**Advent Penance Services**

Dec. 10th, 7:00 pm  
St. Vincent De Paul, Onaga

Dec. 11th, 3:00 pm  
St. Gregory, Marysville

Dec. 11th, 7:00 pm  
Annunciation

Dec. 18th, 3:00 pm  
Sts. Peter & Paul, Seneca

(More Opportunities for Confessions)

Dec. 14th 6:30 pm  
Sts. Peter & Paul, Seneca

Dec. 19th 7:00 pm  
St. Columbkille, Blaine

Dec. 21st 7:00 pm  
St. Monica/St. Elizabeth, Blue Rapids

*Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel!*

Throughout seminary, you could always count on someone having a gaud every few weeks. A gaud is just a fancy word for a party, a reason to celebrate, rejoice. The 3rd Sunday of Advent is always Gaudate Sunday, Rejoicing Sunday.

While holidays can always be occasions of stress and crazy schedules, this Sunday is a cause to sit back and relax, enjoying what is to come. All the preparation is, or at least should be, because the Son of God has taken flesh, dwelt among us, and will come again in glory.

The longing we experience to see God face to face is made reality by Jesus taking flesh and being born among us.

In taking a pause this weekend from frenetic activity, we can remember why all the preparation is worth it, take stock of how we are spiritually preparing, and rejoice at how much we love and are loved by God and others in our lives.

While there is likely much more preparation to be done, I hope today is a reason to rest and rejoice at the gift God gives us on Christmas day.

While the theme of Advent is a focus on the coming of Jesus in three ways: His first, His present and His final Advent, the readings for Gaudete Sunday deal with rejoicing in the Lord — Christian joy. Henri Nouwen described the difference between joy and happiness. While happiness is dependent on external conditions, joy is "the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing -- sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death -- can take that love away." Thus joy can be present even in the midst of sadness.

In his 2014 Gaudete Sunday homily, Pope Francis said that Gaudete Sunday is known as the "Sunday of joy," and that instead of fretting about "all they still haven't" done to prepare for Christmas, people should "think of all the good things life has given you."
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Intention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/12/2016</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Our Lady of Guadalupe</td>
<td>No a.m. Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/13/2016</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>St. Lucy</td>
<td>Liv/Dec’d Knights of Columbus Council #1383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/14/2016</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>10:00 am (Care Home)</td>
<td>+Albert Maas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/15/2016</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Advent Weekday</td>
<td>+Roselita Roggenkamp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/16/2016</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Advent Weekday</td>
<td>+Martin Schmeidler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/17/2016</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Frankfort 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Liv/Dec’d Prockish family</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/18/2016</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Blaine 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>+Patrick O’Shea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/18/2016</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Blue Rapids 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>+Julie Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/18/2016</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Frankfort 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>For All Parishioners of the 3 Parishes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Saturday, Dec. 17th: Annunciation 4:00 pm**

- **Lector**: Jean Caffrey
- **Servers**: Jarett, Samuel, & Hattie Gros
- **Communion**: P. Brady, W. Gros, & J. Kennedy
- **Musicians**: Moogie R., Emily F., & Denise S.
- **Ushers**: Keith Tilley & Duane Dressman
- **Rosary**: Ed & Pat Brady
- **Sacristan**: Jean Caffrey

**Sunday, Dec. 18th: Annunciation 10:30 am**

- **Lector**: Jim Roeder
- **Servers**: Jack & Chloe Mitchell, & Amburley Kokoruda
- **Communion**: C. Stallbaumer, C. Farrell, & P. Maas
- **Musicians**: Marilyn Dressman & Lynn Bramhall
- **Ushers**: Don Engelken & Wayne Mitchell
- **Gifts**: Ushers to appoint
- **Rosary**: Kelli Kokoruda
- **Care Home**: Wilma Harrington
- **Sacristan**: Cassie Mitchell

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**Mass Intentions**

**Christmas Mass Schedule**
- Dec. 24th, 4:00 pm Frankfort
- Dec. 24th, 6:00 pm Blaine
- Dec. 25th, 8:30 am Blue Rapids
- Dec. 25th, 10:30 am Frankfort

**Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God**
- Dec. 31st, 4:00 pm Frankfort
- Dec. 31st, 6:00 pm Blaine
- Jan. 1st, 8:30 am Blue Rapids
- Jan 1st, 10:30 am Frankfort

**Benediction, Adoration, & Rosary**
- **Tuesdays, 7:00 pm**

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**
- **Fridays, 1:00 to 5:00 pm**

**This that and the Other...**

**ANNUNCIATION CHOIR PRACTICE**
- Wednesday, Dec. 14th, 6:00 pm

**LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO READ DURING ADVENT?**
- Visit the Savior Bookstore ONLINE and order now at www.saviorbookstore.com
- We have Bibles, Catechisms and a selection of Catholic books recommended by Archbishop Naumann. Good options for Christmas gifts!

**CONGRATULATIONS**
- to Nash Leo Koch, son of Dustin and Kate Koch who was baptized at Annunciation Parish this weekend. His sponsors are Tim Caffrey and Sarah Caffrey.

**FIRST RECONCILIATION**
- for the 2nd Grade students was held this weekend at Annunciation Parish. Please pray for those students who participated in this Sacrament. Those students are Carter Caffrey, Henry Ketter, Kale Koch, Levi Marshall, & Gage Stallbaumer.
ANNUNCIATION OFFERINGS
December 4, 2016
Envelopes $3346.85
Plate $ 249.55
Total $3596.40

Other Income
Leaven $ 18.00
Christmas Flowers $320.00
Religious Retire Fund $ 10.00
Insurance $ 20.00
St. Columbille $ 943.90*
(Fr. Schmitz Oct. sal., insur., food, util., etc.)

From the Pastor:
Campus Master Plan Update: In August, I solicited parishioners input for the best way forward with our buildings. Only one person asked that we keep the old school, so demolishing that seems the easiest path. When it comes to expanding the Cigna vs a new stand alone building, the cost difference among other reasons makes adding on to the Cigna center the best option.
As for a timeframe, the parish council should have Plan A by the end of January, at which point it’d be turned over to the building committee. *If you’re interested in being on the building committee, please see me.
More details to come as the weeks progress.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS COLLECTION
Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others—educating the young, comforting the sick, seeking justice for the oppressed. Today, many are frail, elderly, and in need of assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please give generously to the collection.

 CCD NOTES—
No Class Grades 1-6 until Jan. 11th (Winter Break)

No Class Grades 7-12 until Jan 11th (Winter Break)

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL—
In remembrance of our deceased family members & friends during the Christmas season you are invited to make a donation toward the poinsettias. Please put your donation in the special envelope found in your packet & write the name of the person or persons to be remembered & place in the collection basket. We will publish those names in the bulletin.

NOTICE- Any Jr/Sr High Youth interested in attending ONE THING REMAINS at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church Kansas City, KS, December 30th, estimated charter bus leave time 3:00 p.m. from Annunciation parking lot. A Night of Praise, Worship, Adoration, & Confession, then over to their Youth Center for snacks & entertainment. $5/ person. Contact Linda Dressman at 785-313-5602. Deadline to reserve your spot on the bus is December 18th. We overfilled one charter bus from our rural area last year & the kids had a great time.

NEW YEAR’S EVE CHWC Fundraiser Dinner Located at the Cigna Center
Smoked Pork Chop, Sweet Potato or White Potato, Salad, Roll and Dessert, $15 per Meal, Reservations are a MUST for the following time slots: 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00. To Order Local Deliveries are available (must call in advance). RSVP by December 29
EMAIL: roederlinda@yahoo.com

Marriage Minute— “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.” Couldn’t we also add to this list of miracles in this Sunday’s Gospel that marriages are renewed through grace? Imagine what this Gospel verse would look like if it were specifically applied to our marriage.

• We see our spouse with new eyes like when we first fell in love.
• We walk toward our spouse when we are hurt rather than hiding in self-pity.
• We allow our heart to be cleansed through Confession for our sins against our spouse.
• We listen to our spouse with eager anticipation for what they desire to share.
• We allow the Lord to resurrect our seemingly broken relationship.
• We speak positively about the greatness of marriage.

For marriage enrichment opportunities and suggestions, check out www.JoyfulMarriageProject.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED— We are asking for volunteers to help decorate the church for the Christmas season immediately after Mass on Sunday, December 18th.

The 20th Annual Worldwide Candle Lighting Vigil for the Compassionate Friends will be held on Sunday, December 11th. Everyone is invited to light a candle in their home from 7 - 8 PM, in memory of all children who have died, but are not forgotten! The Seneca Chapter of Compassionate Friends is planning their own Candle Lighting that evening at the Cornerstone Coffee Haus, 431 Main St. Anyone who has lost a child is welcome to join them that evening. If planning to attend or for more info. about the event, please call 785-336-3691.

Is your marriage going down the right road . . . or is it a little off track? Life can be difficult, and so can the challenges you face in marriage. Does the distance between you seem wide? Are you already separated? Looking for a better way? Retrouvaille can help and offers hope for a better relationship. Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. Retrouvaille is Christian-based, and Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths as well as non-religious couples. Retrouvaille can help get your relationship back on track. For more information about an upcoming Retrouvaille Weekend program for couples, contact registration team: Local Telephone @ 800-470-2230 or visit our website: HelpOurMarriage.com

GIVE YOUR SPOUSE A SPECIAL GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS
Sign up now for the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend and receive the gift of a great marriage. Making a weekend will help you put a little Christmas in your marriage every day! The next Weekend in Kansas City is January 27-29, 2017 For more information or to apply, please visit our website: www.wme4youandme.org or call Tony & Barb Zimmerman, 816-741-4066 or email tonybarbz@prodigy.net

FRANKFORT FOOD PANTRY— Please help us support our local food pantry. There is a basket in the back of church to drop off non-perishable food items.
Advent is the season of joy. Joyous songs and joyous celebrations increasingly fill our time as we approach Christmas and the year’s end. But what is the nature of our joy? Is it simply the release of tension as we participate in a month long shopping spree and a “party-on” mentality or is our source of joy something deeper and more substantial? If it is the former, our joy will last about as long as it takes to participate in the shopping spree and parties. If it is the latter it will fuel our spirit for months to come. Isaiah expresses the reality of our joy in verse 10 of this week’s first reading and the reason for our joy in verses 1-6. The joy of which he speaks will result in “joy” and “singing,”—and “sorrow and sighing” will pass away. What a wonderful two-fold joy! The inner pain that causes our sighing and sorrow will be removed and replaced with inner “joy and gladness.” Of course we will burst out in song, for a heart and mind free from concern and filled with gladness cannot long remain silent. As Isaiah looked ahead to the coming Savior he saw several reasons for unrestrained joy. First and foremost was that the land and the people would experience the presence of God’s majesty and glory. With the Lord’s presence would come deliverance from enslavement, healing and renewal. We see in the Gospel reading that these things began coming to pass as Jesus conducted his ministry, the blind received their sight, the deaf had their hearing restored and lepers were healed. We can only imagine how the heart of John the Baptist leapt as he recalled Isaiah’s prophecy and compared it with the accounts of Jesus’ ministry. How he must have received solace, comfort and strength through the joy of knowing that the presence of the Lord was among them. So too should our hearts leap with joy. So too should we find solace, comfort and strength remembering that God is present among us. As F. W. Faber explains, “What would the world be without Jesus? … An earth without hope or happiness, without love or peace, the past a burden, the present a weariness, the future a shapeless terror—such would the earth be, if by impossibility there were no Jesus. … Besides this, Jesus is bound up with our innermost lives. He is more to us than the blood in our veins. We know that he is indispensable to us; but we do not dream how indispensable he is. There is not a circumstance of life in which we could do without Jesus. … But, if he is thus indispensable in life, how much more will he be indispensable in death?”1 This is why our hearts should leap for joy. Unfortunately for many of us the leap for joy will be no more than a brief flutter as we open some gaily wrapped present or participate in some fun get-together. For many we will once again go through the Advent and Christmas seasons totally missing the meaning of them and the ensuing joy they should produce. In the Gospel reading John the Baptist was unwilling to miss the meaning or the joy of Jesus’ presence. From the darkness and despair of his imprisonment John asked, “Are you the one?” How wonderfully the darkness was vanquished, and the despair lifted when Jesus’ reply reached him. He who was indispensable for life had come, and death needed no longer to be feared, for he who was indispensable for life was also indispensable for death. Oh that we, from the darkness and despair of our world, would also ask Jesus to reveal himself to us during these Advent and Christmas seasons, we too would find him indispensable as he affirms his glory and majesty. We would find that “Joy to the world the Lord is come,” would sustain us long after others have stopped singing it.

Looking for a way of praying consistently, and praying with and for others? www.praymorenovenas.com allows you to join over 200,000 other Catholics with daily prayers/videos emailed to you. It contains some of the most popular novenas in the Church. Novenas are great ways of regularly praying both in thanksgiving for the gifts God has given you and for asking for the good things the Father wants to give His children.

**Reflecting On Sunday’s Readings**

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### Daily Mass Readings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>First Reading</th>
<th>Second Reading</th>
<th>First Reading</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Dec. 14</td>
<td>Is. 45: 6b-8, 18, 21ab-25</td>
<td>Lk. 7: 18b-23</td>
<td>Mt. 21: 28-32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, Dec. 15</td>
<td>Is. 54: 1-10</td>
<td>Lk. 7: 24-30</td>
<td>Mt. 21: 28-32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, Dec. 16</td>
<td>Is. 56: 1-3a, 6-8</td>
<td>Jn. 5: 33-36</td>
<td>Mt. 21: 28-32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Dec. 17</td>
<td>Gen. 49: 2, 8-10</td>
<td>Mt. 1: 1-17</td>
<td>Mt. 21: 28-32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, Dec. 18</td>
<td>Is. 7: 10-14</td>
<td>Rom. 1: 1-7</td>
<td>Mt. 1: 18-24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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"Reflecting On Sunday’s Readings", Copyright 2002-2016, Richard A. Cleveland.

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St. Monica\St. Elizabeth, Blue Rapids

Calendar and Mass Intention
Dec. 18th, 8:30 am - +Julie Green

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December 4, 2016 offerings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Envelopes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plate</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Retire Rel. Fund</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Flowers</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mary’s Garden</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

NOTICE-
Eucharistic ministers, lector and servers please meet with Fr Schmitz in the vestment room 10 minutes before Mass.

MINING!! One of our new electric roasters is gone. If you have any information as to where it might be, please let us know.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**- There is a sign-up sheet in the back of church for church cleaners. Please take a minute and sign up! All volunteers are greatly appreciated!

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL**— In remembrance of our deceased family members & friends during the Christmas season you are invited to make a donation toward the poinsettias. Envelopes are provided in the back of church.

**Altar Society TIME CHANGE:** It was decided to move our meeting to 12:00 noon. Our December 21 meeting at noon will be a snack meal. We will bring finger foods to share.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**
Linda Cohorst 12/13
Connor Gleason 12/13
Sarah Toerber 12/15

Ministers of the Mass

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Dec. 18th, 8:30 a.m.</th>
<th>St. Monica\St. Elizabeth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lector</td>
<td>J. Bergkamp</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Servers</td>
<td>M. Toerber, C. Toerber, &amp; I. Baier</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts</td>
<td>Seleska family</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communion</td>
<td>M. Heinen, S. Toerber, &amp; P. Waite</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ushers</td>
<td>M. Borgerding &amp; J. Wienck</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Church Cleaners: December**— General cleaning/All Parish members

**Sacristan Schedule: December**— Jan Bergkamp

**Breakfast Committee: December** – Norma Hirt, Holly Brungardt, & Beth Bachura

**Christmas Mass Schedule**
Dec. 24th, 4:00 pm Frankfort
Dec. 24th, 6:00 pm Blaine
Dec. 25th, 8:30 am Blue Rapids
Dec. 25th, 10:30 am Frankfort

**Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God**
Dec. 31st, 4:00 pm Frankfort
Dec. 31st, 6:00 pm Blaine
Jan. 1st, 8:30 am Blue Rapids
Jan 1st, 10:30 am Frankfort

**Year of Mercy update:** We continue to give to the food pantry in town each month. We are also looking for how we could help neighbors with some basics of life, like home repairs/improvements/handicap accessibilities. The orphanage Fr. Bill Bruning and Fr. Tom Aduri support will be our global outreach. May God, who has begun the good work in us, bring it to completion.

**From the Pastor:** Interested in serving the parish in a new way? We are looking for people to be involved in the ministries of the church, and this week I’d like to focus on Music in the Park. One of the main pieces to it is calling local business owners and asking them to renew the gift they gave last year, and then sending a thank you to them after they give the gift. It is likely around 10 businesses you would contact, starting with the people you already know. If you are interested in this, please see myself or Ed Henry. Blessings!
St. Columbkille Parish, Blaine KS

Ministers of the Mass  Saturday Dec. 17, 6:00 p.m.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lector</th>
<th>Becky White</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Servers</td>
<td>Eli Roggenkamp and Ethan Karnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross Bearer</td>
<td>Malea Karnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministers</td>
<td>Lavon Sanford, Mike Sanford, Carol Minihan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality</td>
<td>Kelly &amp; Jena Vandonge</td>
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</table>

Saturday December 3, 2016 offering:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>12/3/2016</th>
<th>Envelope</th>
<th>493.00</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plate</td>
<td>117.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mass Intentions</td>
<td>10.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>620.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 12/3/2016    | Church Reno | 150.00 |

Altar Society Meeting  No meeting in December

Knights of Columbus
There will be a Knights of Columbus initiation degree in Frankfort on December 11 at 11:00. Anyone interested in joining the Blaine Knights of Columbus please contact Jim McCormick or Steve O'Shea.

Church Cleaning  Christmas
Dec. 21st at 6:30 pm.

Christmas Decorating  December 23rd at 9 am.

Server Schedule
Dec 10th  Rebecca and Eva Krohn
Cross Bearer Maria Krohn
Dec 17th Eli Roggenkamp and Ethan Karnes
Cross Bearer Malea Karnes
Dec 24th  Brooklyn and Dylan Plummer
Cross Bearer Devin Plummer
Dec 31st  Jarritt Martens and Allie Valburg
Cross Bearer Molly Minihan
Jan 7th  Maria and Eva Krohn
Cross Bearer Rebecca Krohn

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT— every Wednesday 11:00 to 3:00 pm.  All Parishioners are invited to drop in when they can to share in the peace & blessings of Adoration.

The Blaine/Westmoreland Senior Citizens  Hold their meeting every 4th Tuesday of each month in the St. Columbkille Parish Hall at noon. A potluck lunch is followed by a short meeting, cards, & conversation. All senior citizens are welcome.

Choir practice  for our Christmas Eve mass will be Dec. 11th @ 6:30 p.m. and Wed. Dec. 21 @ 7:00 p.m. in the choir loft. All are most welcome, please consider joining us!

As a part of your Christmas charity, please remember that we collect non-perishable food for the Westy & Frankfort Food Pantries. We also collect disposable diapers & wipes for the Onaga Comm. Hospital. Items can be dropped in the picnic basket in the back of church. Thank you!

Christmas Flower Envelopes  The envelopes for Christmas flower donations are in the back of church

If interested in serving on the parish council, please visit with Fr. Schmitz. We are looking for new members.

Church Renovation Update: As you’ve seen, the cross and its base are being repaired. We are in the process of soliciting bids to re-shingle the steeple next. Tuck pointing the brick is the next item, which we should begin in the spring. We have received cash and pledges totaling just over $91,00 to date. Please continue praying for the success of this campaign!