Mass Intentions for the Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Name(s)</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Dec 14</td>
<td>Wexford</td>
<td>Jim and Mary Blackmore</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Dec 15</td>
<td>New Albin</td>
<td>Ray &amp; Mary Mooney</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Dec 16</td>
<td>Lansing</td>
<td>Alex &amp; Eleanor Gallacher</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, Dec 17</td>
<td>Lansing</td>
<td>Kelly Averill</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, Dec 18</td>
<td>Lansing</td>
<td>Charles Berns</td>
<td>4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Dec 19</td>
<td>Lansing</td>
<td>Purgatorial Society</td>
<td>5:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, Dec 20</td>
<td>Wexford</td>
<td>For the People</td>
<td>5:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Albin</td>
<td>Paul Moore</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lansing</td>
<td>For the People</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, 8:00 – 9:00 am @ Lansing, Saturday, 3:15 – 3:45 pm @ Harpers, Sunday, 7:15 – 7:45 am @ New Albin or call the office and schedule an appointment

Schedule of Liturgical Ministers • December 19 & 20

Fourth Sunday of Advent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Name(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Harpers</td>
<td>Tom Diggins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Wexford</td>
<td>Marcia Kruse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>New Albin</td>
<td>Ray Whalen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Lansing</td>
<td>Ann Wagner</td>
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</tbody>
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Lector: Tom Diggins
EMHC: None at this time
Altar Servers: None at this time
Ushers: Jack Heffern
Giftbearers: None at this time
Rosary: None at this time
Sacristan: None at this time
Greeters: Pastoral Council

Communion to the Homebound [Lansing]: Don & LeaAnn Peters

Linked Parish Office

Immaculate Conception, Lansing  +  648 Main St.  +  Lansing, IA 52151  +  (563) 538-4171
Rev. Sean Smith, Pastor.........................dbq115@dbqarch.org (563) 538-4171 (O)
(319) 382-0940 (C)
Shawn Klesk Peck, Bookkeeper & Secretary...dbq115sec@dbqarch.org (563) 538-4171 (O)
Barb Winters-Kelly, Faith Formation Leader.....dbq115re@dbqarch.org (563) 538-3933 (O)
Mandy O’Neill, Youth Minister....................dbq216ym@dbqarch.org (563) 568-3671 (O)

HFB website: www.holyfamilyofthebluffs.org

“Holy Family of the Bluffs”
—— and ——
“Father Sean Smith”
From the Desk of Father Smith

“Gaudete, dude!” I will never forget a priest that shouted that out every year on the 3rd Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, to remind us to Rejoice! St. Paul wrote to the Philippians, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!” (Phil. 4:4) To the Thessalonians he wrote, “Rejoice always” (1 Thess. 5:16). It is important for us to realize that the rejoicing that is being talked about here isn’t something reserved for “special occasions”. To be joyful is supposed to be the usual, everyday disposition of a disciple of Jesus Christ! Knowing that we have been given new life in Christ makes every day a day to respond with joy. Even when we are having a difficult time because of present circumstances (like a crazy virus!) we can still experience joy! Difficult present circumstances give way to eternity. Let’s not think that joy is something that we wait for later, but rather is something that we can and should live now! Gaudete, dude!

I hope you can tell that I take writing in the bulletin seriously. It is probably more important now than ever to try to communicate with the people in our community. The problem is, people that aren’t coming to Mass aren’t getting the bulletin! For our 4 parishes we print 300 bulletins every week, and of those, many many end up in the recycle bin in my office. What can we (you!) do? Surely you know your neighbors that are not able to come to Mass. What about grabbing an extra bulletin and putting it in their mailbox?! Let them know they have not been forgotten, that we miss them and want them to know what’s going on in the parishes! This small act of kindness will go a long way to brightening their day and is a simple way you can share in the evangelizing mission of the Church!

Thank you to everyone that participated in the “Feeding God’s Children” collection organized by the Saint George Court of the Catholic Order of Foresters. It is always important, but especially during this season in this year, to remember that we have a responsibility to care for our brothers and sisters in need. This collection is a great way to share in the caring for our neighbors.

Of course I’m writing this before it has even taken place, but I hope you had a chance to participate in the Virtual Fireside Chat with Archbishop Jackels this past week. We are blessed with a shepherd that embraces every opportunity to reach out to all of the people in the Archdiocese! Following his lead, I will try my hand at a Zoom meeting for Holy Family of the Bluffs on Wednesday, December 16 at 6:30 pm. I especially want to invite our Faith Formation families to participate! You will find information on the HFB Facebook page and the HFB website, or contact the office for more information.

Speaking of Christmas . . .

On the following page you will see again the schedule of Masses for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and the following weekend. Please keep in mind that we need to be vigilant regarding our COVID-19 precautions. What does that mean? It means we won’t be having “standing room only” or be putting out extra chairs or having people in choir lofts. It means we will still be leaving every other pew vacant to allow for social distancing. It means that for the sake of your brothers and sisters you should wear a mask. It means that when the church is full based on these guidelines, it is full, and you may not be able to come in. One thing we can all agree on is that no one likes all these “rules”, but at the same time, no one likes to be sick. There is an extra 8:00 pm Mass in Lansing on Christmas Eve to try to help. There is also an extra Mass on Saturday, Dec. 26, in Lansing at 5:30 pm. Remember, Christmas isn’t just a day, but is a season, and we can and should celebrate the coming of Jesus all the time! Plan accordingly, be patient and kind, and don’t let this steal your Christmas joy!

Weekend Mass Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December 12 &amp; 13</th>
<th>December 19 &amp; 20</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:00 pm Harpers</td>
<td>4:00 pm Harpers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 pm Wexford</td>
<td>5:30 pm Wexford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am New Albin</td>
<td>8:00 am New Albin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 am Lansing</td>
<td>10:00 am Lansing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Meetings & Happenings in “HFB”
- HFB Zoom Meeting—Wed., Dec. 16, 6:30 pm. Details on the HFB website and Facebook page, or call the office.

Daily Mass readings (December 13 - December 20)
To subscribe to receiving daily readings by email every morning visit: https://bible.usccb.org/

Sunday, December 13: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 14: St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday, December 15: Ordinary Weekday
Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday, December 16: Ordinary Weekday
Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday, December 17: Ordinary Weekday
Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17

Friday, December 18: Ordinary Weekday
Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-2

Saturday, December 19: Optional Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25

Next Sunday, December 20: 4th Sunday of Advent
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-3

Christmas Flowers
If you would like to make a money donation towards Christmas flowers for St. Ann-St. Joseph (Harpers) Church please contact Donna Saddler (563-586-2121) or Connie Benedict (563-586-2297). Or if you prefer you can drop off a plant or flower arrangement anytime in the dining hall. Thank you! Looking forward to a Merry Christmas!

Advent Family Prayer

Heavenly Father,
your Son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us,
a great sign of your love.

Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together
as a family this Advent.

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas,
bring us closer to each other and to your Son.
Give us the grace and strength we need every day.
Help us to always trust in you.

Come, Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to you.

“Stewardship” Report
for December 5 & 6

New Albin
Adults 18 of 115 $1,956.00
Offertory $48.00
Festival $200.00
Candles $10.50
(WeShare - November) $270.00

Harpers Ferry
Adults $295.00
Offertory $5.00
Unrestricted donation $1,000.00
(WeShare - November) $375.00

Lansing
Adults 19 of 220 $740.00
Offertory $5.00
Roof Repair $500.00
Religious Retirement $25.00
Improvement Fund $50.00
(WeShare - November) $2,095.00

Wexford
Adults $827.00
Offertory $53.00
Children $1.00
Unrestricted donation $10.00
(WeShare - November) 120.00

Retirement Fund for Religious
The yearly collection by the Archdiocese for our beloved retired religious brothers and sisters is this weekend, December 12th & 13th. Envelopes are provided in the pews for your convenience.

December’s “Act of Kindness” Collection is next weekend the 19th & 20th:
All loose money dropped into the collection basket at those Masses will be directed to the Fuel Assistance program for those in need this winter.

Christmas Mass Schedule
Below you will find the Christmas Mass schedule. Please note the highlighted Masses added since the original schedule was published.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Christmas</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christmas</td>
<td>Dec. 23</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Cherry Mound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec. 24</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>Harpers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec. 25</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Wexford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec. 26</td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td>Lansing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Dec. 24, 6:00 pm | Lansing |
| Dec. 25, 8:30 am | New Albin |
| Dec. 26, 10:00 am | Lansing |

| Dec. 26, 8:00 pm | Lansing |

Holiday Mass Schedule
Below you will find the Christmas Mass schedule. Please note the highlighted Masses added since the original schedule was published.

Christmas  Dec. 23, 7:30 pm  Christmas  Dec. 24, 4:00 pm  Christmas  Dec. 25, 8:30 am  Christmas  Dec. 26, 5:30 pm

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