

# ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Neola, IA

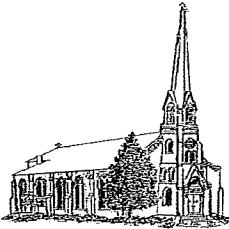
Parish Office:  
712.485.2124

Religious Ed:  
712.485.2014

Parish Hall:  
712.485.2433

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raeshellejensen@gmail.com

Website:  
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St. Patrick's Catholic Church  
310 Avon Street  
P.O. Box 127  
Neola, IA 51559

Pastor: Rev Daniel A. Danso  
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Scott Brooks  
Directors Faith Formation: Amy Ausdemore  
Bernie Koch  
Secretary: RaeShelle Jensen

#### MASS TIMES:

Mon: No Mass  
Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri: 8:30 AM  
Saturday Evening: 5:30 PM (April to September)  
4:00 PM (October to March)  
Sunday Morning: 9:30 AM  
Holidays: As announced in the bulletin

# ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Weston, IA



St. Columbanus Catholic Church  
22720 Weston Ave  
Underwood, IA 51576-3920  
Served from Neola

#### MASS TIMES:

Sunday Morning: 8:00 AM  
Holidays: As announced in the bulletin  
Reconciliation by appointment

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21/22, 2019

READING I Isaiah 7:10-14  
READING II Romans 1:1-7  
GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-24

TWO WEEK  
BULLETIN

### Christmas Eve

READING I Isaiah 9:1-6  
READING II Titus 2:11-14  
GOSPEL Luke 2:1-14

### Midnight Mass

READING I Isaiah 62:11-12  
READING II Titus 3:4-7  
GOSPEL Luke 2:15-20

### Christmas Day

READING I Isaiah 52:7-10  
READING II Hebrews 1:1-6  
GOSPEL John 1:1-18

### The Holy Family December 28/29, 2019

READING I Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14  
READING II Colossians 3:12-21  
GOSPEL Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

### Epiphany of the Lord January 4/5, 2020

READING I Isaiah 60:1-6  
READING II Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6  
GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

We welcome you into God's family! If you are interested in learning more about our church, or would like to join, please pick up a registration form at one of the entrances of the church, stop by the parish office, or call Father Danso for an appointment.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** To have your child baptized you must be a registered parishioner in good standing for at least three months before requesting a baptismal date. Baptismal requests must be made at least one month before the desired date. A baptismal class is required for first time parents and other parents who have not had a formal baptismal class. The class is held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm. Pre-registration is required by calling the parish office.

**SACRAMENT OF THE SICK (ANONING):** Anointing is available upon request. It is available: in serious illness, before surgery & in emergency at anytime. Please call the parish office.

**PASTORAL VISITATIONS:** Please call the parish office when a parishioner is admitted to any of the hospitals or care centers. Hospitals no longer alert us to that information due to a confidentiality law. If a homebound parishioner would like a pastoral visit, or to receive the Eucharist, call the parish office. The Eucharist is taken to the homebound on Sundays by Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):** Saturday 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. (April to September); 3:00 - 3:40 p.m. (October to March); or any other time by appointment.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION:** The process of becoming a Catholic or completing the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation for adults or children is celebrated in the parish. Please call the parish office for further information.

**SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY (MARRIAGE):** To be married at the parish, you or your intended spouse or your parents must be a registered parishioner in good standing for at least six months before a date can be requested, with a minimum of six months for marriage preparation. The couple therefore needs to talk with a priest or deacon six months before the anticipated wedding date. Do not rent a hall for reception before seeing & meeting with a priest or deacon AND before your wedding is placed in the parish calendar. If a prior marriage is involved; one year notice may be necessary. Please plan accordingly.

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:** First Fridays: Mass 8:30 a.m. followed by Exposition till 10:00 a.m.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** St. Patrick's Neola has Eucharistic Adoration every Thursday from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm. Anyone is welcome to come during this time for as long as you would like. We do have a schedule, so that we make sure someone is there at all times. Please contact the parish office for more information or you can find the schedule and sub list on our website.

**UPDATE OF PARISH ROSTER:** A constant effort of the parish office is updating our current registered parishioners. If you are new to the parish, please call the parish office to register. If you are moving to a new location, or if parishioners know of someone who has moved, please call the parish office.

**PRAYER CHAIN:** To request prayers, call Bonnie Turner at 712-485-2570 or 402-672-3756 and she will start the process to get the 30+ individuals on the chain praying for your intention. There is also a prayer intention book at the entrance of church in which you can offer/write your prayer intention/request.

**Weekday Masses**

Dec 23 - NO MASS  
 Dec 24 - Mass for St. Patrick's Parish ..... 4:00 PM  
           Mass for St. Columbanus Parish ..... 9:00 PM  
           Mass for St. Patrick's Parish ..... Midnight  
 Dec 25 - Mass for President's Intentions ..... 9:30 AM  
 Dec 26 - NO MASS OR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION  
 Dec 27 - Clare Ring Delanty ..... 8:30 AM

**Weekend Masses**

Dec 28 - Ray Allred ..... 4:00 PM  
 Dec 29 - St. Columbanus ..... 8:00 AM  
 Dec 29 - St. Patrick's ..... 9:30 AM

**Weekday Masses**

Dec 30 - NO MASS  
 Dec 31 - Betty Driver ..... 8:30 AM  
 Jan 1 - New Years Day - Solemnity of Mary - Barb Roane .... 6:00 PM  
 Jan 2 - Fritz, Mary Alice & Jerry Baldwin ..... 8:30 AM  
 Jan 3 - Ruth Brich ..... 8:30 AM

**Weekend Masses**

Jan 4 - Steve Divin ..... 4:00 PM  
 Jan 5 - St. Columbanus ..... 8:00 AM  
 Jan 5 - St. Patrick's ..... 9:30 AM

**DECEMBER 24, 2019 - CHRISTMAS EVE - 4:00 PM**

Lector - David Mann  
 Servers - Walter Ausdemore &  
 EME's - Maureen Mann, Frieda Calhoon, Mary Baker, Liz Lyons,  
           Amy Ausdemore, & Cathy Corrin

**DECEMBER 24, 2019 - CHRISTMAS EVE - MIDNIGHT**

Lector - Shannon Nye  
 Servers - Michael Turner & Sam Nye  
 EME's - Travis, Nate, & Justin Bolte

**DECEMBER 25, 2019 - CHRISTMAS DAY - 9:30 AM**

Lector - Bob Martin  
 Servers - Michael & Grace Denning  
 EME's - Jan Divin, Roberta Morse & Jenny Hall

**DECEMBER 28, 2019 - 4:00 PM**

Lector - Jesie Rosenmeyer  
 Servers - Walter Ausdemore  
           Sam Nye  
 EME's - Amy Ausdemore  
           Shannon Nye - Dave Man

**DECEMBER 29, 2019 - 9:30 AM**

Lector - Lynette Oberdorfer  
 Servers - Angeline Oberdorfer  
           Michael Turner  
 EME's - Frieda Calhoon  
           Jenny Hall - Liz Lyons

**JANUARY 1, 2020 - NEW YEARS DAY - 6:00 PM**

Lector - Sharon McConnell  
 Servers - Sam Nye & Emma Schechinger  
 EME's - Jenny Hall, Frieda Calhoon, & Mary Baker

**JANUARY 4, 2020 - 4:00 PM**

Lector - Katie Ausdemore  
 Servers - Michael Denning  
           Grace Denning  
 EME's - David Mann - Jan Divin  
           Sharon McConnell

**JANUARY 5, 2020 - 9:30 AM**

Lector - Amy Ausdemore  
 Servers - Brock Gross  
           Rachel Gross  
 EME's - Geri Bjorling - Liz Lyons  
           Rhea Gross

**JANUARY 11, 2020 - 4:00 PM**

Lector - Travis Bolte  
 Servers - Ava Konz  
           Cauy Konz  
 EME's - Nate & Justin Bolte  
           Maureen Mann

**JANUARY 12, 2020 - 9:30 AM**

Lector - Children's Mass  
 Servers - Emma Schechinger  
           Michael Turner  
 EME's - Amy & Katie Ausdemore  
           Gene Meyerring

**TITHE COUNTERS**

Dec 22 - Mark Pogge	Cecilia Powell	Jeannie Disalvo
Dec 29 - Diane Rodenburg	Dani Baxter	Rita Heinen
Jan 5 - Anne Brummett	Jeannie Disalvo	Jackie Dollen
Jan 12 - Terryl Greiner	Sharon Kiesel	Liz Lyons

**COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS**

Dec 22 - Norm Baker	Frieda Calhoon
Dec 29 - Shannon Nye	Andrea Mahlberg
Jan 5 - Carolyn McDermott	Jesie Rosenmeyer
Jan 12 - Norm Baker	Frieda Calhoon

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Dec 23 - Finish decorating church for Christmas, 9:00 am  
 Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Masses:  
           4:00 pm at St. Patrick's  
           9:00 pm at St. Columbanus  
           Midnight at St. Patrick's  
 Dec 25 - Christmas Day Mass, 9:30 am at St. Patrick's  
 Dec 26 - No Mass or Eucharistic Adoration  
 Dec 29 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph - No Faith Formation  
 Jan 1 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, 6:00 pm Mass, St. Patrick's  
 Jan 5 - Confirmation Rite of Commitment, 9:30 am Mass  
           Faith Formation Classes, 10:45-11:45 am  
           NCYC Breakfast & Presentation, Parish Hall, after 9:30 Mass  
           High School Class, 6:30 pm  
 Jan 7 - Baptism Class, 7:00 pm, call the parish office to pre-register  
 Jan 8 - Confirmation Class, 7:00 pm  
 Jan 11 - Bingo Night (see next page)  
 Jan 12 - Baptism of the Lord - Children's Mass  
           Faith Formation Classes, 10:45-11:45 am  
 Jan 13 - Father Danso leaves for Ghana  
 Jan 14 - Finance Council Meeting, 7:00 pm  
 Jan 15 - Pastoral/Finance Council Meeting, St. Columbanus, 6:30 pm  
 Jan 16 - Pastoral Council Meeting, St. Patrick's, 7:00 pm  
 Jan 19 - Faith Formation Classes, 10:45-11:45 am  
           High School Class, 6:30 pm

**Memorial Calendar:**

December 23 - Memorial of St. John of Kanty  
 December 25 - Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord  
 December 26 - Feast of St. Stephen  
 December 27 - Feast of St. John  
 December 28 - Feast of the Holy Innocents  
 December 31 - Memorial of St. Sylvester I  
 January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God  
 January 2 - Memorial Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen  
 January 3 - Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Jesus  
 January 4 - Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton



**Tithing Report**

	<b>Last Week</b>	<b>Fiscal Year to Date</b>
Sunday Envelopes	\$ 3,710.00	\$ 43,102.00
Plate	\$ 252.00	\$ 4,714.05
Children's Collection	\$ 46.26	\$ 389.79

**FATHER DANSO:** Father will be traveling back to Ghana on January 13th for his mother's funeral, which is February 1st. He will be returning to Neola on February 19th. The expenses for the funeral are becoming very costly. If you would like to help Father with these expenses, please put your donation in the collection basket clearly marked "Danso Funeral Expenses". Any little amount will help. And please keep Father and his family in your prayers.

**REMINDER:** With the end of the year fast approaching, you are reminded that your 2019 tithes need to be in the parish office or postmarked by December 31st to get posted for the current year.

**METTE FAMILY CONCERT:** St. Patrick Parish, Council Bluffs is proud to host this wonderful concert on Sunday, January 5th, 2020, at 6:30 PM. The concert creates a bridge from the ordinary to the extraordinary, building on the richness of the Catholic faith. The Mette's gifts of music, joy, & family life offer the boldness and innocence of youth with the wisdom and depth of lived experiences. This concert will empower all ages to pray more fully and worship more freely. The music is uplifting without being preachy, creating an environment that is engaging without being confrontational. Come, and bring family & friends and hopefully you will feel the difference in your life!

# HOMILY SUMMARY - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## Connecting the Gospel...

...to the **First Reading**: Isaiah willingly spoke on behalf of the Lord, even if it meant opposing the king. It is the gifts of the "grace of apostleship" and "obedience of faith" that enable us to cooperate with the "Spirit of holiness," just as Isaiah, Mary and Joseph did. Mystery abounds and something new happens in us: "God is with us."

...to the **Second Reading**: Both Mary and Joseph immediately, willingly, and fully obeyed God. Paul did as well, even using the offensive term "slave," but only in the sense of his complete commitment to serve the Lord.

## Focusing the Gospel

In the Gospel, the state of affairs is not what it appears to be. Mary is not unfaithful, but faithful. Mary is with a child, but a virgin. The infant is not only an earthly child, but also a heavenly One. Joseph is not the father, but in a father's role names the Child Jesus. When the Spirit of God is at work, and we cooperate as Mary and Joseph did, something altogether new happens: mystery abounds, "God is with us."

# HOMILY SUMMARY - CHRISTMAS

In the beginning; the Word was God; this Life was the light; shines in the darkness; from His fullness we have all received.

The above **phrases** need serious reflection. God's Word is an eternal word, present at the beginning of creation and present to us now. God spoke a creative word "In the beginning," incarnated a glorious Word at that first Christmas, and continues to speak to us a saving Word, the "only Son, God. Now, in Jesus, God's Word will redeem the world. The joy of Christmas can be found in the manger, to be sure, but it can also be found in God's Word, God's promise, made flesh to dwell with us. May this Word be for us the "true light" that leads us to the fullness of **grace and truth**.

# HOMILY SUMMARY - THE HOLY FAMILY

## Connecting the Gospel...

...to the **First Reading**: What does it mean to be holy? The **First Reading** suggests concrete behaviors that a holy family exhibits: honoring, respecting, obeying one's parents.

...to the **Second Reading**: Paul also recommends behaviors for the holy family of the Church: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience and forgiveness towards wives, husbands and children.

## Focusing the Gospel

Joseph clearly acts as the father of the family. To him is given the revelation that danger is at hand and they must flee to Egypt. To him is given the further revelation that it is safe to return to their homeland. Whether going or coming, Joseph is attentive to both the needs of his family and the overtures of God's Presence and Guidance. He is head of the Holy Family: one in whom the members discern God's will, risk-change for each other's growth and good, and are united in fidelity to God and each other. This Feast calls us to be this same kind of Holy Family.



Join us for  
dinner and

## BINGO!

**Saturday, January 11, 2020**

St. Patrick's Neola Parish Hall

Dinner begins at 6:30 pm / Bingo begins at 7:00 pm

**Dinner: Taco Bar, Dessert, & Drink**  
Free Will Offering

**Beer will also be available for  
Free Will Offering**

*Fundraiser for National Catholic Youth  
Conference in November 2021!*

**Fun for all ages!**



## "Come Together for Peace, Love & Kindness"



### St. Patrick's Neola Annual Parish Auction

Saturday, January 25, 2020

**Staley's Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Cole Slaw,  
Green Beans, Rolls & Desserts**

**\$10 per person - 8 & under \$5**



For Questions or Donations, please contact the  
Parish Office at 712.485.2124

Please no Entertainment Centers or TV's!

Donations must be received by noon on January 25th  
to be printed in the program.

4:00 ... Mass  
4:30 ... Dinner & Raffle  
6:00 ... Live Auction

**Prayer for Christian  
Unity is the week of  
January 18-25**

# POINSETTIA MEMORIALS

Some of the Poinsettias that adorn our sanctuary have been given as donations by parishioners in memory of their loved ones:

**IN MEMORY OF AMBROSE AUSDEMORE  
and JEFF SCHOLL**  
By Wally & Karen Scholl

**IN MEMORY OF BOB MASKER**  
By Betty Masker

**IN MEMORY OF DARRELL MORSE**  
By Roberta Morse

**IN MEMORY OF CLARENCE "DUTCH" RING,  
MARY RING, TIM RING, & BECKY RING**  
By Dan & Carolyn McDermott

**IN MEMORY OF BERNARD & IRIS McDONALD  
and TIM McDONALD**  
By Paul & Rose McDonald

**IN MEMORY OF CECILIA LARSEN**  
By Roger & Jenny Hall

**IN MEMORY OF LEO KENEALY AND THE  
DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE JEROME &  
FLORENCE KENEALY FAMILY**  
By Joann Kenealy

**IN MEMORY OF BOB, LARRY, BARB  
& MATTHEW ROANE and  
JOHN & MARY McDONALD**  
By Katie Roane and Richard & Cathy Corrin

**IN MEMORY OF FREEMAN CORRIN and  
TOM & ANNIE ADAMS**  
By Richard, Cathy & Barb Corrin

**IN MEMORY OF STEPHEN J. DIVIN &  
STEVEN J. DIVIN**  
By Jan Divin

**IN MEMORY OF LARRY CALHOON,  
FRED DREHER, GRACE DREHER, SUE  
SCHMIDT, and KARL DREHER**  
By Frieda Calhoon

**IN MEMORY OF RICHARD JOSEPH BROWER**  
By Jackie Brower-Finzel

**IN MEMORY OF EDWARD & ROSE  
CATHERINE (McDONALD) LEONARD and  
BOB & LEONA PETERSEN**  
By Darrel & Margie Petersen & family

**IN MEMORY OF CINDY NELSON**  
By Denis Nelson

**IN MEMORY OF THE DECEASED FAMILY  
MEMBERS OF THE HOBBS, SCHNITKER &  
VAISKUNAS FAMILIES**  
By Dan & Rita Schnitker

**IN MEMORY OF EUGENE & CAROLYN  
DENNING, JIM & PAT GRUDLE, SANDY  
DENNING, TRICIA DENNING, DENNIS  
GRUDLE and HAROLD LONGMEYER**  
By Kim Denning

**IN MEMORY OF RAY STINN, JACK & IRENE  
STINN FAMILY, and MACKENZIE RAE JOZSA**  
By Loretta Stinn

**IN MEMORY OF JACK & VELMA RING and  
LOYD & MARGARET O'NEILL**  
By Kevin & Pam Ring

**IN MEMORY OF BILL RYAN**  
By Marilyn Ryan, Laura, Mary, Jane, Nancy, Anne & Carol

**IN MEMORY OF LINUS & MARGE HEITHOFF**  
By Joan Justice

**IN MEMORY OF THE DECEASED MEMBERS  
OF THE EDMONDS & SANDQUIST FAMILIES**  
By Sandra Olofson

**IN MEMORY OF JEAN C. FISCHER**  
By Dick Fischer & family

**IN MEMORY OF HENRY GREINER, ADAM  
GREINER, PAUL & PHYLLIS RING,  
DONALD & BONNIE BURNS, AND DAVE RING**  
By Mary Greiner and Tom & Terry Greiner

**IN MEMORY OF SANDY MAHLBERG**  
By Jim & Andrea Mahlberg

**IN MEMORY OF JERRY KONZ**  
By Sandy Konz & family

**IN MEMORY OF FRITZ & VEL WELLMAN**  
By Fred & Diane Rodenburg

**IN MEMORY OF NORMAN, JOSEPH, MARTHA,  
JOE, BLANCHE & BOB WELLMAN**  
By Joe & Marian Wellman

**IN MEMORY OF FRANK, ROWENA,  
DICK, CLARE, VERNA, BERDINE, &  
LINDA RING, PEG SORENSEN and  
STEWART & RONNIE LONG**  
By Harry & Jeanette Long

**IN MEMORY OF HARLIN & MARGIE HURD,  
LEON & ETHEL MORRIS, DARLENE  
SAMPSON, and DONNA & RONNIE MORRIS**  
By John & Deb Hurd

**IN MEMORY OF HARRY & LUCILLE  
AUSDEMORE and DONALD HANSEN**  
By David & Donna Ausdemore

# Creighton, St. Joseph Ed Center team up to bring back certificate program

## Curriculum of 20 credit hours culminates in Certificate in Theology and Ministry

(From Catholic Mirror – November 2019)

After an eight year hiatus, Creighton University and the St. Joseph Educational Center have again teamed up to offer a Certificate in Theology and Ministry. This time, though, classes will be almost entirely online. "The digital approach allows people to participate who would otherwise be unable," said Tom Quinlan, SJEC executive director. "Students can participate when and where convenient for them."

Participants will be able to communicate and learn from one another and the instructor via the online classes, Quinlan said. There will also be a few opportunities for gathering together as a group on Saturdays.

The tuition has been highly discounted by Creighton University and parishes are encouraged to sponsor students from their parish so costs are minimal, Quinlan added.

The program, which is 20 credit hours for completion, is expected to launch in the spring. A range of people are encouraged to consider this program. "Parish staff who want to either just raise their skill level or maybe work towards a degree" are encouraged to participate, Quinlan said. "Those in parish ministries – maybe they would like to step into the professional ministry." Catholic school teachers, catechists, and even non-Catholics should consider this program.

"We have a lot of really gifted people doing some amazing ministry," Quinlan said. "A lot of them are not parish staff per se, but some don't have the theological background. That only takes their game to a higher level. "These are people with great pastoral skills who know how to serve people and help them," Quinlan said.

Adding a deeper knowledge of the Catholic faith adds a richness to their ministry, he added. "That's a powerful combination," Quinlan added. "We're hoping to have people who already have skills in ministry and may not have as much theology. That's frequently the case. We want good talented people who are not educated in the faith."

Graduates of the program had positive things to say. Patsy Carlson, of St. Luke Parish in Ankeny, said the program gave her confidence to be more impactful in her job as director of religious education. "I realized that if I wanted to be more effective with catechists I needed to beef up my own knowledge, and so I went into the program because it was so convenient," Carlson said. She also enjoyed learning more about who Jesus was as a person. "I think it enhanced my own spirituality and helped me to have the relationship you strive for [with Jesus]," Carlson added. "The classes really do invite you into a spiritual life."

Mary Jo Purlicek, of St. Boniface Parish in Waukee, recommends this to others for learning, but also deepening their connection to God. "My passion has been in Scripture and it just brings everything to life... and seeing how it was written over 2,000 years ago and how it actually applies today," Purlicek said.

Tamara Barrett, of St. Boniface Parish in Waukee, said she enjoyed being active at church but wanted a better understanding of the teachings. "It was challenging, but that was one of the good things about it because it made me really dig into what I had to do to get the assignments done," Barrett said. The classes gave her more confidence in leading Bible studies and serving on the RCIA team – and "absolutely, 100 percent" deepened her faith, Barrett said.

**Courses for earning certificate:** The St. Joseph Educational Center and Creighton University are offering the Certificate in Theology and Ministry. This six-course program is designed to deepen knowledge of Catholic faith and enrich one's pastoral skills. Classes included in this 20-credit curriculum are:

Old Testament – 3 credits	Spirituality – 3 credits	Orientation – 1 credit
New Testament – 3 credits	Christology – 3 credits	Pastoral Skills – 1 credit
Ethics – 3 credits	Sacraments – 3 credits	

**If you are interested in obtaining this certification, please contact the parish office at 712.485.2124 for more information.**

**Mini Pilgrimage:** You are invited to join a mini pilgrimage to Perryville, MO and the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal. We will leave Easter Sunday afternoon, April 12th on a 2:30 pm flight out of Omaha on SW Airlines connecting in Midway in Chicago, and come home on Monday evening, the 13th at 6:50 pm and back in to Omaha about 8:05 (flight is non-stop). We will plan to attend mass on Monday April 13th at 8:00 am and join Neal Gremaud for prayers and the message from the Blessed Mother either at the grotto or in church that day. If you would like to join us please contact Kathy Graeve at 402-680-4370 (call or text). The cost of the tickets for the pilgrimage are \$302. If you would like to help with the cost for the priest, you may send a check to Kathy Graeve, 304 High St, Neola 51559. She has already purchased the tickets for the priests. If you need help booking a ticket, Kathy can do that for you. We will go together in a car or van from the St. Louis airport to Perryville. Rooms can be obtained by calling the Holiday Inn Express at 573-605-2385 for one night, April 12th, in Perryville. You would need to book your own ticket through SW, or call Kathy, but could ride to Perryville, with Father Daniel, Father Seth from Avoca, Kathy Graeve & Sue Wertzberger. Any interested person is invited to join us for this holy time.

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

January 2020

St. Patrick's Church, Neola and St. Columbanus Church, Weston  
Rev. Daniel Danso, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Thomas Aquinas

Against his family's wishes, St. Thomas Aquinas joined the newly founded Dominican Order of Preachers. A brilliant, humble scholar, he taught theology at universities in Paris, Cologne, and Rome, and advised popes, kings, and students. His greatest achievement was his *Summa Theologica*, a thorough, logical, concise treatise on the faith. Exhausted by constant work and travel, St. Thomas collapsed en route to a Church council and died at Fossanova. He is the patron of students and schools.



### Well-placed faith

Our world is filled with pain, sorrow, and suffering. Putting our faith in worldly powers guarantees disappointment. Putting faith in God guarantees that we will never be disappointed.

*"Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32).*



## Shed bad habits in the New Year

Bad habits are sinful inclinations acquired through repetition. Unless we overcome them, they come between us and God and can destroy our peace. Working to overcome our bad habits puts us on the path to true holiness.

Identify the root. It sounds simple, but recognizing what causes us to sin repeatedly is the first step to overcoming the behavior. That doesn't mean it's easy to do. It can be uncomfortable to look at our failings, but change won't come without courage. Ask for help if you need it.

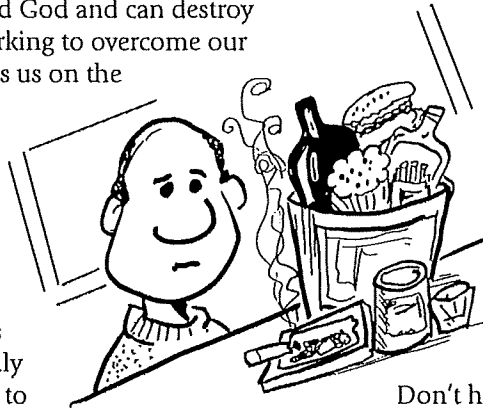
Replace a bad habit with a good one. Once we understand what is behind our bad habits, we can replace

them with new and healthy ways to deal with the underlying issue. If we overeat or drink too much when stressed, for example, we can adopt exercise or meditation to cope instead.

Eliminate triggers. Make it easier to cure bad habits by avoiding the conditions that nurture them. Do you want to avoid eating junk food?

Don't have it around you at home or at work. Want to change a gossip habit? Avoid the people with whom you gossip. Change your environment to change your behavior.

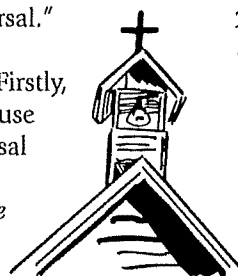
Find good influences. It may not be necessary to lose your old friends, but consider finding new ones who already live the way you want to live.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why are Catholics called "catholic"?

"Catholic" means "universal." In the Greek, it also means "wholeness" or "fullness." Firstly, the Church is catholic because her members have a universal mission. Jesus commanded his Apostles to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them" (Matthew



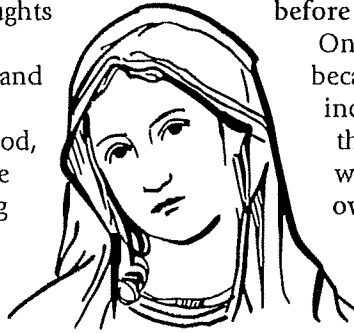
28:19). Secondly, the Church is catholic because, being founded by Christ and united to him, her members have the "correct and complete confession of faith, full sacramental life, and ordained ministry in apostolic succession" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) #830*).

## The keys to Mary's success

Jesus loved his mother dearly, and his last thoughts on Earth were of her. We know she is Queen of Heaven, but what did she do to receive His love and great reward?

When Mary agreed to become the mother of God, she could have expected an easy life but Scripture tells us that all Mary expected was the joy of doing God's will. She put God's will before her own.

Mary didn't have to go with Joseph to Bethlehem for the census. She chose to go with Joseph as his wife. She put Joseph's needs



before her own.

Once there, the couple lodged with animals because there was no room at the inn. Instead of indulging in self-pity, Mary graciously received the shepherds and the Magi, who came to worship her baby. She put their joy before her own discomfort.

Throughout her life, Mary said "yes" to God, put his will first, and thought of others before herself. If we follow her example, we'll receive our reward in Heaven, too.

### from Scripture

#### Matthew 4:12-23, The common call

This Gospel passage recounts the call of the first disciples. They may not have known Jesus personally at first, but they knew about him through John the Baptist (John 1:35-42). When invited to know Jesus better and follow him closely, the men dropped what they were doing "at once" and left everything behind.

Under Christ's leadership, the disciples went on to do amazing things. They worked miracles, brought the Gospel to distant lands, converted countless souls for heaven, and suffered hardships, even martyrdom. The secret of their success was their relationship with Christ as



their God, Savior, Teacher, and Friend who promised to be with them always (Matthew 28:20).

All of us are called to be saints – intimate friends of God. Jesus invites each of us to know him personally and follow him closely. While few of us are called to leave everything,

we can still offer everything we have to God's service. We can still imitate the first disciples who dropped everything "at once" to accept God's invitation. Knowing Jesus personally and closely makes for a great adventure.

### Q & A Why are we required to respect Jesus' name?

As the Son of God, Jesus' name is "above every name" (Philippians 2:9) and commands respect.

It is the name God gave himself when he became man (Luke 1:31). In Jesus' day, there was no internet, no media, no network to use to find out if someone was reputable or reliable. All people had was their good name and the way others used it with respect. He knew he would need a recognizable name.

Jesus' name tells us of his mission. The angel Gabriel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to name the child "Jesus," "for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). And he did.

There is great power in Jesus' name. Jesus promised his disciples that whatever they asked in his name, he would do (John 14:14). In his name, the Apostles cast out demons (Luke 10:17), cured the sick and even raised the dead (Acts 3:16; 4:10). "There is no other name under heaven...by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).



### Feasts & Celebrations

Jan. 1 – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. On this holy day of obligation, we honor Mary, but also Jesus as God. In their honor, pray a Rosary and attend Mass.

Jan. 6 – St. André Bessette (1937). Born near Montreal, Canada, André joined the Congregation of the Holy Cross at twenty-five and was the doorkeeper for their school. During an epidemic, everyone in his care was miraculously healed. He helped build a beautiful chapel to St. Joseph.

Jan. 12 – The Baptism of the Lord

(1st century). Jesus began his public ministry by getting baptized by St. John the Baptist. Jesus was free of sin, but he allowed himself to be baptized in order to "fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). By his baptism, Jesus declared his willingness to fulfill God's saving plan.

Jan. 20 – St. Fabian (250). During his long reign as pope, Fabian organized Rome into seven districts, countered a heresy in Africa, and founded churches in France. He was martyred during the Decian persecutions.



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