

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time • September 28, 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



September 28, 2025  
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Luke 16:19-31

I am embarrassed to admit that I frequently find myself dining and socializing with people who have millions and sometimes billions of dollars. I've eaten more caviar, lobster and wagyu steak than most people on the planet. I justify it by saying it's part of my job. But I have seven pairs of nice jeans and expensive shoes.

So it is rather uncomfortable to hear Our Lord say: "My child, remember that you received what was good in your lifetime, while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented" (Luke 16:25). Fellow rich people (and if you're American, you're rich), do we not vehemently though quietly object to this parable's karma-esque reward system? Why bless the rich man just to curse him later? And curse Lazarus just to bless him later? So Americans go to hell, while Burundians and Afghans go to heaven? What is going on?

One clue is that the condemned rich man doesn't complain of injustice. Rather, he simply begs to help his brothers to repent. Of what? We don't know exactly. Perhaps another clue is that the rich man now seems more like the downtrodden Lazarus. He knows what it is to be hungry and thirsty, to be wounded in the gutter; that he deserved that, not fancy meals and clothes. Maybe the rich man finally understands how to receive true blessings, but it is too late for him. But not for me. Not for us.

— 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: :9:15 - 9:45 a.m.  
*St. Patrick*  
Friday: 7:15 - 7:45 a.m.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

September 29, through October 5, 2025

**St. John Parish, Independence**

Tues.	8:00 am	Clifford & Wilma Priebe
Wed.	9:30 am	Daniel Gallery (at Oak View)
Thurs.	8:30 am	Helene, Amy & Pat Weber
Sat	5:30 pm	Deceased Family Members of Herb & Christine Wendling
Sun.	10:00 am	Richard & Darlene Higgins
<b>St. Patrick Parish, Winthrop</b>		
Mon.	4:30 pm	Linda Moore
Fri.	8:00 am	Ted & Idell James
Sat	4:00 pm	Parishioners of the St. John Paul II Cluster
Sun.	8:00 am	Deceased Family Members of Herbert & Rose Weber

**Scrip Cash Table Volunteers for October**

<b>5:30 pm</b>	Deb Merfeld & Amy Holle
<b>10:00 am</b>	Shelly Reed & Jacquie McTaggart

Altar Linen Schedule: All September Luci White

**ST. JOHN PARISH, INDEPENDENCE****Saturday, 5:30 pm, October 4, 2025**

<b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b>	B Fr. Beckman	Brenda Davis	Scott Kleve
	B Dc. Post	n/a	n/a
	B John Arend		
<b>Hospitality Ministers:</b>	Chuck Mazur	Taylor Simmons	
	Volunteer	Volunteer	
<b>Lector:</b>	Jodi Grover		
<b>Altar Servers:</b>	Skarlett Johnson	Connor Holle	n/a
<b>Music:</b>	Bonnie O'Brien	Julie Weber	
<b>Sunday, 10:00 am, October 5, 2025</b>			
<b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b>	B Fr. Beckman	Ron Michael	Debbie Michael
	B Dc. Post	n/a	n/a
	B Andrea Sauser		
<b>Hospitality Ministers:</b>	Molly Greenley	Robert Butters	Deb Milbach
	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
<b>Lector:</b>	Donna Nabholz		
<b>Altar Servers:</b>	Reagan Sauser	Alayna Svoboda	n/a
<b>Music:</b>	Bonnie O'Brien	Jubilee Choir	
<b>Rosary Ministry:</b>	Linda Bagby		

**ST. PATRICK PARISH, WINTHROP****Saturday, 4:00 pm, October 4, 2025**

<b>Eucharistic Ministers :</b>	B Fr. Beckman	Kim Naber
<b>Eucharistic Ministers :</b>	W n/a	
<b>Hospitality Ministers*:</b>	Dave Flexsenhar	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>	Dave & Mary Beth Flexsenhar	
<b>Altar Servers:</b>	Lilly Hansen	Volunteer
<b>Music:</b>	St. Patrick Choir	
<b>Sunday, 8:00 am, October 5, 2025</b>		
<b>Eucharistic Ministers :</b>	B Fr. Beckman	Greg/Michelle Schmitt
<b>Eucharistic Ministers :</b>	W n/a	
<b>Hospitality Ministers*:</b>	Gary Fank	Volunteer
	*Ushers - Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to Mass to greet people as they walk into church	
<b>Lector:</b>	Greg Schmitt	
<b>Gift Bearers:</b>	Volunteers	
<b>Altar Servers:</b>	Caitlyn Dierks	Volunteer
<b>Music:</b>	St. Patrick Choir	
<b>Monday, September 29, 2025</b>		
<b>Collection Counters:</b>	Sharon Moroney	Susie Stafford

**THE WEEK AHEAD**Monday, September 29, 2025**Nothing listed on schedule/calendar**Tuesday, September 30, 2025**Nothing listed on schedule/calendar**Wednesday, October 1, 2025**Mass:** Oak View, 9:30 am (for Daniel Gallery)**St. John Religious Education:** Grades 1-6, 3:30 pm  
Grades 7-10, 6:30 pm**St. Patrick Religious Education:** Grades 1-9, 7:00 pmThursday, October 2, 2025**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Cluster Office, 10:00 am**Board of Education:** SJS, 6:00 pmFriday, October 3, 2025**Confessions at St. Patrick:** 7:15 - 7:45 am, before Mass**SJS Early Dismissal:** 1:00 pm for Professional DevelopmentSaturday, October 4, 2025**Confessions at St. Patrick's:** 3:15 - 3:45 pm, before MassSunday, October 5, 2025**Confessions at St. John:** 9:15 - 9:45 am, before Mass

Cemetery Walkers - Sept. 16-30 McCardle Family

**Readings for the week of September 28, 2025**

Sunday:	Am 6:1a, 4-7/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 (1b)/1 Tm 6:11-16/Lk 16:19-31
Monday:	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12ab/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5/Jn 1:47-51
Tuesday:	Zec 8:20-23/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 9:51-56
Wednesday:	Neh 2:1-8/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6/Lk 9:57-62
Thursday:	Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12 (458)/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 18:1-5, 10
Friday:	Bar 1:15-22/Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9/Lk 10:13-16
Saturday:	Bar 4:5-12, 27-29/Ps 69:33-35, 36-37/Lk 10:17-24
Next Sunday:	Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14/Lk 17:5-10

**Cluster Finances**

St. John For Sunday, September 21, 2025

Budget Envelopes	\$5,633.00
Offertory	\$491.45
EFT donations for the month are:	\$5,760.00
Needed Weekly to Meet Expenses	\$11,814.00

**Last week we were short \$5,689.55 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 21, 2025

Budget Envelopes	\$1,233.00
Offertory	\$330.00
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.

## Prayer for Priests



Lord God, most holy,  
we approach you in gratitude for your holy  
ordained priesthood.  
You have called these men to be set apart  
and to shepherd your people,  
as you shepherd your entire church.  
We pray for them in their daily work.  
Grant to them an increase in spiritual gifts and grace,  
so they may be prepared for the tasks at hand.  
Lead them not into temptation  
and protect them from the grasp of the evil one.  
It is through the sacraments they confer  
that we encounter the divine in a real and profound way.  
May your church never lose sight of these,  
your special sons, and may we, the body of Christ,  
never fail to cherish the gift of their lives,  
which they have freely given to you and your holy church.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son.  
Amen.



## 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.

### Mass Schedule Change

On Saturday, October 11th, only one Mass will be offered, as Father Beckman will be out on vacation. Father Paul will hold a 4:00 pm Mass at St. John's in Independence. There will be no Saturday evening Mass at St. Patrick's on October 11th.



## St. John Cemetery Fall Clean Up

It is once again that time of the year for all flowers, decorations, and ornaments to be removed from St. John Cemetery. Please have all items removed by the end of October. Christmas decorations are permitted after Thanksgiving but must be removed by April 1. We thank you for your cooperation.

The Cemetery Board would also like to thank all the "walking" volunteers that helped with clean up over the summer. Your time and attention to the cemetery are greatly appreciated.

## ~~Archdiocesan Events~~



### 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!

## 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 February 13-15, 2026 both in Dubuque, Iowa. Sign up soon as space is limited.



**Remember in prayer:** Eileen Barreca, Cindy Krempegs, Kari Magsamen Eddy, Chris Nelson, Barb Weber, Marlys Fischels,

Mary Crawford Compean, Tom Breckler, Jim Welsh - as well as Farmers and Truckers

## ~~AREA EVENTS~~

### Monti Sunday Fun Day

Sunday September 28 - 1-4 pm

Music by: Darrell, Karen, and Connie

\$5.00 Cover Charge

Serving: Pork Loin and Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Chips, Bars, Beer, Wine, Lemonade and Water

### 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

### Immaculate Conception - Gilbertville

## HARVESTFEST - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2025

**BREAKFAST** at St. Mary Center, All you can eat, 8:00 a.m. - noon. Menu includes: Ham, Sausage, Scrambled Eggs, Hash Browns, Cinnamon/Caramel Rolls, Coffee, Milk, and Juice. Price: Adults, \$12; Children 4-10, \$6, Under 4, free

**ACTIVITIES** at St. Mary Center between 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. include Silent Auction, Bake Sale, Craft Sale, Used Book & Puzzle Sale, and Children's Games. Raffle drawing at 12:30 p.m.

The Silent Auction is always a big draw. This year features a \$700 Gift Certificate Bundle, a half of a half Angus beef, and much, much more!

# School News

## PTO INFORMATION:

The St. John School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is a very active part of our school. The PTO help provide a wide variety of support for our school. Please click on the link for information about our St. John School PTO, learn about the TREMENDOUS things they do for our school, staff, students, and some more opportunities to get involved. If you are not a member of the PTO, please consider joining to help us help your student.

## 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! Please click on this treat form to get registered.

## 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>



## From the Desk of Fr. Beckman:

As we enter into October this week, we enter into the final month of our year-long-remembrance of the 50th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Fr. Ray Herman. The exact date of his martyrdom is October 20th. This year it falls on a Monday and we have invited Archbishop Thomas Zinkula to preside at an 8:30 a.m. Mass which our St. John's School children will also attend instead of their normal Thursday morning Mass. We have focused on this event throughout the year. I want to thank the St. John's Rosary Society for planning and organizing the Mike Reick's Chicken Basket Luncheon we held last Sunday, and the St. John's Social Concerns Committee for putting together the Fr. Ray Herman display and book markers. Thanks to the Reiff Family Center for their donation of the Fr. Ray Herman placemats. We also had several people who watched the "Cigar Box Ray" DVD after the luncheon, after the weekend Masses last Lent, as well as the junior high school children at St. Benedicts in Decorah and St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School in Ossian.

We also wanted to do special collections for the poor and needy in Buchanan County and for our Sister parish in Anse Fleur Haiti, \$10,620.00, in order to honor Fr. Ray Herman's 50th Anniversary of Martyrdom. During this past year of 2025, we did a special collection for One Another in order to serve the poor and needy in our local community collecting just over \$13,000.00. We collected another \$6,000.00 + for the Independence Area Food Pantry in addition to personal care items and hams and turkeys for the holidays.

And so, this last month of our remembrance I would like to focus a special need of helping our local Food Pantry purchase meat packages. According to Jan, the manager at the Food Pantry, this has become a big need for families and she has had to purchase a lot of meat in order to provide for the requests from the Food Pantry clients. In watching the "Cigar Box Ray" DVD, a priest who went to visit Fr. Ray in Bolivia 50 years ago, commented about a stew that they were invited to take part in which was cooked by a grandmother in an adobe hut. In the stew were potatoes, peas, onions, and small pieces of meat. When they asked what kind of meat was in the stew the grandmother responded: "There are two kinds guinea pig and dog." In Haiti the delicacy is goat. So, I would like to encourage you to make a donation to the Food Pantry this October so that we can purchase meat packages such as beef, pork, and chicken for our clients and their families. Thanks for your past generosity and for that yet to come, especially in this special year of remembering the 50th Anniversary of Fr. Ray Herman's martyrdom. May he rest in peace+ and may his memory be for a blessing as we continue to serve the poor in his name.

*Fr. David Beckman*

## Stewardship Quotes

The sin of the rich man in today's parable was not that he was rich, but that he failed to share his wealth with the beggar at his gate. He knew Lazarus, perhaps walked by him every time he came in or out, but did nothing to relieve his suffering. Is there a Lazarus in my life? What am I doing to help?



## St. John Scrip Voucher

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**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.



## **Journey in Faith**

The Archdiocese of Dubuque continues its Journey in Faith, an invitation to renewal and growth for parish life. Based on survey responses from more than 22,000 parishioners and additional parish data, proposed pastorate models have been prepared to encourage prayer, listening, and dialogue. You can view these proposed models at [dbqjourneyinfaith.org](http://dbqjourneyinfaith.org).

This September, parishioners were invited to attend one of 34 Regional Journey in Faith Information Sessions. The next step will be our local parish meetings.

**St. John's Parish** will be hosting local meetings on Sunday, October 5th, after the 10:00 am Mass and on Sunday, November 9th, after the 10:00 am Mass.

**St. Patrick's Parish** will be hosting local meetings on Wednesday, October 1st, at 7:00 pm and on Tuesday, November 4th, at 7:00 pm.

These sessions will provide opportunities for listening and input. Please plan to attend. Additional resources and online feedback opportunities are available at [dbqjourneyinfaith.org](http://dbqjourneyinfaith.org).

### **What are these meetings?**

Each parish will be holding two local input sessions for parishioners about the Journey in Faith process and proposed models for their parish. These meetings are a follow up to the information released on September 2nd and the regional meeting #1 which was held in 34 locations throughout the archdiocese in September.

### **When and where are the meetings?**

Every parish in the archdiocese will be hosting meeting #2 from late September through October and meeting #3 from late October through November 15th. Please see the dates and times listed above.

### **What is the difference between meeting #2 and meeting #3?**

Parish Session #2 offers parishioners the chance to reflect on and engage in discussion on the strengths and challenges of each model, sharing their own experiences and insights while also listening to the perspectives of others.

Parish Session #3 invites parishioners to look ahead and reflect on "where do we feel called to belong in a pastorate", creating space to consider the proposed models, share new ideas and models, and discern together the future of our parish communities.

### **How can I prepare for these meetings?**

- ✓ Spend time in prayer, especially invoking the Holy Spirit for guidance and wisdom.
- ✓ Review the FAQs, maps, and other resources found at [dbqjourneyinfaith.org](http://dbqjourneyinfaith.org).
- ✓ Consider what your thoughtful verbal feedback will be at the meetings concerning the proposed pastorate models and other ideas/suggestions you want to share.
- ✓ Submit feedback and questions via the feedback form on the website through November 21st or take written letters to your parish office to be uploaded for you.

### **Why should I attend?**

Journey in Faith is about setting forth a course to have vibrant and sustainable parishes focused on evangelization for the next 25+ years. This is your opportunity to be engaged and offer valuable feedback and information which will be considered prior to decisions being made by Archbishop Zinkula in the Spring of 2026.

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