

Cluster Parishes

Dec 20, 2020

Riverside Richmond Wellman

"To Know God and Make God Known Through Word, Worship, Fellowship, and Service"



4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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." - Lk 1:35

Mass Intentions Dec 23 to Dec 27

Wed 8:30am	SJ	Carol Mullen
Thu 4:00pm	SM	Christmas Poinsettias
Thu 6:00pm	SJ	Christmas Poinsettias
Thu 8:00pm	HT	Christmas Poinsettias
Fri 9:00am	SM	Christmas Poinsettias
Sat 5:00pm	SJ	People of the Cluster
Sun 8:00am	HT	Betty Simon
Sun 10:00am	HT	Elmer & Amy Schneider

St. Mary's

Weekly Goal	\$ 1,677
Actual	\$ -
YTD* Collection	\$ 27,899
YTD Goal	\$ 40,248
Under/Over	- \$ 12,349

Holy Trinity

Weekly Goal	\$ 1,542
Actual	\$ -
YTD* Collection	\$ 16,775
YTD Goal	\$ 37,008
Under/Over	- \$ 20,233

St. Joseph's

Weekly Goal	\$ 644
Actual	\$ -
YTD* Collection	\$ 3,712
YTD Goal	\$ 15,456
Under/Over	- \$ 11,744

Pastor

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Deacon

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Merging

As some of you have read in the Catholic Messenger, we have been contemplating merging in order to be in accordance with the Pastoral Plan of the Diocese. Some things to note:

- Within the next year—out of our 55 active priests in the Davenport Diocese - 12 will be 70 years old and eligible for retirement. That will leave us with 33 active priests
- Within the next 10 years, it is expected there will be only one priest per county
- There are no plans of closing any parish in our Cluster if we merge, and each parish will get the individual attention they have always received
- Our parishes have nothing to lose, but will gain in assets and investment from each other

After we merge, most parishioners will not see any real difference in how we operate, or even recognize that a merger has even taken place.

Please note though:

- “Cluster Parishes” is not a canonical name and we will have to be creative in renaming our Cluster
- Some examples would be “St. Joseph’s of the Holy Family, St. Mary’s of the Holy Family, and Holy Trinity of the Holy Family”, keeping our individual identities
- Another example could be “St. Mary’s and St. Joseph’s of the Holy Trinity” (again, keeping our individual identities)

No names have been decided, but I would like for everyone to contemplate upon this. If you have any suggestions, please let us know. We will be three small voices in our Diocese, but one family with a stronger voice. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

May God Bless You
- Fr Bill

Weekly Reflection

Below is last week's reflection

The Judean Desert is a rocky wasteland pockmarked by jagged cliffs, and crisscrossed by deep ravines, 600 to 1,200 feet deep. It is a harsh and barren place inhospitable to life. Yet it is also the place where one of the most important messengers in the world lived and proclaimed the message of God's coming.

God's ways are not our ways, and He comes to us in ways we would least suspect. 2000 years ago, He did not choose to come into the world in a burst of glory from the clouds with the trumpets of angels blaring. Instead, God chose to come into the world as a helpless infant, born in a cave crowded with animals.

He then waited 30 years living an anonymous life, working as a common laborer in a small village in a remote region of the world. When He chose to make Himself known, He chose the least likely of messengers who lived in a barren wasteland.

Yet people from all over the countryside and the city of Jerusalem heard the message. They flocked out in droves to see this strange man dressed in camel hair, so they could hear him with their own ears. When they heard the message, they heeded what he said, and repented of their sins.

They waited in long lines to be baptized by John, and hung on his every word. And what did he say? He said, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."

The unprecedented way in which God revealed Himself must have been mind boggling to the people of that day. Coming to them where they were at, and in a clearly defined manner, did not happen. Instead, they had to make an extra effort and sort through the confusing manner in which He presented Himself.

This past year has presented all of us with unprecedented challenges, and we struggle to grasp the best way to navigate through these challenges. We have had to avoid gatherings, wear masks, and change the way we worship in ways we are not comfortable with. But God is still with us proclaiming His message of salvation and love. We just have to try a little harder, and realize that God's ways are not our ways.

*God Bless
- Deacon Derick*

Congratulations

Congratulations to Brenna Kay Becker who was baptized at St. Mary's last Sunday! Brenna is the daughter of Tyler and Kristen Becker.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Chase Edwin Hora who was baptized at St. Mary's last Sunday! Chase is the son of Justin and Kelly Hora.

Livestream Mass

Will livestream Mass until the end of the year, as we have been doing, and then reevaluate the COVID-19 numbers in January. Thank you for your patience.

Confession

If you would like me to hear your confession, I encourage you to contact me if you would like me to hear your confession. My phone # is (319) 430-6888, and we can meet before or after Mass, or a better suited time.

Scams

Please always be on the lookout for scams. Fr. Bill does not communicate through Facebook nor does he email or text people asking for money.

Cluster Parishes Christmas Spirit of Giving

Due to the Coronavirus, HACAP will not be accepting toys and distributing them to families this year. However, there are a couple of other opportunities to assist families during this Christmas Season:

- Toys for Tots will be collecting new toys at the Sycamore Mall
- KC Winter Clothes Collection (see below)
- HACAP is distributing gift cards to families in need. You can support these families by giving a monetary donation by going to: www.hacap.org
 - Then tab HOW TO HELP”
 - Then tab ADOPT A FAMILY”
 - Then tab DONATE HERE”
- You may add a note to which county in which you would like this donation to be allocated

Hope you and your family has a Healthy and Safe Holiday Season!

KC Winter Apparel and Clothes Collection

On the weekend of Dec 19th and 20th, the Knights of Columbus will be collecting winter apparel and clothes after Mass for an hour. We ask that all items be laundered before you bring them. Thank you.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Prayer Intentions

Please continue to contact us if you have a birthday, anniversary, or prayer intention.

Pleasantview Employment Opportunity

Pleasantview Retirement Community is looking for a Business Office Coordinator. Applications accepted until December 16. The position is full-time M-F. Experience preferred in health care or dental office. Excellent customer service, account payables, billing and payroll. To view job description or apply online: www.pvkalona.com

Are Your Adult Kids Members of the Parish?

If you have an adult son or daughter, please have them register as parish members. Having them register as separate members helps with record keeping. In addition, the more registered members we have, the more viable a parish we are.

Wounded by Abortion?

Project Rachel can help. They understand the emotional pain that follows an abortion. Please call the Helpline: 563-333-4107 or 1-888-456-HOPE. Mon, Wed, and Fri from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Message to FF Families

Several people have asked me if they were doing their faith formation lessons correctly. Please do not worry about that. They are not being graded.

The main thing I would like you to do is spend an hour a week with your children, and talk about your faith. The online lessons and workbooks are provided as a resource to give you suggestions.

If you would like a workbook, please feel free to stop by the office and pick one up, or email rvsec@iowatelecom.net to arrange for one to be dropped off.

Again, please simply take the time to spend an hour a week with your family and discuss your faith. The lessons are there to help you with this discussion.

May God Bless You, Always!

- Fr Bill

Emmaus Groups



Please consider joining a "Discipleship Quad" to participate in an Emmaus Group. These are four-person prayer groups that are very informal and flexible to accommodate your schedule. Information and videos can be found at clusterparishes.org. Click the "Communications & Resources" tab, and click on "Emmaus Groups".

You may also contact Dcn Derick derick_cranston@gmail.com (319) 936-0927, or Fr Bill roushw@diodav.org (319) 430-6888.



*My soul is content because one day
I will walk the streets of Heaven
where no more dying, sorrow, or tears
will there ever be,
no more troubled times will I ever see,
and I will rejoice with the Angels
for all eternity.*

Can I get an Amen?

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