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## Birthday Corner:

### DECEMBER

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| 4 | Mary Pat Kerper            |
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| 5 | Fr. Akizou Kamina, SVD     |
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## THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

### No Parking During Advent

There was once a missionary who was visiting a large church with a group of young schoolchildren. He easily engaged them in conversation, and they started asking questions about all the pictures, statues and symbols scattered around the place. At one point the missionary pointed to an ancient symbol inscribed on the altar.

The Chi-Rho symbol, made from the first two letters of the Greek word *Christos*, is the oldest monogram for Christ, the King of the universe. The missionary asked the children if they knew what the symbol meant. Their answers were enthusiastic and imaginative – but in the end, the kids were stumped. Then one girl shot her hand into the air, “Oh, oh, I know! I know!”



“So what do you think it stands for?” the missionary asked.

With triumphant certainty, she proclaimed, “NO PARKING!”



December is a busy, busy month for Christians. Advent calls us “to make straight the way of the Lord.” The Marian feasts of the Immaculate Conception and Guadalupe remind us that the coming of Christ is meant to permeate our whole lives, just as Christ fully inhabits the life of Mary.

The Advent road, traveling through the Christmas novena and the Hispanic celebration of Posadas, stretches from the feast of Christ the King to the

celebration of the Newborn King. This surely is a NO PARKING zone.

A dozen years ago, I read some eye-opening comments in a diocesan pastoral letter on poverty in the United States. They stick with me still:

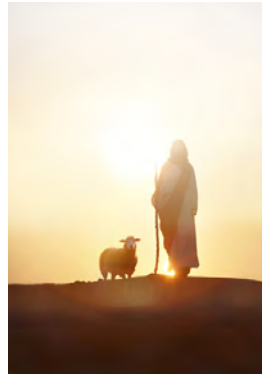
We know "either from personal experience or experience with poor neighbors, that in many poor families so much energy and attention is used up in merely managing to survive. All too often, *Poverty feels like being hunted.*"

We know about "the scariness of poverty, especially for the elderly on a fixed income. (We recognize) that for so many, there exists a real possibility of joining the poor: *Poverty is an equal opportunity killer.*"



And we know that, "rather than running away from the poor and the issue of poverty, (we must) again and again insist on being in solidarity with the poor..."

This past semester, students at DWC have become more aware of child-hunger in Dubuque County. Here, in this land of plenty, an estimated 1 in 6 children go days without knowing if they'll have enough to eat. So far, we've held two small fundraisers to help support young students who live in that uncertainty.



We can be forgiven for wanting to bask a bit in the glow of the feast of Christ the King, of Thanksgiving, and of all the Advent/Christmas festivals ahead. But our King, born in poverty and always a friend to the poor, is already up and moving, and we are called to rise and follow him.

The little girl's answer wasn't the expected one, but it wasn't far off-target. Let us all make sure in this Advent Season our communities, churches, schools and families are all NO PARKING zones.



**VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**  
**Dr. Joshua Young**

**Wishing you Hope**

As we enter into Advent and the hope of Christmas break, I want to reflect a little bit about hope, especially because the Jubilee Year of Hope will conclude soon.

Hope is at the center of Prophetic Dialogue. Maria Cimperman claims that without hope, Prophetic Dialogue could never hope to develop, maintain, or nurture our relationships in community. Specifically, hope helps us develop our imagination and ability to see what might otherwise be.

Without imagination, we are beholden to our bias and become subject to our despair that nothing new will blossom in our relationships. This week, we celebrate the hope and Prophetic Dialogue



that we've experienced at the College, especially through the success of our graduating students in the undergraduate and ESL programs. For the time they have been here, they have helped us reimagine our

campus community and have impacted the way we live together. As an example, Br. Quoc Le delivered his senior capstone project, today, where he used Kierkegaard to explore the paradoxes of faith and to encourage the same hope that Abraham had in his obedience to God.

Now is a time for new hope for them. What new adventures await, what new people will be with them upon their journey? Remember, hope is a thing of imagination in the best way possible.



# ASSESSMENT LOOP

Ms. Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth

## You Got This!

I would like to offer a message of encouragement as the students near the end of the semester.

### Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with

perseverance the race marked out for us,<sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.<sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.





**VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION/DEAN OF STUDENTS**  
**Fr. Tuan Hoang, SVD**

**Epworth Country Christmas**

This **Wednesday, December 3, 2025**, the town of Epworth will host Epworth Country Christmas. This is a time of the year where the Epworth community get together to enjoy the performances, games, and activities hosted by the local businesses, Epworth Fire Department, and local churches to bring the Christmas spirit to the people.

Divine Word College will host children’s games and activities at Locals with the theme – *Happy Birthday Jesus: A Birthday Fit for a King!* I encourage all students to come and enjoy!

Also, there is a signup sheet posted on the student bulletin board needing helpers to help with the games and activities. We ask you for your help to make this event joyful.



*Epworth Country Christmas 2024.*

**Foundation Day of the SSpS and the SSpSAP**

On **Monday, December 8, 2025**, the Arnoldus family will celebrate the foundation of the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters (SSpS) and the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters of Perpetual Adoration (SSpSAP). St. Arnold Janssen, SVD, our founding father, had a deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. For this, he founded these two congregations on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The SSpS are dedicated partners sharing their lives with the SVDs in mission, while the SSpSAP are with us through their prayers.

We congratulate these two congregations on their foundation day, especially to our SSpS sisters who have been working hard at our college community. Thank you for your dedication.



# Around Divine Word College

## Advent Lunch Update

The Advent Lunch originally scheduled for **Wednesday, December 3rd**, has been canceled. However, we will celebrate a **Mass of Thanksgiving for our December Graduates on Friday, December 5th, at 8:00 a.m.**, with a **farewell luncheon from 11:40 a.m. to 1:10 p.m.** to honor and say goodbye to our graduates, departing ESL students, and employees.



## Join Us for “A Birthday Party Fit for a King!” – Part of Epworth Country Christmas

Divine Word College is once again delighted to take part in **Epworth Country Christmas** by hosting a family-friendly celebration that highlights the true meaning of the season. This year’s event, “*A Birthday Party Fit for a King!*”, will take place on **Wednesday, December 3, from 5–7 p.m.** in the event room at **Locals**, located at **107 Main Street West**.

The evening will include **games, activities, and treats** designed to help children and families rejoice in the

birth of Christ in a joyful and welcoming environment. It’s a simple but meaningful way for the college community to share the spirit of Christmas with our neighbors in Epworth.

Faculty, staff, students, and SVDs are encouraged to stop by, join in the fun, and represent the college with your presence. Your participation helps strengthen our relationship with the local community and demonstrates the hospitality that is central to our mission.

Let’s help make this birthday party truly *fit for a King!* We hope to see you there.



 Matthew Jacoby Library

[opac.dwci.edu](http://opac.dwci.edu)



## Support for Students During Finals Week

The library provides resources and spaces to support students during finals week.

## Snacks, Candy, and a Place to Recharge

Starting December 12th, stop by for snacks and candy to keep your energy up.

Need a break? There will be a selection of board games and cards or head up to the mezzanine and relax on the bean bag chairs.



## Return Books

Please return any books stored on library shelf spaces for this semester. This ensures materials remain accessible for all users.



## Get Feedback Before You Submit

Working on a final paper or project? Get feedback from the library:

- Finding or evaluating sources
- Formatting citations (APA, MLA, Chicago)

Stop by the library director's office or schedule a one-on-one consultation via email at [ewinter@dwci.edu](mailto:ewinter@dwci.edu).

# TECH TIP TUESDAYS

MICROSOFT 365 SERIES  
BY LIZ WINTER

## Get Ready for the Holiday Break with Outlook Tools

Heading out for the holidays? Make sure your colleagues know when you're away and avoid last-minute meeting invites. Here are two quick Microsoft 365 tips to help you prepare.

### Tip 1: Set Up Automatic Replies (Out-of-Office)

#### Outlook Desktop:

1. Open **Outlook** and click **File** in the top-left corner.
2. Select **Automatic Replies (Out of Office)**.
3. Click **Send automatic replies** and set your start and end dates.
4. Type your message (include alternate contacts if needed).
5. Click **OK** to save.



#### Outlook Web:

1. Go to **Settings** (gear icon) > **View all Outlook settings**.
2. Select **Mail > Automatic replies**.
3. Turn on **Automatic replies**, set your dates, and enter your message.
4. Click **Save**.

### Tip 2: Block Your Calendar as "Out of Office"

#### Outlook Desktop:

1. Open your **Calendar** and click **New Appointment**.
2. Enter your away dates and times.
3. Under **Show As**, select **Out of Office**.
4. Save and close.

#### Outlook Web:

1. Go to **Calendar** and click **New Event**.
2. Add your dates and times.
3. Under **Show As**, choose **Out of Office**.
4. Click **Save**.

### Bonus Tip: Host Virtual Meetings in Teams (If Needed)

If you need to meet while away from campus, Teams makes it easy:

1. Open **Microsoft Teams** and go to **Calendar**.
2. Click **New Meeting** and add participants.
3. Set the date/time and click **Send**—a Teams link will be included automatically.
4. Join from any device using the Teams app or browser.

KEEP AN EYE OPEN  
FOR MORE **TECH TIPS**



**COMING SOON!**