Pastor Kenneth J. Glaser

Church - 211 21st Ave SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

Parish Center/Mailing address

2107 J St SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
319-362-7282

www.stludmila.org
www.Facebook.com/St.Ludmila.CR

The Spirit of

St. Ludmila Catholic Church

Weekend Mass times: Saturday, 4:00p.m.
Sunday 8:00a.m. and 10:30a.m.

December 5, 2021 • *Second Sunday of Advent*

Staff Directory

Parish Center	(319)-362-7282
Fr. Kenneth J. Glaser	dbq029@dbqarch.org
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Deacon Jim Berger	(319) 265-0291
Deacon Mark Sandersfeld	(319) 743-5008
Dr. Bradley Barrett, Music Director	(417) 288-8783
Religious Education Office	(319) 362-8148
Monica Rannals, Director of RE	dbq029re@dbqarch.org
Cassie Davis, Secretary	dbq029ffsec@dbqarch.org
Bingo	(319) 363-9372
Parish Social Hall	(319) 261-0468
LaSalle Catholic Schools	(319) 396-7792
Heather Williams (PreK-4 Principal)	(319) 396-7818
Zach Zeckser (Chief Administrator)	(319) 396-7792
Monica Robinson, Lead Teacher	(319) 396-7792

Please visit our website www.stludmila.org or
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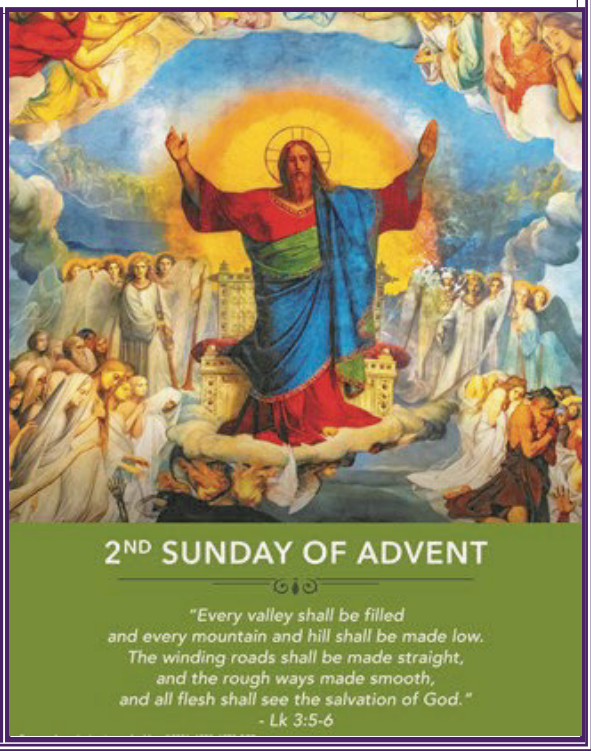

PASTOR'S CORNER

In last week's homily I stressed the importance of making this Advent Season special. We will celebrate the fullness of the season with a complete 28 days of watching, waiting, anticipating and preparing for the Christ Child, Jesus. However, we need to be careful, as these days can quickly slip away and we can be absorbed by all the distractions of the world's attractions: cooking, cleaning, baking, shopping, decorating and maintaining our regular schedule of activities. But do we find time for the spiritual development that is necessary to make this season special individually and as a family?

In our reading from the Philippians for today (1:4-6, 8-11) St. Paul states, "I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus."

The reason the parish staff and our leadership committees have put together our Advent Calendar is to assist you in your preparations for Advent and preparing for the infant Jesus. The calendar is filled with educational, spiritual and reflective opportunities to make this time holy. As I shared in the homily last week, you can also do things in your homes – lighting an Advent candle while you eat your meal together, praying together, reading sacred scripture, perhaps adopting a family in need or maybe visiting a family or friend. Perhaps you can take a homemade treat along with you.

Today's Gospel passage quotes the Prophet Isaiah when it is proclaimed, "A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord!'" Our preparations today look very different from the preparations of days gone by, but our preparations are important as well! We cannot be distracted by the societal norms, but must remain rooted in the true meaning of what this Advent Season and Christmas Season is all about.

In the words of St. Paul, know of my prayers for you this Advent Season. As we watch, wait, anticipate and prepare for the Christ Child, may we experience the peace of our God. More importantly, through the waters of baptism, we became a child of God, anointed as "Priest, Prophet and King!" May the Lord bring to fulfillment the good works he has already established in us!

May your Advent Season be blessed!
Fr. Ken Glaser

<u>The Immaculate Conception</u>: Three Masses will be offered for the Holy Day of the Immaculate Conception. Tuesday, December 7 at 5:30 PM; Wednesday, December 8 at 9:00 AM; December 8 at 6:00 PM. As the patron saint of the United States, may we take time to call upon the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary to guide and direct us, leading us to her Son, Jesus.

<u>Early Deadlines for December and January 2 Bulletins</u>

Due to the upcoming Christmas and New Year's holidays, deadlines for submission to the printer for the following bulletins have been moved up several days.

Articles for the <u>December 19</u> bulletin must be submitted by 10:00 am <u>Monday, December 13th.</u>

Articles for the <u>January 2</u> bulletin must be submitted by 10:00 am <u>Friday, December 17th</u>.

Please submit the bulletin articles to Linda Sills at: <u>dbq029sec3@dbqarch.org</u> Thank you!

Readings for the Week of December 5, 2021

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/ Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 [cf. Is 40:10ab]/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/ Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/ Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/ Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

Advent Reconciliation Services

There will be 3 scheduled in our deanery. All Saints will host one on Saturday, Dec. 11, and St. Pius will host one on Saturday, Dec. 18; both will begin at 10:30 a.m. Because of the continuing COVID pandemic, both of these will be General Absolution services.

On Thursday, Dec. 16, at 6:30 p.m., St. Ludmila will host a communal reconciliation service with traditional individual confessions.

Please participate in the one you prefer.

Family Time!

Recently, I have heard from a number of parents and priests that our students are demonstrating increased reverence for sacraments. I am so thrilled to receive this kind of feedback, but as you may have heard me say in years past: one thing that has always stood out to me is our students' reverence for the sacred. Since I arrived three and a half years ago, I was struck by our students' faith. For the priests and parents to notice that this is increasing is absolutely outstanding. Thank you for supporting us so much, so our students can continue to grow in their faith!

Zachary Zeckser, Chief Administrator, LaSalle Catholic Schools

AREA NEEDS—CATHOLIC SERVICES

Metro Catholic Outreach:	420 6th St. SE	(319) 739-5490
Catholic Charities:	1430 2nd Ave SE	(319) 364-7121
St. Vincent de Paul:	928 7th St. SE	(319) 365-5091
Catholic Worker House:	1027 5th Ave SE	(319) 362-9041

THANK YOU

- **To God's Housekeepers and Liturgical Ministers for the week of November 28th.**
- **To the Parish Center Volunteers for the week of November 22nd.**

SCRIP sales for the weeks ending Nov. 21 & 28 totaled $11,050.00!

BONUS REBATES! Bath & Body Works is having a 17% bonus rebate through Dec. 17. Domino's Pizza has a 12% bonus rebate, also through the 17th.

COST CUTTERS CHANGE: For years Cost Cutters, a local scrip provider, offered $5 paper scrip cards with a 15% rebate. About a year ago they made the change to a $20 plastic card. We've been notified that any new plastic cards we order will be a $50 denomination. We currently have a couple of $20 cards in our inventory, but once those are sold, we'll no longer stock this option in our inventory. Cost Cutters scrip will then be available by order only.

ENVELOPES - Many of you have generously donated envelopes to us for use in packaging orders. Thank you! We presently have a HUGE stack of envelopes, so please recycle your envelopes for now. We'll let you know when we're ready to accept more donations.

LOW DENOMINATION GIFT CARDS ARE STILL AVAILABLE! Choose from $5 cards for Barnes & Noble, Coldstone, Panera, Starbuck's and Taco Bell, or $10 cards from Amazon, Applebee's, CVS, Cheddars/Olive Garden/Longhorn Steakhouse, Home Depot, IHOP, Outback Steakhouse, Red Lobster and Walmart. Plan ahead! These gift cards are not in our inventory, so don't wait until the last minute! They make great stocking stuffers and last minute gifts! If you're using a paper form to place your order, these low denomination cards are not listed, so just write them in a blank space on the form.

Next weekend is your last opportunity to order scrip, with delivery guaranteed before Christmas! We will not be selling scrip Christmas weekend, but we will be at the scrip table January 1 and 2.

A Call to Pray for Our Country - Catholic Daughters Court Cedar Rapids

Thanks all for your participation over the past several months in the Wednesday afternoon prayer hour for our country, held at St. Wenceslaus Church. Our last prayer hour for 2021 was Nov. 17. We will not meet over the winter months.

Please continue to pray for our country in your homes and during your personal Adoration hours. "If my people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." 2Chronicles 7:14 St. Michael the Archangel, pray for us!

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Is a Catholic faith-based marriage enrichment program and has been providing couples with better communication skills and tools for over 50 years. Find out what you've been missing by attending one of these upcoming experiences:

February 11 – 13, 2022, in Ankeny;
April 23 – 24, 2022, in Epworth.

For more information or to register, call: 563-608-3305, or go to: iowa-wwme.org

STO News

Donate $1 to the STO, and you'll get back 75 cents! A donation to the *Our Faith School Tuition Organization* (STO) is that simple. For every dollar you donate, you receive three-fourths of your donation back in Iowa income tax credit. Check with your tax professional about how this could work for you. Tax credits for 2021 are only available until December 31. Help Catholic school families with tuition assistance and help yourself to a tax credit.

For questions, call Deacon Brian Zeman – Our Faith STO Director at: (563) 556-2580 x296, or visit: www.ourfaithsto.org

PARISH CALENDAR

Mon. Dec. 6	**(First Monday and Week Cleaners)**
5:30 pm	St. Vincent de Paul Mtg., SH
5:30 pm	Evening Prayer/Adoration, CH
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, SH
Tues. Dec. 7	
10:00 am	Adult Discussion Group, PC
5:30 pm	Immaculate Conception Vigil Mass † Arthur Petrzelka - Live Streamed
6:30 pm	Faith Formation Mtg., PC
6:15 pm	Advent Book Study, PC
Wed. Dec. 8	**Immaculate Conception**
9:00 am	Mass † Robert Hildebrand - Live Streamed Wisdom Generation Brunch - following Mass
5:45 pm	Religious Education, SH, SC
6:00 pm	Mass † For the Parishioners of St. Ludmila
7:00 pm	Men's Group, PC
7:15 pm	Confirmation Christmas Party, SC
Thurs. Dec. 9	
5:30 pm	Mass † Marvin Carney - Live Streamed
6:15 pm	The Chosen Discussion Group, SC
6:30 pm	RCIA Class, PC
7:00 pm	Pastoral Council, SH
Fri. Dec. 10	
8:00 am	Mass † Karen Doyle - Live Streamed
8:30 am	Adoration, CH
Sat. Dec. 11	
4:00 pm	Mass † Jim Sperfslage
5:00 pm	Cookies, Cocoa, and Caroling
Sun. Dec. 12	
8:00 am	Mass † For the Parishioners of St. Ludmila - Live Streamed
10:30 am	Mass † Deceased Members of the Budan & Hildebrand Families
5:00 pm	Bingo, SC (doors open at 4:00 pm)

C/CH—Church, PC—Parish Center, SC—School, SH—Social Hall

ADVENT TAIZE PRAYER

All parishioners are invited to join us for a special Taize Prayer Service to celebrate the season of Advent on Wednesday, December 15, 6:00-6:45 pm at St. Ludmila Church. Taize prayer is a simple, meditative form of worship which provides a wonderful opportunity to dwell in Christ's presence through short readings, communal songs, and prayerful silence.

In the hustle and bustle of the holidays, why not take a little time to pause, reflect, and immerse yourself in the gentle stillness of Advent? Christ is waiting for you…

St. Monica's Circle

Will hold their Christmas Party at Kirkwood Class Act on December 14, at 11:30.

Volunteer Thanks!

A huge thank you to volunteers Donna Grimm, Joyce St. John, Sheila Rehak, Pat Stokesberry, Chelo Collier, Linda Trevino, Janie Miller, and Joyce Janovec who assisted with the parish mailing for Advent/Christmas.

And special thanks to Mary Beth Neal and Mary Myers who provided hospitality and support for the city-wide Gamaliel Training held at St. Ludmila on November 13.

You are all greatly appreciated!

Want to Give Some Christmas Cheer?

Send a Christmas card to St. Ludmila homebound parishioners! Take a name or two, or more, from the small Christmas tree in the gathering space.

Thank you for being a blessing to others!

Faith Formation would like to invite everyone to

COOKIES, COCOA & CAROLING

When: Saturday, December 11, 2021
4:00 pm - Mass
5:00 pm - cookies & cocoa around the fire outside
5:30 pm - group caroling

Please bring warm items to donate to the homeless shelter. They are looking for blankets, coats, hats, gloves, socks, etc. Anything to stay warm during this cold season. Trade your donation in at 5:00 for cookies & hot cocoa immediately after Mass!

Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass

December 8, 2021 at 9:00 am.

Wisdom Generation Brunch immediately following Mass. Please RSVP to Sr. Mary Fran (319-362-7282) by Monday Dec. 6.

Celebrate St. Nicholas Day at St. Ludmila Sunday, December 5th!

Children will be invited to participate in a special Children's Liturgy during the 8:00 am and 10:30 am Masses. Following each service, families are invited to stop in the social hall to make a traditional Dutch cookie dough to take home and bake in honor of St. Nicholas Day.

Volunteers are needed to help with this event! Contact Monica in the RE office to sign up as a volunteer or with questions.

Children's Christmas Choir!

Any student in 3rd through 6th grade is invited to join the St. Ludmila Children's Christmas Choir! We will be singing at the 4:30pm Christmas Eve Mass! To join or for more information, please contact Mary Jacobsen at dbq029ym@dbqarch.org

The Social Justice Committee has placed their Advent Giving Tree in the Gathering Space.

Please take a card from the tree before December 15 for the organization you would like to support. Thank you for your generosity.

Christmas Flower Contribution Coupon

(Return in the Collection Basket or to the Parish Center)

I wish to contribute $_____ to the Christmas Flowers Fund.

Name:_____

In Memory Of: _____

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