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HOLY FAMILY PARISH
St. Gabriel
Reinbeck
St. Patrick
Parkersburg

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DECEMBER 14, 2014
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Terry Hemann, Secretary
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THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT *The Spirit of God helps us build up the kingdom of God on earth.*

We come to mass to encounter the living God and then are dismissed to live out our lives in a way that brings Christ to others. How should we rejoice, pray and give thanks? How should we answer the question: Who am I and what does God desire of me? Let us remember, he who calls us is faithful and will not abandon us.

In the first reading, Isaiah lists many of the qualities of the promised Messiah; his coming will lead to righteous and praise among the nations. In Saint Paul's letter to the Thessalonians, he lists ways we can continually live in the Spirit. In Saint John's Gospel, John the Baptist clearly saw his mission as making straight the way of the Lord with his baptism of repentance.

SOMETHING MORE *Christmas is coming. We have seen many opportunities to make a difference. Paul says, "Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil." Indeed. Issues of justice and injustice, poverty and equality, rights and liberties, can cloud our vision, and we lose track of the human beings God would have us see. We think of the children at the border, refugees they seem to be from terrors in Central America. We think of the children in our own cities, when they explode in racially charged violence. We think of Christmas communities in Syria and Iraq who remembered their founding in the days of St. Paul, now extinct in a sudden fall of fanaticism. We look at our own church and wonder if Pope Francis' gospel of joy will sustain hope for reconciliation, especially in our families, so many broken and re-joined.*

Things looked bleak in John the Baptist's day, but he had a beautiful vocation: "to testify to the light." Can you see that light? It might shine like a star, bright enough to spark the interest of "wise men" in the East, it might glow like a smile, giving off just enough light to see a sandal strap.

St. Gabriel, Reinbeck location

Confession each Sunday beginning at 8:45 am for 30 minutes
Holy Family Circle Meeting, Sunday, December 14 after Mass
Faith Formation, Wednesday, December 17, 6:30 - 7:45 pm
Initiation Process, Wednesday, December 17
Knights of Columbus Meeting, Thursday, December 18, 7 pm

Mass Intentions for

December 16 - December 21



Tuesday.....5:15 pm at Parkersburg	<u>Intention for</u>
Wednesday.... 8:00 am at Reinbeck	Verna Wells
Thursday..... 8:00 am at Reinbeck	LuAnn Schreck
Friday..... 7:30 am at Parkersburg	Bernard & Bernadean Smeltzer
Saturday..... 5:30 pm at Parkersburg	Bob Kurtenbach
Sunday.....9:30 am at Reinbeck	For the People
	Charles Murphy

Christmas and New Years Eve Mass Times:

**Christmas Eve: 4:00 pm at St. Patrick
6:30 pm at St. Gabriel**

Christmas Day: 9:00 am at St. Gabriel

**New Years Eve: 4:00 pm at St. Patrick
6:30 pm at St. Gabriel**

AND STILL MORE The priests and Levites demand to know who John the Baptist is. Later, after Jesus is well into his ministry, we will again hear a question about identity, when Jesus asks Peter, "Who do people say that I am?" Today's Gospel asks us if we know who we are. How do we answer? Franciscan Fr. Richard Rohr once told a room full of deacons attending a national convention, "It is not who you are. It is WHOSE you are." That gives us the clue to our true identity. We can, hopefully, respond with John the Baptist by saying, "We belong to God and our Lord Jesus Christ, whose sandal straps we are not worthy to until."

Our deepest sympathy and prayers are extended to the family of Charles Francis Murphy of Dike, whose funeral was celebrated on Tuesday, December 9 at St. Gabriel Church. May he know the fullness of God's peace and love in the heavenly kingdom.

Income Weekend December 7, 2014

Adult Budget \$ 4184.00 Needed \$ 4,700.00

Just Ahead

- ❖ No Faith Formation, Wednesday, December 24
- ❖ No Initiation Process, Wednesday, December 24
- ❖ Faith Formation Christmas Program, Sunday, December 21

St. Patrick, Parkersburg location

Confession each Saturday beginning at 4:45 pm for 30 minutes
Faith Formation, Wednesday, December 17, 6:30 - 7:45 pm

Other Announcements

Totally Catholic Items will be available for purchase this weekend after Mass. Great gift ideas for Christmas presents, stocking stuffers, Confirmation, First Communion, Baptism, RCIA!! The profits from the sale will benefit our young church attending NCYC 2015. If you can help with selling the items at either site, please contact Amy Dall.

Congratulations of the Faith Formation Students that received the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Wednesday, December 10. We congratulate them on their hard work; let us continue to keep them in our prayers as they continue their journey to First Eucharist.

Poinsettia Time-We are doing the same with the poinsettias this year as last year. The envelopes are in the narthex at both churches. Fill out the envelope, (each plant is \$15.00) and return it to the office or put it in the offertory basket. Please have them turned in by December 21st.

Choir Rehearsal for Christmas Eve Service We will meet every Sunday after Mass for rehearsal until Christmas for about an hour. Will notify if there are any changes. All are welcome from both churches to come and join the choir as we sing in this blessed holy season.
Paula Steimel

Save the Date! We have the Center Theater reserved for us on the 26th—2:00 pm show time, movie to be announced. Everyone is welcome! Hope to see you there!

Christmas Decorating will be Sunday, December 21, after Mass. Everyone is welcome to help. It shouldn't take too long and many hands make light work.

NCYC 2015 If you would like to attend NCYC in 2015, I will need your name and a \$50 non-refundable deposit by Sunday, December 28th which will guarantee your spot for the trip. The dates for NCYC are Thursday, November 19, 2015 thru Sunday, November 22, 2015. If you would like to attend but are financially unable to pay the \$50 deposit, please contact me ASAP. We have some generous parishioners who have offered to help with the deposit for those who voice a need. The total cost of the trip is estimated at \$510. (meals, spending money, trade items and hats are not figured into this cost) We will meet on January 4th after mass at St. Gabriel to brainstorm and discuss fundraising options. The current estimated attendance from our Archdiocese is at 1,700!! Please submit your name via e-mail to Amy Dall if you plan to attend NCYC 2015 (even if you have previously told me...don't want to miss anyone!).

New Year's Eve Middle School Lock-In (Grades 6th-8th) December 31st 8pm-7am at St. Patrick Parish in Cedar Falls. WAYM (Waterloo Area Youth Ministers) is offering a lock-in for \$20 per student (friends are welcome) which includes games, food, fun, movies, SOME quiet time, prayer for peace at midnight. Our parish is limited to 10-15 students. Information/permission slip-sheets are in the narthex of both churches and *need to be turned in by DECEMBER 17th. Checks should be made payable to Holy Family Parish with "NYE Lock In" in the memo.* Please contact Amy Dall with any questions.

Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Project In November, the local council of the Knights of Columbus conducted a fund drive to support a statewide project to place three new ultrasound machines in Iowa at agencies with a mission to prevent abortions. The state Knights of Columbus was conducting the drive to capture a matching grant from the national office. The local KC had supported two previous projects, one near ISU in Ames and one in Waterloo. Due to the magnitude of the current project, the local council conducted a parish collection at the end of Mass and pledged to match up to \$1,000 collected. Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, the project was a huge success. Collections totaled \$965, Holy Family Circle donated \$200; so with the KC pledge of \$1,000 a total amount of \$2,165 was donated to this very worthwhile Pro Life project. The local and state KC as well as the benefiting sites thank you for your support.

Rides Needed We have a parishioner from Grundy Center that is in need of rides to and from Mass on Sundays. If you are willing to help please call the office at 319-345-2006. Thank you.

Initiation Process Our next class will be December 17 where we will discuss the "Reason for the Season" to coin a popular phrase, our last class for the calendar year, but just beginning our Church year! Merry Christmas to all from the Initiation Process Group. Deacon John Schwennen

New Year's Eve Retreat Join us, December 31-January 1 at the American Martyrs Retreat House to celebrate New Year's Eve in a sacred way. Deacon Dan and Nancy Rigel will present "**Our Lady Untier of Knots.**" "Mary...is the Mother who patiently and lovingly brings us to God, so that he can untangle the knots of our soul..." -Pope Francis Cost of Retreat is \$65.00/person. To register or for questions, email or call AMRH at one of the following: email dbqamrhsec@dbqarch.org Phone: 319-266-3543

	December 20	December 21
Accompanist	Steve Halbach	Judie Krebsbach
Cantor	Kyle Tingle	Rick Ogle
Extraordinary	Becky Lievens	Sue Messerly*, Amy Seitz, Brittany Hemann
Ministers	Mary Schwennen*	Maureen Daley, Barb Melloy*, Elaine Folkerts
Of Holy	Tamara Tingle	Janelle Onnen*, Kathy Juel, Wanda Christensen
Communion		Ann O'Connor, Judy Jewett
Greet	Larry & Vi Kisner	Paul O'Connor Family, Roger & Sally Dostal, Jo Ann Petersen / Carol Petersen
Gifts	Mike & Sue Hosch	Jo Ann Petersen / Carol Petersen
Reader 1	Arnold Schwens	Ethan DeWall
Reader 2	Arnold Schwens	Mary Linder
Server	McKenna Tingle	Timothy Scott, Micayla Kellar
Server	Laikyn Miller	Leo Kellar
Usher	Chad & Jake Schipper	Dave Martens, Richard Benson, Ron Hayek
Usher		Tom Lang, Robert Lang, John Schuller
Video		Susie Billerbeck
Sacristan / MC / Announcements	Nancy Brannon	Rose Kramer / Kathy Juel / Janine Whipps
Collection Counters	Kathy Clark / Al & Patty Hoff	Laurie Folkedahl, Ron Hayek, Don Schmidt, Wanda Christensen