

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time • August 24, 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



August 24, 2025
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Luke 13:22-30

I've been hiking Camelback Mountain in Phoenix, Arizona most of my life. It is a vigorous forty-five minutes to the top. Near the peak, the end suddenly appears much further away, and steeper. At that moment, a descending hiker often offers encouragement: "Keep going! The peak is right there. It's not as far as it looks. You can do it!" It usually works. After another five minute push, you summit and enjoy a glorious panorama of the Sonoran Desert in the Valley of the Sun.

When Jesus is asked about how many people are saved, he says: "Strive to enter through the narrow gate" (Luke 13:24). How many? Strive! Focus on your journey. What does heavenly census taking have to do with you or me? How would it help a hiker on a mountain to ask the others coming down, "How many people are going to make it to the top?" A normal response would be something like: "How is that a relevant question? Carry on!"

Jesus links one virtue directly to salvation: perseverance (cf. Matt 24:13; hypomone in Greek). Strive! Endure! Keep going! The one absolutely necessary virtue is perseverance, to not give up on our journey. The mountain we struggle to climb is often our own weakness, failures, and sins. Persevere in prayer. Keep celebrating the sacraments. Embrace daily duties. With God's grace, you are strong enough to keep going. Perhaps the peak is not as far away as you might fear. Keep going!

— 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

August 25, through August 31, 2025

St. John Parish, Independence

Tues.	8:00 am	Anthony Alessio
Wed.	9:30 am	Fr. James Dubert (at West Village)
Thurs.	8:30 am	Deceased Members of the Ciesielski Family
Sat	4:00 pm	Rick "Rona" Wendling
Sun.	10:00 am	Louis & Margaret Behan

St. Patrick Parish, Winthrop

Mon.	4:30 pm	Phil Short
Fri.	8:00 am	Richard Kinney
Sat	5:30 pm	Parishioners of the St. John Paul II Cluster
Sun.	8:00 am	Greg Fawcett

Scrip Cash Table Volunteers for August 30/31

4:00 pm	Joan Wieland & Brenda Davis
10:00 am	Shelly Reed & Jacquie McTaggart

Altar Linen Schedule: All August Sharon Bainbridge

ST. JOHN PARISH, INDEPENDENCE**Saturday, 4:00 pm, August 30, 2025**

Eucharistic Ministers:	B Fr. Beckman	Scott Kleve	Volunteer
	B Dc. Post	n/a	n/a
	B Mike Finnegan		

Hospitality Ministers:	John Schultz	John Evers
	Volunteer	Volunteer

Lector: Jodi Grover**Altar Servers:** Connor Holle Skarlett Johnson n/a**Music:** Karen Kremer Michelle McBride**Sunday, 10:00 am, August 31, 2025**

Eucharistic Ministers:	B Fr. Beckman	Kathy Post	Andrea Huston
	B Dc. Post	n/a	n/a
	B Dan Crawford		

Hospitality Ministers:	Molly Greenley	Pat Mahoney	Nila Turner
	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer

Lector: Donna Nabholz**Altar Servers:** Alayna & Aiden Svoboda n/a**Music:** Bonnie O'Brien Bill Luebbers**Rosary Ministry:** Kameron & Cheri Koth Family**ST. PATRICK PARISH, WINTHROP****Saturday, 5:30 pm, August 30, 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: Dianne Fank**Gift Bearers:** Eldon & Kate Baragary**Altar Servers:** Addie Flexsenhar Volunteer**Music:** St. Patrick Choir**Sunday, 8:00 am, August 31, 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, August 25, 2025****Collection Counters:** Sharon Moroney Susie Stafford**Stewardship Quotes**

Today's reading from Isaiah describes the Israelites bringing their offering to the Lord "in clean vessels." The gift of myself - my patient endurance and fidelity to the will of God - is as important as the monetary gift I offer.

THE WEEK AHEADMonday, August 18, 2025**Nothing listed on schedule/calendar**Tuesday, August 19, 2025**KC Meeting:** Denali's - 6:30 pm Dinner, 7:00pm MeetingWednesday, August 20, 2025**Mass:** West Village, 9:30 am (for Fr. James Dubert)Thursday, August 21, 2025**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Cluster Office, 10:00 amFriday, August 22, 2025**Confessions at St. Patrick:** 7:15 - 7:45 am, before MassSaturday, August 23, 2025**Confessions at St. John's:** 3:15 - 3:45 pm, before MassSunday, August 24, 2025**Confessions at St. John:** 9:15 - 9:45 am, before Mass

Cemetery Walkers - August 16-30, Mary Wells/Nila Turner

Readings for the week of August 24, 2025

Sunday:	Is 66:18-21/Ps 117:1, 2 (Mk 16:15)/Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/Lk 13:22-30
Monday:	1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday:	1 Thes 2:1-8/Ps 139:1-3, 4-6/Mt 23:23-26
Wednesday:	1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab/Mt 23:27-32
Thursday:	1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 24:42-51
Friday:	1 Thes 4:1-8 (429)/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12/Mk 6:17-29
Saturday:	1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Mt 25:14-30
Next Sunday:	Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 (1a)/Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14

Cluster Finances

St. John For Sunday, August 17, 2025

Budget Envelopes	\$12,774.74
Offertory	\$283.85
EFT donations for the month are:	\$5,760.00
Needed Weekly to Meet Expenses	\$11,814.00

Last week we were short \$0 to meet our operational expenses! Thank you for your generosity!

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, August 17, 2025

Budget Envelopes	\$950.00
Offertory	\$223.00
EFT donations for the month are:	\$880.00
Needed Weekly to Meet Expenses	\$3,376.00

~~Archdiocesan Events~~



Do you know a couple who have been married 70, 75 or more years?

Worldwide Marriage Encounter highlights and honors couples who have very long marriages. Every state in the US will honor one nominated couple who is married the longest. Please nominate a couple by going to wwme.org and nominate them at the top of the page. **Nominations should be in by September 1st.** For questions call 641-753-6953.

2025 Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women Annual Meeting - Save the Date!

All women are invited to attend the 2025 ACCW Annual Meeting! Plan now to join us on Saturday, September 27, 2025 at St. Benedict Parish in Decorah. This year's theme is "Pilgrims of Christian Hope," and the keynote speaker will be Mary Pedersen, the ACCW Spirituality Commission Chair and past Director of Adult Formation for the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

Archbishop Thomas Zinkula will be the main celebrant for the Mass and will also have a short presentation. The day will include Morning Refreshments, Exhibits, Silent Auction, and Lunch and Door Prizes! In addition, the Our Lady of Good Counsel Award and the Golden Rose Award will be presented. Nominations for these awards are open until September 10, 2025. Come and connect with other women from across the Archdiocese!

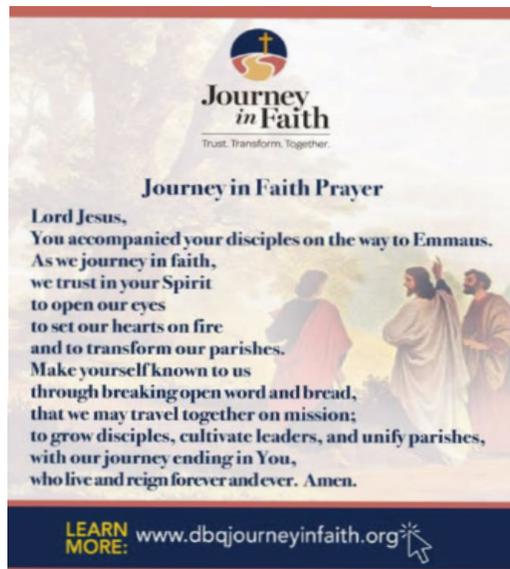
Additional information and registration for the ACCW Annual Meeting can be found at: <https://dbqarch.org/accw-events>. Contact Joanne Pohland at dbqaccw@dbqarch.org with any questions. If you would like more information about ACCW in general, please contact ACCW President Billie Burhite at dbqaccwpresident@dbqarch.org.

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.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

MARRIED COUPLES. Would you like to relive the excitement, romance and passion from your honeymoon? Rekindle that spark on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. For more information call 563-920-9419 or you can sign up at wwme.org. Upcoming dates are September 12-14 and February 13-15, 2026 both in Dubuque, Iowa. Sign up soon as space is limited.



Rosary Society Meeting

SJ Rosary Society will be hosting a meeting on Monday, August 25th at 6:30 pm in the church hall. This will be for all ladies of the parish as it will be about the Chicken Basket Meal coming up on Sunday, September 21st to coincide with Fr. Hermann's celebration. Please plan to attend.



RE Information for St. Patrick's & St. John's

RE classes for St. Patrick's will be starting on Wednesday, September 3 and RE classes for St. John's will be starting on Wednesday, September 10. If you have a 1st grader or are a new family to the St. John Paul II Cluster, please contact either Jessica Gibbs or Beth Flaucher to get registered. Thank you!

Jessica Gibbs at 319-929-2301 for St. Patrick's RE
Beth Flaucher at 319-334-7173 for St. John's RE

You can also find the forms on the cluster website:
<https://stjohnspat.org>



Baptism Class

Have you recently had a child? Are you expecting a child? Congratulations! We welcome children into our Christian community through the waters of Baptism. To prepare for this celebration, we ask all parents, who would like to have their children baptized, to attend baptism class. The next class is, Thursday, September 11 at 6:30 pm at the parish office. Please call the cluster office at 334-7191 to register.

Remember in prayer: Eileen Barreca, Cindy Krempges, Kari Magsamen Eddy, Chris Nelson, Barb Weber, Marlys Fischels, Mary Crawford Compean, Tom Breckler - as well as Hospice Workers and Volunteers



School News

New Birthday Treat Lunch Policy:

NEW this year(25-26) for Birthday Celebrations, the School Lunch Program is going to offer the ability to order treats from us. We have a lunch order form on the School Website under LUNCH with prices and several different options. We also have a whole lunch option that covers all the items needed for a reimbursable lunch. We will deliver the whole pizza(s) and stuff to the classroom. This means that the lunch program gets more money for the school. We would love to help you out and help us out too. Thanks from the Eagle's Nest Cafe!

Principal's News

Greetings from St. John School,

The school year is just around the corner. St. John School is looking for a Chess Club sponsor. Please inquire if you or someone you know is interested. It is a great opportunity to work with our amazing students!!

REMINDERS:

August 24:

Ice Cream Social, 11:15am-Noon

August 25:

1st Day of School for PK3-8th Grade, 1:00pm Dismissal

August 26:

2nd Day of School for PK3-8th Grade, 1:00pm Dismissal

August 27:

FULL DAY of School

August 28:

School Mass, 8:30am, FULL DAY of School

August 29:

1:00pm Dismissal

If you have any questions about anything pertaining to St. John School, please reach out either by phone 319-334-7173, or email hupked@sjs.pvt.k12.ia.us.

Thank you for all that you do to support our students, staff and school.



From the Desk of Fr. Beckman:

This week we will consider how you can get involved and what you can do in this "Journey In Faith" pastoral planning initiative. All parishioners will be invited to provide verbal and written feedback through a series of meetings and surveys. **No final decisions have been made.** All feedback and ideas are important. During the Fall of 2025 the focus will be on "who": in other words, which parishes will be grouped together in pastorates. During the Fall of 2026, the focus will be on "how" the newly formed pastorate can promote evangelization and grow in vibrancy through enhanced collaboration.

There are several things you can do:

- Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance
- Be open to change and trust in God's great providence
- Stay informed through parish communications
- Support your parish through service and stewardship
- Join a small group or faith formation opportunity
- Encourage and support your parish leaders
- Pray for our archdiocese and clergy

You can learn more by talking to your pastor or local "Journey In Faith" team members, check parish bulletin articles, and/or visit the "Journey In Faith" website at dbqjourneyinfaith.com for updates timelines, and resources.

In the peace of Christ, Fr. David



The Cluster Office will be closed Monday, September 1 for Labor Day

~~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

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



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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.stjohn eagles.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.



Journey in Faith

The Archdiocese of Dubuque is holding 34 regional informational sessions for parishioners to learn more about the Journey in Faith process. These sessions will further explain information that will be released at dbqjourneyinfaith.org in early September.

What will be the focus of these informational sessions?

Participants will learn more about:

- Rationale, process, and timeline for Journey in Faith
- Importance of prayer and synodal listening in this process
- Proposed pastorate models as possible new groupings of parishes for the future
- Ways to listen, learn, ask questions and provide insights throughout the process including engaging in your parish's October and November local meetings and providing written feedback via the Journey in Faith website

Why should I attend?

Attending these meetings will give you background about the challenges we face and the opportunities we have to be honest, courageous, faithful, and hopeful. Your ideas about how we can have vibrant and sustainable parishes focused on evangelization for the next 25+ years is very important as future plans are developed. While these September meetings are information focused, they set the stage for parishioners to provide thoughtful verbal feedback at local parish input sessions in October and November and written feedback via the Journey in Faith website.

How do I know which meeting to attend?

Parishioners should attend a meeting held in their Regional Planning Area (RPA). The overall information will be the same at each meeting, however, the proposed pastorate models that are explained will be specific to your RPA. (See RPA (v5) for your region.)

When and where are the meetings?

There are 34 September Regional Journey in Faith Information Sessions from which to choose. Each is held in a parish church and is scheduled for three hours. **We will be holding a meeting here at St. John's (Independence) on Saturday, September 20 from 9:00 - 12:00.**

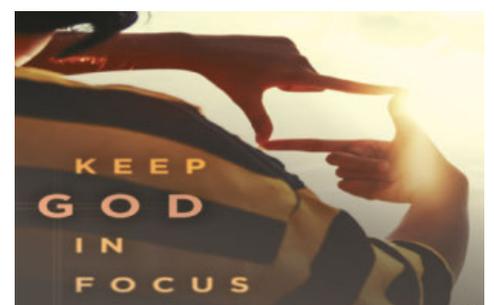


How do I sign up to attend?

In order to assist us in our planning, we ask that parishioners RSVP using <https://tinyurl.com/JIFSeptSignUp> or the QR code:

What if I'm unable to attend a September regional meeting or registration in my region reaches capacity?

If you are unable to attend a September regional meeting, you are urged to review all of the information on the website including videos, maps, and spreadsheets that will be released in early September. This will enable you to have background prior to attending your own local parish's meetings in October and November. Although the September meetings will not be live streamed, a summary video with key points from those meetings about prayer and synodal listening will be released at the end of September. Registration is capped at 500 per event (or the maximum seating capacity for churches with less than a 500 person capacity) and registration will be closed once registration reaches capacity.



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