

## Daily Readings

### Week of December 5, 2021

Sunday, 12/5: Bar 5: 1-9/Ps 126: 1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/

Phil 1: 4-6, 8-11/Lk 3: 1-6

Monday, 12/6: Is 35: 1-10/Ps 85: 9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14/

Lk 5: 17-26

Tuesday, 12/7: Is 40: 1-11/Ps 96: 1-2, 3 & 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18: 12-14

Wednesday, 12/8: Gn 3: 9-15, 20/Ps 98: 1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1: 3-6, 11-12/Lk 1: 26-38

Thursday, 12/9: Is 41: 13-20/Ps 145: 1 & 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11: 11-15

Friday, 12/10: Is 48: 17-19/Ps 1: 1-2, 3, 4 & 6/Mt 11: 16-19

Saturday, 12/11: Sir 48: 1-4, 9-11/Ps 80: 2ac & 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17: 9a, 10-13



# 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 5, 2021 2nd Sunday of Advent

### 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 December 12, 2021

Lector: Trenton

Greeters/Gifts: Rickels Family

Servers: Nathan/Kevin

Money Counters: Margo/Sharon

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: Margo/Ron

### Today's Mass Intention:

**Aliccann Coon**

### 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

## “All Flesh Shall See the Salvation of God”

A unique feature of Advent is its proclamation of the words of Isaiah: *“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”* This invitation to respond with joy and commitment, to ready ourselves to welcome the Lord who is Himself eager to enter our lives, society, and the world, set the tone for the great expectation of Advent.

Isaiah enunciated these historic words to encourage and revive the faith of the Israelites who were suffering from alienation and separation from their homeland; they felt lost and cut off from their God, religion, and culture. Their thoughts and sentiments come to light in Psalm 137: 1-4, *“By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion ... for there our captors asked us for songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy; they said, ‘Sing us one of the songs of Zion!’ How can we sing the songs of the Lord while in a foreign land?”*

Amid the despondency and trepidation of ever returning to their homeland, with an unknown future ahead, Isaiah’s words ignited their spirits and prompted them to look forward with breadth of expectation and hope.

Presented to us on the second Sunday of Advent, these words provide us with a spiritual telescope to view how God’s love is expressed towards us in our daily experiences and blessings so that we may be hopeful. Along the same lines, together with the entire Advent season, they also challenge us to examine habits of the mind and body to see how we are faithfully preparing to meet the Lord.

I savor the following lines by Elizabeth Barrett Browning: *“Earth’s crammed with heaven, and every common bush afire with God; But only he who sees, takes off his shoes.”* Isaiah assures us that all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Christ comes to all of us. Advent, therefore, provides us with the spiritual infrastructure, the sharpening of our spiritual eyes to clearly see the cracks and the hills in our lives that need attention and repair.

The readings for this weekend shed light on the come-back character of Advent, urging us to prepare to walk toward fruitful preparation and celebration of Christmas. God loves us despite the multiple cracks in our lives, and He comes to help us fill them with prayer, and positive relationship with Him and others.

In his book, *After Heaven: Spirituality in America since the 1950s*, the sociologist Robert Wuthnow observes that Americans are shifting from spirituality of “dwelling” (relating to God in a sacred place like church) to spirituality of “seeking” (relating to God only in some moments that assure them of God’s presence). Since this spiritual orientation expressed in either case is incomplete, Wuthnow offers an authentic option, “a practice-oriented spirituality.” This requires us to intentionally engage in activities that deepen our relationship with God, such as attending Mass, receiving the sacraments, reading sacred scripture, doing charitable acts, and caring about and praying for others. The Advent preparation tenor reinforces this depth of spiritual response and maturity.

- This year the Guild is planning on having a Winter Head, Neck and Hands tree. We will have a tree set up at the back of the Sanctuary to hang these items on. If you want to participate all you have to do is bring a warm cap, headband, ear muffs, scarf, mittens, or gloves and hang them on the tree. After Christmas these items will be given to the Midland Elementary School here in Oxford Junction.



- We are asking our church family to consider donating winter flowers to decorate our altar during the Christmas season. You may call Doris Denniston @ 319-480-6963 or Karen Bachman @ 319-981-3906 with questions or assistance in purchasing a plant/flower. More details to come.
- The next CCD class is Sunday, December 19th at 9:45am.
- THANK YOU to those who arranged the Advent Wreath so beautifully on the altar.
- 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. This is a very important that we return our forms by the end of December.



Please have all bulletin submissions to Colleen Coon by Wednesday PM

Email: [collcoon@gmail.com](mailto:collcoon@gmail.com)