

## Daily Readings

### Week of December 26, 2021

Sunday, 12/26: 1 Sm 1: 20-22, 24-28/Ps 84: 2-3, 5-6, 9-10/

1 Jn 3: 1-2, 21-24/Lk 2: 41-52

Monday, 12/27: 1 Jn 1: 1-4/Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12/

Jn 20: 1a & 2-8

Tuesday, 12/28: 1 Jn 1: 5; 2: 2/Ps 124: 2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2: 13-18

Wednesday, 12/29: 1 Jn 2: 3-11/Ps 96: 1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2: 22-35

Thursday, 12/30: 1 Jn 2: 12-17/Ps 96: 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2: 36-40

Friday, 12/31: 1 Jn 2: 18-21/Ps 96: 1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1: 1-18

Saturday, 1/1: Nm 6: 22-27/Ps 67: 2-3, 5, 6, 8/Gal 4: 4-7/Lk 2: 16-21



# SACRED HEART

“RETURN TO ME &

RENEW YOUR SPIRIT”

309 Church Street • PO Box 98

Oxford Junction, IA 52323

Mass Schedule: 11:00am Sunday

[www.sacredheartoj.org](http://www.sacredheartoj.org)



**December 26, 2021** The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

### 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

### Administrative Assistant:

Wendy Swan: dbq155sec@dbqarch.org

Phone: 319-320-5003

### Bookkeeper:

Sue Zeller: dbq155bk@dbqarch.org

### Parish Council Chairperson:

Blain Crock: blain.crock@gmail.com

### Finance Council Chairperson:

Kris Leeper: kjlgjl@hotmail.com

### Sanctuary Guild Chairperson:

Mary Ann Mostaert:

mamostaert@gmail.com

### Director of Religious Education:

Sarah Rissler:

sarahrissler10@gmail.com

### Music Ministry Leaders:

Carmie Nowachek:

nowachekfarms@hotmail.com

Karen Bachman: wlbach@netins.net

### Website & Facebook Administrator:

Colleen Coon: collcoon@gmail.com

### Parish Council Members:

Sarah Rissler

Monte Ahrendsen

Jon Eganhouse

Mary Ann Mostaert

### Finance Council Members:

Donna Schewe

Brett Moorman

Ron Nowachek

### Schedule for January 2, 2022

Lector: CCD

Greeters/Gifts: CCD

Servers: CCD/Kevin

Money Counters: Monte/Mary Ann K

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: Volunteers

### Today's Mass Intention:

**Mary Lasack**

### Prayer Corner

- Betty Anderson, Rich Kleineck,  
Leonard Lasack, Paul Lasack,  
Marilyn Stevenson, Derek Denniston,  
Julie Ahrendsen
- Archbishop Jackels, Fr. Andrew



Liturgical  
Ministers

# TO OUR PARISHIONERS & FRIENDS

“...a light has shone” on us

Now that the days of the Lord’s nativity have arrived; the savior of humanity has come as the Light of the world. On the night of His birth, a light shone brightly. A star in the east burned and led the Magi to Him. In the dark of night, there was a glow of soft light in the manger waiting to ignite the human heart with God’s love.

Familiar, even traditional portrayals of Christmas, call to mind images of light. And surely sacred scripture is imbued with sight, sound, and language of light. The words of Simeon depict this effervescence as one example among many:

*“In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us, To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, And to guide our feet into the path of peace.” (Luke 1:78-79).*

Sober Christians take the Christmas event and the related feast of the Holy Family as culminating occasion to reflect deeply upon the holy ones in the history of our world, those who are the embodiment of contemplative *light* in the darkness.

*Of Jesus*, the angels’ words are that “a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord,” (Luke 2:11). The Holy One is also the child born into the world, in lowly surroundings, and vulnerable in His humanity. Might we imagine that perhaps He too, longed to be loved? And as today’s Gospel reminds us, He would “advance in wisdom and age and favor before God and man,” (Luke 2: 52).

*As we contemplate “God’s humble entrance into human life, the emergence and birth of the Holy,” let us pray that we may grow in wisdom and be light in the darkness of our world so in need of healing.*

Jesus of the Gospels reveals that He *is* the light. “ Again, Jesus spoke to them saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life,” (John 8:12).

*Let us pray that we may become more aware of the Christmas mystery of the light; and that we may be His manifestation in the world through acts of kindness and compassion, and through our love.*

*Of Mary*, we dare imagine her equanimity in the way she came to know the light. Through her young eyes, the light flooding the room as the angel Gabriel visited her, telling her that she would be the mother of a baby who “will be called holy, the Son of God,” ... and Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word,” (Luke 1:35-38).

*Of Joseph*, in the dark night of his soul, might he have imagined the light would ever come. Fearful still, not knowing his place in the unfolding plan of the Incarnation, he remained faithful.

*By grace, may we come to utterly entrust our lives to the Lord, and may we look to Mary’s fruitful love that is nourishment for life of the world. And in remembering Joseph’s fidelity to Mary, and to their son, let us pray that we may be faithful to the call to holiness.*

Christmas blessings be upon you! Merry Christmas!

Fr. Andrew

- MERRY CHRISTMAS to our church family! May God bless you this Christmas Season and into the New Year!

- If you plan on donating items for the winter clothing tree, please have your items hung on the tree by the end of the year. Items will be donated to the Midland Elementary School after school begins in the New Year.

- The next CCD class is Sunday, January 2nd at 9:45am. Our “Children’s Mass” will follow.

- It has become necessary that our official membership data be updated to reflect our status as a stand-alone parish. Therefore, the Archdiocese of Dubuque requires that all parishes maintain an up-to-date Register of all parishioners. Such a register includes demographical data. So, with that said our Parish Council has come up with a new registration form that is in each family’s mailbox. Please pick up and fill out and place in the tray that is on top of the mailboxes or give to Wendy Swan, our Parish Administrative Assistant or Blain Crock, our Parish Council President. If you do not have a mailbox please let either of them know and they will get you a registration form. It is very important that we return our forms by the end of December.



**Dear Holy Family,  
Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
We invoke your intercessions.  
Pray to God for protection of families,  
pardon from sins, unity of mankind,  
peace, and healing of the land.**

**We pray for  
leaders  
to rule for the  
common good,  
leaders that  
respect the dignity  
of the person,  
leaders that  
promote life  
and not death,  
leaders that  
promote  
Christ-like  
equality,  
liberty,  
and justice  
or all.**

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Please have all bulletin submissions to Colleen Coon by Tuesday PM

Email: collcoon@gmail.com