

Pilgrim Cluster Catholic Parishes

December 17, 2017 – Third Sunday of Advent

A trinity of people on pilgrimage to nurture, teach, serve, witness, and celebrate, so as to evangelize.

Rev. Daniel Greving – dmgreving@hotmail.com – (712) 840-1709
 Sr. Patrice Klein, Pastoral Minister – (712) 752-8857
 Deacon Dan Goebel – danpgoebel@gmail.com – (712) 441-0861



Sacrament of Reconciliation: by appointment any time. WEEKLY BULLETIN ONLINE: PilgrimCluster.org.

St. Mary Parish
 609 10th Street, Alton, 51003
 (712) 756-4224
 OFFICE HOURS:
 Tue – Fri – 8:00 AM – Noon
 & Tue 1-3 PM; Wed-1-5 PM
altonsmc@midlands.net

St. Joseph Parish
 528 Elm Street, Granville. 51022
 (712) 727-3551
 OFFICE HOURS:
 Mon – Thu 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
christec@mtcnet.net

St. Anthony Parish
 506 Elm Street, Hospers, 51238
 712 (752-8784)
 OFFICE HOURS
 Monday, Wednesday, Friday
 9AM to 1:30 PM
stacc@nethtc.net

WEEKLY BULLETIN ONLINE: Our web site (PilgrimCluster.org)

Sacrament of Baptism: Make an appointment for baptismal preparation and set a date.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 30 minutes prior to weekend Masses.

Sacrament of Anointing: Call priest in the event of a serious illness or medical emergency.

Sacrament of Marriage: Contact the pastor nine (9) months in advance.

*O Come,
 O Come, Emmanuel*



MASS INTENTIONS: December 19 thru December 25

Tues. (12/19)	8:00 am @ Granville	Gerald McDermott, Francis & Marge Murphy, Herman Ahlers L & D Family
Wed. (12/20)	8:00 am @ Hospers	Magnus & Honey Konz
Thu. (12/21)	8:30 am @ Alton	Clarence, Phyllis & Betty Streff
Fri. (12/22)	8:00 am @ Granville	Ruth Schnieders
Sat. (12/23)	4:00 pm @ Granville	Emil Fisch, Harry & Dan Schaa, Norbert & Eva Budden
Sat. (12/23)	6:00 pm @ Hospers	Lawrence, Margaret & Albert Klein, For the People
Sun. (12/24)	8:00 am @ Alton	Clarice Mousel
Sun. (12/24)	4:00 pm @ Alton	Leon & Ruth Meis
Sun. (12/24)	6:00 pm @ Hospers	Jerome & Ramona Gloden
Mon. (12/25)	9:00 am @ Granville	For the People, Deceased of Wayne Delperdang Family; Emil, Saverna & David Fisch, Hilary Klein

"Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them, and their families, for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior."

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

For the weekend of December 23/24/25:

Lectors

4:00 pm Steve Hunt
 6:00 pm Roleen Walgenbach
 8:00 am Dale Hansen
 4:00 pm Dennis Schmit
 6:00 pm Jeanne Jungers
 9:00 am Mark Klein

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

4:00 pm Jan Goebel, Mary Ann Plathe, Julia Schroeder,
Nancy Penning
 6:00 pm Georgia Becker, Mary Auchstetter, Karen Freking
 CHOIR: Ken Schmit
 8:00 am Al Willett, Dan & Betsy Stoll, Diane Alesch
 4:00 pm Bob & Theresa Goliber, Dave & Mary Suntken
 6:00 pm Rita Fischer, Duane Stoll, Steve Robinet
 CHOIR: Jeanne Jungers

9:00 am Ron Paulsen, Donna Ascherl, Dan Hunt, Curt Christoffel

Altar Servers

4:00 pm Emily Kellen, Ellen Hunt, Claire Paulsen
 6:00 pm Samantha & Kimberly Sauer, Haley Pohlen
 8:00 am Adrienne & Tyler Zenk
 4:00 pm Corey Buckholtz, Addison Konz, Christopher Holzman
 6:00 pm Justin, Robert & Brian Schmit
 9:00 am Ashley & Ryan Willman, Jacob Koob

Gift Bearers

6:00 pm Dan & Phyllis Jungers
 8:00 am Ernesto & Donna Miranda
 4:00 pm Dave & Terri Nilles
 6:00 pm Mick & Mary Konz

December Ushers

4:00 pm Don & Maretta Budden, Chris Hunt, Dan & Faye Hunt
 6:00 pm Tom Jungers, Kent Willett
 8:00 am Roger & Mary Ann Pottebaum, Randy Pottebaum,
Mike Richter

NEXT WEEKEND, DECEMBER 23/24, WILL BE A TWO WEEK BULLETIN. OUR NEXT BULLETIN WILL BE THE WEEKEND OF JANUARY 6/7. If you have anything you want in the two-week bulletin, please have to your parish secretary no later than 10:00 AM on Tuesday, December 19th. Thanks!

PILGRIM CLUSTER

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Advent Communal Penance Services are scheduled as follows: Sunday, December 17 at 1:30 pm @ St. Marys, Alton, and at 3:00 pm @ St. Marys, Remsen. Four priests will be available for individual Confession.

Due to Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday, note the adjustment in Mass times for the weekend Masses of Dec 23 \ 24: Saturday, December 23 Mass at 4 pm @ Granville; Saturday, December 23 Mass at 6 pm @ Hospers; Sunday, December 24 Mass at 8 am @ Alton.

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Sunday, December 24 (Christmas eve)--- 4:00 pm @ Alton
 Sunday, December 24 (Christmas eve)--- 6:00 pm @ Hospers
 Monday, December 25 (Christmas day) --- 9:00 am @ Granville

Mass times for the weekend of December 30 \ 31: Sat., 5 pm @ Granville; Sun., 8 am @ Hospers; and Sun. 10 am @ Alton. (These are the normal fall Mass times).

Monday, Jan 1, 2018 is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. As it falls on a Monday, it is not a holy day of obligation. There will be Mass at 9 am @ Granville.

Looking ahead....the weekend of Jan 6 \ 7 begins the winter Mass times: Sat., 5 pm @ Hospers; Sun., 8 am @ Alton; Sun., 10 am @ Granville. These times will run January through April.

**MY SPIRIT
 FINDS JOY IN
 GOD MY SAVIOR**

Christmas Procession: Elementary age (5th grade and below) children are invited to join in the entrance procession at the beginning of the Christmas Masses in the respective parishes. 2017 and 2018 First Communicants will be asked to carry baby Jesus and votive candles. Please come to back of church 10 minutes prior to the start of Mass. Other 'little ones' will be invited to join right before Mass begins and all will be asked to return to parents after procession. Someone will be at the crib to help with situating baby Jesus and placing votive candles near crib.

Vocation View: Rejoice, never cease praying. Let us never cease praying for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life (1 Thes. 5:16-24)

Holy Communion \ Exchange of Peace at Mass:

Due to increase of cold and flu during these winter months, Holy Communion will be offered only under the form of Sacred Bread. As to the ministry of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, when Deacon Dan is present, one EMHC will be scheduled to assist at Mass; when Deacon is not present, two EMHCs will be scheduled to help with distribution of the Sacred Host. Until further notice, we will also refrain from exchanging the sign of peace. This will go into effect the weekend of December 30 \ 31.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Sioux City works every day to give spiritual and material support to Christ's little ones. Catholic Charities is an arm of the Church, dedicated to helping the poor, especially those suffering from mental illness, substance abuse, family issues, and other psychological and spiritual poverties. But they also need your help to continue the ministry and good work they do. *The collection for Catholic Charities will be collected at all Christmas Eve and day Masses. Kindly use the envelope from your packet and place in the normal collection.*

By God's grace, Family Crisis Centers helps victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, and survivors of homicide and other violent crimes. FCC provides advocacy support and emergency/transitional housing to victims and their children. Last year, FCC supported over 1,000 victims in our communities and answered over 20,000 calls from all over Iowa. FCC is blessed to carry on its mission in this caring, supportive and compassionate community. Consider helping to bring hope to hurting families in our local communities by donating—PO Box 295, Sioux Center, IA 51250.

Pilgrim Cluster Religious Education Program News:

- The Pilgrim Cluster Religious Education Program meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM at the St. Joseph Parish Center in Granville. If you would like more information, please contact Tami List at Tamara.List.1958@outlook.com or 712.548.8375.
- The Pilgrim Cluster Religious Education Program December class schedule is: (Wednesday – December 20th, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the St. Joseph Parish Center in Granville), and then break for Christmas. We will resume classes on Wednesday, January 3rd (2018) at the normal time/location: 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the St. Joseph Parish Center in Granville.

Adult Bible Study: The Adult Scripture Study will not be meeting December 20 or 27. Our normal gatherings will begin again at 6:30pm on January 3 in the St. Joseph Parish Center. To begin our new semester, we will be discussing the topic of prayer. Please come and join us in our journey.



This Advent, share with your children the legend of St. Boniface and the Christmas tree by watching with them the story *Kristoph and the First Christmas Tree*. Find this and dozens of other great resources for Advent and Christmas on FORMED.org.

PARISH CODE: ZPMV49

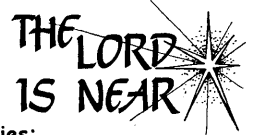


CHRISTIAN BOOK STUDY: Our last study of the year 2017! We will be continuing our Christian Book Study, Resisting Happiness by Matthew Kelly. You are welcome any time and can jump in at any time! Next gathering is 12/28 at 7 pm Cindy Klein 540-6962 or Tera Oldenkamp 348-3566 for questions.

NEW ADDRESS FOR PAULA STEFFES:
6408 North 70th Plaza, Omaha NE 68104

St. Anthony Birthdays/Anniversaries:

- December 18 Karla Robinet
- December 19 Marnie Croatt, Jim Schmit
- December 21 Don Becker
- December 22 Susie Budden
- December 23 Christina Schmit



St. Joseph Birthdays/Anniversaries:

- December 18 Danny Niichel
- December 19 Kyler Christoffel Dale & Pam List - 36th
- December 20 Marge Willman
- December 21 Joyce Murphy
- December 24 Matt Jungers Randy & Deb Gergen - 34th

St. Mary Birthdays/Anniversaries:

- December 18 Jo Geurink, Brian Newborg, Cindy Pottebaum, Valeria Streff
- December 19 Lorraine Kreber
- December 20 Ron Fischer
- December 24 Cameron Oolman, Nick Plathe



To instill a belief in God and self and provide excellence in learning through Mutual support, service and Catholic leadership.
www.SpaldingCatholic.org

Our Lady of Lourdes, patron of Spalding, please pray for us!

Like our Facebook page, "Spalding Catholic School, Prek-6" to see what our students are experiencing...
* The Kindergartners have been busy with their new FOSS Science kit that is helping them learn about materials and motion. They also had a visit from Sarah, the Sioux County Naturalists, who shared samples of tree cut outs and we then discussed some things that can be made from wood.

* The Spalding Catholic Marketing committee is excited to announce Spalding Wall Calendars are now available! Thanks to the generosity of multiple businesses, the calendars have been completely underwritten and are free to everyone. They will be placed in the back of our 3 parishes. Enjoy!

* Join us for our Advent Program which will be held on Wednesday, December 20 in the Alton Gym, starting at 7:00 pm.

SAVE THE DATE -- Spalding Catholic is excited to announce our Gala theme this year will be: **Spalding Winter Olympics 2018!** The event will be held on Saturday, Feb. 3rd. Stay tuned for more details



Please log on to www.gehencatholic.org for more information on upcoming events.

GEHLEN CATHOLIC EVENTS:

- Monday, December 18
 - C/JV B/G vs Unity Christian; C/JV B HOME; C/JV G AT Unity; 6 PM
- Tuesday, December 19
 - C B/V G/B at West Sioux, 4:30 PM
- Thursday, December 21
 - School Board meeting in the library, 7:00 PM
- Friday, December 22
 - One hour early dismissal for Christmas Vacation
 - Advent Prayer Service in Marvin Langel Memorial gym, 1:00 PM

ST. ANTHONY PARISH

St. Anthony Stewardship December 10, 2017

Adult Envelope: \$ 1,145.00
 Adult Loose: \$ 48.00
 Youth Envelope: \$
 Catholic Campaign for Human Development: \$ 25.00
 KC Donation: 50.00
 Total Income: \$ 1,268.00

Bills Paid: St. Joseph Parish, \$194.32, bulletin paper; Gehlen Catholic School, \$3,084.99; Spalding Catholic School, \$8,957.74; Diocese of Sioux City, \$25.00, Campaign for Human Development; MidAmerican Energy, \$622.62, gas and electric;

DAA Status:

DAA Donations this week: \$ 175.00
 Total number of pledges turned in to date: 59
 Total amount of donations to date: \$ 5,470.00
 DAA 2017 Goal: \$ 6,504.00
 The Diocese will bill the parish for the balance if we do not make the goal. **To date, we will owe \$1,034.00.** You have received your reminder call and need to help us close this appeal. Please get your pledge card and money turned in! Thank you for your participation!!

Giving Tree -- Please return your giving tree gift either wrapped or in a gift bag to St. Anthony's church by December 16. Remember to tape your ornament on the outside. Thank You!

We will be **decorating for Christmas** on Sunday, Dec. 17th following the 8am mass. All help is greatly appreciated! Thank you for your dedication to our parish.

We have purchased **Christmas flowers** through the CRC church youth group Golden Hour Society. The cost was \$320.00 Any donations you can make toward this purchase is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Auction Update: Co-chairs are needed for the upcoming Church Auction. Kent and Brandy Willett are the chair couple this year. Please consider this worthwhile contribution to our parish and give Kent and Brandy a call.

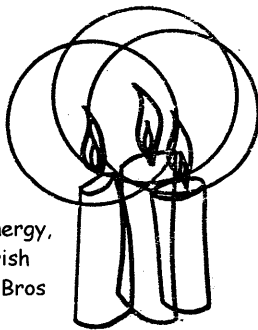
*****Church Cleaning for month of December 2017:*****

Church Proper Chairlady: Debbie Wanderscheid
Committee: De Atsma, Susie Jungers, Nancy Stoll, Mary Auchstetter **West Area and Church Basement Chairlady:** Nancy Thompson **Committee:** Susie Budden, Sarah Otto, Angela Solsma, Louise Auchstetter, Peggy Pohlen *****Please make sure that the cleaning gets done during the 1st and 3rd weeks of the month. List of cleaning duties and cleaning supplies are in the south basement closet. *** If you have questions, contact Mary Auchstetter or Susie Jungers. Thank you for your service!*****

ST. JOSEPH PARISH

St. Joseph Money Counters, Monday, December 18, 9:00 AM,
 St. Joseph rectory: Faye Hunt, Mary Ellen Heying
 Stewardship, December 10, 2017:

Adult	\$	1,595.00
Young		4.00
Loose Collection		124.00
Donation		50.00
Building/Grounds		740.00
TOTAL:		\$2,513.00



ST JOSEPH BILLS PAID: MidAmerican Energy, \$2,312.93; Interstate Mechanical Corp (Parish Center radiator repairs), \$520.75; Visser Bros (Parish Center stop valve), \$148.85; Gehlen Catholic, \$5,072.93; Spalding Catholic, \$17,118.90

We wish to thank those parishioners who have so generously continued to support our parish with the stewardship of their time, talent and treasure! May God's blessings be upon you.

DAA STATUS:

DAA Pledges: \$7,640
 Total Number of Pledges Turned in to Date: 74 out of 174
 Total Amount of Donations to Date: \$7,340
 DAA 2017 Goal: \$13,713

SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE RETURNED YOUR DAA CARDS. IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO (WE HAVE 104 FAMILIES WHO HAVE NOT) PLEASE RETURN YOUR DAA CARD ASAP! Thank you!!

If you are interested in dedicating a poinsettia in honor of someone living, or in memory of someone deceased, please place \$14 in an envelope, marking it "Poinsettia at St. Joseph's". Be sure to include the name of the person for whom it is being purchased. A listing will be published in the Christmas bulletin. Donations for Christmas decorations are also being accepted.

This year, St. Joseph's will again have a "giving tree" for clients at the Mental Health Institute in Cherokee. Please place unwrapped items in the box by the tree in the back of church. Last date to donate is December 16th; items will be picked up on the 17th and delivered to Cherokee Dec. 18th. ADULTS (There are more male clients than female):

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Puzzles (500 pcs or less) | Toothpaste/toothbrush | Gum |
| Stationary/envelopes | Conditioner | Ink Pens |
| Small (4oz) can of nuts | Candy Bars | Socks |
| Body Wash | Hard Candy | Pencils |
| Little Debbie Snacks | Hand Lotion | Deodorant |
| Bars of Soap (men) | Deck of Cards | Gloves (men) |
| Stocking Hats (men) | Puzzle Books (Search A Word, etc.) | |
| Shampoo | Sweatshirts/Sweatpants - Larger Sizes | |
| Hair Mousse or Gel | Fingernail polish and remover (women) | |
| Journal Books without wire spirals | | |

CHILDREN/ADOLESCENTS:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Colored Pencils | Playing Cards | Socks | Games |
| Fuzzy Posters | Stuffed Animals | Lotion | Candy |
| Gloves/Mittens | Stoking Hats | Shampoo | Conditioner |
| Candy Bars | Deodorant | Body Wash | Toothpaste |
| Puzzles (100-250) | Magic Marker | Non Sharp Craft Items | |

ST. JOSEPH PARISH CENTER GYM:

We have had many inquiries about using the gym - for sports practice, to walk in, etc. It has been a work in progress. Just for the liability on the building, we pay \$8,130.90 per year. That does not include utilities, repairs, etc. Our main goal now is to have work done on the gym floor as it is very slick and we want to avoid anyone falling on it. We will update as soon as this is taken care of.

St. Joseph Church Cleaning for Thursday, December 21 at 7:00:

Church Cleaning Co Chair - Lori/Tony Schuver
 Circle Members: Dale/Pam List, Dan/Pat Niichel, Aaron/Amy Koob
 Kristopher/Rosalie Falkena, Tim/Krissa Paulsen, Maro/Rosalie Plathe
 Dan Konz, Darrell Hunt, Tony Auchstetter

***Please make sure cleaning gets done on Thursday, December 21st, starting at 7:00 pm. If this time does not work for you, cleaning can be done anytime during that week. The work checklist is in the back of Church in the cleaning supply closet to check off jobs completed. Thank you for keeping our Church clean and beautiful!

ST. MARY PARISH

St. Mary Stewardship

Adult-\$7910.00
 Youth-3.00
 Loose Offerings-84.00
 Total: \$7997.99

Prepare your hearts!



St. Mary Bills paid: The Fitzgibbon Co., (candles) \$73.83; St. Joseph Parish (paper for bulletin) \$305.12

DAA Donations: 6810.00

Total number of pledges turned in to date: 108
Total amount of donations to date: 6810.00
DAA 2017 Goal: \$9236.00

Please return your DAA cards in ASAP! This would be very much appreciated! Thank you.

The Giving Tree will be in church on **Saturday, November 25.** If you would like to give a gift to a child in need, take an ornament and record your name & info on the sign up sheet. Please bring your gifts (wrapped or in a gift bag) with the attached ornament to the church by **Sunday, December 17.** Thank you for your generosity!! Questions: Contact Theresa McCarty - #737-8902

Sponsor a poinsettia to beautify the Christmas altar. Envelopes for this are in the lobby. The flowers are \$11.00 per poinsettia. On the envelopes is the opportunity to dedicate this flower in honor of someone living or in memory of someone deceased. All dedications will be published in the Christmas bulletin. Drop off in the collection, parish office or mail. Orders should be in by December 18th.

AREA NOTICES:

Christmas Acres 2017, 21st year by Rob, Joyce & Shaunna Scheitler! Lights, displays, inflatables, music...open from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM at 18481 Impala Ave, Le Mars (7 miles west on HWY 3, left on Impala Ave.) If it is raining, or there is heavy snow, the display will not be on. All donations go to the Christian Needs Center. More info... go to christmasacreslemars.webs.com or call 712.541.0577 or 712.533.6176. **COME AND ENJOY!!!**