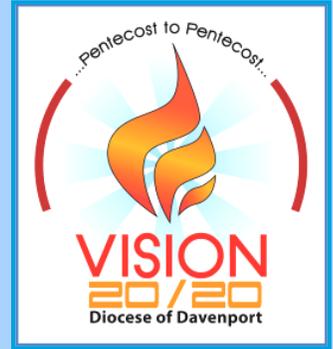


Welcome to the Holy Family Parishes of
Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish
Lost Nation & Toronto

Sacred Heart Parish ~ Oxford Junction
Ss Philip & James Parish ~ Grand Mound



December 29, 2019— The Holy Family—Heart of the Church

Cluster Parish Information

Pastor: Rev. Francis V. Odom
Cell: 515-357-8798
Email: odoomf@diodav.org
Web: hollyfamilycluster.com

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309 Church Street
Oxford Junction, IA 52323
Web 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 the cluster office for arrangements.
- Sacrament of Matrimony: Please contact Pastor 9 to 12 months prior to wedding date.
- Catholic Radio Station 92.5FM



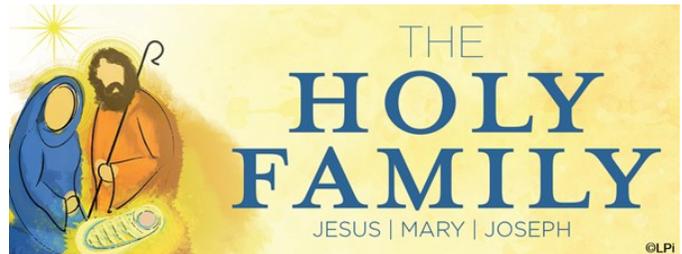
Updates on the wells for Ghana project

The plan to reach out to poor communities without access to clean drinking water was discussed at the Pub Club, Lost Nation in November 2018. Since then we have had the real joy of assisting 4 communities in the Central Region of Ghana to own a water well.

Last year, our clean water project produced 4 wells and 4 reservoir tanks that holds between 6000-10000 gallons of water. A well serves about 500 people in those communities. With your generous help we are making a real impact in the lives of the poor. Our assessment of the projects has been very positive. It has brought great relief to several people including women and children who do most of the chores at home. The beneficiary communities include places where water borne diseases are prevalent as well as communities where the lack of descent water is seriously affecting teaching and learning. School children go through the ordeal of going to a stream or river source to draw water to do chores at home before they go to school. Our project of hope is transforming situations.

This year's campaign is on! We are so grateful to God about how far he has brought us. As of Sunday, December 15, we have raised \$17,500.00 and still counting. Our target this year is to be able to do 6 wells at the cost of \$4000.00 per well to bring our total number of wells to 10. That will be \$24,000. Once again, thank you for supporting a worthy cause.

Thank you,
Fr. Francis



The Feast of the Holy Family: The Heart of the Church

The Sunday after Christmas, we consider the family. When we hear the title of the celebration, the Feast of the Holy Family, we tend to dismiss the possibility that our families can be like the Holy Family. We forget that Jesus' family was holy because they lived united to God.

You may be thinking that your own families are far from the ideal. Every family is far from the ideal because every family is made of unique individuals with their positive qualities and their negative quirks. Or, to put it simply, if you think your family is strange, you're right.

To be holy means to be set distinct from all that is not holy; for our families to be holy we must choose what is often contrary to the choices made by society today. Being a holy family means our homes be places of prayer. The Church, at least in our country, is still suffering from the misconception that worship takes place only on Sundays in the churches and that religious instruction is the exclusive realm of parish programs. This is wrong. We come to Church on Sundays to be united to Christ in Word and Sacrament so that we can strengthen the union that takes place in our homes. Families can do this through the family rosary. Others have family prayer at bedtime. Most make it a point to have family prayer before meals.

You send your children to religious education for the basic outline of what you need to communicate to your children every day. Parents, not parishes, are the first teachers of their children in the ways of the faith. Some parents hold themselves back in this area because they feel unworthy to teach their children about God. They forget, God makes them worthy. Just as your authority as moms and dads gives you the grace to impart God's blessing on your children, and many of you do this every night. You do not have to be theologians to teach the faith, just need to be united to God.

Many of you have raised your children and some now have their own families. You are the matriarchs and patriarchs. You still need to point your children and grandchildren to the Lord. You can no longer determine what they are exposed to in their homes, but you can and must give them the example of union with God.

Whether there are children at home or not, the center of our spiritual life must be our homes. That is why we need to give God our day when we wake up, morning prayer, and thank Him for our day when we go to bed, night prayer. We need to keep our minds pure so we can speak to the Lord all day.

The heart of our parish is not this church. The heart of the universal church is not the Vatican. The heart of the church is the family. We pray today that all our families give themselves to become holy families.

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

OLOP January 2020 Events

- *Come to the Quiet: The Way of Joy:* Tues, Dec 10 - 9:30am-3:30pm
- *Act of Power:* Sat, January 4 - 9:30-3:30pm
- *Weaving Prayers & Baskets:* Tues, January 14 - 9:00am-3:00pm
- *Taizé Prayer:* Sun, January 19 - 6:30-7:30pm at *Humility of Mary Center in Davenport*
- *Stewards of God's Gifts:* Wed, January 22 9:00am-3:00pm at OLPR

To register contact: 563-336-8414 or olprtreat@gmail.com. All programs include a delicious homemade meal.

We would all like to thank the Knights for their help with the Advent Program.



The Knights of Columbus would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for ordering pies! Sorry if your order was mixed-up! God Bless and Keep Christ in Christmas!



We would like to thank everyone at each worship center that helped in any way to make our Advent and Christmas season a joyous event! The Christmas celebrations, religious education events, the Advent Program, the decorations, the music, and all the volunteers fulfilling ministry roles are a blessing to our churches. The Holy Family Cluster is sustained by the work of volunteers which is very unique in this world. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

ADA pledges/gifts must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2019, and received in the Diocesan office by January 2 to be credited for the 2019 tax year. This is a hard and fast rule from the IRS, so it is very important that we adhere to this requirement.

Church contributions must be in the respective church by December 31, 2019, to be included on the 2019 end-of-year statements.

SS Philp & James-Grand Mound

Beginning January 2020, church ministries are assigned on a monthly basis versus weekly. Altar servers will change every week.

January Ministeries

Lector: Tom Kinney

Euc. Min.: Joyce Barnes, Teresa Grimm, Anne Adams

Ushers: Josh Fox, Wayne Whitman, Victor Green

Altar Servers January 1st: Ellen & Olivia Olson & Trinity Tague

January 5th: Zachary, Jacob & Andrew Weih



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.

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary

In an effort to notify parishioners as quickly and efficiently as possible, we are updating our parish email and cell phone list. Please check the current list in the back of the church and make any changes necessary. Thank you!

We would like to thank all of the parishioners that participated in the Reverse Advent Bag/Basket again this year.

Sacred Heart - Oxford Junction

Thanks to all of you who have donated items for our "Giving Tree." Plans are to take these cold-weather items to Midland Elementary here in Oxford Junction.

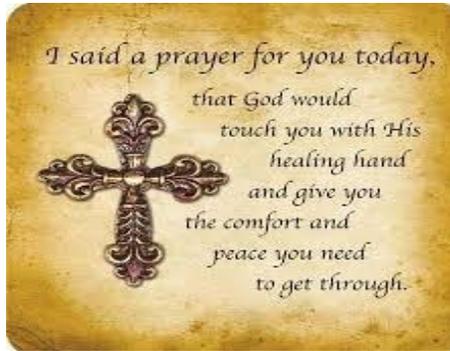
Thanks to all of you who have donated winter flowers for our beautiful altar and to those of you who decorated both outside and inside to help make Sacred Heart welcoming to those who enter our doors.

Thanks to all of you who participated in any way to make our Christmas Eve Mass so special—greeters and gift bearers, readers, servers, Eucharistic ministers, violinist, and choir members.

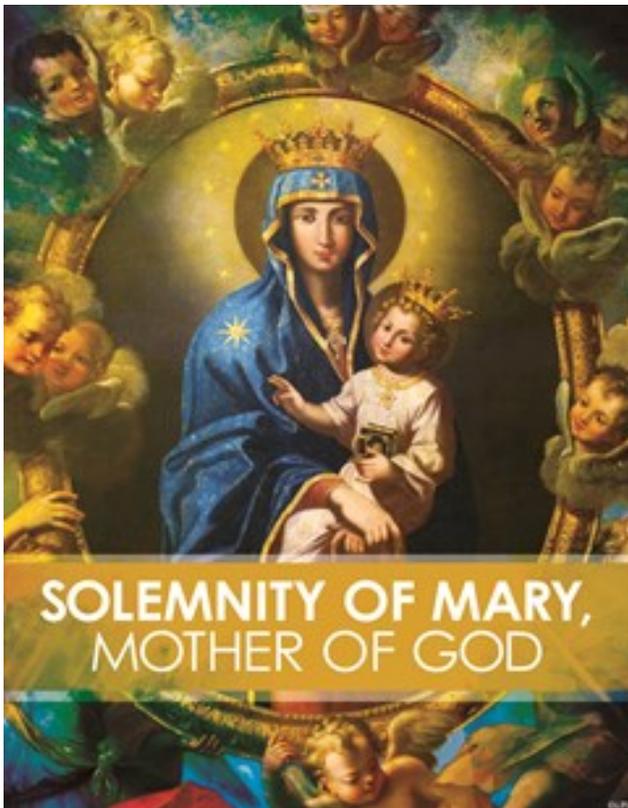
Thanks to all of you who have volunteered throughout the year in our many ministries. We are truly blessed to have so many of our parish family participate and volunteer. Without you, we no longer would be a vibrant, viable parish!

"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."
~ St. Teresa of Avila

GENERAL INFORMATION 4A



- **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.



MASS INTENTIONS 4B

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 Reginitter
Monday	12/30/19 No Mass
Tuesday	12/31/19/Toronto
05:30pm	Richard Vens
Wednesday	1/1/20/
08:00am	Grand Mound/For the Parish
10:00am	Oxford Junction/ Monk & Marguerite Coon
Thursday	1/2/20/Lost Nation
05:30pm	Otto Benischek Sr.
Friday	1/3/20/Oxford Junction
08:00am	Matt & Mary Stender
Saturday	1/4/20/Lost Nation
05:00pm	Irene Duwa
Sunday	1/5/20
08:00am	Grand Mound/ Kathaleen Whitman
10:00am	Oxford Junction/ Monk & Marguerite Coon



Readings for the week of December 29, 2019

- Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/ Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
- Monday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
- Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
- Wednesday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/ Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
- Thursday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28
- Friday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 [3cd]/Jn 1:29-34
- Saturday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 [3cd]/Jn 1:35-42