

Catechetical Sunday • September 21, 2025

*St. John Paul II Cluster*

*Blessings*  
on  
**CATECHETICAL  
SUNDAY**



**MASS INTENTIONS**

September 22, through September 28, 2025

**St. John Parish, Independence**

Tues.	8:00 am	Darlene & Richard Higgins
Wed.	9:30 am	Msgr. Russell Bleich (at West Village)
Thurs.	8:30 am	Louis & Margaret Behan
Sat	4:00 pm	Gladys Hughes
Sun.	10:00 am	Emmett Schumann

**St. Patrick Parish, Winthrop**

Mon.	4:30 pm	Phil Short
Fri.	8:00 am	Sister Bertha Kruse
Sat	5:30 pm	Parishioners of the St. John Paul II Cluster
Sun.	8:00 am	Julie Jack

**Scrip Cash Table Volunteers for September 27/28****4:00 pm** Joan Wieland & Brenda Davis**10:00 am** Ameer & JR Freidhof**Altar Linen Schedule:** All September Luci White**Cemetery Walkers -** Sept. 16-30 McCardle Family**ST. JOHN PARISH, INDEPENDENCE****Saturday, 4:00 pm, September 27, 2025**

<b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b>	B Fr. Beckman	Jean Crawford	Chuck Mazur
	B Dc. Post	n/a	n/a
	B Abby Crawford		

<b>Hospitality Ministers:</b>	John Evers	John Schultz
	Volunteer	Volunteer

**Lector:** Diane Williams**Altar Servers:** Graden Gruman Bryson Nicols n/a**Music:** Karen Kremer Kathy Kitner**Sunday, 10:00 am, September 28, 2025**

<b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b>	B Fr. Beckman	Brian White	Nila Turner
	B Dc. Post	n/a	n/a
	B Kathy Post		

<b>Hospitality Ministers:</b>	Deb Merfeld	Mark Merfeld	Pat Mahoney
	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer

**Lector:** Sharon Bainbridge**Altar Servers:** Kayla White Natalie White n/a**Music:** Kraig Emick Jubilee Choir**Rosary Ministry:** Rod & Donna Nabholz**ST. PATRICK PARISH, WINTHROP****Saturday, 5:30 pm, September 27, 2025****Eucharistic Ministers:** B Fr. Beckman Carrie Gudenkauf**Eucharistic Ministers:** W n/a**Hospitality Ministers\*:** Bryan Flexsenhar Volunteer

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

**Lector:** Dianne Fank**Gift Bearers:** Bryan Flexsenhar Family**Altar Servers:** Addie Flexsenhar Volunteer**Music:** St. Patrick Choir**Sunday, 8:00 am, September 28, 2025****Eucharistic Ministers:** B Fr. Beckman Janet Hackett**Eucharistic Ministers:** W n/a**Hospitality Ministers\*:** Kevin Naber Volunteer

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

**Lector:** Janet Hackett**Gift Bearers:** Volunteers**Altar Servers:** Kaleb Naber Volunteer**Music:** St. Patrick Choir**Monday, September , 2025****Collection Counters:** Annette Slattery Mary Beth Flexsenhar**Stewardship Quotes**

The dishonest manager in today's parable knew how to manipulate money to his own advantage. But the Gospel warns that no one can serve both God and money. Which do I serve? Is my stewardship such that anyone can tell?

**THE WEEK AHEAD**Monday, September 22, 2025**Nothing listed on schedule/calendar**Tuesday, September 23, 2025**KC Meeting:** Denali's - 6:30 pm Dinner / 7:00 pm MeetingWednesday, September 24, 2025**Mass:** West Village, 9:30 am (for Msgr. Russell Bleich)**St. John Religious Education:** No Classes (Homecoming)**St. Patrick Religious Education:** Grades 1-9, 7:00 pmThursday, September 25, 2025**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Cluster Office, 10:00 amFriday, September 26, 2025**Confessions at St. Patrick:** 7:15 - 7:45 am, before Mass**SJS Early Dismissal:** 1:00 pm for Professional DevelopmentSaturday, September 27, 2025**Confessions at St. John's:** 3:15 - 3:45 pm, before MassSunday, September 28, 2025**Confessions at St. John:** 9:15 - 9:45 am, before Mass**Readings for the week of September 21, 2025**

Sunday:	Am 8:4-7/Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8 (see 1a, 7b)/1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13
Monday:	Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday:	Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday:	Ezr 9:5-9/Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8/Lk 9:1-6
Thursday:	Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Lk 9:7-9
Friday:	Hg 2:1-9/Ps 43:1, 2, 3, 4/Lk 9:18-22
Saturday:	Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/Lk 9:43b-45
Next Sunday:	Am 6:1a, 4-7/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 (1b)/1 Tm 6:11-16/Lk 16:19-31

**Cluster Finances**

St. John For Sunday, September 14, 2025

Budget Envelopes	\$9,932.35
Offertory	\$247.25
EFT donations for the month are:	\$5,760.00
Needed Weekly to Meet Expenses	\$11,814.00

**Last week we were short \$1,634.50 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, September 14, 2025

Budget Envelopes	\$1,331.00
Offertory	\$180.00
EFT donations for the month are:	\$880.00
Needed Weekly to Meet Expenses	\$3,376.00

## Grief Support Group

Catholic Charities of Dubuque will be holding an eight-week Grief Support Group series beginning Monday, September 22, 2025 from 4:00 – 5:30 at the Catholic Charities regional office 3835 West 9th Street in Waterloo. Registration is required for this FREE support group. To register please call Julieanne at 319-340-4309, or email: [j.klesel@dbqarch.org](mailto:j.klesel@dbqarch.org)

The counseling series is based on the book: **When A Loved One Dies By Suicide: Comfort, Hope, and Healing for Grieving Catholics**, which was written by and for Catholics who have experienced suicidal loss. This support group is specifically for anyone experiencing a loss by suicide.

## ~~Archdiocesan Events~~

### 2025 Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women Annual Meeting -

It's Not Too Late To Register!

We invite all women to attend the 2025 ACCW Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 27, 2025 at St. Benedict Parish in Decora! 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, Lunch and Door Prizes! In addition, the Our Lady of Good Counsel Award and the Golden Rose Award will be presented.

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).



### Save the Date!

#### Mental Health Awareness Mass

Sunday, October 5, 2025 at 2:00 PM at St. Pius X Parish, Cedar Rapids. Reception to follow.



### Mark Your Calendars for the 2026 Archdiocesan Women's Conference: Beauty in Christ

Saturday, January 31, 2026

Mark your parish calendar for this virtual event, designed to gather women in your parish/cluster for a morning of friendship, faith, and formation!!! More information to come!



### 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: Mike Reicks Broasted Chicken, broasted potatoes, coleslaw, dessert and drink. Carry-outs available by calling Kathy Post at 563-608-3151.



### Saturday Mass Times will be changing soon!

The weekend of October 4/5 will be the start of the new Saturday Mass times. As a reminder - St. John's will then have Mass at 5:30 pm and St. Patrick's will then have Mass at 4:00 pm.

### Blessing of Catechists

Jesus, on the road to Emmaus, your followers were frightened and alone;

you had just been put to death on a cross.

They met a man on the road leading away from Jerusalem who told them all about you

and what your presence among them meant.

They did not realize that the man

speaking and walking with them was you, raised from the dead.

When their eyes were opened and they received the gift of faith, they turned around to spread the word.

We ask you to bless all your disciples

who now work as catechists in our parishes.

Bless them and give encouragement to their work, that it will have an impact upon the world.

We ask all this in your name, Jesus,

our companion on the road from Emmaus.

Amen



## ~~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

October 5 - November 2 - December 7

**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



# School News



## Eagle Math Scholars!!

On the 2024-2025 Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP), three St. John School 3rd grade students were in the top 2% of the entire state of Iowa for their math assessment scores. Congratulations to Porter Hickey, Hazel Nelson and Flynn Haden, all in Mrs. Angie Pink's class. Eagles fly high!!!

## School Pictures are coming soon

School pictures will be Tuesday, September 30th. Order form will be sent home soon.

## PE student need:

After the first week of school, please remember students are to have a separate pair of shoes for PE class. These don't have to be solely used for PE, but they should not be worn to school that day. Having a different pair of shoes for PE will help keep the floor free from excess rocks, dirt, and debris. Thank you for your attention to this.

## 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)



## Journey in Faith

The Archdiocese of Dubuque is moving forward in the Journey in Faith process, a Spirit-led effort to discern how parishes can best serve the faithful for the next 25+ years. Input from the Disciple

Maker Index survey and key parish data have helped form proposed models for parish groupings. You can view the proposed models at [dbqjourneyinfaith.org](http://dbqjourneyinfaith.org)

Parishioners are invited to one of 34 Regional Journey in Faith Information Sessions. Each session will provide:

- An overview of the process and timeline
- Reflection on prayer and synodal listening
- Presentation of proposed pastorate models for your region
- Opportunities to share insights, questions, and hopes

Those unable to attend our meetings can still find maps, videos, and opportunities to share feedback at [dbqjourneyinfaith.org](http://dbqjourneyinfaith.org).

## What is the role of Journey in Faith Parish Team Members and who are they?

Journey in Faith Team Members are parishioners selected by the pastor/PLC to help facilitate the feedback process at the parish. Their role is to impartially record and submit the feedback of the parishioners at their parish meetings to the Journey in Faith Core Team. They are advocates for parishioners to be engaged in the process. Local Journey in Faith Team Members are not decision makers in this process. All decisions will ultimately be made by Archbishop Zinkula.

At St. Patrick's the Team Members are Ron Crawford, Dianne Fank, Drew Trott, Janet Hackett, Mark Gaffney, Ryan Baragary, Daniel Cocking and Don Sperfslage.

At St. John's the Team Members are Dc. Tim Post, Ron & Debbie Michael, Don Shonka, Dewey Hupke, Jodi Grover and Sharon Schares. They will be facilitating our local meetings sometime in Oct/Nov. We thank them for their time and dedication for this very important work.

**Journey in Faith**  
Trust. Transform. Together.

### Journey in Faith Prayer

Lord Jesus,  
You accompanied your disciples on the way to Emmaus.  
As we journey in faith,  
we trust in your Spirit  
to open our eyes  
to set our hearts on fire  
and to transform our parishes.  
Make yourself known to us  
through breaking open word and bread,  
that we may travel together on mission;  
to grow disciples, cultivate leaders, and unify parishes,  
with our journey ending in You,  
who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

**LEARN MORE:** [www.dbqjourneyinfaith.org](http://www.dbqjourneyinfaith.org)



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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:**

**Archbishop Attends SECAM 20th Plenary Assembly: Part 2**

**by Jill Kruse-Domeyer**

continued from last week.....

Rwanda, the location of this year's plenary assembly, bears deep scars from past violence. Nearly 1 million people were killed there in a genocide in 1994. During the plenary assembly, Archbishop Zinkula and the other attendees visited the Kigali Genocide Museum. It is estimated that 250,000 victims of the genocide are buried there in mass graves. Archbishop Zinkula said the visit to the museum was "very, very sobering." Archbishop Thomas Robert Zinkula. Credit: ACI Africa

Despite past violence and current conflicts, and the other challenges facing the continent, Africa offers a great deal of hope to the global church, and the attendees at the plenary assembly explored the many reasons for optimism about the future. The church in Africa has seen tremendous growth in recent years, with millions of baptisms and an increase in the number of vocations to the priesthood and religious life each year. There are today 281 million Catholics on the continent, including 50,000 priests and 80,000 religious. Of the church in Africa, Archbishop Zinkula said, "It is young, vibrant, joyful and growing."

The plenary assembly concluded with a closing Mass held at the Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Kibeho, the site where the Catholic Church has recognized apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary to three young women in the 1980s. The Mass in many ways highlighted the excitement present in the church in Africa today and why there is so much hope for its future.

Archbishop Zinkula said that when he and the others from the plenary assembly arrived at the shrine, "Throng of people, two to three thousand, were waiting to welcome us." "We were a couple of hours late, then there was the long (3 1/2 hours) outdoor Mass," but afterward, he recalled, "they didn't hurry home." He said many of the people had brought large containers of water and devotional items and they asked bishops to bless them. Archbishop Zinkula said there was "lots of youth and young people, joy, energy, dancing and communion" and he found the experience "Spirit-filled and uplifting."

Out of the plenary assembly came a long-term planning document, "The Vision of the Church, Family of God in Africa and its Islands for the Next 25 Years (2025-2050)," which is a roadmap for the church on the continent for the next quarter century. It is structured around the African church's 12 priorities and strategies for implementing each of them. "The church in Africa is finding its communal voice," Archbishop Zinkula said, "and growing in confidence."

As the plenary assembly came to a close and he prepared to leave Kigali, Archbishop Zinkula reflected on where the African church is and where it intends to go moving forward. "The church in Africa hopes one day to be self-sustaining and not have to rely on the assistance of outside entities," he said. "Meanwhile, the African church is sharing its wealth of vocations, youthful exuberance, vitality and creativity with the universal church."



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