

St. Mary: Meetings & News

January 1

Lector: John Hushagen, Linda Sudtelgte
Communion: Brent Harrenstein, Pat Laing, alt. Nick Frazier
Ushers: Stanton Brandt, Duane Sudtelgte, Ryan Rotgers, Mike O'Brien
Greeters: Jennifer Kuper family
Communion to the homebound: Jo DeVries
Altar Servers: Joey Neely, Matt Pfaltzgraff

Collection December 18

Adult envelopes \$3326
Offertory \$296
Christmas flowers \$30
Retirement fund \$310
Christmas offering \$270

MEETINGS:

Cluster Stewardship- Tuesday, Jan. 3, 7:00pm at St. Mary
Board of Education- Monday, Jan. 9, 7:00pm at St. Mary

MEALS ON WHEELS sign-up sheet has been placed at the back of the church

Coffee and rolls to be served January 8 following Mass. Everyone is invited.

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 Evergreens represent renewal In broadcasting, "evergreen" means content that's always relevant. The term comes from conifers that stay vibrant even when it's cold, dark and dry. Unlike their dramatic deciduous counterparts, evergreens grow new leaves year-around, continually replacing those they shed. It's no coincidence, then, that the New Evangelization that Pope Benedict XVI speaks about is a renewal of our faith. It's not a new faith altogether. It's simply the continuation and rediscovery of the beauty of the faith on an ongoing basis.

The story of the Magi is a lesson of how we are to respond to the gift of the life of Jesus. We are to put our best gifts forward in the service of God. "Stewardship is not simply making donations or taking care of the building and grounds. It is a spirituality – hence a way of life – made of four parts: \* receiving the gifts of God with gratitude \* cultivating them responsibly \* sharing them lovingly in justice with others \* standing before the Lord in a spirit of accountability.

## HISTORY BOOK OF THE ARCDIOCESE OF DUBUQUE

You may or may not recall that, in the bulletin of July 10, 2011, I wrote about a "coffee-table-size" edition of the History of the Archdiocese that was being prepared for the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A smaller "comic book" history was also in the works. I offered to receive pre-orders rather than invest in a supply, but no one responded at the time. The books are now available. We have display copies of each for each parish. If you are now interested, I am confident that some will be available somewhere. The price for the large book will probably be about \$35.00, and the small one perhaps \$5.00 or so. Parish copies will be on display in the coming weeks. Please contact the Parish Office.



# St. Patrick: Meetings & News-

## MEETINGS:

**Cluster Stewardship-** Tuesday, Jan. 3, 7:00pm at St. Mary  
**Board of Education-** Monday, Jan. 9, 7:00pm at St. Mary  
**Pastoral Council-** Tuesday, January 10 at 6:30pm  
**Finance Council-** Thursday, January 12 at 5:30pm

**Coats , warm outerwear and blankets** are still in great demand, if you have new or gently used items that you would like to donate, please bring them to the Parish Hall.

**GIVING TREE:** The Social Justice Committee has placed the Giving Tree near the statue of St. Patrick. You are invited to take an ornament from the tree and return a gift for the needy for Christmas.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS:** The current addresses of former pastors and other retired priests of the Archdiocese were listed on the back page of last week's "Witness." A copy is on the bulletin board in the hallway, for your convenience.

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## Liturgical Roles

### Saturday, December 31

**Lector** –Carolina Gaytan  
**Servers** -G,E&D.Cavazos  
**Communion Ministers** – D.Davis(W)  
 D.Schermer(W)  
**Ushers** –Dick Nelson/Craig Donnelly  
**Greeters**-R&K.Dunt famil/J.Wright  
**Sacristan**- M.Fielding

### Sunday, January 1

**Lector** –Steve Robinson  
**Servers** – Q.Logan/T.VanDyke/D.Reason  
**Communion Ministers**- R.Kelch(W)/S.Logan(W)  
 D.Markwardt/S.Peterson/T.Peterson  
**Ushers** – Duane Kelch/Jim Garrett  
**Greeters**-R&B.Doughan/S&B.Strother  
**Money Counters**-L.Boylan/R.VanDyke  
**Organist** – Leon Kuehner  
**Communion Ministers to the Homebound** –  
 Deb Roberts December 24-30  
 Bob Schaefer Dec 31-Jan 6  
**Sacristan**-A.Markwardt  
**Children's Liturgy** –H.Dunt/C.Peterson/A.Baltes

### Our Sacrificial Gift of Thanks & Praise December 17-18

|                              |          |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Bud. Env./Current Exp...     | 2,510.52 |
| Average needed weekly...     | 2,879.33 |
| Average received weekly...   | 2,566.34 |
| Number of Envelopes Received | 64       |
| Number of Envelope Holders   | 320      |
| Bud. Env./Maint. & Improv.   | 229.00   |
| Offertory.....               | 253.04   |
| Social Assistance.....       | 100.00   |



Pastor: Father Bernard C. Grady

Deacon: Dave Jones

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION: Jolene Harms

St. Mary

St. Patrick

611 Sherman Ackley, IA 50611

1405 N Federal Hampton, IA 50441

Parish center 641-847-2329

Parish Office 641-456-4857 8:30-3:30 Tue-Fri

Bookkeeping/Maint: Brent & Sue Harrenstein

Secretary: Angi Wright

BAPTISM PREPARATION: Preparation classes required. Contact DFF

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: Contact pastor six months in advance.

RECONCILIATION: St. Patrick Saturday: 4:30 to 5:00 PM St. Mary Sunday: 7:30am

ARCHDIOCESE WEBSITE

[www.arch.pvt.k12.ia.us](http://www.arch.pvt.k12.ia.us)

CHURCH WEBSITE

[www.stpatrickhamptonia.com](http://www.stpatrickhamptonia.com)

E-Mail

[dbq097sec@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us](mailto:dbq097sec@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us)

[stmary.ackley@yahoo.com](mailto:stmary.ackley@yahoo.com)

Please consider a tithe to your parish when preparing or revising your will.

#### Christmas Giving

*I trust that you will generously remember your parish as part of your Christmas gift-giving. I know that these are difficult economic times for some people. I also know that these are not especially difficult economic times for others of us, and that these have been especially good economic times for some people. May we each respond according to our blessings with a special sacrifice for the needs of our parish as we celebrate Christ's birth.*

#### Longest Married Couple Search

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is looking to pay tribute to the longest married couple in each state and in the U.S. Info needed: name of couple, wedding date, current residence, & phone or e-mail for contact person. Send info to: [dickanddiane66@bellsouth.net](mailto:dickanddiane66@bellsouth.net) or D & D Baumbach, 1430 Scorpius Ct, Merritt Island, FL 32953 or 321-453-2475. Nomination deadline: Jan 9, 2012.

#### Support Elderly Religious-

The religious are grateful to you. A Benedictine Sister writes: "We ask God to bless those who contribute and help us in our retirement." The Religious Brothers, Sisters, and Priests offer their gratitude and prayers for all who done to the Retirement Fund.

**Pilgrimage to Rome:** Archbishop Hanus is inviting members of the Archdiocese to join him on a pilgrimage to Rome and the Holy Land from March 12 to March 24, 2012. This pilgrimage is part of the 175th Anniversary celebration of the Archdiocese. For a brochure with more information, please contact the parish office or the web site of the Archdiocese: [www.arch.pvt.k12.ia.us](http://www.arch.pvt.k12.ia.us). You may also call Jackie Doser at Travel Headquarters (800) 383-0563.

# St. Mary/St. Patrick

December 25, 2011

Fourth Sunday of Advent

#### Mission Statement of St. Mary & St. Patrick Catholic Church

"We, the Roman Catholic communities of St. Mary & St. Patrick are to be witnesses of God's plan of salvation. Through the teachings of Jesus Christ, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we strive to be stewards of our faith."

#### MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. December 26

No Mass

Tues. December 27

No Mass

Wed. December 28

No Mass

Thu. December 29

No Mass

Fri. December 30

No Mass

Sat. December 31

St. Patrick, 5:00pm

Bill Gleisner

St. Patrick, 7:00pm (Spanish)

Margaret Grady (Birthday)

Sun. January 1

St. Mary, 8:00am

For the Parishes

St. Patrick, 10:00am

Clarence Nelson

#### From Father Bernie

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE FROM THE STAFFS OF ST. PATRICK AND ST. MARY!! Please note that the Parish Offices are closed until January 3, 2012.

Father Andrew Greeley is a priest sociologist who was also a renowned speaker and prolific writer on topics of both religious and secular nature, often controversial; always good! Some years ago, when he got out of a taxi in downtown Chicago, his jacket caught in the taxi door and he was dragged and seriously injured. He has since been unable to work. On Woman's Day, 12-22-81, he wrote this reflection on Christmas:

"It might be easy to run away to a monastery, away from the commercialization, the hectic hustle, and the demanding family responsibilities of Christmas-time. Then we would have a holy Christmas. But we would forget the lesson of the Incarnation, of the enfleshing of God – the lesson that we who are followers of Jesus do not run from the secular; rather we try to transform it.

It is our mission to make holy the secular aspects of Christmas just as the early Christians baptized the Christmas tree. And we do this by being holy people – kind, patient, generous, loving, laughing people – no matter how maddening is the Christmas rush..."