

MASS SCHEDULE: DEC. 26, 2016 – JAN. 1, 2017 A.D.

Mon. Dec. 26 [No Mass Scheduled]

Tues. Dec. 27 8:30 A.M. Garnavillo Tower Living Center
Melvin & Ruby Matt – Fr. Koopman

Wed. Dec. 28 [No Mass Scheduled]

Thurs., Dec. 29 [No Mass Scheduled]

Fri. Dec. 30 [No Mass Scheduled]

**Sat. Dec. 31 VIGIL OF SOLEMNITY OF MARY
4:00 P.M. Garnavillo**

Lee Smith/Bernard Wall/Sharon Wall

5:30 P.M. Guttenberg - Mass of Thanksgiving

Sun., Jan. 1 SOLEMNITY OF MARY

8:30 A.M. North Buena Vista - People of the Parish

10:00 A.M. Guttenberg - Rita Mae McGuire

REMINDER - Internal Revenue Service requires all contributions to your parish church must be postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2016 to receive charitable credit for the year 2016.

THE TOPIC FOR THE CD OF THE MONTH IS “WHO AM I TO JUDGE?” Dr. Edward Sri clarifies the proper understanding of what it means to judge, and the importance of making good judgments. All CD's presently on sale for \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00.

WHAT IS THE STUDY OF THE “Acts of the Apostles?”

Barnabas and Paul (Saul) are commissioned to preach the Word of Jesus to the Gentile world. They preached in Cyprus, Antioch and spoke and preached to Jews and Greeks. Timothy and Silas also preached in the several foreign lands. Paul was the **Apostle of the Gentiles** converting people into believers in Thessalonica, Athens, Corinth, and Ephesus. The teaching is so extensive in these lands that there are Books of the Bible with their names describing it in more detail. More info to follow, but do consider our Scripture Study on February 22, 2017.

MANY THANKS to our sacristans and volunteers who made our 3-linked parishes/churches a most beautiful place to celebrate Jesus' birthday. May God bless you all in a special way in the New Year of the Lord 2017!

CHRISTMAS..... ALWAYS!

I confess I sometimes sympathize with the Grinch. I look for ways to stop Christmas from coming. The closer it gets, the more trouble I have finding signs of anything except materialism, nihilism and human loss. I desire to flee.

Fortunately, God doesn't think the way I do! He doesn't run away from us; he comes to find us. He doesn't condemn us, but looks for the good and the true in us. He finds it too. Truth is, love and kindness are everywhere, if we are small and still enough to recognize them.

The sign God gives is so simple and quiet; it could easily be lost in the busyness of commerce – except it's not. Over the centuries, this sign has spoken to human hearts continually. Here's the answer to human longing, given without conditions or condemnations. As often as we overlook that answer, God offers it again. Christmas doesn't happen once a year; it's with us always, as God is with us, forever, unconditionally. By Mary Marrocco

ARE YOU REGISTERED IN A PARISH? As we come to the end of another fiscal year it is important that you are registered in a parish. Boxes of envelopes will soon be distributed in all three of our linked parishes. **Your membership entitles you to all the benefits that your parish offers.** Sadly 1/3rd of registered parishioners give nothing to the support of the parish expenses. People who attend St. Joseph of Garnavillo can contact Janice Berns to register, those who attend Immaculate Conception of North Buena can contact Mary Breitbach, and those who attend St. Mary of Guttenberg can contact Fr. Bries. Also contact Fr. Bries if you need envelopes.

HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

SUPPORT ST. MARY'S IC SCHOOL for your everyday needs by purchasing **SCRIP** after the weekend Mass, at Fidelity Bank and Peoples State Bank. Or, you can order **SCRIP** by emailing Kim at ktmoser@alpinecom.net. The receipts of your purchases from Kuempel's True Value Hardware and Brown's Service Department are redeemable as part of the SCRIP program. Check for details at school office.

WE NEED YOU HELP DURING MASS - Ministers, Lectors, Ushers, and Rosary leaders is getting shorter. Please consider giving of your time and volunteering for one of these jobs. Training will be provided. Contact Deacon Jim Pfaffly at 252-3553 if you are willing to volunteer.

FREE BOOKS - In the entryway of Church, there are several books that are **FREE** that you may have to enrich your daily and spiritual life. Two new ones are **THE LAMB'S SUPPER** and **MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA**, plus there is one DVD: **BELOVED**.

THANK YOU, to all those who made our Christmas celebrations a beautiful home for Jesus' Birthday. Feast of Baptism of the Lord ends the Christmas season and we return to ordinary time in the Church Year.

HUMOR; Part Time Work - Scene: A man applying for credit at a department store. **Clerk:** What do you do for a living?

Man: I'm a tree trimmer. **Clerk:** What do you do after Christmas?

Reindeer Lessons - Did you hear that Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer never went to school? That's right—he was elf taught.

Umbrellas at the North Pole: **Q:** Why are Comet, Cupid, Donner, and Blitzen always wet? **A:** Because they are rain deer.

Q: What's the difference between the regular alphabet and the Christmas alphabet? **A:** The Christmas alphabet has no L.

Q: What did the reindeer say before telling his joke?
A: This one'll sleigh you!