



Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2018

SAINT ALPHONSUS CHURCH

607 South Jackson St.
Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

St. Alphonsus Mission Statement

We, the family of St. Alphonsus Catholic Parish, strengthened by Word and Sacrament, strive to live out Jesus Christ's call to discipleship by worshiping faithfully, serving willingly, and growing spiritually.

4th Sunday of Advent

Here we are, mere days from Christmas, and we hear a Gospel anticipating the birth of another child. Mary has received word that her cousin Elizabeth is with child. Pregnant as she is, Mary "set out and traveled to the hill country in haste." She has recently received the greatest news of her life - that she is to be mother to the Messiah by the power of the Holy Spirit - but her concern is for her cousin in need. Through God's grace, Elizabeth turns it into an opportunity to honor the coming Christ. "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Yet Mary's example of selflessness should inspire us.

As Christmas draws near, there is plenty of goodness to anticipate for many of us. We'll reunite with family and friends, uphold time-honored traditions, swap stories old and new, exchange gifts, and welcome Jesus at the Christmas liturgy. These are wonderful things! Of course, they probably all come with their own to-do list. Shop for last-minute gifts, pick up recipe ingredients, ready the guest room, or pack your own bags. Mary probably had things to do as well. She had a lot to consider, for one thing, how do you plan to tell your parents you're pregnant, but no man was involved? When Joseph finds out, who will care for the practical needs of you and your child? Into what may have been a chaos of questions, Mary receives news that someone is in need. She goes immediately.

In these final days of Christmas, stay watchful and awake! You never know when God might invite you to welcome, hospitality, and compassion. It might be tempting to reject the opportunity for your own needs. Follow the example of Mary! If God is providing you an opportunity to love, He will provide the means to accomplish all your other tasks. This Christmas season, may you too hear, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

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Parish Staff

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Confirmation Contact.....Ted Mountz.....385-4937
Custodian Russell Hill.....385-8410

Parish Council President.....Bob Cardoni
Finance Council President...Tom Holtkamp

Weekend Mass Schedule... Saturday 5:30 PM
Sunday 8:00 and 11:00 AM

Daily Mass Schedule...Monday NO Mass,
Tuesday—7:00 AM, Wednesday—5:30 PM,
Thursday and Friday Noon Mass

Confessions...Saturday 4:30 PM or by appointment.

Eucharistic Devotion:

Friday Adoration: 9:00 AM to Noon

Monthly Adoration: 1st Thursday Noon to 9:00 PM

Rosary: Led by KC Members, 7:30 AM Sundays

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MASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK				
	Mass time	Mass Intention	Saint of the Day	Readings for the day
Mon, Dec 24	5:00 PM 10:30 PM	Veronica Kline † Dan Keeley †	Christmas Eve	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79
Tue, Dec 25	9:00 AM	John Kline, Sr. †	The Nativity of the Lord	Is 52:7-10/Jn 1:1-18
Wed, Dec 26	NO MASS		St. Stephen	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22
Thu, Dec 27	NO MASS		St. John, Apostle	1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Fri, Dec 28	NO MASS		The Holy Innocents	1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Mt 2:13-18
Sat, Dec 29	5:30 PM	Donna Fisher †	St. Thomas Becket	
Sun, Dec 30	8:00 AM 11:00 AM	Mary Gen Kline † For Parishioners	The Holy Family	1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/ Lk 2:41-52
Mon, Jan 1	9:00 AM	Norm Walter †	Mary, the Holy Mother of God	

MINISTERS FOR DEC 29 & 30	
LECTORS	
5:30 PM	Jerry Keeley
8:00 AM	Vanessa Patten
11:00 AM	Roger Freeman
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	
5:30 PM	Team G Paul Maher
8:00 AM	Team H Ted Mountz
11:00 AM	Team I Mary Shy
SERVER	
5:30 PM	Liam Gerleman/Jacob Fry
8:00 AM	Ben/Zach Newton
11:00 AM	Thanh/Hoi Phung
USHERS	
5:30 PM	Marc/Maureen Lindeen
8:00 AM	Denny Heaton/John Newton
11:00 AM	Bob Walderbach/Bernard Pollmeier
GREETERS	
5:30 PM	Dick/Joanne Looker
8:00 AM	Judy McNeill/Vicki Lohmann
11:00 AM	Jeremy/Amy McLaughlin

Inspiration for the Week

Life is often unfair. Sadly, life's inequity usually occurs at our hands. The world's systems - economic, political, and environmental - do not always serve the best interests of the people. We create situations that tip the scales by profiting a few and reducing the quality of life for many. We look at all of the injustices in our world, people being hurt and exploited, and wonder why God has abandoned us or why He won't fix what is happening. God did fix it. He sent his Son into the world as our just ruler and the one who will bring peace. The problem is we still turn away and think that we can do better. The Son of Justice has come into the world. We can work for change and be the voice of justice. We can dream and do things differently. Blessed are you who believe that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.

Offertory for December 15 & 16	
Envelopes.....	3528.00
Offertory.....	257.86
Retired Religious	95.00
Fuel collection	<u>80.00</u>
Total.....	3,960.86

Thank you! Your donations make our ministries possible!

Keep in Your Prayers

Our condolences to Pete Wehrle and family on the passing of his brother, Jack Wehrle of Burlington.
May Jack be welcomed into the everlasting life.

Our condolences to Arlene Scherer and family on the passing of Arlene's son, Ron Scherer.
May Ron be welcomed into the everlasting life.

A & R Meeting on
Saturday, January 5th at 4:00 PM in the Parish Library.
All women of the parish are invited to attend.

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE						
Sunday, Dec 23 Rosary, 7:30 am Mass, 8:00 & 11:00 am Church Life donuts, 9:00 am Homebound Ministers-Team 4	Mon, Dec 24 Christmas Eve Mass, 5:00 pm & 10:30 pm	Tues, Dec 25 Christmas Day Mass, 9:00 am Merry Christmas!	Wed, Dec 26 Women Scrip, 9:30 am NO MASS	Thurs, Dec 27 NO MASS	Fri, Dec 28 NO Adoration NO MASS	Sat, Dec 29 Confessions— 4:30-5:00 pm Mass 5:30 pm
Sunday, Dec 30 Rosary, 7:30 am Mass, 8:00 & 11:00 am Church Life donuts, 9:00 am Homebound Ministers-Team 1	Mon, Dec 31 New Year's Eve Mass, 5:30 pm	Tues, Jan 1, 2019 New Year's Day Mass, 9:00 am Happy New Year!	Wed, Jan 2 Women Scrip, 9:30 am NO MASS Choir practice, 6:30 pm	Thurs, Jan 3 NO Mass NO Adoration KC meeting, 6:30 pm	Fri, Jan 4 Adoration 9 am-Noon Mass at Sunnybrook, 10:00 am Mass, Noon	Sat, Jan 5 Confessions— 4:30-5:00 pm Mass 5:30 pm A&R meeting in Library, 4:00 pm



Thank you to the following parishioners who have filled the church with poinsettias and decorations during our



Christmas season in memory or honor of loved ones:

In Memory or Honor	Donated By
Dan & Mary Jo Cash	The Cash Family
Margaret Carrick	The Cash Family
Mary & Margaret Cash	The Cash Family
Alvin & Jeanette Vittetoe	Gary & Joanie Stoderl
Doug Vittetoe	Gary & Joanie Stoderl
Ed & Darlene Gerleman	Gerleman Families
Bonnie & Jerry F. Massack, Jr.	Laury & David Thomas
James B. Thomas, Sr.	Laury & David Thomas
Sally Wehrle	Pete Wehrle
Ron Kilbourn	Caroline & Family
James T. McCabe	Pat & Brenda McCabe



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Christmas season in memory or honor of loved ones:

In Memory or Honor	Donated By
Deceased family members	Ron & Linda Kaska
Dick Nebelle	Helen Nebelle
Duane & Miriam McArtor	Craig & Jeanne Mulford
John McArtor	Craig & Jeanne Mulford
Mark Fitzpatrick	Janni & Family
Dan Meinen	Kathy Meinen & Family
Brian Roth	Lois, Sarah, Laura, Brian, Rajan
Mary Herrmann	Tim & Vicki Lohmann
Ted, Rosann, Jerry Lohmann	Tim & Vicki Lohmann
Gloria, Scott, Ed Groll	Richard Groll
Toby Shanahan	Sandi Shanahan & Family
John & Geraldine Clouse	Ron & Alecia Clouse
Jack & Mary Jane Scallen	Ron & Alecia Clouse
Mark Kentner	Marcia Kentner & girls
EB McCormick	Eugene & Mary Ann McCormick
Dora McKeever	Eugene & Mary Ann McCormick
Gary Sammons	Judy Sammons & Family
Barry Jay Wilson	Bob & Vicki Wilson & Erin Housh
Darrel Brown	Mary Brown
Tyler Zickefoose	Mary Brown
Lowell & Kerry Burden	Rosemary Burden & Family
Sophie & Clarence Henschen	Arlene Bonar & Family
Bob Bonar	Arlene Bonar & Family
Ernest Conrad	Nancy Conrad
Bernard & Bernice Nichting	Diane Klesner
Margaret M. Carrick	Dave & the Kids
Dan & Mary Jo Cash	The Carrick Family
Bill & Dorothy Smith	Rosemary & Dan Brown
Aucia Lewis	Rosemary & Dan Brown
Smokey Marie Davis	Rosemary & Dan Brown
Pam McCabe	Dan McCabe Family
Earl & Germaine March	John & Mary Pat March
Henry & Ruth Wilhelm	John & Mary Pat March
Judy Wilhelm	John & Mary Pat March
Kenneth Hill	Russell & Jackie Hill & Family
Bertilla Becker	Russell & Jackie Hill & Family
Bernard Becker, Sr.	Russell & Jackie Hill & Family
Larry & BJ Becker	Russell & Jackie Hill & Family
David L. Wiseman	Russell & Jackie Hill & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Dodson	RJ & Chris Dodson
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Lutz	RJ & Chris Dodson
Sandy Wenz	RJ & Chris Dodson
Tom Bridgewater	Patty Bridgewater
Shelly Bridgewater	Patty Bridgewater
Ray Winnike	Jerry & Jacki Holtkamp & Family
Rosie Winnike	Jerry & Jacki Holtkamp & Family
Mary Winnike	Jerry & Jacki Holtkamp & Family
Patti Garmoe Pye	Garmoe Family
Chase A. Garmoe	Garmoe Family
Allen Watson	Garmoe Family
Matt Manning	Jerry & Georgine Wells
Charlotte Galliard	Don Galliard & Family

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

When Elizabeth was visited by Mary, her joy was overwhelming. Elizabeth recognized that Mary was carrying inside her the Messiah. She was honored to receive Mary, not just because of who Mary was herself, but also because of the One she had inside her.

We meet people every day in our lives. Some we know well, some are acquaintance, and others we may have never seen before. Yet all of them are made in the image of God and carry within them the person of Jesus. If we considered this more frequently, would we act more graciously toward each other? Mary gave birth to the Son of God so that we might be able to be adopted sons and daughters of God. If we thought of this more often, would we be so quick to dismiss someone or ignore him or her?

This time of year is filled with gatherings and parties for many of us. We also find ourselves rushing about getting ready for Christmas. There are so many people who cross our paths. Will we allow Jesus in us to greet with joy the Jesus in them? Will we pause to offer a greeting or kind word? Instead of looking at them with human eyes, will we try to see them through the eyes of faith like Elizabeth. If not, what is all of this celebration and preparation about anyway? Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

KC Korner

During the Masses on December 29th and 30th the Knights of Columbus will be offering prayer in Consecration with our Holy Family. The flyer included in this weeks bulletin includes steps for your family to join in this effort. The Knights will hand out the prayer cards prior to the Masses.


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