

# 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



# The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today is "Gaudete Sunday" or the Sunday to rejoice. We are very near the feast of the Lord's Birth. As we continue our Advent journey, we should be mindful of taking to heart the messages of change in our lives that are pointed out in the Sacred Scriptures. Let us throw away all that does not belong to the Lord, and rejoice in his grace, and fill ourselves with joy as we prepare for the great Christmas feast!

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. Please heed the Bishop's wishes in this matter.

You have received my annual Christmas Appeal in the mail by now. As always, we rely on your generous response to this appeal each year 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.

There will be a second collection this weekend for our retired religious in the country. Please do what you can to help them. These are the nuns, brothers and priests, many of whom taught in our Catholic schools, who are now retired and are in need of our help.

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.

We are also in need of donated poinsettias to beautify our Basilica for Christmas. May the Lord continue to bless you all!

Devotedly in the Lord,

(The Very Reverend) Aquinas M. Nichols  
Pastor

## WEEKLY INCOME – 12/6/20

Total - \$33,551.45  
Need - \$17,372.08

Year to Date (YTD) – Fiscal Year July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021  
YTD Total - \$321,668.23  
YTD Need - \$399,557.84

**ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL-Amount still owed: \$25,000.00**

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

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

**DECEMBER 12 TO DECEMBER 20**

### TIMES FOR EUCHARIST AND INTENTIONS

**SAT 12** 4:00PM +Charles Frey  
6:00PM Spanish Mass

### SUN 13 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

**MON 14** 12:00PM +Charlotte A. Brien

**TUE 15** 12:00PM Intentions of Msgr. Frank Chiodo

**WED 16** 12:00PM +Lucille Molloy

**THU 17** 12:00PM +Richard Munoz

**FRI 18** 12:00PM +Skip Manaugh

**SAT 19 NO MORNING MASS AT THE BASILICA**  
9:00AM +Patricia Behlmer

(Vigil Mass)  
4:00PM +Joseph

**SUN 20 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
8:30AM Deceased Members of Nguyen, Pham & Le Families  
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:

Question: **From where do the sacramental signs come?**

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church.  
(Look for the answer in next week's bulletin)

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*  
*Third Sunday of Advent*  
*December 13, 2020*

Respect  
Life



**YOUR PARISH THIS WEEK**  
**DECEMBER 14 THRU DECEMBER 20**

MON 14	9:00AM 6:30PM	NO Adoration RCIA(H)
TUE 15	8:00AM	Organ Practice
WED 16	9:00AM 6:45PM	NO Adoration Prayer & Adoration (Ch)
THU 17	8:00AM	Organ Practice
FRI 18	9:00AM	NO Adoration
SAT 19	8:30AM	NO Chaplet of Divine Mercy
SUN 20	8:00AM 12:00PM	NO Vietnamese Prayer Group Decorate the church for Christmas

**Daily Scripture Readings for the week of December 14, 2020:**

Monday:	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday:	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday:	Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17
Friday:	Jer 23:5-8, Mt 1:18-25
Saturday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
Sunday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

**LIFELINES:** In a statement, the Catholic Medical Association, the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American College of Pediatricians and the Christian Medical and Dental Associations said the vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna did not use cells from aborted babies in their production phases, the Catholic News Agency reports. Though “it is true that the animal-phase testing for these vaccines used abortion-derived fetal cells, commendably, it does not appear that production methods utilized such cells,” the pro-life groups said. Both vaccines could soon be available in the United States. The companies said they are waiting for final approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, but the vaccines already are in production. The pro-life medical groups said ethical alternatives to cells from aborted babies are available, such as umbilical cord tissue and adult stem cells, neither of which involve the destruction of human life. They said many viral vaccines that have been produced in recent years did not use “abortion-derived fetal cell lines for their production.” “These and other ethical approaches provide encouragement for the future, where no vaccine will violate the dignity of human life in their production,” they continued. They urged pharmaceutical companies to commit to the “assurances of safety, efficacy” and “uncompromised ethical development” of vaccines. For more information on this go to LifeNews.com. (Life News)

**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.



**ADVENT ANGEL TREE:** Help support our parish families who are in need. Pick an angel from the tree. Read the age/sizes under the apron. Buy this person a gift, wrap it, and attach the Angel back onto the package. Return the gift to the box near the tree or drop off at the Parish Hall. Deadline for dropping off the gift is Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. Gift pick-up is Saturday, December 19 from 11am to 2pm. Thank you for your generosity! Questions? Call Margaret at 515-244-3101 ext. 204.

**END OF YEAR TITHING STATEMENTS:** Due to the large number of “end of year” tax/tithing letters not picked up this past year and in order to save money, the 2020 tax letters will not be pre-printed in bulk. They will instead, be printed at each person’s request. Please call ahead of time (515-244-3101, ext. 0) to ensure your letter is ready for pickup or to be mailed. If you come in without calling ahead, it may not be available the same day. The statements will be ready by mid January.

**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. The evening will begin with a brief reflection and prayer before exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.



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



**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! They will be available at the parish office and Divine Treasures.

**AROUND THE DIOCESE**

**The Gift of a Christmas Concert:** In a Christmas season darkened by disease, division, and discouragement, Bishop William Joensen invites you to celebrate the joy and hope of the nativity by watching, “The Lessons, Reflections, and Carols of Christmas”, a livestream Christmas concert/prayer service presented by Umeri, the Drake University alumni choir, and representatives of the Diocese of Des Moines. This event, which features music, Scriptures, and reflections written especially for this celebration, was filmed at St. Ambrose Cathedral and can be accessed anytime between December 12 and January 6 at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd1rPwPhXYIW0od6Ln6npWg>.

**Family-centered Advent Activities:** Looking for a way to celebrate Advent at home? Check out [dmdioocese.org/Advent2020](http://dmdioocese.org/Advent2020). The diocese has put together some ideas from prayers to family friendly Christmas movies, a family activity to mark Las Posadas, suggestions for celebrating Advent feast days and more.

**Hope in the Midst of the Storm:** Join Catholics from around the diocese in an online Advent retreat. We’ll intertwine prayer, find inspiration from Pope Francis, allow time for silent reflection and build community. The retreat is designed to help you find space to draw you deep into the season that is in need of solace and hope. Join us this Thursday, December 17 either at 2 pm or 7 pm. Email [jgaffney@dmdioocese.org](mailto:jgaffney@dmdioocese.org) for more information or to receive the Zoom link.



# 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*

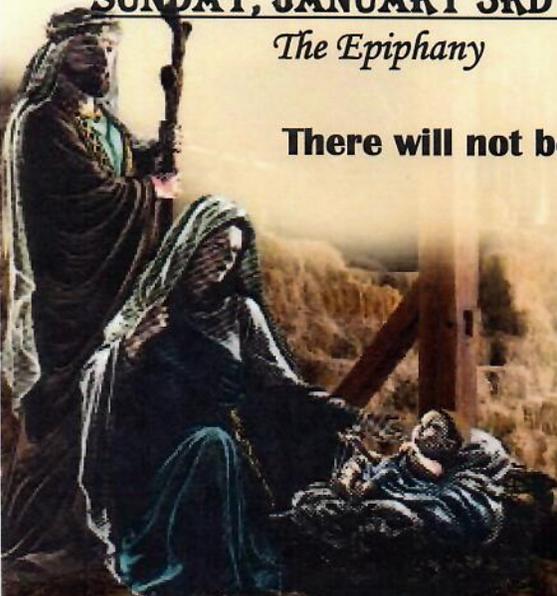
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 1ST 2021:** *Mass at 12:00 Noon*  
*The Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God*

**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!

A graphic for a 'BAKE SALE' featuring the words 'BAKE' and 'SALE' in large, green, block letters. In the center, the letter 'S' is replaced by three mittens: a blue plaid mitten on the left, an orange plaid mitten in the middle, and a red plaid mitten on the right. The entire graphic is set against a white background with a blue, brush-stroke-like border.

**BAKE SALE**

**Merrill Axle &  
Wheel Service, Inc.**

Specialists • Alignment  
Frame & Springs

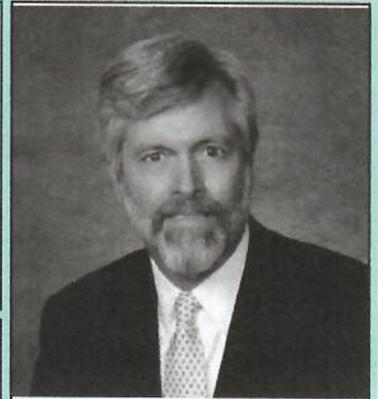
1403 Walnut (515) 288-2131

**W West Bank**

515-222-2300

Member FDIC

[westbankstrong.com](http://westbankstrong.com)



John Wild

Iles Funeral Homes  
*Celebrate Life the Way You Lived It*  
[www.IlesCares.com](http://www.IlesCares.com)

**catholicmatch®  
Iowa**



[CatholicMatch.com/IA](http://CatholicMatch.com/IA)

**AVAILABLE  
FOR A LIMITED TIME**

ADVERTISE YOUR  
**BUSINESS HERE**

Contact **Rob Witte** to place an ad today!  
[rwitte@4LPi.com](mailto:rwitte@4LPi.com) or (800) 950-9952 x2501

**MERCYONE<sup>SM</sup>**

We are proud to be central Iowa's  
Catholic health care provider.

Find a physician or clinic near you at  
[mercyone.org/desmoines](http://mercyone.org/desmoines)



Serving Des Moines  
over 90 years

Supporting the Des Moines Diocese for over 90 years

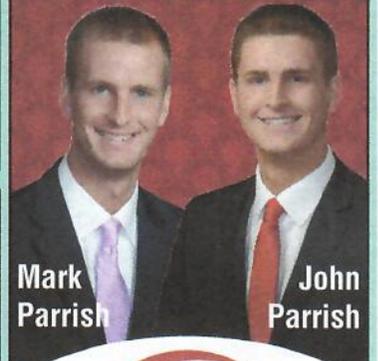
(515) 244-ROSE (7673)  
Visit us at [www.boesen.com](http://www.boesen.com)

**HUMMEL'S**

Sales **NISSAN** Parts  
Service Leasing

4770 MERLE HAY ROAD • (515) 253-0719

Des Moines' only  
Catholic-owned and  
operated funeral home.



Mark Parrish

John Parrish

**CALDWELL PARRISH**  
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY  
8201 Hickman • 515-276-0551  
[CaldwellParrish.com](http://CaldwellParrish.com)

**Too Sick for Mass?**

SUPPORT OUR PARISH NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE!

Sign-up to get your bulletin delivered  
right to your inbox!

[www.parishesonline.com](http://www.parishesonline.com)



**Mickle  
Electric & Heating Inc.**

Specializing in All Types of Electric  
Wiring Updates  
Furnace & Air Conditioning  
Replacements  
261-0058



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • [www.4lpi.com](http://www.4lpi.com)

Basilica of John, Des Moines, IA

A 4C 02-0517