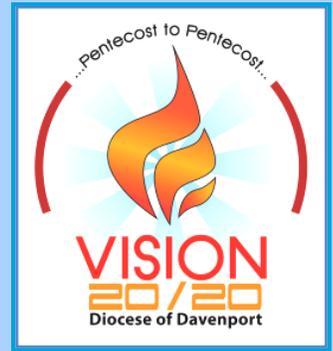


Welcome to the Holy Family Parishes of  
Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish  
Lost Nation & Toronto

Sacred Heart Parish ~ Oxford Junction

Ss Philip & James Parish ~ Grand Mound



December 22, 2019— Is There Any Room At The Inn?

Cluster Parish Information

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Cell: 515-357-8798  
Email: [odoomf@diodav.org](mailto:odoomf@diodav.org)  
Web: [holyfamilycluster.com](http://holyfamilycluster.com)

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670 Mill Street  
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**Sacred Heart Church**  
309 Church Street  
Oxford Junction, IA 52323  
Web [www.sacredheartoj.org](http://www.sacredheartoj.org)

Cluster Office Hours

Monday: 9:00 am—2:00 pm  
Tuesday: 9:00 am—2:00 pm  
Friday: 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Telephone: 563-847-2271

Bulletin Deadline Tuesday 12:00 noon  
(unless otherwise noted).

- Sacrament of Baptism: Please call or email the cluster office for arrangements.
- Sacrament of Matrimony: Please contact Pastor 9 to 12 months prior to wedding date.
- Catholic Radio Station 92.5FM



## Holy Family Cluster Invite Christ in Their Hearts

As we all know, Advent is a time to revive in our hearts the true spirit of the season before Christmas - the spirit of anticipating and longing for the coming of Jesus. It is an important time to recognize the need for God, and to call out to him, and then listen for his love.

That is exactly what the members of the Holy Family Cluster did on December 7 in Lost Nation, Iowa. The Holy Family Cluster consists of Ss. Philip and James in Grand Mound, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary in Lost Nation and Toronto, and Sacred Heart in Oxford Junction.

Fran and Marilyn Riley and Marcia Moore from Eagles' Wings Retreat in Davenport presented a one-hour program: Praying Through Advent With Mary, Joseph, and the Wise Men. Their joy-filled message was an inspiration, re-energizing parishioners' efforts to enrich their faith and deepen their observance of Advent. The presentation was followed by Mass and a soup supper provided by the Knights of Columbus.

This was all part of the Diocesan Vision 20/20 mission, to spread the joy of the gospel. The cluster's Evangelization Team organized the event, looking for a way to strengthen not only their own prayer lives but also those of their fellow parishioners. This was also an opportunity for the Holy Family Cluster to celebrate together as one faith community, to refresh their spirit, reflect with God, and renew their faith.

Reprinted from the *Catholic Messenger*

*"And She gave birth to her first born Son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger because there was no place for them in the inn. - Luke 2:7"*



In Mexico, there is a Christmas-time tradition called Las Posadas that is celebrated every year. In this tradition, a couple dress up as Mary and Joseph & go from home to home, asking if there is any room at "the inn." Each home takes on the role of an inn in Bethlehem. They are turned away each time until they reach the home that has been designated as "the inn;" at which point they are allowed in and a celebration ensues.

As they do at Las Posadas in Mexico, Christ comes to knock on the door of your heart every day. Do we turn Him away, saying there is no room at the inn, that all the rooms have been filled with other "things?" Or do we welcome Him with joy? Do we give Him the economy room? Or do we give Him the biggest and the best?

There are things in life that tug at our heart strings, and they often get the biggest rooms at the inn of our hearts. Careers get large rooms as well. Material possessions occupy huge space and so do our social activities. Hobbies and things that bring us joy have a place, perhaps a smaller room, but there is still a place for them. Friday nights out with friends, Saturdays in front of the TV watching sports, the Sunday afternoon bar-becue, they all find accommodations. Hopefully one's heart is big enough that there is room for charity.

Spend some time today evaluating how you spend your time. And reflect seriously on which rooms Christ occupies in the inn of your heart. Normally, people make room for Christ when your world comes tumbling down by illness, death, family problems, etc. and chaos rules your home. Then we demand help from Christ.

In the Nativity story, a woman who was about to deliver a child, and her betrothed, went from inn to inn, asking for lodging and help. There was no room in any inn. In reflection, there was no room in anyone's heart to extend charity and help to a woman at her moment of delivery. How could a city so filled with people not have had even one room, even one bit of charity for someone in need? Never mind that this woman was not just anyone, but God's chosen vessel for our salvation.

If your heart or your life is like an inn in Bethlehem, is there room in your inn for the Lord, or have all the spaces been filled with other things? In order to have Christ in your life, there needs to be not only room in "your inn," but the committed Christian offers Christ the best room, the first portion, of your life. The committed Christian has a room for charity, for prayer, for corporal works of mercy and spiritual works of mercy. As we journey through Advent and prepare to celebrate the Nativity, it is a good time to clean the rooms of your heart and of your life, to make sure there is room for Christ in them.

This material is used with permission of its author, Rev. Msgr. Joseph A. Pellegrino, Diocese of St. Petersburg, FL These homilies are Msgr. Pellegrino's gifts to you. Hopefully, you will find them helpful in your own private reflections

## PARISH CLUSTER NEWS

### NEWS AND EVENTS

For Christmas Week Worship Schedule; please read information on Page 4B of bulletin. Also, note time changes.

Contributions to be included on the 2019 statements need to be in the respective church by December 31, 2019.

Fran and Marilyn Riley sharing the story of Mary and Joseph.



The Evangelization Team would like to thank everyone who attended our Advent celebration. A special thanks to the choir, which consisted of members from all our cluster parishes. Finally, thank you to our Knights of Columbus who provided the meal. We are truly blessed to be a part of a community who wants to know God!



Marcia Moore from Eagles' Wings in Davenport speaking to the parishioners.

#### SS Philip & James- Grand Mound

Beginning January 2020, church ministries are assigned on a monthly basis versus weekly. Please check for schedule in future bulletin.

#### January Ministries 2020

Lector: Tom Kinney  
Euc. Min: Joyce Barnes, Teresa Grimm, Anne Adams  
Ushers: Josh Fox, Wayne Whitman, Victor Green

Please note that altar servers will change every week.

Altar Server: Jan. 1 Ellen & Olivia Olson & Trinity Tague



January Coffee hour will be hosted by Diane Skinner and assisted by the families of Kathi Fausnaught, Aaron Gorzney, Dan Donahue, Richard Azinger, Paul Hasenmiller, Teresa Bunce, and Philip Butt.

New Church Tradition: This year we are asking each family to donate an ornament for our parish Christmas tree. This may be a homemade ornament, or something you already have in your decoration box. It is our intention to store all the ornaments with the tree and other decorations at church unless you request to have it returned to you after the holidays.

#### Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Lost Nation/Toronto

Our next project will be the Reverse Advent Boxes or bags and lace an item for each day Advent. These can be socks, gloves other winter warmth items, candy, games for kids. These will help for Christmas. Toronto items will be taken to Carroll Assistance Center in Wheatland and Lost Nation items will be taken to Lost Nation Food pantry.

OLHR hosted Bingo Tuesday, Dec. 10 at the Wheatland Manor. We had a bigger crowd of players! Thank you to the Cal-Wheat students for their help. The residents love to see the kids especially at Christmas time. We served Christmas cookies and had special Christmas gifts. For a special treat, JoAnne Horstmann sang Christmas songs and had song sheets so everyone could sing along. Our next Bingo is January 14.

#### Sacred Heart - Oxford Junction



We are asking our parish family to again donate winter flowers to decorate our altar during the Christmas season. Decorating will be done on December

23-24. If you want to donate a flower but are unable to get someplace, please call Doris at 319-480-6963 or Karen at 319-981-3906.

We have set up a "giving" tree for your donations of mittens, gloves, scarves, caps, etc. which will be donated to the elementary school at



Oxford Junction after the holidays. If you have "gently used" winter coats for children or adults, they may also be put under or

near the tree. There is always a need in our communities for warm clothing.

The Cleaning sign-up sheet for January-June, 2020, is on the table in the hallway. We are doing this as a parish project. Ideally we would like four different families to sign up for a month, and then you would be responsible for assigning duties to the committee, however it would work out. This isn't a hard job, but it could take an hour or two each week, depending on the season of year and how much cleaning you do. There are supplies and a check list in the furnace room. We would like our church to be clean and welcoming for, not only our family members, but those who come visit. Thank you to all of you who have participated in the cleaning project, and we know that we'll have more of our family members signing up in the next few months.

January 2020 liturgy sign-up sheet is on the table in the hallway. If you have a certain weekend in January you wish to serve, please sign up. Karen is currently working on the January schedule.

#### Bulletin Deadlines:

Please follow the bulletin deadlines as LPI is on publishing overdrive.

- January 05, 2020 is due Tuesday, December 24.

## GENERAL INFORMATION 4A

God in the night  
God at my right  
God all the day  
God with me stay  
God in my heart

- **Our Lady of Holy Rosary:** Dick Nodurft, Melvin Duwa
- **SS Philip & James Church:** Deacon Mike Sheil, Natalie Regan, Elmer & Dorothy Hasenmiller, Grace Kinney, Betty Forret, & Carolyn Schwien.
- **Sacred Heart Church:** Betty Anderson, Rich Kleineck, Dennis Koppes, Wendy Larive, Jerica Christensen, Marilyn Stevenson, Rhonda Murphy, Leonard Lasack.

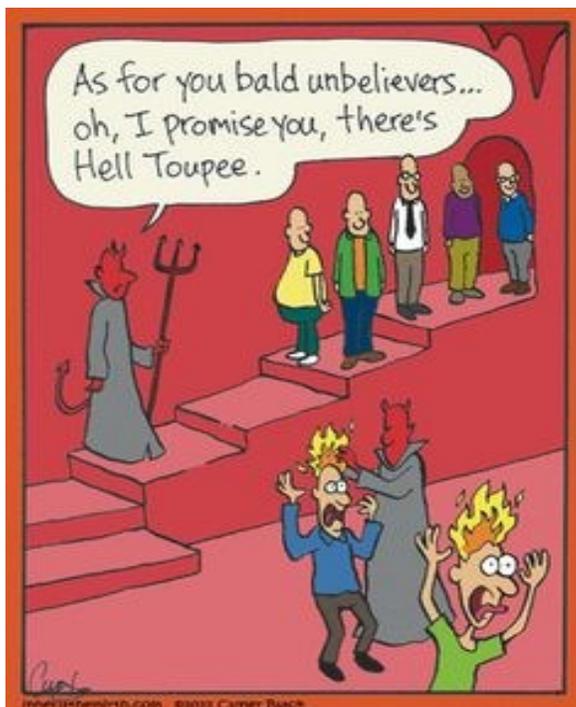
### SS Philip & James Church Ministries

December 24, 2019

Lector: Dick Azinger  
E. Min: Joyce Barnes & Volunteer  
Ushers: Dan Donahue, Bill Looney, Doyle Fox  
Servers: Natalie & Nathan Butler, and Tynley Boussetot

December 29, 2019

Lector: Barb Morrissey  
E. Min: Mary Ann Schanze and Diane Skinner  
Ushers: Kurt Looney, Mike McNeil, Julius Michel  
Servers: Brian & Megan Forret, Kylee Fischer



## MASS INTENTIONS 4B

Saturday 12/21/19/Lost Nation  
05:00pm Robby Gilroy  
Sunday 12/22/19  
08:00am Grand Mound/Howard and Gerard Green  
10:00am Oxford Junction/  
Rosine Regennitter  
Monday 12/23/19 **No Mass**  
Tuesday 12/24/19  
04:30pm Grand Mound/For the Parish  
04:30pm Oxford Junction/For the Parish  
Wednesday 12/25/19/Lost Nation  
10:00am For the Parish  
Thursday 12/26/19/Lost Nation  
05:30pm Esther Benischek  
Friday 12/27/19/Oxford Junction/  
08:00am Glen Reginnitter  
Saturday 12/28/19/Toronto  
05:00pm Kathy Van Waes  
Sunday 12/29/19  
08:00am Grand Mound/  
Sandy Crosthwaite  
10:00am Oxford Junction/Glen Regennitter  
04:00pm Eucharistic Adoration/Grand Mound



12/24/19: Christmas Eve Mass  
Grand Mound 4:30 pm  
12/24/19: Christmas Eve Mass  
Oxford Junction 4:30 pm  
12/25/19: Christmas Day Mass  
Lost Nation 10:00 am  
12/31/19: Solemnity of Mary Mass  
Toronto—5:30 pm  
01/01/20: Solemnity of Mary Mass  
Grand Mound 8:00 am  
Oxford Junction 10:00 am

### Readings for the week of December 22, 2019

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/ Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24  
Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66  
Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79  
Wednesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25  
Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14  
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20  
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14  
Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22  
Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18