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The parish center remains closed. Please leave a message and your call will be returned.

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Rev. Scott Bullock	Pastor
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Tom Lang	Deacon
Ray Larsen	Deacon
Rick Lynch	Deacon
Anastasia Nicklaus	Liturgy & Music Coord.
Toni Pint-Burke	Business Manager
Carmen Lappe	Coordinator Of Parish Life
Jannette Serafin	Bookkeeper
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St. Edward Parish

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(319) 233-8060 | www.sted.org | DBQ210s2@dbqarch.org

The mission of St. Edward Parish is to be an evangelizing community *by faith, with love, in hope.*

Choose Hope—Hope in God, the Joy of My Soul

"I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul;
for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation
and wrapped me in a mantle of justice…" (Isaiah 61: 10)

--What connection do you find between joy and hope?

--Do you feel wrapped in the saving power of the Lord?

--If so, how does that bring you hope? If not, how can the Lord bring you release?

--How has God made new growth spring up in your life, even in the midst of difficulties?

Third Sunday of Advent | December 13, 2020

Mass Intentions

Monday, Dec. 14—St. John of the Cross
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a / Mt 21:23-27
7:30am Agnes Ludwig†

Tuesday, Dec. 15—Advent Weekday
Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 / Mt 21:28-32
7:30am Steven Bauer†

Wednesday, Dec. 16—Advent Weekday
Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25 / Lk 7:18b-23
5:30pm Marian Haaf †

Thursday, Dec. 17—Late Advent Weekday
Gn 49:2, 8-10 / Mt 1:1-17
9:00am Eleanor Ketcham †

Friday, Dec. 18—Late Advent Weekday
Jer 23:5-8 / Mt 1:18-25
7:30am Paul Waldbillig †

Saturday, Dec. 19—Late Advent Weekday
Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a / Lk 1:5-25
5:15pm Don† & Lois Reicherts†

Sunday, Dec. 20—Fourth Sunday of Advent
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 / Rom 16:25-27 / Lk 1:26-38
8:00am Larry Fangman †
10:30 am Ben Ottesen †

RESQUIANT IN PACEM

May light perpetual shine on them.

- All victims of COVID-19 in our community
- Carolyn Koll, Gerry Lynch, and Ruth Hunt, sisters of Louie Hagarty
- Rae Freet, wife of Dennis

From the pastor

- As a reminder, **Advent Lessons and Carols** will be prayed this Sunday afternoon in the parish. The entire service will be livestreamed and available on our parish's YouTube channel for the remainder of the season. The service is a beautiful weaving of music, scripture, and spiritual reflections. I invite you and your families to "remember the reason for the season" by carving out a time to view our Advent Lessons and Carols online and enter into the prayerful reflection and praise that is to characterize this holy Advent season. It can be another way we "Choose Hope."
- This is **Gaudete Sunday**, a day that takes its name from the Latin word *Gaudete, the first word in the traditional "introit," or opening sung verse that, for centuries, began the Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent: Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete.. . ., translated as: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. . . ."*

Continued, top of next page

While the theme of Advent is a focus on the coming of Jesus in three ways: his first, his present, and his final Advent, the readings for Gaudete Sunday deal with rejoicing in the Lord – Christian joy – as well as the mission of John the Baptist and his connection with Advent. The theologian Henri Nouwen described the difference between joy and happiness. While happiness is dependent on external conditions, joy is "the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing – sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death - can take that love away." Thus joy can be present even in the midst of sadness, as could certainly characterize the year now past—not to mention every year! Maybe you're not very happy right now, but that doesn't mean you can't be joyful!

- In his 2014 Gaudete Sunday homily, Pope Francis said that Gaudete Sunday is known as the "Sunday of Joy," and that instead of fretting about "all they still haven't" done to prepare for Christmas, people should "think of all the good things life has given you." In this message, Pope Francis reminded us that JOY is a choice, a choice strengthened and empowered by the Holy Spirit. For me, joy is inextricably linked to HOPE, the virtue that we have been considering during this Advent.
- On Gaudete Sunday rose-colored vestments are often worn instead of violet, which is otherwise prescribed for every day in the season of Advent. In churches that have an Advent wreath, the rose-colored candle is lit in addition to two of the violet candles, which represent the first two Sundays of Advent. Despite the somewhat somber readings of the season of Advent, which has as a secondary theme the need for penitence, the readings on the third Sunday emphasize the joyous anticipation of the Lord's coming. So, we are to see in particular on the Third Sunday of Advent, halfway through this short liturgical season, a reminder of hope. So…let's look around our lives, seek to see the blessings, and respond with joy and hope. For, after all, we have a savior, who has brought to earth the promise of rich eternal life. Rejoice in the Lord always, I say it again, rejoice! (Philippians 4:4-6)

Fr. Bullock

Choose Hope • Advent Reflections 2020

As noted in the postcard you should have received recently, this Advent St. Edward joins the Waterloo parishes to "Choose Hope." To prepare for Advent each year, a preparation committee gathers to consider the Sunday Scriptures and what overarching message God is offering our community through them at this time. The preparation committee includes individuals representing different parishes, Waterloo Catholic Faith Formation, and the Catholic schools. In that gathering, held way back in August, those present noticed a thread of hope within all the Scriptures, particularly in the passages from Isaiah. Especially in a year such as this, marked by so many challenges, we can and must **choose hope**. We choose hope, trusting that God is faithful. We choose hope, confident that we are not alone. We choose hope, knowing that even when things seem dark, the Light comes.

Week Three -- Hope in God, the Joy of My Soul

Advent invites us to *prepare* to rejoice in the coming of Jesus, God-With-Us at Christmas, to *celebrate* the Lord's presence as a cause for hope in today's world, and to *anticipate* the fulfillment of our hopes and dreams in the Lord's final coming at the end of time. Even in the midst of disappointment, tragedy, danger and fear, Christ beckons us to Choose Hope.

In the third week of Advent, we light the pink candle and are reminded to rejoice because the Lord is near! Like Mary in today's psalm, our souls, too, can rejoice in the greatness of the Lord and rejoice in God our Savior, even as we experience loneliness, uncertainty, disappointment, and possible changes in routine and traditions. Also consider: What did you learn this year that changed your life or you faith? Did it deepen your hope in God?

Prepare: To help with preparing your heart for the Lord, you may choose to take part in the Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation. While there are no communal celebrations this year, the Adult Faith Formation website (list https://waterloocatholics.org) offers a schedule at the Waterloo parishes. **Confession is available at St. Edward on Wednesdays at 6pm and a special 4pm time Saturday (Dec. 19), until all are heard.**

Another way to prepare is through **Evening Prayer**. This year, Advent Evening Prayer is available online! The prayer will be posted to our YouTube Channel by about 4:30pm each Sunday of Advent and can be prayed anytime that evening. New to Evening Prayer? There's also a short "Evening Prayer Primer" to get you prepared.

Celebrate through the live-stream of **Advent Lessons and Carols**, taking place at 2pm Sunday (Dec. 13). Go to our parish YouTube channel by clicking on the YouTube icon found in the upper right hand corner of our website, www.sted.org.

Anticipate…what we hope for that brings true joy and not mere happiness: forgiveness for errors, reconciliation with an enemy, peace with our limitations, a passion for mercy.

Let us pray: My soul rejoices in my God.
Join an online discussion of this week's readings and themes Monday evening at 7:00pm. Use this link to join the discussion online: meet.google.com/tnd-seei-nyd

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

"A single act of love makes the soul return to life." (St. Maximilian Kolbe) Bring life to your soul with a weekly commitment or any visit to see Jesus in the Perpetual Adoration Chapel located at Columbus HS. Available 24/7 for all. Committed adorers, substitutes & drop-ins are all needed. Specific needs at this time are Sundays at 10am. If interested, contact William Brandle at (319)939-9000.

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION

The 2020 religious retirement collection takes place this weekend, December 12 & 13. You may use your designated envelope or mark your contribution "religious retirement."
Support collected for religious retirement is sent to the USCCB Religious Retirement Office, who then distribute funds to religious communities across the country, including Iowa, to support retired men and women religious. Thank you for your support!

PREPARE HIM ROOM: HELP NEEDED WITH CHRISTMAS DECORATING

As continue to prepare for the coming of Jesus, our Hope, **we need your help to "prepare the room" of our church!** Church decorating will take place at 12:30pm Sunday, Dec. 20. We could also use help preparing the extra room of our overflow seating on December 22. **Please sign up ahead of time** because this year, the committee will figure out assignments in advance, keeping in mind households and pandemic safety measures. Then, you'll receive information on where to report for decorating and other protocols. **To sign up**, catch Anastasia after Mass, email her at a.nicklaus@dbqarch.org or call the parish office with your name and contact information.

Advent Lessons & Carols

Let the power of Scripture and Song help you to "Choose Hope" with this year's Advent Lessons and Carols, which will take place at 2pm Sunday, Dec. 13. The prayer event will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel. This year's Advent Lessons and Carols will primarily feature solos and duets, all with the spirit of Advent and our longing for Jesus, who is our Hope.

VARIOUS GIVING OPTIONS AVAILABLE

Several parishioners have inquired about ways to support your St. Edward Parish. Many are available, and thank you for your continued generosity! We recently reviewed stock & grain transfers and IRA distributions in our bulletins. Contact Toni if you have questions about these particular arrangements.

Electronic Funds Transfers (EFT), checks and cash have minimal administrative costs to your parish. If you prefer online giving, you may generate checks from your bank account (bill pay) or use the *Share My Gifts-Online Giving* tab on our website. Stay tuned as updates to our *Online Giving* options are coming in January.

Christmas Mass schedule

Jesus our hope is born!

Christmas Eve: 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm
12:00 Midnight
Christmas Day: 10:00 am
All Masses will be live streamed.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

WEEKLY ADVENT CONVERSATION/4 -- Monday, December 21. 7:00-8:00pm. Live Video Discussion. Join us for a discussion of Sunday's readings and this week's Advent theme "Hope in the Child to Be Born"

• Use this link to join the conversation: meet.google.com/tnd-seei-nyd

HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL SERVICE -- Monday, Dec. 21. 6:00pm. Lincoln Park, Waterloo. Bring hats, scarves and gloves to hang on trees in the park for the homeless. Masks and social distancing required.

• Learn more about the National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day here: http://nationalhomeless.org/about-us/projects/memorial-day/

Coming in January...

SPIRITUAL GROWTH DISCUSSION -- Wednesday, January 6. 6:30-7:00pm. Life Video Discussion. This discussion is designed for adults and young adults who want to examine their spiritual life and learn more about how to develop or strengthen their spiritual life. Learn more at: https://waterloocatholics.org/spiritual-growth

• Register online at: http://bit.ly/spiritual-growth-discussion

A VIRTUAL WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS -- Wednesday, January 6. 6:00-8:00pm. Live Video Conference. "Tending Our Hearths and Gladdening Our Hearts" is the theme for this year's program which combines an Irish tradition with the Feast of the Epiphany. $30. Pre-registration required by Dec. 23 at: https://bit.ly/womens-christmas

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