

# ST. MARY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

518 South 2nd Street; PO Box 847; Guttenberg, Iowa 52052

Newsletter: Dec 10, 2020

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## **Advent Expectant Waiting and Preparation** **Part 3 – A Personal Relationship With Jesus**

I love how the scriptures for Advent build upon our preparation for the different comings of Christ throughout our life while working towards the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

The first Sunday of Advent set the stage by touching on each of the three comings of Christ which we need to prepare for, which then flow through the subsequent Sundays of Advent.

The second Sunday (last weekend) was focused on waiting and preparing for **Christ's second coming**.

This third Sunday of Advent focuses us on preparing for **Christ's coming in the heart of the believer** (a personal relationship with Jesus). This idea is sprinkled throughout all of the scriptures for this Sunday.

-In the first reading Isaiah describes the relationship as ... "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted; to proclaim liberty to captives ... I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul;"

The Responsorial Psalm describes the experience as ... "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord: my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." The second reading tells how to achieve this relationship when it tells us ... "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, ... May the God of peace make you perfectly holy ..." Finally, the Gospel tells us what that relationship will encourage us to do when it says ... "... testify to the light, so that all might believe ..." and instructs us to be "... the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord."

Next Sunday (the Fourth Sunday of Advent) will draw us fully into waiting and preparation for **Christ's coming through His birth** at Christmas.

Dear Lord: Help us to build a Personal Relationship With Jesus so that we are ready to experience Him not only during this Advent Season, but throughout our life. I pray this in Jesus' name.

Fr. Marvin Bries

Every year we decorate our church with poinsettias at Christmas. Flowers may be purchased in memory, honor or in thanksgiving to remember special family and friends. Please include this information with your donation. Donations need to be in by Friday, December 18.

Due to the coronavirus no individual confessions will take place during Advent. A general absolution of one's sins will be given at the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

SCRIPTURE STUDY: With the COVID-19 virus out of control, winter just starting and a vaccine availability several months away, it has been decided to **CANCEL** Scripture Study and consider resuming in the fall of 2021.

### **Christmas Mass Schedule**

Christmas Eve: 4pm, Garnavillo  
6pm, N. Buena Vista

Christmas Day: 9am, Guttenberg

### **Public Mass Schedule: Dec 14 – Dec 20, 2020**

**Please use sanitizer, practice social distancing & wear a mask**

**Mon., Dec 14:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Tues., Dec 15:** 8:30 A.M. - St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
*Paul Puelz*

**Wed., Dec 16:** 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, 3rd Grade  
*Kathleen Bockenstedt [Month Mind] & Bob Hartmann*

**Thur., Dec 17:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Fri., Dec 18:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Sat., Dec. 19 2:00 P.M. – St. Mary, Wedding Ceremony**  
**Jarid Grinstead & Taylor Fassbinder**

**Sat., Dec 19:** VIGIL OF FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
4:00 P.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
*Vincent & Inez Hoeger*  
5:30 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*Albert Sr. & Regina Schlueter*

**Sun., Dec 20:** FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista  
*People of Parish*  
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*Robert & Joan Goedken*

## Mass Readings for December 13, 2020; 3rd Sunday of Advent

**Reading 1, [IS 61:1-2A, 10-11](#)** : The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God. I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

### **Responsorial Psalm, [LK 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54](#).** : R. **My soul rejoices in my God.**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked upon his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: **R.**

The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. **R.**

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, **R.**

**Reading 2, [1 THES 5:16-24](#)** : Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil. May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

**Alleluia, alleluia.** The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. **Alleluia, alleluia.** [IS 61:1 \(cited in LK 4:18\)](#)

**Gospel, [JN 1:6-8, 19-28](#)** : A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, “Who are you?” He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, “I am not the Christ.” So they asked him, “What are you then? Are you Elijah?” And he said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” He answered, “No.” So they said to him, “Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?” He said: “I am *the voice of one crying out in the desert, ‘make straight the way of the Lord,’*” as Isaiah the prophet said.” Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.” This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

**Time is Running Out!** Still not sure about this “STO” thing? It’s simple. If you file an Iowa income tax return, your contributions to the *Our Faith* STO receive a 65% tax credit. That means for every \$1000 you donate, you receive an Iowa income tax credit of \$650. Thus, a \$1000 contribution reduces your Iowa tax liability by a whopping \$650 AND the gift may qualify as a charitable contribution on your federal income tax return. And that gift you made? It helps makes a Catholic education affordable for every child. Thus, a gift that costs you a maximum of \$350 provides \$1000 in need-based tuition assistance for a family in need of help. Time is running out to contribute to the STO in 2020! Please visit [www.ourfaithsto.org](http://www.ourfaithsto.org) or call the Archdiocese of Dubuque at 800-876-3546 ext. 219 to learn more or have questions about this fantastic program.

Fr. Gaul would appreciate receiving Christmas greetings. Cards can be mailed to Fr. Gaul, Stonehill Care Center, 3485 Windsor Ave., Dubuque, IA 52001

Thank you to Rosalie Kickbush for the wonderful Christmas masks for the SMIC students!

### **Upcoming Events . . . .**

**Dec. 13:** 10AM Mass aired on Channel 6 & FB  
**Dec 16:** 8:30AM Mass aired on Channel 6 and FB  
**Dec. 20:** 10AM Mass aired on FB  
**Dec 25:** 9AM Christmas Mass on Channel 6 & FB  
**Jan 17:** KC Pancake/Sausage Breakfast drive-thru

**GENEALOGY:** All old records of parishioners from our 3-linked parishes and St. Michael of Clayton are now in the files at Guttenberg rectory.

SMIC School Cash Raffle; Weekly cash prizes from January through May. 21 chances to win. Tickets are \$20 each. Makes a great Christmas gift!

**2nd Annual CHRISTMAS CLOTHING MISSION** for the needy in the Guttenberg area. **Only a few tags remain.** Please select a tag from the Giving Tree in the back of church. After you purchase the item, please return it with the tag attached, and place it in the container at the back of church. There is no need to wrap. Last weekend to return an item is December 19/20.