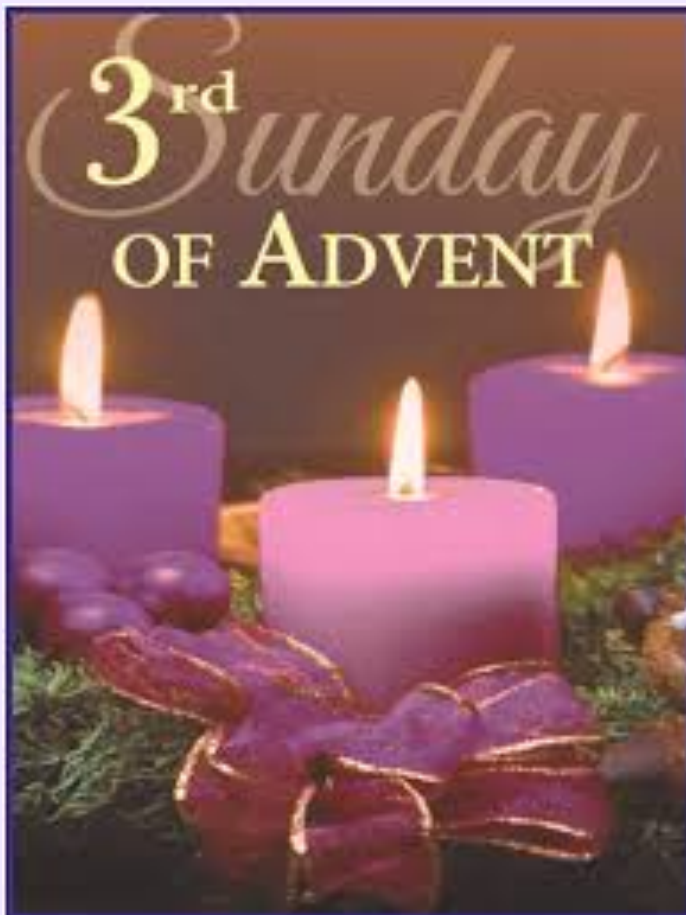


St. Mary's Catholic Church

Hamburg, Iowa

December 15, 2019



E-Mail--stmaryshamburg@gmail.com

“Rejoice with joyful song,” we hear in the first reading, reminding us of the object of this season of preparation. We prepare for the coming of the Son of God, into the world, into our hearts, and at the end of time. Let us try to put aside all the busyness and craziness of the season and concentrate on preparing our hearts for the divine presence in us and among us.

Bulletins are online at—<http://www.parishesonline.com/find/st-mary-church-51640>



Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-6,10; Psalm 146; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Theme: The greatness and the littleness of John the Baptist

Today, the third Sunday of Advent is “Joyful Sunday”. The readings are all about joy.

Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862) was an American writer who authored the renowned essay ‘Civil Disobedience.’ He championed the freedom of the individual over the law of the land. He distinguished between ‘law’ and ‘right’. He wrote “what the majority passes is the ‘law’ and what the individual conscience sees is the ‘right’ and what matters most is the ‘right’ and not the ‘law’.”

Once Thoreau was imprisoned for a night for his refusal to pay the poll-tax as a protest against the government’s support of slavery and its unjust war against Mexico presumably in support of slave trade intentions.

When he was arrested, he hoped that some of his friends would follow his example and fill the jails, and in this way persuade the government to change its stance on the issue of slavery. In this he was disappointed. Not only did his friends not join him, one friend paid the tax on his behalf and got him released.

When he was in the prison, Emerson, another American writer, came to visit him. He said to Thoreau: ‘Thoreau, Thoreau, why are you inside Jail?’ And Thoreau replied, Emerson, Emerson, why are you outside?’

Thoreau was a great lover of truth. He suffered because he spoke and stood for the truth. Emerson said in his obituary of Thoreau, “He was a great speaker and actor of truth.”

To pg. 3.....

In today's Gospel, Jesus praised John the Baptist as the greatest of the man born of women because, he was a great lover of truth. He spoke the truth against the king and his adulterous marriage and paid with his life for speaking the truth boldly.

The preaching of John the Baptist

Matthew initially describes John the Baptist as a fiery preacher of judgment and reform. Now he addresses the Baptist's dilemma during his imprisonment. John learns that Jesus is not preaching fire and brimstone but curing the sick, raising the dead, and consoling the poor. John must have wrestled with this seeming contradiction, yet he remained true to his personal call. As a result, John found himself not in Herod's palace but in Herod's prison.

Living our Baptismal vows

Baptism is a call to a prophetic career. The expression may vary with each individual: speaking out against injustice; denouncing leaders interested only in personal gain; offering hope to the distraught; embracing the lonely and the sick. These examples may not seem as dramatic as the adventures of Isaiah or a John the Baptist, yet they are in that same great prophetic tradition. To be prophetic is to become involved.

There is hope for the future, to the extent that we are part of God's action in the present. When we are so convinced of a liberating future, then we shall be inspired, energized, and spurred on to practice righteousness in the present. Jesus' own life is the most powerful lesson in this radical hope in future that energizes the present.

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Gifts of Advent

Advent is the time to celebrate our imminent rescue, after a protracted nightmare in the world of darkness and sin.

Advent is the period of joyful expectation of God's powerful intervention in our lives as individual, and in the universe as a whole.

As the master delays to come, many hearts run the risk of being weighed down by the worries and anxieties of life; as he delays coming, many people will get too preoccupied with temporal and material goods.

We cannot allow ourselves to be taken unawares. Our ignorance of the day of the Lord's coming should not make us relax or settle down to sin, corruption, falsehood, or lazy passivity. Instead we should stand up at all times for the values of the kingdom. We should live each day as the day of the Lord's coming.

By transforming suffering into joy and turning death into life, Jesus shows us that his coming is the beginning of the new world announced by the prophet. Shalom!

This Sunday introduces us into the second half of the season of Advent, and at the opening of Matins our anxiety and joy are given impetus: "The Lord is already near. Come, let us adore Him!" (Invitatory) The entire week is one of the richest of the entire year of grace, for during this week fall the magnificent Ember Days and the beginning of the "O antiphons."

All of us are children this Sunday, for we are unable to restrain our impatience at the coming of the Savior. Our joy urges us to celebrate in the great basilica of St. Peter, so that all mankind may share it with us. The penitential violet of Advent is changed to rose, and at the Gospel even the Precursor announces to the city that "He is in our midst." Christ the Lord is even today present through grace, as He will be with us forever in glory.



Our NCYC group
with Bishop and
Fr. Raphael.
Be sure and check
out pictures of the
trip downstairs on
the TV.
Great experience!!!



TAKE STOCK OF YOUR LIFE

Dearly Beloved,

I wish to join you in thanking God for his tremendous blessing throughout the year. As it stands, we are in the last month and preparing to embrace a new year.

As we go through this month, I want you to give yourself some reflective time. Between you and God. What is one most single important thing you did or achieved throughout the year? What is one least thing you wouldn't like to repeat going forward?

We have maps and GPS to give us directions as we break new grounds. Remember a life that is not plan has no direction. You cannot fit into someone's plan if you have none for yourself.

It is easy to set goals. Achieving them well is another story. If you're like most people, you didn't completely follow through on previous New Year's resolutions. Were there factors out of your control? Or were lack of self-discipline and an overabundance of excuses to blame?

Some take it seriously. Some bid it farewell just after the clock strikes twelve. Some call it a Second Chance to Dream with Eyes Open. New Year Resolution — no one can deny having made some.

People change with time, so do their aspirations. Seriously taken, New Year Resolution is an opportunity to gauge our goals. For the adventurous souls, it is the opportunity to try something bold. Some are simple, some are exotic – but each is unique in its own way – there is surely a one that would appeal to you!

My dearly beloved, let us prayerfully land well and begin a new page with achievable goal. Remember, you cannot open a new page if you keep looking back at old pages. May God's grace sustain us.

Fr. Raphael

Motivation for the week

An engineer in a car manufacturing company designs a world class car. The CEO is impressed with the outcome and praised him a lot. While trying to bring out the car from the manufacturing area to the showroom, they realized that the car is 2 inches taller than the entrance.

The engineer felt bad that he didn't notice this one before creating the car. The CEO was confused on how to take it outside of the manufacturing area. The painter said that they can bring out the car and there will be a few scratches on top of the car which could be touched up later on.

The engineer said that they can break the entrance, take the car out, and later re-do it. The CEO was not convinced with any ideas and felt like it is a bad sign to break or scratch.

A Watchman was observing all the drama & slowly approached the CEO. He wanted to give an idea if they had no problem. They wondered what this guy would tell them that the experts could not give.

The watchman said "The car is only a few inches taller than the entrance so, simply release the air in the Tyre, the height of the car will sink and can be easily taken out"...

Everyone clapped!!!

Don't analyze the problems only from an expert point of view alone.

Life issues are also the same....

Think Simple...
Do Simple and Live Simple

Release some Air ... It could be our 'anger', our 'disappointments', our 'impositions', our 'egos'... Our 'confusions' ...

In the end it's all about "Adjusting The Height" (Attitude), to make things easier in life and un-complicate the things in life.

The Gifts that Jesus Brings

Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.



When John heard in _____ what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?"

_____ replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive _____, the lame _____, those who have leprosy are _____, the deaf _____, the _____ are raised, and the _____ is preached to the _____. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."

Matthew 11:2-6 (NIV)

cured
dead

good
hear

Jesus
news

poor
prison

sight
walk

ADA UPDATE!

This is a update on our St. Mary's ADA goal. Our goal for 2019, which is set by the diocese, was \$17,780, unfortunately we are \$4,310 short. With the flood issues and recovery we have been consumed with a lot of other concerns.

The 2020 ADA campaign will start in March! If you haven't made your pledge towards the 2019 ADA and could possibly consider it, please let Dan know. It is not too late to make your pledge!

CHRISTMAS GATHERING

If you don't have Christmas eve plans, we invite you to join us downstairs after the mass for fellowship and food. Everyone is ask to bring a snack to share.

Merry, Merry Christmas

Holy Humor

The Pastor's wife walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter.

"What are you doing?" She asked.

"Hunting flies" He responded.

"Oh. Killing any?" She asked.

"Yep, 3 males, 2 females," he replied.



Intrigued, she asked. "How can you tell them apart?"

He responded, "**3 were on a beer can, 2 were on the phone.**"

Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Retirement of the Religious

Today, Dec. 15, we had a second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

The Retirement Fund for Religious helps religious communities care for senior members—today and tomorrow. The Need Across the United States, hundreds of religious communities lack financial resources sufficient to meet the retirement and health-care needs of aging members.

St. Mary's Christmas events.....

Dec. 15—Holiday Dinner @ St. Mary's 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Pageant practice following mass

Dec. 22—Christmas Pageant

St. Mary's service @ the Ambassador w/ Christmas Pageant

Following mass

Dec. 24—Christmas Vigil Mass @ 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 29—Renewal & Blessing Mass

Mass Intention for December 15

Cade Kreifels and family by Jon & Fran Casey family



Readings for the week of 12-15-19

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/ Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 [Is 35:4]/Jas 5:7-10/
Mt 11:2-11

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt

21:23-27

Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17

Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25

Friday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk
1:39-45

Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/ Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

ST. MARYS HAPPENINGS

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

CHRIS HINES

JOSH SIMMONS

JACOB ANDERSON

JUSTIN PHILLIPS

DERRICK HUBARD

STEVEN ANDERSON

COLBY MCGINLEY



12-6 —Cora Hirner

12-14—Judy Becker

12-15—Bill Long

12-22—Joseph Roberts

12-23—Emily Welch

12-31 —Garrett Phillips

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

12-4-Jim & Cheryl Owen

12-7-Henry & Helen Martin

12-13-Dean & Shelly Mount

12-26-Dan & Lori Goodman

12-27-Marty & Ruth Paper

12-29-Jeff & Lisa Phillips



Greg Andersen
Grady Secht

Reese Kemp

James Dowling

LeRoy Herscheid

Noah Howe

Mary Lou Miller

Dottie Dankof

Isacc Durr

Robert & Nancy Dalton

Todd Quick

Verona Mitchell

Joel Loggins

Kenneth Russell

Bill Long

Henry Johnsen

Lawrence DuBois

Angie Witter-Childers

Pat Sheldon

Joe Kirk

Tim Konecny

Esther McCowan

Shawn Collins

Drake Travis

Martha Gude

Gloria Green

Larry Dalton

Vickie Graham

Glen Whitehead

Ronda Shirley

Zayne Osborn

Marty Weston

Your Contributions

Dec 8, 2019

Tithes-\$985.00

Plate-\$59.00

Biscuits
and gravy—\$95.25

Thank You!!!

2019	December 15 3rd Sunday of Advent 8:30	December 22 4th Sunday of Advent 8:30	December 24 Christmas Eve 7:00	December 29 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph 8:30	January 5 The Epiphany of the Lord 8:30
Greeters and Ushers	Marty & Carolyn Maher	Vince & Susan Hilton	Joe & Robbie Travis	Rick & Teresa Jamison	Jim & Cheryl Owen
Eucharist Ministers	Joe Travis Annie Wakefield	Denny Travis Bill Green	Dan, Vince, Rich & Denny	Robbi Travis Annie Wakefield	Denny & Joella Travis
Servers	Emily Hutt Alyssa Dowling	Keeley Mount Ryan Roberts	Garett Phillips Brady Hutt	Max & Gabriel Casey	Mia & Addy Foster
Lector	Rick Jamison	Dave Dowling	Linda Dewhirst	Michael Gallagher	Mark Gude
Mass Setup	Rosie	Joe	Rosie	Joe	Rosie
Cantor	Beth/Amelia	Kim/Evan	TBA	Beth/Liliah	Children's Choir
Accompanist	Nancy	Donna	TBA	Nancy	Kate
Coffee and Donuts	ICC Holiday Dinner	Shane & Connie Smith	Fellowship Gathering	Tim & Donna Whelan	Jeff & Lisa Phillips
Wash Linens	Marilyn Gude	Marilyn Gude	Marilyn Gude	Marilyn Gude	Annie Wakefield
PASTOR		PASTORAL ASSISTANT		BOOKKEEPER	
Fr. Raphael Assamah 712-246-1718 712-246-8876 (c) e-mail max.assamah@yahoo.com		Cheryl Phillips 712.382.2668 (h) 712-350-0169 (c) cherylphil@gmail.com		Anne Hendrickson Bookkeeper 712.382.2432 (h) 712.350.0368 (c)	
				DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION	
				Scott Mayberry 712.374.3300(h) 712.370.3247(c)	

