

# ST. JOSEPH'S MESSENGER

St. Joseph Church

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2010

## PONDERINGS BY FR. CHRIS

Dear St. Joseph Parishioners:

The month of December is filled with so much beauty and rich tradition. I want to use this article to share some thoughts about this richness and beauty that is Advent and Christmas. (I borrowed much of this from [www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com).)

**ADVENT:** The word Advent is from the Latin *adventus* for "coming" and is associated with the four weeks of preparation for Christmas. Advent blends together a penitential spirit, very similar to Lent, a liturgical theme of preparation for the Second and Final Coming of the Lord, called the Parousia, and a joyful theme of getting ready for the Bethlehem event. The traditional color of Advent is purple or violet which symbolizes the penitential spirit. Religious traditions associated with Advent express these themes.

**ADVENT WREATH:** Customarily the Advent Wreath is constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which are inserted four candles. According to tradition, three of the candles are violet and the fourth is rose. The rose candle is lit the third Sunday of Advent, for this color anticipates and symbolizes the Christmas joy announced in the first word of the Entrance Antiphon: "Rejoice" (Latin, *Gaudete*). For this reason the Third Sunday is also called *Gaudete* Sunday. The Advent Wreath represents the long time when people lived in spiritual darkness, waiting for the coming of the Messiah, the Light of the world. Each year in Advent people wait once again in darkness for the coming of the Lord, His historical coming in the mystery of Bethlehem, His final coming at the end of time and His special coming in every moment of grace. During Advent, family and friends can gather around the Advent Wreath lighting the appropriate candle(s), read from the daily Advent meditation and sing songs.



**JESSE TREE:** During Advent, biblical persons representing the ancestors of Jesus, either in faith or bloodline, are gradually added onto a tree or branch, named after the father of David. The symbols such as Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Jesse, David, Solomon, Joseph and Mary can be drawn, cut out or purchased.

**NATIVITY SCENE:** The tradition of having a nativity scene or "crèche" was made popular by St. Francis of Assisi. It is a reproduction of the cave in Bethlehem with Mary, Joseph, the infant Jesus in a manger, shepherds,



### Mass Times

Saturday..... 5:00 PM  
Sunday..... 10:00 AM  
Monday .....None  
Tuesday..... 6:00 PM  
Wednesday ..... 8:00 AM  
Thursday..... 8:00 AM  
Friday..... 8:00 AM

### Reconciliation

Saturday..... 4:00 PM to 4:30 PM  
or by appointment



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angels, and animals. Each night during Advent, children are encouraged to place in the manger one piece of straw for each good deed done that day by a family member. This Advent tradition combines the spirit of conversion and the coming of Jesus.

**CHRISTMAS:** *"The Word became Flesh and made His dwelling among us, and we have seen His glory: The glory of an only Son coming from the Father, filled with enduring love."* (John 1:14) The actual date of Christ's birth is unknown. The Gospels do not record it and there is not any early tradition to identify it. Scholars identify the approximate year as sometime between 8 - 5 BC and the season as probably early spring. The feast day was placed where it was, in all likelihood, to supplant the practice of the winter solstice festival among pagan converts by pointing to Christ as the true light who comes into the world. The Western Church emphasizes the celebration of the Nativity or Birth of Jesus on December 25, while the Eastern Church celebrates His manifestation to the Magi on the Feast of the Epiphany. The word Christmas was derived from the Old English Cristes Maesse or "Mass of Christmas." Over the centuries it has become a comprehensive word including both the religious traditions and the secular traditions.

I hope and pray that you and your family may know the beauty and richness of these December days.

With Advent & Christmas Blessings,

*Fr. Chris*

## Holy Day Masses

### Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

December 7 – 7:00 PM at St. Patrick

December 8 – 7:00 PM at St. Joseph



### Christmas Eve

December 24 – 4:30 PM at St. Joseph

December 24 – 7:00 PM at St. Patrick



*O Come Emmanuel*

### Christmas Day

December 25 – 9:00 AM at St. Joseph

*There will be no 5:00 PM Mass on Christmas Day for Sunday at St. Joseph.*

*Masses on Sunday December 26 will be at the normal times at St. Patrick and St. Joseph.*

## PARISH CONTACTS



**Church Office/Bookkeeper** ☞ Vickie Williams • [office@saintjosephchurch.net](mailto:office@saintjosephchurch.net) • 462-1083

**Newsletter** ☞ Heather Honkomp • [hhonkomp@gmail.com](mailto:hhonkomp@gmail.com) • 468-0781

**Parish Hall Reservations** ☞ Church Office • 462-1083

**Director of Religious Ed.** ☞ Teresa Hoffmeyer • 462-1083

**Altar & Rosary** ☞ Margaret Schleuter • 462-1404

**Helping Hands** ☞ Peggy Casper • 462-2419

**Bulletin** ☞ Mandy Couture • [sgrblosm31@yahoo.com](mailto:sgrblosm31@yahoo.com)

**Music Ministry** ☞ Teresa Kordick • [terkord@msn.com](mailto:terkord@msn.com) • 321-0825

**Youth Ministry** ☞ Gerene Farrell • 979-5156

**Knights of Columbus** ☞ Rich Corkrean • 462-2597

**Prayer Line** ☞ Rosemary Stuchel • 462-4152 ☞ Patricia Corkrean • 462-4251

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS



### **November 28, 2010 - First Sunday of Advent**

*Isaiah 2:1-5, Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24: 37-44*

Sometimes it is hard for us to believe that what we do today matters for tomorrow and, really, for all eternity. Can you think of some examples of the way your actions today will matter for tomorrow and forever? How does what you do today help prepare you and the world for the coming of Christ?

### **December 5, 2010 - Second Sunday of Advent**

*Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-9, Matthew 3:1-12*

How are you getting ready for the Messiah? Are your actions of justice, peace, and love speaking loud and clear as you prepare for Christmas? Are you really a follower of Christ or are you just jumping on the Advent-Christmas bandwagon

### **December 8, 2010 - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Solemnity, Holy Day of Obligation**

*Genesis 3:9-15, 20, Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12, Luke 1:26-38*

Spend some time with Mary and ask her to help you share your graces, gifts, and love with others. Ask her to help you carry out your responsibilities. In what other ways can you be like Mary? How can you listen to God's word? How can you say yes to God?

### **December 12, 2010 - Third Sunday of Advent**

*Isaiah 35:1-6, 10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11*

Is there someone you know who might need to hear this Advent message, "Be strong, fear not! Here is your God!" today? How could you share this message?

### **December 19, 2010 - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*Isaiah 7:10-14, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-24*

What makes for rough times in a relationship? Between parents and children, husband and wife, friend and friend? What can smooth things out? Look at Joseph for an example? What did he have to do before he could move forward in a confusing situation?

### **December 25, 2010 - The Nativity of the Lord Christmas**

*Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-6, John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14*

How will you help make Jesus feel "at home" in your Christmas celebrations? How will you remind yourself and others of the presence of Jesus in our midst this day? How will you keep Jesus at the center of your celebration?

### **December 26, 2010 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

*Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14, Colossians 3:12-21, Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23*

The word *obedience* comes from a Latin word meaning, "to listen." Some of us have developed what is called "selective hearing." We select, or choose, what we want to hear. Why do you think Joseph listened to God? What might have happened if he had taken it easy and not bothered?

## ST. JOSEPH NEWS

### SAINT NICHOLAS BRUNCH

The Saint Nicholas Brunch is December 5th and the Light Youth Group will be serving after 10:00 Mass. Please help serve or bring food to share!

### GIVING TREE

We are once again participating in the Adopt-A-Family program for Christmas this year. 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 19, 2010. You may place your gifts any where around the tree. Thank you for your generosity!



### WARM THE HANDS, WARM THE HEARTS

All are invited to help decorate our Christmas tree in the Saint Joseph's Parish Hall with mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, and socks. Winters in Iowa are cold, wet, and windy. We hope the warm items we gather on our tree will help to keep hands, feet, and hearts warm, cozy, and comfortable this holiday season. All shapes and sizes from children to adults will be distributed within our community and to those in need and will also be greatly appreciated. Please look for our tree from the weekend following Thanksgiving through Epiphany. Thank you for your thoughtful donations!



### CRAFT FAIR NEWS

A HUGE THANK YOU to all the wonderful people who put together our best Craft Fair so far. To date we have raised \$3,565.72 and growing as items are still being sold - this is several hundred dollars more than last year. This money will be used to purchase items for the kitchen and hall and go towards the building fund. The Catholic Relief Services table took in \$222.00, which was great. Several sweatshirts were sold and that money will go towards CRISP. Congratulations to Mary Kordick and Maxine Brunsmann who were the winners of our raffle.

### PICTURE DIRECTORY UPDATE

The final picture taking session by Olan Mills is December 2-3-4. Two previous sessions were in August and October. If you have not had your picture taken and have not scheduled for the final session you have 2 options:

- 1) Submit a quality glossy picture by December 5 (no larger than 4 x 6).
- 2) Have your family picture taken in Parish Hall by directory committee after masses on December 4 and 5 (contact Jean Pletchette, evening 462-4119, to schedule).

We encourage all parish members to participate. To get your free copy of our new updated picture directory you must have your picture taken by Olan Mills or send in a quality picture by December 5. Committee is asking for volunteers to help with the check-in table on December 2-3-4. We also are looking for good photo's of parish activities, sacraments etc.

Contacts: Jean/John Pletchette 462-4119 or Jo Snyder 462-3682

DECEMBER 2010

## HOLY CROP!

5th Annual Holy Crop weekend is approaching!!

Begin the new year with a fun outing! Jan. 8, 2011, from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., come join your fellow croppers/stampers for a fun day. Lots of prizes, food & fun.

For information, contact Mary Kordick at [marykate2361@gmail.com](mailto:marykate2361@gmail.com) (515-205-5842) or Nancy Ivers at [nancers1@gmail.com](mailto:nancers1@gmail.com) (515-462-1563).



## PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

The St. Joseph council met for its regularly scheduled meeting on Nov. 4, 2010. Jill Buckalew, Terry Cowman, Terry McNamara, Jim Murphy, Kathleen Kordick, Jim Heithoff, Julie Wheeler, and Father Chris were all present. Jeff Honkomp could not make it to the meeting.

The meeting started with prayer and reflection. Jim Murphy had reviewed the book, Stewardship- A Disciples Response and gave an overview of the information. A discussion followed. Some ideas that came out of the discussion were: cultivating, enjoying, and sharing the resources we already have; stewardship is linked to discipleship; the need for the parish to understand and buy into the idea of stewardship; and intertwining stewardship into everything we do.

Sharon Lawson joined the group to share some candle choices for the Easter Vigil as new candles were needed. A choice was made. Sharon also suggested the church purchase some blinds for the office windows facing the street for security reasons. The council agreed.

With Christmas creeping up on us, the group discussed when mass times would be, taking in to mind St. Patrick's. It was decided to have mass here on Friday, Dec. 24 at 4:30. St. Patrick's would have mass at 7:00 on Dec. 24. Mass would again be held at St. Joseph's on Saturday morning, Dec. 25 at 9:00. There would be no 5:00 mass on Saturday. Sunday morning mass would be as usual.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by: Julie Wheeler

## HIGH SCHOOL LIGHT

This fall has been VERY busy for the High School LIGHT Group. We started the year with a trip to Sacred Heart for some Catholic comedy with Mike Patin. The next week was the BBQ kickoff cooked and served by our Knight Jim Pottebaum, thank you! The youth have helped with roadside clean up, worked a very successful Covered Bridge Festival and won an award for their cardboard box barn at Reggie's Sleep out. The Lutheran youth group joined us for the annual Trick or Treat for the food pantry, the weather was much nicer than last year.

We would like to thank Natalie Sullivan and Savanah Farrell for a successful year as members of the Diocese Youth Council. They helped plan and execute the Diocese Youth Rally which was attended by 11 of our youth. The word was that they had a great time!

Thank you kids and parents that helped with all of the activities from roadside cleanup to yard clean up. Our youth and the program would not be successful without the support of the adults in their lives. Thank you and Christ's love be with you.

Coming up! The season of Advent is upon us and with that Sunday, December 5th is St. Nicholas Sunday! The LIGHT group will be there to serve the brunch. Please feel free to bring a favorite dish to share.

May the peace of the Lord be with you all this Holiday Season and through out the New Year!

## CGS CORNER - DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

5th - No Sunday Catechesis, St. Nicholas Brunch - All are invited to bring food for the brunch.  
20th, 22nd, 26th, 27th, 29th, January 2nd - No Catechesis (Christmas Vacation)

# DECEMBER MILESTONES

## *Birthdays...*

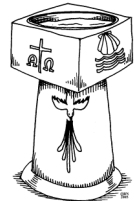
Trevor Bond..... 2	Nicole Williams..... 10	Kenneth See..... 23
Elizabeth Nigg..... 2	Daniel Lawson..... 11	Taylor Schlatter ..... 24
Aspen Parkhurst ..... 2	Roy Smith..... 11	Kacie Feldmann..... 25
Christy Brittain..... 3	Gary Barker ..... 12	Bobbi Thompson ..... 25
Peggy Casper ..... 3	Morgan Wickman ..... 12	Austin Lang ..... 26
Julie Nelson..... 3	Allyson Dombrowski ..... 14	Caleb Moetsch..... 26
Jean Pletchette..... 4	Darrin Cox ..... 15	Mary Linde..... 27
Christopher Thompson .... 4	Nathan Darling ..... 15	Jenna Wagner ..... 27
Angela Mortoza..... 5	Kim Algreen ..... 16	Dylan Wagner..... 27
Jo Sitkiewicz ..... 5	Randy Vandello..... 16	Madilyn McNamara ..... 29
Kay Murphy..... 7	Morgan Wagner ..... 16	Steve Palmer ..... 29
Brenda Ochiltree ..... 7	Kaeler Beebe..... 17	Therese Fath ..... 30
Sarah Kirkland ..... 8	Jeffrey Dolton..... 17	Paul Klimesh..... 30
David Smith..... 8	Madison Honkomp..... 17	Rochelle Lopez ..... 30
Carlos Vallejo-Montoya	Blake Thompson..... 17	Grant Williams..... 30
Moreno..... 9	John Watts..... 17	Bryce Buckalew..... 31
Megan Townsend..... 9	Clara Snyder..... 18	Susan Doran ..... 31
Patrick Corkrean..... 10	Shannon Corkrean ..... 20	Carol Peterson..... 31
Trevor Davenport ..... 10	Evan Schafroth..... 22	
Bill Venhaus..... 10	Lindsey Moss ..... 23	

## *Wedding Anniversaries*

Mike & Rita Drysdale..... 10
Marvin & Mira Imes ..... 11
Gary & Patricia Barker..... 12
Angela & Jimi Davis ..... 13
Greg & Deana Armstrong.. 20
Dan & Christine Faccin..... 21

## **Baptism Anniversaries**

Grace Erpelding..... 12
Nicholas Mortoza .... 19
Victoria Mortoza ..... 19
Blake Thompson ..... 21
Rosy Vallego ..... 25



\*Please Note\*

Children are added to the Baptismal Anniversary list upon registration in the Good Shepherd Atrium/Religious Education program.

If there are omissions or errors, please contact the office at [office@saintjosephchurch.net](mailto:office@saintjosephchurch.net) or 515-462-1083.

## AROUND THE DIOCESE



### NO ROOM AT THE INN - DECEMBER 3 - 5

This event is hosted annually by Catholic Charities as a way to increase awareness of the plight of homeless families in our community. St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter will have more than 300 nativity scenes on display from all over the world.

#### **Fundraising Reception**

Friday, December 3 w 5 pm to 8pm w 601 Grand Avenue, Des Moines  
Call 515-237-5078 for more information.

#### **Poverty Simulation** (Registration Required)

Saturday, December 4 w 9 am to Noon w 601 Grand Avenue, Des Moines  
Go to [www.CatholicCharitiesDM.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesDM.org) or call 515-237-5045 for more information.

#### **Public Nativity Exhibition Viewing**

Saturday, December 5 w 9 am to Noon w 601 Grand Avenue, Des Moines

#### **Musical Open House & Nativity Exhibition Viewing**

Sunday, December 5 w 1pm to 5 pm w 601 Grand Avenue, Des Moines  
Choir performances throughout the day. Go to [www.CatholicCharitiesDM.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesDM.org) for choir schedule.

#### **St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter Open House** w Tour the newly remodeled shelter!

Sunday, December 5 w 1 pm to 5 pm  
1535 11th Street, Des Moines

\*Admission to all Open Houses is a personal care item or cash donation for St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter. Contact Trish Radke at [tradke@dmdioocese.org](mailto:tradke@dmdioocese.org) or 515-237-5078 to learn more!



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## RETREAT OFFERINGS

#### **December 3-5, 2010 (Friday supper through Sunday lunch)**

***Making a pathway for our God – preparing the Way: an Advent retreat.*** Join Fr. Patrick Caveglia and Oblates Ann Cole and Michael Smith to reflect on the dynamic nature of Advent and its impact in our lives. Conferences, ample personal time for reflection, and the opportunity to pray with the monks and seminarians at the Liturgy of the Hours and Eucharist. *(Suggested donation for lodging, meals and conferences: \$125 single, \$200 double accommodation)*

#### **December 9, 2010**

***Having ears to hear: an Advent day of reflection.*** An opportunity to pause in Advent to awaken our hearts to God's voice speaking to each of us. Fr. Patrick Caveglia and Karen Ceckowski will provide reflections. We'll begin with coffee at 9:00 am and a conference at 9:30. Quiet time, Eucharist with the monks, and lunch follow. After additional personal reflection time, we'll close with a 3:00 conference. *(Suggested donation including lunch: \$20 per person)*

#### **December 30, 2010 to January 1, 2011 (Thursday supper through Saturday lunch)**

***Mary, faithful model of commitment: a New Year's retreat.*** Fr. Kenneth Reichert, Br. Placid Dale, and Karen Ceckowski will reflect on Mary's fidelity to her promises and get your 2011 off to a good start. Pray the Liturgy of the Hours and the Eucharist with the monastic community and enjoy ample time for personal reflection and prayer. A special holy hour on New Year's Eve will help you welcome the New Year. *(Suggested donation for lodging, meals, social and conferences: \$125 single, \$200 double accommodation)*

If you'd like to make a reservation, please contact us at **660-944-2809** or at [guests@conception.edu](mailto:guests@conception.edu).

Abbey Guest Center, Conception Abbey, 37174 State Highway VV, Conception, MO 64433

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**ST. JOSEPH CHURCH**

1026 North 8th Avenue  
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**TIDBITS**

**Diocese of Des Moines Kicks Off Yearlong Celebration**

On Sunday, November 21st, the Diocese of Des Moines launched a year of jubilee for its 100th anniversary with the theme "On a Journey Together Celebrating Evangelization: Past, Present and Future." The year will conclude on November 6, 2011 with a celebration and Mass at Hy-Vee Hall in Des Moines.

Find more information & events online at [www.dmdiocese.org](http://www.dmdiocese.org).

 See inside for Holy Day Mass Times.

 Visit [www.saintjosephchurch.net](http://www.saintjosephchurch.net) for this newsletter in color!

January Newsletter Deadline is December 24th.



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