

HOLY SPIRIT/ST. EDWARD

December 12/13, 2015

Third Sunday of Advent



FROM FR. KEN:

Sometimes there is a great reaction to how we greet people this time of year, we hear Happy Holidays (the word holiday comes from holy-day) and even though we like to say Merry Christmas, it is not yet Christmas, it is Advent. When we say Merry Christmas what we really mean is I wish that you would have a Merry Christmas when it comes. The word Christmas itself comes from the two words put together; Christ's Mass. When Christmas is written, we sometimes see it written as x-mas instead of Christmas. The word Christmas comes from Christ's Mass, the Mass that we celebrate each and every week. When we see it written as x-mas some people think that we are "X"ing out Christ. But it is shorthand for the first letter of Christ in Greek (χριστός Christos.) Within the Church you will see an overlapping XP which is the chi (X) Rho (P) those are the first letters for Christ these are often flanked by the A (alpha) and Ω (omega) first and last characters of the Greek alphabet to represent Christ being the beginning and the end. So in short, X-Mas was just using the X as shorthand for Christ. Also while we know that Mass refers to the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, it comes from the Latin word Missa which means dismissal, sending, or mission, it also refers to the Holy Sacrifice that Christ Himself offered for us. Jesus Christ's mission in this world was to bring us to the Father and that is why He came. When we say Merry Christmas we remind people to have a joyous remembrance of the sacrifice God Himself gave to us, and it should be joyous, so when someone says to you Happy Holidays, just respond with love, peace, and joy Merry Christmas to you as well.

PARISH STAFF DIRECTORY

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Jennifer Valencia, Afton

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www.stedwardafton.parishesonline.com

www.crestonstmalachy.org

Diocese of Des Moines: www.dmdiocese.org

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: Call the priest for an appointment.

Reconciliation: Holy Spirit: Saturday, 4:30-5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 8:15-8:45 a.m.

St. Edward: Sunday after Mass

First Saturday of the month 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Marriage Preparation: Contact priest at least six months before making marriage plans.

Newcomers: Call the parish office to register.

Parish Office, 406 W. Clark Street, Creston
St. Edward Church, 104 W. Union Street, Afton

St. Malachy School, 403 W. Clark Street, Creston
Holy Spirit Church, 107 W. Howard Street, Creston

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

- ◆ Pick-up the packet of information in the back of Holy Spirit Church with Advent activities for your family! These are made possible by the Family Life Committee. Below are some other ideas:
- ◆ Decide on a family project such as preparing a meal for a family that has experienced hardship or is new in the community.
- ◆ Do a fun activity with the family such as sledding, making cookies, or driving together to see the holiday lights.
- ◆ Light three candles (two purple and one pink) on the Advent wreath. Have family members offer a prayer of thanks for someone who has shown the presence of Christ by his or her love, patience, or forgiveness.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS

The Catholic Daughters will meet Tuesday, December 15th, at Holy Spirit Parish. Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m.; dinner and business meeting to follow. Program: Christmas Crafts; Project: Christmas Family Basket. The Committee: Teresa Weis (Chr), Pat Pokorny, Ann Moore, Alice Reed, and Katie Brennan.

EXTRA CONFESSION TIMES

- ◆ December 14th, at Holy Spirit, following the 6:00 p.m. Mass until 8:00 p.m.
- ◆ December 19th, at St. Edward, from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Masses for Christmas will be:

December 24 4:00 p.m., Holy Spirit
7:00 p.m., St. Edward
10:00 p.m., Holy Spirit

December 25 9:00 a.m., Holy Spirit
(Sign-up sheets for ministries are in the back of both parishes.)

MILLION ACTS OF MERCY

There are probably a million ways folks in our community give and receive mercy. Snap a picture and post it on social media with the hashtag #MillionActsofMercy. Let's affirm those who are living the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy and encourage others to be the presence of God in the lives of others.

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring good news to the poor.*



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Monday December 14	Adoration, 5:00-6:00 p.m., Holy Spirit Mass, 6:00 p.m., Holy Spirit Joe Aguilar
Tuesday December 15	Adoration, 7:30-8:30 a.m., St. Edward Mass, 8:30 a.m., St. Edward Greg Haley Mass, 6:00 p.m., Holy Spirit Helen Sheets
Wednesday December 16	9:15 a.m., St. Malachy School Nate Fry
Thursday December 17	7:00 a.m., St. Malachy Chapel Spence Veysey
Friday December 18	7:00 a.m., St. Malachy Chapel Jessica Moeller
Saturday December 19	5:15 p.m., Holy Spirit Edmund Baker
Sunday December 20	9:00 a.m., Holy Spirit Ed Pesik 10:45 a.m., St. Edward For the People

RELIGIOUS GIVE THANKS

Heartfelt thanks for your donation to this week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. May God bless you for your goodness!

CTO

Are there tax credits left for 2015? YES. You can take advantage of the 65% Iowa tax credits which reduces the amount of the Iowa income tax by 65% of your gift. *Example:* a \$1,000 donation to CTO will reduce your Iowa taxes by \$650! PLUS, you get to deduct \$1,000 on your federal return when you itemize. It's that EASY! Go online to CTOIowa.org or call Jeanne, 515-237-5010 or talk to Fr. Ken (he is on the CTO Board).

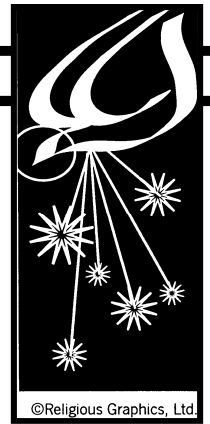
CRHP RETREAT

A women's Christ Renews His Parish weekend will be held January 16th/17th at St. Malachy School. A sign-up sheet is in the back of church.

News from Holy Spirit Parish

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	December 13	Gifts for Adopt-A-Family must be returned by this date
Monday	December 14	Confession following 6:00 p.m. Mass until 8:00 p.m., Church
Tuesday	December 15	ReRun Shop, Noon-5:00 p.m. CD of A Mass, 6:00 p.m. + Dinner/Business Meeting, Hall
Wednesday	December 16	ReRun Shop, Noon-5:00 p.m. Social Concerns Committee Sorts Adopt-A-Family Gifts, 6:00 p.m., Hall Confirmation Class, 6:30 p.m., St. Malachy School Rel. Ed. Caroling, 6:30 p.m., St. Malachy School
Thursday	December 17	RCIA, 7:00 p.m., Hall
Friday	December 18	ReRun Shop, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Saturday	December 19	ReRun Shop, 9:00 a.m.-Noon



GIFTS TO GOD:

Weekly tithes needed	\$8,154.00
Dec. 6th tithes received	\$8,897.00

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

Your support and help is needed to prepare and serve the Christmas Dinner. This dinner is served from 3-5 p.m. on Christmas Day at St. Malachy School. It is free to all who attend. Home deliveries can be requested to those in the city of Creston. Please call the parish office, 782-5278, if you wish to be added to the home delivery list. Please let us know by **December 15th** how you can help.

LADIES: JOIN US THIS MONDAY

The Council of Catholic Women (CCW) will meet Monday, December 14th at 11:00 a.m. in the parish hall. This is a Christmas potluck with entertainment by St. Malachy music students. They will also be eating with us. Please bring a dish to share (there is a food sign-up sheet at the back of church). Please, come and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship, food and music!

NEEDED AT THE RERUN

- ◆ Hooded sweatshirts in good condition
- ◆ Size 2X winter coats
- ◆ Warm blankets
- ◆ Volunteers: Especially on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to noon to help at the check out counter.
- ◆ ReRun hours are Tuesday and Wednesday noon until 5:00; Friday, 9 to 5; Saturday, 9 to noon.
- ◆ ReRun phone number: 641-202-4488

THANK YOU!

We are very grateful for all the gifts that have been purchased for our Adopt-A-Family this Christmas. The Social Concerns Committee will be sorting the gifts Wednesday, December 16th, 6:00 p.m., in the parish hall. Anyone who would like to help with this project is most welcome!

ORDER SOON

Christmas will soon be here, so get your Scrip cards ordered!! There are hundreds of National cards that can be purchased besides those of our local merchants. Go to www.glscrip.com for a complete list of national retailers. Orders placed on Monday (before 9:00 a.m.) will be filled by Thursday afternoon and ready for pick-up. Questions, call Tom or Charlene Dunphy, 782-6036

FUNERAL DINNERS

All Catholic ladies are members of the CCW and provide food for funeral dinners. If you would like to have your name on the list that can provide food more often, please contact Marsha Mohr, 641-278-0705. Also, if you would like to help serve/work the dinners, please let Marsha know. If you are unable to provide food and need to have your name removed from the band list, please let us know.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE

Thanks to the Knights of Columbus, keep Christ in Christmas Catholic Christmas cards are available at Maple Street Memories, 222 N. Maple St. All proceeds are used to fund the good work of the Knights.

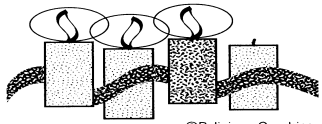
QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Theme: John baptized with water, but the Messiah will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Question for Children: Why is it so important to keep promises which you have made?

Questions for Youth: What do you remember from stories about your Baptism? What does your Baptism mean to you now?

Question for Adults: How can you live the promise of your Baptism each day?



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A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR THE SOUL

Tickets are now on sale for this life changing event. Go to www.christourlifeiowa.com to order your tickets online for the Christ Our Life Conference scheduled for September 24th/25th, 2016. There are also bookmarks available at the back of the church.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Dec. 19/20	5:15 p.m.	9:00 a.m.
Lectors	Alice Reed Linda Hartsock	Lucy Iyagbaye II Joanne Gibson
E. Minister	T. & L. Root Pat Miller	Theresa Pudenz Terri Koets B. & L. Miller Steve McCann
Ushers	Paul Johnson T. & C. Sevier Butch Miller Joe Latus	Roger & Melissa Baker Family Paul Baker
Servers	Nevaeh Kuhlman Ashton Carter Andy Weis	Maura Kinsella Kara Kinsella Madalyn Kinsella
Greeters	T. & C. Sevier	R. & A. Mohr
Rosary	Ted Willets	Paul Baker
Musicians	Janet Schulte Heather Sitek	Lynn Baker Danna Buls
Money Counters	Syd Hudek, Mary McElroy, Bob McKee	

Please find a substitute if you are unable to fulfill your assignment.

News from St. Edward Parish

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	December 13	Return Gifts for Adopt-A-Family
Tuesday	December 15	CD of A Mass, 6:00 p.m./Dinner & Business Meeting to Follow, Holy Spirit
Wednesday	December 16	Rel. Ed. Classes go Caroling at the Care Center Confirmation Class, 6:30 p.m., St. Malachy School
Saturday	December 19	Confession: 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.
Sunday	December 20	Decorate Church for Christmas after Mass

GIFTS TO GOD

Weekly tithes needed	\$909.41
December 6th tithes received	\$533.00

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

December 20	10:45 a.m.
Lector	Retta Ripperger
Euch. Min.	Jan Pettit, Sharon Findley, Jessica Rosener
Usher/Greet	Fritz Weis Family
Servers	Bailey Hopkins, Jillian Valencia
Money Counters	Darren Moore, Sharon Swanson

CHURCH DECORATING

We will be decorating St. Edward's for Christmas after Mass next Sunday, December 20th. We need strong backs and willing hands! There will be pizza and cookies for lunch as a thank you to all the volunteers.

NEW SCHEDULE

A new ministry schedule will soon be printed. Please contact Sheila Brown if there are any additions or deletions. New ministers welcome!

THANK YOU.....

For all the donations for our Adopt-A-Family.