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HOLY FAMILY PARISH
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Reinbeck

St. Patrick
Parkersburg

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DECEMBER 11, 2016
THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Cole North, Secretary
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Mass Intentions for
Dec 13 – Dec 18

Intention for

Tuesday.....5:15 pm at Parkersburg	Deceased Members of the Parish
Wednesday....8:00 am at Reinbeck	Bill Davis
Thursday.....8:00 am at Reinbeck	Dale McIntyre
Friday.....7:30 am at Parkersburg	Jack Michalski
Saturday.....5:30 pm at Parkersburg	Joe Kurtenbach
Sunday.....9:30 am at Reinbeck	For the People

SOMETHING MORE –In the first reading we hear this proclamation from Isaiah: “The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus.” Sometimes we experience our own lives as being barren as a wilderness and as parched as a desert. During those trying times it may be hard for us to be glad and rejoice when we are struggling. The same is true for others. Sometimes people – perhaps even people very close to us – may be hurting or struggling, may feel like their lives are hopeless, barren and dry. How can they find a cause for joy and gladness? For inspiration this Advent, we need only look to examples set by Jesus and by Pope Francis. Their actions have brought comfort and healing to countless people. Their love and mercy have brought hope and joy. What if someone were to ask us the question put to Jesus: “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” How would we answer? Jesus ascended to the Father when he had completed his work on this earth. He left it to us to continue his work here. The hungry will be fed, the homeless will be sheltered, the lonely will be visited ... and all will find a cause for great joy when each baptized person continues the ministry and compassion of Jesus. And we will find our own joy, too, as Jesus ministers to us through others, even (or especially) the ones to whom we are ministering.

Third Sunday of Advent Focus: Rejoice in the Lord always; for indeed, the Lord is near.

As we wait for the coming of the Lord, we prepare our hearts and homes to receive him. As Saint Paul instructs, we prepare with patience and a firm heart. We all know he has come into our hearts and homes when we model true discipleship and work to bring the Good News to those around us.

And Still More – Last summer many of us were inspired by the athletes who participated in the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. The Olympians are the best in the world at what they do. They swim faster, jump higher and lift more than anyone in the world. In a similar way, Jesus praised John the Baptist as being the best in the world, saying: “There has been none greater than John the Baptist.” We admire John for having spent his life announcing Jesus. And even more, he gave his life, dying as a martyr for his faith. Jesus surprises us all by making a startling comparison: “Yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Please keep the following students in your prayers as they prepare to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Wednesday, December 14th: Camdyn Aronson, Caturella Brown, Sarah De Vries, Jacob Feaker, Gavin Gunnarson, Anthony Knaack, Cane McCumber, Ethan Meester, Olivia Petersen, Taylor Scheitler, Ellie Schoborg, Kyle Seitz, Makenna Steinmeyer, and James Wingert. Let us continue to keep them in our prayers on this day and as they continue their journey to First Eucharist.

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.

Christmas Eve Mass
4:00 pm @ St. Patrick
6:30 pm @ St. Gabriel

Christmas Day Mass
Mass 9:00 am @ St. Gabriel

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

Just Ahead

FF, both sites, Dec 14, 6:30 – 7:45
HFC Mtg after Mass today
NO FF, Wednesdays Dec 21 & 28

St. Patrick, Parkersburg location

Confession each Saturday beginning at 4:45 pm for 30 minutes
FF, Wednesday, Dec 14, 6:30 – 7:45

St. Gabriel, Reinbeck location

Confession each Sunday beginning at 8:45 am for 30 minutes
FF and 1st Reconciliation, Wednesday, Dec 14, 6:30 – 7:45

Income Weekend Dec 4, 2016
Weekly Collection \$2,772.00 Needed \$ 6,900.00
Income YTD as of November 30, 2016
Total Collections \$96,324.25 Total Budgeted \$104,400.00
Annual Adult Budget Needed \$270,000.00

Other Announcements

Couples of Faith Join us for a fun date night on Sunday Dec 11 from 4:45 to 7 pm. We will switch things up a bit with some table talk questions and some holiday trivia! Plus a gift exchange (one gift per couple) of \$15 or less. Enjoy a night out with your spouse for some lighthearted fun and fellowship! Please RSVP for yourselves and childcare to 319-215-6118 or cnorth3412@gmail.com. Also, plan ahead to **January 15th Date Night** Come listen to speakers Deacon Joel & Lisa Schmidt (www.thepracticingcatholic.com) from Des Moines, IA. Their rather light-hearted presentation “The Eight Beatitudes of Healthy Marriages” draws inspiration from Church teaching, research, anecdotal evidence, and the Beatitudes (of course) to discuss practical strategies for strengthening our marriages. The Beatitudes are universally recognized as a biblical plan for Christian holiness, alongside the Ten Commandments. They are essentially a summary of what to do to get to heaven. What better pattern for determining what to do in our marriages to help them thrive?

Remembering Our Retired Priests: Don't forget to send a Christmas card to one or two of our retired priests who have served the Archdiocese so faithfully for many years. Names and addresses are available on the credenza in the narthex along with some Christmas cards. Take the sheet home and a couple cards to add to your Christmas card list. Thank you.

Grundy Center Lions Club will have a blood drive on Thursday, December 15 from 12:30 to 6:00 pm at the Grundy Center Community Center. To make an appointment, contact John Kramer at 319-825-6246 or visit www.lifeservebloodcenter.org

Thank you so much for your Christmas giving again this year. Christmas in Grundy County, Operation Threshold, Hospice and Birthright are extremely grateful for your generosity and wish you the blessings of peace, joy and love as we celebrate Christ's birth.

NCYC registration is underway. There are forms with more information about the event and registration details in the back of each church or you can contact Lyndsay Petersen at the office for more information. Registrations are due December 15.

American Martyrs Retreat House New Year's Eve Retreat December 31, 2016 – January 1, 2017 People of all ages, single, dating and couples are invited. **Theme: Seek and Find God's Will for the New Year!** Are you seeking to know God's will for you in 2017? Then come to the retreat on New Year's Eve. Come to rest for a while with Jesus. Come to know the power in His holy name. Come to experience His healing touch. Come to be inspired by the Spirit of Jesus. The fee for the retreat is \$65.00 per person. Arrival is at 5:00 p.m. New Year's Eve and departure at 11:00 a.m. on New Year's Day. To register or with further questions, contact the American Martyrs Retreat House #319-266-3543 or email DBQAMRHsec@DBQArch.org

Beauty in Christ Treat yourself and plan to attend the Archdiocese of Dubuque Women's Conference, Saturday, February 4th, 2017, St. Pius X in Cedar Rapids. Invite your mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends to this exciting day with Leah Darrow and Kelly Nieto! Our speakers will touch the hearts of all ages, from teens to more mature women. For more information, to view videos of our presenters, and to register visit: <http://www.archwomensconference.org/>

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

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Worker House is in need of – disposable shavers, deodorant & Cleaners

	Dec 17	Dec 18
Accompanist	Steven	Rita Durchenwald
Cantor	Kyle	Don Davidson
Extraordinary	Greg Lievens	Greg Lievens (D), Elaine Folkerts, Kathy Juel
Ministers	Mary Schwennen*	Kari Kemmer, Ann O'Connor, Cheryl Osterhaus
Of Holy	Tamara Tingle	Amy Seitz*, Karen Benson, Rick Ogle
Communion		Bobbi Peterson, Shalene Peterson*
Greet	Chris & Terri Thome	Todd & Janelle Onnen, Ron Hayek Dale & Bea Greiner
Gifts	Gary & Mary Wolfe	Dale & Bea Greiner
Reader 1	Kelsie Tingle	Wanda Christensen
Reader 2		Kathy Zeiner
Server	Clara Petersen	Ben Freese, Tyler Vandenberg
Server		Francesca Brown
Usher	Susie Hook	Justin Nicklaus, Rick Nilles
Usher	Cindy Kannegieter	Todd Rickert, Rich Riesberg
Video		Susie Billerbeck
Sacristan / MC / Announcements	Becky Lievens	Judy Kershaw / Judy Martens / Diane Stephan
Collection Counters	Kathy Clark	Greg & Brenda Snider, Helen O'Connor