

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. - Mk 1:4

HOLY SPIRIT/ST. EDWARD

Dec. 6, 2020 Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent

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.

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Sunday
Dec. 6
7:00 a.m. YouTube Premiere
(prerecorded Mass)
9:00 a.m., Mass, Live @ Holy Spirit
Adella Pool
10:00 a.m., Mass on KSIB 101.3 FM
10:45, Mass, Live @ St. Edward
Don and Nellie Weisshaar

Vigil of Immaculate Conception

Monday
Dec. 7
5:00 p.m. Adoration
6:00 p.m., Mass, Holy Spirit
For the people

Immaculate Conception

Tuesday
Dec. 8
9:15 a.m., St. Malachy School Mass
Check website (www.uccat.org) for video
Carroll Boden

7:00 p.m., Mass, St. Edward
Leonard & Gail Feld

Wednesday
Dec. 9
No Mass

Thursday
Dec. 10
No Mass

Friday
Dec. 11
2:00 p.m., Funeral Mass for Darrin
Crago, Holy Spirit

Saturday
Dec. 12
5:00 p.m., Mass Live @ Holy Spirit
Recording Mass - no microphones
Mass Intention: For the people

Sunday
Dec. 13
7:00 a.m. YouTube Premiere
(prerecorded Mass)
9:00 a.m., Mass, Live @ Holy Spirit
Jessica Moeller
10:00 a.m., Mass on KSIB 101.3 FM
10:45 a.m., Mass, Live @ St. Edward
Catherine Baker

The obligation to go to Sunday Mass and Holy Days remains suspended.

Dick Baker's Funeral will be Saturday, Dec. 5th at Holy Spirit Church starting at 11 am.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor: Father Adam Westphal, fradam@crestonstmalachy.org
Office Manager: Michelle Moore,
holyspiritsteward@windstream.net
Rectory & Parish Office Phone: 641-782-5278
Parish Office Fax: 782-7628

Director of Religious Education: Barb Hudson, 641-202-2064,
bhudson@iowatelecom.net

Principal: Jennifer Simmons, 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 PARISH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

DATE	LECTORS	ROSARY	MONEY COUNTERS	MUSICIAN/CANTOR
Saturday Recording 5:00 p.m.	Phyllis Allen	Bob Jansen		Rachel Ramaeker Danna Buls
Sunday December 6 9:00am	Mark O'Riley	Al Pokorny	Karin Frem Elaine Haines June Huewe	Rachel Ramaeker Jolene Griffith
Saturday Recording 5:00 p.m.	Phyllis Allen	Steve Heffern		Kyle Huck Danna Buls
Sunday December 13 9:00am	Mark O'Riley	Kelsey Bailey	Scott Coen Ryan Mohr Paul Varner	Rachel Ramaeker Danna Buls
Saturday Recording 5:00 p.m.	Phyllis Allen	Ted Willets		Janet Schulte Jolene Griffith
Sunday December 20 9:00am	Dottie Dunphy	Mary Sid McDonald	Mary McElroy Syd Hudek Bob McKee	Janet Schulte Jolene Griffith
Thursday December 24 4:00pm	Phyllis Allen			Weisshaar- Mullin Family
Thursday December 24 10:00pm	Phyllis Allen			Lynn Baker Danna Buls
Friday December 25 9:00am	Mark O'Riley			Lynn Baker Dan Gibbons
Saturday December 26 5:00 pm	Phyllis Allen	Bob Jansen		Lynn Baker Danna Buls
Sunday December 27 9:00am	Kelsey Bailey	Paul Baker	Todd Dunphy Tom Dunphy T.J. Dunphy Luke Baker	Lynn Baker Dan Gibbons

Dear Church Family,

There are many times of joy and grace in the life of a Pastor, and we as clergy live for these moments. There are times of sorrow and pain as well. Some of these more somber moments are marked with the fingerprints of God, for instance when His grace is present with us as we mourn the passing of a soul from this life to the next, and his fingerprints can be found in the most unexpected places in the midst of sorrow.

Unfortunately, today I must undertake a different type of unpleasant task, and I can only pray that the Lord's grace will appear here as well.

As I fulfill the solemn duty of fraternal correction, I'm reminded of that moment in Acts 6 where the Hellenists bemoaned the fact that their widows were not being taken care of in the daily distribution of bread; the Apostles came up with a solution to make sure that everyone's needs were being met.

In this time of pandemic, our Church community finds a variety of needs surfacing and she must address them. Recently our Bishop mandated the use of masks at all liturgies to mitigate the spread of COVID 19; and despite the rampant increase of cases of infection in Union County, and the increase in deaths related to COVID 19 in our own Church family, there are those in our community who refuse to follow the bishop's directive.

Our bishop has asked that we as Pastors NOT refuse to admit to the celebration of the liturgy those who will not comply with the mask mandate; I understand wholeheartedly the desire of our shepherd to not shut off the grace of Mass and worship to anyone, as worshipping God is a duty we all have and is very much needed in our society today. However, I would ask those who refuse to wear a mask to consider our Bishop's words, "Simple charity obliges us to take into account the physical and psychic health of others as a way to ensure that worship is relatively safe and accessible to as many parishioners as possible. None of us wants to be the cause for someone else to withdraw or refrain from Mass attendance because certain members of a congregation fail to employ this basic means of protection for our neighbor."

I am acutely aware of the painful decision made by some of the members of our community who are in the vulnerable population and do not want to expose themselves or their loved ones to COVID-19: They have chosen to forego Sunday worship in order to avoid exposure to the virus. Realizing that listening to Mass on the radio or watching it on the internet is a poor substitute for in-person worship, these same people have instead started coming to daily Mass. I want to leave open to them the possibility of coming to daily Mass in a manner that engenders a sense of safety.

As your Pastor, mindful of the needs of so many of the faithful who now attend daily Mass instead of Sunday Mass, I must insist that masks be worn by everyone at all DAILY masses, lest we deprive the holy sacrifice of the Mass to those who won't come if safety measures aren't adhered to. I'm not granting permission to ignore the mask mandate on Sundays, rather I'm being especially insistent that it be followed at daily liturgies. If the directive of the bishop is not enough, if my humble pleading is not sufficient, then for the love of God and the respect of your neighbor please either wear a mask at Mass or refrain from attending any Mass other than one on Sunday. This should allow the greatest number of our parishioners of all dispositions to continue to enjoy the holy sacrifice of the Mass at least once a week.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Fr. Adam Westphal

AROUND OUR CHURCH & OUR COMMUNITY

Dec. 6 2020 Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent

Adopt-a-family

There are still a lot of tags on the Christmas tree. Please find the giving tree at the back of church. Please bring the unwrapped gift back to the church with the tag and place it under the tree. Gifts must be returned by Dec. 8. Please contact Mark O'Riley, 641-344-1159, with questions. Your generosity makes it possible for many families to have Christmas gifts for their children.

Little Blue Books

Please pick up a copy at the back of the church. Enjoy spending six minutes a day to read the Gospel and a variety of thoughts about the Advent and Christmas seasons.

HOLY SPIRIT - GIFTS TO GOD

Weekly tithes needed	\$ 7,359
Nov.22nd Tithes Received	
Envelope	\$ 3845
Online	\$ 290
Nov.29th Tithes Received	
Envelope	\$ 6888
Online	\$ 200
Tithes Needed YTD	\$ 161,898
Tithes Received YTD	\$ 147,264

St. Edward Parishioners

The new 2021 tithing envelopes are at the back of church. Please pick up yours after Mass. If you need help getting them, please call the office to make arrangements. Everyone's donation either small or large helps run the church and keep the lights on. Please be generous.

St. Edward Ministry Schedule

Dec. 6	Dec. 13
Lector: Sheila Brown	Lector: Randy Pettit
Money: Volunteer	Money: Volunteer
Counters: Sheila Brown	Counters: Sheila Brown
Sacristan: Ide Family	Sacristan: Ide Family

ST. EDWARD - GIFTS TO GOD

Weekly tithes needed	\$ 952
Nov.22nd Tithes Received	
Envelope	\$ 830
Online	\$ 85
Nov.29th Tithes Received	
Envelope	\$ 1790
Online	\$ 85
Tithes Needed YTD	\$ 20,944
Tithes Received YTD	\$ 17,750

Rectory Rerun Thrift Shop Hours for December

Monday – Donation drop off 8 AM – 5 PM

Mondays until Christmas—Open 9 AM to 5 PM

Tuesday—Noon to 5 PM

Friday—9 AM to 5 PM

Saturday—9 AM to Noon

New! State requires masks to be worn.

We are always needing more volunteers, please contact Phyllis Allen at 515-493-9149.

Retirement Fund for Religious

In good times and bad, Catholic sister, brothers, and religious order priests have served our Church and world. Today, they pray for a world that is hurting. Yet hundreds of religious communities do not have enough retirement saving and struggle to provide for aging members. Your gift to today's Retirement funds for Religious (envelopes are at the back of the church) helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

Confessions

There will be additional opportunities to go to confession during Advent. A great way to prepare for the birth of Jesus.

Sat., Dec. 5, 9 –10 a.m., Holy Spirit Church

Wed., Dec. 9, 6-7 p.m., St. Edward Church

Sat., Dec. 12, 9 –10 a.m., Holy Spirit Church

Sat., Dec. 19, 9 –10 a.m., Holy Spirit Church

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

There will be no December meeting. For the December project, we will give monetary donation to "Food Shelf" for Christmas baskets for families in the community. Due to the Holy Day: Immaculate Conception landing on Tuesday, Dec. 8th, there will be no CD of A Mass.

Knights of Columbus

The December 7th meeting has been canceled.

Religious Education

Thank you for collecting food for the food pantry!



Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve
4:00 p.m., Holy Spirit
7:00 p.m., St. Edward
10:00 p.m., Holy Spirit
Christmas Day
9:00 a.m. Holy Spirit

Social distancing and masks are required during Mass. During the Christmas Masses, pews will be available on a 'first come, first seated' basis. If the church occupancy exceeds capacity, we will have additional seating in the basement. If the basement occupancy exceeds capacity, we will ask you to join us at the next Mass time. Thank you for your understanding.



DONATIONS FOR DRIVE-UP CHRISTMAS DINNER 2020

We are planning a Drive-up Christmas dinner for those in Creston or surrounding communities. This will be for anyone and everyone. There is no charge. There will be a delivery service for shut-ins in Creston. Many of us will be out of town or sharing the day with our families, but the items needed can be made ahead and frozen or dropped off to one of us at your convenience. Someone will be at the school at 10:30 a.m. to receive your donated items on the east alley of the school by kitchen or gym doors. Also, they can be left in the church kitchen (just let us know). Let's all work together and share the joy of Christmas.

The Christmas Dinner Committee,
Anita Studer and Barb Hudson

Items needed:

12 cooked turkeys with broth

30 pies

Monetary donations: Money is needed to buy the other groceries/supplies (stuffing, potatoes, vegetables, butter, milk, etc.)

My Reminder:

I offered to bring or do the following: _____

XX

Please return this portion: Place in the collection basket next weekend or mail to the parish office, 406 W. Clark Street. **Return by December 20th at the latest.**

I can donate:

_____ Pies

_____ I can donate 1 cooked turkey (if unable to cook it, please let us know)

_____ I prefer to donate money to use for other grocery items needed

_____ I can be a home delivery volunteer on Christmas Day (12:30 p.m.)

I can help in the following way(s):

_____ I can bake _____ turkeys.

Name _____ Phone# _____

Questions: Call Anita Studer, 641-344-1435, or Barb Hudson, 641- 202-2064



AROUND OUR CHURCH & OUR COMMUNITY

Dec. 6, 2020 Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent

Dear Parish Members,

I recently had an opportunity to attend a presentation by Jeanne Wells, executive director of the Catholic Tuition Organization, on the impact of CTO on our schools and families. The information was presented in a way that makes us realize how important CTO is to the ongoing success of our schools. When you look at the attached chart, you will discover some amazing benefits but also great challenges our schools face. Some overall information about our schools and families:

...9 of our 16 schools receive CTO assistance for 40% OR MORE of their students

...37% of all of our students receive CTO (K-12)

...our average family is 4.3 individuals, with an average income of \$58,006

...If that family have 1 high school student and 1 elementary student, their annual tuition would be approximately \$11,966 ... or 21% of their gross income (that would be like a second house payment for these families!)

As Jeanne pointed out, 'that the majority of these families would not attend our Catholic schools without CTO'. If we lost 2,063 students because of the lack of tuition assistance, what would happen to our schools?

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! As you all know, many of our families have suffered more struggles because of COVID. Fortunately, CTO has the opportunity to raise even more money this year than last year, which is wonderful because our families will absolutely need it for tuition for the 2021-22 school year. There is only 4 weeks left to raise \$1 million.

What you can do:

...review the attached chart to see the statistics for your school.

...watch the video: *How CTO Really Works* (which explains the generous tax credit savings donors receive)

How CTO Really Works: <https://youtu.be/ddYUyorLiMY>

...forward the video and attached donation form to friends and family **ALONG WITH** your personal endorsement

...consider joining me in making a contribution yourself...every dollar matters!

Thank you!

www.CTOIowa.org

Donna Bishop, ED.S

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Luke 3:1-6

Blessed Advent to you all!

Today we continue the "joyful expectation" of the birth of Christ in history, the present, and the future. Today we hear the words of John the Baptist calling people of his time to repentance. Now, this baptism that John was calling people to is not the same baptism that we Christians celebrate. However, John's baptism is at the root of our Christian baptism. John's baptism had its roots in the "oblation washing" of the Jewish people before undertaking anything of great importance.

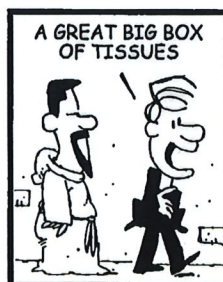
Christian baptism is a sacrament to wash away original sin so as to enter sinless into the Christian community. It is the one sacrament that is celebrated by all Christians, even those Christians who are not in communion with Rome.

John enjoins us to "prepare the way of the Lord." His call is to be taken in the widest sense. This preparation is a personal preparation, and is also a communal preparation. We are called to make sure we are ready to meet the Lord, and this means that we need to make a difference in the world to make it better, to make it more peaceful, and to make it more just. We are called to protect each other's dignity and share of our abundance with others so that each may live a life that is centered on helping others. Prepare the way!



SCRIP
Support our School!

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



PARISH PASTORAL UPDATES

December 6th, 2020 Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

November 17, 2020

Holy Spirit Parish Council members met at Holy Spirit (HS) Hall. Pastor Father Adam Westphal led the opening prayer. Present were Fr. Adam, Jacquie Eblen, Joni Taylor, Phyllis Allen, Lisa Miller, Mark O'Riley, Ronda Katzer, Barb Hudson, Joni Thelen and Michelle Moore (recording secretary). Motion was made by Lisa to approve the Oct. 2020 meeting minutes, Jacquie seconded, all approved. Fr. Adam Comments: The Rerun Thrift shop will be open 9-5 on Monday until Christmas. We are very light on volunteers, but 3 people have signed up to help. We are still looking for more volunteers. We are following the State and Diocese guidelines for public health safety at the Rerun and the Church. Masks are required at the Rerun and at Mass. We have posted signs on the church, posted info on FB, and emailed parishioners. Our method of communication worked well with the mask mandate. We had 95% compliance at Holy Spirit (HS) and 100% compliance at St. Edward (SE). The Diocese has suspended all parish or hosted social events beginning Nov. 23 through Jan. 10. There will likely be more changes to come. If everyone following through with their pledges amounts for the ADA, we will make our ADA goal for both HS and SE. Committee Reports: *Building and Grounds/ Safety Committee*: Remodeling of the men's bathroom at HS Hall will start sometime after Thanksgiving. Fr. Adam, Phyllis, and Michelle had short safety meetings on Nov. 9 and Nov.10 to discuss public health safety updates. *Family Life*: The Lighted Christmas Parade has been canceled. *Social Concerns*: Matura gives a list of gifts for about 37 kids. The Giving Tree is set up at HS and unwrapped gifts need to be back by Dec. 8th. *Liturgy*: They are getting ready for Advent. *Finance*: Randy worked on the end year financials (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020) and there was a deficit this year. This report will be sent out to HS parishioners at the end of the year. *Faith Formation*: The 7th/8th grades class did a Saints parade on Oct. 28. First Reconciliation was held Nov. 4 with no prayer service this year, but all students completed their sacrament. There have been lots of RE subs and attendance has been down due to Covid. The plan is to do some online learning for grades 1-8 if we are not back in the building. The confirmation kids did a service project to collect food for the pantry. *St. Malachy*: Fr. Fridays have been going well and kids like asking Fr. questions. Reading and fluency scores are good. The owl cameras have arrived. The STM students and Steve Heffern worked on videotaping the CHS musical. *RCIA*: There are 3 families attending RCIA on either Sunday or Friday. They did not meet last week due being quarantined. *Christmas Dinner*: The Diocese approved the request for HS to have a drive up Christmas Dinner. Anita Studer and Barb Hudson are working on the details. They will use the STM kitchen and have 4 cars for deliveries. Call the parish office to make a reservation for a meal. *Bulletins*: Mark suggested sending out bulletins to people that don't have a computer. Fr. Adam will make a radio announcement. Bulletins can be found on our website (www.uccat.org). If you don't have a computer, contact Michelle at the parish office. *Policy Review*: The HS Hall rental policy and the HS/SE Wedding Policy was reviewed. Some suggestions were made; a draft will be sent out for review. Michelle will check with the Diocese on the proof of liability insurance. The old tables and chairs are considered the round tables and folding chairs in the closet. There was some discussion on how to improve the cleanliness of the Hall. The meeting ended in prayer. Next meeting will be Jan.19 at 6:30 p.m. Holy Spirit Hall. Mark moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lisa. Meeting adjourned.

Recap of St. Edward Parish/ Financial Council meeting Nov. 15, 2020

St. Edward Council met after Mass on Nov. 15. Present were Fr. Adam, Dennis Hopkins, Dan McNeill, and Alex Pettit. Absent: Shayla Findley and Sharon Swanson.

Sept. minutes were approved. October Statement of Activities and Statement of Financial Position for St. Edward and Paul VI were reviewed and approved. The Council need one more member. Please contact Fr. Adam if you would like to volunteer.

Other: A retreat flyer was reviewed and tabled due to low attendance at church.

RE: Council voted to get RE teachers/helpers small gift for Christmas gift. Darren Moore fixed hole in Rectory building and building was sprayed for wasps. RE catechists are working on ways to find people that would be interested in learning more or attending training on Catechesis of the Good Shepherd to help build the Religious Education program. Contact Fr. Adam if you are interested.

Grounds: Mike Rollings will not be doing snow removal this year. Thank you for the many years of service and help with the church. Tonelli Seasonal Service bid for snow removal was reviewed and approved.

Dennis Ripperger memorial money was received and dedicated to fixing the East retaining wall. Meeting adjourned, next meeting will be Jan.17, 2021