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HOLY FAMILY PARISH
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DECEMBER 4, 2016
SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Cole North, Secretary
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Mass Intentions for
Dec 6 – Dec 11

	<u>Intention for</u>
Tuesday.....5:15 pm at Parkersburg	Marvin Ostwinkle
Wednesday.....6:30 pm at Parkersburg	Frank Kurtenbach
No Wed morning Mass	
Thursday.....8:00 am at Reinbeck	Barbara Krebsbach
Friday.....7:30 am at Parkersburg	All Souls in Purgatory
Saturday.....5:30 pm at Parkersburg	For the People
Sunday.....9:30 am at Reinbeck	Joe & Marie Coleman

Second Sunday of Advent Focus: *We are called to prepare the way for the Lord.*

John the Baptist was called by God to prepare the way for Jesus. He did this by proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Similarly, each of us is called by God to prepare the way for Jesus. We do this whenever we assist someone in need, visit someone who is sick or lend a listening ear.

SOMETHING MORE – What things are truly important for us this Advent? In the first reading Isaiah says that “a shoot will come from the line of Jesse. He shall judge the poor with righteousness and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.” Jesus has fulfilled this promise and he has given us the continuing mission. It is we who must look to the lives of the poor and meek, and make sure that they are treated with fairness: “righteousness” and “equity.” Who are the poor and meek among us? Those without life’s necessities: food, housing, clothes, education, healthcare and companionship. Jesus the Messiah came to initiate a new way of living. The baptism of Spirit and fire is our call to attend to those in need in the name of Jesus. Isaiah goes further. He says that with the righteousness and faithfulness that the Messiah brings we will enter a new era of relationships. “Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together ... There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain ...” This is the world we all want to live in and that we want for all peoples. This is the kind of world that can allow all to take a new step forward this Christmas. Our Advent must prepare us. We must determine to welcome not only the Christ Child in Bethlehem this Christmas, but accept his baptism and fire-Spirit that will continue to change the world through us.

And Still More – In the last four lines of today’s Gospel John the Baptist announces that Jesus will soon come with “His winnowing fan in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” John is using a wheat farmer imagery that was familiar to first century people. Today most of us are more familiar with spam filters than we are with winnowing fans. When the harvest comes, the wheat needs to be separated from the straw husks or chaff that still clings to the grains. A good way of removing this chaff is to use a winnowing fan to scoop up and toss the grains into the air. The wind carries away the lighter chaff, and like dust, it blows away with weevils and other pests. The heavier, good grain then falls to the floor. What a great image for us to ponder in trying to live good lives. We offer ourselves up and God’s merciful winds carry away our sins. We fall, cleansed and forgiven onto the threshing floor, ready to be gathered into God’s barn.

Retirement Fund for Religious Your donation works for aging religious. “I read that roughly 95 percent of donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious aid senior religious,” a donor writes. “That’s wonderful when we truly want our donations to work.” Your gift works for elderly religious by helping to furnish medications, nursing care and more. Please support next week’s collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, and give to those who have given a lifetime.

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

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

Just Ahead

FF, both sites, Dec 7, 6:30 – 7:45
HFC Mtg after Mass, Dec 11th
1st Reconciliation, Wed Dec 14th during Faith Formation

St. Patrick, Parkersburg location

Confession each Saturday beginning at 4:45 pm for 30 minutes
FF, Wednesday, Dec 7, 6:30 – 7:45
Holy Day Mass, Wednesday Dec 7, 6:30 @ P

St. Gabriel, Reinbeck location

Confession each Sunday beginning at 8:45 am for 30 minutes
FF, Wednesday, Dec 7, 6:30 – 7:45
Holy Day Mass, Thursday Dec 8, 8:00 am @ R

Income Weekend Nov 27, 2016

Weekly Collection \$ 2,608.00 Needed \$ 5,000.00
Annual Adult Budget Needed \$270,000.00

Other Announcements

This past weekend we began Advent Only four Sundays before we celebrate Jesus Christ's birth which happened more than 2000 years ago. This period of time encourages us to prepare, but not for Christmas, it tells us to prepare ourselves for the second coming of Christ which can happen at any time. This also starts the beginning of our liturgical year, "The Year of Grace", how appropriate that we celebrate God's Grace, his unconditional love of all, this is really more than we should expect and much more than we all deserve. We also recognized and welcomed three candidates that are exploring what it means to be Catholic, and wish to join the faith filled this coming Easter, to be in full communion with the Church. They have begun the journey of the initiation process formerly called "RCIA", Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. They have just completed the early period of inquiry and now begin the first step of conversion and acceptance by the church. At the beginning of Lent, they will begin a more intense period of preparation for the sacraments of initiation. In the final step, after having completed their spiritual preparation they will enjoy The Grace of God in the Easter celebration. Welcome to Chad Eberhart, Amalie Guldenpfennig, and Andrew Faulkner to our faith communities, and pray for their continued perseverance in uncovering the Mysteries of the Lord. Deacon John

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?

Christmas in Grundy County HFP is partnering this Christmas with Birthright, Christmas in Grundy County, Operation Threshold, and Cedar Valley Hospice to help families who may be struggling financially, physically or spiritually: You may take ornaments from the tree and return unwrapped items on or before December 4. Please attach the ornament to the gift when you place it in the collection box. HFP is joining with other area churches to sponsor Christmas in Grundy County, on the morning of December 10. You may bring a new and unwrapped toy, make a financial donation, purchase a Christmas storybook or sign up as a volunteer. For more information or to sign up to volunteer, visit our website: www.christmasingrundy.org or contact Cheryl Osterhaus at (319-824-6788) or cherylosterhaus@hotmail.com

NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference) is an exciting trip for students looking to take their Catholic faith to a new level. This event has something for everyone from concerts to speakers to quiet prayer experiences, everyone will find something that meets them where they are at with their faith. In 2015, the Archdiocese of Dubuque took the largest group in the country! There were an estimated 1700 students and chaperones from our diocese. Our diocese does an excellent job of facilitating travel, lodging and all the details for this great event! The cost for NCYC \$550 and our parish goal is to fundraise half of the cost. So your cost for the event will hopefully be under \$275. The event is November 16-19, 2017 and will be held in Indianapolis. The cost includes transportation, lodging, registration and some meals. If financial assistance is needed, we have many options so please don't let that stop you from NCYC. If you are interested in registering for NCYC please return the NCYC form (located in the back of both sites) by Dec 15th along with a \$50 deposit for your NCYC spot. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Lyndsay Petersen at the office or by email, dbq169ym@dbqarch.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 7, 6:30 pm @ P	Dec 10	Dec 11
Accompanist	MS/HS	Lyndsay	Susan Halbach
Cantor	MS/HS	Kathy	Don Osterhaus
Extraordinary		John Schwennen*	John Schwennen (D), Amy Dall, Ben Dall
Ministers		Kelsie Tingle	Bryce Dall, Gob Glick, Margie Glick
Of Holy		Tamara Tingle	Dean Eslinger, Linda Williams, Mike Williams
Communion			Sue Messerly*, Bill Rogers*
Greet	MS/HS	Dan & Beth Bruns	Max & Rosanne Girres, Marc Gunnarson Family Jeanean Coleman
Gifts	MS/HS	Vi & Larry Kisner	Marc Gunnarson Family
Reader 1	MS/HS	Kathy Hosch	Mike Williams
Reader 2	MS/HS		Janine Stewart
Server	MS/HS	Halie Petersen	Andrew Cox, Rachael Kauffman
Server	MS/HS		Tom Smith
Usher	MS/HS	Dennis & Sherry Gaul	Ron Hayek, Curt Jacobi, Curt Juel
Usher			Robert Lang, Tom Lang, Dave Martens
Video			Todd Rickert
Sacristan / MC /Announcements		Mary Schwennen	Carol Garwood / Kathy Juel / Joe Davis
Collection Counters		Kathy Clark	Mardel Brockett, Rod Brockett, Agnes Biersner, Rosanne Girres