

## *The Emmaus Pastorate*



*We join the Church  
in mourning the  
passing of  
Pope Emeritus  
Benedict XVI.  
April 16, 1927—  
December 31, 2022*

*Eternal rest grant  
onto him, O Lord,  
and let perpetual  
light shine  
upon him.*

Human persons are beings en route, beings characterized by transition. They are not yet themselves; they must ultimately become themselves... Human beings must die with Christ like a grain of wheat in order to truly rise, to stand erect, to be themselves (Jn 12:24).

Human persons are not to be understood merely from the perspective of their past histories or from that isolated moment that we refer to as the present. They are oriented toward their future, and only it permits who they really are to appear completely (1 Jn 3:2).

We must always see in other human beings persons with whom we shall one day share God's joy. We must look upon them as persons who are called, together with us, to be members of the Body of Christ, with whom we shall one day sit at the table of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and with Christ himself, as their brothers and sisters, as the brothers and sisters of Christ, and as the children of God.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; From *Benedictus*, pg. 16

*January 8, 2023 ~ The Epiphany of the Lord*

## Worship Schedule for the Week of January 9-15

**Monday;** The Baptism of the Lord  
No Eucharist

### Tuesday

8:00 a.m. Eucharist (St. Patrick)

Richard & Eileen Hermesen †

followed by Adoration & Reconciliation

8:00 a.m. Word & Communion (Sacred Heart)

### Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Eucharist (St. Mark)

Joseph Kintzle †

followed by Adoration & Reconciliation



### Thursday

8:00 a.m. Eucharist (St. Mary)

Mass of Special Intention

followed by Adoration & Reconciliation



### Friday, St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor

8:00 a.m. Eucharist (St. Joseph)

Keith & Billie "Anita" Kobliska †

followed by Adoration & Reconciliation



### Saturday, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 a.m. Eucharist (St. Joseph)

Merlin & Therin Rentschler †

### Sunday, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Eucharist (St. Patrick)

For the People

10:00 a.m. Eucharist (St. Mark)

Ken Wulfekuhle †

5:00 p.m. Eucharist (St. Mary)

Bernice Grundmeyer †



**Thank You** to Brenda and Michael Landwehr, Guttenberg, live-stream and KMCH 94.7 FM radio sponsor for the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time, January 15.



## Readings for the Week of January 9-15

**Monday**—Is 42:1-7 or Acts 10:34-38; Ps 29; Mt 3:13-17

**Tuesday**—Heb 1:1-6 & 2:5-12; Ps 8; Mk 1:21-28

**Wednesday**—Heb 2:14-18; Ps 105; Mk 1:29-39

**Thursday**—Heb 3:7-14; Ps 95; Mk 1:40-45

**Friday**—Heb 4:1-5, 11; Ps 78; Mk 2:1-12

**Saturday**—Heb 4:12-16; Ps 19; Mk 2:13-17

**Sunday**—Is 49:3-6; Ps 40; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34



## Salt for the Weak

The themes of light and darkness figure prominently in the scriptures and they are themes with which we are very familiar. Besides "night" and "day," we experience darkness during illness, death, or broken relationships. We see light in the good times, the future of children and grandchildren, weddings, accomplishments and of course, love.

But spiritually, have we "Seen the light?"

This weekend's celebration of the Epiphany is full of references to darkness and light, about the light that is the "glory of the Lord." The light that is "enlightenment," making known the mysteries of God's revelation in Jesus Christ.

This is captured visually in the account of the magi:

*"We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." (Mt 2:3)*

So the reflection questions we ponder in this new year are...

1. Have we (do we) raised our eyes, our inner vision, to behold Christ the Light of the world? Or is it easier on our sight to avoid the light, the honesty, the truth which His light brings into our lives?

2. Are we afraid of the light? What might the light of Christ reveal about the way we live? Do I prefer darkness because it seems easier, less challenging, more familiar, even if I am unhappy or uncomfortable?

3. Once we get a glimpse of the light, do we allow our lives to change? The magi went home "by another way" (Mt 2:12) because their lives were changed by what they learned.

Our Emmaus Pastorate is named for a special journey of faith. This journey continues until the day we die. We walk along with Jesus in our doubts and fears, our disappointments, and yes, in our darkness. And all along the way, Christ is there, accepting, listening, challenging and loving us forward to the place He has prepared for each of us. And like the famous motel proprietor, he promises, "I'll leave the light on for ya."

It's there. All we need to do is look up.

Happy and Blessed 2023...

*Father John*

**"Do We Pray for Our Pastor?** While we might freely criticize and share our opinions about his ministry, in what ways do we support him? Here is a prayer written by St. John Vianney (himself a rural pastor, and co-patron of the Archdiocese of Dubuque). Consider clipping it out and praying for Father John.

**"Saint John Vianney, we ask you to bless and help our pastor so that he may love dearly in this life and be richly rewarded in the next. Obtain for him the grace always to be kind and generous, self-sacrificing and zealous. Watch over the people of our parish, and keep them free from all evils. Help them to be loyal and generous in the support of our pastor. Help us particularly always to give him the respect and honor due him as a priest. Except for him we should not have the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, of your presence among us, or the other sacraments that we so dearly love and need. From his anointed hands we receive the food of our souls, the most precious Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. From his lips we hear the word of God. By the power given to him our sins are forgiven, and we are given all the blessings and it is he who will anoint us when we are sick and when we are dying, and will offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for us when we are dead. Help us, dear Saint, to see Christ in him and to cooperate with him in all his works for the good of our souls. Amen."**

#### **Our Sympathy and Prayers to ~**

- ♦ Roger Waterman on the death of his wife, Shirley Waterman, who passed away January 1 in Guttenberg.
- ♦ Father Andy Upah whose mother, Charlotte Upah, passed away on December 17, in Cedar Rapids,
- ♦ Father Nick Radloff whose father, Ron Radloff, passed away December 19, in Dubuque.
- ♦ The Trappist community on the death of Father Jonah Wharff, OCSC, who passed away December 27
- ♦ Alex and Kelly Pech, on the death of Alex's grandmother, Janet Pech, who passed away December 23, in Independence

#### **Don't Forget—St Mark's March**

**Madness Gala** is sneaking up on you! Mark your calendar for March 11. More details will be coming soon. Stay tuned.



**Special Prayers for Pope Benedict XVI will be observed for NINE DAYS at each of our parishes, beginning January 5 through January 14, 2023.**

**These universal observances will include:**

- *Tolling of the church bells to call the Catholic Faithful to prayer*
- *Pray the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be*
- *Pray the Holy Rosary before Mass*
- *Celebrate Holy Mass*

**In the Emmaus Pastorate, we will observe them by:**

- *Tolling bells before the parish Mass (if they have them)*
- *Please lead public Rosary for Pope emeritus Benedict before each Mass*
- *We will pray the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be, after Holy Communion for the peaceful repose of his soul.*

**Divine Civil Disobedience**—I am struck by the lengths the Magi went to in order to fulfill a divine mission. By cunningly avoiding Herod's duplicitous request to know where the young child was located, the three Magi likely saved the life of Jesus and in doing so, risked their own lives. Instead of traveling back to their homelands along a path that would inevitably have led them directly to the eagerly awaiting Herod, who was expecting their return, they decided to take a different route home.

Herod, the Roman client king of Judea, was well known during this time for his ruthless appetite for domination and violence. In deciding to follow the stirrings from God that emerged in their dreams rather than the directive of this power-hungry ruler, the Magi knowingly engaged in an act of divinely inspired disobedience. The courageous and bold decision to willingly disobey Herod's request provided Mary and Joseph with time to hastily embark with their newborn child on the long and arduous journey to Egypt.

The story of Epiphany and the courage of the Magi convey a certain theological truth: We are each called by God to be co-creators in the building of the reign of God here on earth. In a world in which laws are most often created and interpreted by the wealthy and powerful, the path toward creating a radically transformed society most certainly requires dissent and nonviolent civil disobedience toward systems of domination, violence and greed. It is a path that demands we resist all that is antithetical to God's vision of love and liberation.

Michael N. Okinczyc-Cruz, *Give Us This Day*





**Emmaus Pastorate Tithing—December 24-25, 2022****St. Patrick, Colesburg**

Budget .....	\$2,695.00
ACH .....	\$145.00
Christmas .....	\$4,170.00
Offertory .....	\$215.00
<b>Total Received .....</b>	<b>\$7,225.00</b>

**St. Mark, Edgewood**

Budget .....	\$7,310.00
ACH .....	\$633.00
Building Fund .....	\$10.00
Offertory .....	\$834.00
Christmas .....	\$9,450.00
Pay It Forward .....	\$2,000.00
<b>Total Received .....</b>	<b>\$20,237.00</b>

**St. Joseph, Elkader**

Budget .....	\$7,288.00
Offertory .....	\$728.00
Christmas .....	\$5,155.00
<b>Total Received .....</b>	<b>\$13,171.00</b>

**St. Mary, Strawberry Point**

Budget .....	\$3,238.58
ACH .....	\$130.00
Offertory .....	\$462.75
Pay It Forward .....	\$20.25
Christmas .....	\$6,943.50
Grain .....	\$2,582.74
Energy .....	\$200.00
<b>Total Received .....</b>	<b>\$13,577.81</b>

**Sacred Heart, Volga**

Budget .....	\$3,012.00
Offertory .....	\$1,415.00
Christmas .....	\$102.00
<b>Total Received .....</b>	<b>\$4,529.00</b>

**Emmaus Pastorate Tithing—January 1-2, 2023****St. Patrick, Colesburg**

Budget .....	\$1,010.00
ACH .....	\$560.00
Christmas .....	\$50.00
Offertory .....	\$39.00
<b>Total Received .....</b>	<b>\$1,659.00</b>

*A big "Thank You!" to Saint Patrick parishioners for your thoughtfulness and generosity in the gifts presented at Mass. We all have much for which to be thankful!*

**Father John**

**St. Mark, Edgewood**

Budget .....	\$6,611.00
ACH .....	\$1,743.00
Building Fund .....	\$80.00
Christmas .....	\$1,680.00
Offertory .....	\$223.00
Retirement Fund for Religious .....	\$85.00
<b>Total Received .....</b>	<b>\$10,422.00</b>

**St. Joseph, Elkader**

**Figure not available this week!**

**St. Mary, Strawberry Point**

Budget .....	\$2,065.00
ACH .....	\$605.00
Offertory .....	\$341.50
Pay It Forward .....	\$25.00
Christmas .....	\$3,570.00
Improvement Fund .....	\$50.00
Energy .....	\$50.00
<b>Total Received .....</b>	<b>\$6,706.50</b>

*Thanks to the parishioners of St. Mary's for your generous gifts presented at Mass last weekend. Your support and participation are very much appreciated!*

**Father John**

**St. Joseph Hospitality Minister Meeting on**

**Safety**—The hospitality ministers are developing a safety plan for our parish. We had one class led by the Elkader fire chief and the Elkader police chief, who gave us recommendations for our plan. **The class will be held after 5:00 p.m. Mass on January 14.** Ministers who have not yet attended the class should plan on attending the January 14 class. If you are unable to attend, call Fran Zichal (563-880-0873). We value your opinion so please make plans to attend.



**Catechist Needed**—St. Joseph Parish has an opening for a sixth grade catechist. This position would start on Wednesday, January 11, 2023. The RE program is scheduled from 6:30-7:45 p.m. If interested, contact Hazel Martin (563-608-1057 or dbq074ff@dbqarch.org).

**Commissioning of ALL (new and current) St. Joseph Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Communion** will be held on January 14 at the 5:00 Mass. What an honor this is! We hope that you will be able to attend.

**We lift in prayer. To keep this list up-to-date, names requested will be left on for 30 days.**

**St. Mary**

Bob & Donna Johanns  
Bonnie Hayes

**St. Joseph**

Jane Chamberlain-  
Olsasky  
Duane Chamberlain  
Irene Evans  
Pat Fitzgerald  
Lou Ann Helle  
Cyd Koehn  
Vernelda Miehle  
Dave Mueller  
Helen Mueller  
Sandi Schommer  
Art Tomkins

**St. Patrick**

Mark Brown  
Jerry Vorwald

**Sacred Heart**

Mary Jo Fettkether  
Dawn Lind  
Rande McTaggart  
Rich Petsche

**St. Mark**

Mary Kay Dannenbrink  
Jeanette Demmer  
Zach Fisher  
Elaine Funke  
Doris Helle  
Jill Hemann  
Diane Uhlenkamp  
Germaine Vorwald  
Janice Wagner

**Non-Parishioners**

Sandi Schrommer  
Msgr. Cletus Hawes



### St. Joseph and Sacred Heart Parishes

have opened the annual scholarship application process to eligible graduating seniors. Applications are due by March 17, 2023 to the St. Joseph Parish Center. Application forms can be found online at <https://www.vibrantcatholic.com/scholarship>.

**The Emmaus Pastorate Prayer Chain Ministry** is available to pray for any needs you or someone you know may have. Call your parish representative to be placed on the list. Your intention remains private.

#### Prayer Chain Contacts

##### St. Mark Parish

Carlyn Hunt 563-928-7089  
Norma Venteicher 563-920-9660

##### St. Joseph Parish

Rose Clark 563-880-1987

##### St. Mary Parish

Deb Schloss 563-920-8263

##### Sacred Heart Parish

Mary Jo Fettkether 563-880-0077

##### St. Patrick Parish

Dorothy Roling 563-856-4655



**Right to Life**—Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual Respect Life novena, *9 Days for Life*, Thursday, January 19 – Friday, January 27. Get daily intentions, brief reflections, and more. Sign up at [9daysforlife.com](http://9daysforlife.com)!

### Beauty in Christ Conference—Where is God

**calling You in 2023??** How is God asking you to say “Yes” to His plan for your life? Hear the remarkable stories of two women who have given their “Fiat,” their yes, to God. Join hundreds of other women, virtually or at the St. Mark Parish Center, Edgewood, to discuss how God calls and how we are to respond. Contact Fran Zichal (**563-880-0873**) or Janine Berns (**563-245-2548**) to register for this conference.

**St. Valentine Needs Your Help.** St. Joseph is spreading God's love to the residents at the Elkader Care Center, Kingston Court Assisted Living, and Scenic Acres. Please drop off your donations by February 11 to the Parish Center or church. Suggested items: individually wrapped candy, miniature candy bars, small cans of pop, (root beer and 7-up) individual bags of chips, lotion, lip balm, deodorant, shower wash, shampoo, conditioner, small stuffed animals, stamps, note cards, rolls of dimes, nickels, or quarters, window clings, bird seed, word searches, coloring books, markers, socks, or small packages of tissues. Thanks in advance for your kindness and generosity.

***Thank You**—I am deeply grateful to the parishioners of the Emmaus Pastorate for their generosity this Christmas. All the cards were posted up in my office, goodies consumed (!) and/or shared, and letters read. Thank you for your gift cards and monies, as well. Most of all, thank you for remembering me with your expressions of support for the ministry here. YOU will be remembered in each parish at a Mass of Gratitude soon in this New Year*

**Father John**

### Lasagna Take-n-Bake Meals

St. Patrick's Religious Education students/teachers are making

**8 x 12 pan of lasagna with 8 garlic bread**

**\$25** (checks made payable to St. Patrick Church)

Order deadline is Jan 20

Orders must be picked up

Wednesday, 1/25 7:15-7:45 pm at St. Patrick Parish Center

Sunday, 2/5 after 8:00 am Mass at St. Patrick Parish Center

To order, please call/text Deanne Wulfekuhle: 563-542-1358, email Deanne at [dbq044re@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbq044re@dbqarch.org) or call Jennifer at the office: 928-7200

THANK YOU in advance for your support!

### The Next Community Food Pantry Date at St Mary

is January 18 from 3:00-5:30 p.m. Some items needed: saltine crackers, canned mandarin oranges, 100% juice, detergent, cleaners, syrup, ketchup, vinegar. Deliveries are made in Strawberry Point—call Delaine (**563-920-2753**) before 3:00 on the pantry date. If someone needs assistance before the pantry date, please call Delaine (**563-920-2753**) or the Emmaus pastorate office at (**563-928-7200**). The food pantry in December served 25 households with 55 persons.

**The Community Meal at St Mary** on December 21 served 94—47 deliveries, 43 carry outs and 4 dine in. The next community meal will be January 18 serving from 4:00-5:30. The menu will be chili, bread stick, cheese slice, fruit, and cookie bar. If someone would like a meal delivered in Strawberry Point, call Delaine (**563-920-2753**) or Kris (**563-419-5329**) before 3:00 on the meal date.

### Thank You to All the Churches of Strawberry Point

for their support of the community meal and pantry. Thank you to those that have donated money, food, and non-food items. Thank you to those that give their time to do deliveries, work in the pantry, prepare and serve the meal. None of this would be possible without the support of the community and volunteers.

## Emmaus Pastorate Blessings!



In reflecting on this past year I see many, many blessings in and through our ministry in our Pastorate parishes. While we are all still on the rebound from the COVID-19 challenges, I see a new normal emerging. Attendance has been wonderful and new families have joined throughout the year. Your willingness to share time and talent, as well as your treasure, continues to grow. Staff is always encouraged to “broaden the base,” that is, invite more people into active participation in the myriad of offerings and services that make up our ministry. Two months ago, I called attention to over 70 different opportunities offered throughout the Pastorate for prayer and adult education, not counting Faith Formation classes or the regular worship schedule! These things don’t just “happen” but are part of a concerted effort of parishioners who have ownership of their faith and their commitment to their parish as well as the larger Pastorate. No doubt, God blesses these sacrifices!

We have just completed a wonderful observance of Advent. Worship is the optimum time we have to interact, form and teach. Untold behind-the-scene hours are spent in planning, rehearsing and executing of all these experiences. I am deeply grateful to our Director of Music and Liturgy, the individual parish Liturgy Coordinators, Faith Formation Coordinators, Adult Education leaders and our Deacon for their invaluable assistance. Maybe these are things we take for granted! Often we get communications from visitors, those viewing Mass online or on the radio, from the Wednesday mid-week check-ins and the like, telling us how thankful they are to be able to experience Church in the Emmaus Pastorate. I might add that they are generous in expressing their gratitude financially as well!



As we look forward to a new calendar year, I offer these suggestions as you chart your course for 2023:

- ♦ **Whatever your current habit, increase your daily prayer.** If it’s little to none, start. If you do from time to time, get regular. If you have a pattern, strengthen and lengthen it.
- ♦ **The same holds true for worship. If you’ve been coming to Mass occasionally, increase your frequency.** If you are pretty good about weekend worship, consider Mass during the week as a way to “tide you over” for the weekend. Read and prepare the Scripture readings that are listed in the bulletin. They will come alive much better if the weekend is not the first time you’ve heard them.

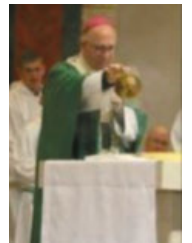


- ♦ **What is your level of parish participation outside of worship?** “Don’t just GO to church, BE Church” means just that: In what other ways am I active? There are many ways to be involved- not sure how or what to do? Call the office and I’ll bet we can find a place you’ll fit in just fine.



Lastly, we all need to remember—“faith,” “church,” is not simply duty or external observance; nor is it absolute compliance with rules and regulations and doctrine... Faith is just that—faith in Christ Jesus that He loves you and has a plan for you if you but seek Him and accept Him in your life. It always involves surrender and sacrifice. Christ always accepts us where we are, but He never leaves us there—

but always calls us to a new and more abundant life. The Church is the way we come together as sinners, seekers and believers, so that we can experience the grace of God in and through the Church and the Sacraments, as well as each other. Faith is our life. The New Year, strive to make it a more central part of yours. That’s why we’re here, and we’re here to help.



NATIONAL  
**Eucharistic  
Revival**

**The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has called for a Eucharistic Revival** over the next three years, but many Catholics aren’t aware that the revival also includes the Eastern Catholic Churches within the United States. The purpose of the revival, launched June 19, is to “renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy

Eucharist. The initiative ends in July 2024 with the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis.

More information will follow in upcoming bulletins. Please pray this “Prayer for the Eucharistic Revival.”

### Prayer for the Eucharistic Revival

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You! I beg pardon for those who do not believe, nor adore, nor hope, nor love You. Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly. I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference by which He is offended. And, through the infinite merits of the

Sacred Heart of Jesus and

the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of You the conversion of sinners.

*Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us!*



## Emmaus Pastorate Staff

### Pastorate Staff

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Randy Ciesielski

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