December is one of my favorite months. Unfortunately it is also one of the busiest months in the parish. This year, because of when some of the celebrations occur, it is also a very confusing month.

Let’s start with Immaculate Conception on December 8. This is our national patronal feast, and therefore a holy day of obligation. In simple terms, that means that we are required to go to Mass on Wednesday, December 8. The Church allows us to fulfill this obligation by going to any Mass after 4pm on Tuesday, December 7.

The next important celebration for us would be December 12, or the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Because it falls on a Sunday of Advent, it is not celebrated liturgically. At our parish we will still celebrate the occasion outside of Mass with a rosary at 11:30pm on Saturday, December 11, followed by mañanitas and a reception with pan dulce (Mexican baked goods) and coffee.

Then we get to the big one, Christmas. What makes it special this year is that it falls on Saturday. Christmas is a holy day of obligation, and so is the Sunday right after. That means that on Christmas weekend we are required to go to two Masses to fulfill our two obligations. Because the Church allows us to fulfill such obligations attending the evening prior, it gets a little bit confusing. Please use the list to the right to see what Masses you can attend to fulfill both obligations. Remember, **there are two obligations, therefore you are required to attend two Masses on Christmas weekend.**

The following Saturday, January 1st, is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. This is normally a holy day of obligation, which we could satisfy on New Year’s Eve. This year, though, there is no obligation to attend Mass for this solemnity because of a special law in this country.

As you can see, it’s a busy month, but I still love it and have been looking forward to it. I cannot wait to see our churches fully decorated, and to listen to Christmas caroling. I’ll confess I am also looking forward to some snow.

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**To satisfy your obligation for Immaculate Conception (December 8), go to any of these Masses:**

- **December 7**
  - 5:30pm St. Boniface (English)
  - 5:30pm Cathedral (Spanish)

- **December 8**
  - 7am St. Joseph (English)
  - 12pm Cathedral (English)
  - 5:30pm Cathedral (Spanish)
  - 7pm Cathedral (Traditional Latin)

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**To satisfy your obligation for Christmas, go to any of these Masses:**

- **December 24**
  - 4pm Cathedral (English)
  - 4:30pm St. Boniface (English)
  - 5pm St. Joseph (English)
  - 6pm Cathedral (Spanish)

- **December 25**
  - 12am Cathedral (Traditional Latin)
  - 10am Cathedral (English)
  - 12pm Cathedral (Spanish)
  - 4pm St. Boniface (English)
  - 6pm Cathedral (Spanish)

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**To satisfy your obligation for Holy Family (December 26), go to any of these Masses:**

- **December 25**
  - 4pm St. Boniface (English)
  - 6pm Cathedral (Spanish)

- **December 26**
  - 8:30am St. Joseph (English)
  - 8:30am Cathedral (Traditional Latin)
  - 10am Cathedral (English)
  - 10:30am St. Boniface (Spanish)
  - 12pm Cathedral (Spanish)
  - 12:30pm St. Joseph (Vietnamese)
  - 1:30pm Cathedral (Spanish)
THE DIFFERENT MASSES OF CHRISTMAS

Rev. Andrew Galles

While most liturgical celebrations have one Mass, certain solemnities may have two different Masses: a Vigil Mass and a Mass for the Day. However, the celebration of Christmas is unique, in which the Church gives us four different Masses to celebrate. While each of these Masses celebrates our Lord’s birth, they have different readings and prayers assigned to them which have different perspectives and lead us on a journey from the waiting of Advent to the joy of Christmas.

The Vigil Mass: Joyful Anticipation

We are still in a time of waiting and anticipation, which is clear in the Entrance Antiphon: “Today you will know that the Lord will come, and he will save us, and in the morning you will see his glory.” Although moving out of Advent into the joy of Christmas, the mood of anticipation remains. In the Gospel for this Mass, we hear not about the actual birth of Christ, but rather the genealogy of Jesus and the events which lead up to Jesus’ birth. One last time, the Church prepares us for the impending birth of the Lord.

Mass During the Night: Hearing the Good News

Though technically entitled “Mass during the Night,” many Catholics will probably know this as the Midnight Mass. The transition of anticipation to the reality of Christ’s birth finally occurs. We begin with the Entrance Antiphon telling us: “Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Savior has been born in the world. Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.” It is also during this Mass that we hear the well-known story of Christmas in the Gospel from Luke, with the angels making known the Lord’s birth to the shepherds, announcing, “I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.” For this reason, this Mass is also known as the Angel’s Mass.

Mass at Dawn: Basking in the Light of the Son

At dawn, we begin with acknowledging the Light of Christ in the Entrance Antiphon: “Today a light will shine upon us, for the Lord is born for us.” At this Mass, we pray in the Collect: “Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, as we are bathed in the new radiance of your incarnate Word, the light of faith, which illuminates our minds, may also shine through our deeds.” The parallel between Jesus and the dawning sun is highlighted – as the sun rises and illuminates the world, the birth of Jesus brings illumination to our thoughts and actions. The Gospel reading for this Mass continues the story from the previous Mass, but the focus here is instead on the shepherds proclaiming the good news of Christ’s birth. This is why this Mass is sometimes known as the Shepherd’s Mass.

Mass During the Day: Contemplating the Mystery of the Incarnation

The last Mass of Christmas occurs during the full light of day. With our minds now illuminated by the Light of Christ, our focus shifts to the mystery of the Incarnation. The Entrance Antiphon proclaims, “A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his scepter of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.” This child was born for us so that we might share in his divine majesty. This theme is emphasized in the Gospel of this Mass, where we shift from St. Luke’s birth story to the Gospel of John: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God… And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory.”

This child that we have anticipated, that the angels announced, and that the shepherds proclaimed, is the Word made flesh. This Christ child born for us has made us children of the heavenly Father. As we anticipate the beauty and joy of Christmas, let us meditate on the Incarnation through the lens of the Christmas Masses, and come to recognize the wonder of being an adopted child of God.

Are you NOT receiving our newsletter every month?

To receive a hard copy every month by mail call us at 712-255-1637 and ask to be added to the newsletter mailing list.

To receive an electronic copy, text the word SCNEWS to 84576. You will receive the newsletter every month, and updates every Monday.
**Parish Updates**

**Special Collections**
- Building Maintenance Fund, December 4-5
- Together As One [Spanish Only], December 11-12
- Catholic Charities, December 24-25

**Changes in Schedule This Month**
- Wednesday, December 8, see front page schedule
- Tuesday, December 14, no Spanish Mass
- Friday, December 24, office closed
- Saturday, December 25, Christmas, see front page for Mass schedule
- Monday, December 27, office closed.
- Friday, December 31, office closed

**Busy Persons Lunch**
Our lunch for busy people this month will be on Wednesday, December 1, after the noon Mass. We hope you can join us.

**Christmas Break of Religious Education Classes**
No classes from December 22 to January 7. Student return to classes January 12 and 14, on regular schedule.

**Ladies Lunch**
Thursday, December 16, 1pm at Mr. Stir Fry

**The Financial Corner**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Oct. 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Offerings</td>
<td>$ 53,484.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loose Offerings</td>
<td>$ 16,361.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prog. Support</td>
<td>$ 11,508.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>$ 18,816.15</td>
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</table>

| Total Parish Income | $ 100,170.50 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; Wages</td>
<td>$ 44,734.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Expenses</td>
<td>$ 19,681.93</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry Expenses</td>
<td>$ 3,556.54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utility Bills &amp; Repairs</td>
<td>$ 15,760.03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessments</td>
<td>$ 67,958.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Expenses</td>
<td>$ 1,632.26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Expenses     | $ 153,323.48 |

**Net Income** $ -53,152.98

**January Newsletter**
The deadline to submit items for our January newsletter is Wednesday, December 15.

**Changes in Schedule**
Starting January 2nd the Sunday Traditional Latin Mass will be celebrated at Saint Boniface. It will still be at 8:30am. The 1:30pm Spanish Mass at Cathedral will move to 8:30am.

**Knights Corner**
Wishing you the peace and joy of Christmas! Council # 743 is vibrant and involved with several activities:

- **Parish Breakfast** - Christmas themed breakfast with food, games and gifts on Dec. 5th at 9 – 11:30 AM in the Cathedral Hall.
- **Charity Wood Creations** – We are making and selling beautiful Christian themed wooden plaques. Makes for great holiday gifts.
- **Weekly Prolife Rosary** – Outside Mary’s Choice/ Planned Parenthood every Wednesday at 11 am.

Phone: Gregg 712-635-1966; Email: KofC743USA@gmail.com; Facebook Page: “Knights of Columbus Council 743 USA”; Join Us: www.kofc.org/joinus; Meetings: 2nd Thursdays of month at 7 pm in the Cathedral Hall (next meeting Dec. 9th).
Cathedral of the Epiphany
1000 Douglas Street
Sioux City, Iowa 51105

Very Rev. J. David Esquiliano, JCL, Rector
Rev. Andrew Galles, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Jeremy Wind, Parochial Vicar

**Mass Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MON.-SAT.</td>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>Cathedral</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MON.-FRI.</td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td>Cathedral</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>St. Boniface</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Cathedral</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Cathedral</td>
<td>Latin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>St. Joseph</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Cathedral</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>St. Boniface</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>Cathedral</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:30 pm</td>
<td>St. Joseph</td>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td>Cathedral</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOLIDAYS</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Cathedral</td>
<td>Bilingual</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Holy Days of Obligation**

**Anticipated / Vigil:**
- 5:30 pm St. Boniface | English
- 5:30 pm Cathedral | Spanish

**The Day of the Solemnity:**
- 7:00 am St. Joseph | English
- 12:00 pm Cathedral | English
- 5:30 pm Cathedral | Spanish
- 7:00 pm Cathedral | Latin

**Eucharistic Adoration**
- Perpetual Adoration
- Adoration Chapel - Epiphany Center

**Conmissions**

**SUNDAY:**
- 8:00 am-8:20 am Cathedral
- 8:00 am-8:20 am St. Joseph

**MON.-FRI.:**
- 4:30 pm-5:15 pm Cathedral

**FRIDAY:**
- 11:30 am-11:50 am Cathedral

**SATURDAY:**
- 3:00 pm-3:45 pm St. Boniface
- 5:00 pm-5:45 pm Cathedral

**Office Hours**

**MON., TUE., THUR.:**
- 10:00 am-4:00 pm

**WEDNESDAY:**
- 10:00 am-1:00 pm
- 2:00 pm-5:30 pm

**FRIDAY:**
- 10:00 am-5:30 pm

**SAT.-SUN.:**
- Closed

Website: www.sccathedral.org
Email: info@sccathedral.org
Telephone: 712-255-1637