

Holy Trinity

Catholic Church and School

DECEMBER 7TH, 2025 | SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Taking the Journey TOGETHER



MASS SCHEDULE

MON: No Mass/Communion Service

TUE: 8:30 AM Mass

WED: 8:30 AM Mass

THU: 8:30 AM Mass & 2:00-9:00 PM Adoration

FRI: 8:30 AM Mass

SAT: 3:00-3:45 PM Reconciliation & 4:30 PM Mass

SUN: 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Mass

**Mass Times often change for Holy Days of Obligation*

**WORSHIP
ONLINE**
on YouTube

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GET TO KNOW US

HOLY HALF HOUR

December 10th

Next Wednesday evening, December 10th, Holy Trinity will be having a special "child friendly" Holy Half Hour beginning at 6:00pm. This Holy Half Hour will begin with Eucharistic Adoration and conclude with Benediction. Parents are encouraged to bring their children and enjoy time with Jesus.

PARISH INFORMATION

Pastoral Care. Nourish for Caregivers is for anyone juggling the challenges of life, health and career while caring for an aging parent, grandparent, or spouse, either in your home, in town or at a distance. Nourish provides family caregivers practical and emotional supports, shared experiences and useful tools, all with a Christ-centered view.

In the chaotic hustle of the day-to-day juggling of work and home life, caregivers often forget that they don't have to do it all. Asking for help is not easy. We tend to want to go it all alone, taking burdens on our shoulders, or maybe expecting others to read our mind, knowing we desperately need help. There is help, and hope, available.

Nourish for Caregivers meets monthly on the 2nd Monday of the month. Locations for Nourish for Caregivers sessions are Holy Trinity in Des Moines (using the parish main entrance) and St. Pius X (using east entrance).

Questions? Contact Deacon Troy Thompson at troyt@holycatholicdm.org or Deacon Jim Houston at pastoralcare@saintpiuschurch.org.

Coffee and Donuts: We appreciate everyone who has volunteered to assist with serving coffee and donuts. If you would like to participate, please [sign up here!](#) You may also get in touch with Jan Swinton at jans@holycatholicdm.org in the parish office.

Baptism: Do you want to celebrate your child's baptism at Holy Trinity? Our next Baptism class will be January 5th.

Rosary: Join us as we pray the rosary together. The next date is Thursday, December 11th at 8 pm at Sara Sullivan Bigelow's house: 403 42nd street. The Rosary is a form of contemplative prayer that draws people into deeper relationship with Jesus Christ by meditating on key events in His life. Contact Jan Swinton in the Parish Office at jans@holycatholicdm.org with questions.

PEACE

Second Week of Advent

Each family attending Masses has been gifted a copy of a book entitled Slowing Down to the Speed of Joy by Matthew Kelly, to help us have a more meaningful Advent Season. The theme for the second week of Advent is PEACE. The book encourages us to pause and be present. Pick up your book at the church entrance, church vestibule or the Parish Office.

Question to ponder: What one activity or commitment will you intentionally remove or slow down this week to create the mental space necessary for Christ's gift of peace?

PASTORAL CARE

Nourish for Parents Support Group for Children with Disabilities and Mental Health Challenges.

This support group encourages and empowers parents in their caregiver roles offering practical, emotional and spiritual support through faith. The location is moving to Sacred Heart Parish, 1627 Grand Avenue, West Des Moines. Meeting dates & time are **Dec 13th , Jan 10th , Feb 14th from 9:30-11:00.**

Child care is provided. Go [here](#) to register your child/children before each meeting. We'd love you to join us! Please contact Kate McInroy kmcinroy59@gmail.com or Anna Wholey awholey@gmail.com



Our Mission is to Support & Empower Caregivers Through the Gift of Faith

SCHEDULES

UPCOMING MASS SCHEDULE

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Dec. 7th | 8:30AM 10:30AM | Mike Duff Hagedorn Family |
| Dec. 9th | 8:30AM | Pat McGoldrick |
| Dec. 10th | 8:30AM | Mary Green |
| Dec. 11th | 8:30AM 2:00-9:00PM 4:05PM | Nicky J. Cardamon <i>Adoration</i> <i>Rosary</i> |
| Dec. 12th | 8:30AM | Nicky J. Cardamon |
| Dec. 13th | 3:00-3:45PM 4:30PM | <i>Reconciliation</i> Tim Simmons |
| Dec. 14th | 8:30AM 10:30AM | For the Parish Tim Cooney |

UPCOMING LITURGICAL
MINISTERS & ALTAR SERVERS**Saturday, December 13th: 4:30pm****Altar Servers** | Frank & Louie Brett and Jude & Hugh Kajewski**Lectors** | Gary Thull & Todd Treese**EMHC** | Team 2**Music Coordinator** | Tom Quiner**Sunday, December 14th : 8:30am****Altar Servers** | Hilari Thibodeau, Sullivan Kelley, Geneva Knapp and Penelope Blaser**Lectors** | Steve Stimmel & Jeff Nielsen**EMHC** | Team 2/MC: Katy Polich**Children's Liturgy** | Team B: Katy Polich**Music Coordinator** | Tom Quiner**Sunday, December 14th : 10:30am****Altar Servers** | Noah & Piper Dragoo, Hannah Hermann and Jack Mundy**Lectors** | Mary Ellen Winston & Mike Glynn**EMHC** | Team 2/MC: Mary Ellen Winston**Children's Liturgy** | Team 4: Chris Coleman & Joan Niday**Music Coordinator** | Eric Sharp

CALENDAR | DECEMBER 7TH, 2025

| | Sunday Dec. 7th | Monday Dec. 8th | Tuesday Dec. 9th | Wednesday Dec. 10th | Thursday Dec. 11th | Friday Dec. 12th | Saturday Dec. 13th |
|------------------------------|--|--|---|---|-------------------------------|---|---|
| School | | All School Mass Hosted by: 7 th Grade | Band Concert 6:30PM (Gym) | | | Free Spirit Dress Down Day | |
| Faith Formation | Children's Choir at 10:30 Mass | Immaculate Conception of the BVM 6:30PM (CH) | Short Adoration & Morning Prayer following 8:30AM Mass (CH) | Children's Choir Practice 5:45PM (CH) Confession 6-7PM (CH) | | Morning Prayer following 8:30AM Mass (CH) | Sunday Reading Group Mens (MC) 7:30AM Womens (CH) 8:30AM |
| Adult Faith Formation | Advent Generations of Faith 4-6PM (SR) | | OCIA 6:30PM (MC) | Schola 6:30PM (CH) | Book Club 7:00PM (MC) | | Nourish for Parents at Sacred Heart 9:30-11:00AM Babysitting Event 12-5:00PM (SR, Gym, 103, 106) |
| More | Coffee & Donuts following 8:30 & 10:30 Mass Hosted By: Advent GOF | | Confession 1:15PM (CH) | 9th Grade Confirmation 6:30PM (Rooms 101, 102) FF & Edge Class 6:30PM (Rooms 103, 104) | Rosary at the Bigelows 8:00PM | | Parish Wide Adult Advent Retreat 12-4:00PM (MC) |

TAIZE THIS ADVENT

December 14th | 5PM-5:45PM

Please join us for an evening of Taize' prayer on Sunday, December 14th, from 5:00pm to 5:45pm at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 2926 Beaver Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310. Holy Trinity will hold one Taize' service this Advent season as an invitation to quiet our minds and soften our hearts in anticipation of the coming of Christmas.

The Taize' (pronounced tay-zay) prayer service is an ecumenical, meditative form of worship. Founded in 1940, the Taize' community unites Christians from all backgrounds through prayer, song, silence and personal reflection. We look forward to sharing this special service with you.

ADVENT BOOK STUDY

Slowing Down to the Speed of Joy

As the Advent season rapidly approaches, we want to let you know about a book study that we will be doing as a parish. Because of the generosity of the Knights of Columbus and the Holy Trinity Church Foundation, we will be giving each HT family a free copy of well known Catholic Presenter & Author Matthew Kelly's new book entitled Slowing Down to the Speed of Joy.

You may pick up your copy of Matthew Kelly's book at the church entrance, church vestibule or the Parish Office. This is an opportunity for each of us to take some time to discover the true Joy of the Advent & Christmas seasons. If you have questions, please feel free to contact John Mertes, Director of Faith Formation at johnm@holytrinitydm.org, or via telephone at (515) 255-3162, extension 224.

ADORATION

Pray with us on Tuesdays

Adoration during Advent is a practice of spending quiet time before the Eucharist to prepare for Christmas, focusing on an attitude of prayer and expectation. Following 8:30 a.m. Mass on Tuesdays during this beautiful season of Advent, please join us for a short Adoration followed by the Morning Prayer.

ADVENT GIVING

Thank you for your support

As we begin the Advent season, we once again ask for your support for our annual Advent Giving Tree. This year we will be supporting CFUM (Children & Family Urban Movement). Connection Cafe, Mary's Helping Hands, and St. Vincent de Paul. Please stop by the tree and grab an ornament or two to help a family in need during this Advent & Christmas season. Donations will be collected during our Advent and Christmass masses. Donations can also be dropped in the parish office. If you have any questions, please contact John Mertes, Director of Faith Formation in the parish office. Thank you for your continued generosity year after year.

THE HOLY TRINITY FOUNDATION UPDATE

Invest In Our Parish

Established in 1974, the Holy Trinity Foundation exists to support parish programs, emerging needs, and parish improvements beyond what the annual budget provides. The Foundation gives parishioners a meaningful way to continue long-term support of the parish through estate planning, memorials, and other lasting gifts. All contributions to the Foundation are carefully preserved and invested. As special needs arise, the Foundation responds through direct financial support or by offering low-interest loans to the parish. If you are interested in making a donation or would like more information, please contact Mary Gisler at 515-255-3162 ext. 123 or maryg@holytrinitydm.org.

SCHOOL NEWS

ENROLLMENT 2026-27

NOW OPEN!

Starting November 29th, Catholic Schools in the Des Moines metro opened priority enrollment for our parishioners. Hundreds of families have already applied, so if you're considering Catholic education, don't wait. Contact the Catholic Schools Office to see which classes still have open seats. Visit dmdiocese.org/schools to learn more.

Enroll at Holy Trinity for the 2026-27 school year here.

HOLIDAY BABYSITTING

DECEMBER 13TH | 12:30PM-4:15PM

Take the day to get that last minute Christmas Shopping or wrapping done! Holy Trinity Sixth Graders will be babysitting children for free will donations to support their Des Moines Refugee Fundraiser that will go directly to buying material for tie blankets for those in need.

Free will donations are appreciated. A snack will be provided. Children must be potty trained.

RSVP HERE

HT SPIRIT STORE

Get your Holy Trinity gear!

Another great way to get cold weather gear? Start shopping online today at shopholytrinitydm.com! **Filter and see what items are uniform approved.**

-BONUS! Ship to School: Email will be sent when order is ready; Purchase(s) will be sent home with student. **Every purchase from the Spirit Store helps raise funds for our school community.**

Shop today at shopholytrinitydm.com

UPCOMING DATES

Mark your calendar!

DECEMBER 8th All School Mass hosted by the 7th Grade

DECEMBER 9th Band Concert

DECEMBER 12th Free Spirit Wear Day

SUPPORT HT'S SCRIPT PROGRAM

By Shopping at Your Favorite Places, You Can Make a Difference!

What Is Srip? Srip is a nationwide program that allows Holy Trinity to purchase both electronic and physical gift cards from national and local retailers at a discounted rate. Holy Trinity then sells these gift cards to you at their full face value. The profit generated from this transaction is shared equally: 50% goes to you, and the remaining 50% supports Holy Trinity's School & Family Organization (SFO). The SFO uses its portion to fund a variety of incredible initiatives and activities for our school community. You will receive an annual check for your share to use however you wish!

How Can I Participate? Participating in the program is easy and convenient. The simplest way to get involved is by using the RaiseRight app or by visiting www.raiseright.com to create your account. When you sign up, please make sure to enter our school code: B6E193E11415. We also have a selection of physical gift cards available in the Parish Office. If you are interested or need assistance, please email holytrinitysfo@gmail.com. We are happy to help you with your purchase!

Questions? If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Sarah Brett at 515-897-9781 or send an email to holytrinitysfo@gmail.com. Thank you for supporting Holy Trinity's Srip Program!

Online Enrollment Form Here

Advent

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS LITURGY

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Wednesday, December 24th at 4pm, 6pm, and 10pm

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

Thursday, December 25th at 9am

RETREATS AND GATHERINGS

GENERATIONS OF FAITH

Wednesday, December 3rd from 6-8pm

Sunday, December 7th from 4-6pm

ADULT ADVENT RETREAT

Saturday, December 13th from 12pm-4:30pm

SPECIAL PRAYER SERVICES

TAIZE at HOLY TRINITY

Sunday, December 14th 5-5:45pm

RECONCILIATION

CONFESSiON at HOLY TRINITY

- December 6th : 3-3:45pm
- December 9th : 1:15pm-2pm
- December 10th : 6-7pm
- December 13th: 3-3:45pm
- December 16th: 1-2pm
- December 17th: 6-7pm
- December 18th: 1-2pm
- December 20th : 3-3:45pm
- December 23rd: 6-6:45pm

DIOCESAN ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES 2025

- Tuesday, December 2 6:00 pm (St. Catherine of Siena, Des Moines)
- Tuesday, December 2 7:00 pm (St. Francis of Assisi, West Des Moines)
- Wednesday, December 3 6:30pm (St. Augustin, Des Moines)
- Thursday, December 4 6:30 pm (Our Lady's Immaculate Heart, Ankeny)
- Wednesday, December 10 6:30 pm (St. Theresa, Des Moines)
- Wednesday, December 10 6:15 pm (St. Joseph, Des Moines)
- Sunday, December 14 2:00 pm (St. Mary of Nazareth, Des Moines)
- Sunday, December 14 3:00 pm (St. John, Adel)
- Thursday, December 18 7:00 pm (Ss. John and Paul, Altoona)
- Sunday, December 21 4:00 pm (St. Pius X, Urbandale)



Holy Trinity
Catholic Church and School

Generations of Faith

12.03.2025 AT 6:00 PM-8:00 PM
12.07.2025 AT 4:00PM-6:00PM

TRIVIA NIGHTS | HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC
CHURCH



Holy Trinity
Catholic Church and School

There is no cost to attend!
Dinner will be provided, and we'll have exciting prize
giveaways.

These evenings are open to all Holy Trinity households.
Join us as we continue to prepare the way of the Lord!

PARISH/DIOCESAN NEWS

HOLY TRINITY'S FIRST ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

JANUARY 3RD | 5:30PM

Proud of your chili recipe? Enter Holy Trinity's chili cook-off taking place on January 3rd, sponsored by HT's Respect Life Committee. Entry fee is \$25, limited to just fifteen entrants. Winning entrant receives a \$100 gift certificate to Christophers, \$50 gift card to Fareway Meat Market and \$25 gift card to Grounds for Celebration! The winner will be determined by Holy Trinity's own all-star panel of celebrity judges. Parishioners are invited to sample these delectable offerings by making a free-will offering. Chili, hot dogs, chips, wine, beer, lemonade and cookies included! The event will take place in the school gym/cafeteria immediately following the 4:30pm mass.

Questions? Contact Courtney Robey: bcrobey19@gmail.com. Use the QR code below to sign up to be a contestant!



**SCAN CODE
TO ENTER
YOUR CHILI**

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Check Out Upcoming Dates

Fall is a beautiful season full of color and crisp fresh air. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience is like autumn because it's a weekend full of fresh air, new beginnings and a time to rejoice in the beauty of your marriage. It's a great time to rekindle communication and enjoy a weekend away. Dates of upcoming experiences are a non-residential weekend November 7-9 in Ankeny and a residential weekend February 13-15 in Dubuque.

For more information call Greg and Denise: 563-920-9419



DIRECTOR OF HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

NOW HIRING

The Director of HS Youth Ministry position will be 25-30 hours per week year-round, and is responsible for implementing the Parish's pastoral plan for youth in a framework that promotes lifelong formation in faith. Candidates must be Catholics in good standing and be able to pass a background check.

For a full job description [click HERE](#). Resume and cover letter should be sent to the attention of Father Neal, fmneal@holytrinitydm.org.

Position Specific Requirements:

- Skills, Knowledge and ability for Pastoral Planning.
- Must complete Diocesan Required VIRTUS training and background check;
- Basic Theology – Degree preferred
- 2-3 Years' Experience preferred
- Program Development
- Basic knowledge of Microsoft platforms (excel, Word) and Google environment. Ability to navigate and use electronic media for communications and other essential job functions.

OUR FAITH EXPLAINED

PEACE, EXPLAINED!

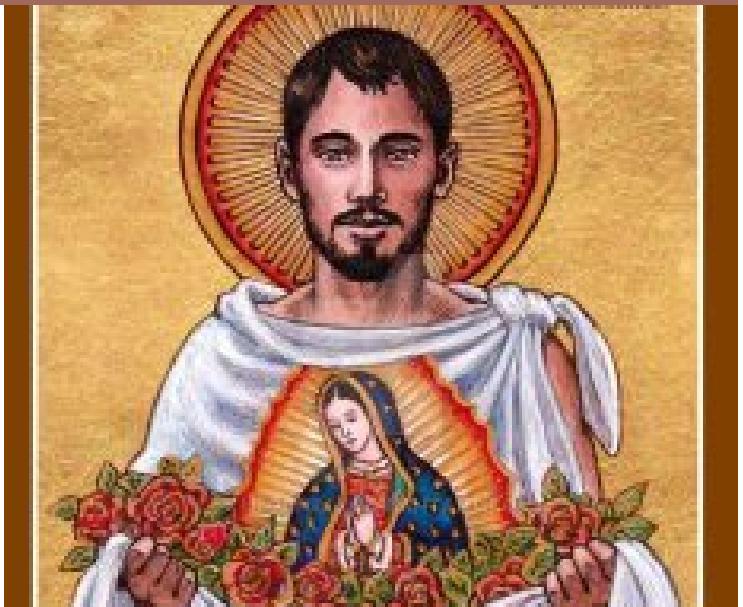
Virtues, Explained

Peace. There may be no other word in the English language, writes Msgr. Stuart Swetland in Catholic Answers, "more susceptible to sloganeering, and thus misunderstanding." But what is peace, in the context of Catholic virtue?

The peace of God, writes Paul in his Letter to the Philippians, "surpasses all understanding." {Phil. 4:7} Peace is both a fruit of charity {CCC 7829} and a fruit of the Spirit {CCC 7832}. Our modern Catholic understanding of peace is derived from the Hebrew concept of shalom, or wholeness, and it refers not just to an absence of violence (mandated by the fifth commandment) but to a personal reconciliation with one's Creator. Peace is a spiritual effect of the Sacrament of Reconciliation {CCC 7496}.

Our search for interior peace in our hearts parallels the historic struggle of mankind to realize peace in the world by practicing justice. "When we hear the Gospel, dear brothers and sisters," said Pope Benedict, "we learn to build peace on the truth of a daily life inspired by the commandment of love."

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SAINT OF THE WEEK

Juan Diego, Farmer, 1474-1548

Juan Diego was a poor Aztec Indian who lived in Mexico. They raised vegetables on their little farm, and every Saturday he took them to the local market to sell them to help support his family. He always went to Mass on those trips into the town. One Sunday, on his way to Mass, Juan heard beautiful music and saw a lady wearing a blue veil and a dress the color of roses. He saw right away that this was Mary, the mother of God. Juan was sent by Mary to ask the local bishop to build a chapel there where people could pray to her. He did as told, and today we honor him for trusting in her word. She gave him a sign to show to the bishop, to help him believe, too.

Pope John Paul II canonized this saint on July 37, 2002 at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Saint Juan Diego is honored by the Church with a memorial on December 9, the date of his first vision.

Simple faith can do great things! Is your faith strong enough to do what Juan did?

Juan's message today: Although Juan was a man of very simple means, he was not afraid to speak to the bishop when emboldened by Mary's request. Our faith can help us to speak boldly as well, whether it be in the name of justice or simply to help someone in need.

- Who or what needs your boldly spoken words right now?

PRAYER & READINGS



READINGS

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reading I : Isaiah 11:1-10

The wolf shall be a guest of the lamb.

Reading II : Romans 15:4-9

Accept one another, as Christ accepted you.

Gospel : Matthew 3:1-12

Reform your lives!

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Question for Children: Beyond toys and other things, what do you hope will happen in your family this Christmas?

Question for Youth: What are the greatest challenges you face as a young person today in terms of allowing Christ to be your teacher and following him?

Question for Adults: Name the one thing in your life which you must "move out of the way" in order to make more room for Christ – a grudge, a possession, a memory, hurt, or feeling.

CHURCH FINANCES

Financial Blessings Will Be Reported in the 12/14/25 Bulletin

For pledging & payment:

[https://holytrinitydm.org/
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or scan the QR Code --->



Thank you for your generous giving!



HOLY TRINITY PRAYER

Gracious God, the perfect love and communion of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit together makes the Most Holy Trinity; one God. God the Father, who created us; Jesus God the Son who gave His life to save ours; God the Holy Spirit who guides us each day.

Help us follow the example of the Most Holy Trinity as we seek to faithfully walk the path that you lay before us; to love and serve others; build a more caring and respectful world and answer your call in our lives as we take this journey together as one people of God.

AMEN



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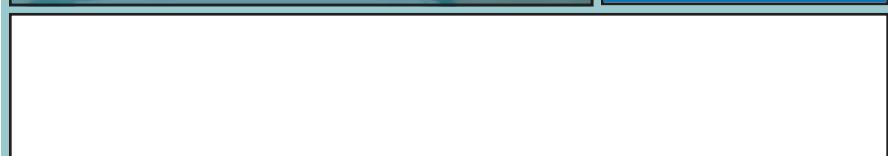
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