

THE WORKER

ADVENT 2018

FROM THE PASTOR

Father Tom McDermott

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“50 years and we’re still going in circles!” Such was Tom Burke’s wry offering to the committee considering possible themes for the 50th anniversary celebration of our St. Joseph the Worker parish’s round church building.

As Advent rolls around again, and with it the start of another Liturgical Year, one might say *As Church, we do keep circling!* Advent/Christmas come with winter; spring arrives with the Lent/Easter seasons; summer and fall hold most of Ordinary Time, year after year. Even the Scriptures we hear each weekend repeat every three

years! How many of us come to confession with the same sins, over and over?

However, for all its cycles and repetitions, ours is not a faith that simply circles, and we do not believe that reincarnation is how we are perfected for eternity. Advent brings us eyeball to eyeball with the big picture of God’s plan for salvation that has an end—us with God—and a direction—us like Christ! That plan does not include God casting off the uniqueness of anyone’s soul or body destined for glorification like Christ’s, to circle me back through life as another person, or critter. We are a *Pilgrim People*. My journey through this one and only earthly life prepares me—as these end-of-November



readings remind us—for glorification, or damnation. This life matters because Christ’s advent—*arrival*—opened a way to life that ends in God!

50 Years and Still Building is our chosen anniversary theme. It expresses our sense of purpose in continuing to build up the Kingdom of God’s mercy and justice Christ entrusted to us. The season of Advent invites us to make room for Christ in our lives. Ultimately that is the building we are doing. Our round church is a primary place for that construction to go on. Hopefully you circle back here week after week! But each time you leave here empowered by God’s Word, God’s Son in the Eucharist, and God’s People as fellow pilgrims, you move us farther down the road, with more room constructed to shelter each other, and share the work, of following Christ as disciples—on His Way.

GETTING YOUR FEEDBACK

We started a new initiative this year asking parishioners for feedback during Mass. The purpose of this is to help us better serve you and to find new ways to reach people who have become disconnected from the church.

Our first feedback session was in June. We asked you “How can I, or how can we as a parish, more intentionally welcome people to Mass,” and “how can we as a parish use our music and screens to attract people to come to Mass?”

303 of you responded. Some responses were to greet the people around you before Mass, intentional prayer, lively music, use the screens to show more images of parish events, and so on.

Our second feedback session was in October. We asked you “Do you know someone who has become disconnected from the Church? Why might they feel disconnected,” and “in your opinion, what can we as a parish do to reach out to them?”

240 of you responded. Some responses about why people may be disconnected included disagreements with Church teachings, a feeling that Mass isn’t necessary for a spiritual life, a loss of young people in church, concern over the clergy abuse crisis, and so on.

A common thread in both feedback sessions was that people need a personal invitation to reconnect with the church. Many people



recommended calling those who are disconnected to invite them to Mass and to advertise to reach out to them. This is a very important recommendation, and we will explore how to best implement it with parishioner involvement.

Thank you so much for your feedback. We read each and every response and take them into consideration as we determine how best to move forward. Together, we can continue making St. Joseph the Worker an even better place to worship and to be part of a community of faith!

OCTOBERFEST 2018

Thanks to everyone who helped out with and attended Octoberfest! It was a great day with a lot of fun!

A big thank-you to the volunteers, those who came to participate, the parish staff, those who donated money, and the committee chairs of the numerous activities for helping everything run smoothly!

INCOME: \$50,777.26

EXPENSE: \$18,103.30

PROFIT: \$32,673.96

The profits from Octoberfest are lower this year than they were last year by more than \$4,000. This has become a continuing trend of our largest fundraiser raising fewer funds each year. Octoberfest helps to support all the work our parish does to help the poor and provide faith formation and community events for parishioners.

If you have any ideas to help improve Octoberfest, please send them to Kerry Rogers, our operations manager, at k.rogers@dbqarch.org or to Jon Lucas, our event chair, at jjlucas00@yahoo.com. Together, we can make Octoberfest even better!



LISTENING AND HEALING

With the clergy abuse crisis currently gripping the Catholic Church, many are feeling hurt and are in need of a place to share their concerns, ideas and reactions.

With that in mind, St. Joseph the Worker had listening sessions after Masses the weekend of October 13-14. Parishioners were invited to share with Fr. Tom and members of staff what they were thinking.

A number of people came down to share. Father and the staff took notes

of the comments they received, and Father compiled them into a letter to Archbishop Jackels.

The archbishop was given the letter to keep our parishioners' thoughts in mind as he attended the bishops' conference in early November.

If you have some thoughts about the abuse crisis you would like to share, please call the Parish Office at 563-588-1433 to set up a time to meet with someone. Your concerns, ideas and reactions matter.

ANNULMENTS: SEPARATING FACT FROM MYTH

The topic of divorce and annulments was one of the reasons many of you listed on your 3-Minute Feedback forms as a reason why some have become disconnected from the church. There is a great opportunity coming up for people with questions about the annulment process.

An information session on the process of applying for an annulment

will be held on Thursday, December 6 from 6:30-8:00pm at St. Columbkille in Fogerty Hall in the rectory basement. The session will be facilitated by a canon lawyer from the Archdiocese Tribunal where annulment cases are handled. Anyone with questions concerning annulments is welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Kathy at 563-590-8512.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Emma Schopp

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I cannot believe I have been blessed to be with you all for over 3 months now! So far, we have gotten high school RE running successfully as well as Confirmation prep and some really fun events! A couple noteworthy events I would like to bring to your attention are our Dec. 8 movie night in the Youth Center. All 6th-12th graders are invited to watch a movie and eat pizza during the 50th anniversary dinner at 6pm.

Secondly, SJTW will host the Dubuque area Christmas party! This Dec. 15 party in the church will have praise and worship adoration, fun games, and a popcorn bar. So if you're a 6th-12th grader, come from 8-10pm, bring a friend, and wear an ugly Christmas sweater or your most festive outfit! I have so many ideas for the youth of this parish, so stay tuned for the events that the new year will bring!

RECONCILIATION

We will offer additional opportunities to receive the sacrament of reconciliation during Advent. Come and receive God's mercy so you can make room in your heart for Jesus!

Thursdays, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 8-9pm
at SJTW with adoration

Tuesdays, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 7-8pm
at St. Columbkille with adoration
Dec. 4: Healing Service

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 6:45pm
SJTW Communal Penance Service

Sunday, Dec. 16, 3:00pm
Citywide reconciliation at Sacred Heart

Saturday, Dec. 22, 11:00am
at St. Joseph the Worker

Sunday, Dec. 23, 3:30pm
at St. Columbkille



SCRIP

Christmas is right around the corner. If you have some Christmas shopping you still need to get done, try using Scrip! Every time you purchase a Scrip card through your parish you can receive tuition credit as well as contribute to St. Joseph the Worker Parish. All of this at no additional cost over the face value of the gift card!

Scrip is available Monday-Friday in the Parish Office. The easiest way to participate is to call our Scrip Line (563-557-9091) to leave your order, which will be filled within 24 hours. We will call you as soon as your order is ready to be picked up in the office. Volunteers are in the office from 8-9am if you would rather get your order filled in person.

If you have children, grandchildren, neighbors, or friends that you would like to designate as tuition aid recipients, let us know their names. Some people just ask us to award tuition aid to a needy child; we work through the school principals to do this. And, know that the remainder of the profit will go directly to our parish. Otherwise all profits will go directly to the parish.

50 YEARS

Our celebration of 50 years of our current church building will be December 8-9!

The Knights of Columbus will be offering breakfast after Masses on Sunday, December 9. If you returned your RSVP card, don't forget about dinner on December 8!

We hope you'll join us for food, fellowship and memories!



CELEBRATING ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

St. Joseph the Worker Giving Tree

Begins November 23/Ends December 10

Pick an ornament from the tree in the back of church.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Saturday, December 8

Mass Time: Friday, Dec. 7, at 5:30pm

50 Years and Still Building

Saturday, December 8, 6:00pm

Communal Reconciliation

Wednesday, December 12, 6:45pm

Advent Scripture Study

Wednesdays, December 12 and 19, 12:45-2:00pm

Location: Martin Hall

Christmas Eve Masses

Monday, December 24

Mass Times: 5:00pm and 10:00pm

Christmas Day Masses

Tuesday, December 25

Mass Times: 8:30am and 11:00am

Parish Office Closed

December 24-25

December 31-January 1

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Tuesday, January 1

Mass Times: 5:30pm on Dec. 31 & 9:00am on Jan. 1

Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, January 5

Mass Time: 5:00pm

Sunday, January 6

Mass Times: 8:30am and 11:00am

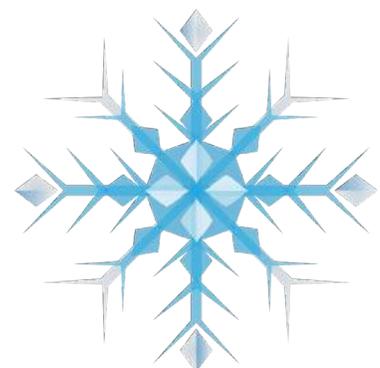
Baptism of the Lord

Saturday, January 12

Mass Time: 5:00pm

Sunday, January 13

Mass Times: 8:30am and 11:00am



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Non-profit Org.

U.S. Postage

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 563-588-1433

Fax: 563-588-4108

SJTW

theworker.org

Facebook: @TheWorkerDBQ

SJTW CEW 2019

Come to the Table

Christian Experience Weekends 2019

Women's Weekend: February 22-24, 2019

Contact Sara Eisbach: 563-590-3362; mseisbach87@gmail.com

Men's Weekend: March 1-3, 2019

Contact Phillip Bormann: 563-920-7446; pk4bormann@gmail.com

Look for CEW brochures/applications at the Information Station in church or at the parish office. You can also register online at theworker.org/christian-experience-weekends.

Please register at least one week prior to your weekend, so that we can send you information concerning what you will need to bring with you for the weekend.

There is a \$30.00 registration fee. Applications will be taken on a first come, first serve basis.