

**Daily Readings for the
Week of December 15, 2024**

Sunday, 12/15: Zephariah 3:14-18/ Isaiah 12:2-6/ Philippians 4:4-7/ Luke 3:10-18
Monday, 12/16: Numbers 24:2-7,15-17/ Ps 25:4-9/ Matthew 21:23-27
Tuesday, 12/17: Genesis 49:2,8-10/ Ps 72:1-4,7-8,17/ Matthew 1:1-17
Wednesday, 12/18: Jeremiah 23:5-8/ Ps 72:1-2,12-13/18-19/ Matthew 1:18-25
Thursday, 12/19: Judges 13:2-7,24-25/ Ps 71:3-6,16-17/ Luke 1:5-25
Friday, 12/20: Isaiah 7:10-14/ Ps 24:1-6/ Luke 1:26-38
Saturday, 12/21: Song of Solomon 2:8-14/ Ps 33:2-3,11-12,20-21/ Luke 1:39-45

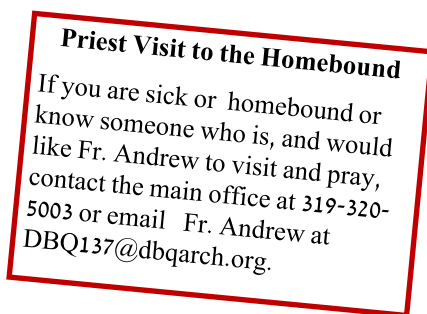
Schedule for December 22, 2024

Lector: Shari
Greeters/Gifts: Leeper Family
Servers: Kevin
Money Counters: Mary A K/Margo
Extraordinary Ministers
of the Eucharist: Mary A M/Jon



**Today's Mass Intention
Otto & Janice Lasack**

Mass Intention 12/22
Treyton Lange



Prayer Corner

Betty Anderson, Rich Kleineck, Bill Ihns,
Marilyn Stevenson, Julie Ahrendsen, Zoey Meyers,
Carrie Leeper, Larry Marek, Carl Koppes, Marsha Lasack,
Chris Gibbs, Wendy Larive, Fr. Andrew



SACRED HEART



December 15, 2024

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: bdmooman@gmail.com

**"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.sacredheartoj.org

3rd Sunday of Advent

Ladies of the Sacred Heart:

Mary Ann Mostaert:

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Director of Religious Education:

Sarah Rissler:

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Music Ministry Leaders:

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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

Waiting in Joyful Hope

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Third Sunday of Advent, which we mark this weekend, is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. The name "Gaudete" comes from the Latin word for "Rejoice." In the context of the Mass for this Sunday, it derives from the beautiful exhortation of St. Paul in Philippians 4:4, which acts as our entrance chant, "Gaudete in Domino semper," meaning "Rejoice in the Lord always."

The general character of this Third Sunday of Advent then is joy, making it slightly different from the first two Sundays that have a more penitential tone. Following the Liturgical norm, the Advent wreath candle we light this week is rose-colored. Even priests may wear rose-colored vestments instead of the usual Advent violet to express and symbolize the shift toward joy.

At the same time, the liturgical readings chosen for the Third Sunday of Advent also emphasize hope and the nearness of the Lord's coming. It serves as a reminder of the joy that awaits us in the celebration of Christ's birth and the promise of his return.

These readings from Isaiah, Paul, and Luke center on how we may cultivate a powerful spiritual life that is focused on God and our relationship with Jesus Christ. This we are called to do in joy and hope.

In the First Reading, the prophet Zephaniah speaks of this relationship, intimately stating, "The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love" (**Zep 3:17 a**). As Christians, we know that in Jesus Christ, God has come to establish a firm, hopeful relationship with us.

John the Baptist emphasizes the human dimension of this relationship, urging those listening to him to "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed" and "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages."

During this Advent season, God wants you to experience healing in your relationships, changes in your wrong habits and other areas you struggle with or feel stuck. For this to happen, it is necessary to pay greater attention to your spiritual life and grow in it. If you are stuck in your spiritual life just increase your desire for bringing your relationship with God to a new level and pray with greater joy and intimacy with Him.

Thank you, from your church, Crock and Moorman families for presenting the live Nativity last Saturday. It was very inspiring to see your families so actively participating in the Christmas Story!

The drawing for the beef bundles is today after Mass. Thank you to those who participated in selling and buying raffle tickets.

The Christmas Story in Song will be presented this afternoon at 4:00pm. Please join us for the Story and a free soup supper to follow. We hope we have a large church family presence along with many other guests. It's not too late to invite people. The more the merrier!

We have a tree set up in the hall to place winter items, especially socks, insulated gloves/mittens, and hats to donate to the elementary school in Oxford Junction. Please consider donating an item and placing it on or under the tree.

Our first Bible Study was held on December 4th at 6:30 at the church. We had 8 people attend. The Bible Study is called the Crux, provided by focusequip.org. All are welcome to attend. Please bring along a bible. The next dates for the Bible study are December 18, January 8th and January 22nd, all at 6:30pm at Sacred Heart. Thank you so much to Stacy Agnitsch for leading our Bible Study. Please join us.

Please consider donating a poinsettia or other Christmas flower to help decorate our Altar and church during the Christmas season. Decorating will be done a day or two before Christmas.

Please take a look at our fundraising thermometer in the hallway. Thanks to the kolache bakes, the cinnamon roll bake, the sweet corn sales and the "The Table of Plenty" sales, we are 3/4 of the way to our fundraising total. The beef raffle should easily take us over the top. Thank you to all who participated in these events, and purchased from these events.

Our next "Table of Plenty" will be January 5, 2025.



December 8, 2024 Collection

Envelopes	\$ 400.00
Offertory	35.00
Candles	4.00
TOTAL	\$ 439.00
Bld. Fund	200.00

Parish Baptism Preparation Class for Families Seeking Infant Baptism at St. John, St. Isidore, and Sacred Heart.

Preparation Class Venue:
St. John the Baptist Mt. Vernon, IA
Time: 2:00pm

Scheduled Dates for Classes:

Coming Soon

Please have all bulletin submissions to Wendy Swan by Wednesday PM