

LITURGY OFFICE

The September 2025 issue of *LiturgyNotes* is attached, and available [here](#).

CLERGY & PARISH ADDRESS CHANGES: Effective September 1

Very Rev. Jason Crossen, VG: Sacred Heart Cathedral, 422 E. 10th St., Davenport 5208-5499; O: 563-324-3257

Deacon Ryan Burchett: Our Lady of Lourdes, 1414 Mississippi Blvd., Bettendorf 52722-4862; O: 563-359-0345

New to the Diocese:

Rev. Manu John: Our Lady of Victory, 4105 N. Division St., Davenport 52806-4741; O: 563-391-4245

Rev. Shinu Varghese: Our Lady of Lourdes, 1414 Mississippi Blvd. Bettendorf 52722-4862; O: 563-359-0345

Parish Office Mailing Address Change:

Our Lady of Lourdes: 1453 Mississippi Blvd., Bettendorf 52722

EVANGELIZATION OFFICE

USCCB Consultation of the Laity: The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) wants to better understand how the people of God understand and live out their baptism. Our diocese has designed a survey as part of this effort. This survey is for lay persons only. Clerics will receive a separate survey. Through this, we hope to discover how people are living out their baptism and how parish leadership can better support that. Please fill out this survey (if you are a lay person) and promote it in your parish community. The survey will be open until the end of September. We will compile results during the month of October to share our diocesan report with the USCCB by their November 1st deadline. Individual parish results will be shared with parish leadership. Diocese-wide results will be published widely. Contact Patrick Schmadeke (schmadeke@davenportdiocese.org) with any questions. (Survey links: [ENGLISH](#) | [SPANISH](#))

SOCIAL MEDIA OFFICE

Parish Registration Templates: When is the last time you took a look at your parish registration form(s) through the eyes of a newcomer? Let this be your nudge to take a peek! Our parish registration forms are one of the first impressions that newcomers have of our parish. We want them to be welcoming, accessible, and easy to fill out. We put together a template that you are free to use to update your parish's form. View the attachment or [you can find it here](#). Any questions? Contact Sarah Callahan at callahan@davenportdiocese.org

STEWARDSHIP OFFICE

Annual Diocesan Appeal Resources: September 13-14. As we prepare to launch this year's Annual Diocesan Appeal: "*Celebrating Our Faith, Lifting Our Voices.*" *Every Gift Tells a Story*, we're excited to walk with you in inviting parishioners to reflect on and support the mission we share as one diocesan family.

We know each parish is unique, and we're here to offer hands-on support to help you make this campaign meaningful and successful in your local community. Whether you need help crafting pulpit announcements, bulletin content, social media posts, or sharing personal stories from your parish, we're happy to provide examples or even work with you to tailor materials.

Here's what we can offer:

- Sample storytelling materials
- Pre-written bulletin inserts and announcement text
- Social media graphics and suggested posts
- Story prompts and guidance for inviting parishioners to share
- Support with formatting or editing local stories for sharing

If you'd like to receive a customized parish toolkit or would like help highlighting a story from your own parish, please let us know. We'd be honored to feature your community in the diocesan campaign if you have someone whose faith story reflects the impact of the ADA.

You can reach me directly at praet@davenportdiocese.org or by phone at 563-888-4252.

"Celebrating Our Faith, Lifting Our Voices:" We are excited as this year's ADA will also be a celebration of diocesan stories. We're collecting stories from people across the Diocese:

1. Parishioners
2. Clergy & Religious
3. Students
4. Volunteers
5. Teachers
6. Families

All stories welcome—short, long, written, video, or just a conversation. Select stories may be featured in our 2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal video series, newsletters, and parish bulletins; as well as the storytelling page of the diocesan website. Some of our submitted story themes are as follows:

"... a seminarian found his calling."

"... a rural parish brought Eucharist to the homebound."

"... a teen discovered faith in youth ministry."

How to Submit Your Story: Email at stories@davenportdiocese.org or call at (563) 888-4252. I would be happy to be of any assistance. We'll help you tell it—no pressure, just heart. We are accepting stories from now through July 2026, so you can send anytime. Also, please let us know if you have a suggestion of someone who may also be willing to tell their story.

Invitation to Join NCCL Catholic Kids Worship and Prayer Initiative: (No Cost to Participate) I'm pleased to share National Community of Catechetical Leaders has extended the deadline to apply to this exciting opportunity to diocesan parishes and schools to join St. Joseph's school and parish in DeWitt in our diocesan cohort.

The Catholic Kids Worship and Prayer Initiative, a fully-funded program made possible through the support of Lilly Endowment, Inc., a new multi-year Initiative to create new approaches and resources for engaging parishes and Catholic schools in nurturing the faith of children (0-11 years old) through Catholic worship and prayer.

There is no cost to participate, and the program will be available in both English and Spanish. NCCL will provide all components of the initiative—resources, structure, and support. Participation will primarily involve promoting the initiative locally and assisting your parishes and schools with the application process.

You can view the full program overview here: [NCCL Children Worship & Prayer Initiative Overview \(PDF\)](#)

This initiative builds on NCCL's other successful efforts, including our current diocesan cohorts in Family Faith Formation and Thriving Parishes. It promises to be a meaningful and well-supported opportunity for engaging children in worship and prayer across our communities.

Please let me know if there is interest in applying or if I can assist you in any way. Special application extension for Diocese of Davenport cohort through September 4!

FAITH FORMATION

FROM THE USCCB – Catechetical Sunday 2025: September 21. The theme for Catechetical Sunday 2025 is *“Always be ready to give an explanation... for a reason for your hope”* (1 Pet 3:15). The theme reflects a call to share the reason for our hope which is Jesus. More information about Catechetical Sunday can be found at [here](#).

SAVE THE DATE – Scouting Mass 2026: January 25, 2 p.m. The deadline for religious emblems being presented at this liturgy is December 15th 2025. To RSVP for the Scouting Mass 2026 please complete the following steps:

1. ensure that emblem paperwork is properly completed with all necessary sign-offs
2. emblems are paid for through the Office of Faith Formation who will order emblems
3. RSVP by following the link (<https://www.davenportdiocese.org/dccs-mass-rsvp>)
4. Everything must be submitted & paid for before December 15th deadline

For more details on scouting and religious emblems as well as any questions please visit our website (<https://www.davenportdiocese.org/scouting>) or contact Kathy Lantzky (lantzky@davenportdiocese.org).

SAVE THE DATE – Iowa Catholic Youth Conference 2026: We are excited to announce the 5th annual Iowa Catholic Youth Conference (ICYC) which targets those in grades 6-8 and their parents on March 22. **New** this year is an expanded event for High Schoolers in grades 9-12 on March 21. The event which is co-sponsored by the Archdiocese of Dubuque and the Diocese of Davenport will take place at St. Ludmila Parish in Cedar Rapids and will feature the energetic and much loved **Scally Brothers Band** (<https://www.thescallybrothers.com>) both days. More information will be available later this fall. Please feel free to run this announcement in parish bulletins. Attached is a Save-the-date Flyer! Mark your calendars!

Net Ministries, challenging young Catholics through relational ministry to follow Christ: Explore scheduling a team today! Are you looking for a missionary-team to come to your parish or school to facilitate a retreat? At Net Ministries they challenge young Catholics, through relational ministry, to follow Christ and embrace a life of community in the church. That’s why alongside youth ministers, parishes, and schools, NET’s dynamic evangelistic retreats help young people encounter the person of Christ. To learn more about NET you can [follow this link \(netusa.org\)](https://netusa.org). Retreats are now scheduled through the NET website direct as opposed to the Diocesan Office of Faith Formation advertising pre-determined dates. This allows for more direct planning and flexibility on NET’s end. If you were needing to schedule a retreat [please click here \(netusa.org/schedule-a-retreat\)](https://netusa.org/schedule-a-retreat) and a representative will be ready and eager to help you plan your retreat!

Marriage and Family

Celebrate World Day for Grandparents and Elderly: September 6-7. The theme for the 2025 celebration selected by the pope is *“Blessed are those who have not lost hope”* (cf. Sir 14:2). These words, taken from the Book of Sirach, express the blessedness of the elderly and highlight the hope placed in the Lord as the path to a Christian and reconciled old age. Parishes and schools are encouraged to explore these [resources from the USCCB](#) or contact [Marianne Agnoli](#) for additional celebration ideas.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter: September, 12-14 at the Shalom Retreat Center in Dubuque. For more information contact Greg and Denise at 563-920-9419 or sign up for an upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience [here](#). Early registration is highly recommended.

50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration Mass: October 20, 2 p.m. at St. Patrick, Iowa City. At the request of Bishop-Elect Dennis Walsh, the Office of Faith Formation is sponsoring a diocesan celebration for all couples who are celebrating fifty years of marriage this year. Couples that were unable to attend prior celebrations are also welcome to participate. Parishes were asked to submit couple names and addresses by August 30, using the form sent to them by email from Kathy Lantzky lantzky@davenportdiocese.org on July 8. Invitations will be sent out to the couples early in September.

Marriage and Parenting/ Eco-Tips Resources: Susan Vogt will no longer be providing new content for Marriage Moments and Parenting Pointers. However, hundreds of her submissions have been archived for access and may be posted at any time in your parish bulletins or on school websites. [Marriage Moments Archives](#) [Parenting Pointers Archives](#). New [ECO-TIPS](#) will continue to be published monthly.

SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE

Special Collection: August 30 and 31. At the direction of Bishop Walsh, the Diocese of Davenport will have a special collection for Gaza and the Middle East Crisis. Please return donated funds to the diocese with Gaza Relief on the memo line of the check.

Diocese of Davenport

Gaza Relief

Attn: Finance Department

780 West Central Park Avenue

Davenport Iowa, 52804-1901

USCCB is calling for a Special Collection for Support in Gaza: WASHINGTON – “The situation in Gaza and across the Middle East cries out for the assistance of the Catholic community of the United States,” said Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). In a letter to the U.S. bishops, he asked them to consider taking up a voluntary special collection in their dioceses, if they are able, to support the efforts of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA). Both organizations have well-established partnerships with the Catholic Church in the region to allow them to respond quickly and efficiently.

“Our Church mourns the terrible suffering of Christians and other innocent victims of violence in Gaza and surrounding areas who are struggling to survive, protect their children, and live with dignity in dire conditions,” continued Archbishop Broglio. “The Holy Father [continues](#) to call for a cease fire and for aid to enter the territory, noting with great sorrow that ‘Gaza is starving,’ and encouraged the bishops to consider the special collection in their dioceses at their earliest opportunity.

More information about the efforts by CRS and CNEWA in Gaza, please visit:

- <https://www.crs.org/where-we-work/middle-east-north-africa/jerusalem-west-bank-and-gaza>
- <https://cnewa.org/what-we-do/support-emergency-relief-in-the-holy-land/>
- [CRS Emergency Factsheet: Gaza Crisis.](#)

World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation: September 1. “*Seeds of Peace and Hope*”

Pope announces new ‘Mass of Creation: Pope Leo XIV has announced a new Mass of Creation to be added to the Roman Missal. In his message for the [10th World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation](#) in September, Pope Leo said, “Nature itself is reduced at times to a bargaining chip, a commodity to be bartered for economic or political gain. As a result, God’s creation turns into a battleground for the control of vital resources. We see this in agricultural areas and forests peppered with landmines, ‘scorched earth’ policies, conflicts over water sources, and the unequal distribution of raw materials, which penalizes the poorer nations and undermines social stability itself ... These various wounds are the effect of sin.”

Season of Creation: September 1-October 4 “*Peace with Creation.*” is the theme for this year's season of creation.

The Season of Creation is celebrated from September 1 (World Day of Creation) to October 4 (Feast of St. Francis.) [Click here](#) to find resources and learn more about the theme and materials. Please consider organizing an event at your parish during the Season of Creation. Events could include ecumenical prayer services and Blessing of the Animals on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi for family pets. Visit <https://seasonofcreation.org/resources>.

Please let [Deacon Kent Ferris](#) know you or your parish will be celebrating this year’s Season of Creation. We encourage you to visit our [Diocesan Season of Creation webpage](#) for events around the Diocese. Send information about your parish events to [Esmeralda Guerrero](#).

St. Vincent’s Home Grants: For consideration at the November board meeting. All grant applications must be postmarked by September 15. Applicants are to be located within the 22 counties of the Diocese of Davenport or serve children within the Diocese of Davenport. Also, if your organization received a grant in the past, you must submit a progress report along with your application. Please click [here](#) for the application and more details.

National Migration Week: September 22-28 "*Migrants, Missionaries of Hope.*" ([Tool Kit](#))

This year, National Migration Week culminates with the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR). Although WDMR typically occurs on the last Sunday of September, this year it will take place on October 4-5 to coincide with the Jubilee of Migrants.

Disaster Response: Bring relief to those who are suffering and displaced. Please consider inviting parishioners to donate directly to Catholic Charities. Donations can also be made payable to the Diocese of Davenport, Attn: Disaster Relief. All donations will go to Catholic Charities USA.

October is Respect Life Month: "*Life: Our Sign of Hope.*"

- **The Respect Life Month Action Guide:** The suggested [timeline](#) for the Respect Life Month [action guide](#) begins now. The action guide includes an introduction explaining Respect Life Month, "*Simple Steps*" to mark the occasion, a sample timeline, sample announcements, intercessions, and a sample activity for parishes and schools. Additional resources are available at <https://www.respectlife.org/respect-life-month>

Please see below for a collection of valuable resources provided by the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities.

- [Respect Life Month Action Guide](#) (English and Spanish.)
- [Pro-Life Digital Resources](#) (homily aids, posters, graphics, etc.)
- **Respect Life Novena** - October 22-30 (English and Spanish.)
 - [Sign up to receive daily novena emails](#)

Catholic Bishops of Iowa pastoral reflection called "*Pilgrims of Hope*:" The four bishops of Iowa, have issued a pastoral reflection called "*Pilgrims of Hope*," to help Catholics and all people of good will better understand the teaching of the Catholic Church regarding migration. As Catholics, we respect the life and dignity of each person because we are all made in the image and likeness of God. How does this relate to immigration? It means we are called to welcome the stranger, defend the oppressed, and stand in solidarity with those who are displaced because of tragic circumstances. You can read "*Pilgrims of Hope*" [here](#).

Bulleting Announcements for parishes:

Often the issue of immigration is viewed through the lens of politics or economics. What if we look at it through our faith? The Catholic bishops of Iowa have written a pastoral reflection called "*Pilgrims of Hope*" to boldly and clearly share what the Catholic Church teaches about immigration and why. Take some time to read the pastoral letter and the reflection questions at [here](#).

A new pastoral letter called "*Pilgrims of Hope*," written by the four Catholic bishops of Iowa, is a message of hope rooted in the Gospel values of justice and human solidarity. And hope demands that we respond with courage and solidarity. In defending the dignity of migrants, we embrace our mission as disciples of Jesus. You can read "*Pilgrims of Hope*" on the website of the Iowa Catholic Conference at www.iowacatholicconference.org.

Project Rachel Ministry is a confidential, post-abortion healing ministry of the Catholic Church offering hope and healing to women and men hurting from past abortions. Project Rachel staff understand the emotional pain that follows an abortion.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

To report child abuse, call the Iowa Attorney General Clergy Abuse hotline at 855-620-7000 (M-F, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) to speak with a trained advocate, or the Iowa Department of Human Services Child Abuse Hotline: 800-362-2178. If it involves clergy or church personnel also notify Alicia Owens, Victim Assistance Coordinator: 563-349-5002, vac@diodav.org or PO Box 232, Bettendorf, IA 52722-0004.

To support the ministry of your parish, school and the diocese these groups automatically receive the Mini-Messenger:

Deacons	Diocesan Corporate Board	Youth Ministers	Pastoral Associates	Directors/Coordinators of Faith Formation
Parishes	Catholic Foundation Board	Sisters	RCIA Parish Contacts	Diocesan Liturgical Commission
Priests	Parish Lay Directors	Bookkeepers	Diocesan Board of Education	Diocesan Pastoral Council
Seminarians	Parish Life Coordinators	Principals		

Other interested persons are welcome to subscribe. If you have questions regarding your subscription contact Stephanie Schoel, schoel@davenportdiocese.org

BENET HOUSE RETREAT CENTER, ROCK ISLAND, IL

[Go here to register](#), email retreats@smmsisters.org or call Sr. Jackie Walsh, OSB at 309-283-2108

- **Pilgrimage of Justice – Walking the Path of Nonviolence:** (Virtual only) September 3, 6:30-8 p.m. Catholic peace and educator Dr. Ken Butigan will lead this free online seminar exploring pilgrimage as a sacred path toward ecological justice and nonviolence. Join us for a spiritually transformative evening exploring Pilgrimages of Hope for Creation. Sponsored by the Tri-State Network, a coalition of Catholic sisters and Spirituality Centers in IL, IA, and WI. Register [here](#). Fee: Suggested donation: \$15 Flyer: [Pilgrimage to Justice](#)
- **Boundless Compassion Four-Day Retreat:** (Onsite) September 18-21, 4 p.m. arrival-3 p.m. closing and (Virtual) September 29 and October 13, 7-9 p.m. This retreat includes an initial weekend, followed by two virtual sessions. Boundless Compassion is based on the writings and teachings of Sr. Joyce Rupp and unpacks the Christian understanding of compassion with Jesus as our model. This includes teachings from other world religions incorporated into our understanding of Boundless Compassion. The weekend focus is on practical ways to nourish compassion as a way of life, compassion to self, and compassion and creation. The two virtual sessions explore compassion and suffering, compassion, and marginalization. All faiths are welcome. Fee: \$490/single; \$385/double; \$360/commuter (includes room, meals, facilitator fee, virtual sessions, and all materials.) Boundless Compassion Facilitators: Lorene Knobbe and Suzanne Carter. Scholarship assistance is available. Please inquire!
Optional Boundless Compassion Facilitator Training: (Onsite) September 18-21, 4 p.m. arrival-3 p.m. closing and (Virtual) September 29 and October 13, 7-9 p.m. Facilitators lead discussions, book studies, and retreats on Boundless Compassion, they incorporate Boundless Compassion into their ministries. The process for being accepted for Facilitator Training includes: 1) submitting application to Executive Director. 2) meeting with Executive Director. 3) meeting with a Boundless Compassion Facilitator Mentor/Coach. Boundless Compassion Facilitator Training includes: 1) participation in all hybrid Boundless Compassion Retreat Weekend Onsite Retreat and Virtual sessions. 2) participation in all virtual training sessions (see dates below). 3) connecting with a Boundless Compassion Facilitator in your location (arranged during training). 4) presentation of outline for program, retreat, or book study you may have interest in doing as BC Facilitator. 5) becoming a BC Facilitator member for \$75/year or an amount participant can afford. **Virtual Training Dates:** October 25 and November 15; 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Fee: \$60 (includes materials, facilitator fee, and use of virtual platform) in addition to your cost of the Onsite BC Weekend Retreat and two following virtual sessions. BC Facilitator Training Team Total cost: (includes Onsite BC Weekend Retreat and related virtual sessions September 29 & October 13, and virtual Facilitator training dates October 25 and November 15) \$550/single; \$445/double; and \$420 commuter. All faiths are welcome. Scholarship assistance is available. Please inquire.

EAGLES' WINGS, DAVENPORT

Offers, by appointment, professional counseling on a sliding scale and certified spiritual direction. For more information on all events go to, www.eagleswings.ws. Contact: 563-343-1481, marcia@eagleswings.ws

- **Little Known Apparitions of Mary:** October 18. More details to follow.

OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE RETREAT, WHEATLAND

For details and to register go to the full calendar at www.theprairieretreat.org. You may also register via email, olpretreat@gmail.com or call 563-374-1092. Scholarships available.

- **Mass on The Prairie:** (Onsite) September 3, 10-11 a.m. Celebrant: Fr. Denny Martin
- **Pilgrimage to Justice – Walking the Path of Nonviolence:** (Online Only) September 3, 6:30-8 p.m. Join us for a spiritually transformative evening exploring Pilgrimages of Hope for Creation – a journey of prayer, reflection, and commitment to nonviolence and ecological care. Facilitator: Dr. Ken Butigan
- **Widen Your Spaces (Change?? Change?? Who, ME?):** (Onsite) September 13, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Take a deeper dive into the promise of the scriptures. Facilitator: Dr. James Marchionda
- **Gardening – Always a Great Experiment!** (Onsite) September 18, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sometimes, things go wrong in your garden – but don't panic – this retreat will renew your confidence to experiment with planting! Facilitators: Deb Monroe and Andrea Witt
- **Yeast Baking 101:** (Onsite) September 24, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Gain confidence in this versatile, no-fail recipe! Facilitator: Deb Monroe
- **The Way of Grace – The Look of Love:** (Onsite) September 30, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Does your self-image align with what God sees in you? Imagine and discover who you are in the eyes of God. Facilitator: Deacon Jeff Schuetzle
- **Mass on The Prairie:** (Onsite) October 1, 10-11 a.m. Celebrant: Fr. Brian Miclot