

WE'RE
EXPECTING

12.25.2020

4th SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

MASS TIMES

To attend Mass, please sign up via our website or by calling the Parish Office.

Weekends: Saturday: 5:00pm
Sunday: 8:30am* & 11:00am
Weekdays: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 12:00 Noon
Tuesday: 5:30pm
Thursday: 8:00am

**8:30 Mass Live Streamed on YouTube*

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation: Thursday: 8:30 - 9:00am
Friday: 11:15am - 11:45am
Saturday: 4:00pm - 4:30pm
Or by appointment

Baptism: Pre-baptismal program required.
Call the Parish Office for more information.

Matrimony: Call the Parish Office at least six months prior to your desired date for more information.
We look forward to celebrating with you!

Anointing of the Sick: Call Parish Office to set up appointment.

PARISH OFFICE

Parish Office & Mailing Address: *Office closed to walk-ins*
60 South Algona Street • Dubuque, IA 52001

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 8:00am-4:30pm
Friday: 8:00am-1:00pm

Phone Numbers: Parish Office: 563-588-1433
Parish Fax: 563-588-4108
Scrip: 563-557-9091 Ext. 220

SJTW Early Childhood/Preschool: 563-582-1246

Gym Supervisor Dawn: 563-564-0139 *Gym rentals suspended*

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Father Jim Goerend
j.goerend@dbqarch.org

Deacon: Deacon Bill Biver
b.biver@dbqarch.org

Music/Liturgy Coordinator: Richard Beaves
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Faith Formation Coordinator: Ann Sirianni
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Youth Ministry Coordinator: Mark Bodensteiner
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Confirmation Coordinator: Maria Schmitz
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Operations Manager: Jennifer Porter
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Administrative Assistant: Donna Goedert
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Faith Formation Administrative Assistant: Lois Leytem
l.leytem@dbqarch.org

December 20, 2020



@TheWorkerDBQ



STAFF CORNER



Jen Porter

Operations Manager

j.porter@dbqarch.org

This weekend's Gospel is so beautiful to listen to, and it is so reassuring that there is hope for salvation; and it is all because Mary said yes!

How would this story have turned out if Mary had said to Gabriel, "Nah, I don't think so..." or, "Let me get back to you on that, I'm pretty busy right now..." Yikes. Mary needed to respond in agreement with God's plan in order for us to have salvation. What if Mary had said that she wasn't good enough? Mary was a simple peasant woman, yet she was chosen by God. Elizabeth was barren and too old for childbirth, but God chose her too.

When times get tough, do you hear yourself or others say, "I can't do this," or, "I'm not good enough." Why do you think that is? What would make it better? Mary knew she loved God and was obedient to him, so while she was surprised at Gabriel's announcement, it became easy for her to say yes. She wasn't just obedient to God, she loved God.

What does it look like for us to love God? That might be a good topic for a family discussion! Many good things will probably come out of that conversation! Or better yet, how does it feel to know that God loves you? Does that make it easier for you to choose Him?

What kind of greatness is God calling you to? Don't sell yourself short; thankfully Mary didn't!

As we anticipate the celebration of the birth of our Lord and anticipate the end of 2020, our expectations of an end to the pandemic are still looming. Let the Hope and Joy and Peace and Love in our four weeks of Advent guide you.

Many blessings!



THIS WEEK'S READINGS

- Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
- Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
- Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd]/Lk 1:46-56
- Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66
- Thursday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 & 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79
- Friday: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
- Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 & 8ab, 16bc & 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22
- Next Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 21

Noon - Paul Finzel †

Tuesday, December 22

5:30pm - Ed Valentine †

Wednesday, December 23

Noon - David & Rick Clemen †

Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

4:00pm - For the People of the Parish

6:30pm - Ed & Pat Goerend †

10:00pm - Jo Ann Scannell †

Friday, December 25 - Christmas Day

8:30am - Beverly Welu †

11:00am - Jeannette Wilcox & Ron Winter †

Saturday, December 26

5:00pm - Lorlee Ihm †

Sunday, December 27

8:30am - For the People of the Parish

11:00am - Roger Klauer †

5 Things to Know This Week

1 Christmas Mass Times

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



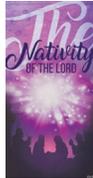
Christmas Day
8:30am
11:00am

We will also broadcast Mass on our YouTube channel:

- 4:00pm Christmas Eve
- 6:30pm Christmas Eve

2 Christmas Mass Sign-Up

- To attend Mass in person, you **must** sign up your group at theworker.org or 563-588-1433 by **Wednesday, Dec. 23, at 4:30pm.**
- You must arrive **no later than 10 minutes prior to Mass** or you may lose your reservation.
- Those who arrive without signing up will first be directed to Martin Hall. If there's still room in church after those who signed up are seated, groups in Martin Hall will be invited up.
- If there's no room, they have the option to stay in the Hall to participate in Mass projected on the screen.



3 Holiday Lights Tour

December 16-23

Grab a map from the back of church or the parish website and check out some of your fellow parishioners' light displays! Vote for your favorite display by sending an email to dbq062@dbqarch.org, calling the office at 563-588-1433, or circling your winner on the map and returning it to the office! Voting ends at 4:30pm on December 23. Please vote only once.



4 Holiday Office Hours

The Parish Office will be closed Dec. 24-25 for Christmas and will be closed Dec. 31-Jan. 1 for New Year's. Have a joyful and safe holiday season!



5 Remember to Reserve Your Seat!

Make sure you sign up for Mass so we know how many guests we can expect. This helps us be prepared so we can offer Mass in as safe a way as possible. When you're signing up, consider volunteering to help with one of the ministries like being an usher or sanitizing the church after Mass. You can sign up online at theworker.org or by calling the Parish Office.



Think of a young couple expecting the birth of their first child. They have a lot to do to prepare themselves and their home for the baby's arrival.

Right now, we're looking forward to celebrating the arrival of the baby Jesus. We too have a lot to do to prepare ourselves for His coming. That's what Advent is all about.

Join us this Advent for our series, "We're Expecting," as we prepare our hearts and homes for the coming of Jesus.

We'd love to reconnect in person or, if you're unable to gather with us in church, join us online for 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass live on our YouTube channel.

Learn more at theworker.org/advent

A NOTE FROM OUR OPERATIONS MANAGER

Recording and Acknowledging Year-End Contributions

It's that time of year again when we are thinking about our year end gifts. And what a year it has been! In following IRS regulations, if your contribution is not mailed and postmarked, or received in 2020, it is not credited to 2020. The date on the check does not determine the contribution year. Please keep this in mind. If you would like to know the amount you have given to date, call the parish office at 563-588-1433.



LPL Financial Services

As the year comes to a close, would you like to save some tax dollars? You could transfer stock to St. Joseph the Worker Parish and avoid capital gains tax. Contact our broker:

LPL Financial
Midwest One Investment Services
Contact: Joshua Vondran
Phone: 563-585-9257
Parish Account number: 7376-9952
DTC#: 0075



IN OTHER NEWS

What to Expect at Christmas Mass

- Please arrive **no later than 10 minutes** prior to the start of the Mass you signed up for. We can't guarantee your reservation after that time. Consider arriving earlier so there isn't a last-minute rush.
- **Face masks are required** in church for anyone over the age of 2. Please put your mask on before you leave your car.
- When you enter the church, you'll sanitize your hands and **check in to confirm your reservation**. A hospitality minister will then show you to your seat.
- Please maintain at least a **6-foot space** between you and anyone who's not part of your household.
- We continue to have very **limited music** as singing has been shown to spread the coronavirus more easily than speaking.
- There will be no collection, but a basket is available in the back of church if you would like to make a contribution.
- There is no procession of gifts, no holding hands at the Our Father, and no "physical" Sign of Peace except for those in your immediate household.
- We ask everyone to **receive the Eucharist in the hand**. Communion from the Cup remains suspended.



Christmas Mass Online

In addition to in-person Masses, we will have Mass broadcasts available on our YouTube channel. We'll share links on our website and Facebook page. You can also go directly to our channel at youtube.com/StJosephtheWorkerDBQ. These Mass broadcasts will be recorded in advance. Because of this, we will be able to add full music to these Masses. Note that full music remains exclusive to our online Masses for this year. At 4:00pm Christmas Eve, we will have a Mass available with traditional music. At 6:30pm Christmas Eve, we will have a Mass available with contemporary music.



St. Pat's Meal

Our next St. Pats meal is Wednesday, Dec. 30. Please call Sharon Frommelt at 563-451-3375 if you would like to contribute food items / money or would like to volunteer. Due to U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations, we are unable to accept "homemade" items. You would need to purchase "sealed" items, or if you want to donate money for us to purchase salads and desserts, we will do the shopping. Please let Sharon know what you would like to donate.



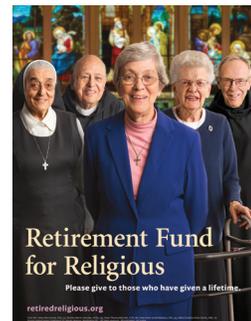
Giving Tree

Note that we are not having a normal Advent Giving Tree this year. Due to lower Mass attendance because of the pandemic, we are unable to support the volume of requests we typically get for Christmas gifts. And virus restrictions present added complications. Alternatively, the Social Justice Committee, on behalf of SJTW, made monetary disbursements to the Boys and Girls Club and Resources Unite to support their Christmas gift-giving programs. The Haiti Connection Team has set up a live Haiti Giving Tree with information and envelopes in the back of church. We hope to increase the number of parishioners giving to our sister parish on a regular basis. We are not requesting large amounts for contributions. If everyone would consider \$5 or \$10 per month, it would be a big help toward meeting our monthly goal! Of course, one-time contributions are always welcome as well. Thank you so much, as always, for your generosity!



Thanks for Giving!

"We are conscious of the great generosity of the many benefactors who support the Retirement Fund for Religious each year," says a Catholic sister. "Support from the fund has been a tremendous blessing to our retired sisters." Thank you for donating to last week's collection.



Christmas Manger Prayer

O God, whose mighty Son was born in Bethlehem those days long ago, lead us to that same poor place, where Mary laid her tiny Child. And as we look on in wonder and praise, make us welcome Him in all new life, see Him in the poor, and care for His handiwork the earth, the sky and the sea. O God, bless us again in Your great love. We pray for this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

Due to early publication, contributions will be published next week.

THIS WEEK'S ADVERTISER

Catholic Charities

Thank You!





OUR NEW NORMAL

Our goal is to give everyone a chance to attend Mass and receive the Eucharist as safely as we can while protecting the most vulnerable.

Things will be a little different for a while, so please keep the following in mind:

- **Signing Up for Masses:** you will need to sign up to attend Mass using the online sign-up on the parish website. If you don't have Internet access, call the parish office at 563-588-1433 and Donna will sign you up. There are slots for 40 households. If there are more than six people in your household, please use a second slot.
- **Face Masks:** When you arrive at Mass, you will put on your mask *while still in your car*. We are asking that everyone wears a mask.
- **Entering the Church:** You'll get out of your car and come to the main entrance leaving a 6-foot space between you and anyone who's not part of your household. You'll sanitize your hands and come through the doors where a hospitality minister will show you to your seat down one-direction aisles. **We need volunteers for seating people.**
- **Seating:** There will only be seating for approx. 90 individuals. There may be more as households may sit together. You probably won't be sitting in your usual spot.
- **During Mass:** We will not do any singing. There will be no collection, but you can leave your offering in a basket at the Information Station. There will be no procession of gifts, holding hands at the Our Father, and no "physical" Sign of Peace. We're using Communion patterns that facilitate social distancing. We ask that everyone receives the Eucharist in the hand. Communion from the cup remains suspended.
- **Leaving the Church:** You will be dismissed after Mass by the hospitality ministers who brought you in. **We need volunteers to spray pews with disinfectant after each Mass to prepare for the next.**

Remember that attending Mass does carry with it a greater risk of exposure to COVID-19. All Catholics in the Archdiocese of Dubuque are still dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. For your own health and safety, if you're 60 or older, have an underlying condition or do not feel safe attending Mass, we ask that you strongly consider not attending.

We know how difficult this is. It isn't the way that any of us want, but it is the way it will need to be to ensure your well-being. Thank you all for your cooperation and patience.