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HOLY FAMILY PARISH
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Parkersburg

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DECEMBER 7, 2014
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Terry Hemann, Secretary
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SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT *God's promise for a savior brings us comfort and calm.*

Each Advent we can choose to let the social pressures this time of year overwhelm us or to take a step back and include Christ in all our planning for Christmas. Today, as we hear of John the Baptist preaching in the desert, we need to remember our own need for repentance and our mission to make straight the way of the Lord.

Isaiah challenges us to be heralds of the good news and prepare the way of the Lord. In the second reading, Peter reminds us to prepare for the right things and to be at peace, and without spot or blemish. Saint Mark's Gospel begins today with people going out to hear and be baptized by John the Baptist. He tells them of one mightier than he who is coming.

AND STILL MORE So what is John the Baptist announcing? Jesus, of course. But more specifically, our need to prepare for Jesus and to prepare in an unusual manner. He quotes that lovely passage from Isaiah, "In the desert prepare a highway for our God." Isn't it interesting that Isaiah speaks of the refugees in Babylon finding their way home through the desert when there were well-watered and better-traveled routes? But for safety's sake they would travel "Home by Another Way."

Is that what we need to do? To find another way to a new home? We need to find a way that seems dangerous, but that leads to a home where every mother's child is cherished and no child is fed at the expense of another. A way on which the sure-footed slow down for the halting, leading to a home where what the blind see and what the deaf hear is valued, too. A way where we have companions we would not have imagined, leading to a home where we listen to each other and abide together. A home, as the song says, where you can assume you'll be welcome in the end.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers are extended to the family of John Robert Bereczki of Reinbeck, whose funeral was celebrated on Saturday, November 29 at St. Gabriel Church. May he know the fullness of God's peace and love in the heavenly kingdom.



Mass Intentions for
December 8 - December 14

		Intention for
Sunday	Immaculate Conception-Day of Obligation	
	4:30 pm at Reinbeck	Hilda Kucera
	6:30 pm at Parkersburg	Shirley Halbach
Tuesday.....	5:15 pm at Parkersburg	Cybil Boes
Wednesday....	8:00 am at Reinbeck	Sam Biersner
Thursday.....	8:00 am at Reinbeck	Tom Billette
Friday.....	7:30 am at Parkersburg	Vincent & Julia Ricke
Saturday.....	5:30 pm at Parkersburg	Thomas Howe
Sunday.....	9:30 am at Reinbeck	For the People

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

***SOMETHING MORE** The format of late-night talk shows might have been stolen from God. The shows have an announcer who introduces the star. God was first when he called John the Baptist to be the herald in the desert and announce the coming of Jesus. Isaiah described the announcer: "Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'" John the Baptist declares: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."*

Income Weekend November 30, 2014

Adult Budget \$ 5,013.50 Needed \$ 4,700.00

Just Ahead

- ❖ Faith Formation, Wednesday, December 17, both locations
- ❖ Initiation Process, Wednesday, December 17 @ R
- ❖ Knights of Columbus Meeting, Thursday, December 18, 7 pm @ R

St. Patrick, Parkersburg location

Confession each Saturday beginning at 4:45 pm for 30 minutes
Faith Formation, Wednesday, December 10, 6:30 - 7:45 pm

St. Gabriel, Reinbeck location

Confession each Sunday beginning at 8:45 am for 30 minutes
Faith Formation, Wednesday, December 10, 6:30 - 7:45 pm
1st Reconciliation, Wednesday, December 10, 6:30 pm
Initiation Process, Wednesday, December 10
Parish Council Meeting, Thursday, December 11, 7 pm
Holy Family Circle Meeting, Sunday, December 14 after Mass

Other Announcements

Totally Catholic Items will be available for purchase this weekend and next weekend after masses. 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.

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—movie to be announced. Everyone is welcome! Hope to see you there!

***Christmas Sharing** - Christ, working through God's love to those in need this Christmas. Thank you for your generosity!*

"Couples of Faith" Join us for our next date night -"The Reason for The Season"-on Sunday December 7, from 5–7 pm. We will be having a marriage panel of 4 couples who will share some insights into building strong and lasting marriages!! Ham dinner with all the fixin's will be served!! Door prize this month will be \$50 gift certificate to Gallagher Bluedorn!! Spread the word and come enjoy food, fellowship and FAITH!! Couples please RSVP for yourselves and daycare by calling, texting or emailing cnorth3412@gmail.com or [319-215-6118](tel:319-215-6118).

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.

Offertory Envelopes The envelopes are in the narthex of both churches. Please pick yours up. If you do not see them, please call the office and we will try to locate them for you.

Initiation Process We will meet December 10, 6:30 PM at St. Gabriel where we will, discuss the next or 3rd Sunday of Advent the "Gaudete" Sunday. Gaudete, Latin for Rejoice, will set a tone of Joyful Anticipation of The Lords Birth, and the second coming which we sometimes forget to remember in this Christmas Season.

OUR SPONSOR COUPLE PROGRAM IS GROWING! We are seeking more couples to help prepare our parish's engaged couples. We are especially looking for a couple in the Dike area to complete our locations. This very rewarding program helps couples understand the importance of a marriage centered on Christ, a covenant of love. If you are interested and would like to know more, please contact Jan Onnen at 319-883-0288 or jan.onnen@cunamutual.com.

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 13	December 14
Accompanist	Lyndsay	Susan Halbach
Cantor	Kathy	Don Davidson
Extraordinary	Greg Lievens(D)	Greg Lievens(D), Rose Kramer*, Shalene Petersen*
Ministers	Cam Coy*	Ann Lebo*, Ron Hayek, Gene Brandt
Of Holy	Julie Dunn	Julie Grunklee, Jessica Benson, Dave Hemann
Communion		Karen Benson, Tina Lyon
Greet	Linda King	Bob & Kathy Eisenman, Helen O'Connor/Agnes Biersner, Al & Denise Bovy
Gifts	Chad & Nikki Schipper	Helen O'Connor/Agnes Biersner
Reader 1	Marty Luhning	Wanda Christensen
Reader 2	Marty Luhning	Joe Davis
Server	Halie Petersen	McKayla Porter, Taylor Frischmeyer
Server	Clara Petersen	Baylee Petersen
Usher	Bob & Peg Neavins	Joe Davis, Darrin Folkerts, Ryan Folkerts
Usher		Brian Kellar, Max Girres, Rosanne Girres
Video		Todd Rickert
Sacristan /MC /Announcements	Becky Lievens	Judy Kershaw / Rita Amling / Julie Grunklee
Collection Counters	Kathy Clark / Al & Patty Hoff	Ron & Colleen Pappas, Joe Davis, Diane Stephan