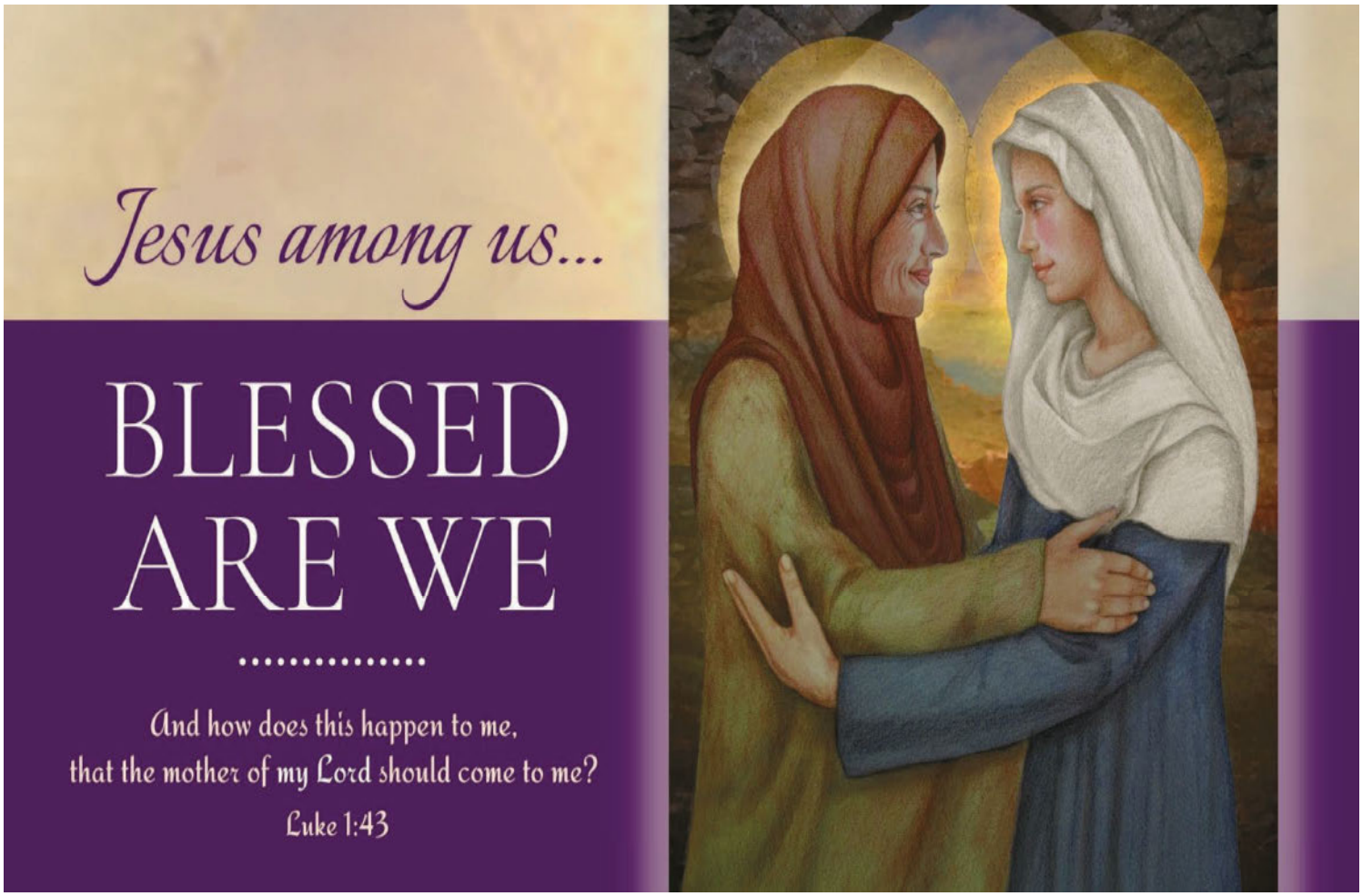
Community of

Blessed Sacrament

650 Stephan Avenue • Waterloo, IA 50701

December 12, 2021
Third Sunday
Of Advent



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Weekend Liturgy
Saturday.....4:30pm
Sunday.....8:30 &10:30am

Weekday Liturgy
Wednesday-Friday.....8:00am
Tuesday..... 5:30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Tuesday.....5:00pm
Friday.....7:40am
Saturday.....3:30pm
By appointment, call the Rectory

Sacrament of Marriage-Details should begin one year before wedding. Registration/active membership at Blessed Sacrament is required.

Sacrament of Baptism-Preparation classes are required for parents before Baptism of infants or small children. Call for registration.

Parish website:
www.blessedsacramentwaterloo.org

Blessed Sacrament Church

Rectory Office Hours
Monday-Friday.....8:30am-4:30pm

Blessed Sacrament Early Childhood Center 319-236-6131

Director of Faith Formation
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dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org

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Pastor's Corner

Happy Gaudete Sunday! "Gaudete" is Latin for "rejoice." We rejoice because we have reached the halfway point of Advent. The day of our salvation is close at hand! **This Sunday, December 12 at 2:00 pm, St. Patrick, Cedar Falls, and Blessed Sacrament are offering a joint Communal Penance Service with Individual Confessions at Blessed Sacrament Church**. We will have several priests present so don't be afraid to come. It is a way for us to verbalize and bring to light those things that separate us from the love of God and each other. Remember, Jesus is among us…. blessed are we!

Also, this Sunday, December 12th, is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. "Mary's appearance to Juan Diego as one of his people is a powerful reminder that Mary—and the God who sent her—accept all peoples. In the context of the sometimes rude and cruel treatment of the Indians by the Spaniards, the apparition was a rebuke to the Spaniards and an event of vast significance for the indigenous population. While a number of them had converted before this incident, they now came in droves. According to a contemporary chronicler, nine million Indians became Catholic in a very short time. In these days when we hear so much about God's preferential option for the poor, Our Lady of Guadalupe cries out to us that God's love for, and identification with, the poor is an age-old truth that stems from the Gospel itself." (franciscanmedia.org).

Next Sunday, December 19th, we will have our final Eucharistic Exposition (Adoration) and Confession opportunity from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. In the Gathering Space, the parish staff works hard to have different devotional material or information to take home. There are times where people have left their own material for others to pick up. Please be aware that any material that is left without first receiving permission from the office will be removed. We are always cautious of what is left behind, plus our items are deliberately chosen and placed, especially if we have a particular focus in mind.

Have a great week! Fr. Tony

Retirement Fund for Religious - Help aging religious

Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others—educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please, give generously to today's second collection.

Time is running out; 2021 STO tax credits are only available until December 31!

When you donate today to the Our Faith School Tuition Organization (STO), you'll help qualifying Catholic school families with tuition assistance while receiving a 75% STO tax credit. With the tax credit, your donation makes 4x the impact! Here's an example of how it could work for you: If you donate $2,000, you will receive a $1,500 Iowa income tax credit, making your final net investment only $500. Your $500 donation makes 4x the impact, providing $2,000 in STO tuition support for Catholic school families. It is that simple. Visit **www.ourfaithsto.org** or call Deacon Brian Zeman- Our Faith STO Director at (563) 556-2580 x296

Readings for the week of December 12, 2021

Su-Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
M-Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 & 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27
Tu-Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19&23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32
W-Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/ Lk 7:18b-23
Th-Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 & 4, 5-6, 11-12a, & 13b [2a]/Lk 7:24-30
F-Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
Sa-Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

The Week Ahead

Available online at our Parish website or Facebook page

Monday, December 13, 2021
6:15pm Stewardship mtg. in the Gathering Space

Tuesday, December 14, 2021
9:00am Bible Study in the Gathering Space
5:00pm Reconciliation
5:30pm Liturgy (Lee Voelschow)
6:00pm Adoration

Wednesday, December 15, 2021
8:00am Liturgy (Bernadette Kehoe)
4:00pm Girl Scouts in Putz Hall
7:00pm Youth Choir Practice in Church

Thursday, December 16, 2021
8:00am Liturgy (Tyler Swyter)
8:30am Bible Study in the Gathering Space
12:00pm Blood Drive in the Parish Center
6:30pm Marian Rosary & Chaplet in Church

Friday, December 17, 2021
7:40am Reconciliation
8:00am Liturgy (Clare Staebell)

Saturday, December 18, 2021
St. Vincent de Paul Offertory
3:30pm Reconciliation
4:30pm Liturgy (Howard Mauer)

Sunday, December 19, 2021
St. Vincent de Paul Offertory
8:30am Liturgy (Rita Staebell)
10:30am Liturgy (People of the Parish)
11:30am Adoration & Reconciliation
12:00pm Noon Prayer Chain Luncheon in Putz Hall

Pray for the Ill

Steve Kerns	Betty Hesseling	Dick Cool
Fred Worple	Faye Graham	Chris Webber
Jean Draude	Michael Lathrop	
Sonny Glass	Pat Schmitt	

To request to have a family-or-friend's name put on the above prayer list call the Rectory at 319-233-6179. **Prayer Chain:** Call Margaret Corson 319-415-8738 or Rhonda Maifeld 319-239-4860.

Learn More-More information about current and future Faith Formation opportunities for Catholic adults is available online at: www.**waterloocatholics.org/bulletin-announcements**

Our Mission Statement

Because our hearts are burning within us, we the Community of Blessed Sacrament are disciples of Christ, witnessing the love of God through worship, service and lifelong faith formation.

Baptism Preparation Monday, December 13. 6:30 -8:30pm. Live Video Discussion. This preparation program is for first-time parents in the Waterloo parishes who are planning to baptize an infant or young child in the near future. Parents should be registered members of a parish and may register at the class.

• Register online at waterloocatholics.org/baptism-registration

• Learn more about baptizing infants and children at: bit.do/infant-baptism

Homeless Persons' Memorial Service

Tuesday, December 21 at 6:00pm held at COR at 220 E. 4th St., Waterloo. December 21 is a National Day of Remembrance for homeless persons who have died during the past year. Gather at COR and walk to Lincoln Park for the memorial service. Bring hats, scarves and gloves to hang on trees in the park. Join us for a light meal afterward at COR.

• Learn more about the National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day at:

nationalhomeless.org/about-us/projects/memorial-day

Blessed Sacraments Annual Holiday Food Bag Program

This annual Blessed Sacrament program is back for its 11th year! We have once again secured a partnership with the Ansborough Hy-Vee for this project. These food bags go to support those children from our public and parochial school system who often go without meals when school is not session during the Christmas holiday break. This parish has been very generous to this program in past years, and the cost of **one bag of food is $18.00**.

The easiest way for you to support this program (and we try to make this as easy for you as possible) is to donate directly online through our website by clicking on the "HOLIDAY FOOD BAG PROJECT" hot button.

You can also drop off a check in the collection basket here at church or at the parish office during the week. Just be sure to mark it for the "Holiday Food Bags" so we can properly place the funds. Of course, you can also purchase directly from the Ansborough Hy-Vee at checkout by saying you'd like to support the "Blessed Sacrament Holiday Food Project." The cost will be added to your bill and the contents will be delivered to the church at a later date.

We will need Volunteers to help us deliver these bags to the schools when the time comes. If you are available during weekday mornings, and willing to help us with this, please contact Amy Johnston in the office for more information.

Online Opportunities for Prayer

• Lectio Divina -- Thursday evenings at 7:00pm. For registration and more information email pfiffnercarolyn@gmail.com.

• Centering Prayer -- These 30 and 20-minute sessions are led by members of Contemplative Outreach of Northeast Iowa Monday nights at 6:00pm; Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8:30am and Sunday afternoons at 3:30pm. For information contact Julie Rowell at julirowell@mchsi.com

November 2021 Sacrificial Giving

Amount Needed from Sacrificial Giving	**$62,500.00**
Budget Collection	**$63,329.33**
Difference	**$ +829.33**
Amount Needed from Offertory Collection	**$ 2,166.66**
Amount Received	**$ 1,468.60**
Difference	**$ -698.06**
St. Vincent de Paul	**$ 1,120.67**

Stewardship Today's Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship: "Let the man who has two coats give to him who has none. The man who has food should do the same."

Estate of Grace Sale Services

Are you downsizing and have things to get rid of? Are you clearing household goods from an estate? Blessed Sacrament parishioners are offering Estate of Grace Sale Services for those willing to donate the proceeds back to Blessed Sacrament parish. At your location, we will set up for a sale, advertise the sale, staff the sale, and dispose of what remains after the sale. If you are interested in discussing or scheduling a sale with us, please call Margaret Klein at 319-429-1907.

St. Vincent De Paul Sunday Next Sunday, December 19, 2021 our Offertory Collection will be donated to St. Vincent De Paul to help support all the good works they do in our community. Please give generously, thank you.

Looking for some Spiritual Companionship

Our Faithful Companions small groups offer individuals an opportunity to meet regularly with spiritual companions to examine how they experience God's presence and challenges in daily life. The Faith Formation Team is forming new Faithful Companions now.

- Learn more online at:

waterloocatholics.org/faithful-companions

or contact the Faith Formation Office at 319-233-2874.

Blessed Sacrament Cookbooks Available for Christmas Gifts

Are you looking for a Secret Santa gift, stocking stuffer or small gift exchange. There are still copies of the 2020 Parish Cookbook available for sale in the Parish Office, and the price is only $10! Stop in during regular business hours or call 233-6179 if you have any questions. Please have the exact cash or checks payable to Blessed Sacrament.

Thank you for your support & Happy Holidays!

Do you have questions...about living and practicing your faith as a Catholic? Check out the Frequently Asked Questions on the Waterloo Catholics website at: **www.waterloocatholics.org/faq** or email **dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org**

Advent Word Among Us Books

We have plenty of the Advent Word Among Us Books and the upcoming 2022 Calendars for you to take home in the Gathering Space.

Please grab one or two (gift a friend) on your way out!

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Serving our Afghan Neighbors at Fort McCoy
Over 13,000 Afghan individuals are temporarily being housed at the Fort McCoy army base in Tomah, Wisconsin while they await resettlement.
Catholic Charities of the LaCrosse diocese is providing humanitarian relief and they need our help to welcome our Afghan guests. Approximately half are children and the impacts of winter weather are being felt.
Please consider donating new winter gear through the Lacrosse registry. For more information on how to donate go to **catholiccharitiesdubuque.org/fortmccoy**

Adoption Law Updates: Attention Birth Parents
If you or someone you know placed a child in an adoptive home and you desire to remain anonymous, please read the following information carefully. Per the Iowa Department of Public Health: Bureau of Health Statistics, adoptees may now receive a noncertified copy of the certificate of birth prior to adoption.
If you want to remain anonymous, this requires your immediate attention.
For more information from call the IDPH at 515-281-7689. Or you can email **www.idph.iowa.gov/Adult-Adoptees-Can-Now-Apply-for-Non-certified-Copy-of-Original-Certificate-of-Birth**

Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program
The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) provides funds to assist low-income households with water and wastewater bills. This program is available to those with a disconnect notice or who are currently disconnected. To learn who qualifies for this new federal assistance and to apply, please contact your local community action agency.

Liturgical Roles

Saturday, December 18, 2021 **4:30pm**
Lector: Judy Bullis
Musicians: Jack, Sherri
Eucharist Ministers: Marsha Dutkowski, Pam Ironside, Betty Gauger, Allison Volker

Sunday, December 19, 2021 **8:30am**
Lector: Brian Hayes
Musicians: Gabby, Judy
Eucharist Ministers: Margaret Hiesterman, Dennis Hayes, Julie Hayes, Paul Jungen

Sunday, December 19, 2021 **10:30am**
Lectors: Margaret Klein
Musicians: Jake, Francine
Eucharist Ministers: Jeff Mastin, Mary Loy, Dan Daly, Kathy Grete
Thank you for serving Blessed Sacrament Parish. If you are unable to serve, please find a substitute.

Please save Hy-Vee grocery receipts and drop in the collection basket.

Becoming Catholic

Are you or someone you know interested in joining the Catholic Church? Our Faith Formation Team would be happy to visit with you about the opportunities available for adults and young adults who wish to join the Catholic faith community.

Contact the Team at 319-233-0498 or email:
dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org
Learn more at **waterloocatholics.org/rcia-rcra**

Weekly Advent Discussions

Monday evenings in Advent, starting 7:00-8:00pm, online. These weekly online discussions give participants an opportunity to reflect on the Sunday scripture readings and discuss how the readings shape their personal lives.
Learn more at:
www.waterloocatholics.org/advent-discussion
Use this link to join the discussion:
meet.google.com/vva-duoo-nff

Looking for a way to Jump Start your Prayer Life?

One way to re-organize your personal prayer routine is by using the Daily Prayer, Daily Reading, and Daily Examen found on the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page Waterloo Catholics.

Find the format for a simple listening prayer at:
http://bit.do/simple-listening-prayer
Learn more: **www.waterloocatholics.org/prayer**

Memorial Christmas Poinsettias

We will, once again, offer poinsettias in honor of your loved one(s) at Christmas. The poinsettias purchased will decorate our altar on Christmas Eve and beyond, as the plants thrive. Poinsettias are $12.50 each. Forms are available in the Gathering Space. Completed forms may be returned to the rectory or placed in the offertory basket by next Sunday. **Thank you**

Knights of Columbus Omelet Breakfast

Sunday, December 12, 2021 from 8:00am to Noon at the American Legion in Gilbertville. All you can eat **breakfast** and Catholic Daughters of America Bake Sale. Free will donation, carry-outs available. Proceeds donated to scholarship funds and other projects.

"Adore in humility and gratitude." **(**St. John Vianney) Two virtues worth meditating on each time you visit the Blessed Sacrament in the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at Columbus High School. Drop-in or become a committed adorer. Specific needs are Wednesdays at 3:00am, Wednesdays at 2:00am (once a month) & Fridays at midnight. If interested email cvadoration@gmail.com or call Maria Pranger at (319)429-4920.

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