December 24, 2017

Rev. David O’Connor, Pastor
d.oconnor@dbqarch.org

Rev. Mark Kwenin, Associate Pastor
m.kwenin@dbqarch.org

Deacon Dennis Ternes
d.ternes@dbqarch.org

Deacon Ken Bauer
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Dawn Feltman, Pastoral Minister
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Tammy Martin, Parish Secretary
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Bonnie Bluml, Music Ministry Coordinator
b.bluml@dbqarch.org

Judy Ramsey, Adolescent FF Coordinator
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JoAnn Starr, YFF Coordinator
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Casey Kettmann, Principal
ckettmann@sjcsmarion.org

Peggy Brady, School Secretary
pbrady@sjcsmarion.org

Parish Office  319-377-4869
Mon. Thurs. & Fri. 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Tues. & Wed. 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Youth Faith Formation  319-377-8402
1430 14th Street, Marion

School  319-377-6348
1430 14th Street, Marion

2017 Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve
4:00 PM in the church and school gym
6:30 PM in the church
9:00 PM in the church

Monday, December 25, Christmas Day
9:00 AM in the church

Liturgies

Weekend: Saturday 4:30 PM
Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Weekday: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 7:30 AM
Wednesday 8:15 AM

Adoration: Following 7:30 AM mass until 9:00 PM
(No Adoration on December 25 or January 1)

Reconciliation: Saturday 3:30 - 4:00 PM
New to the Parish: **Welcome!** Please call the office to make an appointment to register at 377-4869.

**Sacrament of Matrimony:** Call the office and make an appointment with the priest or deacon.

**Prayer Chain:** Contact Dawn at 377-4869 or d.feltman@dbqarch.org.

**Advanced Care Planning Consultants:** Learn about Church teachings on health issues and find help with documents pertaining to durable power of attorney for health care and health care decision directives. Parish contacts: Theresa Alt, 319-447-1132 or alt.theresa@yahoo.com, Jean Randolph, 319-377-0497 or jmr926722@mchsi.com, Deacon Dennis Ternes, 319-377-4869 or d.ternes@dbqarch.org and Deacon Ken Bauer, 319-377-4869 or k.bauer@dbqarch.org.

**Parish Library**—Open during office hours.

**Pilgrim Virgin Statue**— Gather to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary by gathering from **December 24**, to pray the rosary at the home of Dan & Diana Richardson, 1200—19th St NW, Cedar Rapids, at 7:30 pm each evening. All are welcome.

**Feed My Sheep:** The Marion Food Pantry needs canned beef stew and chicken. Please place your offering in the basket on the altar or ask an usher to take it to the front.

**Infant Baptism:** The next baptism preparation session will be held on **Saturday, January 13, 2018**, in the St. Joseph Room of the parish offices from 9 to 11 am. Contact Deacon Dennis Ternes at d.ternes@dbqarch.org or 377-4869 to register and learn more.

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**St. Joseph Bulletin**
Submission deadline Tuesday Noon for following Sunday
Please send by email to: t.martin@dbqarch.org

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**Monday, December 25** - **Christmas Day**—Office Closed
9:00 AM MASS † Jim & Joyce Recker

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**Tuesday, December 26** - **Office Closed**
7:30 AM MASS † Bob Brown

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**Wednesday, December 27**
8:15 AM MASS † Jim Burns
6:00 PM AHG, Community Room

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**Thursday, December 28**
7:30 AM MASS † Marian Peters
9:30 AM Crestview † Ken Enneking

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**Friday, December 29**
7:30 AM MASS † Mary K. McGuire
6:30 PM Silent Prayer, Church

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**Saturday, December 30**
3:30 PM Reconciliation
4:30 PM MASS † Delores Schmidt

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**Sunday, December 31**
8:00 AM MASS † Lester & Irene Kula
10:30 AM MASS † For the People

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**Mass Intentions**
Please see Dawn Feltman in Parish Office

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**December 25 - December 31**
**WEEKLY CALENDAR & MASS INTENTIONS**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass Schedule</th>
<th>Saturday, December 30 @ 4:30 pm</th>
<th>Sunday, December 31 @ 8:00 am</th>
<th>Sunday, December 31 @ 10:30 am</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sacristan</strong></td>
<td>Julie Schmitt</td>
<td>Kathy Geers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Altar Servers</strong></td>
<td>Kale Leymaster Kristin Gosch, Nathan Westhoff</td>
<td>Cassie Hein, Charlie McCurren, Ethan Walz</td>
<td>Charles Bostwick, Emily Geiser, Sophia Youngblut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lectors</strong></td>
<td>Elinor Remington, Ed Kovarik</td>
<td>Ann Weber-Holdgrafer, Brian Reynolds</td>
<td>Roger Konzen, Jeff Puffer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ministers of Holy Communion</strong></td>
<td>Dan Montague, Joyce Hellick, Julie Raymond, Kim McAleer, Marg Bowen, Steve McAleer, Vince Welsh</td>
<td>Cathy Walz, Darwin Schuttlofelf, Donna Reynolds, Janice McCusker, Marjorie Jensen, Mary Johnson, Peg Detweiler</td>
<td>Barb Celichowski, Bob Blockinger, Dolores Dilger, Jerry Dilger, Joan O'Connor, Steven Freemon, Wendell Gan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ministers of Hospitality</strong></td>
<td>Darrell Holub, Dave Bowen, David Bengford, Judith Farrell, Kossivi Tomeddonou</td>
<td>Bill Kuennen, Dave Adams, Dennis Holdgrafer, Dick Nurre, Mary Nurre</td>
<td>Bob Anderson, Norbe Boettcher, Pat O'Connor, Sharron Konzen, Teresa Girard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children’s Liturgy</strong></td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Megan Gan, John Bostwick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Door Greeters</strong></td>
<td>Gary Raymond, Dawn Barnes, Jeremy Vinluan</td>
<td>Cindy Dugenske, Dale Dugenske, Barb Gasaway, Mary Jo Adams</td>
<td>Bob Buckley, Chad Gloede, Lindsay Gloede</td>
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</table>

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**Important Deadline for Parish Giving:**
Please note in your planning that all donations to St. Joseph Parish must be received by December 31 to be included in your St. Joseph 2017 statement. Thank you.
**Women’s Connection**

Join us for lunch on December 28, 2017 @ 11:30 - Zio Johno’s - Marion. For more information contact Carol Gonzalez at 654-6296.

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION**

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Normal adoration hours will resume on January 8, 2018.

**New Scripture Study; Philippians: Life in Christ** Please join us in this powerful study and learn how St. Paul was able to rejoice in the midst of suffering and discover what it means to share in the citizenship of heaven as St. Paul reveals the mind of Christ to his followers. This study will take place from 7-9 PM on Mondays and 9:30-11:30 AM on Wednesdays and run for 6 weeks beginning January 8th. **Please sign up by December 27th** so the study guides can be ordered and distributed before the 1st session. The cost of the study guide is $10. Sign up online at https://stjoesmarion.org/scripture-study or by contacting Deacon Dennis at: d.ternes@dbqarch.org.

**St. Joseph Book Giveaway:** St. Joseph Parish would like to wish you a Merry Christmas by offering your family a free book to read during the upcoming Christmas season. The books will be located on the table in the vestibule and there is a limit of one book per family.

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION**

**St. Joseph Catholic Church, Marion IA, seeks a part-time secretary for Youth Faith Formation.**

The preferred candidate is a practicing Catholic who has strong people skills and a positive attitude, all while maintaining confidentiality. Proficiency in computer skills across multiple applications as well as an ability to multi-task and collaborate in a team setting is necessary. Physical demands of lifting and moving up to 50 pounds are included in the qualifications of this job.

Please visit www.stjoesmarion.org/employment to find the employment application. Send resume, cover letter and completed job application to: Attention YFF Office, 1430 14th St. Marion, IA 52302, or by email to: j.ramsey@dbqarch.org by January 10, 2018.

**Scriptural Rosary**

Please join us at noon on Mondays during Adoration for the Joyful Mysteries Scriptural Rosary.

**Bereavement Grief and Loss**

A six session faith sharing group for those who have experienced death of a loved one or other traumatic incidents resulting in a lifestyle change. It is recommended that those considering these sessions allow six month since the death or change in family lifestyle before attending. The next group will meet **Mondays, January 22 - February 26, 6:00 - 7:30 pm** at St. Matthew Parish-Faith Formation Room, Cedar Rapids. Contact either St. Matthew Parish (319-363-8269) or St. Joseph Parish (319-377-4869). Registration deadline is: **Friday, January 15.**

**New Year’s Eve Activity**

Good morning during this busy time of year. Fr. Tony and the CR Young Adult Leaders will be hosting a New Year’s Night of Praise and Blessing at Mt. Mercy University on December 31st from 9pm-12.01am for all Cedar Rapids Metro Area college students and young adults. The night provides the following:

- Free admission
- Appetizers and mocktails at 9pm
- Praise and Worship
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Rosary Procession
- Solemnity Mass at 11.01pm for Mary, Mother of God
- Open to All!

Please contact Fr. Tony (Mount Mercy Chaplain) at: tadawu@mtmercy.edu with any questions.
BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS TREE

The use of the Christmas tree is relatively modern. Its origins are found in the medieval mystery plays that depicted the tree of paradise and the Christmas light or candle that symbolized Christ, the Light of the world. According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before Christmas and may remain in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany. The lights of the tree are illuminated after the prayer of blessing. In the home the Christmas tree may be blessed by a parent or another family member, in connection with the evening meal on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time on Christmas Day.

When all have gathered, a suitable song may be sung.

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
Response: Amen.

The leader may greet those present in the following words:

Leader: Let us glorify Christ our light, who brings salvation and peace into our midst, now and forever.
Response: Amen

In the following or similar words, the leader prepares those present for the blessing:

Leader: My brothers and sisters, amidst signs and wonders Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea: his birth brings joy to our hearts and enlightenment to our minds. With this tree, decorated and adorned, may we welcome Christ among us; may its lights guide us to the perfect light.

Leader/Reader: Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the prophet Ezekiel:

Thus says the Lord God: "I, too, will pluck from the crest of the cedar the highest branch. From the top of a tender shoot I will break off and transplant on a high, lofty mountain."

Leader/Reader: The Word of the Lord.
Response: Thanks be to God.

The intercessions are then said.

Leader: Let us ask God to send his blessing upon us and upon this sign of our faith in the Lord.
Response: Lord, give light to our hearts.
Leader: That this tree of lights may remind us of the tree of glory on which Christ accomplished our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Response: Lord, give light to our hearts.
Leader: That the joy of Christmas may always be in our homes, let us pray to the Lord.
Response: Lord, give light to our hearts.
Leader: That the peace of Christ may dwell in our hearts and in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
Response: Lord, give light to our hearts.

After the intercessions the leader invites all present to say the Lord's Prayer.

The leader says the following prayer with hands joined:

Leader: Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night. We praise you for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures. We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son: he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of your love. (Continue next column)
**Christmas Greetings** - On this hallowed Christmas Eve, I wish to extend on behalf of the clergy, parish and school staff our warm greetings to you and your family for a Merry Christmas.

Even in the midst of the challenges, conflicts, toils and divisions we experience in our society, world and perhaps in our personal lives, we are people of hope because we believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior, the Son of God. Christmas is a festive commemoration of the birth of Jesus two millennia ago rather than an annual replay of that sacred event. God’s love knows no bounds as Jesus emptied himself and became a human being like us in all things but sin. The Incarnation of Jesus is a mystery, that he, fully God and fully man, would humble himself in a supreme act of self-abnegation in order to save us in and through our own humanity. God didn’t have to do any of this; it was a choice made by his boundless love. Jesus is the Light that shines in the darkness and the voice of love that overwhems the discordant cacophony that trumpets the air waves, cable connections and information super highway. Listen to and for the cry of the Infant King who even before the cross, draws all people unto himself. He is the only path to the solace and peace you seek. May we never lose sight of the gift we celebrate at Christmas.

**Christmas Mass Attendance**—to help you with planning which Christmas Mass you will attend, I offer some historical data regarding past Mass attendance:

- 4 PM in the church—packed
- 4 PM in the school—almost full
- 6:30 PM in the church—although a new time, it is nearly full
- 9:00 PM in the church—although a new time, usually half full
- 9 AM in the church Christmas Day—approaching full but is roomy.