Holy Trinity 2926 Beaver Ave DSM IA 50310 515.255.3162 www.holytrinitydm.org

Taking the Journey TOGETHER

December 19

Love

His greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace.

Micah 5:1-4a

Fourth Sunday of



Join us in person or WORSHIP WITH US ONLINE

www.holytrinitydm.org Rev. Mark Neal, Pastor 515 255 3162 X126

Advent 2021



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS LITURGY AT HOLY TRINITY

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES Friday December 24 4PM 6PM 10PM Saturday December 25 9AM

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY MASSES Sunday Dec 26 8:30AM 10:30AM

SOLEMNITY OF MARY MASS Friday Dec 31 5:30PM

TAIZÉ SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY

6PM SUNDAY – DECEMBER 19

Join us this Advent season for Taizé, an ecumenical prayer service that invites us to find a quiet place of peace in the middle of the busy Christmas season. Taizé is a meditative prayer service that incorporates scripture, song and periods of silence in an atmosphere of soft lighting. Taizé will be held at 6 PM at Holy Trinity and will last about 45 minutes. We hope you can join us.

COMMUNAL PENANCE

These are held around the Dioceses: Dec 18 St. Anthony, Des Moines 9AM Dec 19 St. John the Apostle, Norwalk 1PM

HOLY TRINITY INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS

Wed Dec 22 from 5-6PM



Greetings.

This letter will be brief.

I just want to wish all the Holy Trinity family a Merry Christmas.

It has been over three years since I became pastor of Holy Trinity; my home parish. I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve in a parish with such a rich history and vibrant faith.

I also want to take this opportunity to say thank you to our parish staff, and our school faculty.... please express to them your thanks; they do an outstanding job.

We also have so many tremendous volunteers; without them the parish would come to a grinding halt. Thanks so much!

This picture is one that I received in a card from the youngster that I sponsored in Guatemala. Let's remember to keep all our brothers and sisters around the world in our thoughts and prayers in this season of hope and celebration.



"Feliz Navidad y un prospero año Nuevo!" FR. Manh

Want more information? Go to www.holytrinitydm.org or call 515 255 3162



HOLIDAY PLANNING As you make plans for the holidays, keep this in mind: Christmas Day falls on a Saturday this year. As the solemn celebration of Jesus' birth, this day remains a Holy Day of Obligation. Likewise, the Sunday obligation (for the Feast of the Holy Family) also remains in force. Thus, we will have 2 Mass obligations to fulfill between Dec. 24 and Dec. 26, one for Christmas and one for Sunday. Please note, one cannot "kill two birds with one stone." We must go to two Masses, one for Christmas and one on Sunday, the 26th of December.

EMMAUS HOUSE Need a gift for that hard-to-buy-for loved one? Get him or her a gift certificate for Emmaus House, now in Urbandale. Gift certificates can be used for services and events including group retreats, private retreats and spiritual direction. Call us at 515-282-4839 or email us at marymc@theemmaushouse.org to order a certificate.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY We still need of a few sponsors for this year's RCIA candidates. This is a wonderful way to help a new candidate as well as learn more about our Catholic faith. If you would like to accompany one of our candidates on their journey to becoming Catholic, please contact the Parish Office at 255-3162 ext. 128 or talk to/email Deacon Doug at dougr@holytrinitydm.org.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED We can have 3! Eligible servers are students <u>already</u> trained with Parental Permission. <u>Parents—email student's name and Mass</u> time availability to <u>carolynr@holytrinitydm.org</u>.

USHERS NEEDED! As we are now required to maintain our holy obligation for Sunday masses, we need you! Please contact Andy Negrete 255-3162 ext. 129 or andyn@holytrinitydm.org



JOIN US FOR A HOLY TRINITY TRADITION...THE HANGING OF THE GREENS ON SUNDAY-DECEMBER 19TH AFTER THE 10:30 MASS Join us as we prepare our church for Christmas by "Hanging the Greens" and decorating for the beautiful Christmas Season. Families are welcome. Service hours available. Many hands make light work. See you on December 19th after 10:30 Mass for this Advent tradition.



ONLINE WORSHIP UPDATE We will be livestreaming only the Wednesday Daily Mass, the Weekend Masses and Holiday/Special Masses starting the week of Dec 14. This is <u>THE LINK to our livestream</u>. If you have any question, please contact Father Mark. Thank you!



Due to the holidays: Bulletin articles are due Monday, Dec 20 for the combined Double Bulletin on Dec 26/Jan 2.

Parish Office Closed Friday Dec 24, Monday Dec 27 & Friday December 31. **Parish Holiday Offices Hours** 8 AM until 2 PM Dec 28, 29 & 30th

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS! **To advertise, contact Andy Negrete 255-3162 ext. 129 or** andyn@holytrinitydm.org

FINANCIAL BLESSINGS ENDING WEEK OF DEC 12, 2021						
Budget - July 2021 - June 2022	\$1,000,000	YTD Surplus (Deficit)	(\$30,315)			
YTD Actual Tithing through Dec 12	\$410,349	Tithing for the week ending Dec 12	\$34,190			
YTD Budget through Dec 12	\$440,664	Number of Donations Received	274			

DONATE AT MASS OR ONLINE AT https://holytrinitydm.org/donate

Want more information? Call the Parish Office 515 255 3162 X128 M-F 8AM-4PM

2021 ADVENT GIVING TREE

As we journey through the season of Advent, we will once again have our annual Holy Trinity Advent Giving Tree. Please stop by the tree, located in the Sanctuary, after Mass to see what is needed. istmas

Donations from this year's Advent Giving Tree will be supporting four of our local outreach organizations here in Des Moines:

- ★ St Vincent de Paul
- Connection Café
- Children & Family Urban Movement (CFUM)
- Catholic Charities

We want to thank you for your continued generosity in helping make this Advent season just a little brighter for those in need here in our local community! Donations can be returned to the Giving Tree during any of our weekend Liturgies or they can be dropped off at the Parish Office by December 21. Please contact the Parish Office at 255-3162 if you have questions.



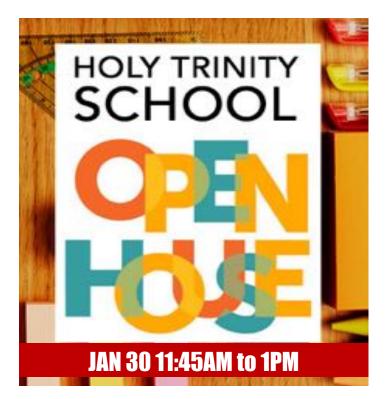






SAVE THE DATE 22-23 ENROLLMENT AT HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL STARTS JANUARY 30

Make sure you have access to early enrollment by signing up https://htschool.schooladminonline.com/portal/new_inquiry



A GIFT JUST FOR YOU! ENROLL EARLY AND SAVE!

Re-enroll your student at Holy Trinity Catholic School by Feb 15 and pay no deposit fee! New family to our school? Enroll by Feb 15 and pay only a \$100 deposit (it goes to \$150 after that date). Early enrollment not only helps your child find a spot at our school, but you'll have peace of mind knowing your child will experience a high-quality, faith-filled education. Learn more holytrinitydm.org/school or call 515 255 3162 x 115.





WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET \$500 OFF TUITION? Holy Trinity offers its school families \$500 for each family they refer who enroll. Do you know a family that would love to have their children attend Holy Trinity Catholic School? Have them contact us today at <u>holytrinity@htschool.org</u>. Are you a family that would like to transfer your students to our school? Children in grades 1-7 receive \$1500 each toward tuition costs! Here are some benefits of our school:

- STREAM: We integrate Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts and Math into our curriculum. This means your student is receiving a well-rounded education with 21-century skillsets taught alongside a foundation of faith and creative thinking. Holy Trinity has won the Governor's STEM grant 7 times.
- INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION: We are right-sized to ensure your children have more one-on-one attention in the class. Most grades average about 15-19 students per class.
- COMMUNITY: We offer a place where not only your child, but your whole family feels welcome. We believe that education is a journey we take together as teachers, admin, staff and parents.

Taking the Journey TOGETHER

Want more information? Call the School Office 515 255 3162 X116 M-F 8AM-4PM Fax 515 255 1381

SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE!



Guaranteed to tickle your faith and nourish your soul! Contact John Mertes at 515 255 3162 x 224 or johnm@holytrinitydm.org for more info



THINKING ABOUT PRIESTHOOD? Bishop William Joensen is offering a unique opportunity Dec. 17-19 for men who are high school seniors or older and thinking about priesthood. Come to Bishop's Discernment Retreat and learn more about what discernment is and what life as a diocesan priest is like. Call Vocations Director Father Ross Parker at 515-237-5050 for or email vocations@dmdiocese.org for more information.

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church of West Des Moines, IA, is seeking a full-time Communications Coordinator. This position facilitates day-today communications which includes the bulletin, website, social media, e-newsletters and marketing materials. The ideal candidate will have demonstrated success in marketing communications, digital and social media, and media relations; with strong writing, editing, communications, and project implementation skills. Candidates should hold а Communications, Marketing, or Journalism degree with a minimum of 3 years of relevant experience. Must have strong computer skills with proficiency in Microsoft Office and webbased content management systems. Practicing Catholic preferred. Please submit Resume and Cover Letter to: Human Resources Coordinator, 7075 Ashworth Road, West Des Moines, IA 50266.

Or by email: communications@saintfrancischurch.org







SAVE THE DATE! September 24 & 25, 2022 Wells Fargo Arena Des Moines

Once again, you're invited to hear world class speakers, celebrate Mass with thousands, fill your spirit with music, attend reconciliation and visit Jesus in adoration.



LIVING CHRISTMAS

In American culture, we tend to put the Christmas cart before the horse! Lit trees go up and carols start playing in stores right after Thanksgiving. By December 26, we're fatigued by it all and start packing up all that's Christmas-y. NOT. . . SO. . . FAST!

Our Catholic faith invites us to a different approach. Advent offers a time for preparing our minds, hearts, and homes. But come Christmas Eve, we pivot to celebrating. We're no longer focused so much on the future, as relishing the promise that is fulfilled. . . now. Emmanuel. . . God with us. . . has arrived! This truth is so gamechanging that a single day is not adequate to take it in and celebrate it. Our Christmas joy spills over into a whole liturgical season all its own.

Please go to this <u>DIOCESAN LINK</u> to find out how you can LIVE Christmas in the faith Dec 25-Jan 9!



Want more information? Go to dmdiocese.org



SPIRITUALITY OF THE READING

Mary as Model of Faith

Picture the scene: Jesus has just impressed a crowd, when a woman, probably a mom, shouts out: "You must of had a wonderful mother!"

Jesus responds something to this effect: "Yes, I had a wonderful mother, though in ways you don't imagine. She was wonderful not because she gave me biological birth, all mothers do that. What made her a great mother is that she gave me birth in the faith."

Birth is only the beginning of motherhood.

Here, as in others places, we have to be careful to understand what Jesus is really telling us about his mother. We see places in the gospels where he seemingly does not speak highly of her when in fact the reverse is true. For example, the instance when he is approached and told, "your mother is here, trying to see you," and he answers, "who is my mother?" Then, pointing to the people sitting around him he says, "Those who hear the word of God and keep it are mother and brother and sister to me." Is Jesus distancing himself from his mother here? No.

He's pointing out the real link between them, namely, among all the people in the gospels, Mary is the pre-eminent example of the one who hears the word of God and keeps it. For this reason, more than because of biological motherhood, Jesus claims her as his mother. Giving birth to Christ is something more than biological. Moreover, it's also something we're asked to do. How? Looking at how Mary gave birth to Christ, we see that it's not something that's done in an instant. Faith, like biology, also relies on a process that has a number of distinct, organic moments. What are these moments? What is the process by which we give birth to faith in the world? First, like Mary, we need to get pregnant by the Holy Spirit. We need to let the word take such root in us that it begins to

Then, like any woman who's pregnant, we have to lovingly gestate, nurture, and protect what is growing inside us until it's sufficiently strong so that it can live on its own, outside us. This process, gestation, as we know, is often accompanied by nausea, morning sickness, and a stretching of the flesh that permanently scars the body.

become part of our actual flesh.

Eventually, of course, we give birth. What we have nurtured and grown inside of us must, when it is ready, be given birth outside. This will always be excruciatingly painful. There is no painless way to give birth. Birth, however, is only the beginning of motherhood. Mary gave birth to a baby, but she had to spend years nurturing, coaxing, and cajoling that infant into adulthood. The child in the crib at Bethlehem will be the Christ who preaches, heals, and dies for us. Every mother needs to give birth twice, once biologically and once in faith, once to an infant and once to an adult.

Finally, motherhood has still one more phase. As her child grows, matures, and takes on a personality and destiny of its own. the mother, at a point, must ponder (as Mary did). She must let herself be painfully stretched in understanding, in not knowing, in carrying tension, in letting go. She must set free to be itself something that was once so fiercely hers. The pains of childbirth are often gentle compared to this second wrenching.

All of this is what Mary went through to give Christ to the world: pregnancy by the Holy Spirit; gestation of that into a child inside of her; excruciating pain in birthing that to the outside; nurturing that new life into adulthood; and pondering, painfully letting go so that this new life can be its own, not hers. When the woman in the crowd told Jesus, "You must of had a wonderful mother!" his answer had precisely this in mind. Mary certainly was a wonderful mother, but in ways that went far beyond the simple fact of motherhood. She heard the word of God and kept it. That obedience, more than biological motherhood, gave both an infant Jesus and an adult Christ to the world.

And in this, Mary wants imitation not admiration: our task too is to give birth to Christ. Mary is the paradigm for doing that. From her we get the pattern: let the word of God take root and make you pregnant; gestate it by giving it the nourishing sustenance of your own life; submit to the pain that is demanded for it to be born to the outside; then spend years coaxing it from infancy to adulthood; and finally, during and after all of this, do some pondering, accept the pain of not understanding and of letting go.

Christmas isn't automatic. It can't be taken for granted. It began with Mary, but each of us is asked to make our own contribution to giving flesh to faith in the world.

Ron Rolheiser



READING | Micah 5:1-4a

PSALM 80:2-19

READING II Hebrews 10:5-10

GOSPEL Luke 1:39-45

Question for Children: How does the Blessed Virgin Mary help you to follow Jesus?

Question for Youth: When have you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit?

Question for Adults: What role does Mary play in your own spirituality? If you were Elizabeth, how would you greet her at your doorway, if she were to arrive there?

Use these activities as a way to further reflect on the Sunday readings:

 Set up the Christmas crèche. Ask a member of the family to offer a blessing prayer that reflects the joy and peace of the season. Talk about how your family will ensure that your holiday celebration will be a joyous event, focusing on the real meaning of Christmas.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Blessed Elisha of St. Clement, Religious

The night before Theodora Fracasso's First Communion, she had a vision of Saint Teresa of Jesus (Saint Teresa of Ávila) who told her that she would become a nun just as Teresa had. She was accepted as a novice at age 13 and worked as a catechist. Theodora joined the Carmel of Saint Joseph and took the name Elisha of Saint Clement. She taught embroidery at a boarding school for girls, but was transferred back to the convent because she was considered too lenient with the girls. She continued her prayerful and loving life until she suffered a long bout of influenza and other fevers and illnesses until she died.

Elisha of St. Clement's message today: This saint discerned her vocation very early in life, something that most of us cannot do. But, at whatever stage of our life we choose a calling, it should be done with prayer and good judgment.

If you have yet to choose where you are going with your life, ask Blessed Elisha to pray for you.



DONATE AT MASS OR ONLINE AT https://holytrinitydm.org/donate

Want more information? Go to www.holytrinitydm.org or call 515 255 3162

PARISH CALENDAR WEEK OF DEC 19 2021

	SUNDAY 12/19	MONDAY 12/20	TUESDAY 12/21	WEDNESDAY 12/22	THURSDAY 12/23	FRIDAY 12/24	SATURDAY 12/25
HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL	Hanging of the Greens after 10:30AM Mass	SCHOOL & SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED for Christmas Break			NO KIDS CONNECTION	NO KIDS CONNECTION	
FAITH FORMATION	Fourth Sunday of Advent		RCIA Meeting 6:30PM CH	No Faith Formation Classes			
ADULT FAITH FORMATION	Mass 8:30AM 10:30AM Taizé 6PM	No Communion Service	Mass 8:30AM	Mass 8:30AM Individual Confession times for Advent 5-6PM	Mass 8AM Adoration 2-9PM Rosary 4:15PM	Mass 4PM 6PM 10PM	Mass 9AM NO Reconciliation NO Sunday Vigil Mass
AND MORE	A PROVIDE FOR THE Fourth Standards of Advant Jones, new are constantly company to your people, and the standard of the standard of the intercompany people for a people of the standard of the standard of the standard Advanced of the standard of the standard of the Advanced of the standard of the standard of the standard of the Advanced of the standard of the standard of the standard of the Advanced of the standard of the standard of the standard of the Advanced of the standard of the standard of the standard of the standard of the Advanced of the standard of the standa					PARISH OFFICE CLOSED DEC 24 & DEC 27 Christmas Break	

CH: Church 101-106: Classrooms DC: Day Chapel K: Kitchen MC: Media Center PO: Parish Office SR: Social Room

MASS / LITURGY SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS DAILY MASS READINGS @ https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/100421.cfm

Jim Durbala

Mildred McClavy

8:30 AM Mass

10:30 AM Mass

NEXT WEEK LITURGICAL MINISTERS / ALTAR SERVERS

DAILY MASS READINGS @ <u>https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/100421.ctm</u>			Saturday Dec 25 0 ANA	Christmas Day	
Sunday 8:30 AN 10:30 A		FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Marcie Coleman Delpha McCormick	Saturday Dec 25 9 AM Altar Servers Lectors EMHC	Christmas Day Volunteers Needed Vonnie Salem & Peggy Jones Peggy Jones & Volunteers	
Monday	y Dec 20	NO Communion Service	Musical Coordinator	Tom Quiner	
8:30 AN		Beverly Cinnamon	Sunday Dec 26 8:30 AM Altar Servers	Holy Family Copic & Cody /Jacob Heikes	
Wednes 8:30 AN	sday Dec 22 ⁄I Mass	Marcie Coleman	Lectors EMHC	Anne Benetti & Linda Willems Team 1	
8 AM M	ay Dec 23 1ass / 4:15 PM	Sharon Kurns Adoration / Rosary	Children's Liturgy Musical Coordinator	No Children's Liturgy Tom Quiner	
Friday I 4 PM M 6PM Ma 10PM N	ass	No Morning Mass Elizabeth Riordan Ruth & Jim Wright Janice Radosevich	Sunday Dec 26 10:30 AM Altar Servers Lectors EMHC Children's Liturgy	Holy Family Claire Zwier & Volunteers Tom Green & Teresa Baustian Team 3 No Children's Liturgy	
Saturday Dec 25 Merry Christmas		Musical Coordinator	ТВА		
9AM M	ass	Frank Keiter	WFFKEND MASSES Sat 4.3	۹۵ PM / Sun 8·30 & ۲۵·30 ۵۸۸	
Sunday	Dec 26	Holy Family	WEEKEND MASSES Sat 4:30 PM / Sun 8:30 & 10:30 AN WEEKDAY MASSES Tue, Wed & Fri 8:30 AM / Thurs 8A		

Want more information? Call the Parish Office 515 255 3162 X128 M-F 8AM-4PM

A PRAYER FOR THE Fourth Sunday of Advent

Jesus, you are constantly coming to your people, even when we fail to see you. In each and every moment that we are blessed to recognize you here and now, give us the courage to leap with joy at your coming. Amen.



Mony Christmas!

WEWISH FORYOU AND YOUR FAMILY MUCH JOY & LOVE WITH A Jew Jew FULL OF GOD'S GOODNESS

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES Friday December 24 4PM 6PM 10PM Saturday December 25 9AM

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY MASSES Sunday Dec 26 8:30AM 10:30AM

