



*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has  
anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.*

( Luke 4:18)

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we celebrate the Incarnation of the Lord, recalling His birth among us, I wish you all a most blessed and grace-filled Christmas! Remember that the Christmas Season goes until January 8th, ending with the Feast of the Lord's Baptism. May these days of celebration be filled with God's peace and joy for all of you!

There will be extra security provided for the Midnight Mass from 10:30 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. to keep an eye on things. A police officer will be present during this time.

The parish office will be closed Monday and Tuesday for the celebration of this great Feast day of the Lord's Incarnation.

My thanks to all of you who have sent me personal gifts and donations to help the parish get out of its various debts. I shall remember you all in my Masses during the Christmas Octave.

**I ask you, PLEASE! Do not leave Mass early unless it is an emergency. We should be willing to give the Lord this time each week. The Mass ends after the recessional hymn. Especially at the Saturday evening Mass, a mass exodus right after Holy Communion has been taking place for some time. This is not a reverent way to give thanks to God right after receiving his Body and Blood, and then walking out the door. Please! Let us break this unacceptable custom that has been growing in the past year! It gives scandal to our young people and our visitors.**

Planning ahead, there will be one Mass on New Year's Day at 12:00 noon. Although it is not a holyday of obligation this year, it is still a very good way to begin the New Year of grace, 2018.

All donations should be submitted by December 31st for tax purposes if you want credit for such gifts.

As we observe this holy season of Christmas, I wish you many graces and blessings from the Lord. May the Lord, with his grace, also change our hearts, that we may be ever more dedicated to him and to our faith!

May God's grace always grow in your hearts!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Aguinar M. Nichols*

Pastor

**ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL:** \$74,133.25 has been paid on our 2017 assessment of \$132,297. We still owe **\$57,905.08.**

**ELEVATOR FUND**

Current Donations.....\$ 668,403.90  
Goal.....\$ 800,000.00

**Prayers Please:** Please keep me in your prayers. Over the next month or so I will be receiving radiation treatment in Rochester, MN for prostate cancer. —Deacon Luke



**FREE TO A GOOD HOME:** As you may know, our St. Benedict Mission recently closed. We have two combination freezer/refrigerators (side by sides) for give away to Basilica of Saint John parishioners. Please call the Basilica and ask for Charles Stastny at (515) 244-3101, ext. 205 to set a time to come and take a look. We only ask that you arrange for moving and pickup. First come, first served. Thank you.

**LITURGICAL SCHEDULE**

**DECEMBER 23 TO DECEMBER 31**

**TIMES FOR EUCHARIST AND INTENTIONS**

SAT 23	4:00PM	Intentions of Dan & Marilyn Bradley
	6:00PM	Spanish Mass
SUN 24	8:30AM	Intentions of Maria Lan Nguyen
	10:30AM	Parish & Benefactors
		<i>Merry Christmas</i>
	<b>4:00PM</b>	<b>Children's Christmas Mass: Ron Wells</b>
	<b>11:00PM</b>	<b>Choir Concert</b>
	<b>12:00AM</b>	<b>Midnight Mass: Parish &amp; Benefactors</b>

MON

25 **12:00PM** +Donna Blaskovich



TUE

26 12:00PM +Fred Nichols

WED

27 12:00PM +Rachel Hanian

THU

28 12:00PM +Wilbur Behlmer

FRI

29 12:00PM +Gary Kiernan

SAT

30 9:00AM +Susan Swehla

(Vigil Mass)

4:00PM +Carl & Florence Reelitz

SUN

31 8:30AM +Helen Homan

10:30AM Parish & Benefactors

**THE BASILICA OF ST. JOHN STREAMING ONLINE:**

[www.YouTube.com/BasilicaStJohn](http://www.YouTube.com/BasilicaStJohn)

<http://basilica.churchcastonline.com> (live from your computer)

**PRAYER CHAIN:** Do you know someone who is in need of prayer? The Basilica Prayer Chain can help. To request prayers email Deacon Luke Tieskoetter at [tieskoetterluke3@gmail.com](mailto:tieskoetterluke3@gmail.com) or Terri at 321-2743 or [sinc2@aol.com](mailto:sinc2@aol.com).

**CATECHISM CORNER:**

Question: *What are charisms?*

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church.  
(Look for the answer in next weeks bulletin.)





*The Basilica of St. John*  
*Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
*December 24, 2017*

Respect  
Life



**YOUR PARISH THIS WEEK**  
**DECEMBER 25 THRU DECEMBER 31**

MON 25	9:00AM 7:00PM	Adoration@ NO RCIA**
TUE 26	8:00AM 4:30PM 6:00PM 7:00PM	Organ Practice NO Columbus Academy Class** Hispanic Room in use** NO Bible Study**
WED 27	9:00AM 9:30AM 6:15PM	Adoration Begins@ Bible Study+ NO Religious Ed. **
THU 28	8:00AM 7:00PM	Organ Practice+++ NO Choir Practice+
FRI 29	9:00AM 9:00AM	Adoration Begins@ NO Columbus Academy Class**
SAT 30	8:30AM	Chaplet of Divine Mercy###
SUN 31	8:00AM	Vietnamese Prayer Group+ <b><u>St. Vincent de Paul 2nd Collection</u></b>

SIGN INDICATORS

+++ = Choir Loft; \*\* = School; @ = Chapel; \* = Rectory  
 + = Church Hall; ## = Church; % = Conference Room;

**Daily Scripture Readings for the week of December 25, 2017:**

**Christmas:**

**Vigil:** Is 62:1-5, Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

**Midnight:** Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

**Day(Monday):** Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

**Tuesday:** Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

**Thursday:** 1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18

**Friday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40

**Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Col 3:12-21  
 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22, 39-40

**LIFELINES:** It's Time for a Spiritual Audit! In virtually every aspect of life, corporate, athletic, education etc., there is a constant evaluation process to measure growth and improvement. Now it is a good time to assess our spiritual progress. Have we made a difference? If God were totally our "faith in action" would He be pleased with what we have done (or failed to do)? Evils plague our society, such as abortion, pornography "comprehensive sex" education, tax funding of Planned Parenthood, and other anti-God, anti-life and anti-family issues. As Christians, we know that the Bible commands us to be active in serving God. Service is an action word, so we know that we cannot serve God by sitting on the sidelines, or being a "fence sitter". Are we as Catholics influencing our world, or is today's relativism and secularism influencing us much more? By doing nothing, we reap what they sow! ([pro-lifearticles.org](http://pro-lifearticles.org))



**HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL:** May the Joy of Christ's birth fill your thoughts with peace, your heart with joy, and your life with the love that is Christmas. A very joyful Christmas to all of you, from the staff and students of Holy Family School!



**The Required Confirmation Retreat** for second year Confirmation Students will be the weekend of February 23-25, 2018. Students will be responsible for raising the funds. All second year students must participate. If you have questions call Maria Walters at 515-953-9188.



**CALENDARS:** The 2018 Calendars are available in the parish hall, outside of the parish office. Please take one!

**LOST & FOUND:** A cell phone and a handicap sign for a car was recently found and turned into the parish office. If you think one of these might be yours please call the parish office with a description (515-244-3101, ext. 0).

**AROUND THE DIOCESE**

**Strengthen Your Marriage:** If your marriage is hurting, or if you just want to make a good thing better, check out The Third Option. This is an ongoing support group for couples who are working on a set of tools to help with better understanding, sensitivity and trust. We meet the first and third Monday of each month from 7-9 p.m. at the Mercy Medical Center's conference rooms in the East Tower.

**Faith Resources:** Are you looking for faith resources as a source of motivation? Inspiration? Check out the St. Joseph Educational Center at [sjeciowa.org](http://sjeciowa.org). There are blogs, books, articles, videos and more at [sjeciowa.org](http://sjeciowa.org).

**Man Up | January "Get off the Fence":** What a disappointment it would be to live an almost Christian life. This panel discussion— featuring Brett Bosworth, Joe Stopulos, and Joe Teeling, and moderated by Bishop Emeritus Joseph Charron—will challenge you to check your spiritual temperature and "Get off the Fence" between the man you are and the man you're called to be. Register at [IowaCatholicRadio.com](http://IowaCatholicRadio.com) or by calling 515-223-1150. The next "Man Up" will be January 16 2018 at St. Augustin Parish, Des Moines. 5:10 Rosary | 5:30 Mass | 6:10 Food & Drinks | 6:45 Program.

**Director of Parish Operations:** St. Francis of Assisi of West Des Moines seeks a full-time Operations Director. Reporting to the Pastor, this position will provide overall planning, coordination and management of financial affairs, facilities and human resources for the parish, to be conducted either directly or through the management/supervision of staff, contractors and volunteers. Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Accounting, Human Resources, or other business related major is required. MBA with relevant experience may also be considered. The candidate needs 5-10 years of progressive leadership and management experience. Must be a practicing Catholic in good standing. Now accepting resumes and cover letter for confidential consideration, please submit to Fr. Ray McHenry at [rmchenry@saintfrancischurch.org](mailto:rmchenry@saintfrancischurch.org) or mail to 7075 Ashworth Road, West Des Moines, IA 50266.

