

ST. ELIZABETH PASTORATE

104 1st ST SE, PO Box 286 Epworth, IA 52045

<https://stelizabethpastorate.com>

563.876.5540

Catholic Communities of Bankston, Epworth, Farley, Peosta and Placid

PREPARE

“So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

MATTHEW 24:44

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Our sympathy to the families of:



Patrick McDermott of Epworth

Bill Schroeder and Gloria Marolf both of Farley



Please welcome our new members to St. Clement, Bankston:

Jimmy and Paige Boeckenstedt

Nick and Kayla Lattner and son Rocco

What is the history of the Advent Wreath?



The most popular and common symbol of Advent is the Advent Wreath. Although the actual origins of the Advent Wreath is uncertain, pre-Christian Germanic peoples used wreaths with lit candles during the cold and dark days as a sign of hope in the future for the longer warmer sunlight days of spring. In Scandinavia, lighted candles were placed around a wheel and prayers were offered to the god of light to turn “the wheel of the earth” back toward the sun to lengthen the days and restore warmth. During the Middle Ages, Christians adapted this tradition and used Advent wreaths as part of a spiritual preparation for Christmas. Christ is the Light that came into the world to dispel the darkness of sin and radiate light.

The wreath is made up of various evergreens signifying continuous life. Even the evergreens have a traditional meaning that can be adapted to our faith—the laurel symbolizes victory over persecution and suffering; the pine, holly and yew symbolize immortality; and cedar signifies strength and healing. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and everlasting life found in Christ. Any pine cones, nuts, or seedpods symbolize life and resurrection.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. A tradition is that each week represents one thousand years, to sum up the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the birth of Jesus. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles symbolize the prayer, the penance, and the preparatory sacrifices and good works done during this time. The rose candle, lit on the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday), represents rejoicing, because we have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when our preparation is half over and we are getting closer to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord’s coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming. The light again signifies Christ.

FROM THE PASTOR

Happy Advent! The new season brings a new liturgical year. Our focus this liturgical year will be on the Gospel of Matthew which will be read most Sundays of the year. Advent has a twofold purpose; preparing for Christmas and preparing for the fullness of the Kingdom of God. The preparation for Christmas gets most of our attention, but how can we bring the Kingdom of God to the here and now? Matthew says it both IS now and IS to come. I pray Advent is a time of peace and joy for all of us.



A few other items of note:

- Thank you to those who organized, worked and attended the Thanksgiving breakfast in Farley last week. A long tradition in the parish.
- Advent reflection night is this evening (December 1) in Peosta. Topic will be on the Saints and begins at 6:30 PM. The talk will last about an hour and there will be a period of Adoration until 10:00 PM for those who want to stay.
- We have over 90 2nd graders making their First Reconciliation this week. Please pray for them.
- Our bulletin company will be onsite this week to sell ads for the bulletin for the next year. Thank you to the businesses that purchase space and thank you to those who patronize these businesses that provide our bulletin at no cost to the parishes.
- Fr. Kruse will be taking a group this week to Milwaukee. Prayers for their safe journey.
- Fr. Ptacek appreciates the your cards and visits as he continues to settle in to MercyOne Senior Care in Dyersville.

UPCOMING EVENTS



THE PRAYLUDE SINGERS will be sharing Christmas Carols with the residents at MercyOne Senior Care in Dyersville and Good Neighbor Home in Manchester. We will be at MercyOne on Tuesday, December 3 at 6:30 PM and at the Good Neighbor Home on Monday, December 9 at 2:00 PM. Contact Marian 563-744-3604 with questions. Everyone is welcome!

The **Epworth Country Christmas celebration** is Wednesday, December 4 from 5-00-7:30 PM (snow date is December 11). This FREE event is open to all and includes musical entertainment and a soup supper at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, local business open houses, many events at Epworth United Methodist Church, and a Living Nativity on East Main Street. Keep up-to-date on Facebook by liking "Epworth Country Christmas 2019"!

The **Farley/Bankston KC's** will meet at Happy Joe's, Dyersville for their regular meeting on Thursday, December 5 at 7:00 PM.



The CDA Christmas Party is Saturday, December 7 at the Country Junction in Dyersville. Lunch will be at 11:30 AM. RSVP to Deb Kennedy at 563.451.2941. Members are asked to bring a wrapped \$5 gift for games.



Free Friday Meal will be starting in January in the St. Patrick Parish hall in Epworth! Check out the newly remodeled parish hall and enjoy a free meal! We will have more information as it gets closer.

There will be **Communal Reconciliation** on Monday, December 16 at 7:00 PM at St. John, Peosta. Several area priests will be helping.



may share His Life!"

Christmas greetings: *"As we begin the Advent Season be assured of my prayers for you. May this time of grace fill your Christmas Stockings. The Christ child came to live among us that we*

~ Fr. Kuhn



March for Life participants will hold a Bake Sale on December 21-22 after all the Masses in our Pastorate. Although there will be lots of goodies, you are welcome to share your baking skills and bring an item to sell. Please have donations at any church before Mass begins. Proceeds will benefit those who are attending the March for Life in Washington D.C.

Fr. Kruse recorded a CD of Sacred Music several years ago. Copies are available at the Pastorate Office. Excellent Christmas gift for family and friends.



Trying to find that perfect gift? Give a gift card! Purchase Scrip through Seton Catholic School and a portion of the purchase price goes to Seton Catholic AND if you choose, a portion can go to your Parish! Find the Scrip Order Form enclosed for your convenience. Return to the Pastorate Office or Seton Catholic, Peosta no later than December 12 to ensure timely delivery. For questions, contact setonscrip@gmail.com.

TIME AND TALENT

St. Clement—Three people gave 11.5 hours of time to practicing and singing at both Confirmation liturgies.

St. Patrick—Four people gave 20 hours of fall cleaning outside of the church and putting carpet on the handicap ramp.

St. Joseph—Four people gave 8 hours of time to the Women of Service Gathering at the Pizza Factory.

St. John, Peosta—Five people gave 22 hours of time to practicing and singing at both Confirmation liturgies.

St. John, Placid—Two people gave 8.5 hours of time practicing and singing at both Confirmation liturgies.

*Due to early bulletin deadline, the **weekend collection** was not able to be counted.*

WEEKLY ROSARY

Peosta Rosary

Dec. 8—Kevin & Maria Braun

Dec. 7—Volunteer

Dec. 8—Ambrose & Dorothy Klostermann



The Week Ahead

Mon., Dec. 2

- 5:30 PM—Peosta Pastoral Meeting in Shannon Hall

Sat., Dec. 7

- 7:00 AM—'That Man Is You' in Shannon Hall, Peosta
- 8:00 AM—Church Cleaning at St. Joseph, Farley

Remember your loved ones at Christmas....

All the parishes are accepting memorial gifts for the Christmas environment. Please put your donation along with the names of those you would like memorialized in an envelope marked "Christmas Flower Memorial." Include the parish you want the names to be listed under. All names will be listed in the bulletin after Christmas. Please have donations turned in to the office by December 15.



The **Women of Service** gathered on November 13. Twenty-three boxes for the Samaritan Christmas child project were collected and packed. These were delivered to the First Baptist Church in Dubuque, where they will be shipped to Chicago for delivery to children across the world. Every shoe box offers an opportunity to share with a child the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since 1993 over 168 million shoe boxes have been delivered by Samaritan's Purse. The women wrote Christmas cards to our sick, homebound and nursing home residents. Attendees were encouraged to start saving plastic grocery bags and t-shirts for future projects.



ST. PATRICK - EPWORTH NEWS

Thank you to all who came to clean and freshen up the church this past week.



We would like to thank Fr. Schueller, the choir and ministers for the beautiful mass for Dennis. Thank you also to the men and women who prepared and helped at the funeral dinner and to all who supported us in anyway. ~ The family of Dennis Driscoll

Anyone who would like to help deliver the Christmas gifts to our parishioners in nursing homes and assisted living facilities is welcome to help. Please contact Judy Lester at 876-3000 if interested.



ST. JOSEPH - FARLEY NEWS



A big thank you to all who worked at, donated and supported our Thanksgiving breakfast in any way!

Church Cleaning—Circle 2 will clean church on Saturday, December 7 at 8:00 AM. Men, women and children are invited to help. Bring buckets and rags. This would be a great service project for those needing hours.

ST. JOHN - PEOSTA NEWS

Angel Tree Gifts for residents of Hillcrest Family Services—The staff at Hillcrest asked that gifts be a \$25 gift card from Goodwill Industries Store plus a stocking filled with candy (approx. \$10 in candy). It will be noted on the Angel if the person is diabetic and sugar free candy is requested. Gifts need to be returned by December 15. Please place your name and phone number next to the number of your angel on the signup sheets. When you return the gift, tape the "Angel" to the gift and place under the tree.

ST. JOHN - PLACID NEWS

Please return your angel gifts by December 4.



Weekly Cleaning: Mary Mormann, Marietta Ostwinkle, Keri Hosch, Angie Zalaznik, Jenni Anglin and Jill Koopmann.

This holiday season give the gift of a Catholic education. The **Our Faith School Tuition Organization (STO)** exists solely to make a Catholic education more affordable for every child who's family income is at or below 400% of the federal poverty rate. As an Iowa tax payer, you can help families with demonstrated financial need through a contribution to the STO. In return, you will receive an Iowa tax credit equal to 65% of your donation. The amount you contribute also may qualify as a charitable donation on a federal tax return. The available Iowa tax credits are filling up fast so visit www.OurFaithSto.org or call the Archdiocese of Dubuque at 800-876-3546 ext. 219 or 307 to learn more.

Bulletin Information: Email office@stelizabethpastorate.com

Submission deadline is Tuesday at noon.

Office Hours: M-TH 8:00am-4:00pm, Friday 8:00am-1:00pm
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Adult Faith Formation/RCIA
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SETON CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Website: <https://setonschool.org>

Farley: 744.3290 Peosta: 556.5967

Mary Smock, Principal Email....m.smock@dbqarch.org
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READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 1, 2019

Mon.: Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
Tues.: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24
Wed.: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37
Thur.: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118: 1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Fri.: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31
Sat.: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sun.: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 19 [cf. 7]/Rom 15:4-9/ Mt 3:1-12

First Sunday of Advent

The Son of Man will come at an hour you do not expect. Good stewards know that they are accountable to God for all they have and are, and they strive to live in readiness for His coming.

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon., Dec. 2

8:00 AM Peosta † John, Rita, & Dale Cavanaugh

RECONCILIATION 8:30-9:00 AM at Peosta

ADORATION follows Mass until 8:00 PM at Peosta



Tue., Dec. 3

St. Francis Xavier

8:45 AM Seton School- † Julie Unsen (Anniv.)
Peosta

Wed., Dec. 4

St. John Damascene

6:30 AM Peosta † Clarence & Stella Kluesner

8:45 AM Farley † Jerry Anstoetter

ADORATION follows 6:30 AM Mass at Peosta until 12:00 noon for vocations

ADORATION with RECONCILIATION 8:30-10:00 PM at Placid

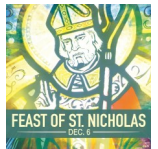
Thu., Dec. 5

6:30 AM Placid † Clem Mausser

8:00 AM Epworth † Albert Trenkamp

RECONCILIATION 8:30-9:00 AM

ADORATION follows Mass until 12:00 noon at Epworth



Fri., Dec. 6

St. Nicholas

8:00 AM Bankston † Everett Servais

8:00 AM Farley † Jack Spoden

ADORATION 7:00-8:00 AM, RECONCILIATION 7:15-7:45 AM at Bankston

ADORATION after Mass until 11:30 AM at Farley

Sat., Dec. 7

St. Ambrose

4:00 PM Farley † Laverne & Florence Simon

5:30 PM Peosta † Dennis & Donna Gotto

RECONCILIATION 3:15-3:45 PM at Farley



Sun., Dec. 8

Second Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM Epworth † John & Ida Faber (20th Anniv.)

8:30 AM Farley † James (Slick) & Dorie Elliott

9:00 AM Placid † Herb Kramer & Irene Kramer

9:30 AM Epworth † James Griffin

10:00 AM Bankston † Mary Carol Cahill

10:30 AM Peosta † Roger Steffen (Birthday)

5:30 PM Peosta † James Schueller

BECOMING CATHOLIC

If you or someone you know is considering joining the Catholic Church or inquiring about the Faith, please call the pastorate office or visit <https://stelizabethpastorate.com>.

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM: For pre-baptismal preparation or to schedule a baptism, contact Lynne McDermott. At least one parent must be a registered and practicing member of the pastorate.

MARRIAGE: Contact the Pastorate office at least six months in advance of the proposed wedding date. At least one of the parties must be a registered member of the pastorate.

ANointing OF THE SICK: Next parish celebrations will be announced at a later date. Others having surgery or wishing to receive the sacrament should call the office to arrange this.

PASTORATE PRAYER LINE

Direct prayer intentions to: Donna Gibbs at 563.744.2006 or email step.prayerline@gmail.com, Kim Koetz at 563.451.4024 or email kkoetz@yousq.net or Mary Rauen at 563.744.3069 or email rickandmaryr@aol.com.

HOSPITAL VISITS

Please let us know if you will be in the hospital. We'd love to visit, but we can't if we don't know you are there!

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

Summer Faith Formation students and families—For December Intergenerational Faith, we are inviting your families to attend either the 'Epworth Country Christmas' on Wednesday, December 4 from 5:00–7:30 PM or 'The Bobcat Community Christmas' on Wednesday, December 18 from 5:00–7:00 PM.

- The Epworth Community Christmas has a soup supper and music at St. Patrick's Church. There will be kid's activities at The United Methodist Church. The Living Nativity scene will be taking place in the lot across the street from Reiff's Funeral Home.
- The Bobcat Community Christmas will be held at Western Dubuque High School. There will be music, holiday cheer, Santa and Mrs. Claus, a delicious meal and an after dinner showing of the new Grinch Movie! RSVP's are due Wednesday, December 11 to Laura Hoerner at Western Dubuque, 563-876-3442 ext. 3001 or laura.hoerner@wdbqschools.org

SETON CATHOLIC NEWS—The 2nd grade has been very busy preparing for the sacrament of Reconciliation. The students learned the steps to Reconciliation and practiced with a friend. They really enjoyed taking on the role of the priest! They talked about how Jesus is their spiritual coach and encourages and helps them become the best version of themselves. The students also thought of their hearts as being gardens, wanting flowers (good things) to grow in it and through reconciliation they can pull those weeds out (sins) and make their garden beautiful.



BOOK STUDY

The final week of the book study on **Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'*** centered on ecological conversion and community conversion and how everything God created is connected. In Pope Francis' own words, "God's love constantly impels us to find new ways forward" leading each of us to ask how can I change my lifestyle or my parishes' way of doing things to show a shared responsibility for others and for the world? With God we can care for our common home. *Praise be to You!*