

Daily Readings for the Week of Dec. 28, 2025

Dec. 28: Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14/ Psalms 128:1-5/ Colossians 3:12-21/
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
Dec. 29: 1 John 2:3-11/ Psalms 96:1-3, 5-6/ Luke 2:22-35
Dec. 30: 1 John 2:12-17/ Psalms 96:7-10/ Luke 2:36-40
Dec. 31: 1 John 2:18-21/ Psalms 96:1-2, 11-13/ John 1:1-18
Jan. 1: Numbers 6:22-27/ Psalms 67:2-3, 5-6, 8/ Galatians 4:4-7/ Luke 2:16-21
Jan. 2: 1 John 2:22-28/ Psalms 98:1-4/ John 1:19-28
Jan. 3: Philippians 2:5-11/ Psalms 113:1-8/ Matthew 1:18-23

Liturgical Ministries

Schedule for Dec. 28, 2025

Lector: Mark
Greeters/Gifts: Denniston Family
Servers: Kevin/Evie
Money Counters: Mark/Jon
Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: Mark/Jon

Schedule for Jan. 4, 2026

Lector: Mark
Greeters/Gifts: Denniston Family
Servers: Evie/Kevin
Money Counters: Mark/Monte
Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: Mark/Doris

Schedule for Dec. 31, 2025

Lector: Mark Greeter/Gifts : Volunteers
Servers: Kevin Money Counters: Volunteers
Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: Mark/Doris

Today's Mass Intention

Paul & Mary Lasack

Mass Intention Dec. 31, 2025

John & Bettie Swan



**PRAYER
CORNER**

Betty Anderson, Karen Kleineck, Bill Ihns,
Mary Hansen, Marilyn Stevenson, Julie Ahrendsen,
Carrie Leeper, Margaret Fowler, Larry Marek, Carl Koppes,
Marsha Lasack, Phyllis Ludwig, Marvin Ludwig,
Paul Rowan, Wendy Larive, Fr. Andrew

SACRED HEART

**"BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY
OF SACRED HEART: LOVE,
PRAYER & SERVICE"**

309 Church Street • PO Box 98

Oxford Junction, IA 52323

Mass Schedule: 10:30am Sunday

www.sacredheartojoj.org



December 28, 2025

Sacred Heart Office Hours

Mon., Wed., Fri.

10:00am-11:00am

Phone: 319-320-5003

St. John the Baptist (Mt. Vernon)

Office Hours:

Tues.: 8:00am-5:00pm, Fri.: 7:00am-3:30pm

Phone: 319-895-6246

St. Isidore (Springville) Office Hours:

Wed. & Thurs.: 10:00am-3:00pm

Phone: 319-854-6141

Pastor:

Rev. Andrew Awotwe-Mensah:

DBQ137@dbqarch.org

Deacon:

Mark Sandersfeld

dbq137d@dbqarch.org

Administrative Assistant:

Wendy Swan: *dbq155sec@dbqarch.org*

Phone: 319-320-5003

Bookkeeper:

Sue Zeller: *dbq155bk@dbqarch.org*

Parish Council Chairperson:

Jon Eganhouse: *egnhws@netins.net*

Finance Council Chairperson:

Brett Moorman: *bdmoorman@gmail.com*

Feast of the Holy Family

Ladies of the Sacred Heart:

Mary Ann Mostaert:

mamostaert@gmail.com

Director of Religious Education:

Stacey Moorman

dbq155re@dbqarch.org

Music Ministry Leaders:

Carmie Nowachek:

nowachekfarms@hotmail.com

Karen Bachman: *wlbach@netins.net*

Website & Facebook Administrator:

Colleen Coon: *collcoon@gmail.com*

Parish Council Members:

Monte Ahrendsen

Jon Eganhouse

Abby Inglis

Amber Fall

Colleen Coon

Julie Ahrendsen

Glenda Leeper

Finance Council Members:

Donna Schewe

Brett Moorman

Ron Nowachek

Kris Leeper

Mark Denniston

PASTOR SPEAKS

December 28 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Dear Parishioners and friends,

As we enter the final weekend of December 2025 celebrating the feast of the Holy Family, it is essential to anchor all our faith in God as we prepare to enter 2026, and I trust that you will do exactly that. I encourage you. Moreover, I hope the year brings us closer and more united in the archdiocese as we wait for Archbishop Zinkula and his core team to finish working on the Journey in Faith pastorate models. What follows is a reflection on the feast of the Holy Family from Archbishop Zinkula, along with some upcoming events he invites you to be part of; so please save the dates.

As we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, the gospel reminds us that family life is never easy. Even the Lord's family had to endure hardship and exile at the very beginning. Because of the fear and wrath of Herod, the Holy Family was forced to make an arduous journey to Egypt. For months, and probably years, they were separated from familiar people and places.

Eventually, they returned to Nazareth. What was it like? How had things changed? Were they missed? Hopefully, the ties—especially among their family members—remained strong. One of the marks of a “holy” family is firm reliance on one another and confidence that even though circumstances may shift, love remains constant.

Who has been missing from your Sunday assembly at Mass? Have you reached out to this person or family? When you encounter fellow parishioners at worship or parish activities who may have been away for a while, what do you say? How do you offer welcome and hospitality? At times, we can presume that people who have drifted from parish life are lazy or angry. We can grow judgmental. But perhaps, like the Holy Family, they have faced hardship or have had to carry out their relationship with God elsewhere for various reasons. Members of holy families are resilient in their commitment to one another. By God's grace, may we be found as such.

Novena

I ask for your continued spiritual support and leadership in prayer. Please encourage your parishioners to join me for a special Novena from the Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus (January 3) through the Baptism of the Lord (January 11), asking the Holy Spirit to guide our discernment and renew our unity as one Church.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed Happy New Year.

News

New Years Mass will be at 6:00pm, December 31st, at Sacred Heart OJ.

The next “Table of Plenty” will be January 4, 2026..

Refreshments will be served after Mass on January 11, 2026. The refreshments committee will be Shari Crock and Stacey Moorman. Thank you ladies!

Please remember that Mass Intentions will be \$10.00 starting on January 1, 2026. All Mass Intentions already paid for will be honored in 2026.

We have a tree in the back of the church and the hallway that we are decorating with children sized hats, mittens and socks to be donated to the Midland Elementary school in Oxford Junction. There is still time to help fill up the tree with your donations. The tree/trees will stay up for a another week or so. Thank you in advance.

Thanks to everyone who has made out church such a warm and welcoming place. Your hard work does not go unnoticed. We could not do it without you. Your dedication makes a real difference in our lives. We are so blessed to have so many who say “yes, I'll help” when there's work to be done!

Fr. Andrew, Deacon Mark, and almost-Deacon Josh, thank you for your wonderful service to our little parish family here at Sacred Heart. We are so blessed, and happy to have you!

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A BLESSED NEW YEAR!

WEEKLY OFFERING

Dec 21, 2025 Collection

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Envelopes | \$ 768.00 |
| Offertory | 42.00 |
| Candles | 4.00 |
| Total | \$ 814.00 |
| Raffle | \$, 1,140.00 |

Baptism Information

If you wish to have your child baptized, please contact Wendy Swan at (319) 320-5003 or e-mail dbq155sec@dbqarch.org to get the process started.

Please have all bulletin submissions to Wendy Swan by Wednesday PM