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HOLY FAMILY PARISH
St. Gabriel
Reinbeck

St. Patrick
Parkersburg

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DECEMBER 10, 2017
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Cole North, Sec/Bookkeeper
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Mass Intentions for
Dec 12 – Dec 17

Tuesday.....5:15 pm at Parkersburg
Wednesday.....8:00 am at Reinbeck
Thursday.....8:00 am at Reinbeck
Friday.....7:30 am at Parkersburg
Saturday.....5:30 pm at Parkersburg
Sunday.....9:30 am at Reinbeck

Intention for
Donna Leubbers
Shirley Halbach
Mary Benson
Francis Babinat
Marcella High
For the People

Something more..... If we were to proclaim at the top of our voices, "Here is your God," where in the world would we begin? Where would we cry out against sin and evil and proclaim this glad tidings of God's salvation and loving care? Would we start in our neighborhoods or with estranged family members? Would we shout the good news to our country or to the world? Where would we offer the blessings and justice of God? Would we proclaim good news to the marginalized and those who experience the brunt of governmental program cuts? Can we do that without doing the work of clearing the way? Would we offer blessings to immigrants, refugees or undocumented workers? Would we spread good news to prisoners who are on death row? Would we bless those who are both pregnant and unmarried? Where would we echo the message of God's blessings? Where are we willing to work? Mark's Jesus will suffer as he struggles to bring the good news into the world, and his suffering will lead to the cross. John himself will be put to death because of his message about repentance and sin (6:14-29). In countless parables and encounters, Mark's Jesus will preach about the coming reign of God, telling disciples how they must search within their own hearts to bring God's reign to fruition. Mark's community believed the reign of God was imminent, so there was an urgency about the message. God is coming now. Jesus reminded followers of the work that must be done, the hearts that must be cleared — beginning with their own. As we light another Advent candle, we remember the fire lit in us by bringing the word of God to the world. We stand again in awe of a God who became flesh, who entered human history as one of us. We make our own the message of John and the prophets: God is coming! Clear the way. Remove the obstacles. Make straight the path! Here is your God!

FOCUS: *As John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord, so we, too, must prepare for his coming by being Jesus disciples – his witnesses in the world.*

Our readings today give us hope that Jesus is coming, but also offer a challenge to prepare the way before him. John the Baptist's words in today's Gospel point us to Jesus while challenging us to repent. In order to prepare the way and *make straight his paths*, we must be willing to sometimes go out on a limb and be that voice crying in the wilderness, proclaiming the mightiness of our Savior.

Help religious communities. "Your generous contribution helps us to care for our retired sisters and enables our younger sisters to continue in active ministry," writes a religious sister. Your gift to today's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. If you are unable to do so today, you may also bring a contribution for the retirement fund next Sunday and place in collection basket or bring to the office.

Congratulations to Shaun McCarthy and Carrie Shouse who were united in the Sacrament of Matrimony on Saturday, December 2, at St. Gabriel, in Reinbeck. May God bless your union as it serves as a beautiful symbol of His love for each of us.

Faith Formation Classes Beginning Wednesday, January 10th, 2018, we will be changing our Faith Formation session time. Sessions will still begin at 6:30, but will end at 7:30 instead of 7:45. Please let anyone responsible for transporting kids to and from Faith Formation know of the change! Thank you!

Christmas Eve Mass: 4:00 pm at St. Gabriel, 6:30 pm at St. Pat's
Christmas Day Mass: 9:00 am at St. Gabriel.
New Year's Eve / Solemnity of Mary:
4:00 pm at Parkersburg, 6:00 pm at St. Gabriel

Income Weekend December 3, 2017
Weekly Collection \$ 3,370.00 Needed \$ 7,200.00
Income YTD as of November 30, 2017
Total Collections \$ 102,620.11 Total Budgeted \$105,300.00
Annual Adult Budget Needed \$275,000.00

Please have bulletin announcements into the office by Thursday at 3:00 pm

Just Ahead

Holy Family Circle Mtg after Mass, Sun, Dec 17
NO KC Mtg on Dec, 28th

St. Patrick, Parkersburg location

Confessions: 1st & 3rd Saturday at 4:45 pm or by Appt.
Faith Formation, Wed, Dec 13, 6:30 – 7:45

HFP Prayer Chain Contacts:

By Email: Greg Lievens greg.hfp@gmail.com
By Phone: Judy Martens, 641-751-1452

St. Gabriel, Reinbeck location

Confessions: 1st & 3rd Sunday at 8:45 am or by Appt.
Faith Formation, Wed, Dec 13, 6:30 – 7:45

Other Announcements

December Couples of Faith Date Night, Tonight from 5 to 7 pm. Doors open at 4:45 pm. A Holiday Ham meal and child care are all provided at no cost. Please bring one (no more than \$15) gift per couple for our crazy, anything goes, gift exchange. Please RSVP to Deacon Greg by Sat, December 9th (if possible) [319-240-0840](tel:319-240-0840) or greg.hfp@gmail.com. It's sure to be a night of fun and laughter. Hope to see you there!

Poinsettia Envelopes are available on the table in the narthex if you are interested in purchasing one for Christmas for a loved one. \$15 each. Please send to the office or place in collection basket.

The Archdiocesan 2018 Women's Conference Beauty in Christ, will be January 27, at the Doubletree Hilton in Cedar Rapids from 8:30 am to 3 pm. Doors open at 7:00 am. Invite your friends, sisters, mother, and daughters to this exciting event! Doors open at 7 am. Registration is now open: Register by Jan 10th and save \$10 off your registration fee. Visit www.archwomensconference.org to register. Or there are registration papers on the table in the narthex to mail in. If anyone is interested in going with a group from HFP, contact Elaine Folkerts 319-404-3706

The Social Justice committee would like to thank all of you for your generosity. The Christmas tree in the narthex had 200 tags on it, and items were purchased for four different agencies. Christmas in Grundy County, Operation Threshold, Cedar Valley Hospice, and Birthright were all very appreciative of the donations.

Share Your Talents!! St. Gabriel is looking for anyone willing to be a Cantor, Pianist or Organist. If you are able to do this in Jan, Feb or March, we will need to know by Dec 18th so we can add your name to the 1st quarter liturgy schedule. If you are able to help in the coming year, please call Sue Halbach with any questions or to tell her "YES, I will share my Talents"! 319-269-4331

Grundy Center Lions Club Blood Drive, will be Thursday, December 21 from 12:30 to 6 pm at the Grundy Center Community Center, 705 F Ave. To make an appointment, contact John Kramer at 319-825-6246 or visit www.lifesevblebloodcenter.org

Reminder please remember our veterans this holiday season. Send a card to a soldier and keep all veterans near and far in your prayers.

Send A Christmas Card to Retired Priests & Sisters: The retired priests & sisters of the Archdiocese of Dubuque would love to receive Christmas cards from you. Maybe you know some of them, or maybe you don't, it doesn't matter, they would still appreciate a card. There are sheets on the credenza in the Narthex with all the names & addresses. For the retired nuns you can send a card to the retirement community to be shared with all of them. Feel free to take a sheet home with you and include some of them in your Christmas card list.

Operation Threshold in need of cleaning supplies – dishwashing soap, laundry detergent, disinfectant wipes, paper towels, etc.

Catholic Worker House in need of – disposable shavers, deodorant & Cleaners. **Please put in Collection Box in Conference Roo**

	Dec 16	Dec 17
Accompanist	Steven	Rita Durchenwald
Cantor	Kathy	
Extraordinary	Greg Lievens	Rita Amling, Cynthia Becker, Georgia Bennett
Ministers	Mary Schwennen	Karen Benson, Gene Brandt, Pat Brown
Of Holy	Julie Dunn*	Elaine Folkerts, Julie Grunklee, Sue Messerly
Communion		Janelle Onnen, Diane Stephan*, Max & Rosanne Girres*
Greet	Jeremiah Hook Family	Kenny Ackerman Mike & Georgia Bennett Richard Benson Family
Gifts	Tony & Julie Dunn	Richard Benson Family
Reader 1	Mary Sullivan	Ethan DeWall
Reader 2		Julie Grunklee
Server	Halie Petersen	Ben Freese, Kasey Seitz
Server	Elise Thome	Rachel Kauffman
Usher	Dennis & Sherry Gaul	Richard Benson, Agnes Biersner
Usher		Gene Burry, Ethan DeWall
Video		David Martens
Sacristan / MC /Announcements	Nancy Brannon	Elaine Folkerts / Mary Linder / Diane Stephan
Collection Counters	Kathy Clark	Greg & Brenda Snider, Helen O'Connor, Larry Krebsbach