

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time • August 31, 2025

*St. John Paul II Cluster*



**MASS INTENTIONS**

September 1, through September 7, 2025

**St. John Parish, Independence**

Tues.	8:00 am	Leo & Therese Donnelly
Wed.	9:30 am	Charles Werner, Sr. (at Oak View)
Thurs.	8:30 am	Deceased Members of the Verstraete Family
Sat	4:00 pm	Special Intention
Sun.	10:00 am	Deceased Members of the Schares Family

**St. Patrick Parish, Winthrop**

Mon.	4:30 pm	No Mass being offered
Fri.	8:00 am	Joe, Helen, & Fuzzy O'Loughlin
Sat	5:30 pm	Parishioners of the St. John Paul II Cluster
Sun.	8:00 am	Connie Fawcett

**Scrip Cash Table Volunteers for September 6/7****4:00 pm** Debbie Merfeld & Amy Holle**10:00 am** Rod & Donna Nabholz**Altar Linen Schedule:** All September Luci White**Cemetery Walkers -** Sept. 1-15 Carol Quass**ST. JOHN PARISH, INDEPENDENCE****Saturday, 4:00 pm, September 6, 2025**

**Eucharistic Ministers:** B Fr. Beckman Abby Crawford Jean Crawford  
B Dc. Post n/a n/a

**Hospitality Ministers:** Chuck Mazur Taylor Simmons  
Volunteer Volunteer

**Lector:** Connie Weber**Altar Servers:** Volunteer Volunteer n/a**Music:** Shelly Reck Kathy Kitner**Sunday, 10:00 am, September 7, 2025**

**Eucharistic Ministers:** B Fr. Beckman Deb Merfeld Mark Merfeld  
B Dc. Post n/a n/a

**Hospitality Ministers:** Zach Boss Robert Butters Deb Milbach  
Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer

**Lector:** Beth Flaucher**Altar Servers:** Bennett Clark Lucy Flanders n/a**Music:** Kraig Emick Julie Weber**Rosary Ministry:** Rod & Donna Nabholz**ST. PATRICK PARISH, WINTHROP****Saturday, 5:30 pm, September 6, 2025****Eucharistic Ministers:** B Fr. Beckman Kim Naber**Eucharistic Ministers:** W n/a**Hospitality Ministers\*:** Dave Flexsenhar Volunteer

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

**Lector:** Becky Peyton**Gift Bearers:** Dave & Mary Beth Flexsenhar**Altar Servers:** Lilly Hansen Volunteer**Music:** St. Patrick Choir**Sunday, 8:00 am, September 7, 2025****Eucharistic Ministers:** B Fr. Beckman Jill Wilgenbusch**Eucharistic Ministers:** W n/a**Hospitality Ministers\*:** Drew Trott Volunteer

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

**Lector:** Greg Schmitt**Gift Bearers:** Volunteers**Altar Servers:** Kaleb Naber Volunteer**Music:** St. Patrick Choir**Tuesday, September 2, 2025****Collection Counters:** Lois Loughren Joanice Brace**Stewardship Quotes**

In the Gospel today, Jesus warns us not to give in hopes of repayment, but to give open-handedly to the poor and needy. That sort of giving mirrors the bountiful giving of God, and Jesus assures us it is blessed indeed!

**THE WEEK AHEAD**Monday, September 1, 2025**Labor Day (Cluster Office is closed / No School)**Tuesday, September 2, 2025**Nothing listed on schedule/calendar**Wednesday, September 3, 2025**Mass:** Oak View, 9:30 am (for Charles Werner, Sr.)**St. Patrick Religious Education:** Grades 1-9, 7:00 pmThursday, September 4, 2025**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Cluster Office, 10:00 am**SJS Board of Education:** SJS, 6:00 pmFriday, September 5, 2025**Confessions at St. Patrick:** 7:15 - 7:45 am, before Mass**SJS early Dismissal:** 1:00 pm for Professional DevelopmentSaturday, September 6, 2025**Confessions at St. John's:** 3:15 - 3:45 pm, before MassSunday, September 7, 2025**Confessions at St. John:** 9:15 - 9:45 am, before Mass**Readings for the week of August 31, 2025**

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
Monday:	1 Thes 4:13-18/Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13/Lk 4:16-30
Tuesday:	1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Lk 4:31-37
Wednesday:	Col 1:1-8/Ps 52:10, 11/Lk 4:38-44
Thursday:	Col 1:9-14/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Lk 5:1-11
Friday:	Col 1:15-20/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 5:33-39
Saturday:	Col 1:21-23/Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8/Lk 6:1-5
Next Sunday:	Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17 (1)/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33

**Cluster Finances**

St. John For Sunday, August 24, 2025

Budget Envelopes	\$4,971.67
Offertory	\$275.91
EFT donations for the month are:	\$5,760.00
Needed Weekly to Meet Expenses	\$11,814.00

**Last week we were short \$6,566.42 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, August 24, 2025

Budget Envelopes	\$1,456.00
Offertory	\$238.00
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~



**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://wwme.org). Upcoming dates are September 12-14 and February 13-15, 2026 both in Dubuque, Iowa. Sign up soon as space is limited.

**Remember in prayer:** Eileen Barreca, Cindy Krempges, Kari Magsamen Eddy, Chris Nelson, Barb Weber, Marlys Fischels, Mary Crawford Compean, Tom Breckler, Jim Welsh - as well as Farmers and Truckers



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



**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.



**CDA meetings**

CDA meetings will be held on Thursday, September 11th. Junior CDA from 5 to 6. Adult meeting from 6 to 7. Both in the church hall.



**SJ Rosary Society Chicken Dinner**

Please plan to attend the RS Chicken Dinner to be held on Sunday, September 21 from 11:00 - 1:30. Cost is \$15, children 10 + \$7, and children under 10 are Free. Meal includes: Chicken, broasted potatoes, coleslaw, dessert and drink. Carry-outs available by calling Kathy Post at 563-608-3151.

**Kids Corner Food Drive**

- Help stock the pantry at Kids Corner to help decrease costs to the center.
- Drop at St. Patricks Church or at Kids Corner.
- If you have questions, please contact Kids Corner at 319-935-3434.
- Scan the QR code to see the full list of needs!
- Now- September 22
- Thank you for your support!



# 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!

## Needed: Chess Club Supervisor:

St. John School is looking for a Chess Club Sponsor who would volunteer for the 2025-2026 School Year. This club meets once per week in the St. John Library from 3:15pm-4pm. If interested in volunteering to support this club, please contact Mr. Hupke via email hupked@sjs.pvt.k12.ia.us or phone 319-334-7173

## Scrip Box -

School is back in session! That means that the Scrip box will now be located over at the school and available from 8:00 -3:30 Monday- Friday!

## 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)



## From the Desk of Fr. Beckman:

Regional *Journey in Faith* Information Sessions  
- September 2025

What are these sessions? 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 [dbjourneyinfaith.org](http://dbjourneyinfaith.org) on September 2nd.

## What will be the focus of these meetings?

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 which is #6 for the Waterloo Deanery area.

[dbjourneyinfaith.org](http://dbjourneyinfaith.org) There is a QR code to scan that will take you right to the site. (QR Code found in the article from Journey in Faith) I tried it and it works perfectly. If you have trouble finding it, please call the parish office and we'll attempt to walk it through with you.

Meetings close to the Independence area:

- Wednesday, September 17 1:00 – 4:00 Blessed Sacrament, Waterloo 650 Stephan Avenue, RPA #6 Waterloo Region.
- Saturday, September 20, 9:00 – Noon St. John's Independence, RPA #6 Wat.**
- Monday, September 22 6:00 – 9:00 St. Stephen the Witness Student Center, Cedar Falls 1019 West 23rd Street RPA #6 Waterloo Region.
- Tuesday, September 23 6:00 – 9:00 St. Edward, Waterloo, 1425 Kimball Avenue #6
- Please see the bulletin for more information on Journey In Faith.

**In the peace of Christ,  
Fr. David**



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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.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.*



## 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](http://dbqjourneyinfaith.org) in early September.

Please plan to attend a meeting to learn more about the rationale, process, and timeline for *Journey in Faith*. 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.

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. 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.) **We will be holding a meeting here at St. John's (Independence) on Saturday, September 20 from 9:00 - 12:00.**

To sign up, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/JIFSeptSignUp> or use the QR code:



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 on September 2nd. This will enable you to have background prior to attending your own local parish's meetings in October and November. A summary video with key points from those meetings about prayer and synodal listening will be released at the end of September.

**August 31, 2025  
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Luke 14:1, 7-14**

Once I was invited to a group meeting with Pope Francis. Entering the room, I paused, eyeing the seats next to the Pope's fancy chair. Someone saw my paralysis and invited me to sit in the seat farthest from what I wanted. Hiding my disappointment, I sat. We waited. To our surprise, an aid pointed out that those seats were still empty and invited me and another to have them. We calmly but gleefully strode across the room and sat. Pope Francis entered, and we enjoyed two hours of amazingly uplifting conversation.

Jesus says this week to us: "When you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, 'My friend, move up to a higher position.' Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table" (Luke 14:10). This is not about how to score free seat upgrades. Rather, it is a wise pattern for the whole of life. It is how to live free from the anxiety of constantly grasping for status and recognition.

Jesus perfectly embodies his seat-taking advice. He eschews his glorious throne for the lowest: death on a cross, that lonely chair we all deserve. In his resurrection, he calls us up higher to his marvelous banquet seats. This week, perhaps we should look for opportunities to choose the lowest seat. We'll be pleasantly surprised when we do.

— Father John Muir



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