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HOLY FAMILY PARISH
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St. Patrick
Parkersburg

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DECEMBER 20, 2015
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Cole North, Secretary
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Mass Intentions for
December 22 – December 27

Tuesday.....5:15 pm at Parkersburg	Intention for Bob Kurtenbach
Wednesday....8:00 am at Reinbeck	Robert Kubesh
Christmas Eve...4:00 pm at Reinbeck	Hilda Kucera
Christmas Eve...6:30 pm at Parkersburg	Sara Kelly
Christmas Day...9:00 am at Reinbeck	For the People
Saturday.....5:30 pm at Parkersburg	Liane Kolecheck
Sunday.....9:30 am at Reinbeck	For the People

FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT *FOCUS: God's ways are not our ways.*

The readings today demonstrate that conventional wisdom is not true: a mighty Savior comes from a lowly place, death on a cross brings life, and an old woman feels her child leap in her womb as a young pregnant virgin greets her. In the final days of Advent, let us put conventional wisdom aside and be attentive to the mystery and wonder of God's ways.

SOMETHING MORE – *Be present. Be open. Be available. Be receptive. Be quiet. That's the kind of person Mary was. And it was that collection of gifts that most enticed God.*

Advent is a time in the church year to emphasize these same qualities. It's a time dedicated to balance, to smoothing out all our busy-ness and fretful activity, to finding some rest in the midst of the holiday frenzy that accompanies Christmas.

Advent beckons to us all: It tells us to call a time out on the field, find some quiet, and allow the word "reflect" to replace the demand to "get busy." The Gospel of Luke recommends that we especially reflect on the person of Mary – the archetypal Christian, the summation of what the word "disciple" truly means, a listener.

Mary is the ultimate receiver of the divine in her life. She is the person who makes room for the Spirit to dwell within her, that same Spirit who caused Elizabeth to announce with wonder, "Nothing is impossible to God"; that same Spirit who will cause each of us to become pregnant with a Child who desperately wants to "dwell among us." It can happen, if only, like Mary, we make room.

AND STILL MORE A Jewish proverb says, "God could not be everywhere; therefore, he made mothers." Even while Jesus was still in Mary's womb, he brought joy to Elizabeth and her unborn child, John. Mary, the mother to be became blessed for having trusted that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled.

At Jesus' birth, when the umbilical cord was cut, the bond between Mary and Jesus was never really broken. She remained faithfully at his side through all the events of his life and at the foot of the cross when it seemed that even the Father had abandoned him.

Through the centuries, Mary has never abandoned her son. Nor will she ever abandon us.

Christmas Eve Mass: Dec 24, 4:00 pm @ Reinbeck; 6:30 pm @ Parkersburg.

Christmas Day Mass, Dec 25, 9:00 am @ Reinbeck.

Office closed: Thursday, December 24 & Friday, December 25.

A New Time and Talent survey was handed out during the Masses on December 12th and 13th. If you did not fill one out at that time copies are available in the back of both churches. Please take a couple of minutes to fill one out and leave it by the office door. There are many opportunities to get involved in the church that are very rewarding, anything you can do is appreciated.

December 31, Mary, Mother of God, Holy Day of Obligation Vigil Masses: 4:00 PM @ St. Patrick; 6:30 PM @ St. Gabriel. Celebrate the start of your new year putting faith first with Mass! There is a sign-up sheet for ministerial duties for the 4:00 PM Mass in the narthex at St. Patrick. Please volunteer for these tasks if you will be with us at this Mass.

Just Ahead

- ❖ NO FF, Wednesday, Dec 30
- ❖ Office Closed Thurs, Dec. 31, & Fri, Jan 1

St. Patrick, Parkersburg location
Confession each Saturday beginning at 4:45 pm for 30 minutes
No Faith Formation, Wednesday, Dec 23

St. Gabriel, Reinbeck location
Confession each Sunday beginning at 8:45 am for 30 minutes
The Choir will practice for Christmas Eve after mass today.
No Faith Formation, Wednesday, Dec 23

Income Weekend December 13, 2015
Adult Budget \$ 7,300.30 Needed \$ 5,154.00
Annual Adult Budget \$ 268,000.00

Other Announcements

Congratulations to the Faith Formation students that received the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Wednesday, December 9th: Megan Bruns, Creyton Eberhart, Elise Thome, Lane Girsch, Brannen Jensen, Pete Lebo, Brandon Mills, Jr., Mailea McLean, Rhianna Murty, Peter O'Donnell, Brinn Schneider, Noah Sealman, Seeri Smith, Jaiden Soppe, Camden Tott and Finley O'Neill. Let us continue to keep them in our prayers as they continue their journey to First Eucharist.

Pope Frances stated, "How much I desire that the year to come will be steeped in mercy, so that we can go out to every man and woman, bringing the goodness and tenderness of God!" Watch your bulletin for messages on mercy and go to: www.dbqarch.org/yearofmercy/. In the meantime, it is good to review our goals: **The Corporal Works of Mercy:** To feed the hungry, To give drink to the thirsty, To clothe the naked, To Shelter the Homeless, To visit the sick, To visit the imprisoned, To bury the dead. **The Spiritual Works of Mercy:** To instruct the ignorant, To counsel the doubtful, To admonish sinners, To bear wrongs patiently, To forgive offences willingly, To comfort the afflicted, To pray for the living and the dead.

Announcing training for those who wish to begin the Ministry of "Distributing The Eucharist" at Mass and for those who would like to be a "Reader", during Mass. We will have training on Jan.6th and Jan.13th at St. Gabriel's Church Beginning at 7pm both Nights. Come and learn how to assist in the Liturgy of Worship, and help us spread the good news together. Deacon John Schwennen.

Recovering American Soldiers: When filling out Christmas cards this year, please take the time to send a card to this address: A Recovering American Soldier, CO Walter Reed, Army Medical Center, 6900 Georgia Avenue, NW Washington DC, 20307-5001.

New Year's Eve Retreat: Join us, December 31-January 1 at the AMRH to celebrate New Year's Eve in a sacred way. People of all ages, single, dating and couples are invited. **Title:** "Images of Christ in Scripture: How They Help Us Grow" will be our theme for the New Year's Eve Retreat. Bring your bible and we will start with the infancy narrative, Jesus in the Temple, on to his miracles and crucifix and resurrection. When we think of Jesus what images, thoughts, ideas do we think of? Perhaps these 24 hours will allow us to reconnect to the past, ponder the present and renew us for what 2016 has in store! **Director: Fr. Ken Glaser** Fr. Ken is a priest of the Archdiocese of Dubuque. He was ordained in 2000 and has served in a number of parishes throughout the Archdiocese. He currently serves as the Sacramental Priest and Director of Campus Ministry at St. Stephen the Witness Catholic Student Center at the University of Northern Iowa. The fee for the retreat is \$65.00 per person. As a "thank you" to the DREAMERS, they may deduct \$5.00 if they worked on the DREAM weekend! 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

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

	December 24 4:00 pm @ R	December 24 6:30 pm @ P	December 25 9:00 am @ R	December 26	December 27
Accompanist	Steve Halbach, Susan Halbach	Sarah	Steve Halbach Susan Halbach	Lyndsay	Judie Krebsbach Susan Halbach
Cantor	Don Davidson	Linda	Don Osterhaus	Clara & Mary	Larry & Connie Rohach
Extraordinary	Greg Lievens (D), Kathy Juel Amy Dall, Ben Dall	Greg Lievens	John Schwennen (D), Leon Christensen	Dorothy Luebbers	Diane Stephan, Brenda Davis*, Joe Davis
Ministers	Julie Grunklee Janine Stewart, Ann O'Connor	John Schwennen Mary Schwennen	Julie Frischmeyer, Judy Jewett, Amy Seitz	Marti Hall*	Rose Kramer*, Ann Lebo*, Gene Brandt
Of Holy	Karen Benson, Ron Hayek	Julie Dunn	Tina Lyon, Rose Kramer, Janine Stewart	Mary Ann Bergman	Wanda Christensen, Amy Dall, Ben Dall
Communion	Barb Melloy, Tim Melloy	Tamara Tingle*	Cynthia Becker, Georgia Bennett, Karen Benson		Elaine Folkerts, Kathy Juel
Greet	Justin & Sue Nicklaus, Brent Bovy Family, Janine Stewart	Jeff & Ann Badger	Ben & Amy Dall Roger & Sally Dostal Bob & Kathy Eisenman Family	Chris & Amy May	Laurie Folkedahl, Robin Olson, Ryan Folkerts Family, Steve & Cindy Gerhard
Gifts	Brent Bovy Family	Jeremiah Hook Family	Ben & Amy Dall	Don & Kathy Hosch	Ryan Folkerts Family
Reader 1	Julie Grunklee	Cam Coy	Kathy Mauer	Mike Brannon	Rick Ogle
Reader 2	Mary Linder		Julie Merfeld		Janelle Onnen
Server	Tyler Vandenberg	McKenna Tingle	Bryce Dall	Riley Oberhauser	Derek Kinney
Server	Bryce Dall Nolan Dall	Halie Petersen	Nolan Dall Francesca Brown	Cooper Hoff	Alysa Fettkether Tom Smith
Usher	Greg Snider, Roger Dostal Michael Bennett, Denny Greiner	Gary & Mary Wolfe	Mike Williams, Brian Corwin, Rich Riesberg	Kelly Etjen	Kenny Ackerman, Agnes Biersner, Dave Martens
Usher	Ryan Folkerts, Darrin Folkerts		Richard Benson Robert Lang, Tom Lang	Chuck Etjen	Ethan DeWall, Joe Davis Chris Frischmeyer
Video	Mike Rickert		None		Todd Rickert
Sacristan / MC /Announcements	Helen O'Connor / Mary Linder	Becky Lievens	Judy Kershaw / Rita Amling	Angie Oberhauser	Carol Garwood / Kathy Juel Diane Stephan
Collection Counters	Rod & Mardel Brockett, Denny Greiner, Wilbur Kielly	Kathy Clark Al & Patty Hoff	Margie Glick, John Kramer, Bill & Shirley Rogers	Kathy Clark, Al & Patty Hoff	Shannon Appel, Mary Linder Bill Rogers, John Kramer