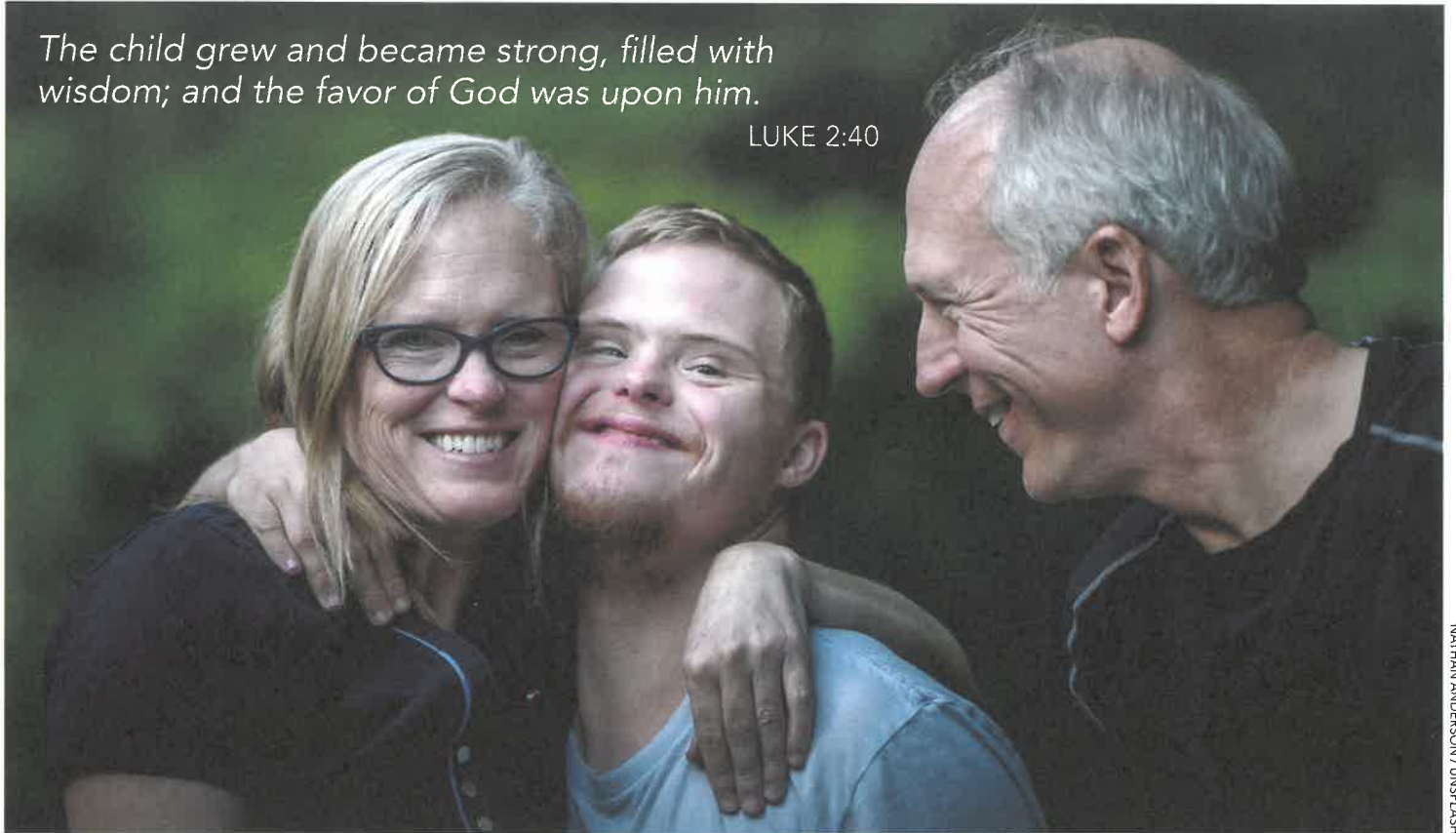


December 27, 2020

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (B)
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 or Gn 15:1–6; 21:1–3
Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17
or Heb 11:8, 11–12, 17–19
Lk 2:22–40 or 2:22, 39–40

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

LUKE 2:40



NATHAN ANDERSON / UNSPLASH

Family Values

Some of the most popular television programs depict family interactions. Unfortunately, many of these families are dysfunctional, and those that are not often appear to be vapid, boring, even unrealistic. Today's readings offer examples of genuine family values and the kind of relationships for which most people yearn.

Sirach describes the tender care that bonds parents and children. First it is the parents who care for the children. Over the years the roles reverse and adult children care for elderly parents. The family is the basic community, where one first learns the hard lessons of unselfishness and forgiveness. The psalm response also describes a model family. The husband will experience success in his work and enjoy the blessings of family life with his wife and their children. Paul provides a list of values to which family members should

commit themselves: “compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another” (Colossians 3:12–13). Finally, the Gospel reading provides a glimpse into the lives of the Holy Family. Here they are: a refugee family with Joseph as the protector.

In a way, these are all “holy families.” Prayer is important in the first reading; fear of the Lord is rewarded in the psalm; Paul calls the people “God’s chosen ones” (Colossians 3:12). This feast is not meant to be only a look into the past at the Holy Family. It is an opportunity for us to look into the present and do our part to make our own families holy.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ✦ What already makes your family holy?
- ✦ What might make it holier?

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2020**

Your generous memorial gifts allowed us to beautify our Worship Centers in a special way for Christmas. We thank all who made donations in memory of the following loved ones:

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Peter and Romana Wentz



Good Shepherd Cluster Regional Mass Schedule

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2020

4 pm-Holy Family-Rich & Virginia Kleen
6 pm-Immaculate Conception-For the People

SUN., DECEMBER 27, 2020-The Holy Family

8 am-Holy Family-Mark Schwickerath
10 am-Holy Family-Collective

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2020

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2020

NO MASS TODAY

WED., DECEMBER 30, 2020-Duane Larsen

THURS., DECEMBER 31, 2020

5:30 pm-St. Boniface-Deb Bonfig

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2021 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

9 am-Holy Family-For the People

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 2021

4 pm-Holy Family-Don, Wayne & Gene Gorman
6 pm-St. Boniface-Collective

SUN., JANUARY 3, 2021 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

8 am-Holy Family-Norman Heit
10 am-Holy Family-John, Margaret, Gary, Rich, Al,
Russ Wegner & Kathleen Turner
11:30 am-Holy Family Spanish Mass-For the People

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULES

Saturday: 4 p.m.- Holy Family- New Hampton
6 p.m.- Jan. 2, 16, 30 St. Boniface, Ionia
6 p.m.-Dec. 26, Jan. 9, 23 Immaculate Conception, NW
Sunday: 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.- Holy Family, New Hampton

Prayer for a Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, Come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen

SPOTLIGHT ON: We wish to recognize and thank our Advertiser of the Week **New Hampton Auto Body, LLC & Trailer Sales-Stan Trask**. Please patronize our advertisers. Let them know you appreciate their support of the parish bulletin. That's the best way to thank them.

Welcome to the Good Shepherd Cluster
Holy Family, New Hampton
Immaculate Conception, North Washington
St. Boniface, Ionia

313 W. Court St., New Hampton, IA 50659

EMAIL ADDRESS: clustergs@gmail.com

website: www.goodshepherdcluster.com

GOOD SHEPHERD CLUSTER

Mission Statement

As a Catholic faith community we strive to unite as a people of God whose life is centered in the Eucharist. We seek to live the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, called to be faithful stewards of God's gifts, growing in faith and attending to the spiritual and social needs of all.

GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF

Pastoral Office 641-394-2105
St. Joseph Community School 641-394-2865
St. John's School of Religion 641-394-2404
Pastor: Fr. Brian Dellaert, 394-2105
Principal: Christina Carlton, 394-2865
Deacon: Victor DeSloover, 563-429-2773
Cluster Bookkeeper: Becky Ptacek-Havlik
Cluster Secretary: Marcia Howe
Director of Faith Formation: Brian McGee
Hispanic Minister: Gustavo Jimenez
Youth Minister: Amanda Husak
Youth Minister Aide: Jill Stumme
Music Director: Michelle Lau, 394-7140
Adult Choir Director: Ann Bennett, 394-5407
North Washington Men Choir: Dan Heying, 641-364-7781
Retired Priest: Msgr. Carl Schmitt

Holy Family

Stewardship needs per week: \$11,751.62

Adult: \$20,541.83 Envelopes: 111
Offertory: \$457.00

Immaculate Conception

Stewardship needs per week: \$1,012.06

Adult: \$600.00 Envelopes: 4
Repair & Maint. \$25.00 Capital Camp. \$1,000.00
Christmas: \$100.00 Christmas Flowers: \$30.00

St. Boniface

Stewardship needs per week: \$791.12

Adult: \$735.00 Envelopes: 8
Offertory: \$36.00 Christmas: \$1,135.00
Repair & Maint. \$10.00 Christmas Flowers: \$100.00

CLUSTER NEWS

THANK YOU! On behalf of all the priests who have served in New Hampton over the last 29 years, our sincere gratitude to all our friends who have financed our golf club memberships; and our golf cart and shed fees over all these years! Also, thank you to the New Hampton Golf Club for half price memberships for all clergy!

END OF THE YEAR STEWARDSHIP: Our special thanks to all who have been making an effort to catch up or adding to the budget and other contributions for 2020 in order to balance the budget commitments for all programs. The IRS requires all 2020 contributions to be made and in our office by **December 31, 2020**. Contributions received after December 31, 2020 will be included in 2021 contributions.

COLLECTIVE MASS @ HOLY FAMILY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 10 AM: Imelda Unga, Marilyn Elenz, Travis Bouska, Francis & Alice Klassen, Florence & Frances Harrington, Dennis Buckendahl, Walter & Loretta Burgart, Mildred Zugenbuehler, Katie Schmit, Jack Gorman, Bill O'Neill.

FOOD PANTRY SCHEDULE CHANGE: The Chickasaw Food Pantry will be open Tuesday, December 29 due to the holiday. They will not be open on Friday, January 1.

COLLECTIVE MASS @ ST. BONIFACE, SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 6 PM: Florine Clark, Deb Bonfig, Agatha Hoffman and Pete Adams.

ONLY A FEW DAYS REMAIN!! There is still just enough time to make an online gift to Our Faith STO in 2020, but hurry! Funds contributed in 2020 will provide need-based assistance to families to attend a Catholic School in the Archdiocese of Dubuque during the 2021-22 school year. But we need your help to reach our goal. All gifts will reduce your Iowa Income Tax by 65% of your gift, regardless of the size of the gift. And all gifts qualify as a charitable contribution for federal income taxes. When the clock strikes midnight on December 31, this opportunity for tax year 2020 will be gone. Please visit www.ourfaithsto.org or call the Archdiocese of Dubuque at 800-876-3546 ext. 219 to learn more or have questions about this fantastic program.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FAITH FORMATION BREAK

A friendly reminder that there are no Wednesday Night Faith Formation classes the following weeks:

- Wednesday, December 23rd-Merry Christmas!
- Wednesday, December 30th-Happy New Year!
- Wednesday, January 6th-Catechist In-Service at 6:30 PM in Holy Family Church

We will resume our class sessions as usual on Wednesday, January 13th at 6:30 PM

PASTORAL OFFICE HOURS: The office will be closed on Friday, January 1 for New Years Day.

PRAYERS for the SICK: We ask the Lord Jesus to bless all those in sickness, in weakness & in pain. Please join us in prayer for: Nora Ackerson granddaughter of Carol Boos, all special intentions & cancer patients.

PRAYER NETWORK: For a prayer request, please call the parish office during the business day @ 394-2105 or after hours to Jan Gorman @ 641-229-6072, or Carol Schmitz @ 394-6072.

Please note: **Due to the length of our prayer list, we will list the special intentions for prayer for two weeks.** If you wish names to remain longer, please call the parish office 394-2105 & we will be glad to leave the names in for as long as needed. Thank you for your understanding.

Military active duty- SGT. Andrew Kasuboski, Joey Sanford, SPC. Kennady Nie, SPC. Adam J. Burgart, SPC. Trevor Burgart, SGT. Michael Messersmith, Adam Tieskotter, CPT. Tim Brincks, Michael Nosbisch, Michael Hansen, Paul Langreck, Carter Robbins (Karen Schwickerath's grandson), Zachary Wilker, Nick Shatek, Staff Sgt. Nathan Schulz, Nichole Caldararo, Kari Prellwitz, Dustin Boeding, John Meyer, Brandon Bengston, Patrick Schultz.

REST IN PEACE: Please remember those in your prayers who recently died: Geraldine Lenehan mother of Randy, Rodney & Renee Lenehan, Rosalee Lechtenberg and Rosanne Schultz, Todd Gerleman son of Roger Gerleman

AREA NEWS & EVENTS

Need help with your heating bill? The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program can help qualifying low income Iowa homeowners and renters. You will need to provide proof of Income, Social Security numbers for all household members, recent heat bill and electric bill. Contact the Northeast Iowa Community Action Corp. in your area : Cresco 563-547-4413; Decorah 563-387-4958; New Hampton 641-394-2007; West Union 563-422-3354

Registration is open for the 2021 Virtual Archdiocesan Women's Conference—Saturday, January 30, 2021, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM This year's virtual event will include many of the same opportunities you have come to expect—just in a different format! And the cost is just \$25 per person! You can find more information at: <https://www.archwomensconference.org/>

The 2021 Archdiocese of Dubuque Men's Conference will be held on Saturday, March 13, keynote speaker Patrick Madrid. The day also includes breakout sessions, Mass with Archbishop Jackels, and more. Due to COVID-19, participants can register to join either virtually (via a live-stream) or in-person at Xavier Catholic High School, Cedar Rapids. For more details and registration, visit: www.ArchMensConference.org.

12 The Hidden Meaning of the Days of Christmas

December 25  A Partridge in a Pear Tree <i>The One true God revealed in the person of Jesus Christ</i>	December 26  Two Turtle doves <i>The Old and New Testaments</i>	December 27  Three French hens <i>Faith, Hope and Love</i>
December 28  The Four Calling Birds <i>Four Gospels</i>	December 29  The Five Gold Rings <i>Recall the Torah (Law) the First Five Books of the Old Testament</i>	December 30  Six Geese A-Laying <i>Six Days of Creation</i>
December 31  Seven Swans A-Swimming <i>Sevenfold Gifts of the Spirit</i>	January 1  Eight Maids A-Milking <i>Eight Beatitudes</i>	January 2  Nine Ladies Dancing <i>Nine Fruits of the Spirit (See Galatians 5)</i>
January 3  Ten Lords A-Leaping <i>Ten Commandments</i>	January 4  Eleven Pipers Piping <i>Eleven Faithful Disciples</i>	January 5  Twelve Drummers Drumming <i>12 Points of Belief in the Apostles Creed</i>

The 12 days of Christmas are the 12 days that separate Christmas Day on December 25 and ends on January 5, with the next day being Epiphany, which is celebrated January 6. Depending on the church, January 6 may mark Christ's baptism (in the Catholic tradition), or it may mark the day that the wise men (or the Magi) visited Jesus with their gifts. The Day of Epiphany is when the church celebrates the revelation of Christ as the light of the world and recalls the journey of the Magi. Magi means wise men. From 1558 until 1829 Roman Catholics in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. During that era someone wrote 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' as a kind of secret catechism that could be sung in public without risk of persecution. The song has two levels of interpretation: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of the church. Each element in the carol is a code word for a religious reality. Some beliefs believe that the day after Christmas started the 12 Days of Christmas. You also hear some people think its the 12 days that lead up to Christmas. But reality, it starts on December 25, that is the first day.

Read more & download your copy: www.courageouschristianfather.com/the-12-days-of-christmas/

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Dear Padre,

Why does the Church celebrate the Holy Family? Jesus doesn't seem to be much of a family person. Scripture show him ignoring—even rejecting—Mary and Joseph.

As Jesus grows in age and wisdom, it becomes clear that he hasn't come to build up his own little family but to create a worldwide family of disciples. This family would claim God as the father of everyone in the family, with Jesus and all others as brothers and sisters. All who followed him would be as dear to Jesus as his mother or his foster father. As Jesus said: "As the Father loves me, so I also love you" (John 15:9).

The roles of Mary and Joseph in this new family of Jesus were not to be only earthbound parents but, more importantly, to be examples of how to follow God's purpose. Both Mary and Joseph accepted God's path for them, even though they didn't know where the path would take them.

In the new family of God, we are people who seek out and follow God's purpose in our lives. We are to say yes with Mary; we are to imitate Joseph in following God's direction. Jesus said this quite plainly: "Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother" (Mark 3:35). The will of God becomes the cornerstone of Jesus' new, universal family of humankind. Every Christian family, then, has a double task in raising their children: teaching and inspiring them to love and believe in Jesus and to always seek God's will.

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSsR | Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



HOLY FAMILY / IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHEDRAL, EAST TIMOR / WIKICOMMONS

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Instead of returning home with his family, he stayed in Jerusalem, in the Temple, causing great distress to Mary and Joseph who were unable to find him....Returning home, Jesus surely remained close to them, as a sign of his complete affection and obedience. Moments like these become part of the pilgrimage of each family.

—FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY, DECEMBER 27, 2015



Calendar

Monday

DECEMBER 28
*Holy Innocents,
Martyrs*
1 Jn 1:5—2:2
Mt 2:13—18

Tuesday

DECEMBER 29
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:3—11
Lk 2:22—35

Wednesday

DECEMBER 30
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:12—17
Lk 2:36—40

Thursday

DECEMBER 31
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:18—21
Jn 1:1—18

Friday

JANUARY 1
*Solemnity of Mary,
Holy Mother of God*
Nm 6:22—27
Gal 4:4—7
Lk 2:16—21

Saturday

JANUARY 2
*Sts. Basil the Great and
Gregory Nazianzen,
Bishops and Doctors
of the Church*
1 Jn 2:22—28
Jn 1:19—28

Sunday

JANUARY 3
Epiphany of the Lord
Is 60:1—6
Eph 3:2—3a, 5—6
Mt 2:1—12