

# The Basilica of St. John

1915 University Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50314 • 515-244-3101 • Fax: 515-244-3165  
email: basilicadm@msn.com • www.basilicaofstjohn.org



**Named to the National Historic Registry, September 8, 1987**  
**Elevated to the rank of Minor Basilica by Pope John Paul II, October 4, 1989**

Pastor: *The Very Reverend Aquinas M. Nichols*

Deacons: *Rev. Mr. Luke Tieskoetter*  
*Rev. Mr. Mark Campbell*  
*Rev. Mr. Juan Bustamante*

Business Manager:  
Bookkeeper:  
Pastor's Secretary/Office Manager:  
Office Assistant:  
Director of Religious Education &  
Adult Faith Formation, RCIA Coordinator:  
Holy Family School Principal:  
Music Director:  
Altar & Rosary President:  
Knights of Columbus:  
Finance Council:  
Pastoral Council:  
Hispanic Ministry:  
  
Hispanic Office-Secretary:  
Homebound Ministry:  
Baptism Preparation/Youth Ministry/Annulments:

Charles Stastny (244-3101, ext. 205)  
Karen Hoff (244-3101, ext. 205)  
Barb Kean (244-3101, ext. 0)  
Pamela Meis (244-3101, ext. 0)  
  
Margaret Stastny (244-3101 ext 204)  
Martin Flaherty (Office: 262-8025)  
Gail Johll (515-462-1266)  
Lisa Chicchelly  
Council 644 (515-244-3101 ext 300)  
Hugh O'Hagan  
Seth Sojka  
Fr. Reynaldo Hernandez, Chaplain (515-554-7138)  
Rev. Mr. Juan Bustamante (515-868-9218)  
Elvia Garza (515-771-3900)  
Rev. Mr. Luke Tieskoetter (249-1327)  
Rev. Mr. Mark Campbell

Masses: Saturday: 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (Sunday Vigil), 6:00p.m. (Spanish Mass)  
Sunday: 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. (Festive Sung Mass)  
Holy Days: Usually 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. (check voicemail for Mass Schedule changes)  
National Holidays: Usually 9:00 a.m. (or check Mass Schedule on the inside of this bulletin)  
Weekdays: 12:00 noon

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday: 2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. or by appointment  
Baptism: Parishioners contact the parish office - (515)244-3101 ext. 0  
Marriage: Parishioners contact the office at least 6 months prior to requested date of marriage  
Visit to Sick: Please inform office of any illness or hospitalization in the family  
New Parishioners: Please contact the Parish Office to register as a member of our parish  
Mass Homily: BasilicaofStJohn.org click on Live Telecast tab.  
Pregnancy Hotline: For those considering abortion: 1-800-848-LOVE





# Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today we hear of St. John the Baptist. He is certainly one of the more challenging prophetic figures found in the Sacred Scriptures. As in his day, he continues to call us to repentance and conversion to prepare the way for the Lord.

By order of His Excellency Bishop Joensen, the WEARING OF A MASK IS MANDATED FOR ALL CHURCHES IN THE DIOCESE OF DES MOINES FOR ALL FUNCTIONS WITHIN THE CHURCHES. This includes Mass and any other liturgical functions, as well as in the vestibule until you have exited the Basilica. This mandate is in place until at least 02 February 2021. ALL SOCIAL FUNCTIONS ARE ALSO TO BE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. Those with physical or psychological reasons are exempted from the mandate. I know that there are many different opinions about this. But I ask you to please be obedient to the wishes of the Bishop and follow the guidelines that he has issued in this regard.

Congratulations to our raffle winners: \$100.00 each to Trent Peterson, Steve Vasquez and Itzel Vedes and \$250.00 to Trent Peterson. Marty Wolske was the grand prize winner, of \$1,643.80. Thanks to all for their participation.

You have received my annual Christmas Appeal in the mail by now. We rely on your generous response to this appeal to make up our deficit and to carry us along into the new year. I ask that you generously respond to the appeal and make whatever extra sacrifice you are able to help in this regard.

Tuesday is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. There will be one Mass only at 12:00 noon.

**There will be a second collection this weekend for our St. Vincent de Paul Chapter.**

The schedule of Masses for Christmas is in the bulletin and posted on the bulletin board. There will be an extra Mass on Christmas Eve at 6:00 p.m. this year. There will be no Children's Mass as such. I ask that you spread out for these Masses, especially since there is an extra Mass on Christmas Eve. Seating in the Basilica will be on a first come basis. Please do not remove the ribbons that mark off the pews not to be used. There will be the opportunity for the overflow to watch the Mass in the Mulvihill Hall. Holy Communion will be brought down to the hall at the appropriate time. May the Lord continue to bless you all!

Devotedly in the Lord,

(The Very Reverend) Aquinas M. Nichols  
Pastor

## WEEKLY INCOME – 11/29/20

Total - \$21,185.22  
Need - \$17,372.08

Year to Date (YTD) – Fiscal Year July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021  
YTD Total - \$288,116.78  
YTD Need - \$382,185.76

**ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL-Amount still owed: \$33,873.00**

**Our Debt to the Foundation: \$0.00**

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE DECEMBER 5 TO DECEMBER 13

### TIMES FOR EUCHARIST AND INTENTIONS

SAT 4:00PM +Madeline James  
05 6:00PM Spanish Mass

### SUN SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

06 8:30AM +James Teehan  
10:30AM Parish & Benefactors

### MON

07 12:00PM Friends/Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters, FEHJ

### TUE

#### *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception*

08 12:00PM +Kay Davis

### WED

09 12:00PM +Mary Worster

### THU

10 12:00PM +Judy Tatz

### FRI

11 12:00PM +Walt McManus

### SAT

#### **NO MORNING MASS AT THE BASILICA**

12 9:00AM +Living/Deceased Members of Altar & Rosary

#### (Vigil Mass)

4:00PM +Charles Frey

### SUN

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

13 8:30AM +Kathryn Mauro  
10:30AM Parish & Benefactors

THE BASILICA OF ST. JOHN STREAMING ONLINE:  
[www.BasilicaofStJohn.org](http://www.BasilicaofStJohn.org) home page, scroll down to "Streaming Masses" & click on the tab to watch daily Mass and the Sunday Mass.

**PRAYER CHAIN:** Do you know someone who is in need of prayer? The Basilica Prayer Chain can help. To request prayers email Deacon Luke Tieskoetter at [tieskoetterluke3@gmail.com](mailto:tieskoetterluke3@gmail.com) or Terri at 321-2743 or [sinc2@aol.com](mailto:sinc2@aol.com).

## CATECHISM CORNER:

Last week's question:

Last week's question: **\*How is the Liturgy celebrated?\***

**ANSWER:** The celebration of the liturgy is interwoven with signs and symbols whose meaning is rooted in creation and in human culture. It is determined by the events of the Old Testament and is fully revealed in the Person and work of Christ.

New ways to give to the Basilica of Saint John: Text-To-Give phone number. With Text-To-Give you simply put in a dollar amount and send a text to the following: (515) 293-4810. Scan the following QR Code for a one-time gift or setup an account.



**2021 CALENDARS ARE HERE!** They are located in the back of the church. One per family, so everyone has a chance to get one!



*The Basilica of St. John*  
*Second Sunday of Advent*  
*December 6, 2020*

Respect  
Life



YOUR PARISH THIS WEEK DECEMBER 7 THRU DECEMBER 13		
MON 07	9:00AM 6:30PM	NO Adoration RCIA(H)
TUE 08	8:00AM	<i>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception</i> Organ Practice
WED 09	9:00AM 6:45PM	NO Adoration Prayer & Adoration (Ch)
THU 10	8:00AM	Organ Practice
FRI 11	9:00AM	NO Adoration
SAT 12	8:30AM	NO Chaplet of Divine Mercy <i>2nd Collection: Retirement Fund for Religious</i>
SUN 13	8:00AM	NO Vietnamese Prayer Group <i>2nd Collection: Retirement Fund for Religious</i>

**O COME, LET US ADORE HIM:** Join us every Wednesday night during Advent for prayer and Adoration of our Lord, from 6:45pm until 8pm, starting Wednesday, December 2. The evening will begin with a brief reflection and prayer before exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.



**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** Congratulations to Joseph Wadle, Owen Smothers, Serenity Ruiz-Perez, Bernadette Willard and their families on the recent celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism.



**CHRISTMAS DECORATING:** Volunteers are needed! We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Sunday, December 20, after the 10:30 Mass. If you are able, please come to help. In the past there have been only a few to stay and help. We need as many as are able! Many hands make light work! Masks are available, as well as hand sanitizer, and social distancing will be in effect. Thank you to everyone who is able to help!




**POINSETTIA DONATIONS:** If you would like to donate a poinsettia for Christmas decorating, you can drop it off or have it delivered starting the week of December 14, between 8am-4pm. If possible, please have it wrapped in gold foil. Thank you!

**Daily Scripture Readings for the week of December 7, 2020:**  
**Monday:** Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26  
**Tuesday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38  
**Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30  
**Thursday:** Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15  
**Friday:** Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19  
**Saturday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1:26-38  
**Sunday:** Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

**LIFELINES: Prayer for Advent:** God of Life, We rejoice in the promise of your coming. You have sent your Son, born in Bethlehem. He is the Prince of Peace, and the one in whose name all oppression shall cease. May we welcome his coming each day and prepare for his coming at the end of time. May we build a culture that welcomes him by welcoming every child, born and unborn. We pray through the same Christ our Lord. Amen. (Priests for Life)

**COMMUNAL PENANCE:** This year, due to Covid 19 we will not have our annual Advent Communal Penance service. Please avail yourself to the regularly scheduled Saturday Reconciliation times: 2:45pm-3:45pm every Saturday.

 **CHILDREN'S CHOIR NEWS:** The Catholic Youth Choir of Central Iowa will be offering last year's Christmas CD, *O Light Most Blessed*, after Masses for a small donation of \$15 or more to the Basilica of St. John. This makes a lovely Christmas gift, so stop in the back of church to pick up your CDs for friends and family near and far! They will also be available at the parish office and Divine Treasures.

**AROUND THE DIOCESE**

**Hope in the Midst of the Storm:** The holidays are going to be tough this year as we experience pandemic fatigue. Join us in an online Advent retreat the first 3 Thursdays in December. We'll intertwine prayer, find inspiration from Pope Francis, allow time for silent reflection and build community. This is a three-week online retreat to offer you solace and hope. Join us this Thursday for the next retreat either at 2pm or 7pm. Email [jgaffney@dmdioocese.org](mailto:jgaffney@dmdioocese.org) for more info or to receive the Zoom link.

**No Room at the Inn VIRTUAL!:** Join Bishop Joensen and the Catholic Charities Board of Directors for 2020 No Room at the Inn VIRTUAL. This year you can join in from the comfort and safety of your home. Listen to holiday music, try to spot the candy canes, and go on virtual tours of Catholic Charities. Register online at [catholiccharitiesdm.org/nri/](http://catholiccharitiesdm.org/nri/). To purchase raffle tickets for a hand-carved nativity scene, go to [catholiccharitiesdm.org/nativity/](http://catholiccharitiesdm.org/nativity/).

***A Prayer for Advent***

***Lord Jesus, Master of both light and darkness,  
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.***

***We who have so much to do***

***Seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.***

***We who are anxious over many things***

***Look forward to your coming among us.***

***We who are blessed in so many ways***

***Long for the complete joy of your Kingdom.***

***We whose hearts are heavy, seek the joy of your presence.***

***We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking  
the light. To you we say, Come, Lord Jesus!"***

***--Father Henri JM Nouwen***





# Basilica of Saint John

The Very Rev. Aquinas M. Nichols  
Pastor

## Advent 2020

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are preparing for the great feast of Christmas in this holy season of Advent. I pray it will be a time of many graces and blessings for all of you.

Bishop Joesnen has issued guidelines for the Christmas Masses as we continue to fight the Covid Pandemic. First of all, our Christmas schedule will be the following:

### Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. (Church will open at 3:00 p.m.)

6:00 p.m.

Midnight (Church will open at 11:00 p.m.)

### Christmas Day

10:30 a.m. (Church will open at 9:30 a.m.)

This year there will be no Children's Mass. A small gift will be on tables in the vestibule for the children. The music will be limited to the organ and one Cantor and there will be no choir concert before the Midnight Mass. You are asked to try and spread out evenly among the scheduled Masses, especially at the Saturday Masses. I know this will require some sacrifice, but the Bishop would prefer not to have the church overly packed. The Mulvihill Hall will be used for the overflow for all Christmas Masses. There will be a screen set up in the hall and Holy Communion will be brought down at the appropriate time.

The Bishop has mandated the use of masks in all the churches in the diocese. This is important for Christmas since there will be many different people in attendance from all over. Please take his instruction seriously, as well as using the hand sanitizer. Please do not try and sit in the pews that have been taped off. The other restrictions continue to be in place such as distancing, especially when coming up for Holy Communion, and coming up last if you wish to receive Holy Communion on the tongue.

Let us do all we can to keep ourselves, and others, safe. I wish you all a most blessed and joyous Advent and Christmas Season!

Devotedly in the Lord,

(The Very Reverend) Aquinas M. Nichols  
Pastor



# Christmas and New Year's Schedule 2020/21



## **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24TH:**

12:00p.m. *Last Mass of Advent*  
4:00 p.m. *Christmas Vigil Mass / Church opens at 3:00 p.m.*  
6:00 p.m. *Christmas Vigil Mass*  
11:00 p.m. *NO Basilica Choir Concert / Church open at 11 p.m.*  
12:00 a.m. *Solemn Midnight Mass of Christmas*

## **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25TH:**

10:30 a.m. *Solemn Mass of Christmas Day / Church open at 9:30 a.m.*

## **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26TH:**

*Mass Times: NO 9:00 a.m. Mass; 2:45p.m.-3:45p.m.-Confessions;  
4:00 p.m.- Sunday Vigil Mass; 6:00 p.m.-Spanish Mass*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27TH:** *Mass: 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.*

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 28TH THRU FRIDAY, JANUARY 1ST:** *Mass at 12:00 Noon*

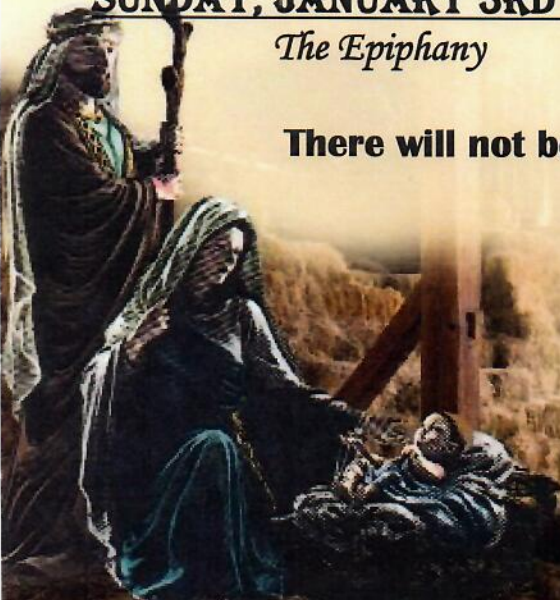
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 1ST 2021:** *Mass at 12:00 Noon*  
*The Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God*

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 2ND, 2021:** *NO 9:00 a.m. Mass; Regular Saturday Mass Schedule*

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 3RD 2021:** *Mass: 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.*  
*The Epiphany*

**There will not be a Pastor's Open House this year!**

*May the Lord's blessing be yours, both  
now & throughout the New Year of 2021  
Father Aquinas*





Sponsored by the  
Altar & Rosary Society,  
the Youth Group and YOU!

**December 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>  
after each Mass**

Please donate a delicious yummy to sell and come  
prepare to stock up for Christmas celebrations. All  
proceeds help to fund our new Sing a New Song  
books for Year B.

Please bring your yummy donations to the church hall  
on Saturday, December 12th after 2:00 p.m.

Available items include cakes, pies cookies, sweet  
breads and of course cinnamon rolls (both baked and  
frozen). If you are missing movie popcorn, we'll have  
that too! Thank you for your support!





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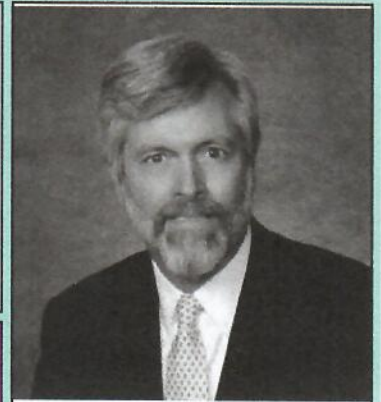
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