

*Nativity of the Lord  
The Holy Family  
December 26th, 2021*

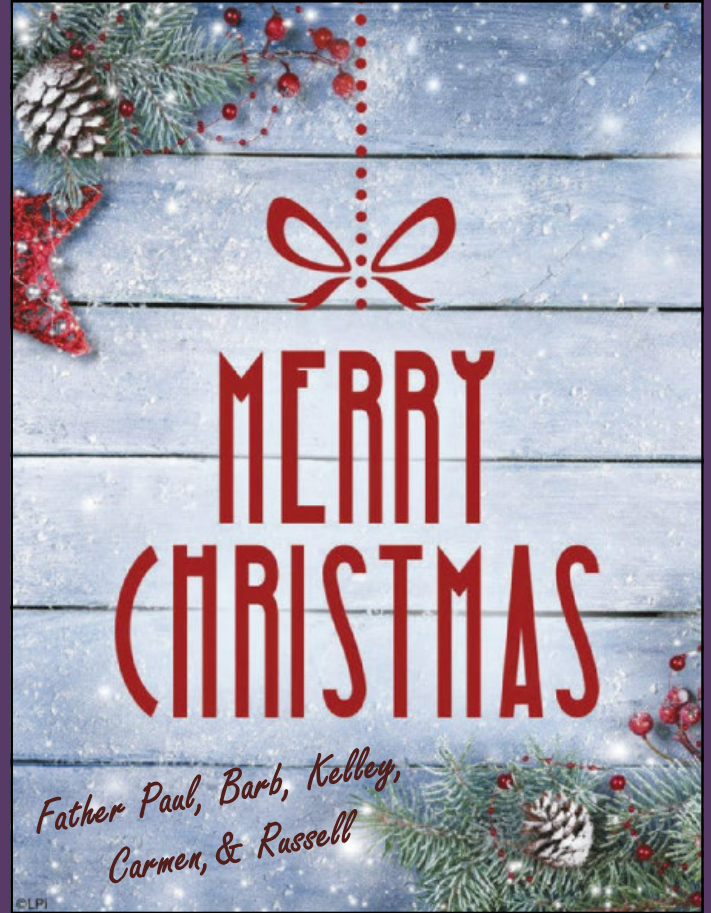
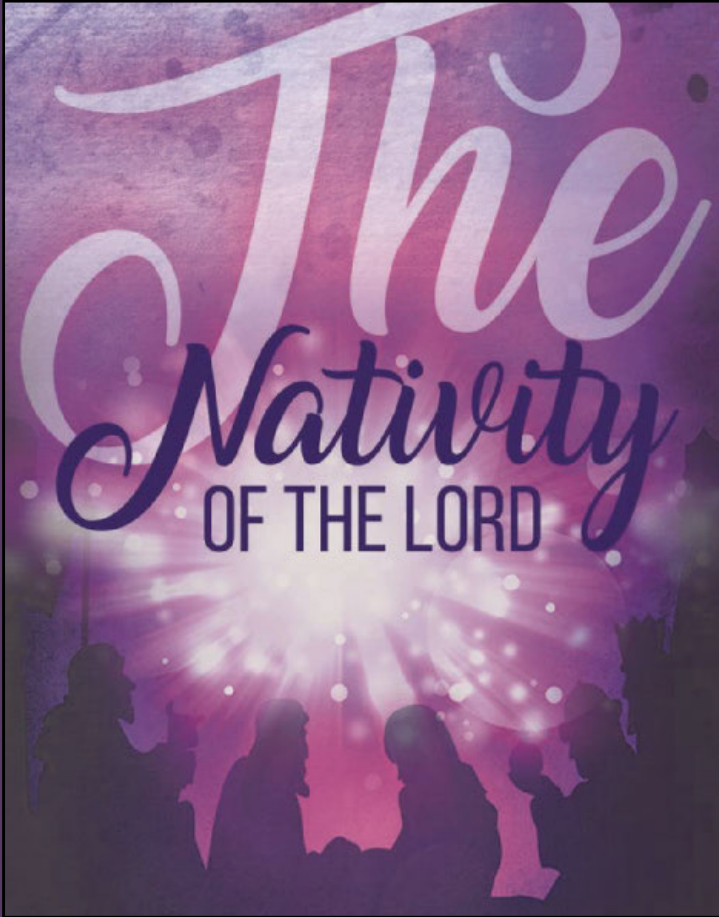
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*St. Alphonsus* **Catholic Church**

**Our 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 worshipping faithfully, serving willingly, and growing spiritually.*



**Worship Schedule**

Friday, Dec 24 Masses 5:00pm & 10:30pm  
Saturday, Dec 25 Mass 9:00am ~ No 5:30pm Mass  
Sunday, Dec 26 8:00 & 11:00  
Friday, Dec 31 Mass 5:30pm  
Saturday, Jan 1 9:00am ~ No 5:30pm Mass  
Sunday Jan 2 8:00 & 11:00



## Kelley's Korner

The past almost two years have been a time of dramatic change. I have alternated between survival and adaptation modes, trying to balance my family's safety, everyone else's safety and trying to make connections with other people and the parish. I was still learning the ropes in my position here at the parish when the world was put on pause. It has not been easy to try to find what could work that would also be easily adaptable should the world stop again.

Now it is time to look forward. What will faith formation look like in this new world? The Diocese has worked with Lifelong Faith Associates to put together a series of in person and webinar workshops entitled "Catholic Faith Formation in a Post-Pandemic World." ***I am inviting any parishioners who are able to join me in attending the in-person workshops and/or the webinars to help shape faith formation in our parish.*** If you would like to be a part of this, please let me know by January 5th so I can get our parish registered. You do not have to attend all the events. If you are planning to participate, please let me know what events you will be attending. Here is what is being offered:

- Foundations for Faith Formation in a Post-Pandemic World; Thursday January 20, 2022, 9:30am-3:00pm ***in person*** at *St. Patrick's in Iowa City*
- Transforming Faith Formation for All Ages in a Post-Pandemic World; Thursday April 28, 2022, 9:30-3:00pm ***in person*** at *St. Patrick's in Iowa City*
- Designing Children and Family Faith Formation for the Post-Pandemic World; Thursday February 17th 2022 from 10:00am-11:30am ***webinar***
- Designing Adult Faith Formation for the Post-Pandemic World; Thursday March 10, 2022 from 10:00-11:30am ***webinar***
- Designing Adolescent Faith Formation for the Post-Pandemic World; Thursday March 31, 2022 10:00-11:30am ***webinar***

### ***Upcoming Dates to note on your parish calendar:***

Sundays at 8 am Mass - CLOW for children ages 3-7  
\*there will be no CLOW Christmas weekend  
December 23, 2021 @ 4:00pm rehearsal for Children's Gospel Play  
December 24, 2021 @ 3:30pm rehearsal for Children's Gospel Play  
December 24, 2021 @ 5pm Mass - Children's Gospel Play  
January 9, 2022 @ 9:15 am-10:45 am - Family Formation Gathering  
January 12 @ 7-8:30pm- Youth Ministry & Confirmation resumes regular Wednesday gatherings

# FORMED

THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND.

*The True Meaning of Christmas with Dr. Michael Barber*

### **For the whole Family:**

Do you love Christmas traditions but don't know where they come from? Tune in for Dr. Michael Patrick Barber's Advent reflections called "The True Meaning of Christmas" and learn the meaning behind your favorite Christmas pastimes.

**Also a fun short 17 minute kids cartoon movie "The Christmas Pageant that Almost Wasn't" Just to name one of many!**

Check this out at [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) ~ English & Spanish ~ Free as a parishioner, sign up using zip code 52641.

## **GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

### **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**



Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those

stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too. ©LPi





## WHY DO CATHOLICS DO THAT?

### Question:

I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

### Answer:

If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back.

This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be. ©LPi

**Christmas Reflection...** So many of our parish families have experienced the death of loved ones over this past year. The following reflection speaks of that first Christmas experience without these special people.



### MY FIRST CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN

*I see the countless Christmas Trees around the world below.  
With Tiny lights, like heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow.  
The sight is so spectacular; please wipe away that tear,  
for I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*

*I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear,  
But the sounds of music can't compare with the  
Christmas choir here.*

*I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring,  
For it is beyond description to hear the angels sing.*

*I know how much you miss me.*

*I see the pain inside your heart, but I am not so far away.  
We really aren't apart. So be happy for me dear ones.*

*You know I hold you dear and be glad I'm spending  
Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*

*I send you each a special gift from my heavenly home above.  
I send you each a memory of my undying love.*

*After all "Love" is the gift, more precious than pure gold.  
It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.*

*Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do,  
For I can't count the blessings or the love  
He has for each of you.*

*So, have a Merry Christmas and wipe away that tear.  
Remember, I'm spending Christmas with  
Jesus Christ this year.*

*Anonymous*

### Many thanks to the Ladies of our Parish

Thank you to the Altar and Rosary January and February Circle Members for providing salads and desserts at the funeral luncheon for Ken Reschly. Your kind donation made the luncheon a success. The families were very grateful for the luncheon in a time of needed support. Thank you to all,  
*Vicki Lohmann,*  
Altar & Rosary President



**Offertory:** *The bulletin was due before December 19th. We will post the 19th & 26th on the weekend of January 2nd. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

*Dear Parish Family,  
I want to thank everyone for your Christmas Cards and gifts, they are greatly appreciated! I hope that you and your families have a Very Merry Christmas and may God Bless you and all of your families in the year ahead! Please stay safe if you are traveling this holiday season!*

*Father Paul*



### End of the year giving

For St. Alphonsus: all end of the 2021 tax year donations need to be postmarked by 12/31/2021 no matter what date is on the check. It has to be mailed or given to the parish office by 12/31/2021 or at the last mass of the year on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31st to be counted for the 2021 tax year.

*Also, from the Diocese of Davenport: Please make sure that pledges are made and dated by 12/31/2021 and received in our office by the close of business on January 3, 2022 to be counted for the tax year 2021.*



**Rest in Peace**

**Deb Crouch**  
Wife of Jerry Crouch

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

December  
26th

**Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

**Monday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

**Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

**Friday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 11a/Jn 1:1-18

**Saturday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

**Next Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



For the week of  
December 26th

12/27 No Mass ~  
12/28 No Mass ~  
12/29 No Mass ~  
12/30 No Mass ~  
12/31 5:30pm New Years Eve Frank X. Connolly  
1/1 9:00am New Years Day Pat McCormick  
No 5:30pm Mass ~  
1/2 8:00 Mike Bonar  
11:00 For the People

### Church Office hours:

8:00 - 4:00 Monday - Friday ~ Closed 11:00 - Noon

YouTube Masses - St. Al's MP Livestream

St. Alphonse Web Site

<http://www.mtpstalphonse.org>

Instagram— saintalphonsemountpleasant

“Like” us on Facebook—

Saint Alphonse Mt. Pleasant

### Our Parish Staff

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319-385-4937

Russell Hill, Custodian

Carmen Heaton, Director of Music  
319-385-9342

Ben Bly, Parish Council President  
Tom Holtkamp, Finance Council President



**Friday, December 24 - Office Closed**

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass  
10:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass

**Saturday, December 25**

9:00 am Christmas Day Mass

**NO 5:30 PM MASS**

**Sunday, December 26**

8:00 am Mass  
11:00 am Mass

**Monday, December 27**

No Mass

**Tuesday, December 28**

6:30 am Early Morning Women's Scripture  
9:30 am Mid Morning Women's Scripture

**No Mass**

**Wednesday, December 29**

**No Mass**

**Thursday, December 30**

**No Mass**

**Friday, December 31 - Office Closed**

5:30 pm Mass

**Saturday, January 1**

9:00 am Mass

**NO 5:30 PM MASS**

**Sunday, January 2**

8:00 am Mass  
11:00 am Mass

**Monday, January 3 - Office Closed**

No Mass

**Tuesday, January 4**

6:30 am Early Morning Women's Scripture  
9:30 am Mid Morning Women's Scripture

**No Mass**

**7:00 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 5**

Noon Mass

**Thursday, January 6**

Noon Mass

**Friday, January 7**

10:00 am Mass at Addington Place

Noon Mass

12:30-1:00 Adoration

**Saturday, January 8**

5:30 pm Mass

**Sunday, January 9**

8:00 am Mass and CLOW

9:15 am Family Formation in Manning Hall

11:00 am Mass

4:00 pm RCIA in Library




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