



***Second Sunday of advent  
St. Mary's Catholic Church  
Hamburg, Iowa December 6, 2020***

**As the journey of Advent continues, as we prepare to celebrate the nativity of Christ, John the Baptist's call to conversion sounds out in our communities.**

**It is a pressing invitation to open our hearts and to welcome the Son of God Who comes among us to make divine judgement manifest. The Father, writes St. John the Evangelist, does not judge anyone, but has entrusted the power of judgement to the Son, because He is the Son of man.**



## Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel is taken from the beginning of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us.

Mark's description of the appearance of John the Baptist highlights John's continuity with the Jewish prophetic tradition. Mark combines quotations from the Old Testament books of Malachi, Isaiah, and Exodus. Mark's description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah found in Second Kings. The people of Judea and Jerusalem flock to him, listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness; they also come to him to be baptized. Mark's Gospel is clear, however, that John the Baptist's role is only to prepare the way for another who will come, one who is greater than John.

Many scholars believe that the Gospels reflect the tension that likely existed between followers of John the Baptist and disciples of Jesus. Each of the four Evangelists report on John's preaching and baptizing, and they each emphasize the importance of Jesus' baptism by John. The four Gospels also explain that John was sent to preach in preparation for another. In the Gospel of Luke, the question is raised as to whether John the Baptist was himself the Messiah. Just as in today's Gospel, however, John speaks quite explicitly that the Messiah was to come after him.

In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism, but a preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in service to one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to life as disciples of Jesus.

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



## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP -

### RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

#### Jubilation to Share

Sometimes you have something to share with people that causes you to well up inside with excitement to the point of going crazy. A pregnancy test, a pay raise, a college acceptance, a wedding or engagement are all examples of moments in life when we might be bursting at the seams to tell somebody the good news. When we finally get the chance to tell somebody, joy just seems to flow through us with ease. We literally want the entire world to share in our jubilation.

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**When was the last time** you shared with a friend or loved one how much your faith in Jesus means to you? You don't feel the same motivation to share? Are you not overwhelmed with a desire to spread the Good News?

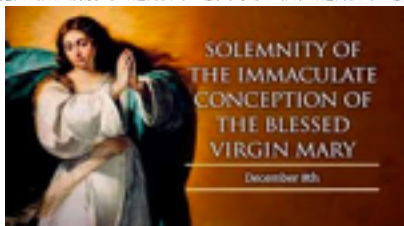
**Don't feel bad.** You are not alone. As Christians, we often fail to grasp the powerful implications of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. We can become complacent and lose sight of what matters the most. That is when sharing with others about our faith seems uncomfortable.

**Faith is a gift.** As everyday stewards we are called to share with others what God has given us. Advent is a great time to grow in our faith and love of the Lord. The more we cultivate our faith and the closer we draw to Him, the more we will want to share about Him. We might not have the impact of John the Baptist in the course of human history, but our proclamation of the Gospel to another might be the gift that changes their history. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## Faith, Family, Future Campaign Update

1. We are excited to announce that as of Dec. 4, St. Mary's has nearly \$50,000 in our Building Fund and have collected over \$250,000 in campaign commitments. This totals a little over \$300,000 and brings us just \$50,000 short of our campaign goal of \$350,000.
2. Sixty-three percent of our parish households have turned in their commitment cards so far.
3. A big THANK YOU to everyone who has responded so far.
4. We are anxious to hear from the remaining households so we can begin making plans to build our new Religious Ed Center.
5. If you prefer not to make a commitment at this time, please **note this on the card** and turn the card in with your name and we will not be doing a follow up contact with you.
6. Please keep the campaign in your prayers as we get closer to providing a more suitable space for our children and teens to learn about their faith.





## **The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

On Tuesday, December 8th, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin

Mary. An essential part of God's plan for the mother of his

Son was that she be conceived free from Original Sin. "Through the centuries the Church became ever more aware that Mary, 'full of grace' through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception" (CCC, no. 491). In anticipation that she was to bear the Son of God, Mary was preserved from the time of her conception from Original Sin. We call this the Immaculate Conception. No sin would touch her, so that she would be a fitting and worthy vessel of the Son of God. The Immaculate Conception does not refer to the virginal conception and birth of Christ, but rather to Mary's being conceived without inheriting Original Sin. In the course of time, the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception became more precisely enunciated, as its truth—long supported by the universal popular devotion of the faithful—was better understood by deepening theological inquiry. In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed this dogma infallibly: that is, in his role as supreme teacher of the Church, he declared that this doctrine is divinely revealed and must be accepted with faith by the entire Church.

MEMORARE Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, we fly unto you, O Virgin of Virgins, our Mother. To you we come. Before you we kneel, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your clemency, hear and answer them. Amen.—St. Bernard of Clairvaux

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## Prayer for 2nd Sunday of Advent

God of timeless grace,  
you fill us with joyful expectation.  
Make us ready for the message that  
prepares the way,  
that with uprightness of heart and holy joy  
we may eagerly await the kingdom of your  
Son, Jesus Christ,  
who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever. Amen.

2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## *St. Mary's*

December 6.....Sunday mass with Fr. Tom Schulte—8:30 am

December 13.....Sunday mass—8:30 am

## Readings for the week December 6, 2020

**Sunday:** Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

**Monday:** Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26

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

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

**Thursday:** Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15

**Friday:** Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19

**Saturday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

**Next Sunday:** Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



# ST. MARYS HAPPENINGS

## PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

CHRIS HINES  
JOSH SIMMONS  
JACOB ANDERSON  
DERRICK HUBARD  
STEVEN ANDERSON



Greg Andersen  
Grady Secht  
Reese Kemp  
LeRoy Herscheid  
Noah Howe  
Mary Lou Miller  
Dottie Dankof  
Isacc Durr  
Todd Quick  
Verona Mitchell  
Joel Loggins  
Kenneth Russell  
Bill Long  
Henry Johnsen  
Lawrence DuBois  
Pat Sheldon  
Joe Kirk  
Tim Konecny  
Esther McCowan  
Shawn Collins  
Drake Travis  
Martha Gude  
Bill & Gloria Green  
Larry Dalton  
Glen Whitehead  
Zayne Osborn  
Cathy Mason  
Anna Weber  
Alan Briggs  
Chuck Mitchell  
Dee Ann Crews  
Deb Haughton  
Robert Haughton  
Maurie Maher

## *Your Contributions Nov. 22, 2020*

**Tithes—\$870.00**  
**Plate—\$1.00**  
**Children's coll. for  
Nov.—\$6.75**  
*Thank You!!*

12-1— Marvel Travis

12-3—Joe Whitehead

12-4— Andrew Welch

12-5 —June Van Scyoc

12-6 —Cora Hirner



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

Be sure and pick up a  
copy of Matthew  
Kelley's book  
**'I Heard God Laugh'.**  
They are available in  
the basket as you  
leave. If you know of  
someone who might  
enjoy it during the  
Holidays take one for  
them also.

<b>2020</b>	<b>December 6</b> 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:30	<b>December 13</b> 3rd Sunday of Advent 8:30	<b>December 20</b> 4th Sunday of Advent 8:30	<b>December 24</b> Christmas Eve.	<b>December 25</b> Christmas 8:30
<b>Lector</b>	Dave Dowling	Kathleen Lorimor	Teresa Jamison	Linda Dewhirst	Carolyn Maher
<b>Mass Setup</b>	Rosie	Rosie	Rosie	Rosie	Joe
<b>Cantor</b>	Kim & Evan	Nicole, Emily & Cale	Kate & Cora	Cara Goodman	
<b>Accompanist</b>	Nancy Pitts	Beth & Anna	Donna Whelan	Kate Roberts	
<b>Wash Linens</b>	Annie Wakefield	Annie Wakefield	Annie Wakefield	Annie Wakefield	Annie Wakefield

**"If you are really humble, if you realize  
how small you are and how much you  
need God, then you cannot fail."**

**MOTHER TERESA**

*Do Something Beautiful for God*

<b>PASTOR</b>	<b>PASTORAL ASSISTANT</b>	<b>BOOKKEEPER</b>
Fr. Raphael Assamah 712-246-1718 Shen(office) 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)

**E - MAIL [STMARYS\\_HAMBURG@GMAIL.COM](mailto:STMARYS_HAMBURG@GMAIL.COM)  
[HTTPS://WWW.PARISHESONLINE.COM/FIND/ST-MARY-  
CHURCH-51640](https://www.parishesonline.com/find/st-mary-church-51640)**











