge three gifts from John Daume, son of the late Helen Daume. John has generously shared his mother's estate with us in the form of a lead crystal Nativity set as well as another Nativity set that she hand-painted and which is on display in the back of the church. John also donated enough money earlier this year which paid our remodeling loan in full.

Also, Francis Hollinrake constructed the stable and manger scene for the hand-painted set. Thank you Francis!

I will be out of town following Mass today and will return to work on Friday morning January 13th.

Have a great New Year, Fr. Ray

Happenings: Big and Small

Written by Bishop Robert F. Morneau, pastor of Resurrection Parish in Green Bay, WI, and retired auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Green Bay. This article was published by Liturgical Press in "Daily Reflections for Advent & Christmas, Waiting in Joyful Hope 2016-2017".

Scripture: *"It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. (Mark 1:9)*

Reflection: A homiletic professor asserted that if anything is to *happen* in a homily the Holy Spirit must animate the poor words of the preacher and open the hearts of the congregation. Then there is a *happening*, an event of great importance.

The Holy Spirit was at the Jordan when John baptized Jesus. And a great happening transpired as a voice was heard calling Jesus God's Beloved Son and affirming Jesus' mission. The great happening was the salvation of the world.

On our Christian journey we celebrate the mysteries of our creation, redemption, and sanctification every time the Eucharist happens. We give thanks for the gift of life, the gift of Jesus, our Redeemer, and the great gift of the Holy Spirit who hovers over our bent and bruised world. The same Spirit that hovered over the Jordan and Jesus hovers over us and wants us to know that we are God's beloved daughters and sons. When we appropriate this good news, we then venture forth and journey with Jesus in his mission of being agents of the Father's love and mercy.

It is especially in the small happenings of life that we further God's kingdom: the word of encouragement to a struggling coworker, the phone call to a lonely person, the note of gratitude to a second-grade teacher, a smile of recognition across the room. The Spirit animates our simple deeds and bestows peace and joy to every open heart.

Meditation: What are the great and small happenings in your life? What role does the Holy Spirit play in your daily transactions?

Prayer: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Animate our minds with truth and our hearts with affection and compassion. Make us instruments of Jesus' mission; empower us to give glory to God by our loving deeds. *Veni, Creator Spiritus.*

Parish News & Events

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Sunday 1/1/2017 8am Mass For the People	Monday 1/2 Birthday: Darrin Plowman	Tuesday 1/3 Birthday: William Skram	Wednesday 1/4 No Mass Birthday: Thomas Skram Anniversary: Tom & Nita Fagan 1975	Thursday 1/5 No Mass Birthday: Nita Fagan	Friday 1/6	Saturday 1/7	Sunday 1/8 8am Mass For the People
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Father is not available following Mass on 1/1/2017 through 1/12/2017.

Financial Report For: December 24, 2016	Regular Tithes \$1,294.00	Children \$60.00	Special: Building Fund \$50.00	Repair Fund \$9,178.70	Altar Furn. Fund \$6,100.00	ADA Balance Due: \$150.00
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Liturgical Ministers January 8, 2017	Cross Bearer: Belle Fagan	Greeters: Matt Fagan Family	Lector: Brian Richter	Host: Adella Vogl	Cup: Matt Fagan Dave Richter	Servers: Madison Suhr Logan Brincks	Traveling Chalice: IHM Sisters
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Around the Diocese

March for Life signup

It's time to start thinking about joining the pilgrimage in January to Washington, D.C. and be a part of the annual March for Life. lowans for LIFE is securing several buses to take pro-life lowans to the march, which will be on Jan. 27. Go to lowansForLIFE.org for details.

JustFaith

It's time to think about being part of the spring JustFaith process. This is a transformative, small-group program that helps participants connect their faith with the needs of the world. Questions? Contact Susie Tierney at the Center for Social Ministry, 515-782-3054 or centerforsocialministry@gmail.com.

Beginning Experience

If you become widowed, separated or divorced and are suffering alone, consider coming to a Beginning Experience open house this Friday, Jan. 6 from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Augustine Church in Des Moines. This is a group that offers support from those who've also lost a spouse. Questions? Contact Dana Reed at 515-975-3745 or Mike Losee at 515-360-8268.

NOVOS Young Adults If you're a young adult looking for social, spiritual and service activities, check out Novos Young Adults. Events happen every second and fourth Thursday of the month and occasionally on weekends. For more information, go to the Novos Young Adults Facebook page.

SACRAMENT of BAPTISM: Preparation class for parents and godparents is required. Please contact the church office to make arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Preparation for marriage must begin **at least six months before** the anticipated date of the wedding. Please contact the church office to set up an appointment to speak with Father.