



Holy Trinity

Catholic Church and School

2926 Beaver Ave DSM IA 50310 | 515.255.3162 | holytrinitydm.org

December 24 &
December 31, 2023

Fourth Sunday of
Advent & Christmas

Taking the Journey TOGETHER

*Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this
thing that has taken place, which the Lord
has made known to us. - Lk 2*

From Father Mark | December 24 & 31, 2023

Greetings,

I just want to wish all of the Holy Trinity family a Merry Christmas! It is coming up on 6 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!***

A big thanks to all those who made our Christmas Masses so prayerful and joyful; our deacons, Mass coordinators, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, servers, ushers, greeters... and to all of our musicians and singers. Special thanks to Tom Quiner and Fran Paterik for coordinating our musical efforts. Also a big thanks to Brad Rea and his team of volunteers for making our church so beautiful with all of the decorations!

Finally, thank you to all those who sent cards, gifts and well wishes at Christmas. They were much appreciated!

Have a Merry Christmas and a wonderful start to your new year.

Fr. Mark Neal



From the Church | December 24 & 31, 2023

Holy Trinity Catholic School is hiring. Do you have a strong educational background, solid organizational skills, superior communication skills, and leadership abilities? Consider joining HT as the Physical Education Teacher this year!

Applicants can submit their letters of interest, resumes, three letters of recommendation, and copies of teaching licenses to Monica Morrison at mmorrison@htschool.org.



Knights of Columbus®

Thank you, KOC. Our Knights of Columbus have had a successful month of service within our parish and the greater community. Well done!

KOC presented a check for \$3,740.92 to Ruby Van Meter on Tuesday, December 5, to pay for chartered buses so students can participate in Special Olympics!



KOC also hosted breakfast after Masses on Sunday, December 10. All proceeds from the breakfast benefited *Coats for Kids*!

Baptism Class. The next baptism class is on January 22, 2024, at 6 p.m. in the media center. If you want your child to be baptized at Holy Trinity, please contact Mercedes in the Parish office to register.

Increased reports of flu, cold, and COVID-19. There are not many reports here at HT, but please be prudent when deciding whether to receive from the cup this season.

Successful Baby Bottle Campaign. The HT Respect Life Group is thankful for your participation during the InnerVisions Baby Bottle Campaign.

We raised \$1,471 for InnerVisions HealthCare, helping the women and babies served by their compassionate medical staff. God bless you for your generosity! If you have old bottles to donate, you can take them directly to InnerVisions West or South.

New Outreach Opportunity. The HT Faith Formation Committee will institute a new program in 2024 to provide meals for St. Joseph and Catholic Charities Family Shelter on the fourth Saturday of each month.

The first service opportunity is January 27. Prayerfully consider participating, and recruit friends and family to help! Register at tinyurl.com/htstjoe and contact Nick Bigelow at bigelow.nick@gmail.com for details.



Taking the Journey
TOGETHER

Financial Blessings Ending December 15, 2023

Budget July 2023 through June 2024	\$958,558	YTD Surplus (Deficit)	(\$5,384)
YTD Actual Tithing	\$426,506	Tithing for the Week	\$6,834
YTD Budget	\$431,890	Number of Donations Received	70



Make a donation! Scan the QR Code or visit holytrinitydm.org/donate

Attend Holy Trinity Catholic School!

We pride ourselves on being an Iowa-accredited school that meets and exceeds the state's English, math, science, and social studies standards. Join our educational journey today!

- **Faith Curriculum.** Our students experience Daily Prayer, Weekly Mass, Sacrament Preparation & Participation, Religion Class, and Service Learning.
- **Student Supports.** Our faculty and interventionists are endorsed in special education to meet the needs of diverse learners.
- **Building Character.** Social and emotional learning plays a vital role in the classroom, helping students foster empathy and improve interpersonal skills.
- **Sustained Success.** Holy Trinity is a *Professional Learning Community*. Only one in 200 schools and districts in the United States and Canada receive this honor.

2024-2025 Enrollment Starts Now!

We have space for new preschool, transitional Kindergarten, elementary, and middle school students, and members of Holy Trinity Parish receive top enrollment priority!

2024-2025 Enrollment Priority for Registered and Participating Parishioners began Friday, December 1, and continues through Friday, January 26, 2024. Claim your spot before the general community starts enrolling on Saturday, January 27, 2024.



[Click here or scan the QR Code to apply before January 26!](#)

Need more information? Contact Richard TeKippe at rtekippe@htschool.org for details! Schedule a tour or Student Shadow Day, discuss tuition assistance, and more.

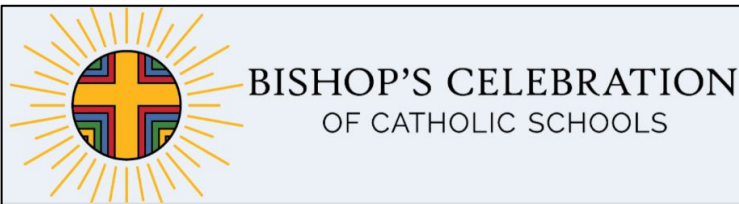


Call the School Office at **515.255.3162 ext. 115** for more information!



Christmas Gift For Married Couples. Want to give your spouse something special this Christmas? How about the gift of romance and excitement? Attend the Worldwide Marriage Encounter for a positive, simple, common sense, private experiences between husband and wife.

Attend February 16 to 18 in Marshalltown, April 12 to 14 in Epworth, September 27 to 29 in Dubuque, and November 8 to 10 in Holstein. Call 563-920-9419 for details.



Nominate an Administrator, Educator, and Volunteer. The Diocese of Des Moines will host the Bishop's Celebration of Catholic Education to celebrate over 150 years of faith-centered education and life-changing impacts.

The Bishop will recognize administrators, educators, and volunteers at the event. Visit <https://bit.ly/475v4Eg> to nominate someone before January 22. The Diocese will announce nominees during Catholic Schools Week, January 29 through February 2.

Man-Up West. Ryland Jones, Army veteran and Dowling *Ut Fidem* Male Coordinator, joins Man-Up West Power Lunch in January.

Ryland will discuss his role with the young men at DCHS and his personal journey to the Catholic Church. Discover how Ryland and the *Ut Fidem* program are helping young men keep and grow their faith in high school and beyond.

Enjoy free lunch from Chick-fil-A on Friday, January 12, at Noon. Man-Up West is at St. Francis of Assisi Church. Visit www.iowacatholicradio.com to register.

Trade your distractions for deeper peace.



We start Jan. 1, 2024:

MenOfExodus.com



This is not your average men's group.

Join us as we strive to be better Catholics, fathers, and men through prayers, fraternity and asceticism.

**Call or text Jacob Meradith-Eyers for more info
513-633-9148**



A Concert to Celebrate The Epiphany. Attend the second annual Epiphany Concert, *Oratorio De Noel*, performed by the St. Augustin, Basilica of St. John, and the Diocese of Des Moines choir members. A reception will follow.

This performance is free, but donations are welcome. *Oratorio De Noel* is at St. Augustin Catholic Church on Friday, January 5, at 7 p.m. Contact communications@staugustin.org for details.

Taking the Journey TOGETHER



Notes on the Mass | December 24, 2023 | Fourth Sunday of Advent

Advent - The twofold character of Advent calls us to prepare for the remembering of the Word made Flesh at Christmas, and wait with alertness for Jesus' second coming.

Reading I : 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 - The Lord is with you.

- In today's reading, David wishes to build a temple, a house for the Ark of the Covenant, and so he consults his court prophet Nathan.
- Nathan relates to David the message that God does not want a house. The essence of God's message is: You will not build a house for me; I will build a house for you.
- The word house implies a temple or dynasty.

Reading II : Romans 16:25-27 - The Gospel reveals a mystery hidden for many ages.

- In the letter to the Romans, Paul teaches about salvation and faith.
- Paul stresses that the Gospel, made known to all, is for the salvation of everyone who has faith.
- The mystery kept secret for ages is now made clear.

Gospel : Luke 1:26-38 - Blessed are you among women!

- The annunciation story in the Gospel of Luke presents Jesus as the fulfillment of the messianic hope.
- In today's passage, Mary of Nazareth humbly accepts the will of God, revealed by the angel Gabriel.
- Luke's Gospel highlights Mary's special role in God's plan of salvation.

Question for Children - If you were to tell someone one thing about Jesus' mother, Mary, what would you say?

Question for Youth - Gabriel's greeting to Mary was, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." This is God's greeting to each of us – he loves us just as we are. What are some of your personal strengths that God rejoices in?

Question for Adults - Name one area of your life where God has surprised you with love, abilities, or even a pregnancy. How is God's Spirit upon you in this dimension of life?

Saint of the Week - Emily

St. Emily and her sister lived a monastic life, filled with prayer and sacrifice. While little is known of their day-to-day lives beyond their holiness, the manner of their deaths is remarkable. Emily's sister experienced a vision of their grandfather who told her of a place in heaven prepared for her and invited her to come to him. Soon after, she became ill and passed away on Christmas Eve. Within a few days, she appeared to Emily and called her to celebrate Epiphany in heaven. Emily suffered a short, sudden illness and joined her sister in heaven on the eve of Epiphany.

Few of us can follow the example of Emily and her older sister. In our world today, a life of constant prayer and reflection is difficult amid all of the distractions that we live with. Perhaps, like Gordiana, we can spend some time on retreat where we can thank God for all of his gifts to us and take a little time to reflect on what God is calling to do.

Do you try to take time for reflection each day? Have you considered joining your parish members in a retreat?



Notes on the Mass | December 31, 2023 | Feast of the Holy Family

Christmas - During the Christmas season from December 24 until the Sunday after Epiphany, we reflect on the mystery of love made visible in the birth and early childhood of Christ.

Reading I : Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 - Those who fear the Lord honor their parents.

- God appoints parents to care for their children.
- Whoever honors their parents atones for their sins.
- Care for parents as they age; be kind and considerate of them.

Reading II : Colossians 3:12-21 - Family life in the Lord.

- Live with heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.
- Forgive one another.
- Live with gratitude and peace in your heart.

Gospel : Luke 2:22-40 - The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.

- Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Jerusalem to present him at the Temple.
- When Simeon held Jesus in his arms, he recognized him as the Messiah.
- As a child, Jesus grew stronger and he was filled with wisdom.

Question for Children - Why is it important for you to obey your parents or guardians?

Question for Youth - God chose to be among us in the person of Jesus. How does having a God who knows what it means to be human affect the way you pray or think about God?

Question for Adults - Whether single, married, or divorced, how does Paul's advice ring true in your own life? Choose one of his suggestions and share how it touches your life.

Saint of the Week - Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr


Thomas Becket was the son of the sheriff of London, and was well educated. His parents died when he was 21, and he went to work for a relative in London. Later, he joined the household of a local bishop and was eventually ordained and then made Archbishop of Canterbury himself. As Archbishop, he gave up the rich life style of England's rulers and adopted an austere life instead, centered in prayer. He was known for his generosity to the poor and greatly assisted King Henry in formulating the reforms in the justice system that were instituted during his tenure. He was forced by his own conscience to come into conflict with the King, who later murdered Thomas in his cathedral at Canterbury.

Thomas Becket is an excellent example of someone who made drastic life changes in order to follow his calling. Although his personality and methods could be offensive to others, he lived by what he believed was right.

What are the causes and issues in our times that you feel are worth fighting for?



Parish Calendar | December 24, 2023


	Sunday [12/24]	Monday [12/25]	Tuesday [12/26]	Wednesday [12/27]	Thursday [12/28]	Friday [12/29]	Saturday [12/30]
School		No School Christmas Break	No School Christmas Break	No School Christmas Break	No School Christmas Break	No School Christmas Break	
Faith Formation							Sunday Reading Groups Men (MC) 7:30AM Women (CH) 8:30AM
Adult Faith Formation	Mass 8:30AM & 10:30AM	Mass 9AM	No Mass	No Mass	Mass 8AM Adoration 2-9PM Rosary 4:05PM	Mass 8:30AM	Reconciliation 3-3:45PM Mass 4:30PM
More		Parish Office Closed	Parish Office Closed				
CH: Church 101-106: Classrooms DC: Day Chapel K: Kitchen MC: Media Center PO: Parish Office SR: Social Room							

Upcoming Mass Schedule, Liturgy Schedule, and Intentions			
[12/24]	8:30AM	Mass	Carl & Elizabeth Neal
	4PM	Xmas Eve Mass	Max Fahnlander
	6PM	Xmas Eve Mass	Marcie Coleman
	10PM	Xmas Eve Mass	For the Parish
[12/25]	9AM	Xmas Day Mass	The Neal Family, living & deceased
[12/28]	8AM	Mass	Elizabeth Green
	2-9PM	Adoration	
	4:05PM	Rosary	
[12/29]	8:30AM	Mass	Georgette Droessler
[12/30]	4:30PM	Mass	Marcie Coleman
[12/31]	8:30AM	Mass	Frank & Janice Radosevich
	10:30AM	Mass	For the Parish

Upcoming Liturgical Ministers and Altar Servers		
Sunday	Altar Servers	P. & L. Carroll, J. Lynch, B. Steinkamp, J. & H. Kajewski
[12/24]	Lectors	Olivia Kiernan & Kathy Obradovich
4PM	MC	Katy Polich and Karen Quiner
	Music Coordinator	Tom Quiner
Sunday	Altar Servers	Jack Hoodjer
[12/24]	Lectors	Jeff Nielsen and Chris Coleman
6PM	Music Coordinator	Schola
Sunday	Altar Servers	Jack Ernst & Tyler Leo
[12/24]	Lectors	Mark Amadeo & Linda Willems
10PM	MC	Mark Amadeo
	Music Coordinator	Kerr Family
Monday	Altar Servers	MC. Bergman, C. Bryant, I. & L. Perry
[12/25]	Lectors	Peggy Jones & Ann Benetti
9AM	MC	Paul Bush
	Music Coordinator	Brenda Heggen, Jake Leo

Taking the Journey
TOGETHER

Parish Calendar | December 31, 2023

	Sunday [12/31]	Monday [1/1]	Tuesday [1/2]	Wednesday [1/3]	Thursday [1/4]	Friday [1/5]	Saturday [1/6]
School		No School Christmas Break	No School Christmas Break	No School Christmas Break		\$1 Jeans Day hosted by 6th Grade	
Faith Formation							Sunday Reading Groups Men (MC) 7:30AM Women (CH) 8:30AM
Adult Faith Formation	Mass 8:30AM & 10:30AM	Solemnity of Mary Mass 9AM	No Mass	Mass 8:30AM	Mass 8AM Adoration 2-9PM Rosary 4:05PM	Mass 8:30AM	Reconciliation 3-3:45PM Mass 4:30PM
More							
CH: Church 101-106: Classrooms DC: Day Chapel K: Kitchen MC: Media Center PO: Parish Office SR: Social Room							

Upcoming Mass Schedule, Liturgy Schedule, and Intentions			
[12/31]	8:30AM	Mass	Frank & Janice Radosevich
	10:30AM	Mass	For the Parish
[1/1]	9AM	Mass	Bill Hicks
[1/2]		No Mass	
[1/3]	8:30AM	Mass	Elizabeth Green
[1/4]	8AM	Mass	Martin McGrane
	2-9PM	Adoration	
	4:05PM	Rosary	
[1/5]	8:30AM	Mass	Jeanette Sperling
[1/6]	3-3:45PM	Reconciliation	
	4:30PM	Mass	For the Parish
[1/7]	8:30AM	Mass	Michael Timmons
	10:30AM	Mass	Tim Sheaff

Upcoming Liturgical Ministers and Altar Servers		
Saturday	Altar Servers	Vinny/Burke Smith & Payton/Maren Wolfe
[12/30]	Lectors	Dave Bunkers, Lorraine Riseley
4:30PM	EMHC	Team 3
	Music Coordinator	Tom Quiner
Sunday	Altar Servers	Abram Witt, Jacob Heikes, Evelyn Hunt & Mary Cate Bergman
[12/31]	Lectors	Ann Benetti, Steve Stimmel
8:30AM	EMHC	Team 1
	Children's Liturgy	none
	Music Coordinator	Tom Quiner
Sunday	Altar Servers	Gemma Koeler & Addie Koester
[12/31]	Lectors	Rob Hoover, Rachel Nabor
10:30AM	EMHC	Team 3
	Children's Liturgy	none
	Music Coordinator	Frances Paterik

Taking the Journey TOGETHER



View the Parish Calendar online at holytrinitydm.org/home/calendar

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Holy Trinity Bulletin printed by Big Red Q Quickprint
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