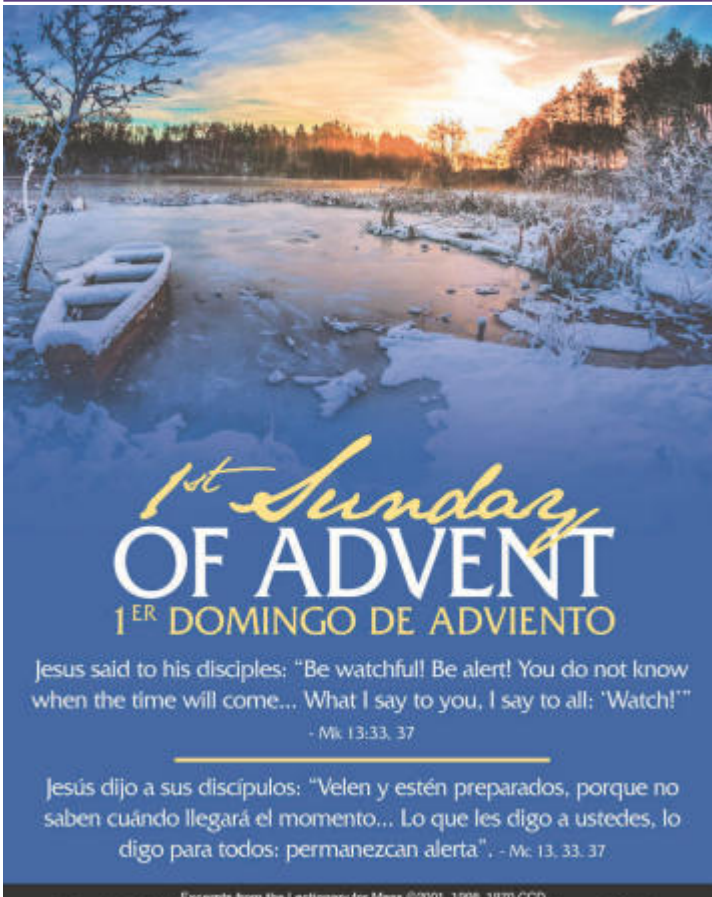




*St. Mary's*  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
1510 HIGHLAND AVE., RED OAK, IOWA 51566



**Nov. 29, 2020 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday*  
**OF ADVENT**  
1<sup>ER</sup> DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come... What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"  
- Mt. 13:33, 37

Jesús dijo a sus discípulos: "Velen y estén preparados, porque no saben cuándo llegará el momento... Lo que les digo a ustedes, lo digo para todos: permanezcan alerta". - Mc. 13. 33. 37

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1999, 1970 CCD

**ST. MARY'S MISSION STATEMENT**

"Our vision is to see Christ in others and to treat others as Christ, because this is what we believe." As a Catholic community, we gather and celebrate the presence of Christ in sacrifice and sacrament. "Our mission is to support our community by meeting the spiritual, faith formation and other needs of our parishioners."

**Welcome!** It is our hope that you feel at home and among friends here. If you are a visitor for the day, we pray God's blessings on your journey. If you are looking for a parish community, we would be delighted to welcome you into our parish family. Please join us at the beginning of each mass before the opening song to pray three "Hail Mary's" and a "Glory Be" to end abortion in our country.

**PARISH STAFF**

**Fr. Lazarus Kirigia, Pastor of Red Oak & Imogene**

**Parish Office:** 712-623-2744

**Cell:** 515-770-9064

**Email:** kirigia32@hotmail.com

**Jean Anderson, Secretary,**  
stmarysrosecretary@gmail.com

**Peyton Honeyman, Bookkeeper**  
stmarysrobookkeeper@gmail.com

**Virginia Bueno, Hispanic Coordinator**  
stmarysrohispanic@gmail.com

**Alan Vonnahme, DRE**  
stmarysrodre@gmail.com

**St. Mary's Parish Website:**  
www.stmarysredoak.com

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Closed

Jean -Tuesday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m..

Peyton-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

*Please call the office or Fr. Lazarus prior to visiting the staff so we may assist you best.*

**PARISH LEADERSHIP**

**PARISH TRUSTEES**

Tom Stamets 623-9797

Connie Sampers 623-2369

**PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Charla Schmid (*Secretary*) 623-4675

Joe Nealon 623-9642

Matt Ross 623-8956

Jeff Grebin, Chair (*Social Justice*) 621-6954

Nancy Nealon (*Arts & Environment*) 623-9642

Charla Schmid (*Music & Liturgy*) 623-4675

Mike Connolly (*Property & Grounds*) 623-1020

Ken Podliska (*Property & Grounds*) 623-3622

Kerry & Elaine Carlson (*Stewardship*) 623-4122

Pat Jensen (*Health & Wellness*) 712-370-2511

**Nancy Nealon:** Coordinator, Saturday Mass

**Tim Schmid:** Coordinator, Sunday AM Mass

**David Bueno:** Coordinator, Spanish Mass

**Kim Roberts:** Coordinator, RCIA

**Vocations:** www.vocationsonline.com

**Des Moines Diocese Info:** www.dmdiocese.org

**Catholic Charities:** www.CatholicCharitiesDM.org  
515-244-3761



### Musings From The Pastor.

I am given to understand that sleep deprivation is one of the records which is no longer supported by the Guinness Book of Records, for reasons of health: the previously listed world record holder lasted

for eleven days without sleep, but suffered from problems with concentration, memory, paranoia and hallucinations.

So I think we can probably be fairly sure that the command that we hear in today's gospel at the beginning of Advent, that we are to "watch", to "stay awake", lest we be found asleep, is not to be taken literally. Either that or critics of our faith are correct in suggesting that Christians can't think straight, refuse to accept historical fact, are paranoid and delusional.

"Well, of course," you might say, "Our Lord tells us to 'watch', to 'be awake' in the context of a parable, and therefore spiritually rather than physically." And you would be right. But play along with me for a moment, and let us suppose he was in fact speaking about staying awake in a literal sense.

There are some innocent-looking words that our lectionary adds at the beginning of our gospel reading to put it into context: "Jesus said to his disciples." Which disciples? Well, if we look earlier in the chapter we find that it is in fact four disciples: Peter, James, John and Andrew, the first four of the apostles to be called. And the gospel reading divides the night into four parts in which the master of the house might come: the evening, midnight, cockcrow and the morning, just as the Romans divided the night into four watches. And who is to watch in the parable? Not all the servants of the master, who have their own work to be getting on with, and no doubt need their sleep, but the doorkeeper. It is not unreasonable then to suppose that it is these four apostles, as doorkeepers, holders of the keys to the kingdom, who take turns to watch through the four watches of the night.

That, I think, puts a slightly different spin on things. Of course, the whole household has to be ready for the coming of the master, "each with his work", but in the first place it is the apostles who actually keep the four watches so that the house can be roused when the master comes.

This apostolic ministry is extended to all of us by the fact Christ says at the end of the parable, "and what I say to you" - that is, to Peter, James, John and Andrew - "I say to all: Watch!" But we watch in the same way as those apostles: not just looking out for ourselves, depriving ourselves of sleep and making ourselves ill in the process, but looking out for each other and depending on each other. We watch for Christ in the watch assigned

to us: watching for Christ in the poor, the sick, the hungry, the prisoner; watching too for the hope of the gospel. We watch for Christ not just as individuals, but as part of a community, his household, the Church.

As we prepare for the liturgical coming of the master at Christmas, the Church gives us four Sundays of Advent, four watches you might say, when we look out for him: four different aspects of the Lord's coming that we look for. In the second, third and fourth watch we will see how it is that the Lord will come. Today, though, we are reminded not only what it is we do in Advent, but who it is who is coming: it is the Triune God, the God of Abraham, recognized by Isaiah both as our Father and our Redeemer, the God who formed us as a potter forms clay. We watch for the one who enriches us with speech and knowledge and the gifts of the Spirit as we wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

So over these four weeks, let us watch with the Church for the Lord, and watch out for each other and those around us, that we may be better prepared to receive the Lord when he comes at Christmas, or indeed whenever he comes.

*Have a Blessed Advent Season. Fr. Lazarus Kirigia.*

#### ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL UPDATE-10/09/2020

Pledges	\$2,525.00		
Pledge Payments	\$2,325.00		
Pledge Balance	\$ 200.00	# of Donors	46
Gifts	\$19,547.00		
<b>Parish ADA Goal</b>		<b>\$28,121.00</b>	
<b>Current Amount Due/Refund Due)</b>		<b>\$ 7,911.00</b>	
Parish ADA Goal	\$28,121.00		
-Pledges	\$ 2,525.00		
-Gifts	<u>\$17,685.00</u>		
Expected Shortfall (Overage)	\$ 7,911.00		

#### MASKS ARE NOW REQUIRED

Face masks are now **required** at all public Masses, sacramental celebrations, and other events in Church buildings in the Diocese of Des Moines, effective immediately. This requirement extends through February 2, 2021. Please see that letter from Bishop Joensen that was e-mailed to you if we had your e-mail, or there are copies by the bulletins, or posted on the bulletin board.



#### CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Catholic Charities has licensed, professional therapists working with clients of all faiths and backgrounds who are addressing depression, anxiety, stress, marital issues, relationship problems, child behavior problems, trauma, abuse and more. Therapy is available in Council Bluffs, Des Moines, and Ankeny. Set up an appointment by emailing [sfister@catholiccharitiesdm.org](mailto:sfister@catholiccharitiesdm.org) or calling 515-237-5045 or 712-328-3086.



**FAITH FORMATION**  
**2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**

All In-Person classes are cancelled at this time. Please watch Facebook and Flocknote for any future Zoom meetings and classes. Virtual Classes are to continue as planned, everything online. Alan will keep everyone updated, again, on Facebook and Flocknote. The Living Nativity is cancelled as well. PLEASE call Alan if any questions.

Please pick up your November Family Formation packets in the back of church. There are videos and schedules on the St. Mary's Faith Formation website giving information about these meetings. Join us at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stmarysfaith> if you have not done so. Please sign up for Formed and YDisciple. The formed website is: [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org).

We continue working in the can shed, doing them on a regular basis. PLEASE separate your cans and bottles. If you are able, please put the bottles in a box. They are not to be in the same containers/bags as the cans. Thank you.

I realize much is changed but these are real opportunities to improve our programs. Please know that the St. Mary's staff, volunteers, and especially myself will always be there to help!

Any questions call Alan @ 712-303-2680. Blessings to all!  
Alan Vonnahme, St. Mary's Catholic Church  
Director of Religious Education; [stmarysrodre@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysrodre@gmail.com)

**ST. MARY'S REVERSE COLLECTION**

A Revers Collection is one that instead of putting money in to the collection baskets, each of the parishioners is asked to take a piece of paper from the baskets, purchase the items on the slip during the week, and bring the items to the church the next weekend for collection. We have been able to provide food baskets for 30 families in our local area. The Knights of Columbus have donated a certificate for meat to go with each basket. Thank you for your generosity.

**FLOCKNOTE**

Please remember to sign up for flocknote so that you may stay informed of all the changes in our masses, our meetings, and any pertinent information we need to pass along at this time. We pray all of you and your families stay safe. If you need any help please call the office.

**DIocese OF DES MOINES-REGATHERING POLICY**

Due to the rising COVID cases throughout the Diocese of Des Moines, the increased hospitalizations, and the anticipated difficulties that the winter season will bring, **the Diocese of Des Moines is suspending all parish and diocesan sponsored or hosted social events, beginning on November 23rd through January 10th.** We have posted the letter from the Diocese on the bulletin board, or you may go to <https://www.dmdiocese.org/resources/worship/coronavirus/regathering>

**UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS**

December 1st-Knights of Columbus Meeting  
December 2nd-Pastoral Council Meeting

**Readings for the week of November 29, 2020**

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37; St. Clement  
Monday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22; St. Andrew  
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24; Blessed Charles de Foucauld  
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37; Blessed Rafal Chylinski  
Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27; St. Francis Xavier  
Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31; St. John Damascene  
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8; St. Sabas  
Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**CATHOLIC RADIO STATIONS AVAILABLE**

[lowacatholicradio.com](http://lowacatholicradio.com)  
Iowa Catholic Radio  
1150 AM  
88.5 FM and 94.5 FM

Omaha Stations:  
[Spiritcatholicradio.com](http://Spiritcatholicradio.com)  
Spirit 102.7 FM

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**



Thank you to all who participated with our Drive Thru Pork Loin Dinner. That's the closest thing to going out for dinner that some of us are getting! Thank you Knights! More to come later!

**CIVILIZE IT IOWA**

Do you want to help heal the divisions we see in our country? If so, check out Civilize It Iowa, a diocesan campaign that is inviting all of us to pray, fast, and give alms for the sake of charity in your own hearts, and in our country. To check out this simple invitation to pursue holiness in our own lives, and charity in our country, visit [civilizeitiowa.com](http://civilizeitiowa.com) or scan this QR code.



**COVID RECOVERY COUNSELING AND ASSISTANCE**

COVID Recovery Iowa offers free virtual counseling and assistance for all Iowans affected by COVID-19. Counselors available 24/7 at 1-844-775-WARM(9276). You will never be asked to share payment or health insurance information or your last name. All services are confidential.

**BULLETIN DUE DATES**

Dec. 13-Due Dec. 3  
Dec. 20-Due Dec. 8  
Dec. 27-Due Dec. 15  
Jan. 3-Due Dec. 22

## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

### Saturday-December 5

Lector: Joe Nealon  
Altar Servers: Xavier & Brie Ross  
Min. of Communion: Tom Stamets  
Greeter/Usher: Joe & Nancy Nealon / Matt Ross / Kevin Naser  
Musician/Singers: Charla Schmid / Ann Ross & Jim Kearney  
Sacristan: Nancy Nealon

### Sunday-December 6

Lector: Mark Swanson  
Altar Servers: Cate Horn / Gabi Grebin  
Min. of Communion: Judy Podliska  
Homebound: Judy Podliska  
Greeter/Usher: Bob Johnson & Joan Smith / John McDonald  
Musician/Singers: Charla Schmid / Kerry & Elaine Carlson  
Sacristan: Tim Schmid  
Money Counters: Kim Robinson / Connie Sampers

**A ceremony honoring the Holy Eucharist is available on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. on Channel 6, WOW TV, Omaha.**

### AA MEETINGS IN CHURCH HALL

AA meetings are held in the Church Hall on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

#### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Dan Bruning                      Josh Watson  
Homebound Parishioners      Patricia Menendez  
Noe' Sanchez Flores          Len & Fran Ross  
Ken Steffen                      Teresa Williams



If you or someone you know would like to be on the prayer list, please call the office so that we may add their name in the bulletin

#### IOWA LEGAL AID'S FARMWORKER POLICY

There is Free Legal Services for Eligible Individuals/Servicios Legales Gratuitos Para Personas Elegibles. Call 1-800-532-1275 if interested.

#### HISPANIC MINISTRY-IOWA PBS

Get health and safety news in Spanish during the COVID-19 crisis through Iowa PBS. Iowa PBS to offer Spanish language safety information amidst COVID-19 pandemic.

#### RESOURCES FOR HISPANIC COMMUNITY

If you have families that have lost their employment and their source of income and they need some assistance, they can call the 211 hotline, text your zip code to 898211, or visit [www.211iowa.org](http://www.211iowa.org).

**BAPTISM:** Please call the office to schedule the Baptism. A class is required for first-time parents.

**RCIA:** Each Fall the parish forms a group of adults who are interested in becoming Catholic, or in leaning about the faith. Contact the Parish Office or Fr. Lazarus.

**CARE OF THE SICK:** Please contact the Parish Office or Fr. Lazarus to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, or if you would like a visit while in the hospital or Communion brought to your home.

**MARRIAGE:** Couples planning a wedding at St. Mary's should contact Fr. Lazarus at least 6 months prior to the wedding to begin the preparation process.



## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### **Saturday, November 28**

- 7:30 a.m. Holy Grounds
- 5:00 p.m. Mass in Imogene

### **Sunday, November 29**

- 8:30 a.m. Mass in Imogene
- 10:30 a.m. Mass in Red Oak-Fr. Tom Kunnel
- 1:00 p.m. Spanish Mass
- 5:30 p.m. AA Meeting

### **Monday, November 30-Office Closed**

- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

### **Tuesday, December 1**

- 8:30 a.m. Mass in Imogene
- 7:00 p.m. AA meeting

### **Wednesday, December 2**

- 5:00 p.m. Mass in Imogene
- 7:00 p.m. Mass in Red Oak-Ray Buman+

### **Thursday, December 3**

- 6:00 a.m. Adoration Begins
- 5:15 p.m. Rosary
- 6:00 p.m. Mass in Imogene
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting
- 8:00 p.m. Spanish Rosary

### **Friday, December 4**

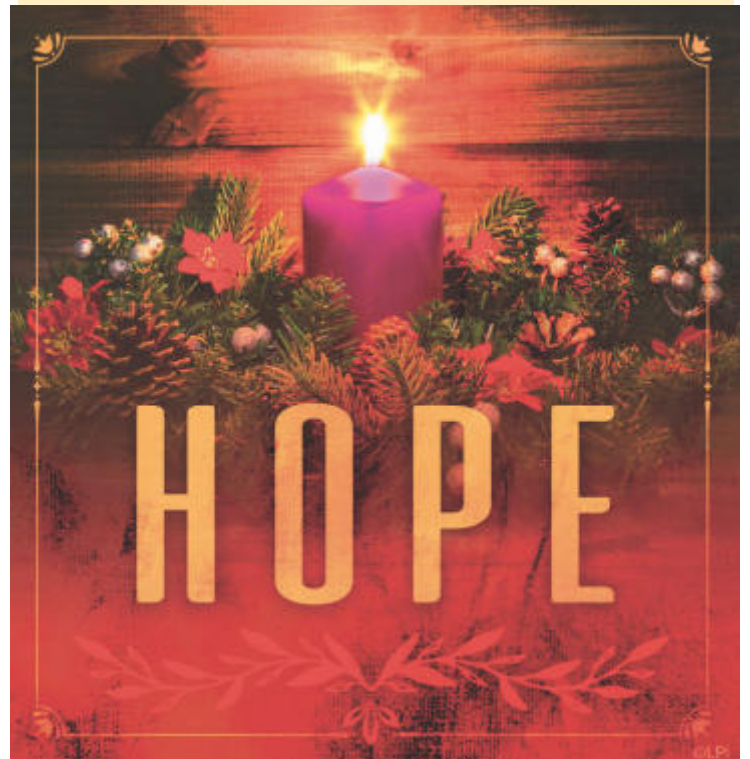
- 6:00 a.m. Adoration
- 8:30 a.m. Mass in Red Oak-Members of the Parish
- 5:00 p.m. AA Meeting

### **Saturday, December 5**

- 7:30 a.m. Holy Grounds
- 5:00 p.m. Mass in Red Oak-Vera Kusleika+

### **Sunday, December 6**

- 8:30 a.m. Mass in Imogene
- 10:30 a.m. Mass in Red Oak-Lois Schmid+
- 5:30 p.m. AA Meeting



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*Providers:*  
Effic Martinez, ARNP  
Tom Schmadeke, PA  
Bryon Schaeffer, MD  
Brooke Martin, CPNP  
  
Monday & Tuesday: 8:30 AM to 5 PM  
Wednesday & Thursday: 8:30 AM to 6 PM  
Friday: 8:30 AM to 3 PM\*  
\*Pediatric hours 7 AM to 5 PM

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For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

St Mary, Red Oak, IA

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