

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time • July 27, 2025

# St. John Paul II Cluster



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



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



**July 27, 2025**  
**17th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Luke 11:1-13**

Once I went to a hospice facility to celebrate Last Rites for an elderly dying man. His family had told me that he had been uncommunicative for days. At the conclusion of the ritual, we began to recite the Our Father prayer. To everyone's surprise, his lips moved, clearly mouthing the words to the Lord's prayer. Stripped of most of his faculties, the man could still pray those precious God-given petitions. A lifetime of prayer had planted the words even deeper than his failing consciousness.

Do we want the Lord's prayer to be as deeply embedded in us? If we want to be people of hope, we should. Recall that our Lord immediately follows the prayer by saying: "Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you" (Luke 11:9). We only ask, search and knock because we hope that the request is not in vain. Everything we could possibly hope for is contained in the prayer. Praying the Our Father deepens our hope.

We should consciously pour all our hopes into the Lord's prayer; we should allow it to be an expression of hope, not simply rote words. Then, over time, it builds up our hope in God. It sinks deep into our souls and bodies. How blessed we are when these words of hope are on our lips, even when everything else seems to fail.

— Father John Muir

©LPI

## **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**

July 28, through August 3, 2025

**St. John Parish, Independence**

Tues.	8:00 am	Fr. James Dubert
Wed.	8:00 am	Deceased Members of the Verstraete Family
Thurs.	8:00 am	Dalton DeSotel
Sat	4:00 pm	Parishioners of the St. John Paul II Cluster
Sun.	10:00 am	James & Sylvia Milbach
<b>St. Patrick Parish, Winthrop</b>		
Mon.	4:30 pm	Phil Short
Fri.	8:00 am	Patrick Huber
Sat	5:30 pm	John & Margaret Hogan & Linda Moore
Sun.	8:00 am	Ken Croft

**Scrip Cash Table Volunteers for August 2/3**

<b>4:00 pm</b>	Joan Wieland & Mary Grover
<b>10:00 am</b>	Donna & Rod Nabholz

**Cemetery Walkers -** July 16-31 Trice & Mya Gruber & Pam Ratchford

**ST. JOHN PARISH, INDEPENDENCE**

**Saturday, 4:00 pm, August 2, 2025**

<b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b>	B Fr. Beckman	Scott Kleve	Volunteer
	B Dc. Post	n/a	n/a
	B John Arend		
<b>Hospitality Ministers:</b>	Chuck Mazur	Taylor Simmons	
	Volunteer	Volunteer	
<b>Lector:</b>	Connie Weber		
<b>Altar Servers:</b>	Connor Holle	Skarlett Johnson	n/a
<b>Music:</b>	Shelly Reck	Debbie Michael	

**Sunday, 10:00 am, August 3, 2025**

<b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b>	B Fr. Beckman	Andrea Huston	Maggie McGarvey
	B Dc. Post	n/a	n/a
	B Kathy Post		
<b>Hospitality Ministers:</b>	Pat Mahoney	Deb Milbach	Mark McGarvey
	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
<b>Lector:</b>	Sherry Plein		
<b>Altar Servers:</b>	Lucy Flanders	Maize Freidhof	n/a
<b>Music:</b>	Bonnie O'Brien	Kathy Kitner	

**Rosary Ministry:** Linda Bagby

**ST. PATRICK PARISH, WINTHROP**

**Saturday, 5:30 pm, August 2, 2025**

<b>Eucharistic Ministers :</b>	B Fr. Beckman	Jess Flexsenhar
<b>Eucharistic Ministers :</b>	W n/a	
<b>Hospitality Ministers*:</b>	Bryan Flexsenhar	Volunteer

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

<b>Lector:</b>	Dianne Fank
<b>Gift Bearers:</b>	Bryan Flexsenhar Family
<b>Altar Servers:</b>	Addie Flexsenhar Volunteer
<b>Music:</b>	St. Patrick Choir

**Sunday, 8:00 am, August 3, 2025**

<b>Eucharistic Ministers :</b>	B Fr. Beckman	Samantha Cocking
<b>Eucharistic Ministers :</b>	W n/a	
<b>Hospitality Ministers*:</b>	Kevin Naber	Volunteer

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

<b>Lector:</b>	Ron Crawford
<b>Gift Bearers:</b>	Volunteers
<b>Altar Servers:</b>	Kaleb Naber Volunteer
<b>Music:</b>	St. Patrick Choir

**Monday, July 28, 2025**

**Collection Counters:** Annette Slattery Mary Beth Flexsenhar

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

Monday, July 28, 2025

**Nothing listed on schedule/calendar**

Tuesday, July 29, 2025

**Nothing listed on schedule/calendar**

Wednesday, July 30, 2025

**Nothing listed on schedule/calendar**

Thursday, July 31, 2025

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Cluster Office, 10:00 am

Friday, August 1, 2025

**Confessions at St. Patrick:** 7:15 - 7:45 am, before Mass

Saturday, August 2, 2025

**Confessions at St. John's:** 3:15 - 3:45 pm, before Mass

Sunday, August 3, 2025

**Confessions at St. John:** 9:15 - 9:45 am, before Mass

**Readings for the week of July 27, 2025**

Sunday:	Gn 18:20-32/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8 (3a)/Col 2:12-14/Lk 11:1-13
Monday:	Ex 32:15-24, 30-34/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Mt 13:31-35
Tuesday:	Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28/Ps 103:6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13/Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42
Wednesday:	Ex 34:29-35/Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 9/Mt 13:44-46
Thursday:	Ex 40:16-21, 34-38/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a, 11/Mt 13:47-53
Friday:	Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37/Ps 81:3-4, 5-6, 10-11ab/Mt 13:54-58
Saturday:	Lv 25:1, 8-17/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Mt 14:1-12
Next Sunday:	Ecc 1:2; 2:21-23/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17 (1)/Col 3:1-5, 9-11/Lk 12:13-21

**Altar Linen Schedule:** All July Betty Miller

**Cluster Finances**

St. John For Sunday, July 20, 2025

Budget Envelopes	\$9,245.00
Offertory	\$212.00
EFT donations for the month are:	\$5,760.00
Needed Weekly to Meet Expenses	\$11,814.00

**Last week we were short \$2,357.00 to meet our operational expenses!**

This section includes all debt that the church owes to date.

Monies borrowed from DBQ for building projects:	\$0
Monies borrowed from Embrace Our Future/Debt Elimination:	\$0

St. Patrick For Sunday, July 20, 2025

Budget Envelopes	\$1,941.00
Offertory	\$282.00
EFT donations for the month are:	\$880.00
Needed Weekly to Meet Expenses	\$3,376.00

**St. Patrick's Parishioners:**

Just a reminder that the loose collection from both Masses the first weekend of each month goes to the Haiti Collection.

## ~Archdiocesan Events~



### 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).

### Rural Life Award Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the inaugural Father Norm White Award, recognizing significant contributions to rural life. This special Archdiocesan award, along with two deanery-wide awards, will be presented following the Rural Life Mass, Thursday, September 18 in Haverhill, Iowa. Father Norm served as the Director of the Archdiocesan Rural Life Center from 1984 to 1994 during the farm debt crisis. He did much to organize priests, laity, and religious in a common effort to serve the rural Church. If you know someone who you feel may be eligible for this important recognition, nominate them at [dbqarch.org/rural-life](http://dbqarch.org/rural-life) or contact Deacon Brian Zeman at [b.zeman@dbqarch.org](mailto:b.zeman@dbqarch.org). Nominations are due by August 15, 2025.

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter

**MARRIED COUPLES.** Give your marriage a well-deserved vacation. Plan to go on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend 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 Denise and Greg at (563)920-9419 or visit [wwme.org](http://wwme.org).

### 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).

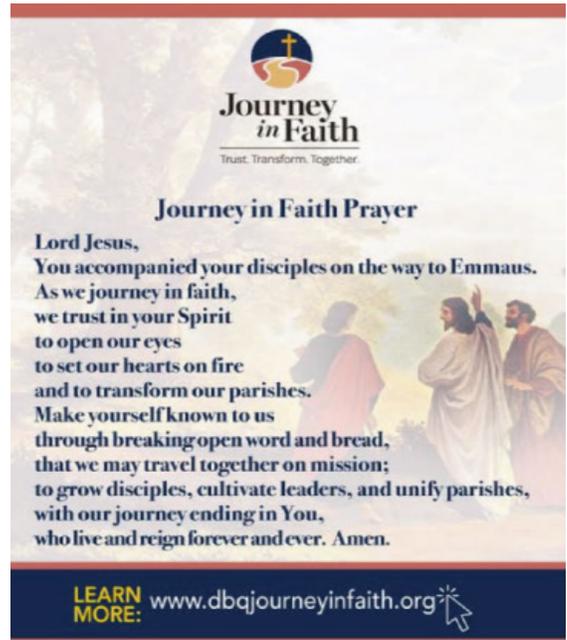
**Remember in prayer:** Eileen Barreca, Cindy Krempeges, Kari Magsamen Eddy, Chris Nelson, Barb Weber, Marlys Fischels, Mary Crawford Compean, Tom Breckler - as well as Doctors and Nurses



### Prayer for "Journey In Faith" initiative

Here is our prayer for the Archdiocese of Dubuque "Journey In Faith" initiative. I invite and encourage you to, cut it out of the bulletin, place it in a handy spot on your refrigerator, your nightstand, your coffee table, your end table, your countertop, your workbench, your desktop, your wallet, your purse, or your pocket, and pray it daily through this period of pastoral planning.

*Fr. David*



### Stewardship Quotes

Jesus is describing God's immeasurable generosity when He says in today's Gospel, "Whoever asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds; whoever knocks, is admitted." But it should also be the description of us as Christian stewards - those seeking to follow Christ by using our gifts in service to others.



### Please mark your calendars:

**Masses for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary –**

Thursday, August 14 at 5:30 pm at St. John's, Independence

Friday, August 15 at 8:00 am at St. Patrick's, Winthrop



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



### Phone/Email Address Change?

Please remember to contact the cluster office at 319-334-7191 or [dbq106sec@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbq106sec@dbqarch.org) if you have changed your phone numbers, mailing address or email address. Thank you for helping in keeping the church records up to date!

# School News

## Student Tuition Organization:

For those families who have not submitted their STO, or need to complete their application, the closing date for Round 2 is August 8, 2025. If you are needing assistance, please follow the directions below.

- Families that are not required to file federal income tax must check DNF on their application.
- The application VERIFICATION deadline is May 15, 2025. Families must have their 2024 Federal Tax Return completed and their STO application verified by FACTS no later than May 15.
- If they don't make the May 15th Round #1 verification deadline, they will be in the Round #2 consideration pool if all materials are received by August 11th.
- The STO application is required for your local school tuition assistance program.
- The application fee is \$40.00. St. John's is set up to pay for that fee. No SJS Family will pay the application fee.
- If a family needs assistance with their application, they can call the FACTS Helpline at 866-315-9262 Monday - Thursday 7:00 am to 7:00 pm and Friday 7:00 am to 5 pm.

## SCRIP

You can reduce your tuition obligation by using SCRIP (gift cards). If you'd like to take advantage of online ordering go to raiseright.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 raiseright

**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)

## SJS on Facebook!

Check us out on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088497703727>



## Prayer Hot Line

We would like to pray for you, your family, and/or friends in time of need. Prayer requests can be for any problem or hardship - health, faith, finances, school-work, an anonymous/confidential reason, etc. You may use your whole name, your first name, or just "a parishioner" and you may explain the problem or you can just ask for a prayer for your special intention. Prayers can be for anyone - not just parishioners. If you would like to add a friend or family member to our daily intentions for the ill and injured, please call our cluster office at (319) 334-7191. Please make sure you have their permission to do so because some people do not want their name publicly mentioned. Confidentiality is important and to be respected. Again, to place your request on the prayer line, please call the parish office at 319-334-7191 or use the form found on the cluster website at <https://stjohnspat.org>



## Our Little Library

Cluster Parishioner's just a reminder to checkout, "Our Little Library" in front of St. John's church. We invite you to;

Take a book for yourself. (To borrow or keep)

Take a book for someone in need (Perhaps as a gift)

Take duplicate books. (To use for study with a spouse, friend, group or significant other)

However you chose we encourage you to make use of this resource to grow your faith in Christ Jesus. Check it out frequently as new books arrive often.

## ~~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

August 3 - September 7

October 5 - November 2 - December 7

### Cedar Valley Hospice Release & Remember 2025

Our Release & Remember event brings our community together to honor its loved ones. The 13th annual celebration will take place on Sunday, September 7, 2025 at the Riverloop Amphitheater in downtown Waterloo. Attendees will enjoy lunch, children's activities, and live Music by Never The Less before a short program and release of 1,000 monarch butterflies at 2:30 pm. (Event is 1-3 pm.)

As part of this cherished fundraising event for Cedar Valley Hospice, a butterfly can be dedicated in honor or in memory of someone special for \$30 - and donations of any amount are greatly appreciated. T-shirts (with an all-new design) are also available for \$20. There will also be a raffle for two community members to open a butterfly box at the event. Tickets for this are \$10/each.

For more information visit [cvhospice.org](http://cvhospice.org)

## St. John Scrip Voucher

Please Support our Generous Participating Sponsors

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The Flower Mill	Home IndeeD
Ryan Pharmacy (non-RX only)	S & K Collectibles

**Amount \$:**

**Name:**

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

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

## St. John the Evangelist

Independence, Iowa  
&

## St. Patrick

Winthrop Iowa

*Pastor:* Very Rev. David Beckman

*Deacon:* Dc. 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](mailto: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.



## From the Desk of Fr. Beckman:

The priests of the Archdiocese of Dubuque met on Thursday, July 17, 2025 at St. Gabriel's in Reinbeck to listen to a briefing on the "Journey In Faith" initiative. As we move forward with this initiative, we continue to align our Pastoral Center staffing, priorities, and resources to best respond to our **new mission: to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, thereby transforming our faith communities to become more like him in thought, word, and deed.**

**What is "Journey In Faith?"** It is the Archdiocese of Dubuque's pastoral planning initiative designed to renew discipleship, strengthen our Catholic communities of faith, and align parish structures to better fulfill the mission of the Church.

**Why is this happening now?** We face several significant challenges:

- A growing secular culture and declining sacramental participation, which includes lower Mass attendance, fewer baptisms, (funerals outnumber baptisms for the first time in our archdiocesan history) Catholic marriages, and religious vocations.
  - Fewer priests to serve our 160 parishes.
  - The need to steward resources, both human and financial, more effectively.
- We must address these concerns to continue sharing the Gospel and to support vibrant Catholic presence in Northeast Iowa for generations to come.

**What are the goals of the planning process?**

- **Renew discipleship** by forming joyful missionary disciples.
- **Strengthen parish vibrancy** through collaboration and sustainability.
- **Support our priests** in holiness, health, and mission.
- **Create a sustainable organization** of parishes into pastoral groupings.

You may want to clip this article out and keep a folder of information in order to refer back to this initiative. Next week I will provide answers to further questions you may have. God Bless this process.

*Fr. David*

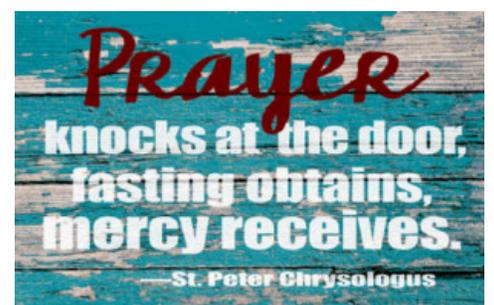
Recent flooding has devastated parts of central Texas. At least 132 lives have been lost and more are missing. Families are displaced and in urgent need of assistance. Local Catholic Charities agencies are on the ground, providing essential aid to those affected. Visit [www.catholiccharitiesusa.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org) to support these local relief efforts. 100% of donations go directly to helping flood survivors recover.

*Fr. David*



## 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.



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