



January 1 – From Infinity to Infancy

As we continue to celebrate the Christmas season and the Incarnation of Christ, I share with you the following reflection that I wrote, while on pilgrimage in Bethlehem, visiting the Church of the Nativity, the very place Christ was born.

From Infinity to Infancy

My hand brushes the cool stone as I bow down and enter through the “door of humility” into the Church of the Nativity, for the door is so low that every person must literally bow down, lowering themselves as they enter the very place where the all-powerful God of the Universe lowered Himself from Infinity to Infancy.

As I stand upright again after entering the small door, my eyes are met with ancient beauty. Flickering candles, brightly colored icons, marble pillars, a radiant sanctuary whose beauty shines through even amid all the scaffolding of the renovations being done. But this beautiful sanctuary is not itself our destination; but rather, the hidden cave beneath it – the very cave in which Christ was born. And we lower ourselves again going deeper into this sacred place, descending steep stairs beneath the sanctuary, through a narrow doorway, into the cave within. And as I shuffle quietly into this humble cave, shoulder-to-shoulder with a small crowd of people I realize, in the hushed silence, that I am not amid just a group of tourists going to see some new and exciting thing. These people, from all walks of life, from all over the world, are coming in awe and wonder, to adore, to worship, to pray. They too, lowering themselves into this cave to speak to the Almighty God of their fears and sufferings, hopes and dreams, to pour out what is in their hearts, to pray for their loved ones.

The sacredness of this place becomes tangible: the hushed whisper of prayers, the flickering of candles lit for loved ones, the rustling of clothes as people crouch and lay down to the ground to kiss the very spot where Christ was born; chanting and singing breaks out among some, and people, both young and old, fall to their knees on the hard stone floor. For it is here in this very place where the Almighty God becomes very close, for it is right here that He became flesh, that He entered the messiness of our human lives and struggles, our whole experience of living.

There is something profoundly beautiful and humbling that cannot easily be put into words when praying at this very place. Because that Christmas story that we’ve heard so many times throughout our lives, that captured our imagination as children, that we’ve heard over and over, year after year, that we’ve re-enacted in our cute Christmas pageants, and display each year in our Nativity scenes ... this story, and the full weight of what it means becomes tangible here; and you realize that this is not just any story, not just a nice bedtime tale of our childhood, but a very real story that speaks right into the heart of our – very grown-up and painful – human struggles. And it is especially poignant being amid a land with a history of such pain-filled struggle, war, and conflict. And it is this story, this reality that we are entering into more fully as pilgrims. We enter into the whole story of Christ in a very tangible way; and in doing so, the story enters into us, sinking deep into our being. But not just for ourselves, but for this saving work of Christ to become very real to us, and in us, so that through us God can continue His work, to draw others into His story, into His very self, His body, so that the world may know and encounter the Living God who enters into the messiness of our very human lives, of our struggles, our daily life and work.

He came from heaven to earth to transform us, and draw us into His Love and Life!

Peace,
-Fr. Kevin

Desde la Infinidad a la Infancia

Mi mano roza la piedra fría mientras me doblego y entro por la “puerta de la humildad” hacia la Basílica de la Natividad, por una puerta tan baja que cada persona literalmente debe encorvarse para entrar al mismo lugar donde el Dios Todopoderoso del Universo se rebajó desde la Infinidad a la Infancia.

Al enderezarme nuevamente después de haber entrado por la pequeña puerta, mis ojos se encuentran con una belleza ancestral. Velas parpadeantes, íconos de colores brillantes, pilares de mármol, un santuario radiante cuya belleza resplandece incluso en medio de todos los andamios instalados debido a las renovaciones que se realizan. Pero nuestro destino no es este bello santuario; a su vez, la escondida caverna bajo éste – la misma caverna en la que nació Cristo. Y nos agachamos otra vez adentrándonos en este lugar sagrado, bajando por empinadas escaleras bajo el santuario, a través de un angosto portal, dentro de la misma cueva. Y mientras calladamente arrastro los pies en esta humilde caverna, hombro a hombro con un pequeño grupo de personas, me doy cuenta, en el profundo silencio, de que no estoy rodeado por sólo un grupo de turistas yendo a ver algo emocionante. Estas personas, de todos los ámbitos de la vida, de todo el mundo, vienen con asombro y maravilla a adorar, alabar, orar. Ellos también, se doblegan en esta caverna para hablarle al Dios Todopoderoso sobre sus miedos y sufrimientos, sus esperanzas y sueños, para desahogar aquello que está en sus corazones, para orar por sus seres queridos.

Lo sagrado de este lugar se convierte tangible: el profundo susurro de las oraciones, el parpadeo de las velas encendidas por los seres queridos, el crujido de las ropas mientras las personas se encucillan y se acuestan en el suelo para besar el mismísimo lugar donde nació Cristo; algunos espontáneamente corean y cantan, y personas – tanto jóvenes como viejos – caen de rodillas sobre el piso de piedra. Porque es en este mismo lugar donde el Dios Todopoderoso se acerca, porque aquí mismo es donde Él se convirtió en carne, entrando en el caos de nuestras vidas y luchas humanas, en nuestra completa experiencia de vivir.

Hay algo profundamente bello y humilde que no puede ponerse fácilmente en palabras cuando oras en este lugar. Porque esa historia de Navidad que hemos oído tantas veces a lo largo de nuestras vidas, que capturó nuestra imaginación de niños, que hemos escuchado una y otra vez, año tras año, la que hemos actuado en nuestras tiernas actuaciones de Navidad y exhibido cada año en nuestros Pesebres ... esta historia, y el peso completo de lo que significa convertirse en tangible aquí; y te das cuenta de que no es sólo una historia, no es sólo un lindo cuento para dormirse cuando niños, sino una historia muy real que habla directamente al corazón de nuestras – dolorosas y muy adultas – luchas humanas. Y es especialmente conmovedor estar en el medio de esta tierra con una historia de tales luchas llenas de dolor, de guerra y conflicto. Y es esta la historia, ésta la realidad en la que estamos entrando más plenamente como peregrinos. Entramos en la historia completa de Cristo de una manera muy tangible; y al hacerlo, la historia entra en nosotros, adentrándose profundamente en nuestro ser. Pero no sólo para nosotros mismos, sino para esta obra salvadora de Cristo que se convierte muy real para nosotros, y en nosotros, para que por medio de nosotros Dios pueda continuar Sus obras, atraer a otros a Su historia, a Él mismo, Su cuerpo, para que el mundo pueda conocer y encontrar al Dios Vivo que entra en el caos de nuestras vidas humanas, en nuestros problemas, en nuestra vida y trabajo diario.

Él descendió del cielo a la tierra para transformarnos, y a ¡llevarnos hacia Su Amor y Vida!

Paz -Padre Kevin

St. Mary

611 Sherman, Ackley, 641-847-2329
stmaryspatrick@gmail.com

Book Club

January 2

“Santa Suit”

By Mary Kay Andrews

February 6

“Paris Apartments”

By Lucy Folley

Religious Education classes begin January 4

Budget Envelopes

The 2023 Budget Envelopes are on the table at the back of church.

Please take the time to pick yours up.



Stewardship - Treasure

Sunday, December 18, 2022

Budget Envelopes \$1225

Offertory \$243

Total \$1468

Give Online www.FranklinHardinCatholic.org/online-giving

Liturgical Ministers

January 8, 2022

January 8, 2023 – The Epiphany of the Lord

Lector: Kaitlyn Porter, Rosie Lindaman

Ushers: Mark Uthe, Gary Bonewitz, Jim Wessels,
Bob Burkle

Eucharistic Ministers: Molly Forgy Janet DeBerg

Money Counters: Jodi Uthe, Jim Wessels

Altar Servers: Ella Gronewold, Kye Gronewold

Sacristan: Jodi Uthe

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the family in need your response was amazing.... you definitely showed how to love your neighbor..

Thank you

Thank you to Green Belt Bank for the donation.

New Year's Day

Today's second reading reminds us that through Christ we have been delivered from the old law and have become sons and daughters of God. New Year's Day provides a perfect opportunity to ask ourselves the question: Does my life reflect my gratitude for all that my loving Father has given me?

St. Patrick

1405 N. Federal, Hampton 641-456-4857
Office Hours: Monday through Thursday
9:00 AM-1:00 PM, excluding holidays.
dbq097sec@dbqarch.org

Pastoral Council Notes-Meeting December 18, 2022

Mass attendance has been averaging 80 per Mass. We will have approximately 70 Columbus High School students attending our January 15th 10:30 AM Mass. They are attending a retreat at the NE IA Christian Service Camp.

January Meals will be held after the Spanish Mass January 15th with Chili and Cinnamon rolls (served by parishioners who attend English Mass). The meal after the English Mass (served by members who attend Spanish Mass) is tentatively scheduled for January 22nd.

The Fall Dinner may be moved to Saturday as may be more workable for workers. Activities for kids and more of a festival than just a meal are also options.

A new position was discussed. Director of Hispanic Ministry that would include duties of assisting with faith formation, help bring more Hispanic families to the parish, attend to youth, help with communication, outreach and follow-up after baptisms, and assist with Quinceanera preparation program development.

Questions to work through are will this be part or full time, share with Ackley. Ideally a person from Hampton or the local community. Finance Council is agreeable

Next meeting is January 15th at 4:00 PM

Reunión de notas del Consejo Pastoral 18 de diciembre de 2022

La asistencia a misa ha sido de un promedio de 80 por misa.

Tendremos aproximadamente 70 estudiantes de Columbus High School asistiendo a nuestra misa del 15 de enero a las 10:30 AM. Están asistiendo a un retiro en el Campamento de Servicio Cristiano NE IA.

Las comidas de enero se llevarán a cabo después de la misa en español el 15 de enero con rollos de chile y canela (servidos por los feligreses que asisten a la misa en inglés). El meal después de la Misa en inglés (servida por miembros que asisten a la Misa en español) está programado tentativamente para el 22 de enero.

La cena de otoño puede trasladarse al sábado, ya que puede ser más viable para los trabajadores. Actividades para niños y más de un festival que solo una comida también son opciones.

Se debatió una nueva posición. Director del Ministerio Hispánica que incluiría deberes de ayudar con la formación en la fe, ayudar a traer más familias hispanas a la parroquia, atender a los jóvenes, ayudar con la comunicación, el alcance y el seguimiento después de los bautismos, y ayudar con el desarrollo del programa de preparación para quinceañeras.

Las preguntas para trabajar son si esto será a tiempo parcial o completo, compartir con Ackley. Idealmente una persona de Hampton o de la comunidad local. El Consejo de Finanzas es aceptable

La próxima reunión es el 15 de enero a las 4:00 PM

Liturgical Ministers

January 8, 2023

English Mass 10:30 a.m.

Lector: Denielle Conlon

Ushers: Greg Cavazos, Ryne Magner

Eucharistic Ministers: Dean & Samantha Markwardt

Money Counters: Millicent Fielding, Sue Basye

Altar Servers: James & Joseph Conlon

Sacristan: Millicent Fielding

Linen: Sue Garrett

Spanish Mass – 5:30 p.m.

Lectores: Esther Garcia, Janeth Morteo

Ministros de Eucarísticos: Anabel Alanis, Margarita Rincon

Contador es de Dinero: Gabby Garcia, Soiree Lara

Monaguillos: Alex Garcia, Sergio Dominguez, Gabriel Diosdado

Sacristan: Anabel Alanis

You are responsible to find your own replacement.

Usted es responsable de encontrar su propio reemplazo.

Happenings This Week:

Tuesday/Martes, January 3/Enero 3

8:30 AM Mass

7:00 PM - AA/Al-Anon (RE Center)

Wednesday/Miércoles, January 3/Enero 3

10:00 AM-Noon-Food Pantry/ Mediodía Despensa de Alimentos (Social Hall)

1-3:00 PM Crafts

6:30 PM Faith Formation Pre-K through 8th grade/
Formación en la fe Pre-K hasta 8^o grado

Thursday/Jueves, January 5/Enero 5

8:30 AM Mass

6:00-8:00 PM-Adoración/Adoration-RE Center

Sunday/Domingo January 8/Enero 8

10:30 AM-Mass/Masa-English-Inglesa

5:30 PM-Mass/Masa-Spanish/ Español

Between August and December, you have purchased over \$15,000 of Scrip cards which has resulted in over \$500 of rebates. On an annual basis that means over \$1,500 of extra contributions which is a good fundraiser. All this with virtually no extra cost to you because you have to eat and buy gasoline anyway. Buy Scrip!!!

Stewardship – Treasure

No information at time of printing.

Give Online www.FranklinHardinCatholic.org/online-giving

Memorial for Christmas flowers

Donations made in memory
honor of loved ones....

Eric Fielding
Carl & Teresa Kuehner
James & Norma Furrie
Julie Currie Starneak
Eugene Kuehner
Lauren Kuehner



2023 *Beauty in* *Christ* Archdiocesan Women's Virtual Conference

"Fiat! Saying Yes to God!"

Saturday, January 28, 2023 8:00 AM - 1:30 PM

This year's virtual conference enables women to participate from the comfort of their own homes or to gather in parishes to experience the event together! The theme of the conference is "Fiat! Saying Yes to God!" and will include keynote presentations by national speaker and author Marcia Lane-McGee and local women's health educator, Jamie Rathjen.

REGISTER NOW! Visit

Weather announcements and cancellation of Masses & activities

If AGWSR or Hampton-Dumont/CAL schools announce a delay or a cancellation on a weekday the Mass will be cancelled.

Weekend Masses will be celebrated as usual if possible. If there is a need to cancel, notifications will be posted on Facebook, email, website: franklinhardincatholic.org or at the following stations:

KLMJ 104.9/KQCR 98.9

KIFG 95.3

Please try these resources before you reach out to the priest.



Pray for them...

Cathy Kuper, Chuck Baltes, Dr. John Fetter
Marj Kampman, Darwin Wikert

Please make use of your parish's prayer chain:

St. Mary, Ackley:

Jolene Harms at stmaryspatrick@gmail.com

St. Patrick, Hampton:

Mary Ann Patton at thepattons4@gmail.com



Mass Intentions

Monday, January 2

8:30 a.m. Charlotte Upham

St. Mary

Tuesday, January 3

8:30 a.m. Bill Patton

St. Patrick

Wednesday, January 4

8:30 a.m. Special Intention

St. Mary

Thursday, January 5

8:30 a.m. Peaches Beatty

St. Patrick

Sunday, January 8

8:00 a.m. Julio Hernandez

St. Mary

10:30 a.m. Rueben David Castillo

St. Patrick

5:30 p.m. For the People

St. Patrick
Spanish

Live stream of Mass

www.franklinhardincatholic.org/livestream

YouTube Channel: Franklin Hardin Catholic

Father Kevin Earleywine

k.earleywine@dbqarch.com

Hampton-Ackley