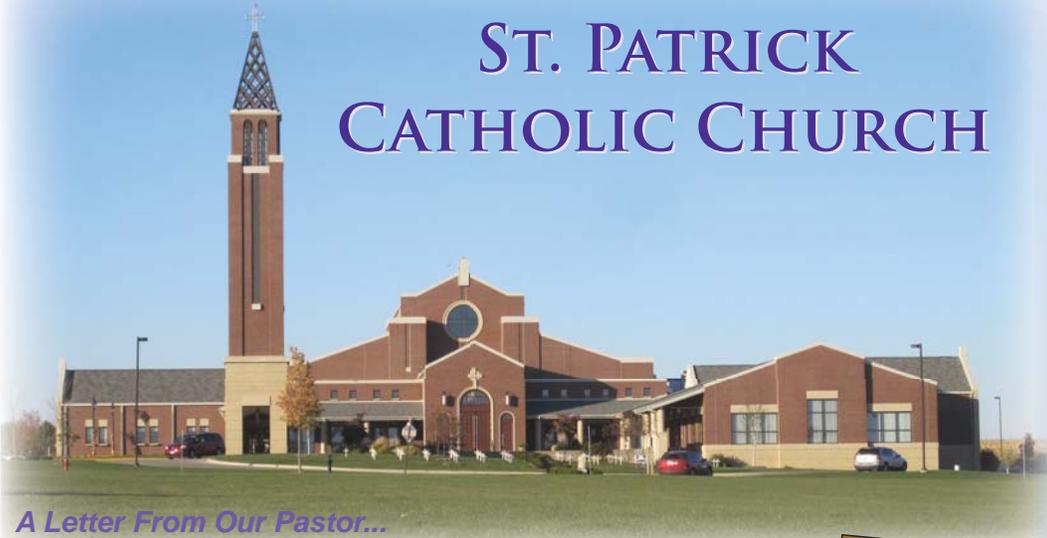


ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH



A Letter From Our Pastor...

Dear Friends,

As I look out my window, autumn has come to Iowa with all its rage of color. Autumn has always been one of my favorite seasons. Autumn makes me think of that first line of James Whitcomb Riley's famous poem: "When the frost is on the punkin' and the fodder's in the shock..." because of the wonderful image in his poem of the corn, beans, apple cider, and sights and smells associated with the harvest and the spirit of thanksgiving.

We here at St. Patrick are filled with the spirit of thanksgiving as well - for all the hard work and generosity that has brought us to our fourth year in our new church and facilities. Many good things have happened in these four years and we anticipate - God willing - celebrating many more years of God's blessings and providence.

We indeed, have so much to be grateful for!

In this edition of the St. Patrick newsletter, you will get a glimpse of the ways our parishioners are utilizing their time, talent and treasure to love and serve God and love and serve our neighbor. And you, by your support of St. Patrick through your prayers, generosity and good works, are responsible for helping these good things along!

What a team!

Soon we will close the liturgical year with the Feast of Christ the King and begin the season of Advent. As we celebrate Advent - that time of watchfulness, reflection, anticipation and preparation for the coming of the Christ child at Christmas, it is my hope that in this special cycle of the year, we make a special place in our hearts, souls and lives for God to dwell and our neighbor to feel welcomed.

In the spirit of thankfulness, hospitality and prayer, and as a member of the great St. Patrick team, I close with yet another quote from James Whitcomb Riley's poem:

"I don't know how to tell it-but ef such a thing could be
As the angels wantin' boardin', and they'd call around on me -
I'd want to 'commodate 'em - all the whole-endurin' flock -
When the frost is on the punkin, and the shodder's in the shock."

Many blessings to you and yours from 4330 St. Patrick Drive, Iowa City, Iowa 52240!

Fr. Rudy



ADVENT 2013

UPCOMING EVENTS

For all regular monthly activities, please check the bulletin or website each week.

November

- 16 KCans4Life @ St. Pat's
- 15-17 KCans4Life @Hy-Vee Drug
- 23-24 For Greater Glory movie
- 28 Thanksgiving Day
- 28-29 Office Closed, No Morning Masses
- 29 Visit of Relics Mass

December

- 1 Advent Registration / Coffee-Donuts
Mustard Seed Gift/
Book Fair
 - 3 Needleworkers' Christmas Party
 - 6 1st Friday Adoration
 - 7 1st Saturday Mass
1st Reconciliation Service
 - 8 OLG Potluck after
12pm Mass
 - 11 Over 50 Potluck
 - 12 OLG Mass
 - 14 Sp 1st Reconciliation Service
 - 21 KCans4Life
 - 24/25 Children's Nativity and Christmas Masses
- (See page 6 for schedule of Advent events)

January

- 1 Holy Day Mass
- 3 1st Friday Adoration
- 4 1st Saturday Mass
Sr.'s Epiphany Party
- 5 Epiphany Registration /
Coffee-Donuts
- 8 Over 50 Potluck
- 12 KC's Pancake Breakfast
- 18 KCans4Life

February

- 1 1st Saturday Mass
- 2 Registration /
KC's Breakfast
- 7 1st Friday Adoration
- 8 1st Saturday Mass
- 12 Over 50 Potluck
- 14 KC's Valentine Dinner

Take
Quiet
Time
And
Pray
This
Advent

December is the most dangerous month. The soul-threatening march of commerce tends to overwhelm the small, quiet voice of Advent.

These pre-Christmas weeks are a hard test for American Christians. We can be corrupted. The popular culture demands that we obsess over buying material goods. Go out and get stuff, is the message that pounds at us. Think of things you've seen advertised or heard about that tickle your fancy. Think of what's popular, or said to be popular, and buy those things for family and friends as Christmas presents – or buy them for yourself and feel good about possessing the “must-have” item of the day.

And if you begin to wonder what all of this has to do with celebrating the birth of Jesus, there will be someone to remind you that it means jobs, work, business, helping the demand side of the economy so that production can rise and confidence returns and people can be hired, etc., etc., etc., in the wondrous circle of capitalism.

Wouldn't Jesus want more production, less unemployment, more business confidence?

A better question is: What do we want? When we're quiet within, letting our deepest hope become conscious, what do we want? Is it a what, a thing, a possession?

Isn't it, rather, a who, a relationship, a love?

We knew that clearly as infants. The feel of mother, or the sight of her, was enough to make our spirits leap for joy. Her presence meant life itself. Then complications came in. Mother means food, warmth, comfort. Those goods can be felt, easily named and demanded. We can immediately feel the satisfaction they bring. We grow conscious of stuff; it all grows in value, and an individual self begins to emerge. The relationship fades to background.

Advent is the season for recalling that background. We bring it forward; we refocus on the primacy of love. We restart our lives with fresh awareness of what we really want; of what brings joy to our depths.

This sense of beginning clear and pure is the meaning of Christmas as a Christian gift to the world. We should behave as if we realize that.

We can do it in simple ways. Be attentive to the prayers and readings at Mass. Let them shape our attitude. Take quiet time and pray to open ourselves deeply to love. Read and reflect on what the Gospel reveals of God as love. Let the spirit of such activity carry over into what we do preparing for the feast and the gift-giving of Christmas.

We are in the dangerous weeks of pre-Christmas December, but we won't be corrupted if we slow down now and then – a little each day is best – to check the state of our spirit. If it has an Advent feel, hoping for and anticipating the good of our relationships, desiring God rather than stuff, we can feel safe. The Holy Spirit is near, and we will do good.

Good resources for a true Christmas spirit exist on the Internet. One of the best is called Sacred Space, a site operated by the Irish Jesuits. It is clean, simple, and user driven. The visitor can complete its daily prayer/reflection in as little as five minutes or take advantage of deeper “guides” and linger as long as desired. The address is www.sacredspace.ie/.

Creighton University in Omaha offers a good site with a variety of Advent resources. That more complicated Internet address is onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/.

-article from *Catholic Messenger*
Frank Wessling

Announcements!

There will be a city-wide Thanksgiving Mass at St. Mary's at 8am on Thanksgiving Day.
NO MORNING MASSES at St. Patrick on Thursday or Friday!
The office is closed.

The Visit of the Relics of Six Saint Martyr Priests and Members of the Knights of Columbus will be held on Friday, November 29th at St. Patrick with a Holy Hour at 6pm and a Bilingual Mass at 7pm.
All are welcome!

The movie *For Greater Glory* will be shown after the 4:30 and 12pm Masses on Nov. 23rd & 24th in the social hall. The movie's theme has a direct link to the Visit of the Relics of Six Saint Martyr Priests coming to St. Patrick on November 29th.

YEAR OF FAITH ENDS WITH FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

Did you know the end of the liturgical year is upon us? The Church year goes from the first Sunday of Advent to the Feast of Christ the King, usually the last Sunday of Ordinary Time. That is to say, waiting for the birth of the King to the celebration of the Christ and his Church.

The Feast of Christ the King was instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI. At the time, secularism was on the rise and Pope Pius hoped the feast day would encourage leaders and nations to be respectful of Christ and that the faithful would gain strength and courage from the celebration. It was to be a kind of reminder that Christ must reign in our hearts, minds, wills and bodies. Eighty some years have passed and this feast day has never been more relevant. Let's celebrate it!

This celebration will close this liturgical "Year of Faith", a theme instituted by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI to help all Catholics grow closer to Christ and the teachings of the Church. This past year included opportunities for education and faith formation at all levels and included topics of "life and dignity of the human person, special outreach to married couples and families advocating for the institution of marriage and strengthening the understanding of forgiveness and reconciliation as foundational to the new evangelization leading to greater participation in the sacrament of penance" (uscgb.org).

We hope you were able to take advantage of the numerous events and resources available in the Iowa City area this year. The local Church hosted many retreats, study series and conferences. And if your schedule didn't allow for those, faith formation is a click away! Catholic.org and relevantradio.com, just to name a few, provide many resources in many formats to accommodate our crazy, busy lives. And when you're driving across town, tune in to 92.7 KOUR-LP for Catholic news and programming from EWTN and Relevant Radio.

Our new liturgical year will be the "Year of Worship". The focus for the upcoming year will include strengthening parish life & worship and creating evangelizing & welcoming parishes. Please join us in concluding this Year of Faith on the Feast of Christ the King and ushering in the Year of Worship. We invite you to attend our Advent Reflections, Lenten Study Series and utilize all the resources to continue deepening our relationship with Jesus so everyone can create a welcoming parish for all.

- Michelle Yetley

BLESSING of the ANIMALS

to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and the environment.

"Warm and cloudy with a chance of rain...and sometimes a few sprinkles!" That was the weather forecast for Saturday, October 5th, 2013, but it didn't deter area residents and parish members from attending the annual Blessing of the Animals held at the rectory driveway/garage.

A brief prayer service led by Fr. Rudy was held for the 44 pet owners and their favorite animal. Jo Young took a photo of each as they received a special blessing. Thirty-two dogs of all shapes, sizes and species were blessed along with one cat and one turtle!

Best Friends Veterinary Care (Kim Vercande & Staff) helped to sponsor the event and provided yummy homemade sugar & chocolate chip cookies (made by member Mary Ann Vercande), shiny red apples, lemonade & coffee for human-kind. Individually wrapped treats were a hit with the dogs and cats! HyVee Drugstore (Kyle Thornsborough & Staff) paid for the developing of the photos, donated a \$25 gift card won by member Angela Burer, and offered 10% off any pet supplies purchased at their store by the owners. Petland donated a \$25 gift card won by member Kristin Stauffer. Gift Bags were given to each pet owner as they departed.



GIFT BAG CONTENTS:

- Best Friends Veterinary Care – dog/cat treats
- Hy-Vee Drugstore – FREE photo and 10% off pet supplies
- Lucky Pawz - brochure and magnet
- The Cat Clinic of Iowa City - an ink pen
- Faithful Companion Pet Service - a pewter angel medallion and brochure
- St. Francis Veterinary Clinic - St. Francis prayer cards & medals
- Parish KC members and Nicol Farias helped with the event.

Annual Stewardship Renewal Activities

“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” Joshua 24:15

The St. Patrick Annual Stewardship Renewal & Ministry Fair was held September 7th and 8th in the social hall after all weekend Masses. After receiving ministry booklets containing a description of all the parish ministries, parishioners were invited to attend the Ice Cream Ministry Fair and “Get the Scoop on Ministries at St. Pat’s.” Parishioners made ice cream sundaes with all the toppings and visited booths to learn about ministry opportunities at St. Pat’s. All ministries were represented with about 500 parishioners in attendance. Coloring activities and a bean bag toss were available for children. Darin Fehr was the winner of the “Ice Cream Treats” gift basket.

Two weeks prior to the Ministry Fair, parishioners gave witness talks at Mass about their involvement in ministries and how the experience has helped them grow closer to God and their community. During the Annual Stewardship Renewal Weekend, Sept. 28 & 29, parishioners completed their stewardship forms. Commission chairpersons will be contacting new and renewing members this month for any upcoming trainings or commission meetings as we prepare for the beginning of the liturgical year. **Stewardship forms are available in the narthex or in the parish office if you haven’t had a chance to complete your form.**

Thank you for sharing your time, talent and treasure with our parish community!

Evangelization and Stewardship Committee



St. Patrick’s Respect Life Committee sponsored a “Change for Life” Fundraiser on August 25th through September 15th.

Parishioners filled baby bottles with donations totaling \$3526 to benefit Johnson County Right to Life. Your generous donations will help to educate and inform our community about the value of all life!



There will be a New-Member Irish Tea Party in the spring. All parishioners who joined St. Patrick Church in the past year will be invited to attend a New Member Irish Tea on a date to be announced later. This event offers new parishioners a chance to meet other new members as well as ministry leaders, and learn how they can share their talents with one of the many ministry groups.



YOUNG ADULT CATHOLICS - Y.A.C.

Iowa City Young Adult Catholics is celebrating its second year of Faith, Fun, and Fellowship since its beginning on October 17th, 2011. Drawing young adults ages 18-39 from all of the parishes in Iowa City, Coralville, and beyond, this group meets from 7:30-9:00 PM on the first and third Mondays of every month in the comfy Zaga Room in the lower level of St. Patrick's Church. Committed to Christ and to His Church, the co-leaders and members of Iowa City Y.A.C. pray together, keep up with the liturgical seasons of the year, learn about the Faith, and get together for game nights, drinks, and parties. Our upcoming topics and dates are below. For more information email: Kathryn Churchill at kchurchillpta@gmail.com or find us on facebook at Iowa City Young Adult Catholics.



Photos are from the Guys Night Out- Bowling and Girls Night Out- Wildwood Dancing.

November 18th - Angels

December 2nd – Spirit of Christian Poverty

December 9th – Our Lady of Guadalupe Party (different location)



MANY able-bodied men and women are needed to prepare our beautiful church building for the Advent & Christmas seasons. Please bring scissors. Ladders will be used as needed. *Choose the date(s) that work for you!*

Tuesday, November 26th, 9am-1pm: Advent wreaths/Social Hall Tree/Nativities

Saturday, December 21st, 9am-12pm: Lift/decorate trees with lights in church/day chapel/narthex & garland

Monday, December 23rd, 9am-12pm: Place poinsettias in church

Sunday, January 12th, 1-4pm: Remove ALL Christmas decorations/pack for storage

Sign-up on Kiosk or email Cheryl@stpatsic.com or 337-2856.



2014 K of C FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

On January 11th, 2014, the St. Patrick Knights of Columbus will once again be hosting the council level free throw contest, starting at 8:00am in the St. Patrick's Gym.

This contest is open to all youth between the ages of 10 and 14 as of January 1, 2014. The contest will start with the 10-year-old boys and girls. There is no cost to participate. Winners will move onto the district contest (date and time TBD). District winners move onto the Regional Contest held in Cedar Rapids and Regional winners will move on to the state competition in Clarion. More details to come!



PARISH ADVENT-CHRISTMAS EVENTS



ADVENT COFFEE-DONUTS/REGISTRATION December 1st

MUSTARD SEED ADVENT/CHRISTMAS GIFT BOOK FAIR. December 1st

ADVENT REFLECTIONS: December 5th, 12th, 19th @ 7pm

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE ACTIVITIES:

Novena: December 3rd-10th @ 6pm, December 11th @ 11pm

Dancers: December 8th @ 12pm, December 11th @ 9:30pm

Mass: December 8th @ 12pm with potluck following
December 12th @ 7pm

Las Mañanitas: December 11th after Novena

Las Posados: December 15th-19th @ 6pm

COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION: Sunday, December 15th @ 2pm

REGINA HS CHOIR CONCERT @ *St. Patrick*: December 4th, 7pm

“WINTER WITH WEST” CONCERT @ *St. Patrick*, December 10th, TBD

CHRISTMAS EVE, Dec 24th: Children’s Nativity/Music @ 3:30pm
Mass @ 4pm and @ 9pm

CHRISTMAS DAY, Dec 25th: Mass @ 8:30am

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, January 1st, Holy Day of Obligation @ 8:30am

OVER 60 EPIPHANY PARTY: January 4th, 2-4pm

EPIPHANY COFFEE-DONUTS/REGISTRATION: After all Masses, January 5th

EPIPHANY CONCERT w/*St. Patrick Choir*: January 5th @ 2pm



Children’s Nativity on December 24th @ 3:30pm

Staying in town this Christmas?

What time will your family attend Mass? CELEBRATE THE BEST GIFT OF THE SEASON—Jesus!

Youth ages 3-18 years are invited to participate in the Children’s Nativity at 3:30pm on December 24th. Last year, fifty parish youth portrayed characters from that first Holy Night: Angels, Shepherds, Manger Animals, Star, Kings, and Narrators. Costumes not your thing? Sing a verse from old-time Christmas carols of the Nativity with other youth! Questions, contact Cheryl@stpatsic.com, 337-2856. ADULT helpers are needed, too!

Sign-up: available now on Kiosk!

Costume fittings: Sunday, December 1st & 8th after 10am mass in Zaga Room, lower level.

Practice: Sunday, December 15th & 22nd after 10am mass in Main Church.

WELCOME, NEWCOMERS (AND THEIR FAMILIES)!

Saúl and Ruby Aranday
Eric and Elizabeth Boehm
Carl Budny
Tom Burnette and Kate Check
Floridalma Cardoza
Daniel Collaguazo
Ellie Delgado
Richard and Maria Dix
Elizabeth Drewelow
Matthew and Gina Egeland
Geoffrey and Michelle Emmel
Aaron and Lisa Estrada
Mayra Estrada
Jonathan and Martha Fountain
Hector Guadalupe and
Maria "Lindell" Joseph

Leobardo and MaSilvia Hernandez
Lauren and Jason Johnson
Tiffany Kidwell
Micaeleen "Micki" and
John Kollman
Sara Koslowski
Kaylee Langel
Francisca Martinez and
Edwin Ayala
Juan and Cindy Martinez
Linda Martinez and Jorge Olguin
Zachary Mennen
Tom and Trudy Meyers
Victoria Millan
Ramon and Maribel Morongo
Miguel and Giselle Navarro

Chioma and Bryvon Okeoma
Mercedes Olaisola
Dan and Shannon Olney
Rosalio and Maricela Perez
William Pontarelli and
Elizabeth Loeb
Humberto and Cristina Reynoso
Joe and Diane Rohlman
M. Bernice Rohovit
Christopher Schwartz
Joe Scott and Angela Lilla
Dolores Silva

Needleworkers' Annual Bazaar

The Needleworkers hosted their annual craft and bake sale on October 26th & 27th. Embroidered tea towels, doll clothes, scarves, aprons, and a variety of homemade items, plus delicious baked goods were offered for sale. A beautiful quilt, painstakingly sewn and hand-quilted by our talented quilters was featured.

The group would like to thank everyone who donated baked goods or craft items to sell, and thank those members and guests who stopped by and purchased items! We appreciate your support! The winner of the beautiful quilt was Cleanne Schieber. Congratulations!



TRUNK OR TREAT!

We had 17 trunks decorated at our "Trunk or Treat" event! We asked the children to vote for their favorite trunk and these are the winners: 1st: Nibaur "Football Toss", 2nd: Schropp "SonTreasure Island 2014 VBS"; 3rd: Feller "Haunted Halloween Food Drive". About 50 children and some of the parents dressed in a variety of costumes and enjoyed themselves. See you again next year-THANKS for participating!



RCIA

We have begun our sessions and look forward to a great journey with our Candidates. We ask your prayers for our 2013-2014 class, that they may accept the Catholic Faith as theirs. We ask your prayers for our Team, that God will guide our instruction to them as we take this journey together.

-Pam Gantz

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GOD IN THE FLESH



A Study Guide in Four Sessions
for part one, the Nativity, of the Video

JESUS OF NAZARETH

a Franco Zeffirelli film

Advent Reflections

“God in the Flesh”

- Presented by Deacon Mitch Holte

includes presentation of “*Jesus of Nazareth*,”
a film by Franco Zeffirelli

You are invited to reflect on the wondrous
mystery of Jesus’ birth as well as look with joy
and hope to His return.

A DVD movie presentation (3-part series) is
followed by small group discussions.

Thursdays, December 5th, 12th, & 19th

7-8pm in St. Anne’s Rm.