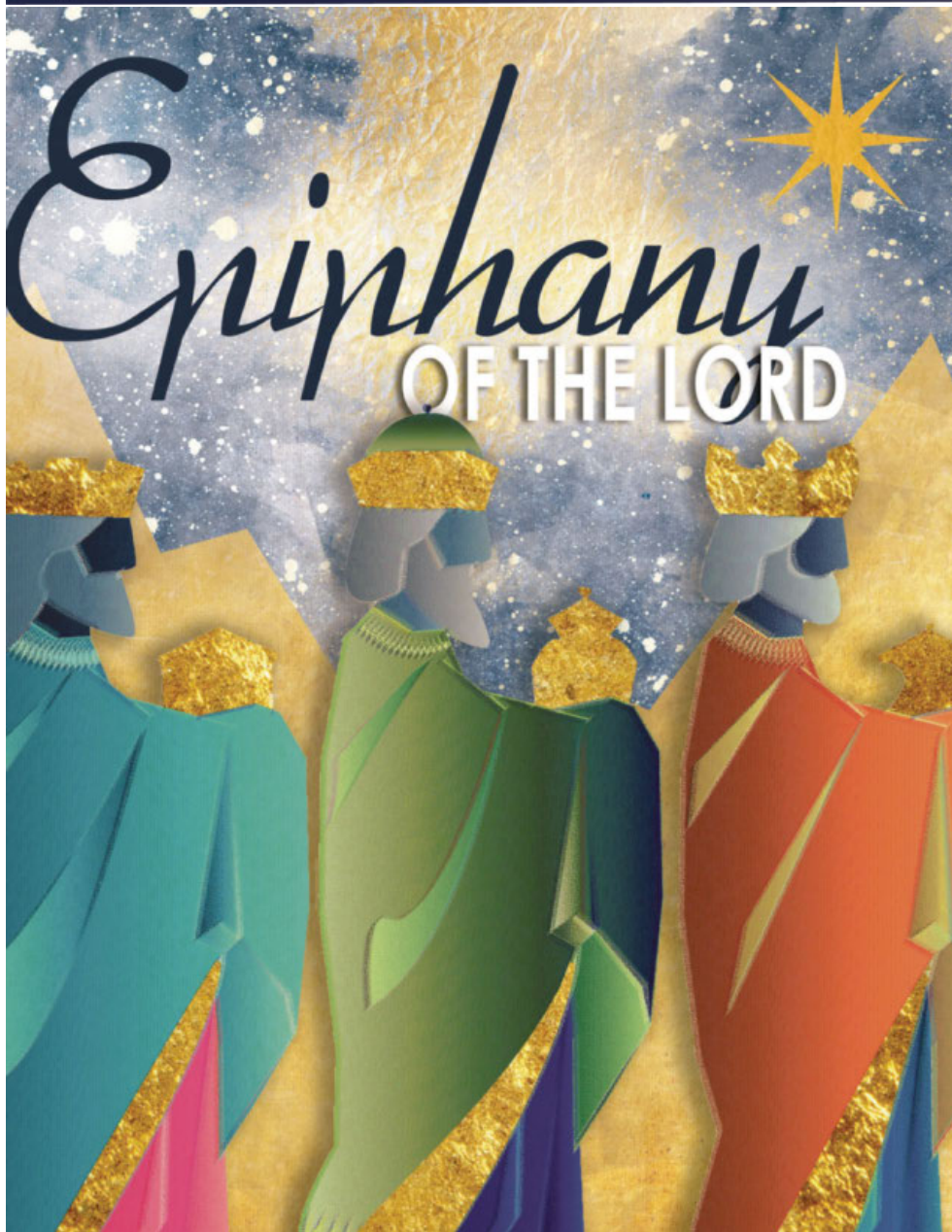




# IMMACULATE CATHOLIC CHURCH CONCEPTION



## *Peace Be With You*

*As the dawn breaks on a new year,  
let us give thanks for all we hold dear:  
our health, our family and our  
friends.*

*Let us release our grudges, our anger  
and our pains, for these are nothing  
but binding chains.*

*Let us live each day, in the most  
loving ways, the God-conscious way.*

*Let us serve all who are in need,  
regardless of race, color or creed.*

*Let us lead the world from darkness to  
light, from falsehood to truth and  
from wrong to right.*

*Let us remember that we are all one,  
embracing all, discriminating  
against none.*

*May your year be filled with peace,  
prosperity and love.  
May God's blessings shower upon you  
and bestow upon you a bright, healthy  
and peaceful new year.*

### RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:30-4:15 PM  
Please call to schedule an  
appointment. (641) 228-1071

### BAPTISM

Please contact the parish office.

### MARRIAGE

Please contact the parish office.

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact the parish office.

### WORSHIP LOCATION

106 Chapel Lane,  
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(641) 228-1071

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### WEEKEND MASSES

are Broadcast on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/iccharlescity](http://www.facebook.com/iccharlescity)

TIMES: Please see calendar inside.

### MISSION STATEMENT

Immaculate Conception is a  
Catholic Eucharistic Community  
called by God to be faithful,  
welcoming, and serving all with  
love and compassion under the  
guidance of the Holy Spirit.

### PARISH MEMBERSHIP

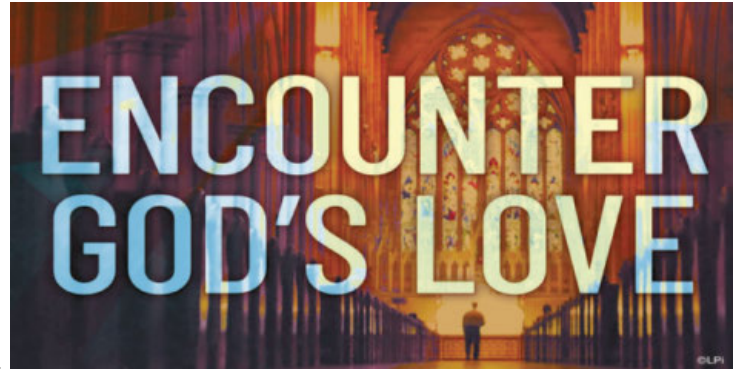
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# GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE


January 2nd, 2022  
The Epiphany of the Lord

In his Apostolic Exhortation, **The Joy of the Gospel**, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: *“Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.”* Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, *“Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God’s love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being.”*



Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.


We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.



**Eucharistic First Friday Adoration**  
**First Friday, January 7th, 2022,**  
 following the 8:00 a.m. Mass until 2 p.m.  
***“God comes to tell us to go.”***  
 A sign-up sheet is located in the front entrance of the church.

***THANK YOU . . .*** to those who volunteered from I.C. Parish to help deliver Meals on Wheels for the next 2 weeks! Your stewardship means so much to so many! God bless you!

***Our Deepest Sympathy and Prayers***  
*are extended to the friends & families of*  
**Michael “Mike” Reams;**  
**Marvin Benning, husband of Anne Benning;**  
**and Renee Frederick, sister of Roxanne Kennedy;**  
*who passed away recently. God, grant them eternal peace.*





**THANK YOU . . .** to all who assisted in addressing cards, preparing mailings, wrapping gifts, assembling and delivering over 50 gift bags to our homebound or “Senior Friends”.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP -  
RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

**The Light of the Moon**

If you own a television that has been turned on at any point in the last month or so, chances are you've caught at least a scene or two of the 1946 classic film "It's a Wonderful Life."

If you're not familiar with the movie, it follows the life of George Bailey from childhood through adulthood. A dreamer by nature, George has big plans for himself that involve world exploration and adventure — but family and community obligations keep him tethered to the same spot on the map, leading an altogether ordinary life.

One of the most memorable scenes from that movie is of George dancing with his sweetheart Mary while they sing "Buffalo Gals—Won't you come out tonight/ And dance by the light of the moon?"

That lyric always catches my ear. Of course, the moon doesn't have any light of its own. All the moon has is the ability to reflect the light that shines upon it.

The same holds for us, doesn't it? Our stewardship is purely a reflection of the grace granted to us by another. "Upon you the LORD shines," writes Isaiah, "and over you appears his glory." Every good action we will ever take begins in the mind of God. The fact that we have the honor of carrying it out on His behalf is a beautiful gift. It is God that makes our ordinary lives extraordinary.

In the end of the movie, George Bailey realizes that he had a far greater life because, instead of being the hero of his own story, he allowed himself to reflect goodness onto others.

Remember — the magi didn't chart their own course. They merely followed the star.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

***When the World's Child was Born***

*Father in heaven,  
let us revel in you  
with gratitude for the gift of life.*

*When a child is born,  
we rejoice in possibilities.  
We share dreams for the future.  
We marvel at the new life.*

*When the world's child was born,  
few knew or cared.  
Few saw the signs.  
Few came with gifts.*

*The center of the universe  
was placed in a makeshift cradle.  
Yet all human history changed  
When the world's child was born.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in him!*

*Amen.*



**STEWARDSHIP**  
MAXIMIZING GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR HIS GLORY

**Dec. 11th & 12th, 2021**

**451 in attendance**

Budget Envelopes...118.....	\$ 10,788.00
Offertory.....	\$ 723.00
Christmas.....	\$ 615.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$ 650.00
Religious Retirement.....	\$ 1,003.00

**Dec. 18th & 19th, 2021**

**542 in attendance**

Budget Envelopes...129.....	\$ 8,864.00
Offertory.....	\$ 1,143.66
Christmas.....	\$ 3,390.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$ 38.00
Religious Retirement.....	\$ 245.00

**The three kings in today's Gospel traveled a great distance at considerable cost to offer their richest gifts to the Infant Jesus. How far will I go and what will I offer to do homage to this newborn King and Savior?**

***Christmas Flower & Decoration Donations***

*In Memory of . . .*

*Eugene & Eva Boge  
 Bill Boss & Joe Boss  
 Becky Meyer Burns  
 Dan Carlin and Joe, Mary & Jennifer Roethler  
 Jack Dailey  
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 Arnold Deetz  
 Jim Erb  
 Craig G. Fisher  
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 Robert & Larry Gogg  
 Francis Dale Groesbeck & Hayden Dale Stowe  
 Herbert & Irene Hemann and Wes & Donna Koebrick  
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 John Kraus and Paul & Fran Shannon  
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 Bob Murray  
 John & Leona Noehl, Oswald & Marie Schmitz and Madella Noehl  
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 John & Ann Pavlovich & Howard & Delores Graack  
 Putney & Annett Families  
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 Deceased Members of the Robinson Family  
 Our Parents  
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 and Arthur W. & Olivia Lines  
 Jerome Schmitt  
 LaVern Schwickerath  
 Swaroff & Williams Families  
 Urban & Shatek Families  
 Dick Wells*


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*Dr. Ken Steimel Family*

*From . . .*


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 Barbara Leary  
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 Dan & Denise Pavlovich  
 Victoria Putney  
 Bob & Diann Riha  
 Joanne Robinson  
 Jerry & Patti Rochford  
 Art & Nancy S. Lines  
 Shari Schmitt & Family  
 Marlene Schwickerath & Kathy Waite  
 Al & Mary Williams  
 Shirley Urban  
 Jan Wells*

*Anonymous*




**Beauty  
In Christ**  
Archdiocese of Dubuque Women's Conference

ARCHDIOCESE of DUBUQUE | 2022 Women's Conference



*Holy Women  
of the  
Visitation*



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

*What can we learn from the Visitation between Mary, Our Blessed Mother, and her cousin, Elizabeth?*

Come and learn more about these two holy women at the 2022 Virtual Archdiocesan Women's Conference, *Beauty in Christ: Holy Women of the Visitation*, Saturday, January 29th, from 8 a.m. till 1 p.m. We are delighted to present two national speakers and writers on the Visitation: *Emily Jaminet* and *Liz Kelly*! Whether you join from the comfort of your own home or gather with the other women from your parish, you'll experience all the great features of our annual women's conference including Archbishop Jackels, music, prayer, worship and good conversations, and prizes! To read more about our speakers and to register, go to: [www.archwomensconference.org/](http://www.archwomensconference.org/)

**Keep Celebrating  
the 12 Days of Christmas!**

Surprise homebound or former members, priests and sisters. Addresses and cards are still available on the bulletin board and card stand. Take as many as you wish....  
**before January 6th!**



The Knights of Columbus have a FACEBOOK GROUP.  
Look for Knights of Columbus Council 1409  
Join, Like and Share.  
We will be posting information here regularly.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
UPCOMING EVENTS**



**Ribeye Dinner**

Thursday, January 13th, 2022,  
at the Columbus Club  
**RESERVATIONS NEEDED!**

Limited to 150 tickets!

Tickets will be on sale after the masses  
this Sunday, January 2nd and  
next Sunday, January 9th.

**Pancake & Sausage Breakfast**

Sunday, January 16th, 2022,  
at the Columbus Club

Serving 8:30 a.m. till Noon  
Free Will Donation

**A Pope's Prayer for Immigrants**



*Merciful God, we pray to you for all the men, women and children who have died after leaving their homelands in search of a better life. Though many of their graves bear no name, to you each one is known, loved and cherished.*

*May we never forget them, but honor their sacrifice with deeds more than words. We entrust to you all those who have made this journey, enduring fear, uncertainty and humiliation, in order to reach a place of safety and hope. Just as you never abandoned your Son as he was brought to a safe place by Mary and Joseph, so now be close to these, your sons and daughters, through our tenderness and protection.*

*Inspire us, as nations, communities and individuals, to see that those who come to our shores are our brothers and sisters. May we share with them the blessings we have received from your hand, and recognize that together, as one human family, we are all migrants, journeying in hope to you, our true home, where every tear will be wiped away, where we will be at peace and safe in your embrace.*

*by Pope Francis*

# OFFICE HOURS

## PARISH OFFICE



Monday—Thursday  
 8:30 AM—12:00 PM  
 1:00 PM—3:00 PM  
 CLOSED on Friday

106 Chapel Lane  
 Charles City, IA 50616

Phone.....641.228.1071  
 Fax.....641.228.1072  
 Web.....www.iccharlescity.com

## SCHOOL OFFICE



Monday—Friday  
 7:30 AM—4:30 PM

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 Fax.....641.228.7692  
 Web.....www.iccharlescity.org

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