

## ***From The Desk of Father Seth...***

### **BE HOPEFUL IN THE LORD, FOR GOD DOES NOT DISAPPOINT**

Hope is the feeling of wanting something to happen and thinking that it will happen. It is an expectation, aspiration, a desire, a wish, ambition, aim, goal, plan, and design. It is a strong feeling that something good will happen and be true. To hope in something is to strive hard in your wish for your aspirations to be fulfilled or accomplished.

Hope in the bible is the confident expectation of what God has promised and its strength is in God's Faithfulness. Having goals is not enough, but one has to keep getting closer to those goals, amidst all the twists and turns of life. Hope allows people to approach problems with a mindset and strategy-set suitable to success thereby, increasing the chances they will actually accomplish their goals. Hope is an optimistic state of mind that is based on an expectation of positive outcomes with respect to events and circumstances in one's life or the world at large.

### **SOME BIBLICAL REFERENCE...**

\*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. ( Psalm 46:1-3 )

\*The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous run into it and are safe.  
( Prov 18:10 )

\*Do not grieve for the joy of the Lord is your strength. ( Neh 8:10 )

Ps 42:5; Ps 119:74; Zech 9:12; Rom 12:12; Eph 2:12; Rom 15:13; 1Thes 1:3; 1 Tim 4:10; 1 Pet 3:15

May God grant all your prayerful intentions with your zeal in hope. God bless you.

Blessings,  
Father Seth

## ***St. Mary's, Avoca***

Pastor, Fr. Seth Owusu

Jane True, Secretary

Website [www.stmarysavoca.org](http://www.stmarysavoca.org)

Facebook - [facebook.com/smspchurches](https://facebook.com/smspchurches)

Vocations Website [VocationsOnline.org](http://VocationsOnline.org)

## ***St. Patrick's, Walnut***

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FORMED CODE is **R2Z2VN**

## **December 16, 2018 Third Sunday of Advent Today's Scripture**

Sat. 12/15 -5:30 St. Mary; Sun: 12/16 - 8:00 a.m. St. Mary, Avoca, 10:30 a.m. St. Patrick, Walnut

**Zephaniah 3:14-18a:** The Lord will exult you, he will renew you by his love.

**Philippians 4:4-7:** Rejoice, the Lord is near and his peace will stand guard over you.

**Luke 3:10-18:** What must we do to prepare for the coming of the Messiah.

**Sunday, December 23:** Micah 5:1-4a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45.

## **Mass Schedule for December 17 - December 24, 2018**

<i>Tues.</i>	12/18	8:30 a.m.	Peace Haven, Walnut	†Margaret Murphy
<i>Wed.</i>	12/19	10:00 a.m.	Avoca Specialty Care	†Monica Mathews
<i>Thurs.</i>	12/20	5:45 p.m.	St. Mary's, Avoca	†Frank Russell Family
<i>Fri.</i>	12/21	8:30 a.m.	St. Mary's, Avoca	†Josephine Leslie
<i>Sat.</i>	12/22	5:30 p.m.	St. Mary's, Avoca	†Daryl Jensen
<i>Sun.</i>	12/23	8:00 a.m.	St. Patrick's, Walnut	†Carl Martin
		10:30 a.m.	St. Mary's, Avoca	All Parishioners

### **Normal Weekend Mass Schedule:**

*Saturday:* 5:30 p.m. St. Mary's

*Sunday:* 8:00 a.m. St. Mary's(1-3-5)

St. Patrick's (2-4)

*Sunday:* 10:30 a.m. St. Mary's (2-4)

St. Patrick's (1-3-5)

### **Reconciliation (Confessions):**

Saturday & Sunday before Mass

## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE December 16 - December 23

### Sunday, December 16 – Third Sunday of Advent

- \* **Please Join Us for Coffee and Rolls** following the 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's.
- \* **Grades K-7th Religious Education Christmas Party** is 9:15-10:15 a.m.
- \* **Retirement Fund for the Religious** collection is this weekend. Please give generously to help with retirement of Priests and Sisters. Envelopes are in back.
- \* **Communal Penance Service** begins at 1:00 p.m. at SS Peter and Paul in Atlantic.
- \* **St. Mary's Christmas Choir** practice is at 6 p.m. All are welcome to join.

### Wednesday, December 19

- \* **8-12 High School Religious Education Christmas** Pizza and Movie Party is from 6:30 - 8 p.m. or a little later because of movie length at St. Mary's.

### Thursday, December 20

- \* **Knight of Columbus** meeting begins with a Rosary at 7:00 p.m. and meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Avoca Legion Hall.

### Sunday, December 23 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

- \* **No Religious Education Class** - Christmas Break.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- √ **Christmas Eve Masses:** 4 p.m. St. Patrick's, Walnut. 7 p.m. St. Mary's, Avoca.
- √ **Christmas Day Mass:** 9:00 a.m. St. Mary's, Avoca.

**LITURGY VOLUNTEERS** are still needed at St. Mary's and St. Patrick's for Christmas Masses. Please email [smpavoca@walnutel.net](mailto:smpavoca@walnutel.net) if you would like to volunteer.

**AVOCA FOOD PANTRY** bags are in the church entry-way. Please pick one up and return by December 15th. Non-perishable food items are needed along with, soap, toothpaste and brushes, shampoo, etc. Please be sure to check expiration dates. Cash donation are always welcome.

**FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK - Brother Francis: O Holy Night** *Celebrate the Birth of Jesus* - Recall the wonder and joy of Christmas with Brother Francis in this heartwarming presentation that will remind you Who we celebrate during the Christmas season!

**GO TO: FORMED.org**, the Parish Code is **R2Z2VN**, then create your account.

**REMINDER: 2019 TITHE BOXES AND CALENDARS** are in the entry-way of St. Mary's and St. Patrick's. Please be sure to pick yours up soon!

**"THANK YOU"** God does so many amazing things and he did it again this year. 822 Shoe Boxes were packed and shipped with the participation of 11 churches and organizations! Thanks to everyone who helped in anyway. - Gary Soetmelk

**"ST. MARY'S - BOOK EXCHANGE"** Feel free to share and/or borrow any Good Catholic Reading materials in back of church.

**REMINDER - ST. MARY'S CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA** forms are on the table in the back of church. If you would like to donate a poinsettia in memory of or in honor of a loved one please complete the form and return by **December 16th**. Poinsettias are \$15 each.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** "Keeping Christ in Christmas" Cards are for sale in the parish hall.

**ADDRESS FOR** Fr. Dooley c/o S. Joseph Church, 1026 North 8th Ave., Winterset, IA 50273

**KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS & MASSES:** Judy Poore, Donnie Bauerkemper, Helen Juelsgaard, Helen Dea, Eileen Denning, Paul Koster, Marie Manuel, Patricia Koster, Kenneth Suhr, Doris (Jeannie) Mertz, LaVern Mertz, Carol Porter, Doyle Gilland, Mike D'Angelo, Sharon Sorrells, Marie Suhr, John O'Keefe, Janet Doyle Antony, Lori Reinig, Judy Willoughby, Tim Tuel, Robert Stuart, Roland McLaughlin, Monica McLaughlin Merryman, James Hoffmann, Mary VanCamp, Cole Geraghty, Eleanor Brown, Marcus Upton, Shelly Mattox, Ted Aikman, Dan Noonan, Angela Brisbois, Darla Snyder, Ethel Thomas, Gordon Gladdin, Leona Bladt, Lillie Sue Mace, Nathan Hall, Nancy Blum, Sherman Snyder, Carol Gubbels.

**TITHES St. Mary:** 12/9 Tithes- \$595; Plate - \$65.07. **St. Patrick:** 12/2 Tithes -\$190; Plate -\$16.

#### Ministry 12/22 SM 5:30 p.m.

**Lector** Heather Poore  
**Comm** Doug Sptiznagle  
 Jane True  
 Ann Koster  
**Servers** Harrison Poore  
 Jacob Coon  
 Julia Kock  
**U/G** Tom Pattee  
 Tom True  
**Gifts** Jaiden Poore  
 Jonni Poore

#### 12/23 SM 10:30 a.m.

**Lector** Matt Sauvain  
**Comm** Patti Sauvain\*  
 Harold Hoffmann\*  
 Ron Kenkel  
**Servers** Caden Geraghty  
 Noah Bartunek  
 Jordan Bartunek  
**U/G** John Bartunek  
 Martin Molnar  
**Gifts** Jeanette Bartunek  
 Amy Osbahr

#### 12/23 SP 8:00 a.m

**Lector** Jane Hayes-Johnk  
**Comm** Julie Gross  
 Laura Totilas  
 Lou Totilas  
**Servers** Rosemary Harper  
 Alaina Bruce  
**U/G** Wayne Johnk  
 Marvin Naegele  
**Gifts** Nathan YockFamily

**Christmas Ministry: St. Mary:** 12.24 7 p.m. *Lector* Rose Sternberg; *Euch.* Dave Sternberg, Mary Pearson, Deb McCarthy; *Server* Jace Peterson, Ellie Peterson; *Usher* Josh Peterson, Jerry McCarthy; *Gifts* Erin Peterson, Jett Peterson. 12/25: *Lector* Tom Pattee; *Gifts* Kathleen Pattee. **St. Patrick:** 12/24 4 p.m. ?