



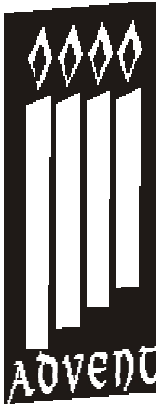
## St. Joseph's Newsletter – December 2008

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Dear St. Joseph Parishioners:



As a young child, I always wanted to eat dessert first! Yes, I suppose you could eat dinner backwards - starting with dessert, and then moving on to the appetizer and main course. In the end you eat all the food, but it's nowhere near as fulfilling as enjoying each part of the meal in its proper place. Or worse, dessert could fill you up before you eat a balanced meal. (I always knew there was a reason why my parents wouldn't let me eat dessert first.)

Sometimes we suffer the same temptation with Christmas. Our culture tends to skip Advent and start celebrating Christmas after Thanksgiving – if we're lucky to make it that far! Then it's all packed up and stored away by New Year's. This year, I would invite you and your family to consider returning to the ancient practice of seeing the whole Christmas "cycle" – the period that embraces both the Advent and Christmas season – as one unit of joyous celebration. Preparation comes first, and then comes the celebration that extends a few weeks after Christmas Day.

The focal point of the Christmas cycle is obvious: God becoming one of us in Jesus, the Incarnation. All three phases of the cycle – Advent, Christmas and Epiphany – hinge on and celebrate that point. These celebrations help us to name the ways our lives are caught up in the "big story" of Christ. And these feasts tie our lives to Christians throughout history. We are reminded of this reality through the gospel message and the living tradition of the Church.

During Advent, which begins in 2008 on November 30, we emphasize the joy that some would compare to the months before a child is born: excitement, wonder, joy, expectation and even exhilaration at the life that is in our midst right now. We also have a hope and longing during Advent that calls us to a careful preparation to get things into order for the coming of Christ in the fullness of time.

During the Christmas season, we celebrate the wonder of the Incarnation. How wondrously we are made that the Word of God would become one of us! God shows us how to live fully: by pouring out our lives for others in love and service. That is what the days of Christmas are all about, that is the great Christmas gift we receive and that we are invited to give.

Epiphany and the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord celebrate Christ becoming manifest - that is, present – to all peoples. On Epiphany we focus on the three Wise Men symbolizing the many races for whom Christ was born. The baptism of Jesus marks the beginning of his public ministry. God's "Christmas gift" of the Incarnation is a gift for everyone! I hope and pray that you and your family can celebrate that awesome gift again during these special days of the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Blessings, Fr. Chris

The community of St. Joseph Catholic Church is a welcoming family of faith, supporting every member in their spiritual journey to worship God through participation in the Eucharist, fellowship, faith formation, and service to others.

St. Joseph Catholic Church  
607 W. Green St.  
Winterset, IA 50273

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### Reflection Questions

**December 7, 2008 - Second Sunday of Advent** ([Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11](#), [2 Peter 3:8-14](#), [Mark 1:1-8](#)) Isaiah uses the images of desert and wasteland to describe the highway where God will come to His people. How are our hearts and our world a desert and a wasteland in need of God's coming? Is it difficult to open our hearts to the comfort and hope Jesus brings? Is there a way to prepare the way for Jesus in our world?

**December 8, 2008 - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)** ([Genesis 3:9-15, 20](#), [Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12](#), [Luke 1:26-38](#)) The first step in our salvation in Jesus Christ is begun in Mary's simple, "May it be done." How does your life reflect this statement? The angel said to Mary, "Do not fear." How do these words also connect this event, the annunciation, to the story of Adam and Eve?

**December 14, 2008 - Third Sunday of Advent** ([Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11](#), [1 Thessalonians 5:16-24](#), [John 1:6-8, 19-28](#)) Who do we know that is sad or troubled or caught in a situation they can't fix? Who is brokenhearted? Who is held captive by fear or doubt or bad habits or addictions? Who doubts God's love for him or her? How can we help now? How can we prepare ourselves to work for changes? What does it mean to say, "The Spirit of God is upon me"? What does this mean for our work, for what God calls us to do?

**December 21, 2008 - Fourth Sunday of Advent** ([2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16](#), [Romans 16:25-27](#), [Luke 1:26-38](#)) Mary does not understand all that God was asking of her. What is the sentence in Luke's gospel that tells us this? What three comforting words did the angel speak to her? What did Mary respond to the angel that says she was willing to do God's will? How can we listen to God who speaks to us in different ways?

**December 25, 2008 - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)** – ([Isaiah 52:7-10](#), [Hebrews 1:1-6](#), [John 1:1-5, 9-14](#)) One of the themes of this gospel is light. How does light "reveal" what is in a dark place? What is darkness in our world? What is light? When someone speaks, that person's words can reveal what they are like. Sometimes Jesus is called "the Word of God." Find the places in this gospel where we are told something about the Word.

**Altar & Rosary Pot Luck Lunch –  
All Are Welcome!**

The December 16 Altar and Rosary Society meeting is having a **GUEST SPEAKER!** Sandra Flahive is the author of the book *Jesus in the Underwear Drawer* - and other tales of holiday hysteria. Sandra has written a collection of humorous essays based on true to life accounts of quirky happenings that take place at holiday time. The meeting will begin at 12:30 with a potluck lunch. Sandra will follow with a talk lasting about 30 to 45 minutes. Our regular meeting will take place after Sandra gives her talk. So bring a dish and plan on attending. **Everyone is invited, so ladies bring your husbands.** It sounds like it will be a fun and humorous meeting.

**Craft Fair a Success!**

Thanks to all who helped with the craft fair! Over \$2,400 was made with more income yet to come. Thanks to all the volunteers and those who contributed their handiwork!

**Quilt Raffle**

We hope you continue to sell your quilt raffle tickets for the beautiful Double Wedding Ring quilt pieced and donated by Elma Tracy. The drawing will be held on Saturday, December 13, at the 5:30 Mass. We are nearing our goal of \$1,000 which will be used to help furnish the new kitchen. If you need more tickets, call Kathleen Kordick at 462-4920. To help with our recordkeeping, unsold tickets should be returned in an envelope with your name in the collection basket. Thanks for your efforts to make this project a big success!

**Final Call for Recipes!**

We are going to extend our recipe deadline to the weekend of Dec. 6/7. We are looking for some more slow cooker recipes, grilling recipes along with marinades and semi-homemade recipes that are fast and easy for those families that don't have time to cook or don't like to cook. You can leave your recipes in the back of the church.

**Auction Notes**

We have a set of handmade cards and a 6-month Madisonian subscription that were never picked up. Could whoever purchased those at the auction please pick them up. Thank you.

**December Music Ministry Schedule**

3 – 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade, 5:45-7 p.m. practice  
3 – Adult choir practice 7 p.m.  
7 – K-6<sup>th</sup> grade practice after 10:00 Mass  
8 – Adult choir, 7 p.m., Immaculate Conception  
10 – 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade, 5:45-7 p.m. practice  
10 – Adult choir practice 7 p.m.  
14 – K-6<sup>th</sup> grade practice after 10:00 Mass  
17 – LIGHT group Christmas caroling  
24 – 9 a.m., joint practice, K-12<sup>th</sup> grades  
24 – 5 p.m. K-12<sup>th</sup> grades sing; be there by 4 p.m.  
24 – 9 p.m., adult choir sings

**Fr. Dick Pommier could use Supplies**

Mike & Karen Pommier will be getting supplies to Fr. Dick Pommier, who is in need of items for his ministry. Old Christmas cards (even just the fronts), small lotion bottles, etc. Contact Mike & Karen as soon as possible to see what is needed as they will be sending them soon.

**Christmas Flower Memorial Donations**

Reminder for memorial donations for Christmas flowers: call our church office at 462-1083 to make your donations.

**No Room at the Inn**

Catholic Charities invites you to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> annual “No Room at the Inn” on Sunday, December 7 from 1-5 p.m. at the Catholic Pastoral Center at 601 Grand in Des Moines. This is a homelessness awareness event and features more than 200 nativities long with music from local choirs. Admission is your donation of a personal care item for St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter.

**Holy Eucharist**

The Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith. If you or someone you know is unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion, please call the office or Deacon Sam. We will arrange to have Communion brought to you.

**Need a Ride to Mass?**

If you would like to attend Mass and are unable to drive, please call the office or Deacon Sam, as we have several people willing to pick up others and bring them to Mass. All we need is a call, and we can make sure you get a ride.

If you are involved in parish activities and would like to submit an article for the newsletter, please e-mail [Braytbunch@aol.com](mailto:Braytbunch@aol.com) or call 515-205-5842. Articles are due the 24<sup>th</sup> of each month.

### **Estate Planning**

Is your will keeping up with you?  
With your Christian commitment, please  
remember St. Joseph Church in your will.

### **Christmas Shopping?**

Please remember our "webstore" for your gift-giving this season! [www.saintjosephchurch.net](http://www.saintjosephchurch.net)

And don't forget our cookbooks make great gifts!

### **December Wedding Anniversaries**

- 10 – Mike & Rita Drysdale
- 11 – Marvin & Mira Imes
- 13 – Angela & Jimi Davis
- 20 – Greg & Deana Armstrong
- 21 – Dan & Christine Faccin
- 29 – Larry Lantz & Maureen Roach
- 30 – Bob & Peggy Casper
- 30 – James & Mary Murphy

### **December Baptismal Anniversaries**

- 1 – Allie Lang
- 12 – Grace Erpelding
- 19 – Nicholas Mortoza
- 19 – Victoria Mortoza
- 21 – Blake Thompson
- 23 – Jaimi Nelson
- 27 – Patrick Junker
- 28 – Joel Smith

### **Mass Times**

#### **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

December 8, 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

#### **Christmas**

Christmas Eve, 5 p.m. and 9 p.m.  
Christmas Day, 9 a.m.

### **Welcome!**

Through the waters of Baptism, our faith community welcomes two of our newest baptized members,  
**Mariah Dawn and Kade Michael White**,  
the daughter and son of Kevin and Ashley White of our parish.

### **December Birthdays**

- 2 – Brent Corkrean, Vincent Mandi, Aspen Parkhurst
- 3 – Christy Brittain, Peggy Casper, Julie Nelson,
- 4 – Christopher Harker, Jean Pletchette
- 5 – Angela Mortoza, Jo Sitkiewicz
- 6 – Larry Nevins
- 7 – Jenny Kordick, Kay Murphy, Brenda Ochiltree
- 8 – David Smith
- 9 – Megan Townsend
- 10 – Don Brittain, Patrick Corkrean, Trevor Davenport, Ashley Johnson, Ben Roth, Nicole Williams
- 11 – Daniel Lawson, Roy Smith
- 12 – Melissa Foley, Morgan Wickman
- 14 – Allyson Dombrowski, Cheryl Emanuel, Roger McKibben
- 15 – Darrin Cox, Nathan Darling
- 16 – Kim Algreen, Morgan Wagner
- 17 – Kaeler Beebe, Kelly Cain, Jeff Dolton, Madison Honkomp, Blake Thompson, John Watts
- 18 – Clara Snyder
- 20 – Shannon Corkrean, Jamie Kruckenburg
- 22 – Evan Schafroth
- 23 – Lindsey Moss, Kenneth See
- 24 – Brandon McKibben, Taylor Schlatter
- 25 – Bobbi Thompson
- 26 – Austin Lang
- 27 – Dylan Wagner, Jenna Wagner
- 30 – Paul Klimesh, Rochelle Lopez, Beverly Maxwell, Grant Williams
- 31 – Bryce Buckalew, Susan Doran, Carol Peterson

### **Calendar**

Detailed info about these events can be found elsewhere in newsletter.

- 5 & 7 – No Room at the Inn.
- 6/7 – Quilt raffle money & unsold tickets due.
- 6/7 – Food Pantry weekend.
- 6/7 – Last date for recipes to be submitted.
- 7 – St. Nicholas Brunch.
- 8 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception.
- 13 – Cookie Walk from 9 a.m. to noon.
- 13 – Quilt raffle drawing at the 5:30 Mass.
- 14 – Have your Giving Tree donations in by today.
- 13/14 – Religious Retirement Collection.
- 16 – Altar & Rosary potluck and meeting – husbands welcome, too!
- 21 – Meeting about Christian Life Community between the 8 & 10 Masses.

### **Advent Approaches!**

Little blue books - Remember to use your blue books and The *Word Among Us* books during Advent this year. Take five minutes a day to use these books to grow closer to the Lord before Christmas. Just five minutes a day will dramatically change your experience during Advent from one of commercialization to spiritual openness. Books are available in the back of the church.

### **Advent Prayer**

When are you coming? I have accepted your invitation, Lord, but when are you coming? I need to be ready, Lord, but when are you coming? I want to share your love with others, Lord, but when are you coming? I will be prepared, Lord, no matter when you are coming!

### **Christmas Giving Tree**

Contributed by Anne Golwitzer.

We are once again participating in the Adopt-A-Family program for Christmas. Our Giving Tree will be at the back of the church adorned with ornaments with specific wishes from each child. Please return your purchased gifts, with matching wish ornament attached to your gift, no later than Sunday, December 14, 2008. You may place your gifts anywhere around the tree. Thank you for your generosity.

### **Liturgy of the Hours**

How's your prayer life? Want to change, add to or mix it up? Please join us in the universal prayer of the Church as we celebrate Liturgy of the Hours. We will again pray each Sunday of Advent at 6 p.m. in the church. Please join us for fifteen minutes a week in our time of preparation for Christ's birth.

### **Food Pantry Weekend**

Food Pantry weekend is December 6/7. Please be generous because the need is always great.

### **Free Piano**

There is a Wurlitzer piano available for the taking. Some keys stick, but this would be an excellent piano for a beginner. It is free for the taking. The "buyer" has to transport it. Call Jean Pletchette at 468-8903 if interested.

### **Cookie Walk**

Our annual cookie walk is December 13 from 9 a.m. to noon. Look further in the newsletter for more information.

### **St. Nicholas Celebration**

December 7 is the annual St. Nick brunch sponsored by the high school LIGHT. You are welcome to bring casseroles or sides.

### **Bare Essentials Campaign**

As part of the Catholic Charities Week 2008, items are being collected that would be considered "Bare Essentials" for someone who needs the basics. Donations will go to stock the shelves at St. Mary Food Pantry and St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter. Please leave your donations in the back of the church.

### **Religious Retirement Collection**

This collection will take place the weekend of December 13/14. Each year, this collection offers us the opportunity to offer financial support to our religious communities. It is also a reminder to us to hold our religious in prayer, to journey with them in hope and grow with them in love.

### **Financial Report**

The St Joseph Annual Financial Report has been submitted to the congregation for review. All questions can be directed towards a member of the Finance Committee. The report is as of our fiscal year end, June 30, 2008.

### **Helping Hands**

Submitted by Sharon Lawson.

Helping Hands is a committee that extends the compassion and presence of our parish to any of our parishioners in need. We respond to the short-term needs of shut-ins, the elderly, the parishioner who has just come home from the hospital, the parishioner experiencing an unexpected illness or other emergency family need and bereavement. Our brightly colored brochures are located at the back of the church and list many of the services we provide. If you are an individual who might require a little extra help at a difficult time in your life or know of someone who is in need, please contact Helping Hands at the parish office, 462-1083.

### **Pastoral Council Minutes**

St. Joseph Pastoral Council met on Thursday evening, November 6, at 7 p.m. in the parish hall. Present were: Fr. Chris, Kris Jacobsen, Kathleen Kordick, Brendan Jackson, Julie Wheeler and Sam Sullivan. Absent were Terry McNamara, Jeff Honkomp, Mike Corkrean, and Nick Junker.

The meeting opened with prayer, readings and reflection over the upcoming Sunday's scripture.

Fr. Chris gave the council an update on the building process: weather to that point was good, so progress was being made. The interior decorating committee had met, and the second Capital Campaign was getting underway. Kathleen gave a report on the auction of items left to the church by a family who had moved a couple years ago. Our goal is almost in sight for the quilt raffle to be held on December 13.

There was a discussion over "Living as a Steward" taken from the book *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*. Another chapter will be read and discussed at the upcoming December meeting.

Extension of terms on the parish council was brought up. Kris Jacobsen graciously agreed to serve one more year. Since Mike Corkrean was not present, we will follow up with him.

The meeting closed with prayer. The next meeting will be held Thursday, December 4, at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Kathleen Kordick, Secretary.

### **Iowa Catholic Conference and Legislative Action**

You can subscribe to the *Iowa Catholic Conference Newsletter* to keep up on important legislative action involving the Catholic community. Contact the parish office for the information.

The Iowa Catholic Conference board of directors approved its list of legislative concerns and priorities during its semi-annual meeting last month. The list is too lengthy to include here, but it is available on the web site at [www.iowacatholicconference.org](http://www.iowacatholicconference.org).

### **Catholic Charities Campaign to Reduce Poverty**

25 million people in our nation sought help from food banks last year – an increase of 18% since 1997. We pray for those whose social security doesn't stretch far enough for groceries.

Save the date: Catholic Charities Des Moines is hosting ISU Extension's Poverty Simulation on Saturday, January 10, at the Catholic Pastoral Center. More details to come!

<http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/poverty/endorsement>

### **Donations Needed for Women Being Discharged from Mitchellville Prison**

Church Women United is providing a ministry for our Iowa women's prison. Some women who are discharged from prison have no resources or support. We would like to help these women by donating some personal items as they begin a fresh start to their life. Some items that are needed: socks, bras, panties (all sizes), shampoo, conditioner, combs and brushes, mirrors, tweezers, soap (bar and liquid), washcloths and towels (hand and body), deodorant, lotion, Q-tips, nail file, nail clippers, phone cards, wallets or small purse, watches, pocket calendar and any other personal item you can think of. There will be a box in the back of the church marked Mitchellville women's prison donations. We would greatly appreciate anything you can give. The box will be taken to the January meeting of Church Women United. Thank you very much.

### **Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration**

We are a contemplative, monastic community of Benedictine women who produce and supply the altar breads for your Eucharistic celebrations. We are embarking on building renovations to provide quality living areas for our elderly sisters, energy efficiency and reduction of space in order to ensure our ministries continue for years to come. We are asking for your help, financially and in prayer, to help us accomplish our goals. Please contact us to learn more about gifting opportunities at [sister@benedictinesisters.org](mailto:sister@benedictinesisters.org) or [www.Benedictinesisters.org](http://www.Benedictinesisters.org).

**Have a very Merry and Blessed  
Advent and Christmas Season!**



## CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY

***T**ogether – finding God in our daily lives....*

*Our modern lives are busy, filled with many distractions and calls for our attention. Our family, work, church, neighborhood, friends, and our own personal needs all make legitimate demands on our energies. It is often difficult to keep our priorities centered on God's loving presence. The CLC way of life invites us to encounter God in all the various aspects of our everyday life, reflect on these experiences, become more aware of God's activity in these experiences, and respond in ever more authentic ways to God's desire within our individual lives and our communal lives.*

**Christian Life Community**, or CLC, is a way to find and enhance this spiritual connection via a small group of 6 to 10 people who commit to joining together regularly in prayer, support, and service.

**CLC members have as their foundation the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola**, who discovered a way to holiness that is well suited to a busy modern lifestyle. St Ignatius teaches that **we can find God in all things**, and this spirituality can lead to a more fully human way of life.

**CLC** is a lay organization with a rich heritage dating back to its founding in 1563 in Rome by Jesuit John Leunis. After more than four centuries, we maintain a close relationship with the Society of Jesus with Jesuits serving as CLC Ecclesial Assistants by appointment of the Father General of the Society.

**Today** CLC is in 64 countries in the world with international headquarters located in Rome. Moreover the Pontifical Council for the Laity, the dicastery that assists the Holy Father in all matters concerning the contribution the lay faithful make to the life and mission of the Church, has designated CLC an international association of the faithful.

***If you would like to learn more about Christian Life Community please contact:***

**Danette Jackson 462-3967 or email [danette.jackson@att.net](mailto:danette.jackson@att.net)**

An informational meeting is scheduled for December 21  
in the Parish Hall between the 8 & 10 AM Masses.



***To see Thee more clearly,  
Love Thee more dearly,  
Follow Thee more nearly,  
Day by day...***



Nov. 23, 2008

Dear Parish Bakers,

It's time to start preparing for our St. Joseph Catholic Church's Annual Christmas Cookie Walk!

Held the second Saturday in December, the Christmas Cookie Walk is a traditional fundraiser for our church, with homemade cookies sold by the pound to the public. This year we are also going to feature handcrafted items created by our parishioners. This event is eagerly awaited by our community, as our parishioners have always supplied **superior** cookies!

The Christmas Cookie Walk will be held this year on **Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 am to 12:00 Noon**. Set-up of the parish hall and boxes will be Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 pm. Cookies may be dropped off at the parish hall the day before the sale, or by 8:30 am on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

If you could please help by bringing in your favorite holiday cookies or candies to sell, it would be **greatly** appreciated. We were sold out by 10:30 last year. Our fundraising in years past has only been limited by the *number* of cookies we had to offer.

Please also let all your friends and relatives know about our Christmas Cookie Walk to make this year's event a great success!

