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# ADVENT



*Hamburg, Iowa  
December 8, 2019  
Second Sunday of Advent*

*E-Mail--stmaryshamburg@gmail.com*

“Repent,” John the Baptist cried out, “the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” He told the people of Judea that to prove their sincerity, they should produce good fruit. We should heed his call. To prepare ourselves for Jesus’ coming, we can begin with an examination of conscience. Let us see when and how we have failed to produce good fruit and commit to bearing good fruit in the future.

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



## Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

### Theme: Change of Heart: A Fundamental Option

There was a little boy visiting his grandparents on their farm. He was given a slingshot to play out in the woods. But he could never hit the target. Little discouraged, he headed back home for the evening tea. As he was walking back, he saw grandma's pet duck. Just out of impulse, he let the sling fly; it hit the duck on the head and killed it.

He was shocked and grieved. He dug a pit and hid the duck in the mud, only to find his sister Mary watching him. Mary kept quiet.

The following day, after lunch, grandma called Mary to wash the dishes. But she said, "Grandma, Johnny said that he wanted to help you in the kitchen." Then she turned towards Johnny and whispered to him, "Remember the duck." And Johnny did the dishes.

In the evening grandpa called the children to go for fishing. Grandma said, "Sorry, I want Mary to help me to make the dinner." Then Mary smiled and said, "Well grandma, Johnny told me that he would like to help you prepare the diner." Then she turned towards Johnny and whispered, "Remember the duck." Mary went for the fishing and Johnny stayed back to help grandma.

After many days of doing his chores and his sister's, he could not stand it any longer. He went and confessed to his grandma that he had killed the duck. Grandma knelt down and hugged him and said, "sweetheart! I know that you killed the duck. I was standing at the window and saw everything. But because I love you, I had forgiven you. I was just wondering how long you would allow Mary to make a slave of you."

To Pg. 3.....

Beloved! Johnny's confession led to his liberation. When we confess, we do not tell God what he doesn't know. He knows everything, because he was standing at the window. Our failures to confess enslaves us.

In today's Gospel, John Baptist called people to produce fruits fit for repentance. I invite you to consider the cause of fruitlessness and the consequence of fruitlessness.

### **The cause of fruitlessness**

The season of Advent is the season of waiting for the Lord. The best way to wait for the Lord is to be ever prepared for his coming. As we could clean up the mess in our homes before an important guest arrives, so are we to clean up the mess in our lives through repentance before Christ arrives. Repentance is something more than merely grieving over our sins. It is confession of our sins with a firm resolve to change for the better. Fruitlessness may result from the refusal to change from sin. One famous spiritual writer said, "The major spiritual problem of the present age is that it has lost the sense of sin."

### **The consequence of fruitlessness**

Fruitlessness always invites disaster. Jesus in the parable of the fig tree reinforced this message. The fruitless fig tree was almost cut down. It escaped destruction only because of the hope of bearing fruits. Anything that is fruitless always invites disaster:

*"A rod that lies useless invites rusting;*

*A book that is unread for long invites bookworms;*

*A house that is uninhabited invites dilapidation;*

*A life that is fruitless invites condemnation."*

As in nature, so in life, uselessness always invites disaster. To Pg. 4.....

**Dear Beloved,** our mind is like a sponge; whatever we do gets deposited on it. It never disappears. We may try to bury it, like John who buried the duck, or we may try to forget it, but it still remains there. And it always come back to haunt and enslave us, thus, making us fruitless.

Bishop Fulton Sheen wrote, “There has been no single influence that has done more to prevent man from finding God and rebuilding his character, has done more to lower the moral tone of society than the denial of personal guilt.”

Let us confess and cast out the furies of anxiety, fear and sleeplessness. God has forgiven us, for He was standing at the window. May this season of Hope and waiting find us ready for the Lord’s coming.



### **The Symbols of Advent**

In its symbolism, the church continues to stress the penitential and preparatory nature of Advent. As during Lent, priest wear purple vestments, and the Gloria ("Glory to God") is omitted during Mass. The only exception is on the Third

Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, when priests can wear rose-colored vestments. As on Laetare Sunday during Lent, this exception is designed to encourage us to continue our prayer and fasting, because we can see that Advent is more than halfway over.

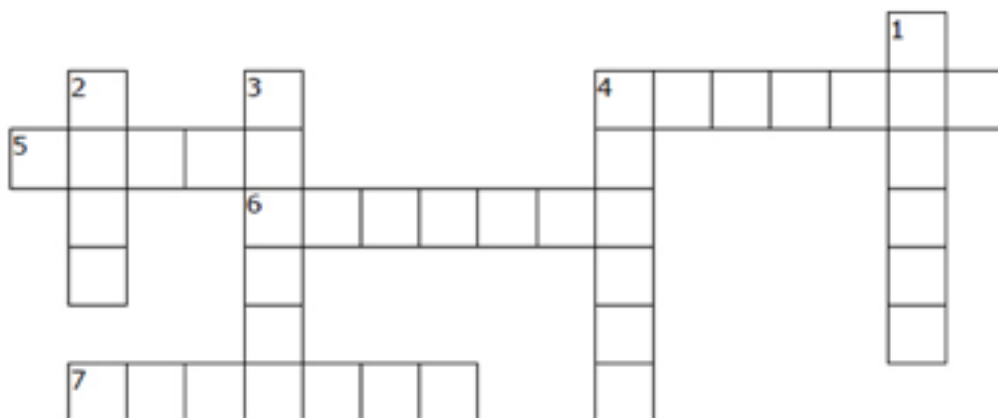
# Ready for the Christ of Christmas

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Matthew 3:1 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 3:1-12



JOHN THE BAPTIST



## ACROSS

4. One who speaks for God, or tells what will happen in the future
5. The sounds that are made when people speak or sing
6. To get ready for something that is going to happen
7. What John did to people in the Jordan River

## DOWN

1. An area where there is little rain and not many plants
2. The man who preached that Jesus was coming
3. To be sorry for something bad you have done and make a change
4. To deliver a sermon

VOICE  
REPENT

PREPARE  
JOHN

DESERT  
PREACH

PROPHET  
BAPTIZE

## **Post National Catholic Youth Congress (NCYC) Excitement in a glance**

The National Catholic Youth Congress (NCYC) for 2019 was held in Indianapolis under the theme, "Blessed, Broken and Given out." We had nineteen youth and five chaperones, namely Lynda Marshall, Beth Phillips, Monica Whitehead, Kandra Johnson and Katherine Adkisson representing Shenandoah and Hamburg respectively.

The diocese of Des Moines was well represented with over 500 youths from various churches. It was indeed an inspiring event with many soul-inspiring talks.

The Lucas Oil Stadium was filled to capacity with about 20,000 youth across the states. Security was indeed beefed up to ensure maximum protection and safety.

The program was spirit-filled with inspiring music that electrified and charged youth to be on their feet to sing and clap. One moving aspect in the evening was the use of cell phones torchlights, moving anticlockwise in response to be the light of the world. It was "heaven on earth" as some were moved in tears amidst singing.

The morning Lectio Divina (meditation on scriptures) was well attended with the youth opening their hearts to the radiant light of Christ.

The closing mass on Saturday was amazing with several Bishops and uncountable priests and deacons as well as other ministers.

Indeed, the church is alive and burning with love to the world. Pope Francis' post synodal exhortation *Christus Vivit* is a clarion call "*to all young people, and to the entire people of God*". The Holy Father is asking all Christians to not only respect and appreciate young people, but also to renew their faith with young peoples' perspectives, experiences, and insights at the center. I wish to encourage the youth ministry to discuss *Christus Vivit* (*Christ is Alive*) To pg. 7.....

which gives guidelines in facing the challenges of modern-day youth.

All who attended the NCYC had the opportunity to encounter Christ in a special way through Eucharistic adoration, talks, Holy Mass and confession, thus, tracing an indelible mark in their spiritual lives. My time with the youth was indeed great and very much appreciated. The eagle eyes of the chaperones were fantastic, and no one could escape their watch. Kudos!

One of the youth has pledged to growth in the faith and be a chaperone in the future. This vision is praiseworthy when the seed of responsibility and love is sown in the hearts of the youth. Let us all support our youth to take their rightful place in society.

A big thanks to all members and parents who contributed in diverse ways to ensure the success of this program.

Christus Vivit, Christ is alive.

“Without confidence and love, there can be no true education. If you want to be loved...you must love yourselves, and make your children feel that you love them” (Don Bosco).

Remain potent instrument of Christ.

Fr. Raphael



Next week, Dec. 15, St. Mary's will host the Holiday Dinner. Each church is ask to provide 3 salads and 2 desserts. There is a signup sheet in the back.

If you could bring your dish on Sunday morning before mass. We would appreciate any volunteer help that is



*A huge Thank You to Jim and Ruth Folkes for allowing us to create heat in the rectory. Now the Religious Ed classes can stay warm!!*

## Keep Your Dream

I have a friend named Monty Roberts who owns a horse ranch in San Ysidro. He has let me use his house to put on fund-raising events to raise money for youth at risk programs.

The last time I was there he introduced me by saying:

"I want to tell you why I let Jack use my horse. It all goes back to a story about a young man who was the son of an itinerant horse trainer who would go from stable to stable, racetrack to racetrack, farm to farm and ranch to ranch, training horses. As a result, the boy's high school career was continually interrupted. When he was a senior, he was asked to write a paper about what he wanted to be and do when he grew up."

"That night he wrote a seven-page paper describing his goal of someday owning a horse ranch. He wrote about his dream in great detail and he even drew a diagram of a 200-acre ranch, showing the location of all the buildings, the stables and the track. Then he drew a detailed floor plan for a 4,000-square-foot house that would sit on a 200-acre dream ranch."

"He put a great deal of his heart into the project and the next day he handed it in to his teacher. Two days later he received his paper back. On the front page was a large red F with a note that read, 'See me after class.'"

"The boy with the dream went to see the teacher after class and asked, 'Why did I receive an F?'"

"The teacher said, 'This is an unrealistic dream for a young boy like you. You have no money. You come from an itinerant family. You have no resources. Owning a horse ranch requires a lot of money. You have to buy the land. You have to pay for the original breeding stock and later you'll have to pay large stud fees. There's no way you could ever do it.' Then the teacher added, 'If you will rewrite this paper with a more realistic goal, I will reconsider your grade.'" Continued next pg.....



"The boy went home and thought about it long and hard. He asked his father what he should do. His father said, 'Look, son, you have to make up your own mind on this. However, I think it is a very important decision for you.' Finally, after sitting with it for a week, the boy turned in the same paper, making no changes at all.

**He stated, 'You can keep the F and I'll keep my dream.'"**

Monty then turned to the assembled group and said, "I tell you this story because you are sitting in my 4,000-square-foot house in the middle of my 200-acre horse ranch. I still have that school paper framed over the fireplace."

He added, "The best part of the story is that two summers ago that same schoolteacher brought 30 kids to camp out on my ranch for a week. When the teacher was leaving, the teacher said, 'Look, Monty, I can tell you this now. When I was your teacher, I was something of a dream stealer. During those years I stole a lot of kids' dreams. Fortunately, you had enough gumption not to give up on yours.'"

"Don't let anyone steal your dreams. Follow your heart, no matter what."

*– Author Unknown*



## **Retirement of the Religious**

Next Sunday, Dec. 15 we will have 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. 8— Children's Mass downstairs w/ Fr. Raphael

Adults will have mass upstairs w/ visiting priest officiating

Biscuits and gravy

Pageant practice following mass

Dec. 9—Conception of Blessed Mary Mass @ 6 p.m.

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 8

*Sophie Crotty and family by Josh & Fran Casey family*



### Readings for the week of 12-8-19

**Sunday:** Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 19 [cf. 7]/Rom 15:4-9/  
Mt 3:1-12

**Monday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6,  
11-12/Lk 1:26-38

**Tuesday:** Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14

**Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30

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

**Friday:** Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19

**Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

**Next 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

# 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 1, 2019*

*Tithes-\$1600*

*Plate-\$27.00*

*Coffee-\$57.00*

*Thank You!!!*

<b>2019</b>	<b>December 8</b> 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:30 Children's Mass	<b>December 15</b> 3rd Sunday of Advent 8:30	<b>December 22</b> 4th Sunday of Advent 8:30	<b>December 24</b> Christmas Eve 7:00	<b>December 29</b> The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph 8:30
<b>Greeters and Ushers</b>	Jim & Ruth Folkes	Marty & Carolyn Maher	Vince & Susan Hilton	Joe & Robbie Travis	Rick & Teresa Jamison
<b>Eucharist Ministers</b>	Anne Hendrickson Dan Goodman	Joe Travis Annie Wakefield	Denny Travis Bill Green	Dan, Vince, Rich & Denny	Robbi Travis Annie Wakefield
<b>Servers</b>	TBA	Emily Hutt Alyssa Dowling	Keeley Mount Ryan Roberts	Garett Phillips Brady Hutt	Max & Gabriel Casey
<b>Lector</b>	High School	Rick Jamison	Dave Dowling	Linda Dewhirst	Michael Gallagher
<b>Mass Setup</b>	Joe	Rosie	Joe	Rosie	Joe
<b>Cantor</b>	Kim-Upstairs Kate/Cara Cora/Cora	Beth/Amelia	Kim/Evan	TBA	Beth/Liliah
<b>Accompanist</b>	Nancy-Upstairs Cale/Nichole Joseph/Emily	Nancy	Donna	TBA	Nancy
<b>Coffee and Donuts</b>	Youth Biscuits and Gravy	ICC Holiday Dinner	Shane & Connie Smith	Fellowship Gathering	Tim & Donna Whelan
<b>Wash Linens</b>	Marilyn Gude	Marilyn Gude	Marilyn Gude	Marilyn Gude	Marilyn Gude
<b>PASTOR</b>		<b>PASTORAL ASSISTANT</b>		<b>BOOKKEEPER</b>	
Fr. Raphael Assamah 712-246-1718 712-246-8876 (c) e-mail <a href="mailto:max.assamah@yahoo.com">max.assamah@yahoo.com</a>		Cheryl Phillips 712.382.2668 (h) 712-350-0169 (c) <a href="mailto:cherylphil@gmail.com">cherylphil@gmail.com</a>		Anne Hendrickson Bookkeeper 712.382.2432 (h) 712.350.0368 (c)	
				<b>DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION</b>	
				Scott Mayberry 712.374.3300(h) 712.370.3247(c)	























