Weekend Liturgy
Saturday .................... 4:30pm  
Sunday ..................... 8:30, 10:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Tuesday & Friday .... 7:40am  
Saturday .............. 3:30pm  
or by appointment

Sacrament of Marriage
Arrangements should begin one year prior to the wedding. Registration & active membership at Blessed Sacrament is required. Intensive preparation will be arranged with a sponsor couple.

Sacrament of Baptism
Preparation classes are required for parents before Baptism of infants or small children. Call the rectory for more information and to register.
Pastor Corner—This weekend we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Their experiences of being refugees, misunderstanding each other, poverty and more remind us that though the times may be different, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph certainly understand family dynamics of shared joys and struggles.

Also this weekend, I am away on Saturday celebrating a family wedding as my nephew Terry marries Theresa, whom he met at another nephew’s wedding. With 33 first cousins, I expect more than one will find their future spouse at a cousin’s wedding! In preparing for their wedding, I read a reflection on marriage and family from Dr. Timothy O’Malley of the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy. I’ve condensed some of his thoughts from Pope Francis on marriage and family for this weekend:

In Evangeli Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel), Pope Francis addresses challenges to the family in late modern society. He notes: The family is experiencing a profound cultural crisis, as are all communities and social bonds. In the case of the family, the weakening of these bonds is particularly serious because the family is the fundamental cell of society, where we learn to live with one another despite our differences and to belong to one another; it is also the place where parents pass on the faith to their children. Marriage now tends to be viewed as a form of mere emotional satisfaction that can be constructed in any way or modified at will. But the indispensable contribution of marriage to society transcends the feelings and momentary needs of the couple (EG §66).

Dr. O’Malley develops Pope Francis’ point: The couple is not married in the sacrament as an expression of their own private love. Instead, we must remember that the sacrament of marriage manifests to the Church and to the world Christ's nuptial (binding one to another) love. In every dimension of the couple’s life, particularly their life as a family, they serve now as signs of the sacramental life of the Church itself. Thus, the family is a domestic Church precisely because it is a living and efficacious sign in the world of Christ's nuptial love for all humanity ... an image of the Trinity in the world, where divine, loving communion is offered as a real possibility.

I experience, and am troubled by, this growing cultural belief that marriage is primarily about the spouses’ emotional satisfaction. I hear so often that “it’s better to separate than have children see us fight.” I don’t believe our cultural evidence over the last 40 years always supports that premise. How often do parents then continue to fight through them? It seems to me for Christians, a third way forward - mutual sacrifice rather than overt fighting for the sake of the children—could be possible in more struggling marriages. There is help in counseling for how to express differences and how to hold another’s imperfection and vulnerability with respect. It takes humility to work at such skills. But children are humbling in lots of ways are they not? Might counseling be but one more humbling aspect of being parents, and being family? I know some great counselors!

Blessings on our families, our marriages, and those preparing for this awesome, humbling Sacrament! Fr. Tom

Readings for the Week of December 31, 2017
Su-Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9, [7a, 8a] or Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40
M-Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Tu-1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28
W-1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 [3cd]/Jn 1:29-34
Th-1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 [3cd]/Jn 1:35-42
F-1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 [2a]/Jn 1:43-51
Sa-1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

The Week Ahead
Monday, January 1, 2018
9:00am Liturgy, Mary Mother of God Holy day-no obligation (Virginia Hartz)

Tuesday, January 2, 2018
No Liturgy
6:30pm Liturgy Committee mtg. in Putz Hall

Wednesday, January 3, 2018
8:00am Quilters in Putz Hall
9:00am School Liturgy (Ray Bovy)
10:30am Parish Staff mtg. in the Rectory
5:15pm Social Justice mtg. in Putz Hall
7:00pm Choir practice

Thursday, January 4, 2018
8:00am Liturgy (Helen Kane)
8:30am Bible Study in Putz Hall
7:00pm Rosary & Chaplet with the Marian Group in Church

Friday, January 5, 2018
7:40am Reconciliation
8:00am Liturgy (Special Intention)

Saturday, January 6, 2018
3:30pm Reconciliation
4:30pm Liturgy (Alex Allen)

Sunday, January 7, 2018 Epiphany of the Lord
8:30am Liturgy (People of the Parish)
10:30am Liturgy (Jeanne Tuve)

Pray for the Ill
Bernadette Kehoe
Jean Klein
Phil DeGroote
Richard Siech
Barb O’Banion
Bill Keys
Carol Fangman
Miriam McKinley
Will Geer
Duane Hull
Kathleen McKenna
Steve Isley

Makendra Punteney
Jane Sires
Curt Goodman
Caleb Friesen
Cori Liebig

To request to have a family-or-friend’s name put on the above prayer list call the Rectory at 233-6179. Prayer Chain: Call Helen Tedore 415-7087 or Ida Yearling 232-1021.

Parish Update
Marriage: Justin Pregler & Arellhi Sandoval Duran
Our Mission Statement
Because our hearts are burning within us, we the Community of Blessed Sacrament are disciples of Christ, witnessing the love of God through worship, service and lifelong faith formation.

Young Adult Ministry (age 18-39)
Flocknote – Please help us to stay in touch!
- Text cvyoungadults to 85476 or go to (flocknote.com/weff)
- Follow the prompts to input your contact information
- Choose how often you want to receive updates: monthly, weekly, and/or daily.
- Choose which community you are in (college students, parents, singles, married couples etc.)
- Choose if you want to receive information via text or email

Adult Faith Formation
RCIA for Anyone - All are welcome to participate in our discussion nights on the first Thursday of the month and/or the third Monday of the month.
Thursday, January 4-7:00pm at Blessed Sacrament School
Topic: Church Community: Why Does it Matter?
Monday, January 15, 2018 Discussion Night-7-8:00pm at COR
Topic: Love God: The Ten Commandments

Archdiocesan Women’s Conference
January 27, 2018 at The Double Tree Convention Complex, Cedar Rapids.
Register online archwomensconference.org/registration by January 10 for a $10 discount on ticket prices. If interested in carpooling and attending together, contact Ellen Kuchera at 319-349-6710 or dbqwcya@dbqarch.org

Interested in Being Catholic? Sunday, January 7, at 9:15am in the Rectory Classroom, Sacred Heart. This information meeting is for any adult or young adult interested in joining the Catholic Church. Contact Dave Cushing, 233-0498 or bit.do/being-catholic

CEW or Christian Experience Weekend is a renewal weekend for adults, designed to enable them to more deeply “experience” themselves and their relationship to God and the Christian community. It begins on Friday, February 2 at 8:00pm and ends 4:00pm Sunday, February 4. CEW 2018 will be at the American Martyrs Retreat House in Cedar Falls, IA. The CEW will be our first coed weekend. Information brochures are in the Gathering Space program rack. The cost is $135.00 Call Fr. Tom if you need some financial help to make this possible.

Learn More—More information about current and future Faith Formation opportunities for Catholic adults is available online at: http://waterloocatholics.org/bulletin-announcements

Stewardship—“Whatever you do,” says St. Paul to the Colossians, “…do it in the name of the Lord Jesus. Give thanks to God the Father through Him.” And so it is that we offer our gifts in the Eucharist “through Him, with Him, and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit.”

On behalf of the staff and certainly myself, thank you to all who extended gifts, and the gift of your well-wishes this holiday season. It is a blessing to be part of this parish family! Thanks as well to the Liturgy Committee, liturgical ministers, and especially Kathy Grete and the youth choir, John Herman and the adult choir, and all the music ministers who held extra practices to make these such beautiful Advent and Christmas liturgies. As a move to Seattle takes Kennei Menning’s gifts as a pianist from us, we offer him a heartfelt thank you and vaya con Dios for helping us praise God's goodness so beautifully. A blessed new year to all! Fr. Tom

Thanks to all who were part of the Social Justice Caring Food Bag effort. We are a people of Advent hope that trusts Christ is coming. We are also a people of Easter faith that Christ is risen and with us now. Stirring up hope for a better tomorrow in those fearful about something as basic as feeding one’s family, etc. happens when they experience God with them today in their need. Please continue to be mindful of sharing with the poor. Our Caring Bags and all your generosity allows Blessed Sacrament to reveal God with us to those in need. Save February 21 for our Lenten Food Packaging effort this year!

Blessed Sacrament Pastoral Council

Meals on Wheels Volunteers
Thank you to all of you for your dedicated service this year to this most worthy cause. Looking back at this year:
- You drove over 7,000 miles and delivered over 7,000 meals to people in Waterloo, Evansdale, Elk Run Heights & Washburn.
- Volunteered over 1,400 hours of your time to serve the home-bound and needy.
Again, thank you and have a Blest Christmas & Happy New Year!!
Russ and Sherry Candee

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend has something in it for every married couple. The Weekend has value for couples married one year on up to 50 years or more. Sign up today for one of the upcoming WWME weekends:
- February 9-11, in Ankeny
- March 9-11 in La Crosse
- April 20-22 in Dubuque
For information and to register: go to iowa-wwme.org or call 563-608-3305.
Put your belief into action. Visit the **Perpetual Adoration Chapel** located at Columbus HS. Available 24/7. Drop-in or consider becoming a committed adorer. Specific needs at this time are Wednesdays at 1 am and Mondays at noon (temporary). Email cvadoration@gmail.com or call William Brandle at 319-939-9000.

**January Social-Game Night at COR, 220 E. 4th St.** on January 23, 2018 at 6:30pm. Bring a favorite board game and join us for a night of fun. Pizza & drinks provided.

CLOW-We soon hope to restart Children’s Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) CLOW provides an age appropriate Gospel lesson for children ages 6 thru 9 yrs. Children leave with a catechist/s as the readings begin, and return to their parents after the homily. We need Adults willing to be in a rotation to help make this happen. High School Youth can also help for service hours. Goal is to have enough catechists so that one leads only once every 4-6 weeks. Lesson materials and training are provided! Please call the parish office and help us make this happen.

Meals on Wheels-Blessed Sacrament Volunteers deliver meals on the first Thursday, January 4, 2018, and the second Tuesday of the month, January 9, 2018. To volunteer please contact Russ or Sherry Candee at 233-7235. Thank you.

### Liturgical Roles

**Saturday, January 6, 2018**
- **Lector:** Mark Pregler
- **Commentator:** Pam Ironside
- **Sacristans:** Pam Ironside
- **Greasers:** Lori Charbonneaux, Dan & Bethany Daly
- **Musicians:** Choir
- **Servers:** Caleb Holthaus, Owen & Benny Mull
- **Ushers:** M Crawford, D Deviney, R Fliehler, J Christopher
- **Eucharist Ministers:** S Brennan, L Charbonneaux, D Dolan, J Bullis, P Colwell, D & J Christopher, D & J Bentley

**Sunday, January 7, 2018**
- **Lector:** Brian Hayes
- **Commentator:** Julie Hayes
- **Sacristans:** Kenny & Lori Frost
- **Greasers:** Jeanne Gregory, Gil & Mim Gubbels
- **Musicians:** Jake, Jack, Sherri
- **Servers:** Kenny Frost
- **Ushers:** K Walleser, R Burton, R & J Witt
- **Eucharist Ministers:** B O’Rourke, B McDonald, T Potter, L Rolinger, E Schmadeke, T Neymeyer, M Stratattan

**Sunday, January 14, 2018**
- **Lector:** Susan Armstrong
- **Commentator:** Dan Armstrong
- **Sacristans:** Bonnie Wetzel & Carol McElderry
- **Greasers:** Cassandra Graff, Chris Evans family
- **Musicians:** Denise, Lisa
- **Servers:** Matt Evans, Andrew Tracy
- **Ushers:** G Vent, L Hullerman, D McGrane, J Reindl
- **Eucharist Ministers:** C McElderry, B Wetzel, D Moore, K Moore, Jennifer Klein, P Klein, M Loy, J Mastin
Have you considered becoming a Deacon?
Jesus said, "Come and see." (Jn 1:39)
The Office of the Permanent Diaconate is seeking married or single men interested in becoming a Permanent Deacon. The call to the diaconate is a call to a vocation. It requires prayer, commitment, and dedication. Interested men between the ages of 32 and 58, and their wives if married, are invited to attend an "Information Meeting" on Tuesday, January 16 at 7:00pm in the Parish Center. For more information, please contact Deacon Tom Lang at 1-800-876-3546 ext. 252.

Winter Mini-Retreat-Sunday, January 14, 2018 from 1-4:00pm, at COR, 220 East 4th St.
Bill Mulcahey, professor emeritus at Mount Mercy University, will explore the theme of the Kingdom of God in Mark's Gospel, the gospel from which many Sunday readings are taken during the coming year. $10 per person, payable at the door, snow date: January 21.
Registration online: waterloocatholics.org/winter-mini-retreats

Knights of Columbus #700
Casino Bus Trip-Treasure Island
Red Wing, MN
The Waterloo Knights of Columbus is sponsoring an overnight casino bus trip to Treasure Island in Red Wing, MN on January 14 & 15, 2018 If you are interested in joining us and for more information, please contact Bill 319-239-2303 or Bruce 319-236-2210.

Baptism Preparation
Saturday, January 13, 2018 in Scallon Hall at Queen of Peace Parish. This preparation program is for first-time parents in the Waterloo parishes who are planning to baptize an infant or young child in the near future. To register, please call the rectory at 319-233-6179 or online at: waterloocatholics.org/online-registration-for-baptism

Adult Confirmation-Starts Monday, January 15, from 6:00-8:00pm at St. Edward. The Catholic Parishes in Waterloo provide this four-week preparation program for adult and young adult Catholics, age 19 years or older, who wish to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation. The program will meet Monday evenings in January and February. Candidates must be baptized, catechized and actively participating in the spiritual and sacramental life of the Church. Contact Dave Cushing at 319-233-0498 or register online at bit.do/adult-confirmation