

JESUS CHRIST,

PRINCE OF PEACE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Together In Faith

2017 ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EDITION

Parish Newsletter

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The season of Christmas is a beautiful time of the year for our parish family. The "Sharing Tree" in the Gathering Area, filled with brightly colored presents for children who might otherwise receive nothing; the youth singing at our various care centers for the elderly; our wonderfully decorated church and manger scene, portraying the Christmas story for all to see; the glorious Christmas carols sung by our choir and each of us at Mass - ALL of these warm our hearts with thankful praise.

We rejoice in the birth of our Savior, who brings mercy, peace, and joy to each of our lives in such a deeply personal and life-transforming way.

Please plan to join us for our Christmas Masses during this amazing season and every Sunday throughout the year.

If you know someone who's drifted away from the church, gently invite them back, and, if possible, accompany them on the journey.

It truly is a most wonderful time of the year!

In Christ, the Prince of Peace,

Father Ken

Father Ken

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We welcome our newest members to Prince of Peace Parish since our Summer 2017 Edition newsletter. Please make a personal effort to greet them and make them feel welcome into their new Parish home!

Rev. John Stack
Edward & Ann Murphy
Byron & Cindy Barnhart
Lindsay Barnhart &
Charles Arey
Brian Swanson
Ilene Spittler
Zachary Gainer
Michael & Erin Wilson
Margaret Orona

Anne Schneider
Amy Cady
Leon & Deborah Schmidt
Michelle McDonough
Steve Rogis
Sarah Graf
Karen Marburger
Daniel Nelson
Elizabeth Heard

Dr. Kathi Atkinson
Eric Butz
Bradley Butz
Matthew Butz
Tamara Butz
Kali Perez
Eugene Shannon
Kyle Kwater
Matthew Vath



SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS OF LIFE, LOVE, AND NEW LIFE

(Since Summer 2017 Newsletter)



BAPTISMS

Blake Leonard Johnson
Grayson Thomas Voss
Lane Michael Lorenzen
Oliver Thomas Witt

Aubrey Rose Wilson
Kameron Donald Schmit
Elena Marie Sweely
Gwendolyn Grace George

Jocelyn Katherine George
Leah Ellen Deluhery
Steven Edward Deluhery
TJ Santana

WEDDINGS

Zephyr James Barsema & April Suzanne Fuegen

Ryan Alan Blasdell & Victoria Noel Majeski

Saul Jesus Perez & Kali Marie Jopp

Guillermo Santana & Maria Del Rosario Molina



FUNERALS

Janis Wagemester
Paul Conway
Lori Driscoll
Robert McDonnell
Truman Bledsoe
Michael Nixon
Marian Misiag
Doris House
Patricia Hudson

Margaret Krajewski
John "Jack" Voss
Michael Jennings
James McGuire
Patricia Schmidt
Karen Cossman
Bernard Wanzek
Dick King
James Hess

Donald (Gus) Witt
William Hyde
Marilyn Kerens
Nancy Roberts
Bobae Fogg
Helen Mallinger
Mary Jo Powers
Susan Mitchell

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them Oh Lord, And May Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS BY FATHER JOHN STACK

It seems a bit disingenuous of me to be writing to the parish family about the season of Advent and particularly the quality of waiting patiently. Owing to the fact that I was born last to my parents, after three over achievers, I really wanted to do everything way before I was old enough. Wanting to go to bed later or stay outside longer or even open Christmas presents before Christmas day were staples of my desires growing up.

Fortunately, my Mother was very wise about raising kids by the time I tried my ideas, and she chose to involve me in Advent rather than allow me to pine about wishing it was over. This year is the shortest Advent can possibly be, so to involve yourself in it is a real challenge.

Because we tend to split our world into secular versus sacred, we run the risk of forgetting Jesus saying to the disciples, “the harvest is large but there are few laborers to gather it in.” Because Jesus is coming we must remember that He did not intend that only certain followers should be involved in the harvest but all of us.

I’d suggest that each Sunday of Advent you make an effort to join in the Harvest – brainstorm about an activity your family might do to prepare – Caroling one day, visiting the sick (be they at home, in hospital or long term care); sending Christmas cards; or offering prayers as a family (good time to teach the chaplet of Mercy or the Rosary or to get them both out again and pray them as a family). Lighting your family advent wreath and asking, what each family member is hoping to receive as a gift from Jesus at Christmas, reminds each why we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

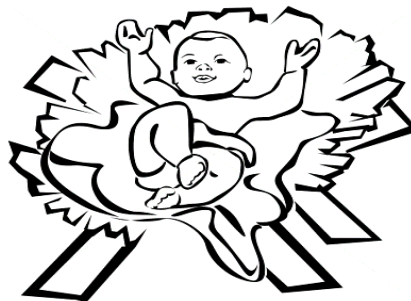
It is also permissible to not get involved in the exhausting busy work of preparing for Christmas. If you suffer from too much to do this time of year, than insist one day – ideally a Sunday – be a non-negotiable. Insist that every member of the family be present to each other with no items that must be done. In this case you might get to know who each family member really is!

Lastly remember that the best gifts require nothing new – do what you can, with what you have, where you are, and thank the Wonder Counselor for the gift of Life.



BLESS THE BABY JESUS

*Bring your family's Nativity figure of
Baby Jesus to be blessed!*



**The weekend of
December 16th and 17th at Jesus Christ,
Prince of Peace Church at all the Masses.**

"for unto us a child is born!" (Isaiah 9:5)

LITURGICAL AND SPIRITUAL LIFE

Liturgical Celebrations for the Holy Season

Holy Hour for Life with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday, December 7, at 5:15 p.m.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy Day of Mass Obligation

Thursday, December 7, Mass at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, December 8, Mass at 8:00 a.m. and 12:05 p.m.



Blue Christmas Service

Monday, December 11, at 7:00 p.m.



Advent Communal Penance Service

Saturday, December 16, at 11:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23, Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 24, Mass at 9:00 a.m. (NOTE time change)



Children's Nativity Pageant

Sunday, December 24, at 4:40 p.m.

Christmas Vigil Mass - with Youth Choir

Sunday, December 24, at 5:00 p.m.



Christmas Mass in the Night – with Adult Choir

Sunday, December 24, at 9:00 p.m.

Christmas Mass in the Morning

Monday, December 25, at 9:00 a.m.



The Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 30, Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 31, Mass at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Sunday, December 31 (New Year's Eve), Mass at 5:00 p.m. – NO 6:00 p.m. Sunday Mass

Monday, January 1, Mass at 10:00 a.m.

FAMILY & PARISH LIFE

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Monday, December 11th, at 7: 00 p.m.



For some, Christmas can be a bittersweet time of year. While many may be celebrating with joy, others may be remembering the losses in their lives (relationships, death, job, dreams) for which celebrating with joy doesn't seem possible.

During this darkest time of the year, our Parish will offer a quiet, meditative worship service that makes time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. After the 7:00 pm Blue Christmas service, there will be time to share with fellowship along with cookies and refreshments. Please join us.



NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

At the New Prince of Peace Parish Hall

December 31st

8:30 pm to 12:30 am



For your dancing and listening pleasure,
DJ Tom Tegeler will provide
top music hits from the 1950's to the present, by your request.

Bring your own beverage (BYOB), mix, and snacks.

Plates, ice, cups, napkins, simple party favors, decorations
and warm fellowship will be provided.

Tickets are \$5 per person.

Make **reservations** by purchasing tickets for yourself or your group
after Masses on *December 9th & 10th*, and *16th & 17th* or at the Parish Office (242-3311).

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FAITH FORMATION / YOUTH MINISTRY

JOIN OUR CHRISTMAS EVE YOUTH CHOIR! (Grades 3rd thru High School)

Youth voices are needed for the 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass! Please sign up at the Liturgy table during the weekend Masses. Those who sign up will be contacted and notified of a rehearsal time. The Choir will sing before the pageant on Christmas Eve, December 24th and will need to be at the church by 4:00 pm. Children may choose to be part of both the choir and the pageant if they want. If you have any questions please call Marla Schultz at (563) 219-3322.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Children of the Parish in grades kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to participate in the Christmas pageant before the 5:00 PM Mass on December 24th.

PAGEANT PRACTICE TIMES AND DATES are:
Wednesday, December 20th; Thursday, December 21st; and Saturday, December 23rd. All practices will begin at 6:15 pm at the Church. On December 24th the pageant begins at 4:40 PM. The children will need to be ready and at the church by 4:20 PM. Costumes for the pageant are provided. Sign up at the coordinator's table in the Gathering Area at church this weekend. If you have questions contact Brenda Bertram (242-3311).



Parish Youth who attended the National Catholic Youth Conference in November wish to thank the parish for their prayers and support. NCYC was held in Indianapolis this year. Events were held at the Indianapolis Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium on November 16th thru 18th.



Parish middle and high school youth attended the 2017 Junior High Youth Rally. Middle school youth enjoyed the day as they were invited to "Come to the Feast." High school youth assisted throughout the day as host and facilitators as part of the peer ministry that takes place in the Diocese of Davenport.

PRINCE OF PEACE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Advent At School

On Monday mornings during Advent, our students prepare spiritually for the birth of our Lord at Christmas. Students read prayers as the candles on the traditional Advent wreath are lit each week.

Christmas Programs – Join us for any or all of the Christmas Programs

December 11: Grades K-5: 8:30am & 6:30pm at School

December 14: Grades 6-12: 7pm at School

December 20: Preschool: 6:30pm at CCA

Who's New at Our Parish School?



We welcome **Mrs. Jennifer Hansen-Wauford** (aka Miss Hansen) as Associate Principal/Athletic Director. Miss Hansen received her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science/Economics from Loras College along with a certificate in secondary education.

Miss Hansen returned to Clinton to work at Clinton High School as an at-risk teacher. During this time she also worked on her Master's Degree from Grand Canyon University in leadership and administration. After 11 years, she became the at-risk coordinator for Clinton Middle School.

Her duties in her current position keep her extremely busy providing academic advice for high school students, discipline to K-12 students, in addition to her duties as athletic director. Miss Hansen shares, "This is my first experience working with elementary students and I love it!" Her oldest daughter, Sydney Schreiber, graduated from Prince of Peace in 2015 and currently attends the University of Iowa. Her younger daughter, Isabel, is a freshman at Prince of Peace Catholic School.

We also welcome **Miss Jessalyn Small** who is our new Director of Bands. Miss Small took over the position from Matt Hovey who had been with us for 10 years.

Miss Small is not a stranger to our school as she was a student at Prince of Peace from Pre-K through 8th grade. She then went on to graduate from Clinton High School in 2011. She attended the University of Northern Iowa where she received a Bachelor's Degree in K-12 Music Education with a specialty in Instrumental Music.

The Prince of Peace Band program is for students in 5th through 12th grades. Fifty-five percent of students in those grades participate in band. Miss Small shares, "I would love to have students direct some rehearsals. That would be fun for everyone and also develop a level of confidence for our students."



2018 Irish Dinner Auction (Blue & Gold Goes Black & White) January 20, 2018 - Wild Rose Casino & Resort

Our parent volunteers have been working all fall to make this the best Auction Dinner yet. The Auction Dinner is our school's largest fundraiser and we hope you will be there! For tickets and more information, please contact Karen Witt, Development Director or Prince of Peace Catholic School at (563) 242-1663.

What are they selling at the Parish School table after Mass every Saturday and Sunday?

If you have never wandered over to the Parish School table after Mass, please do so. Our Parish School sells SCRIP after all weekend Masses. SCRIP is simply a gift card from local businesses. You can purchase these SCRIP cards at face value at places you always spend money, such as Hy-Vee, Fareway, local gas stations and restaurants. We carry cards in inventory and can order more. Gift cards make great Christmas gifts. Our school makes money because they purchase the SCRIP cards at a discount. We invite you to come over to the table and see what it is all about. It won't cost you an extra dime to support your Parish School using SCRIP!

JESUS CHRIST, PRINCE OF PEACE PARISH
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2017 ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EDITION

IMPORTANT DATES

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Sunday, December 3 | - 1 st Sunday of Advent |
| Friday, December 7 | - Holy Day of Obligation - <i>The Immaculate Conception</i>
Thursday Mass at 6:30 pm, Friday Masses at 8:00 am & 12:05 pm |
| Sunday, December 10 | - 2 nd Sunday of Advent (Regular Weekend Mass Schedule) |
| Monday, December 11 | - <i>Blue Christmas Service</i> at 7:00 pm |
| Tuesday, December 12 | - <i>Feast of Our Lady of Gaudelupe</i> Mass at 5:30 pm, Spanish Rosary to follow |
| Saturday, December 16 | - Advent Communal Reconciliation, 11:00 am |
| Sunday, December 17 | - 3 rd Sunday of Advent (Regular Weekend Mass Schedule)
Blessing of Expectant Mothers and Baby Jesus Nativity Figurines |
| Thursday, December 21 | - Anointing of the Sick after 5:30 pm Mass |
| Friday, December 22 | - Anointing of the Sick after 8:00 am Mass |
| Sunday, December 24 | - 4 th Sunday of Advent, 9:00 am Mass |
| Sunday, December 24 | - Christmas Vigil Mass, 5:00 pm |
| Sunday, December 24 | - Christmas Mass in the Night, 9:00 pm |
| Monday, December 25 | - Christmas Mass at Dawn, 9:00 am |
| Sunday, December 31 | - Feast of The Holy Family (regular weekend Mass schedule <u>except no Sunday evening 6:00 pm Mass</u>) |
| Sunday, December 31 | - Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God, New Year's Eve Mass at 5:00 pm |
| Monday, January 1 | - Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God, Mass at 10:00 am |



[The Parish Office will be closed on December 25 & 26 and January 1 & 2 in observance of the Holy Season.]