

## Daily Readings for the Week of Dec. 21, 2025

Dec. 21: Isaiah 7:10-14/ Psalms 24:1-6/ Romans 1:1-7/ Matthew 1:18-24  
Dec. 22: 1 Samuel 1:24-28/ 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-8/ Luke 1:46-56  
Dec. 23: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24/ Psalms 25:4-5, 8-10, 14/ Luke 1:57-66  
Dec. 24: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16/Psalms 89:2-5, 27, 29/ Luke 1:67-79  
**Dec. 25: Isaiah 9:1-6/ Psalms 96:1-3, 11-13/ Titus 2:11-14/ Luke 2:1-14**  
Dec. 26: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/ Psalms 31:3-4, 6, 8, 17/ Matthew 10:17-22  
Dec. 27: 1 John 1:1-4/ Psalms 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/ John 20:1-8

## Liturgical Ministries

### Schedule for Dec. 21, 2025

Lector: Steve  
Greeters/Gifts: Lasack Family  
Servers: Kevin  
Money Counters: Sharon/Mary  
Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: Rick/Jon

### Schedule for Dec. 28, 2025

Lector: Mark  
Greeters/Gifts: Denniston Family  
Servers: Kevin/Evie  
Money Counters: Mark/Jon  
Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: Mark/Jon

### Schedule for Dec. 25, 2025

Lector: Katie Greeter/Gifts : Mostaert Family  
Servers: Grady/Kevin Money Counters: Volunteers  
Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: Ron/Mary A M

### Today's Mass Intention

### Deceased Members of Schewe Family

Mass Intention Dec. 25, 2025

Special Intention

### PRAYER CORNER



Betty Anderson, Karen Kleineck, Bill Ihns,  
Mary Hansen, Marilyn Stevenson, Julie Ahrendsen,  
Carrie Leeper, Margaret Fowler, Larry Marek, Carl Koppes,  
Marsha Lasack, Phyllis Ludwig, Marvin Ludwig,  
Paul Rowan, Wendy Larive, Fr. Andrew

# SACRED HEART

**"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](http://www.sacredheartoj.org)



December 21, 2025

### 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: *bdmoorman@gmail.com*

4th Sunday of Advent

#### Ladies of the Sacred Heart:

Mary Ann Mostaert:

*mamostaert@gmail.com*

#### Director of Religious Education:

Stacey Moorman

*dbq155re@dbqarch.org*

#### Music Ministry Leaders:

Carmie Nowachek:

*nowachekfarms@hotmail.com*

Karen Bachman: *wlbach@netins.net*

#### 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

## PASTOR SPEAKS

### Fourth Week of Advent – Finding Peace Both in Advent and Christmas

Dear Parishioners and friends,

We enter the last weekend of our Advent season. It is my hope that you have had a good season and are still catching up with the last-minute shopping and preparation to make this Christmas a memorable one with your family and friends.

The readings for the Fourth Week of Advent focus our attention on the initial struggle of St. Joseph in accepting the reality of Mary's pregnancy by the power of the Holy Spirit. How could Mary be pregnant? She was his betrothed and a good, loving, joyful, and holy maiden. But once Joseph understood what God was doing, he submitted to the divine will at work in their lives. Through the "yes" of both Mary and Joseph, we have become part of their family. And though they are now in heaven, we still have their Son, the Emmanuel, "God is with us."

Some of us may be anticipating our 2025 Christmas in the parish with mixed feelings of excitement and uncertainty. Is this our last Christmas together as a parish? Will we become part of a larger pastorate that will earn us a weekend Mass? Will our close-knit parish family and connection change? These questions are real, and many of us feel them deeply. But these very experiences make Christmas even more meaningful this year. Isaiah 9:1–6 places us in a similar situation as the Israelites, who longed for hope in uncertain times. The prophet tells us, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light... For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests." Human confidence must always be placed in God's promise of the Savior, who is the one we follow and worship.

God is truly with us in His Church—through His Word, the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, the priests, and the parish community, whether made up of long-time members or newly gathered ones. God is with us now in this Journey in Faith, and He will be with us after the new pastorate is announced.

As Archbishop Zinkula says, "As pastorates come together in July, it will be especially important to see the face of Christ in others, especially within people unfamiliar to us. We'll need to introduce ourselves, form new relationships, and be open to different means of ministering and worshiping... Just as the world of St. Joseph was upended, so too our lives will change... yet as Joseph remained steadfast, we too will triumph over the temptations of the evil one toward division, if we listen to the voice of God's angel urging us not to be afraid."

Let us remember that God still loves His creation; He loves each of us. Filled with Christmas hope, let us continue to build our faith, seek God wherever He leads, encourage one another, help those who feel brokenhearted, and rebuild new communities together, bringing peace among people of goodwill.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas to you and your family. Amen

## News

Christmas Day Mass will be at 10:00am, at Sacred Heart OJ. New Year's Day Mass will be at 6:00pm on January 1, 2026, at Sacred Heart OJ.

Thanks to those who have been doing the snow clearing of the parking lot and sidewalks, as well as cleaning up the leaves block the entryways.

The next "Table of Plenty" will be January 4, 2026..

Refreshments will be served after Mass on January 11, 2026. The refreshments committee will be Shari Crock and Stacey Moorman. Thank you ladies!

Archbishop Zinkula has issued a decree regarding Mass Intentions/Stipend. **As of January 1, 2026, Mass Intentions/Stipends will increase to \$10.00 per Mass.** Any Mass Intentions all ready requested will be honored. A copy of the official decree is posted on the bulletin board in the hall and on the website.

Please consider donating a Christmas flower to help decorate our altar during the Christmas season. You may bring flower anytime before decorating, which will be done after December 22nd.

We will again be decorating a tree in the back of the church with donated winter items to be given to the Midland Elementary School in OJ. If the tree is up when you bring in your donation you may hang them on tree or place under the tree.

### WEEKLY OFFERING

Dec 14, 2025 Collection	
Envelopes	\$ 285.00
Offertory	80.00
Candles	12.00
Table of Plenty	26.00
Immac. Concept.	5.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 408.00</b>

### Baptism Information

If you wish to have your child baptized, please contact Wendy Swan at (319) 320-5003 or e-mail [dbq155sec@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbq155sec@dbqarch.org) to get the process started.

Please have all bulletin submissions to Wendy Swan by Wednesday PM