



3rd Sunday of Advent, Sunday, December 13, 2020

SAINT JAMES PARISH

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Steve Wolfer.....(319)458- 0538

Weekend Mass Schedule

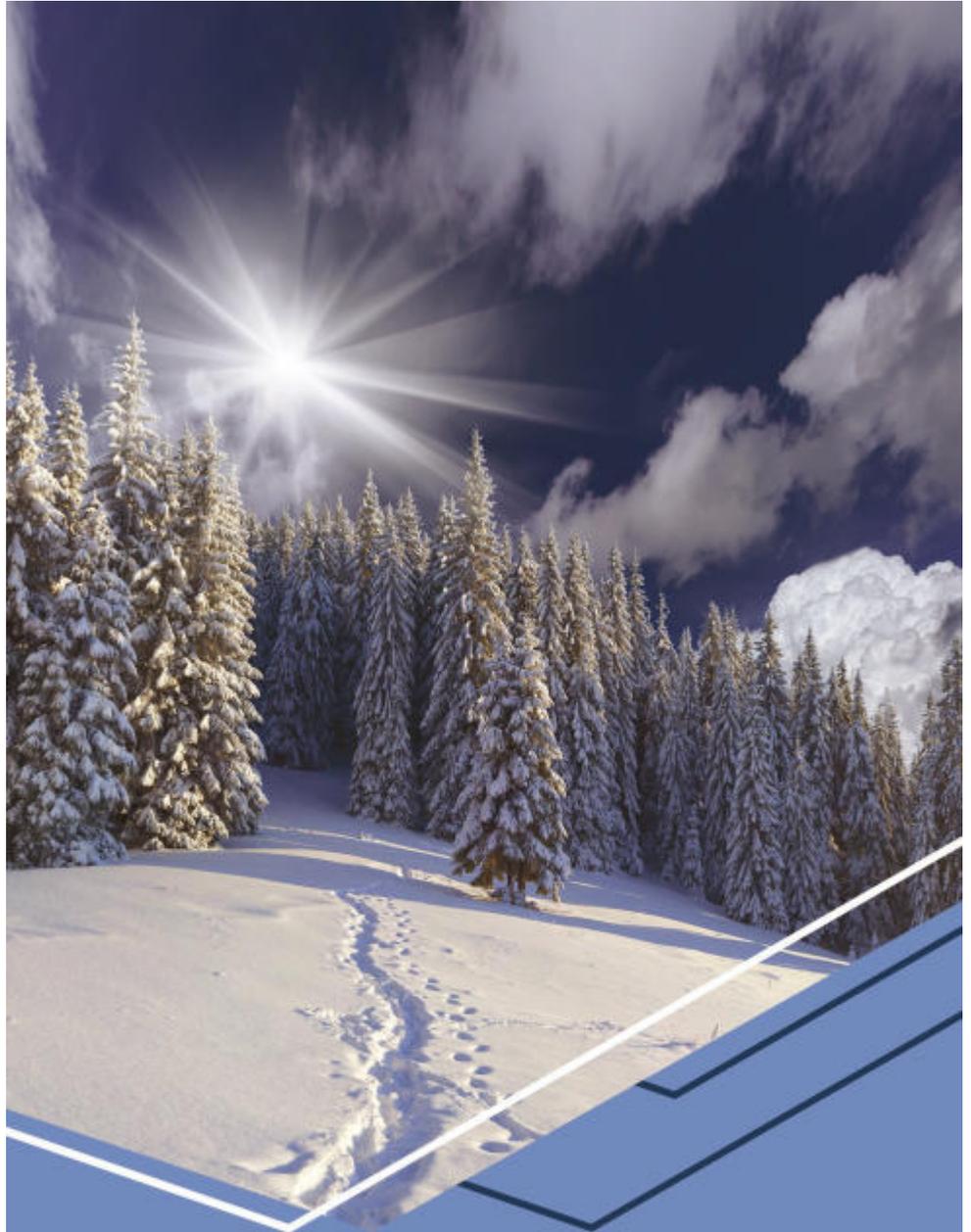
Saturday5:30pm
Sunday9:00am
11:30am Spanish

Rosary

At the moment it's cancel due to Covid-19

Confessions

Wednesday at 5:30pm-6:00pm



3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you." - Mt 11:10

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Mission Statement

"To Glorify God through Word, Worship and Service".

NOTES/NEWS

LIVE THE LITURGY

What gives you joy? Joy is discovered when we connect with something or someone very deeply and experience a dimension of ourselves that material or secular possessions cannot bring. Joy is stumbled upon when we see our newly born child for the first time, get caught up in the vastness of a mountain landscape, and are led out into infinity gazing at an ocean's horizon, or being lovingly present with someone when they are vulnerable and in need. Joy is a profound experience that in its uniqueness grounds us in ultimate truth. Did you know that all authentic, profound, and memorable moments of joy mirror the eternal joy we desire from God? We can have glimpses of this eternal Divine joy as we embark upon our earthly journey, mirrored in our human connections with joy, but experienced directly during moments of deep prayer. God is the joy of my soul. Ponder those intense words! You will know moments of true and real joy by paying attention to your response to the experience. You will find yourself rejoicing and saying thank you. ©LPi

WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Question: Are Catholics obligated to attend Mass each Sunday, or receive Communion each Sunday?

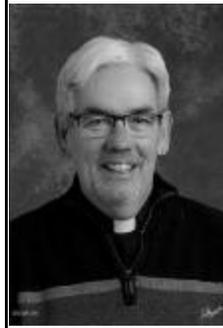
Answer:

The questions about Mass attendance and the reception of Holy Communion are clearly outlined in what are traditionally called the "Precepts" of the Church. These specific teachings are intended to stand alongside the Ten Commandments as fundamental practices for Catholics and are outlined in the *Code of Canon Law*. The obligations related to Mass attendance and receiving Communion are outlined in the first and third precepts, which we find quoted in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (no. 2042):

The first precept ("You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor") requires the faithful to sanctify the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord as well as the principal liturgical feasts honoring the mysteries of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the saints; in the first place, by participating in the Eucharistic celebration, in which the Christian community is gathered, and by resting from those works and activities which could impede such a sanctification of these days.

The third precept ("You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season") guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and center of the Christian liturgy.

Rather than seeing these as obligations that are simply to be fulfilled out of a sense of duty, Pope Saint John Paul II reminds us of the grace that is made available to us when we gather for Sunday celebrations of the Eucharist: "Sunday is the day which is at the very heart of the Christian life... Time given to Christ is never time lost, but is rather time gained, so that our relationships and indeed our whole life may become more profoundly human" (*Dies Domini*, no. 7). ©LPi



Las Posadas: Las Posadas are important events here at St. James. We have had as many as 200 people attend on a single night. This year, because of Covid restrictions, we are going totally virtual. A new and exciting way for us to celebrate. Las Posadas will be on Facebook live from December 16th-23rd at 7 PM. Only myself and one other person will be in the church. We will do the readings for the day and have a short

message. I will ask three questions each night. Post your answers to the questions. Give your family name in the answer. For example, "Who is Jesus' Father?" Father Bernie Weir family-"God the Father". Every family who posts an answer will have their name put in a drawing for a "Posada Prize" Your family name will be entered for every question you answer. There will be 7 nights of questions with 3 questions each night. You could have your name put in 21 times if you answer each question each night. We will draw the name on 23rd and you can pick your prize up on the 24th. It will be a great prize that your family will treasure for generations! Everyone in the parish is welcome to attend.

The Posada for December 19th will be for the whole of the Diocese of Davenport. It will be virtual and on Zoom. I will send out the link as soon as it is created. Everyone is invited to attend.

The **Virtual Men's Dinner** will be December 29th. More information will be coming. I know that I will be having a good time. So, I assume that all of you will too. We will be enjoying one of my favorite meals. If you don't know how to use Zoom you need to learn before the 29th. Remember this is a Men's Dinner, so your wife, girl friend or mom cannot cook the meal we will be sharing.

Next week I will have all of the information about the dinner. Get your taste buds ready and find your slower cooker. You will need it.

We are still short around 5,000 dollars on our ADA as of November 23rd. Anything that you can do to help would be great.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

As of November 23, 2020, the Christmas Masses are: December 24th 5 PM English, 7 PM Spanish, 10 PM English, December 25th 9 AM BI-Lingual. Please fill out the Christmas Mass survey and return it as soon as possible or call the parish office. We need to know about how many people we need to plan for to see if we need to add another Mass. Of course, masks and social distancing will be required.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

All of the people in today's readings – the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist – seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?

NOVEMBER 2020	Weekly Budget	Week : 11/15/20	Difference
Church Envelopes	\$4,904.00	\$5,175.00	\$271.00
School Envelopes	\$2,596.00	\$2,076.00	-\$520.00
Offertory	\$346.00	\$69.00	-\$277.00
Building & Main	\$356.00	\$66.00	-\$290.00
Other/Holiday		\$50.00	\$50.00
Budget Weekly	\$8,202.00	\$7,436.00	-\$766.00
YTD SHORTFALL / SURPLUS			-\$23,968.00

Readings for the Week of December 13, 2020

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11, Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b], 1 Thes 5:16-24, Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a, Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4], Mt 21:23-27

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

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

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

Friday: Jer 23:5-8, Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7], Mt 1:18-25

Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a, Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8], Lk 1:5-25

Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16, Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a], Rom 16:25-27, Lk 1:26-38

BULLETIN DEADLINES

Due to the upcoming holidays, deadlines for submitting information for the bulletin are **noon** on:

December 16th for the weekend of December 27th
December 21st for the weekend of January 3rd

Following the holidays, the weekly deadline for the bulletin articles will be Monday at noon.

STO

Time is Running Out! Still not sure about this STO thing? It's simple. If you file an Iowa income tax return, your contributions to the *School Tuition Organization (STO) of Southeast Iowa* earn a 65% tax credit. That means for every \$1000 you donate, you receive an Iowa income tax credit of \$650. Thus, a \$1000 contribution reduces your Iowa tax liability by a whopping \$650 AND the gift may qualify as a charitable contribution on your federal income tax return. And that gift you made? It helps make a Catholic education affordable—a gift that costs you a maximum of \$350 provides \$1000 in need-based tuition assistance. Time is running out to contribute to the STO in 2020! Visit www.stoseiowa.org or call Mary Sue Marek, Business Manager at 319-653-4504 ext.3 or Steve Roling, STO Executive Director, at (563)391-1845 to learn more.



FAMILY LIFE

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE
Help St. James reach out to parishioners in need. If you are aware of someone who needs a card of encouragement or concern call Charlotte Lindmeier at 653-6274.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

A CONSTANT COMPANION

As Christians, we are called to a life of prayer. This is not just during seasons like Advent, but all year long. When we talk about being prayerful everyday stewards, we are speaking about cultivating an awareness of God being with us at all times. Each day we begin by offering God the entirety of our day. Each night we rest in Him and hope that the hours that passed gave Him glory.

During this busy time of Advent, it is hard to cultivate this life of prayer, but without it we can too easily lose sight of the reason for the season. It is during this time of year we need to heed the words of St. Paul more than ever when he wrote to the Thesalonians, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing." This is how we will be able to avoid the pitfalls of consumerism and secularism and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Bring Jesus with you into the office Christmas party. Take him with you shopping for gifts in the department store. Be aware of him when you sit down to watch television specials you have seen every year of your life. Give him all your time and let his presence fill your every moment. By striving to be connecting with Jesus at all times, you will bear greater fruit and the joy you experience will be much greater than you could imagine. You might even spend a few less dollars and spend more time with those you love, particularly the one who loves you the most, the Incarnation himself.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

To report child abuse contact: Iowa Department of Human Services Child Abuse Hotline: 800-362-2178 and if it involves clergy or church personnel also notify Alicia Owens, the Victim Assistance Coordinator, 563-349-5002; vac@diodav.org or PO Box 232, Bettendorf, IA 52722.

This week at St. James . . .

Remember, all Masses are reserved seating to accommodate social distancing guidelines.

Thank you!

Monday, December 14

NO MASS

Tuesday, December 15

MASS-The People 8:00 am (CH)

Wednesday, December 16

MASS-LeRoy Hammen 8:25 am (CH)

Confession 6:00 pm (CH)

Posada 7:00 pm (CH)

Thursday, December 17

MASS-Daniel Flannery 8:00 am (CH)

Rosary Walk 8:30 am (CH)

Eucharistic Adoration 6:00 pm (CH)

Posada 7:00 pm (CH)

Friday, December 18

MASS-CDA Living & Deceased Members 8:00 am (CH)

Eucharistic Adoration 8:30 am (CH)

Posada 7:00 pm (CH)

Saturday, December 19

MASS-Anita Zahs 5:30 pm (CH)

Posada 7:00 pm (CH)

Sunday, December 20

MASS-Nadine Hammen 9:00 am (CH)

MASS-The People 11:30 am (CH)

Faith Formation 10:00 am (TH)

Posada 7:00 pm (CH)

**KEY: THB-Tobin Hall Basement,
TH-Tobin Hall, CH-Church,
CHB-Church Basement,
KC-KC Hall, CR-Conf. Room,
GYM-SJ School Gym,
YR-Youth Room**

PARISHIONER INFORMATION UPDATE

Have you remembered to notify the parish of an email or phone number change? Perhaps you had a change of address recently? Please take a moment to keep us informed. Return this form in the collection basket, or at the parish office.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

I prefer electronic communication.

I would like to join St. James Parish.

I'm moving away, please remove me from roster.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

3rd Sunday of Advent

Did you ever stop and realize that there is no earthly gain that can ever really satisfy us? Think of winning the Lotto. On this side of the winning ticket, it's all about the money, the new car, house, vacations, bank accounts, and infinite pleasures. The possibility of acquiring all of these earthly securities brings us back again and again to the purchase of a ticket. Then, one day we win! Our dreams are fulfilled, and happiness is on the horizon. Then one day, we wake up and realize that nothing has really changed, and I am not as satisfied as I thought I was or would be. I find myself living in my incompleteness and with my profound sorrow and grief. I did not find joy.

Glimpses of joy are possible but not by material means. They are brought to us through incredible experiences of connection that bring us face to face with real and authentic faith, hope, and love. And, they are glimpses and do not last. The moment we find ourselves looking back at them, they are gone, and we find ourselves remembering the moment in memory. To carry joy within us is to realize that it is not something I create, manufacture or even acquire. It is not able to be purchased. It is a gift. My need for joy mirrors my need for eternity, for a Creator who has a claim on the very essence of who I am and desires a home within me. As C. S. Lewis discovered, joy is a surprise that speaks to my very soul and is given as gift by the God who loves me.

The beauty of Advent is found in discovering the beauty of the gift of joy. God has visited his people for no other reason than to show them where and how to find joy! All of our human and earthly joy experiences are always only glimpses. They never satisfy us, sustain us or fulfill us. It is only God who is the joy of my soul. Real, Divine experiences of joy catch us off guard, make us stop and become aware, bring a feeling of awe and rightness and have an eternal Otherness about them. Nothing created by humans can ever come close to this. We probably will not fully realize the truth of all of this until we actually meet God face to face in heaven one day. Then, in that sacred moment when our hearts leap for joy we will understand what we have been tirelessly searching for all along. Intense gratitude will most surely follow. ©LPi





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