

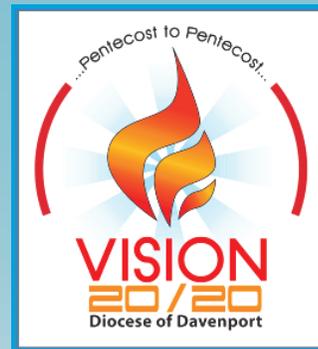
Welcome to the Holy Family Parishes of:

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish

Lost Nation & Toronto

Sacred Heart Parish - Oxford Junction

Ss Philip & James Parish - Grand Mound



January 6, 2019 - Epiphany of the Lord



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Sacrament of Baptism

Please contact Parish Office to schedule a baptism.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Marriage Preparation at least 90 days prior to your wedding date. Please contact Parish Office.

Pastoral Care

Contact Parish Office for Home visits, pastoral needs, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Communion

Sacrament Reconciliation

Before Mass or call Parish Office for arrangement with Priest.

One of the saddest sights of the Christmas season are trees sitting out on the curb on December 26. At the very moment when the Christmas season truly begins, too many people seem ready to bring it to an early end. If not on December 26, when should you take down your Christmas tree and decorations down.?

Father Francis
Lil'O Corner



The Traditional Answer: Catholics do not take down their Christmas trees and holiday decorations until the day after Epiphany. The 12 days of Christmas begin on Christmas Day and the 12 days of Christmas end on Epiphany, the day that the three wise men came to pay homage to the child Jesus. We tend to choose the commercialism route versus the religious route because we have lost our way and forgotten the days of old. The Feast of the Epiphany invites us to consider once again the real meaning of Christmas and to respond accordingly. The wise men, in presenting Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, acknowledged him as Saviour of all people meaning all of us. The feast invites us to ask: what gift can we present to Jesus that acknowledges him as our Saviour? One way is to respect Jesus during the Christmas season is to honor Him according to tradition when all the meaning of Christmas comes to pass ending with Epiphany Sunday.

Cutting the Christmas Season Short: By the time Christmas Day comes, people are ready to pack up the decorations, and the tree—which they may have put up as early as Thanksgiving weekend. People have forgotten what the "Christmas season" means really means. The desire of commercialism is to encourage Christmas shoppers to buy early and buy often, and affect the liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmas. Christmas advertising starts right after Halloween. And because of that, the actual Christmas season has been forgotten.

Celebrate Advent So We Can Celebrate Christmas. If you choose to revive the true meaning tradition of putting up your Christmas tree and decorations closer to Christmas Day itself, then your tree should remain until Epiphany. More importantly, you could begin to distinguish once again between the Advent season and the Christmas season. This would allow you to celebrate Advent to its fullest. In keeping your decorations up after Christmas Day, you will find a renewed sense of joy in celebrating all twelve days of Christmas leading to the Epiphany.

Fr. Pellegrino



The early Church clearly understood this missionary mandate of Jesus Christ, and then the Holy Spirit propelled those who knew Jesus to go out, teach, and make disciples; in short, to spread the Good News to the ends of the world. The Church, today, must continue to respond to this missionary call. So we need to ask ourselves, "What can we do to fulfill the Church's mission?"

One relatively easy first step is to renew our own faith -- both in our heads and our hearts. Ongoing faith formation is essential to accomplish the Church's mission and is a lifelong process. So let us make a resolution in this new year to deepen our knowledge of the Catholic faith by educating ourselves on what the Church teaches and why. When we strengthen our knowledge of our faith, we begin to be transformed by it.

So what are some practical ways we can increase our knowledge of the Catholic faith? Here are some possibilities:

- Read daily Scripture and reflect on its meaning.
- Read the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, which covers the beliefs, moral teachings, prayer, and sacraments of the Catholic Church.
- Read about the lives of the saints who are timeless examples of how to live a Christian life.
- Resolve to take part in or organize a Bible study.
- Participate in RCIA (it's not just for non-Catholics).
- Join a small community of faith surrounded by others who are also seeking to grow in their understanding of Church doctrine.
- Talk to a member of the Evangelization Team about these and other possibilities.

Remember, evangelization is not the task of a few people; it is the responsibility of the whole Church. It is a call to each person to deepen his or her own faith and possess a willingness to share the Good News with others.

The Evangelization Team

PARISH CLUSTER NEWS

Diana Scott, Bulletin Editor, will be absent from January 10 - January 31, 2019. Please forward all bulletin information to Cris Burmeister at sheart@netins.net.

The Knights of Columbus meeting is scheduled for January 9, in Lost Nation at 7:00 pm. A light supper will be served at 6:30 pm followed by the meeting. If you are not already a member, we hope you might be inspired to contact our local council and explore with them the experience of a lifetime.

 Beginning the week of January 6, Mass times will change back to the previous schedule.

- Monday, No Mass
- Tuesday, 8:00 am-Grand Mound
- Wednesday, 5:00 pm-Grd Mound
- Thursday, 5:30 pm.-Lost Nation
- Friday, 8:00 am-Ox. Junction

Reflection on Gratitude: Our Lady of the Prairie is sponsoring a special Day of Reflection on Gratitude by Sr Kathy Sadler, a Clinton Franciscan. It's scheduled Thursday, January 10th from 9:00am to 3:00pm. "Learn some steps to become a more grateful person. Gain insights into ways of releasing gratitude which will enable you to dull painful experiences and bring relief and healing to the world". To register: contact Sr Rae Eldwood at 563-336-8414. Come and treat yourself for a day

Our Lady of Holy Rosary Lost Nation/Toronto

The Altar & Rosary will have a Bake Sale on Sunday, January 13 at the Lost Nation Legion Breakfast. Please bring baked goods to Mass on Saturday evening or at the Legion Breakfast on Sunday morning.

Pray A Rosary For Healing:

Our Lady of Holy Rosary

Jeanene Cavey, Dick Nodurft, Melvin & Irene Duwa, Richard Vens

SS Philip & James Church

Chris Forret, Austin Flammang, Sandy Crosthwaite, Natalie Regan, Elmer Hasenmiller, Grace Kinney

Sacred Heart Church

Betty Anderson, Rich Kleineck, Brad Manuel, Dennis Koppess, and Wendy Larive

Marriage Encounter Weekend: Need a little peace and quiet? Well, we have the answer for you! Marriage Encounter in Clinton, Iowa at Prince of Peace Catholic Church—on the weekend of February 1, 2, 3, 2019. We have room for you! To make reservations, call Deacon John or Cheryl Wagner at 563-391-2805

SS Philip & James - Grand Mound

 Through your faith, love, and generosity, we met our ADA goal with 48 families pledging \$11,890 AND \$318 over the original pledge goal of \$11,572. A 1000 thank you's to our parish families.



Sunday, February 3, 2019

From 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

SS Phillip & James Church

Grand Mound, IA

Mass will be at 10:30 a.m.

All-You-Can-Eat

Chili or Chicken Noodle Soup

Adults - \$6.00 - Kids - \$3.00

Call 563-847-7572 by February 2

for pre-order deliveries

The Social Action Committee would like to thank our parishioners for their generous donations to our yearly "hat and mitten" collection. Thrivent Financial enabled us to purchase several more items for the collection - thank you Michele Traver of Thrivent Financial for making this "action team" donation possible! The items were distributed to the Calamus-Wheatland and Ekstrand elementary schools before their Christmas break

RE NEWS

Wednesday, January 9

Class 6-7pm; Bible Study- 6-7pm

Youth Group 6:30-8:00pm

Sacred Heart - Oxford Junction

Our gratitude to everyone who has helped during this year to make things go smoothly for our church family here at Sacred Heart. We have a wonderful group of volunteers greeters, ushers, gift bearers, money counters, servers, readers, Eucharistic ministers, choir members, teachers, and council and financial members.

Liturgy sign-up sheet for February is on the table in the hallway. Remember to sign up if you have a special date you would like to serve, otherwise Karen will assign the dates, as she has in the past.



TOMAS-12

PARISH REFLECTIONS 4A



The Feast of the Epiphany is a special day in Mexico. Known as 'El Dia de Reyes' (Three Kings Day), and represents the height of the Christmas season. The date marks the end of the twelve days of Christmas and honors the three wise men. The children in particular look forward to this holiday as traditionally, gifts are exchanged on this date, not on Christmas day. It is the three wise men who are the bearers of gifts, who leave presents in or near the shoes of small children.

The most notable being the appearance of the Star of Bethlehem. This new star appeared in the evening sky just prior to the arrival of Jesus. Three wise men whose names were Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar, traveled a far distance to pay homage to the Christ child. They brought with them fine gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Three Kings Day remains an important holiday for the people of Mexico. In addition to the gift-giving aspect of the day there is also a culinary treat that is specific to the holiday. Known as 'Rosca de Reyes' (King's Cake), this holiday dessert offers much in the way of symbolism. Shaped in the round to signify a king's crown, this sweet bread holds a special surprise. Baked inside is a small plastic figurine representing the baby Jesus. Whoever finds this token is obligated to host an upcoming party for the occasion of 'Dia de la Candelaria' (Candlemas Day) which occurs each year on February 2.

The figure of the baby Jesus, hidden inside the cake, represents another aspect of the holiday. The reason Jesus is 'hidden' inside the bread is to symbolize how in life, the Christ child's birth location also needed to remain secret, in order that his life be spared. The ruler of Jerusalem at the time, King Herod, had been appraised of the mystical signs that indicated the new and rightful King.

Mexico Traditions

MASS INTENTIONS 4B

Saturday	01/05/18/ St. John Neumann
05:00pm	Lost Nation/Charlie Lasack
Sunday	01/06/18/ Epiphany of the Lord
08:00am	Grand Mound/Andrew Erickson
09:30am	Toronto/For the Parish
10:00am	Oxford Junction/Rosine Regennitter
Monday	01/07/19/ No Mass
Tuesday	01/08/19/Grand Mound
08:00am	Vince & Regina Hahn
Wednesday	01/09/19
10:00am	Wheatland Manor/For The Parish
05:00pm	Grand Mound-Jack & Dorothy Campbell
Thursday	01/10/19/Lost Nation
05:30pm	Scott Benischek
Friday	01/11/19/Oxford Junction
08:00am	Thomas Regennitter
Saturday	01/12/19/Toronto
05:00pm	Craig & Tom Simmons
Sunday	01/13/19/ Baptism of the Lord
08:00am	Grand Mound/Viola Syslo
10:00am	Oxford Junction/Jack&KathrynLasack

Readings for the week of January 6, 2019

Sunday:	Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Monday:	1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday:	1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:34-44
Wed:	1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:45-52
Thursday:	1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a
Friday:	1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Lk 5:12-16
Saturday:	1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30
Sunday:	Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for the promise that when we seek You, we will find You! Help us each day to see how valuable You really are and the treasure that is Your Kingdom! We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.

