

"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." - Lk 2:11-12





My Dear People,

Merry Christmas!



We had a saying in seminary, in Minnesota. Whenever we weren't sure whether something was good or bad, we'd say it was interesting.

This year's journey to the manger has been interesting. There were a graces and challenges this past year. I like to think that the journey we all just took together was similar to the journey of the wise men from the East who came to adore at the manger. We left quite a few securities and comforts as we set out on this journey. We knew the destination: to the Christ child. But we didn't know the path.

At the beginning of the year, we were just hearing rumors of COVID coming from China. By March, the virus was rampaging through the world, and we closed for 2 weeks in Lent to flatten the curve, and the whole world was gathered in prayer. The two weeks to flatten the curve extended through Easter and then into June, and it was midsummer before we resumed Masses together. That time was hard, it was difficult for all of us.

During that time we learned a new way to share the Gospel. We started online streaming and launched digital platforms that, ironically, allowed us to reach more people than we ever had reached before even though we were now "closed down". One of our messages went around the world and reached 1 million people. Our YouTube channel made the news in Des Moines, and broadcasting our Masses over the radio has given many in Union County the opportunity to hear the Word of God; I've had pastor friends of mine from other denominations tell me they've been listening.

What is more, our school and R.E. programs have made many amazing adaptations to accommodate the current crisis. Our school children are doing an astounding job producing the Wednesday Mass every week. So astounding in fact that our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade film production crew was invited to come and film Creston High School's Musical. We are all so proud of how our children, and our teachers, and our parishioners, have risen to the challenge of handling COVID.

Like the kings of old we left behind what was safe and secure and went on an interesting journey, leading to a noble goal. We prayed all the way that we would find in these challenging times the King of kings. Here we are; we've even seen the Christmas star, and we have the opportunity to lay at the crib of Christ the gifts we've brought with us this last year. One gift I bring to the King is gratitude; gratitude for all those who have helped to bring us through this year.

So many people have stepped up and used their gifts and talents to make 2020 doable; it is not possible for me to name you all. I would like to thank 3 people by name who have worked especially hard for our parish community. A special thanks to Steve Heffern and Phyllis Allen; without them our digital platforms and our streaming would not be what it is today. A special thanks also to Michelle Moore, who was involved in some way in pretty much every new outreach we've done, every new initiative we've undertaken, and every crazy idea I've wanted to give a try.

2020 has been an interesting journey; by God's grace 2021 won't be nearly as challenging. But even if 2021 is just as interesting, we can go forward in confidence knowing that our many God-given gifts and talents will take us through that journey as well if we allow the Lord to work through us.

May God Bless you all, and Merry Christmas.

Fr. Adam Westphal



# ONE BODY IN CHRIST - HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020

Please donate to our ministries—Go to [WWW.UCCAT.ORG](http://WWW.UCCAT.ORG) and click on the **YELLOW** button to donate!

- |                 |  |           |   |
|-----------------|--|-----------|---|
| January         | RE Epiphany Celebration<br>St. Malachy Trivia Night<br>K of C Free Throw Contest @ STM<br>Game Night at Holy Spirit  | June      | Visiting Seminarian– Luke Miksanek<br>ReRun Parking Lot sale<br>Collecting donations on Monday at Rerun<br>Confirmation<br>Facebook goes viral with Mask/vestments (1K views)<br>Helped with Creston Area Food Pantry<br>K of C helped with Memorial flags & Fridays after 5<br>Set up of Instagram & Twitter |
| February        | STM School Auction<br>K of C Stag Night gathering<br>K of C Serve Breakfast at Holy Spirit<br>Holy Spirit/STM help with Open Table<br>Coffee for Teachers  | July      | Welcomed new parish council members<br>ReRun starts to open up<br>Livestreaming Mass from Holy Spirit<br>Inspirational quotes on FB   |
| March – COVID19 | Family Lenten Activity Night<br>8th Grade Retreat<br>Soup supper at Stations of the Cross<br>Fr. Adam starts live streaming daily Mass at STM<br>Rosary in union with Pope Francis to end Covid19<br>Starting to Air Sunday Mass on KSIB Radio<br>STM moves to online learning<br>Stations of the Cross recorded<br>RE family packets sent out         | August    | Launched website– WWW.UCCAT.ORG<br>STM received new mural windows<br>STM opens up with in person school<br>K of C works on STM baseball fields & school<br>First Holy Communion<br>Helped with Creston Area Food Pantry   |
| April           | Confessional moved to Rectory<br>Palm Sunday Video Procession<br>Holy Week Mass Recorded<br>Veneration of the cross– Cruising Creston<br>Started to send Bulletins to parishioners by Email<br>Live-Eucharist Benediction to Hospitals & Care Centers<br>Pass-by Adoration at STM<br>Easter Hallelujah<br>House Blessing<br>Re family packets sent out | September | Cemetery Walk at Calvary<br>Lattes for L.E.O's<br>New life comes to Holy Spirit Church sign<br>STM students start learning to recorded School Mass<br>St. Edward Church opens for Mass  |
| May             | Christmas in May – Cruising Creston<br>Virtual Coffee & Donut after Mass<br>Remodeled Women's Bathroom at HS   | October   | RE help clean church<br>Holy Rosary at McKinley Park<br>K of C Tootsie Roll Drive<br>RE Living Rosary<br>Crest Area for LIFE annual meeting   |
|                 |  | November  | K of C offer Waffle Sausage & cleans church sign<br>CD of A made Pack a Purse<br>New door at the Rerun<br>Helped with Creston Area Food Pantry<br>1st Reconciliation & All Souls day Mass celebration   |
|                 |  | December  | Adopt-a-family gift giving<br>Drive-up ToGo Christmas Dinner<br>Online donations increase from 6 to 30 Donors<br>RE Carol Covid Style   |



Thank you to the Many Many volunteers that made all of our ministries possible!  
unfortunately there was not enough room to list everything or include all the pictures of the year.  
Please check our Facebook for more pictures.



# HOLY SPIRIT/ST. EDWARD

Dec. 27, 2020 & Jan. 3, 2021 Bulletin

Holy Family of the Jesus, Mary and Joseph & Epiphany of the Lord

## Mass Schedule and Intentions

**Sunday**  
Dec. 27      **9:00 a.m., Mass, Live @ Holy Spirit**  
William J. Cihak

**10:45 a.m., Mass, Live @ St. Edward**  
Dennis Ripperger

**Monday**  
Dec. 28      **5:00 p.m. Adoration**  
**6:00 p.m., Mass, Holy Spirit**  
Harry Schlapia

**Tuesday**  
Dec. 29      **10:30 a.m., St. Edward**  
Funeral Mass of Helen Bryson

**Wednesday**  
Dec. 30      **9:00 a.m., Holy Spirit**  
Gene Miller

**Thursday**  
Dec. 31      **No Mass**

### Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

**Friday**  
Jan. 1      **5:00 p.m., Holy Spirit**  
For the People

**Saturday**  
Jan. 2      **5:00 p.m., Mass Live @ Holy Spirit**  
Recording Mass – no microphones  
Mass Intention: For the people

**Sunday**  
Jan. 3      **7:00 a.m. YouTube Premiere**  
**(prerecorded Mass)**  
**9:00 a.m., Mass, Live @ Holy Spirit**  
Helen Hayes  
**10:00 a.m., Mass on KSIB 101.3 FM**  
**10:45 a.m., Mass, Live @ St. Edward**  
Duane Brown

**Monday**  
Jan. 4      **5:00 p.m. Adoration**  
**6:00 p.m., Mass, Holy Spirit**  
Hub Bradley

**Tuesday**  
Jan. 5      **9:00 a.m., St. Edward**  
Leonard & Gail Feld

**Wednesday**  
Jan. 6      **9:15 a.m., St. Malachy School Mass**  
Check website ([www.uccat.org](http://www.uccat.org)) for video  
Dora Coen

**Thursday**  
Jan. 7      **No Mass**

**Friday**  
Jan. 8      **9:00 a.m., Holy Spirit**  
Jim Baker

**Saturday**  
Jan. 9      **5:00 p.m., Mass Live @ Holy Spirit**  
Recording Mass – no microphones  
Mass Intention: For the people

**Sunday**  
Jan. 10      **7:00 a.m. YouTube Premiere**  
**(prerecorded Mass)**  
**9:00 a.m., Mass, Live @ Holy Spirit**  
Steve McCann

**10:00 a.m., Mass on KSIB 101.3 FM**  
**10:45 a.m., Mass, Live @ St. Edward**  
Marna Becker

### Observances for the week of January 3, 2021

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord;  
Monday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious  
Tuesday: St. John Neumann, Bishop  
Wednesday: St. André Bessette, Religious  
Thursday: St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest  
Next Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord

### Observances for the week of December 27, 2020

Sunday: The Holy Family  
Monday: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs  
Tuesday: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr  
Thursday: St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve  
Friday: Mary, The Holy Mother of God; New Year's Day; World Day of Peace  
Saturday: Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops  
Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord; National Migration Week





# AROUND OUR CHURCH & OUR COMMUNITY

Dec. 27, 2020 & Jan. 3, 2021 Bulletin

Holy Family of the Jesus, Mary and Joseph & Epiphany of the Lord

## Thank you

Thank you to everyone that helped donate, cook food, and deliver meals for the Drive-up ToGo Christmas Dinner this year. Your donations were well received. Thank you to Anita Studer and Barb Hudson and everyone else that made it possible.

## Do Something Beautiful for God

"Live simply so other may simply live." Mother Teresa.

## Parish Office

- ⇒ Parish office closed Dec.24—Jan.3
- ⇒ Make sure all mailed end-year donations have a posted date of Dec. 31 on the envelope to receive credit for 2020. You can also donate online at [www.uccat.org](http://www.uccat.org).

## Creston Area Food Pantry

The Creston Area Food Pantry feeds 100-120 people every week. Can you help on Sunday, Jan. 3 from Noon to 2 pm? We are looking for volunteers. To donate monetary donations, please send to Creston Area Food Pantry, PO Box 669, Creston, IA 50801.

## Rectory Rerun Thrift Shop Hours for January

Monday – Donation drop off 8 AM – 4:30 PM

Tuesday—Noon to 5 PM

Friday—9 AM to 5 PM

Saturday—9 AM to Noon

**The Rectory Rerun Thrift Shop will be closed Jan.1 & 2 and will open back up on Jan. 5 at Noon.**

**Winter Weather Update:** If we have inclement weather, we will not be open for shopping nor donations. Call the store before coming during bad weather (641-202-4488) or check Rerun Creston Facebook page.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor: Father Adam Westphal, [fradam@crestonstmalachy.org](mailto:fradam@crestonstmalachy.org)

Office Manager: Michelle Moore,  
[holyspiritstedward@windstream.net](mailto:holyspiritstedward@windstream.net)

Rectory & Parish Office Phone: 641-782-5278

Parish Office Fax: 641-782-7628

Director of Religious Education: Barb Hudson, 641-202-2064,  
[bhudson@iowatelecom.net](mailto:bhudson@iowatelecom.net)

Principal: Jennifer Simmons, [jsimmons@crestonstmalachy.org](mailto:jsimmons@crestonstmalachy.org)

Facebook: Holy Spirit Catholic Parish

Websites: <http://www.uccat.org>

Radio: Sunday Mass at 10 a.m. aired on KSIB 101.3 FM

Parish Office, 406 W. Clark Street, Creston

St. Edward Church, 104 W. Union Street, Afton

Holy Spirit Church, 107 W. Howard Street, Creston

St. Malachy School, 403 W. Clark Street, Creston

## SACRAMENTS

Call the priest for an appointment.

**Reconciliation:** Call the office to schedule an appointment

**Marriage Preparation:** Contact the priest at least six months before making marriage plans.

**Newcomers:** Call the parish office to register.

**Holidays:** Check the bulletin for the time

## HOLY SPIRIT - GIFTS TO GOD

Weekly tithes needed \$ 7,359

Dec.20th Tithes Received

Envelope \$ 4,631

Online \$ 506

Tithes Needed YTD \$ 183,975

Tithes Received YTD \$ 171,447

## ST. EDWARD - GIFTS TO GOD

Weekly tithes needed \$ 952

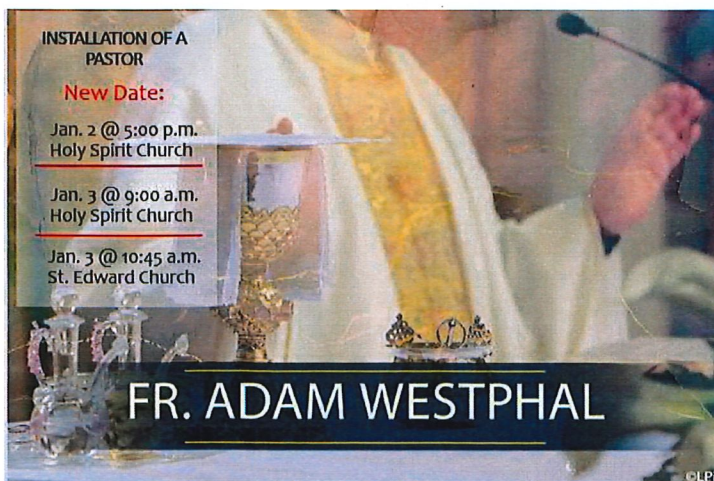
Dec. 20th Tithes Received

Envelope \$ 690

Online \$ 85

Tithes Needed YTD \$ 23,800

Tithes Received YTD \$ 20,425



**Due to the increase of COVID Infections, Bishop Joensen has mandated the use of masks at all liturgical celebrations through February 2nd. MASKS WILL BE MANDATORY AT MASS. The obligation to go to Sunday Mass remains suspended.**





HOLY SPIRIT PARISH MINISTRY SCHEDULE				
DATE	LECTORS	ROSARY	MONEY COUNTERS	MUSICIAN/ CANTOR
Sunday December 27 9:00am	Kelsey Bailey	Paul Baker	Todd Dunphy Tom Dunphy T.J. Dunphy Luke Baker	Lynn Baker Dan Gibbons
HOLY DAY Friday Jan. 1 5:00 pm	Phyllis Allen			Janet Schulte Dan Gibbons
Saturday January 2 5:00 pm	Phyllis Allen			Rachel Ramaeker Jolene Griffith
Sunday January 3 9:00am	Mark O'Riley	Bob Jansen	Karin Fremi Elaine Haines June Huewe	Rachel Ramaeker Jolene Griffith
Saturday January 9 5:00 pm	Phyllis Allen			Lynn Baker Danna Buls
Sunday January 10 9:00am	Gabby Valencia	Al Pokorny	Scott Coen Ryan Mohr Paul Varner	Lynn Baker Danna Buls
Saturday January 16 5:00 pm	Phyllis Allen			Kyle Huck Dan Gibbons
Sunday January 17 9:00am	Dottie Dunphy	Ted Willets	Mary McElroy Syd Hudek Bob McKee	Lynn Baker Dan Gibbons
Saturday January 23 5:00 pm	Phyllis Allen			Lynn Baker Jolene Griffith
Sunday January 24 9:00am	Mary Sid McDonald	Kelsey Bailey	Todd Dunphy Tom Dunphy T.J. Dunphy Luke Baker	Kyle Huck Jolene Griffith
Saturday January 30 5:00 pm	Phyllis Allen			Janet Schulte Danna Buls
Sunday January 31 9:00am	Paul Baker	Paul Baker	Karin Fremi Elaine Haines June Huewe	Janet Schulte Danna Buls

#### EPIPHANY



#### St. Edward Parish Ministry Schedule

Date	Lectors	Money Counters	Sacristan
Thurs. Dec. 24 7:00 pm	Randy Pettit	Volunteer	Volunteer
Sunday Dec. 27 10:45 am	Sheila Brown	Sheila Brown Vol- unteer	Sheila Brown
Sunday Jan. 3 10:45 am	Randy Pettit	Alex Pettit Volunteer	Sheila Brown
Sunday Jan. 10 10:45 am	Sheila Brown	Alex Pettit Volunteer	Sheila Brown
Sunday Jan. 17 10:45 am	Randy Pettit	Alex Pettit Volunteer	Sheila Brown
Sunday Jan. 24 10:45 am	Sheila Brown	Alex Pettit Volunteer	Sheila Brown
Sunday Jan. 31 10:45 am	Randy Pettit	Alex Pettit Volunteer	Sheila Brown

#### Prayer Tree

If you would like to be part of the prayer tree, or to place a name on the prayer tree, please email or call:

- ♦ Mary Wichhart, 782-2289, or dmwichhart@iowatelecom.net or Pat Pokorny, 782-4291 or appokorny60@gmail.com. (Holy Spirit)
- ♦ Patty Bradley, 347-8812, or philpattybradley@gmail.com. (St. Edward)



#### Sincere Sympathy

Please pray for the eternal rest of Helen Bryson, mother of Beth Wallace, Matt Bryson, Kathy Simmerman, Rich Bryson, Andrew Bryson, and Jeanne Bryson. May God grant His blessing and peace in the hearts of their families.

#### St. Edward Ministry Help

Can you help be a lector, money counter, or sacristan? We are running low on volunteers and need your help. Please talk to Sheila Brown or call the Parish office to get more details.