

The Ascension of the Lord • June 1, 2025

# St. John Paul II Cluster



**St. John the Evangelist**  
209 5th Ave NE  
Independence, IA 50644  
(319) 334-7191  
dbq106sec@dbqarch.org



**June 1, 2025**  
**7th Sunday of Easter**  
**John 17:20-26**

The famous 20th century St. Padre Pio said once that he would wait outside the gates of heaven until the people in his life had entered. I'm not sure that I, or frankly many people I know, would say that and mean it. Yet that is precisely the kind of attitude we see in Jesus as he prays for us in the Gospel today. Having celebrated the Ascension of the Lord just a few days ago, we now hear the Son of God at the Last Supper pray to his Father "that they may be brought to perfection as one" (John 17:23). What does this mean for us?

I'd wager that we are not surprised that Jesus wants to make us perfect — that is, happy, whole, and healed. The shocker is that he desires this for us collectively and not just individually. Perfection is a team sport. We need each other to be perfect. Jesus is like a mother longing for her adult children to learn how to be in loving support of one another. He wants the perfection of his disciples to be not some individualistic plan of moral uprightness, but a loving communion of brothers and sisters.

Let's apply this practically. Do I see my participation at Mass as something I do merely for my own peace and edification, or as something I do with and for the people around me? Do I see my ongoing need for forgiveness as something that simply makes me feel better, or as a task that heals those around me, too? Is my dearest hope to individually get to heaven when I die, or is it to be part of the great procession of souls, together marching towards the heavenly Jerusalem? Do I want to be in heaven with people I currently find difficult? How would my life change if I did?

— Father John Muir

©LPi



**St. Patrick**  
555 First St. S.  
Winthrop, IA 50682  
Mailing Address: 209 5th Ave NE  
Independence, IA 50644

**WEEKEND MASSES:**

*St. John the Evangelist*  
Saturday: 4:00 p.m.    Sunday: 10:00 a.m.  
*St. Patrick*  
Saturday: 5:30 p.m.    Sunday: 8:00 a.m.

**RECONCILIATION:**

*St. John the Evangelist*  
Sunday: :915 - 9:45 a.m.  
*St. Patrick*  
Friday: 7:15 - 7:45 a.m.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

June 2, through June 8, 2025

**St. John Parish, Independence**

|        |          |   |
|--------|----------|---|
| Tues.  | 8:00 am  | Deceased Kerkove & Merfeld Family Members |
| Wed.   | 9:30 am  | Daniel Gallery (at Oak View)              |
| Thurs. | 8:00 am  | Deceased Members of the Hankins Family    |
| Sat    | 4:00 pm  | Cliff, Betty, Craig & Kenny Zieser        |
| Sun.   | 10:00 am | Deceased Merfeld & Milbach Family Members |

**St. Patrick Parish, Winthrop**

|      |         |  |
|------|---------|--|
| Mon. | 4:30 pm | Dot & Arlo Frimml                            |
| Fri. | 8:00 am | Richard Short                                |
| Sat  | 5:30 pm | Donald & Marie Baragary                      |
| Sun. | 8:00 am | Parishioners of the St. John Paul II Cluster |

**Scrip Cash Table Volunteers for June 7/8****4:00 pm** Joan Wieland & Brenda Davis**10:00 am** Joe & Lisa Kremer**Altar Linen Schedule:** All June Mary Kay Christensen**Cemetery Walkers -** June 1-15 Flanders Family**ST. JOHN PARISH, INDEPENDENCE****Saturday, 4:00 pm, June 7, 2025**

|                               |               |             |           |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------|
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b> | B Fr. Beckman | Chuck Mazur | Volunteer |
|                               | B Dc. Post    | n/a         | n/a       |
|                               | B Nancy Dodge |             |           |

|                               |                |              |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>Hospitality Ministers:</b> | Sharon Schares | Jeff Schares |
|                               | Volunteer      | Volunteer    |

**Lector:** Sondra Cabell**Altar Servers:** Volunteer Volunteer n/a**Music:** Shelly Reck Bill Luebbers**Sunday, 10:00 am, June 8, 2025**

|                               |                 |               |                  |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b> | B Fr. Beckman   | Andrea Huston | Starla Himebaugh |
|                               | B Dc. Post      | n/a           | n/a              |
|                               | B Donna Nabholz |               |                  |

|                               |               |               |             |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| <b>Hospitality Ministers:</b> | Mike Schumann | Mark Schumann | Deb Milbach |
|                               | Volunteer     | Volunteer     | Volunteer   |

**Lector:** Sharon Bainbridge**Altar Servers:** Volunteer Volunteer n/a**Music:** Bonnie O'Brien Jubilee Choir**Rosary Ministry:** Linda Bagby**ST. PATRICK PARISH, WINTHROP****Saturday, 5:30 pm, June 7, 2025****Eucharistic Ministers :** B Fr. Beckman Eldon Baragary**Eucharistic Ministers :** W n/a**Hospitality Ministers\*:** Eldon Baragary Volunteer

\*Ushers - Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to Mass to greet people as they walk into church

**Lector:** Becky Peyton**Gift Bearers:** Volunteers**Altar Servers:** Lilly Hansen Volunteer**Music:** St. Patrick Choir**Sunday, 8:00 am, June 8, 2025****Eucharistic Ministers :** B Fr. Beckman Mark Gaffney**Eucharistic Ministers :** W n/a**Hospitality Ministers\*:** Mark Gaffney Volunteer

\*Ushers - Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to Mass to greet people as they walk into church

**Lector:** Randy Takes**Gift Bearers:** Volunteers**Altar Servers:** Caitlyn Dierks Volunteer**Music:** St. Patrick Choir**Monday, June 2, 2025****Collection Counters:** Lois Loughren Joanice Brace**THE WEEK AHEAD**Monday, June 2, 2025**Nothing listed on schedule/calendar**Tuesday, June 3, 2025**Rosary Society Mtg:** Church Hall, 6:30 pmWednesday, June 4, 2025**Mass:** Oak View, 9:30 am (for Daniel Gallery)Thursday, June 5, 2025**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Cluster Office, 10:00 am**Board of Education:** SJS, 6:00 pmFriday, June 6, 2025**Confessions at St. Patrick:** 7:15 - 7:45 am, before MassSaturday, June 7, 2025**Confessions at St. John's:** 3:15 - 3:45 pm, before MassSunday, June 8, 2025**Confessions at St. John:** 9:15 - 9:45 am, before Mass

The perpetual light candles that are by the Tabernacle, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Mary and Joseph statues, 4 candles all together, this year are in memory of the Dick Merfeld and Karen McLaughlin

**Readings for the week of June 1, 2025**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Sunday:</b>      | Acts 7:55-60/Rv 22:12-14, 16-17, 20/Jn 17:20-26<br>Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 (6)/Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23/Lk 24:46-53  |
| <b>Monday:</b>      | Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab/Jn 16:29-33  |
| <b>Tuesday:</b>     | Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21/Jn 17:1-11a  |
| <b>Wednesday:</b>   | Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab/Jn 17:11b-19   |
| <b>Thursday:</b>    | Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Jn 17:20-26   |
| <b>Friday:</b>      | Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab/Jn 21:15-19   |
| <b>Saturday:</b>    | Morning: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7/Jn 21:20-25  |
| <b>Next Sunday:</b> | Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 (see 30)/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39<br>Extended Vigil: Gn 11:1-9/Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b/Ez 37:1-14/Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 (see 30)/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39<br>Day: Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 (see 30)/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Rom 8:8-17/Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26 |

**Cluster Finances**

Because of an early publication deadline for the holiday, Collection and Budget figures are not available.

**EFT Opportunities....**

We have many ways you can contribute to your individual parish. Besides bringing your envelope to church or mailing it to our office, you can consider automatic withdrawal from a checking or savings account. This option is available for both St. John's and St. Patrick's. If you are interested in EFT (Electronic Fund Transfer), please contact the parish office at 319-334-7191.

## ~~Archdiocesan Events~~

### Save the Date!

Iowa March for Life - June 21 in Des Moines  
Save the date! The Iowa March for Life will be held on Saturday, June 21st at the State Capitol. A rally will be held at 1pm and the march will begin at 1:45pm. This is an opportunity for you to proclaim your support for life from conception to natural death. Near the anniversary of the overturning of Roe v. Wade, this is a great summertime activity for you, your family, or your youth group. For details on this year's event, visit [pulseforlife.org/the-iowa-march-for-life/](https://pulseforlife.org/the-iowa-march-for-life/)



### 2025-2027 IMPACT Program for Catholic Adults

IMPACT is a two-year formation program for Catholic adults, which is coordinated by the Archdiocese of Dubuque. The next offering of the IMPACT program will be held at St. Mary Catholic Church in Vinton, starting in September of 2025. IMPACT provides the opportunity to grow in your faith by attending monthly sessions with dynamic presenters, engaging in discussions with other participants, reading spiritual books, and receiving guidance from a spiritual mentor. Through study, prayer, reflection, and conversation, participants are challenged to respond more fully to Jesus' call to mission—to IMPACT our world! To learn more and apply, visit [www.dbqarch.org/impact](http://www.dbqarch.org/impact).

### 2025 Rural Life Mass is Coming to the Marshalltown Deanery - Save the Date!

Archbishop Zinkula's second Rural Life Mass is coming to Haverhill on Thursday, Sept. 18th. The families of Robert, Richard, and Dale Stalzer look forward to hosting this celebration of rural life on their farm located at 2737 Oaks Avenue, Haverhill, IA 50120. Circle the date and plan to attend this Thursday morning Mass, followed by recognition and a luncheon. Look for more information and updates at [dbqarch.org/rural-life](http://dbqarch.org/rural-life).

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter

MARRIED COUPLES. Give your marriage a well-deserved vacation. Plan to go on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience and come back with a marriage that is refreshed and full of energy! Our next weekend is September 12-14 in Dubuque. For more information call Greg and Denise at (563) 920-9419 or [drubner9419@gmail.com](mailto:drubner9419@gmail.com).

Remember in prayer: Eileen Barreca, Cindy Kremoges, Kari Magsamen Eddy, Chris Nelson, Barb Weber, Marlys Fischels, Mary Crawford Compean, Tom Breckler, Loyola Kleitsch (mother of Gail Goedken) - as well as Firefighters



### 60th Anniversary of Priestly ordination

Fr. Paul McManus will be celebrating his 60th Anniversary of Priestly ordination on Sunday, June 8th this year. We will be holding a reception and card shower for him that day from 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm at St. Patrick's Parish Center in Winthrop. Please stop by to congratulate him and thank him for his many years of serving God's holy people.

I especially want to thank him for his wonderful and faithful service, but also for being such a faithful sub for me on my get-a-ways throughout these past years. It's been great serving with him in the St. John Paul II Cluster. **CONGRATULATIONS Fr. Paul.**

## ~~AREA EVENTS~~

### Aurora Legion & Auxiliary Sunday Breakfast

Carry-outs available!

All you can eat pancakes; also biscuits/gravy, sausage, ham & scrambled eggs, milk, juice or coffee from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. A 50/50 Raffle to be held each breakfast. Need not be present to win.  
Adults \$10 5-8 years \$5 Pre-school Free

June 1 - July 6 - August 3 - September 7

October 5 - November 2 - December 7



### True North VBS

Complete the registration form here:  
<https://forms.gle/dNoTsg79cQZda3QYA>

Feel free to share the link with friends who might be interested in joining us for VBS this summer!

Please sign up to volunteer to help at this link:  
<https://forms.gle/RnZUVQbnhb5q8PVf9>

We'll go on the ultimate Alaskan adventure, explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our world today, and learn that Jesus is our True North – a faithful friend we can always trust in this wild world!

### Totus Tuus

July 13-18 - St. Athanasius, Jesup will be hosting Totus Tuus once again. 1st - 6th grade will be Monday, July 14 thru Friday, July 18 from 9am-2pm. 7th - 12th grade will be Sunday, July 13th - Thursday, July 17th from 6:30-9pm. Registration is now OPEN! Scan the QR code to get more details and get registered.



# School News

## Scrip Box -

The Scrip box will now be located over at the Cluster Office for the summer months. Stop in Monday - Friday from 8 - 5 (on most days) to place/pick up your orders.



### Thank you

to Shelly Reck, Connie Weber, Melissa Frye for all the work they do to help our staff be able to be gone for various reasons. And for continuing to teach our students when their teachers are not able to.

Absent from the picture is Lori Gee, another one of our subs.

## SJS on Facebook!

Check us out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088497703727>

## SCRIP

You can reduce your tuition obligation by using SCRIP (gift cards). If you'd like to take advantage of online ordering go to [raiserright.com](http://raiserright.com) and follow the prompts. **The Enrollment Code is LB59F65E841**

On your phone:

**Click on** Play Store (Android device) or App Store (i-phone)

Search for and **Click on** raiserright

**Click on** Install

**Click on** Open

**Click on** Join a program

**The Enrollment code is LB59F65E841**

**Click on** Get started

Create your account

- Make sure you add St. John Elementary School, Independence IA (There are a lot of St. John schools)



## From the Desk of Fr. Beckman:

God has revealed himself first of all by miraculous, unexplainable deeds, not just words. And the culmination of this divine revelation by deeds was Jesus himself: his incarnation, birth, miracles, Passion, death, and Resurrection; and now the next event was going to be his Ascension back into heaven. Then, Jesus promised that another advocate would come to lead them with the descent of the Holy Spirit guiding the Church in all truth until Christ's Second Coming. Every one of these events was seen by human eyes, by eyewitnesses. Our religion is not just a set of abstract spiritual truths or ideas or values or laws but concrete events, one of which, the Ascension, we celebrate today. Catholic Christianity is a very material religion. It is sacramental, not purely spiritual. Those who say they are "spiritual but not religious" are labeling themselves quite accurately. They are choosing a very different religion than the religion Jesus instituted. His birth, Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension were all visible, physical events; as will be his coming again in glory. Even his last word to his Apostles, in today's Gospel was a physical, sacramental act, raising his hands and blessing them. He blessed them with his hands, not just his heart, just as he saved them with his Body and Blood, not just his mind. And then, with their eyes and not just their mind, they saw him rise into the heavens. When Jesus ascended into heaven, he did not leave his body behind. The Ascension was not the undoing of the Incarnation. Even in heaven, Jesus will have his resurrected body, his glorified body. And we will have one like it.

*Fr. David*

## Stewardship Quotes

Jesus ascended into heaven, blessing His disciples and promising that they would one day receive the power of the Holy Spirit. We who have received that promised gift of the Spirit are now empowered to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth – to use our time and talents to spread the good news of salvation.



## SJ Rosary Society Meeting:

Please plan to attend the next RS meeting on June 3 at 6:30 pm in the church hall. We will be voting on officers for the coming year.



## Email Address Change:

The church email address of @indytel.com email is no longer available and has been deactivated.

Please update the parish email you have to [dbq106sec@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbq106sec@dbqarch.org) as this will be the email that will reach the office. For those of you that also used @idytel.com - please notify us so that we may change your information here at the office. Thank you!

## St. John Scrip Voucher

Please Support our Generous Participating Sponsors

|                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
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| Cy & Charley's              | Fabulous Fridays   |
| The Flower Mill             | Home IndeeD        |
| Ryan Pharmacy (non-RX only) | S & K Collectibles |

**Amount \$:**

**Name:**

Information and voucher available at [www.stjohneagles.com](http://www.stjohneagles.com)

*Welcome to the  
Parishes of the  
St. John Paul II Cluster*

*St. John the Evangelist  
Independence, Iowa  
&  
St. Patrick  
Winthrop Iowa*

*Pastor:* Rev. David Beckman

*Deacon:* Tim Post

*Pastoral Associate:*

Sharon Bainbridge

*Religious Education Coordinators:*

*St. John:* Beth Flaucher

*St. Patrick:* Jessica Gibbs

319-929-2301

*St. John School Principal:* Dewey Hupke

<https://www.stjohneagles.com/>

*Telephones:*

Cluster Offices: 334-7191

St. Patrick Center: 319-935-3871

St. John School: 334-7173

*Cluster Mailing Address:*

209 - 5th Ave NE

Independence, IA 50644

*Cluster Email:*

dbq106sec@dbqarch.org

*Cluster Website:*

<https://stjohnstpat.org/>

*WEEKDAY MASSES:*

*See Mass Schedule Page 1*

*WEEKEND MASSES:*

*St. John the Evangelist - 97.1 FM*

Saturday: 4:00 pm

Sunday: 10:00 am

*St. Patrick - 97.3 FM*

Saturday: 5:30 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am

*RECONCILIATION:*

*St. John the Evangelist*

Saturday: 3:15 - 3:45 pm

Sunday: 9:15 - 9:45 am

*St. Patrick*

Friday: 7:15 - 7:45 am

*BAPTISM:*

Arranged after Pre-Baptism Classes.

Contact the cluster office.

*MARRIAGE:*

Please contact Fr. Beckman to arrange marriage preparations twelve to nine months in advance of the wedding date.

## Social Concerns News!

What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works... James 2:14

We welcome you to learn about and explore different opportunities that will allow you to live out your life in works of charity and mercy!

The goal is to give all parishioners an opportunity to share in God's ministry through works and to give you ideas of where your help would be greatly appreciated! Most will be organizations you can call/email directly to review their current needs. Some will require a background check or training; this is to protect themselves and you as you may be serving some vulnerable communities. Some opportunities will come directly from our Parish and Immediate Community. Please look them over and prayerfully consider what you might offer. We will continue to search for all kinds of way to show our faith through works. We hope you can use this to deepen your connection of works to faith.

## Mary's Inn Maternity Home

P.O. Box 3338

Dubuque, IA, 52004-3338

563-552-6288

[director@marysinmaternityhome.org](mailto:director@marysinmaternityhome.org)

**What they Do:** A maternity home dedicated to the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of pregnant and/or parenting mothers and their developing babies. It is a safe haven where they can stay while learning the skills they need to make a better life for themselves and their babies.

## How you can help:

- Babysitter: We can use girls aged 15-18 years old to babysit on-site while the mom participates in required programs in adjacent room. (The resident is still responsible for her children's behavior and safety.) We can use women over 18 years old to babysit while mom is off-site. Time commitment varies, but usually no more than 1-2 hours on an as-needed basis.
- Transportation: We need volunteers who can give a resident a ride to a doctor's appointment, work, etc. Valid driver's license and proof of insurance need to be given to the Director. Time commitment varies.
- Prayer: I will spiritually adopt a mom and baby: We need people who will commit to praying one hour/week for a specific mom (and her baby). The prayer can happen at your home, at a church, or at the local Adoration Chapel.
- "Josephs" (aka Maintenance Men): We need male volunteers who can help with making repairs and maintaining our home. Do you have a truck? We also need people to lift and move heavy items. Time commitment varies.
- Yard Work / Gardening: Volunteers are needed for yard work (planting flowers, trimming bushes, mowing the lawn, raking leaves, etc.) as well as help with the garden (weeding, watering, etc).
- Deep spring and fall cleaning: Volunteers are needed for deep cleaning twice a year (wash windows, clean cupboards, wash walls, touch up paint, floorboards, etc).
- Baby Shower: Volunteers are needed to help when a resident is having a baby shower. This would include: set up and clean up, and possibly helping decorate.



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