

December 20, 2020 St. John XXIII



OFFICE PHONE: 846-3139

WEBSITE: stjohn23cr.org

MASS TIMES

Saturday at 4pm

Sunday at 8am & 10am

M - W at 12:15pm, F at 7:30am

STAFF

Pastor: Father Richmond Dzekoe
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Deacon: Stan Scheiding
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PARISH OFFICE

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday, 8:00-4pm

Friday, 8:00am-1pm

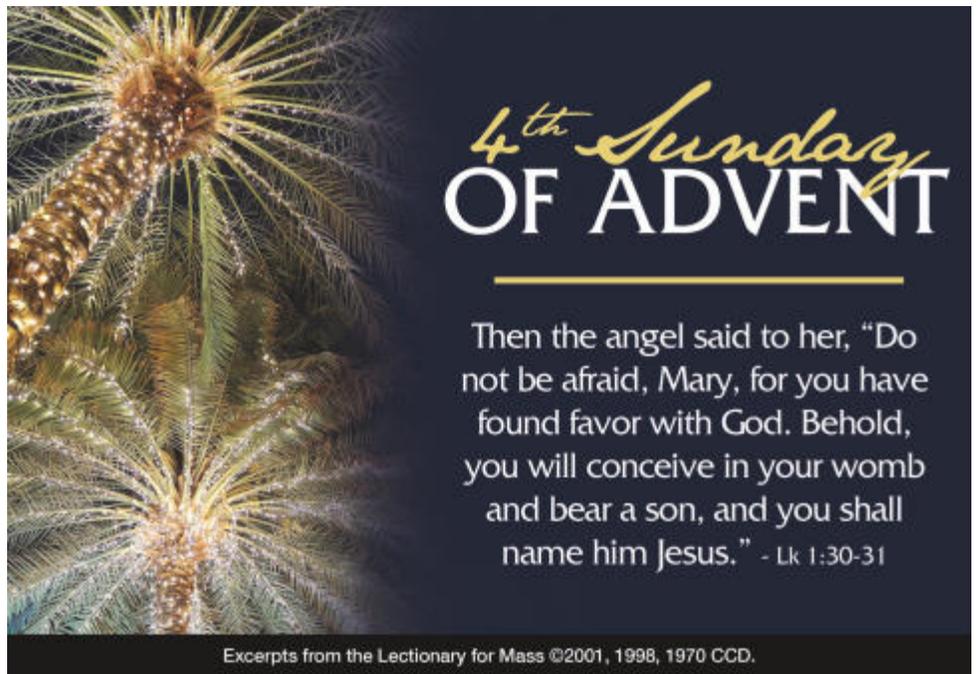
Bulletin deadline: Mondays at noon

PRAYER CHAIN

blessedjohnprayerchain@gmail.com
or (319)846-3139

MISSION STATEMENT

**We, the parishioners of St. John XXIII,
commit to be disciples of Jesus
through prayer, Worship, study and service.**



NEW PARISH REGISTRATIONS

Registration form can be found on the front page of parish website or contact parish office.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday, 2:30 pm, by appointment or before or after weekday Masses.

BAPTISM

Must attend Baptism Classes **prior** to scheduling Baptism. Call parish office to register for class.

MARRIAGE

Contact the pastor eight (8) months before your wedding

From the Desk of Father Richmond

My Beloved Parishioners:

Happy 4th Sunday of Advent & MERRY CHRISTMAS! St. Paul tells us in our second reading that God is ALL WISE even when what he allows to happen in our lives does not make any logical sense to our human minds. Our responsorial psalm tells us to praise him forever because God wishes nothing but the very best for us.

Final Preparation for Christmas:

- **Reconciliation:** If you have not been to Reconciliation yet and would love to celebrate God's Mercy before Christmas, I will be available this Monday, December 21st & Wednesday 23rd from 11 am – 12 pm.
- **Fasting & Prayer:** I also encourage all who can to set a day and time aside to FAST & PRAY before Christmas. This practice has been part of the Church's tradition for the past 1500 years and brings many blessings to families, Church, and society.
- **Read the Book:** Please find sometime to read the book "The Mass" by Fr. Tobin. It is the book we gave you as a Christmas gift from our parish. We will have discussions on the book after Christmas. This is Christmas homework. :)
- **Christmas Masses @ the Parking Lot:** You forgot to register for Christmas Mass? Don't worry! Bring your phone or any device to the parking lot, live-stream Christmas Mass, and we will bring Communion to you in YOUR CAR at the Parking lot. Just keep your headlight on during Communion so we can find you and bring you the Lord.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Special Gratitude: For the past four months that I have had the privilege and honor to serve you as your pastor, I have witnessed the great love you have for Christ and His Church. You have demonstrated this in the way you serve our parish and one another. You are truly WONDERFUL and FAITHFUL people of God. Thank

you very much for the warm welcome and all the love and support you have given me over these past months. I am also extremely grateful to you for all the sacrifices you make to join us in person and online for Mass, the love and generosity you show to the immigrant community and parishioners who are going through difficulties due to the pandemic and derecho, the love you send to children around the world who receive food through the Mary's Meal Project, the families who have received joy and hope through the Angel Tree Project, and all you continue to do to spread the love of Christ in your daily lives.

My Christmas Wish is that "Santa" will bring each of us the Holy Spirit and help us deepen our friendship with Christ and with one another so that we will continue to turn our parish into a community of friends of God!

Hope & Rejoice in Christ! Christmas is a new beginning! The birth of Christ is about restoration! The power of our God does not only lie in the fact that he created all things, but most importantly, that he restores all things! So if you are feeling displaced in your life right now, imagine yourself as the newborn child in the manger and see this Christmas as a new birth for you. God has the power to restore your life and situations and make you begin your life anew! So be happy and let your words and actions adore him! Light the advent candle, sing the Christmas Carols, put on the Christmas tree and lights, enjoy the gift of the Holy Spirit, family, and friends, have a good dinner, kneel by the manger and adore HIM because God will make a way even where there seems to be no way. He works in ways we cannot see. HAVE A MERRY & BLESSED CHRISTMAS!

In prayer with you,
Fr. Richmond

Your Shared Treasure

For: December 5/6, 2020

Adult Budget (88).....	\$5,655.23
Adult Budget EFT (65).....	1,925.00
Offertory.....	185.00
Visitor.....	135.00
Total.....	\$7,900.23
Extending the Dream.....	\$80.00
Extending the Dream EFT (51).....	890.39

Thank You For Your Support!

First Reading 2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16

A reading from the second Book of Samuel
When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?'" "It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. 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."
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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

R. (2a) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

The promises of the LORD I will sing forever; through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness. For you have said, "My kindness is established forever"; in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant: Forever will I confirm your posterity and establish your throne for all generations."

"He shall say of me, 'You are my father, my God, the Rock, my savior.' Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him, and my covenant with him stands firm."

2nd Reading

ROM 16:25-27

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans
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.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

LK 1:26-38

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Mass Intentions

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 19

4:00 pm Ken Selzer

Sunday, December 20

8:00 am All Parishioners

10:00 am Peg Cahill

Monday, December 21 - Late Advent Weekday

12:15 pm Robert, Eunice, & Bill Cook

Tuesday, December 22 - Late Advent Weekday

12:15 pm Lowell Baber

Wednesday, December 23 - Late Advent Weekday

12:15 pm Betty Emanuel

Thursday, December 24 - Late Advent Weekday

4:00 pm Debbie Altenhofen Lyle

6:00 pm Ben Michalec

8:00 pm Richard & Michael Reid

Friday, December 25 - The Nativity of the Lord

9:00 am Jim & Greg Rump

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Saturday, December 26

4:00 pm Members of the Prewett family

Sunday, December 27

8:00 am All Parishioners

10:00 am Susan Volz & Lincoln Schulte

Meetings & Happenings:

Sunday, December 20

High school youth group, 6 pm

Monday, December 21

Young adult study, 6:30 pm

Tuesday, December 22

Adoration, 1-7:00 pm

Social justice committee, 6:00 pm

Men of Action, 6:00 pm

Rosary & Benediction, 7:00 pm



High School Youth Group - TODAY

We miss seeing your faces! Let's get together and take some time to pray, play, and share. Plans are being made for an in-person high school youth group. Sunday evening, December 20, 6-7:30 pm here at the church. We hope you will join us! Friends are always welcome!

Special Parish Christmas

Electronic Giving Opportunity

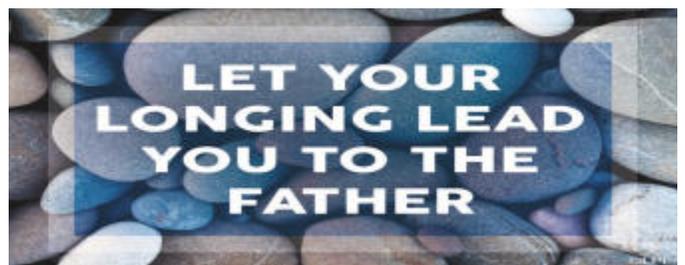
An annual financial gift to the parish at Christmas is deeply personal and prayerful. To provide another way to give and make it easier for parishioners who wish to offer a Christmas gift to our parish, the Archdiocese of Dubuque has set up a special page on its website to give your Christmas gift via credit or debit card. Your gift will be given directly to our parish without any administrative or credit card fees. So, 100% of your gift comes to us, designated as your Christmas gift to the parish. Go to www.dbqarch.org/parishChristmas to make a one-time gift. The site will remain open through Epiphany, January 3, 2021.

Angel Tree - Thank You

Thank you so much to everyone for your generous donations to this year's Angel Tree. You donated gifts to 24 families. \$3,690 in gift cards were donated and will be given to some of our parish families, our seminarians and others in need. And \$828 was donated to Mary's Meals to help feed the children in our sponsor school in Malawi.

Holy Family Gala 2021

The Holy Family Gala committee is disappointed to announce that our Gala, scheduled for Friday, February 5, 2021 will NOT take place due to health and safety concerns for our attendees and business supporters. However the need for tuition assistance is more prevalent than ever. Please watch for communication via a direct mail campaign in January.



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