

Church of the Nativity

OUR MISSION STATEMENT : WE, THE PEOPLE OF NATIVITY PARISH, COMMIT TO PROCLAIMING JESUS' KINGDOM BY LEARNING AND TEACHING HIS WORD, ADORING HIS PRESENCE, AND SERVING THE NEEDS OF ALL PEOPLE.

December 20, 2020

Sacramental Life

WEEKDAY MASSES

M-F 6:30am
Saturday 8:00am

SUNDAY MASSES

Sat. Evening 4:15pm
Sun. Morning 6:30 & 9:30am

CONFESIONS

M-F 7:00am
1st Sat. 7:15am
Saturday 3:00— 3:45 pm

BAPTISMS

By arrangement.
Pre-Baptism Program Required. The next classes are 6:30pm on January 25, 2021 and April 26, 2021. Please notify the office if you are planning to attend.

WEDDINGS

Please notify parish office at least six months in advance to schedule wedding. *Catholic party must give evidence of faith.*



**1225 ALTA VISTA
DUBUQUE, IA 52001**



The 4th Sunday in Advent

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 21

6:30am Paul Richard (Anv); Philip Bahl

Tuesday, December 22

6:30am Gerald & Anice Fager

Wednesday, December 23

6:30am Cathy O'Dowd (Anv)

Thursday, December 24

4:00pm Robert Thomas; Don Noel

5:30pm Nativity Parish

10:00pm Callista & Delbert Spielman

Friday, December 25

6:30am Marie Fangman (Anv)

9:30am Emmett & Ray Whalen

Saturday, December 26

8:00am John & Florence Heiderscheit Family

4:15pm Loras Ehrlich (Anv)

Sunday, December 27: The Holy Family

6:30am Nativity Parish

9:30am Philip Bahl

Parish Staff & Office Info

Pastor.....Fr. Andy Upah

dbq057@dbqarch.org

Deacon.....Deacon Steve Whiteman

dbq057d2@dbqarch.org

Bookkeeper.....Joan Bradley (Ex. 205)

dbq057bk@dbqarch.org

Music/Choir.....Mary Ann McCauley (Ex. 207)

dbq057s@dbqarch.org

Evangelization/.....Amanda Benner (Ext 203)

Young Adult dbq057s1@dbqarch.org

Parish Visitor.....Karen Leisen (588-1163)

Parish Nurse.....Becky Krapfl (582-1839)

Phone.....(563) 582 - 1839

Hours.....8:30am-3:00 pm (M-Th) 8:30am-Noon (F)

Parish Website <http://www.NativityDBQ.org>

Stewardship Report

Received December 6, 2020.....\$13,200

Envelopes Rec'd.....126

Weekly Need.....\$13,520

Amount Budgeted Year to Date.....\$324,480

Received YTD (July 1-Dec 13).....\$294,109

Retire the Debt (RED Fund).....\$6,322

Amount Needed for Loan #1781.....\$99,398

Festival Equivalency Budget.....\$35,000

Festival Equivalency YTD.....\$33,720

Mass Attend. (12/13): 4:15 - 106, 6:30 - 90, 9:30 - 156

From the Pastor

Thanks to everyone who has already filled out the Parish Census! In case you missed it, it can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/NativityCensus>

The hope is that we can send out an email this week with some estimates for Christmas Masses, specifically on Christmas Eve. Last year there were 1,100 at the 4pm, then about 200 at each of the other three Masses, so my guess is that we will be okay getting everyone in, but we will see what the census says! We will have prelude music at all of the Masses on Christmas Eve, so people shouldn't feel like they are missing out on anything on going to one or the other.

Speaking of music, one thing that will feel especially weird about Christ's Mass this year is the lack of singing. It is a very joyful aspect of Christmas, singing all of the familiar carols. Often as a family we would take part of our day for singing, and usually we even sing in Czech!

At some point we will feel comfortable enough to bring back singing, but until then we will look for ways to incorporate it in which doesn't involve the whole community. If you don't walk in last minute, you probably heard some sung preludes during Advent. During Christmas, we are planning to sing the Antiphons that we have been reciting.

But some of you may be wondering, "what is up with these antiphons anyway?" The short answer is that an antiphon is another psalm that is selected for that specific day to go along with the readings for the Mass of the day. It is a tool, given to us in sacred scripture, that helps us to better understand the readings for that Mass. These texts are arranged into verses and refrains, just like the Responsorial Psalm, but they are referred to as "antiphons" because traditionally, they were sung by multiple choirs. Usually one choir would be at the front of the church and sing the refrain, while another choir would be in the rear and chant the verses, creating a back and forth "call and response" or "antiphonal" effect. The antiphons were adopted from Hebrew worship and were introduced into Western civilization by St. Ambrose in the 4th Century.

In regard to what we should do with antiphons, the GIRM, or the official guide for how we are to celebrate Mass, states "...there are four options for the Entrance Chant (or Offertory or Communion Chant): (1) the antiphon from the Missal or the antiphon with its Psalm from the Graduale Romanum, as set to music there or in another setting; (2) the antiphon and Psalm of the Graduale Simplex for the liturgical time; (3) a chant from another collection of Psalms and antiphons, approved by the Conference of Bishops or the Diocesan Bishop, including Psalms arranged in responsorial or metrical forms; (4) another liturgical chant that is suited to the sacred action, the day, or the time of year, similarly approved by the Conference of Bishops or the Diocesan Bishop." (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 48)

The first 3 preferences outlined in the Roman Missal are antiphons and psalms. As seen in option number 4, we can use "another liturgical chant" which can be one of the many beautiful hymns of the church. Option number 4 became so popular after the Second Vatican Council that we forgot about the first three options, which was never the intent! Antiphons are rooted in our history, beautiful, and are really what the church intends for her liturgy. So we will continue to use them, and we will begin to sing them as intended as well. If you have time, take a minute to look up the O Antiphons which are a special set sung each evening from Dec. 17-23 to prepare us for Christmas. - Fr. Andy

Parish Calendar

Wednesday, December 23

6:00pm Family Friendly Eucharistic Adoration - Church

At the Sunday Mass

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, *and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.*

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Bible Study on the Life of Christ

All adults are invited to a new Bible Study called "Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life," which is a 10-session study on the Life of Christ with videos filmed in the Holy Land and presented by Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Jeff Cavins, and Edward Sri. The study will be facilitated by Matt Selby and held in the O'Brien Room on Mondays from 7:00-8:30 PM, starting on January 11th and ending on March 15th. There will also be an option to join virtually. To register/order materials, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/NativityBibleStudy2>. For questions, contact Matt Selby at mattlselby@gmail.com or 319-440-6940.



The Church of the Nativity Holy Day Schedule

Christmas Eve Mass

4:00pm (Music at 3:30pm)

5:30pm (Music at ~5:00pm)

10:00pm (Music at ~9:30pm)

Christmas Day Mass

6:30am

9:30am

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God (Friday, January 1)

Mass at 8:00am

Mass at 11:00am

Readings for the 4th Sunday in Advent

Note: text in *italics* should be recited by congregation.

Entrance Antiphon: Isaiah 45:8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Savior.

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

...I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29

R. *For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.*

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Brothers and sisters: To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Communion Antiphon: Luke 1:78-79

The Dawn from on high will visit us, guiding our feet in the way of peace.



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