



CATHEDRAL of the EPIPHANY

1000 Douglas St., Sioux City, IA 51105

December 2022

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY

Very Rev. J. David Esquiliano, JCL, JV

Below these words you will find our Mass schedule for three upcoming holy days of obligation, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on December 8, Christmas on December 25, and the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on January 1st, with the liturgical celebration starting the evening of December 31st. One common thread in all these solemnities is Mary, our Blessed Mother. There is, obviously something special about her.

On December 8 we celebrate that the Mary, who would be chosen as the Mother of Our Lord was conceived without the stain of sin. Many Catholics wrongly believe that what we celebrate is our Lord's conception, but that is celebrated on March 25, the feast of the Annunciation, exactly 9 months before Christmas. Instead, we celebrate that Mary was protected from the stain of sin by a singular grace.

On Christmas we celebrate the birth of our Savior, who came to us through Mary. God used her *fiat*, her yes, to fulfill his promise to send us a savior to rescue us from slavery to sin and death. She has the important role of bringing God to us.

On January 1st the western world celebrates the beginning of a new year. The Church, though, celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. January 1 is the last day of the Octave of Christmas, and a fitting day to celebrate Mary's motherhood of our Lord, truly God and truly man.

December 12 is another important Marian celebration for us. On this date we celebrate the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Saint Juan Diego. Our Diocese is under the patronage of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and many of our parishioners have a strong devotion to

her. While not a holy day of obligation in this country, many people come to Mass to celebrate this feast.

May is traditionally the month dedicated to Our Blessed Mother, but for about three weeks at the end of the year, we also turn our attention to her. Something that we can learn from these four celebrations is that Mary is not really the protagonist, the main character. On December 8th we celebrate that God protected her from the stain of sin. On December 12 we celebrate that she appeared to Saint Juan Diego and others to ask them to build a temple to offer the sacrifice of the Mass to God. On Christmas Day we celebrate that she gave birth to God who came to rescue us. And on New Year's Day we celebrate she's the Mother of God made man. In all these occasions the focus is really on God, who protected her, who came to us through her, who made her His and our mother, and who receives all praise and worship. Mary points us to him, here on earth, on our journey to heaven. Saint Thomas Aquinas summarized Mary's role in these beautiful words, "As mariners are guided into port by the shining of a star, so Christians are guided to heaven by Mary."

As you celebrate these important occasions, don't forget to look at Mary, who will be pointing you in the right direction.



SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

5:30pm St. Boniface (English)

5:30pm Cathedral (Spanish)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

7:30am St. Joseph (English)

9am Cathedral (Spanish)

11am St. Joseph (Vietnamese)

12pm Cathedral (English)

5:30pm Cathedral (Spanish)

7pm Cathedral (Spanish)

CHRISTMAS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

4pm Cathedral (English)

4:30pm St. Boniface (English)

5pm St. Joseph (English)

6pm Cathedral (Spanish)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

12am Cathedral (Spanish)

8am St. Boniface (Latin)

10am Cathedral (English)

10:30am St. Boniface (Spanish)

12pm Cathedral (Spanish)

12:30pm St. Joseph (Vietnamese)

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

4pm St. Boniface (English)

6pm Cathedral (Spanish)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

8:30am St. Joseph (English)

8:30am Cathedral (Spanish)

8:30am St. Boniface (Latin)

10am Cathedral (English)

10:30am St. Boniface (Spanish)

12pm Cathedral (Spanish)

12:30pm St. Joseph (Vietnamese)

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AND THE SACRAMENTS *Very Rev. Andrew Galles, VF*



December is the month in traditional Catholic piety that is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The fact that Mary was conceived in St. Anne's womb without the original sin of Adam and Eve has always been the steadfast tradition and teaching of the Church. In 1854, Pope Pius IX solemnly declared the dogma which the Church had always known and believed in his Encyclical *Ineffabilis Deus*: "We declare, pronounce, and define that

the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful."

Growing up, the Immaculate Conception was always one of my favorite Marian feast days, and it still is to this day. In the midst of the hopeful waiting of Advent, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception joyfully anticipates the birth of Christ and reminds us of Our Lady's irreplaceable role in cooperating with God's plan of salvation. The Advent and Christmas seasons are so intimately connected with Mary that December is a month in which the Gospel of the angel Gabriel's annunciation is heard the most. As the Preface for the Mass of the Immaculate Conception declares: "She, the most pure Virgin, was to bring forth a Son, the innocent Lamb who would wipe away our offenses; you placed her above all others to be for your people an advocate of grace and a model of holiness." The Immaculate Conception helps to prepare us for Christmas by meditating upon the virtue and purity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our Lady is so inseparably connected to the mystery of the

Incarnation because she is like us in all things but sin. This is how she becomes our "model of holiness," because she shows us what our life can be without the corruption of sin—corruption that we can rid from ourselves with the Sacraments, especially Penance and Eucharist. Because Jesus Christ makes all things new, we know that he also restores our fallen humanity through these medicines of the Sacraments. Christ left us his Church so that we might "cast off the old man" of original sin and become sanctified. Mary is the perfect image of this; she represents the perfect model of sanctification towards which we should all strive.

This should remind us that Mary had the honor of being the first "tabernacle," carrying within her the Body of Christ. So holy and sacred is Emmanuel, God-with-us, that the Eternal Father would not tolerate the Son to be born of any woman that was stained by sin and corruption. The Preface for the Mass of the Immaculate Conception recalls this of God's intentions: "For you preserved the most Blessed Virgin Mary from all stain of original sin, so that in her, endowed with the rich fullness of your grace, you might prepare a worthy Mother for your Son and signify the beginning of the Church, his beautiful Bride without spot or wrinkle."

This gives us pause to consider how God wishes us to approach his sacred mysteries, especially when we receive Holy Communion and carry the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ within us, just as Mary did. Because she is our model of sanctification, Mary and her Immaculate Conception shows us how we too must be "full of grace" in order to have a heart that is open to receiving the Word of God and doing his will. To live fruitful spiritual lives that are not dead in sin means to imitate Our Lady in this way. The way we do this is to be baptized to wash away original sin, confirmed to be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, confess our sins so that we may be in a state of grace, and receive Jesus Christ into our souls in Holy Communion. Never are we more like the Blessed Virgin Mary than when we carry the very Body of Christ within us.

WHY DO WE GIVE SO MUCH ATTENTION TO MARY?

Mrs. Santa Fernandez



The church teaching say The Catholic Church believes that Mary plays a significant role in salvation history. Catholics honor the Virgin Mary as the Mother of God and the Mother of the Church. Catholics believe that Mary was immaculately conceived, was assumed body and soul into heaven. Catholics families honor Mary through liturgical feasts, religious art, and special devotions.

Mary foretold that she would be called blessed during her visit to Elizabeth following the Annunciation. From the earliest days of Christianity, Christians have fulfilled this prophesy by honoring Mary and seeking her intercession. Within the midst of this, it is important to remember that Mary, herself, knew that she was blessed because of the grace that God gave to her. Mary is not prideful in any way and has the sole intention of leading us closer to God, who is our savior. It is clear that simply asking for prayers from a saint in heaven is not equivalent to worshipping them. When

we honor Mary, in reality, we are glorifying God for his great creation of Mary who he filled with his grace. "And Mary said: 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed'" (Luke 1:46–48).

Mary is the Mother of God, because she is the Mother of Jesus, who is God. She is the Mother of the Church because Jesus gave her to all Christians when he was dying on the Cross. The commandments instruct us to honor our earthly mother and father. It is reasonable to see that in this commandment would extend to our heavenly Mother, Mary. In doing so, we join Jesus who perfectly obeys the commandments, and therefore perfectly honors his Mother. We do not lose our identities in heaven, which means that Mary is now and will always be Jesus' Mother. In this sense, we should not be worried about honoring her too much, because we can never love or honor her more that Jesus already does.

"When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, 'Woman, behold, your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother'" (John 19:26-27).

PARISH UPDATES

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

- Building Maintenance Fund, December 3-4.
- Together As One [Spanish Only], December 17-18.
- Catholic Charities, December 24-25

CHANGES TO THE SCHEDULE

- Monday, December 12. No confessions.
- Tuesday, December 13. No 9am school Mass. It has been moved to Monday, December 12. No confessions nor evening Mass in Spanish.
- Saturday, December 24. No noon Mass. Special Mass schedule. Check front page of newsletter.
- Sunday, December 25. Special Mass schedule. Check front page of newsletter.
- Monday, December 26. Only Mass at 9 am. No confessions. Office closed.

FAMILY OF FAITH (RELIGIOUS EDUCATION)

- Wednesday, December 7. 6:15 pm at Cathedral - Family Night (parents and students).
- Wednesday, December 14. 6:15 pm - Sacramental Prep Night for 1st Communion and Confirmation students. (students only). Confirmation sponsor name due today.

BUSY PERSONS LUNCH

Join us for lunch on Wednesday, December 7, after the noon Mass. No cost, just a free-will offering.

THE FINANCIAL CORNER

INCOME		October
Weekly Offerings	\$	58,399.02
Loose Offerings	\$	23,738.84
Prog. Support	\$	10,817.00
Other income	\$	22,727.02
Total Parish Income	\$	115,681.88
EXPENSE		
Salaries & Wages	\$	29,691.88
Administrative Expenses	\$	11,001.45
Ministry Expenses	\$	2,353.36
Utility Bills & Repairs	\$	30,719.06
Assessments	\$	10,005.50
Other Expenses	\$	4,794.58
Total Expenses	\$	88,565.83
NET LOSS	\$	27,116.05

PARISH BREAKFAST

Our parish breakfast organized by the Knights of Columbus will take place on December 11, from 9 am to 12 pm at the Cathedral Hall. This month we will also have a Catholic book sale, with all proceedings going to Queen of Peace Shrine.

LADIES LUNCH

Thursday, December 15, at 1pm at Perkin's East Morningside.

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

The Cathedral will be hosting an Advent Lessons and Carols Service on Sunday, December 4 at 3 pm. This is a service consisting of short scripture verses and corresponding hymns or carols that tell of the prophecy of Christ's birth. Please join us for this excellent opportunity to focus on Advent and prepare for Christmas.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Join us for a serenade with mariachi music to Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of our diocese, at 11pm on Sunday, December 11. Masses on December 12 are at the regular time.

CHRISTMAS WISHLIST

Want to give to your parish in a more visible way? Check out our Christmas wish list at sccathedral.org/wishlist. These are items that we would like to get to help us in our ministry, but fall outside of our operating budget.

KNIGHTS CORNER



THANK YOU – Special thanks to all the Knights and parishioners that helped with the November breakfast, Soccer Game, 40daysforLife prayer hour, Calvary cemetery Rosary, Christmas Parade, Tootsie Roll drives, hosting Nov. 4th degree Knight meeting.

PARISH BREAKFAST – Upcoming breakfasts- December 11th Christmas themed and January 8th Epiphany Festival. Looking for volunteers to help make these festive.

MONTHLY MEETING – 2nd Thursday Dec. 8th at 7 pm in the Cathedral Hall. We will have Rosary at 6:15 pm followed by dinner. All men are welcome to learn about us. kofc.org/joinus

CAN DRIVE – Contact us for pick-up or drop off of used uncrushed can/bottle donations during Nov, Dec, Jan. Redemption proceeds go to Camp High Hopes, Food Bank of Siouxland (Soup Kitchen and Mary's Choice).

TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVES – Money raised this year will go to Mid-Step Services. midstepservices.com/

STATE KOFC OFFICERS WEEKLY OPEN DESK – All Knights are encouraged to interact with state officers at the weekly Open desk. Wednesdays at 8 PM in English; Thursdays at 6:57 pm in Spanish. Register for the meeting link iowakofc.org/calendar

CONTACT – Check out our Facebook page for activities and updates “Knights of Columbus Council 743 USA”. Email: KofC743USA@gmail.com. Phone: English - Noel 806-316-7628/ Brent 712-490-0410, Spanish - Osbaldo 712-501-0835.



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CATHEDRAL of the EPIPHANY

Very Rev. J. David Esquiliano, JCL, JV, Rector

Very Rev. Andrew Galles, VF, Parochial Vicar

Rev. Jeremy Wind, Parochial Vicar

Rev. Travis Crotty, In Residence

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Email **info@sccathedral.org**

Telephone **712-255-1637**

MASS SCHEDULE

MON.-SAT.: 12 pm Cathedral *English*

MON.-FRI.: 5:30 pm Cathedral *Spanish*

SATURDAY: 4 pm St. Boniface *English*
6 pm Cathedral *Spanish*

SUNDAY: 8:30 am Cathedral *Spanish*
8:30 am St. Joseph *English*
10 am Cathedral *English*
10:30 am St. Boniface *Spanish*
12 pm Cathedral *Spanish*
12:30 pm St. Joseph *Vietnamese*

HOLIDAYS: 9 am Cathedral *Bilingual*

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

ANTICIPATED / VIGIL:

5:30 pm St. Boniface *English*

5:30 pm Cathedral *Spanish*

THE DAY OF THE SOLEMNITY:

7:30 am St. Joseph *English*

9 am Cathedral *Spanish (School)*

11 am St. Joseph *Vietnamese*

12 pm Cathedral *English*

5:30 pm Cathedral *Spanish*

7 pm Cathedral *Spanish*

SUNG VESPERS

SUNDAY: 4:00 pm Cathedral *English*

CONFESSIONS

SUNDAY: 8 - 8:20 am Cathedral
8 - 8:20 am St. Joseph
8 - 8:20 am St. Boniface

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

FRIDAY: 11:30 - 11:50 am Cathedral

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

PERPETUAL ADORATION

Adoration Chapel - Epiphany Center

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY: 10 am - 1 pm

TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY: 10 am - 2 pm