

Franklin Hardin County Catholics

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph

December 26, 2021

St. Mary, Ackley (641) 847-2329
St. Mary, Eldora (641) 939-5545
St. Patrick, Hampton (641) 456-4857
St. Mark, Iowa Falls (641) 648-9547
Ministerio Hispano (641) 512-5118

Clergy and Linkage Staff

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Director of Faith Formation
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THE HOLY FAMILY

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. - Lk 2:51-52

Entonces volvió con ellos a Nazaret y siguió sujeto a su autoridad. Su madre conservaba en su corazón todas aquellas cosas. Jesús iba creciendo en saber, en estatura y en el favor de Dios y de los hombres. - Lc 2, 51-52

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THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

Go to www.franklinhardincatholic.formed.org

Look for "St. Mark-Iowa Falls"
Set up an account (Spanish available)

Questions?

Contact Brenda Strayer at St. Mark.

Wisdom from a Saint

*"Better are the blows of a friend
than the false kisses of an enemy."*

— Saint Thomas Becket

A Note from Fr. Kevin

December 26 – “St. Stephen and the Christmas Miracle”

Merry Christmas and Blessed “Christmastide!” We not only have a day but a whole season of Christmas containing various celebrations that help us reflect more deeply on the story and Mystery of Christmas and Christ’s Incarnation.

One ancient tradition in the Church is that the day after Christmas, December 26, is the Feast of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. It seems like a bit of an odd thing to celebrate the first Christian death, right after celebrating the birth of Christ.

But here is the story of why we celebrate Saint Stephen the martyr the day after Christmas.

The following is adapted from article from the National Catholic Register by Thomas J. Craughwell:

In the year 415, a priest named Lucian (who lived near Jerusalem) one night, when he was half awake, he saw an elderly man who said, “I am Gamaliel.” (Gamaliel was a Sadducee who taught St. Paul and who, according to tradition, secretly became a Christian. He is referenced in Acts 5:34–29 and Acts 22:3).

In Lucian’s vision, Gamaliel told Lucian the location of the tomb of St. Stephen (As Gamaliel himself had taken and entombed the body of St. Stephen), which had been lost and forgotten for centuries. The lost tomb was not far from Lucian’s church. God had sent Gamaliel to Lucian because he wanted the relics enshrined in churches where, he said, “through their means, God might open to many the gates of His mercy.”

Lucian did indeed find the remains of St. Stephen where Gamaliel had told him. At this news, the Bishop with a large crowd came to the tomb. He placed the bones of St. Stephen in a chest. As he did so, more than 70 witnesses who suffered from a variety of serious ailments, were healed. The date of the recovery of the relics of St. Stephen was Dec. 26, 415, which is why we celebrate the feast of St. Stephen on Dec. 26.

This discovery sent a surge of religious joy through the Christian world. Saint Augustine recorded many stories of the miraculous healings God granted through the intercession of St. Stephen, many of which he knew firsthand, because often he knew the person who had been healed.

One of his stories is that in a procession with the relics of St. Stephen, a blind woman was led to where the bishop was carrying the reliquary. The woman asked if she was near the saint. The bishop said yes, and gave her one of the flowers that decorated the reliquary. The woman applied the petals to her eyes, and immediately her sight was restored.

So while it may seem strange to celebrate the first Christian martyr after the celebration of the birth of Christ, we can see that in God’s coming, God transforms the things of death into things of life. Through St. Stephen God uses Stephen’s own death, and even his tomb and bones by the power of Christ to bring about for many, unexpected Christmas miracles of miraculous healings and thus the surprise of Christmas joy!

Peace,

– Fr. Kevin

PS: On Dec. 27th, the Feast of St. John, there is a tradition of blessing and drinking wine on this day. Therefore after the 5:30pm Mass in Iowa Falls, I invite anyone to join me for a serving of hot spiced wine (as well as hot cider for any kids or those who do not wish to drink alcohol), as well as a blessing of any wine you might like to bring to be blessed!



Monday, December 27

Saint John

8:30 AM † Deana Oleson St. Mary, Ackley

5:30 PM † Marie McCormick St. Mark, Iowa Falls

Tuesday, December 28

The Holy Innocents

8:30 AM † Tony Kelch St. Patrick, Hampton

Wednesday, December 29

Saint Thomas Becket

8:30 AM † Shirley Ehrig Borschel St. Mary, Ackley

Thursday, December 30

8:30 AM † Dave Rowen St. Mary, Eldora

5:30 PM † Jose Luis Hernandez-Rodriguez St. Mark, Iowa Falls

Friday, December 31

Saint Sylvester I

12:00 PM † Donna Allbee St. Mary, Eldora

Saturday, January 1 (New Year’s Day)

Holy Mother of God

5:00 PM † Xavier Harrelson St. Mary, Eldora

Sunday, January 2

Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 AM † St. Mary, Ackley

8:00 AM † Sean Whitesell St. Mark, Iowa Falls

10:30 AM Holy Souls in Purgatory St. Mary, Eldora

10:30 AM † Dave Peterson St. Patrick, Hampton

5:30 PM For the People St. Patrick, Hampton
(Spanish)

SACRAMENTAL RITES & INFORMATION

Sacrament of Reconciliation

30 minutes prior to any weekend Mass in the linkage or by appointment.

Marriages

Contact Fr. Kevin a minimum of six months prior to the desired date of marriage. The couple will need to meet with Fr. Kevin before either Church or other parish facilities are reserved in the Parish Calendars. This includes those couples who wish to have a visiting Priest as their Celebrant.

Funerals

Please contact Fr. Kevin before setting the time and arrangements for the Vigil and Mass with the funeral director.

Please contact the Parish Offices for:

- ◆ Anointing of the Sick
- ◆ Communion Calls
- ◆ Initiation Sacraments for Adults & Youth
- ◆ Baptisms: Parents are required to complete a Preparation Program prior to their child’s Baptism.

 *In Remembrance*

† **Ruth Fitzpatrick**, of Churdan, Iowa, entered into eternal rest on December 10, 2021. Please keep her daughter Sharon Claypool (wife of Deacon Rob Claypool), and their family in your prayers.

† **Paul Strawn**, of St. Mark, Iowa Falls, entered into eternal rest on December 9, 2021. Please keep his wife, Mary Jane Strawn, of St. Mark, Iowa Falls and their family in your prayers.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

NEW MASS SCHEDULE BEGINS NEXT WEEKEND

Franklin Hardin Catholic Linkage

Saturdays:

5:00 PM — St. Mark, Iowa Falls

Sundays:

8:00 AM — St. Mary, Ackley

8:00 AM — St. Mark, Iowa Falls

10:30 AM — St. Patrick, Hampton (English)

10:30 AM — St. Mary, Eldora

5:30 PM — St. Patrick, Hampton (Spanish)

Thank You

Thank you for showing your support for the retired Religious collection. As you know, this collection is particularly important for religious communities of sisters, brothers and religious order priests, especially those orders that lack sufficient resources to adequately care for their aging members. Our country's religious orders and retired Religious individuals who receive these funds are very grateful for this support.

Helping Those Impacted by Deadly December Tornadoes

Multiple states in the South & Midwest experienced devastating tornadoes recently, which destroyed entire communities. The loss of life is heartbreaking and the grieving families and communities are in our prayers as they face the long road of recovery and rebuilding ahead. Susan Montalvo-Gesser of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, one of the hardest-hit regions, noted in an email that "At least four of our parishes were damaged, some heavily so... Many of the parishioners from St Joseph in Mayfield (heavily immigrant community) were out cleaning up and assisting people before the National Guard got there."

To support local disaster recovery efforts through Catholic Charities USA, please go to:
www.catholiccharities.us/campaign/ccusa-disaster-relief

Christmas Greetings to Persons with Disabilities

The Archdiocesan Disability Inclusion Retreat Team has created a video with Christmas Greetings to persons with disabilities throughout the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

We invite you to visit this link:

<https://dbqarch.org/news-to-know>



Live stream of Mass

www.franklinhardincatholic.org/livestream
YouTube Channel: Franklin Hardin Catholic

Parish Office Hours

Monday & Friday.....9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Parish Staff

SecretaryBarb Keninger *DBQ001bk@DBQarch.org*
Faith Formation.....Jolene Harms *DBQ001re@DBQarch.org*
Bookkeeper.....Barb Keninger *DBQ001bk@DBQarch.org*

Parish Leadership – Committee Chairs

Pastoral CouncilScott O'Brien
Finance Council.....Jeff Frazier
Faith FormationMary Schumacher
StewardshipDavid Keninger
LiturgyJolene Harms
Social Justice.....Robert Harms/Keith Galpin
Parish Life.....David Keninger
Altar SocietyLinda Sudtelgte
Building & GroundsJeff Frazier
Music.....Pam Griffel/Julie Wojcik

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

January 2 – The Epiphany of the Lord – 8 a.m.

Lector: Jenny Kuper, Barb Keninger
Ushers: Richard Bloom, Jim Wessels, Joe Wojcik, Bob Burkle
Money Counters: Jo DeVries, Cindy Richtsmeier
Altar Servers: Jaxon Schipper, Elsie Kuper
Communion to the Homebound: Jo DeVries
Sacristan: Jim Wessels

It is your responsibility to find a sub if you will not be present for your scheduled Mass.

Communion to the Homebound: We are looking for a couple more people to deliver communion to the homebound, if you would be interested in helping with this - call the parish office or talk to Jolene.

No Religious Education classes December 29.

Thank you everyone for your thoughts, prayers, gift cards, money, visits and love you have shared with us during Deana's journey. Our Lord got the best.
The Sudtelgte family



Holy Family

O God, you call your people to holiness. Come and take up residence in the lives of our families, giving us opportunities to respond to your love in the ways we love one another. Multiply your goodness in our lives so that where there is division, we may be instruments of your healing.

Mass Time Change begins

January 2

St. Mary will be at 8 a.m. What a great way to start off the year by attending Mass. There will also have coffee and rolls following Mass.

Book Club

January 10 at 6:30 p.m.

The Lincoln Highway

By Amor Towles

Everyone is welcome

We would love to have you join us!

Stewardship - Treasure

Saturday, December 18

Budget Envelopes Not available
Offertory Not available
TOTAL..... Not available

Give online: www.FranklinHardinCatholic.org/online-giving

Parish Office Hours

Wednesday-Thursday..... 8:30 AM-11:30 AM

Parish Staff

Secretary Pat Fuchs DBQ073sec@DBQqarch.org
 Faith Formation.....Deacon Rob Claypool
DBQ108d@DBQqarch.org

Caretaker Grace Kadolph

Parish Leadership – Committee Chairs

Pastoral Council..... Lorelei Lake
 Finance Council..... Brian Krause
 Faith Formation Commission..... Andrea Sparrow
 Stewardship
 Liturgy Vice Chair Judith Andrews
 Social Justice Mary Nederhoff
 Building & Grounds..... Jim Roling
 Seton Circle..... Diana Stickney

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Sunday, January 2, 10:30 am

Lector: Marcia Frerichs
 Gifts: Clark & Beth Lawler
 Greeters: Ted & Rachel Mosher Family
 Ushers: Ted Mosher, Josh Hobson
 Altar Servers: Ana Mosher, Hayden Sparrow
 Offering Counters: Dianne Faris, Donna Lawler

It is your responsibility to find a sub if you will not be present for your scheduled Mass.

St. Mary office will be closed from Friday, December 24 through Friday, December 31.



The group to the left is the cast of the 2021 St. Mary Christmas Program, "An Unplugged Christmas." The program was Sunday evening, December 12. A big thank you to Angie Cook and Andrea Sparrow for organizing and directing. A special thanks to the participants who spent a lot of time memorizing music and lines and the parents who helped them. We also appreciate all who attended.



Deacon Rob Writes...

Merry Christmas! Today we rejoice in God’s overwhelming love for us, expressed through his Son Jesus. St. John writes *“And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us., and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth”*. John the Baptist and the Archangel Gabriel both tell us *Be not afraid*. God knew that we, as human beings, struggle. Thus He sent us His Only Beloved Son. The Joy of Christmas is our encounter with Christ Jesus. There is plenty of manufactured joy that is fleeting, especially during the Christmas Season. The joy that we experience in the love of Jesus, though, is eternal. Our joy is the Good News of salvation in Christ, the Incarnate One, Emmanuel, God-with-us. God comes as an infant child for one reason and one reason only, for us to have the opportunity for salvation.

Weekend Mass time at St. Mary Eldora beginning Sunday, January 2 will be 10:30 am on Sunday.

This year we have two Christmas books for your reading enjoyment: “Life Is Messy” by Matthew Kelly and “The Wisdom of Fulton Sheen”. They will be available in the foyers of the church. Feel free to take either or both.

Stewardship - Treasure

Date	
Budget.....	\$0.00
Offertory.....	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$0.00

Give online: www.FranklinHardinCatholic.org/online-giving

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Parish Staff

Secretary Lori Kohart (DBQ108bm@DBQarch.org)
 Faith Formation.....Brenda Strayer (DBQ108ym@DBQarch.org)
 Custodian.....Traci Pilchard

Parish Leadership – Committee Chairs

Pastoral Council.....Robert Warrington
 Finance Council.....Shari Keninger
 Faith Formation Commission Rachel Warrington
 StewardshipCindy Stalzer
 Liturgy Susan Swart
 Social Justice..... Rose Atkinson
 Parish Life.....Cindy Stalzer
 Women’s Group Sherry Martin
 Building & Grounds.....
 Knights of Columbus.....Kevin Bredthauer
 Music.....Lisa Barnett

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Saturday, January 1 – 5:00pm

Lector: Laura Hartkopp
 Eucharistic Minister: Dale Finnegan
 Greeters/Usher: Bruce & Kathy Moore
 Gift Bearers: Chris & Tammy Cooper
 Music:
 Offertory Counters: Rose Atkinson, Kathy Barsness

Sunday, January 2 – 8:00am

Lector: Kyle Fett
 Eucharistic Minister: Susan Swart
 Greeters/Ushers: Ron & Kate Hornung
 Gift Bearers: Jerry & Lori Ostbloom
 Music:
 Offertory Counters: Robert & Rachel Warrington, Kathy Hanzek
 Livestream: Joanne Aldinger

It is your responsibility to find a sub if you will not be present for your scheduled Mass.

St. Mark Parish Office will be closed from Friday, December 24 through Friday, December 31.



YOUTH

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION -

Class Schedule — Kindergarten-Grade 8

- * Wednesday, December 29 - NO CLASSES
- * Wednesday, January 5 (6:15-7:30pm)
 Mass (6:30pm)

Class Schedule — Grades 9-12

- * Sunday, January 2 (4:00-6:00pm)

YOUTH MINISTRY -

- YM Parent Planning Meeting**– Wed., Jan.12 (6:30pm).
- YM Parent Planning Meeting**– Sun., Jan.16 (6:30pm).

ADULTS

Lighthouse Kiosk -

Continue to look into materials offered on our Lighthouse Catholic Media Kiosk in the church entry. Titles offered in both English and Spanish.

A special mailing was sent out this week to all parishioners. We encourage you fill out and return the Liturgical Ministry form. Any questions, please contact Lori Kohart in the office.

We are looking for volunteers to help serve meals for the **monthly IMPACT sessions** held at St. Mark. If you are interested in helping or have questions, contact Brenda Strayer.

Stewardship - Treasure

Financial information not available at time of publication.

Give online: www.FranklinHardinCatholic.org/online-giving



Each quarter 5% of the sacrificial giving of the general fund is designated for Social Justice. The committee meets and allocates amounts to be given on behalf of St. Mark parishioners. The following are the totals given January –September 2021.

- ◇ Atlas of Central Iowa—\$900
- ◇ Basking Babies—\$215.50
- ◇ Catholic Student Center (Iowa) - \$300
- ◇ Catholic Student Center (Iowa State) - \$300
- ◇ Catholic Student Center (UNI) - \$300
- ◇ Iowa Falls Food Pantry—\$1,200
- ◇ Iowa Falls Ministerial Association—\$1,500
- ◇ Iowa Falls Schools Nurse Fund—\$200
- ◇ The Lighthouse—\$200
- ◇ MICA—\$950.10

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Parish Staff

Secretary Donna Speedy *DBQ097sec@DBQarch.org*
 Bulletin Editor..... Brenda Strayer *DBQ108ym@DBQarch.org*
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 Bookkeeper Lori Kohart *DBQ108bm@DBQarch.org*
 Hispanic Minister Soiree Lara *DBQ097s@DBQarch.org*

Parish Leadership – Committee Chairs

Pastoral Council Dwight Peterson
 Finance Council Jim Davies
 Faith Formation Mary Schumacher
 Stewardship Sue Rowen
 Liturgy Sue Basye
 Social Justice..... Donna Devereux
 Parish Life..... Sue Garrett
 Building & Grounds..... Dick Nelson
 Knights of Columbus..... Greg Cavazos
 Music..... Leon Kuehner

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Sunday, January 2-10:30 AM

Lectors: Julie Streblov
 Servers: Ryne Magner, Rhymer Velica
 Offertory Counters: Lili Alonzo, Donna Devereux
 Usher: Sue Basye, Trace Brocka, Cici Sullivan
 Sacristan: Millicent Fielding
 Linen: Sue Garrett

Domingo, Enero 2 5:30 PM

Lectores: Margarita Rincon, Elbia Troches
 Monaguillos: Alex Garcia, Sergio Rincon
 Contadores de Dinero: Rafael Garcia, Raquel Garcia-Hernandez
 Sacristan: Soiree Lara

It is your responsibility to find a sub if you will not be present for your scheduled Mass.

Es su responsabilidad encontrar un submarino si no estará presente para su



**Upcoming Events
Próximos Eventos**

Monday/Lunes, December 27/Diciembre 27

12:30-6:30 PM LifeServe Blood Drive/Campaña de donación de sangre LifeServe

Tuesday/Martes, December 21/Diciembre 21

8:30 AM - Mass/Misa
 7:00 PM - AA/Al-Anon (RE Center)

Wednesday/Miércoles, December 29/Diciembre 29

10:00 AM-Noon-Food Pantry/Mediodía Despensa de Alimentos (Social Hall)

Thursday/Jueves, December 30/Diciembre 30

6:00 PM - Eucharistic Adoration/Adoración

Sunday/Domingo, January 2/Enero 2

10:30 AM-Mass/Masa-English-Inglesa
 Archbishop Jackels scheduled to be presiding
 3:00 PM -Estudio Biblico/Bible Study-Espanola/Spanish
 5:30 PM-Masa/Mass-Espanola/Spanish

Any committees, councils, groups having meetings, gatherings, etc., please notify the parish office. We need to keep these events and activities from overlapping or in the same area as others. If the parish office is not notified and there is a conflict, the event or activity that has been scheduled through the office will take precedent.

Cualquier comité, consejo, grupo que tenga reuniones, reuniones, etc., por favor notifique a la oficina parroquial. Necesitamos evitar que estos eventos y actividades se superpongan o estén en la misma área que otros. Si la oficina parroquial no es notificada y hay un conflicto, el evento o actividad que se ha programado a través de la oficina tomará presente.

Please have your year end donations to the parish office by December 30th so they can be credited by the 31st.

Thank You!
 Por favor deje sus donaciones de fin de año en la oficina parroquial antes del 30 de dic. para que puedan acreditarse antes del 31 de dic. ¡Gracias!

Social Gathering after January 2nd 10:30 AM Mass. Please plan to join us in fellowship and food!

Knitting/crocheting group (or other crafts) to start up in January. Group will gather in the Social Hall. All are welcome, materials will be supplied or bring your own. More details to follow.

Un grupo de tejido y crochet (u otras manualidades) comenzará en enero. Los participantes se reunirán en el salón social. Todos son bienvenidos, puede traer sus propios materiales o también habrá disponibles. Pronto se entregarán más detalles.

Stewardship - Treasure

Budget	\$0.00
Offertory	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$0.00

Give online: www.FranklinHardinCatholic.org/online-giving

Una nota del P. Kevin

26 de diciembre – “San Esteban y el milagro de Navidad”

Feliz navidad y bendita “¡Ola Navideña!” No sólo tenemos un día, sino toda una temporada navideña que contiene varias celebraciones que nos ayudan a reflexionar más profundamente sobre la historia y el Misterio de la Navidad y la Encarnación de Cristo.

Una tradición antigua en la Iglesia es que el día después de Navidad, el 26 de diciembre, es la fiesta de San Esteban, el primer mártir cristiano. Parece un poco extraño celebrar la primera muerte cristiana, justo después de celebrar el nacimiento de Cristo.

Pero aquí está la historia de por qué celebramos a San Esteban mártir el día después de Navidad.

El siguiente es una adaptación del artículo del *National Catholic Register* de Thomas J. Craughwell:

En el año 415, un sacerdote llamado Luciano (que vivía cerca de Jerusalén) una noche, cuando estaba medio despierto, vio a un anciano que decía “Soy Gamaliel”. (Gamaliel fue un saduceo que enseñó a San Pablo y que, según la tradición, se hizo cristiano en secreto. Se hace referencia a él en Hechos 5:34-29 y Hechos 22:3).

En la visión de Luciano, Gamaliel le dijo a Luciano la ubicación de la tumba de San Esteban (como el propio Gamaliel había tomado y sepultado el cuerpo de San Esteban), que se había perdido y olvidado durante siglos. La tumba perdida no estaba lejos de la iglesia de Luciano. Dios había enviado a Gamaliel a Luciano porque quería que las reliquias fueran consagradas en iglesias donde, dijo, “por medio de ellos, Dios podría abrir a muchos las puertas de su misericordia”.

Luciano sí encontró los restos de San Esteban donde Gamaliel le había dicho. Ante esta noticia, el obispo con una gran multitud se acercó a la tumba. Colocó los huesos de San Esteban en un cofre. Mientras lo hacía, más de 70 testigos que sufrían una variedad de dolencias graves fueron sanados. La fecha de la recuperación de las reliquias de San Esteban fue el 26 de diciembre de 415, razón por la cual celebramos la fiesta de San Esteban el 26 de diciembre.

Este descubrimiento envió una oleada de alegría religiosa a través del mundo cristiano. San Agustín registró muchas historias de curaciones milagrosas que Dios concedió por intercesión de San Esteban, muchas de las cuales conocía de primera mano, porque a menudo conocía a la persona que había sido sanada.

Una de sus historias es que en una procesión con las reliquias de San Esteban, una mujer ciega fue llevada hasta donde el obispo llevaba el relicario. La mujer preguntó si estaba cerca del santo. El obispo dijo que sí y le entregó una de las flores que decoraban el relicario. La mujer se aplicó los pétalos en los ojos e inmediatamente recuperó la vista.

Entonces, si bien puede parecer extraño celebrar al primer mártir cristiano después de la celebración del nacimiento de Cristo, podemos ver que en la venida de Dios, Él transforma las cosas de la muerte en cosas de vida. A través de San Esteban, Dios usa la propia muerte de Esteban, e incluso su tumba y huesos por el poder de Cristo para producir para muchos, milagros navideños inesperados de curaciones milagrosas y, por lo tanto, ¡la sorpresa de la alegría navideña!

Paz

– Fr. Kevin

PD: El 27 de dic., durante la Fiesta de San Juan existe una tradición de bendecir y beber vino aquel día. Por lo tanto, después de la misa de las 5:30 p.m. en Iowa Falls, los invito a que se unan para una ración de vino caliente con especias (así como sidra caliente para los niños o aquellos que no deseen beber alcohol) ¡así como una bendición de cualquier vino que le gustaría traer para ser bendecido!

Comparte tu voz, necesidades, sugerencias, apoyo y oraciones en www.facebook.com/mhdubuque y sigue marcando la diferencia en la comunidad hispana de la arquidiócesis de Dubuque.

Quien quiera solicitar una Misa, por favor notifique a la oficina parroquial. La intención se programará tan pronto como haya disponibilidad y la fecha está sujeta a cambios. Se reciben muchas intenciones, así es que la suya podría programarse para el 2022.

Visite la página de Facebook del Ministerio Hispano de la Arquidiócesis de Dubuque [facebook.com/mhdubuque](https://www.facebook.com/mhdubuque) para informarse sobre recursos durante la Cuaresma.

Readings of the Week GLP

Readings for the week of December 26, 2021

- Sun:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/
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, 9-10/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52
- Mon:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Tues:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18
- Wed:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35
- Thurs:** 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40
- Fri:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18
- Sat:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
- Sun:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Please Pray for Our Sick:

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| - Chuck Baltes | - Dianne Henrich | - Tom Pieper |
| - Ray Baltes | - Virginia Hurd | - Joyce Roling |
| - Gary Cashatt | - Kraig Kasischke | - Tom Schroeder |
| - Anna Marie Conroy | - Emma Kramer | - Melissa Smith |
| - Mary Ellen Doughty | - Cathy Kuper | - Adam Weig |
| - Leon Doughty | - Dave Miller | - Anne Wiesner |
| - Thomas Friend Sr. | - Ron Miller | - Darwin (Diz) Wikert |
| - Deb Glodowski | - Bruce Pieper | - Arlene Willms |

Please make use of your parish's prayer line:

- St. Mary, Ackley: Jolene Harms at stmarystpatrick@gmail.com.
- St. Mary, Eldora: Julie Gray at (515) 351-7063.
- St. Patrick, Hampton: MaryAnn Patton at thepattons4@gmail.com.
- St. Mark, Iowa Falls: Brenda Strayer at (641) 430-0204.

Coming Back to Church

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.

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Holy Women of the Visitation



January 29, 2022 | 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

A great opportunity for women to gather and grow in their faith.
Everyone is invited to join us for gathering at St. Mark
on **January 29, 2022 (8:00am-1:00pm)**

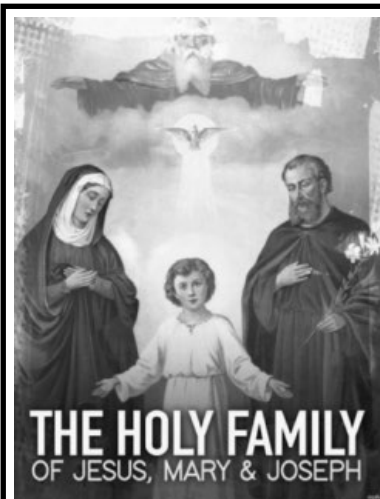
Cost is only **\$10** (Covers the conference fee, breakfast, & lunch.)

Join us for a day of *faith, fun, food, & fellowship!*

We will have some booths for items to purchase available that day too.

You don't have to come alone... invite other women to join you!

Contact Brenda Strayer ASAP to register
or if you know of someone interested in hosting a booth.



The Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

The Holy Family is uniquely centered on the fulfillment of the greatest promise made by God to the human race, namely, the sending of our Savior. The entire focus of this family was on the person of Jesus from his very annunciation to his infancy, childhood, adolescence and manhood. Meanwhile, Jesus was focused on his heavenly Father as he gazed into the faces of Joseph and Mary.

For us, the Holy Family is a powerful sign of living hope that God always keeps his promises. If we center our lives upon his Son, we too will find a hope that springs eternal.

May we, like Mary and Joseph, know how to focus upon Jesus as the center of our families and adore the Father through him.

Amen.



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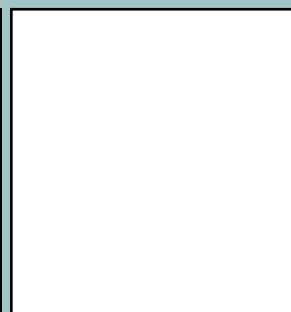


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