St. Joseph the Worker - Parish Newsletter *Volume 22, Issue 3*

THE WORKER

ADVENT 2019

FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Father Paul Attah-Nsiah
dbq062ap@dbqarch.org

Dear Parish Friends,

As we begin this 2020 Advent season in the cold of our own winter, we do so with abundant hope. The coming of our God through the seasons must ignite a new fire within us, as individuals and as a community. One of the ways we strive to keep hope alive in our parish is to provide seasonal teaching themes. We have been offering these for a few years as they bring us a fresh focus to follow.

During our Advent and Christmas Seasons we have chosen this Church Year the interesting, even somewhat mystifying phrase: ***"Shattering Expectations."*** One of our hopes is that this somewhat outside-the-box phrase will catch our attention, cause us to pause, and lead us beyond what we have always expected to something new, something more, something greater. It will, hopefully, bring something of a new birth and new insight toward our Christ life within us. Surely John the Baptist, Mary, Joseph, and even the wise men all discovered God beyond their anticipated plans. Shattered ordinary expectations make way for God, hidden within ordinary peoples' lives.

John's Gospel tells us that "[Jesus] was in the world ... but the world did not recognize Him .... He came to his own, but his own received him not" (Jn. 1:10,11). Like those first believers, we are summoned this Advent season to dig through and see how new life can be born from the rubble, born into the poverty of our life, born into the stable of simplicity. We bring our confident hope! We are urged to stay awake. Be prepared! Look beyond disappointment and never fear.

We invite everyone to join us during our Advent and Christmas Seasons to share in our joyful and expectant shatter of the old and welcome of the new. Bring your search for a God small enough to join our humble life and big enough to take us beyond to heights of joy and wonder. Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel!

SHATTERING EXPECTATIONS

When Jesus was born, He certainly wasn't what people were expecting. They didn't expect the King to be born in a barn or to show such love and forgiveness. Even John the Baptist was surprised, asking Jesus if He was really the Messiah John was expecting. Expectations are placed on all of us as well. In our society, we're expected to do what we can to make more money, gain more power and look out for ourselves. Join us this Advent as we learn to follow Jesus' example and go beyond what the world expects of us. Join us as we work to Shatter Expectations.

St. Joseph the Worker presents its theme for Advent & Christmas 2019:
"Shattering Expectations"

For more info and resources about Advent and Christmas at SJTW, check out:

theworker.org/advent

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve
4:00pm
6:30pm Contemporary
10:00pm

Christmas Day
8:30am
11:00am Contemporary

Additional seating in Martin Hall.

The 6:30 & 11:00 Masses are now Contemporary Worship Masses! This is an exciting opportunity to reach out to those who haven't been to Mass in a while with a unique experience that will hopefully encourage them to continue joining us throughout the year!

FROM THE PASTOR

Father Tom McDermott

dbq062@dbqarch.org

Advent: as a noun, it indicates "the arrival of a notable person, thing or event." As a season in the life of the Church, Advent points to the past arrival in human history of Christ whose victory over Sin and Death we are living in today. Advent also directs our hope forward to Christ's arriving again at the end of time with the full and final victory over all that seems to separate us from life together. Noteworthy? I'd say so! These *arrivings* are the source of our Christian Joy: "Joy to the World, the Lord has come! Let earth receive her King!"

Advent concludes with the celebration of Christmas' Mass of the Nativity of our Lord. Among the notable things about that Mass is *who will arrive with you.* More than a few—to the delight of our Lord and this parish—will be family members back at Mass after being away since Christmas 2018.

To have your non-church attending family members attending Mass regularly by Christmas 2020, what would you do for that notable event to arrive? Would you change your family schedule for celebrating Christmas?

Before you say "can't do it!" I ask you to consider the following. First: **Our Christmas Eve Mass times are changing.** We are moving the 5:00pm Mass to 4:00pm, to allow the addition of a 6:30pm Mass. The 6:30pm will be of the contemporary style you now experience at the Sunday 11:00am Mass. If you have to adjust your schedule anyway, how about eating Christmas supper first, then celebrate the birth of our Savior at 6:30 Mass, and then go home to open presents by 8:00pm? Little kids are too excited to go to bed before 10:00pm anyway! I remember!

Second and more importantly: Is it not worth forgoing the Christmas Mass music of your family's memories—wonderful as they are—for the now and future of your family members? Would it not be worth adjusting your Christmas desires, for them to experience a Mass that addresses what gives them reasons to stay away? What is your deepest hope for Christmas? Is it your family members seeking out and finding such a Mass to attend on Sundays through the rest of the year?

That is our pastoral hope in this! We will as parish offer a contemporary Mass experience at 6:30pm on Christmas Eve and 11:00am on Christmas Day. You will still hear and sing traditional Christmas hymns. Parts may move at a different tempo, the bridge between verses might be different, the instruments will be different, but you will recognize many Christmas favorites.

So, all I want for Christmas besides world peace, is for you to imagine, argue for, bargain for, sacrifice for your family to attend either the 6:30pm Christmas Eve, or 11:00am Christmas Day Mass—especially if you have family who are not regularly participating at Mass. Christ has arrived—we want them to experience that joy in a faith community! Christ will arrive for them at the end of time or the end of their lives—we want them anticipating that joyfully too! Give them the gift of celebrating Eucharist for Christmas as a gift that will keep on giving—because they will seek it out again before next Dec. 25! A notable, **wonderful** event indeed! A blessed Advent and Christmas to you!

WELCOME, JEN!

Jen Porter

j.porter@dbqarch.org

Greetings! I'm excited to be here and thankful for the opportunity to become part of the SJTW community! I'm originally from a suburb of Chicago but have lived in Des Moines for the last 25 years. I worked for FedEx Ground for 22 years. I was an Operations Manager most of that time focusing on administrative tasks like hiring, auditing, building operations, coordinating volunteer activities and employee events, and training staff. I might have helped deliver packages around Dec. 24 a few times as well...

I recently moved to Dubuque to be closer to my family in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and northern Illinois. I'm thankful to be in such a beautiful city. I also enjoy being an Iowa State Alum living in eastern Iowa... In my "spare time," I enjoy trail running. There are more hills in Dubuque than in Des Moines. Just a few.

I intend to help maintain the strength of our Catholic faith at SJTW in my duties as Business Manager. I look forward to encountering Christ in everyone I meet here! Now, if someone could just tell me where the old K-Mart used to be. I get that reference a lot when asking for directions....

CHILDCARE

To help you with your Christmas shopping, we'll offer childcare on Friday, Dec. 6, from 6-10pm and on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9am-1pm in the school. Ann, Lizz and middle/high school students will provide crafts, games, food and movies for a free will donation. We'll even wrap gifts! Please make a reservation in advance. Contact Ann at a.siranni@dbqarch.org, Lizz at l.parsons@dbqarch.org, or the Parish Office at 563-588-1433.

FAMILY REFLECTION

Ann Sirianni
a.sirianni@dbqarch.org

Preparing for the Messiah

Gather your family to talk about preparing for the birth of Jesus once again in our hearts. Ask someone to be the leader of this "preparing" discussion. Ask the family what does it mean to prepare. An overall definition is to make ready beforehand for a specific purpose or event. Next ask the family what do you prepare for every day (work, school, meals, what to do on Saturday). Now ask what are some things the whole family prepares for occasionally (birthdays, anniversaries, vacations, birth of a child). What are the jobs that each family member has when preparing for an event? If you're planning a birthday party, perhaps Michael sends the invitation, Mom or Dad plan the meal, Melissa does the decorating, and everyone helps with clean up. Continue by sharing that it takes for the whole family to prepare for an event; some things take a little time, others take months. An important event we prepare for as Catholics is the Lord's coming. We do things to see the Lord being born in each other and in the world. John the Baptist models well for us how to get ready for the Messiah. As a family read through Luke 3:1-20 and talk about what John did to help the people prepare the way of the Lord. Then have the family make a list of things you can do during Advent to prepare your heart and home for Jesus. List items might include taking turns leading meal prayers, simplify shopping and decorating to spend more time as a family, visit a nursing home to bring some Christmas cheer, etc. Enjoy Advent and prepare well for our Lord!

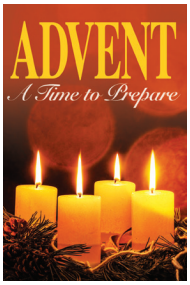
CELEBRATING ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

St. Joseph the Worker Giving Tree
Begins November 29
Pick an ornament from the tree in the back of church.

Adoration & Reconciliation
Thursdays, 8:00-9:00pm in the church

Night Novena
Mondays, 5:30pm, treat at 5:15
Location: Mary's Corner on the Lower Level of the Parish Center

Childcare for Christmas Shopping
Friday, Dec. 6, 6:00-10:00pm & Saturday, Dec. 7, 9:00am-1:00pm
Location: School Gym



Advent Scripture Study
Wednesdays, December 11 and 18, 12:45-2:00pm
Location: Martin Hall

Christmas Eve Masses
Tuesday, December 24
Mass Times: 4:00pm • 6:30pm Contemporary • 10:00pm

Christmas Day Masses
Wednesday, December 25
Mass Times: 8:30am • 11:00am Contemporary

Parish Office Closed
December 24-25, December 31-January 1

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Wednesday, January 1
Mass Times: 5:30pm on Dec. 31 & 9:00am on Jan. 1

Epiphany of the Lord
Saturday, January 4
Mass Time: 5:00pm
Sunday, January 5
Mass Times: 8:30am and 11:00am

Baptism of the Lord
Saturday, January 11
Mass Time: 5:00pm
Sunday, January 12
Mass Times: 8:30am and 11:00am

THE WORKER
ADVENT 2019

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Fax: 563-588-4108

SJTW

theworker.org

Facebook: @TheWorkerDBQ

CEW 2020
breathe

Christian Experience Weekends 2020

Women's Weekend: February 21 - 23, 2020

Contact Amy Kirman: 563-590-6696; jkaw825@yahoo.com

Men's Weekend: February 28 - March 1, 2020

Contact Noah Hofrichter: 608-415-7049; hofrichtern@outlook.com

Look for CEW brochures/applications at the Information Station in church or at the parish office.
You can also register online at **theworker.org/cew**.

Please register at least one week prior to your weekend, so that we can send you information concerning what you will need to bring with you for the weekend.

There is a $30.00 registration fee. Applications will be taken on a first come, first serve basis.