

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time • November 16, 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



November 16, 2025

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 21:5-19

When I was a kid growing up in New England, I'd occasionally go on a whale watch. Once we went out with calm waters and clear skies. But on the way back in, the sea got rough. I was just a kid, and I remember thinking we should turn left or right toward the shoreline I could see. But the pilot of the boat kept going straight — right into the waves — focused on a small, discouragingly distant lighthouse. Even when it flickered in and out of sight, he stayed the course. He knew where he was going.

That image comes to mind when I hear Jesus' words in today's Gospel regarding false messiahs: "Do not follow them" (Luke 21:8). In times of chaos or uncertainty, there are always voices offering easier routes, promising false safety, claiming to speak for God. But Jesus isn't found in the loudest voice or the nearest shoreline. He is steady, like a lighthouse in the storm.

The tribulation of which Jesus speaks — it's real. It happened to the Temple, it happened to him, it happens in the Church, and it will come to each of us. But the command is not to panic. It's to endure. To keep steering toward him. Faith isn't about having all the answers or dodging every wave. It's about knowing where the lighthouse is — and trusting it enough to keep going, especially when false safety beckons us to stop.

— Father John Muir

©LPi

WEEKEND MASSES:

St. John the Evangelist
Saturday: 5:30 p.m. Sunday: 10:00 a.m.
St. Patrick
Saturday: 4:00 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.

Stewardship Quotes

Today's readings paint a somewhat frightening picture of the end of time. But the Gospel ends with the assurance to faithful stewards that those who persevere will be saved.

MASS INTENTIONS

November 17, through November 23, 2025

St. John Parish, Independence

Tues.	8:00 am	Dorothy Jack
Wed.	9:30 am	Fr. Paul Peters (at Prairie Hills)
Thurs.	8:30 am	Wallace & Doris Schultz
Sat	5:30 pm	Kenneth P. Weber
Sun.	10:00 am	Bob & Louis Fischels
St. Patrick Parish, Winthrop		
Mon.	4:30 pm	Fr. Vorwald
Fri.	8:00 am	Dennis Sperflage
Sat	4:00 pm	Dr. AJ, Julie, & John Murphy
Sun.	8:00 am	Parishioners of the St. John Paul II Cluster

Scrip Cash Table Volunteers for November 22/23

5:30 pm	Joan Wieland & Brenda Davis
10:00 am	Monica House & Jessie Doyle

ST. JOHN PARISH, INDEPENDENCE**Saturday, 5:30 pm, November 22, 2025**

Eucharistic Ministers:	B: Fr. Beckman	Chuck Mazur
Hospitality Ministers:	C: Dc. Post	Mike Finnegan
Lector:	Taylor Simmons	Chuck Mazur
Altar Servers:	Volunteer	Volunteer
Music:	Greg Gates	Volunteer
	Graden Gruman	Bryson Nicolas
	Shelly Reck	Julie Weber

Sunday, 10:00 am, November 23, 2025

Eucharistic Ministers:	B: Fr. Beckman	Monica House
Hospitality Ministers:	C: Dc. Post	Kurt House
Lector:	Deb Merfeld	Mark Merfeld
Altar Servers:	Volunteer	Volunteer
Music:	Brenda Corkery	Robert Butters
	Bennett Clark	Regan Sauser
	Bonnie O'Brien	Jubilee Choir

Rosary Ministry: Linda Bagby

ST. PATRICK PARISH, WINTHROP**Saturday, 4:00 pm, November 22, 2025**

Eucharistic Ministers :	B Fr. Beckman	Jess Flexsenhar
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:	Tricia Zhiss	
Gift Bearers:	Dave & Mary Beth Flexsenhar	
Altar Servers:	Addie Flexsenhar	Volunteer
Music:	St. Patrick Choir	

Sunday, 8:00 am, November 23, 2025

Eucharistic Ministers :	B: Fr. Beckman	Kim Naber
Eucharistic Ministers :	C: n/a	
Hospitality Ministers*:	Gary Fank	Volunteer
*Ushers - Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to Mass to greet people as they walk into church		
Lector:	Megan Cocking	
Gift Bearers:	Dean & Lola Baragary	
Altar Servers:	Kaleb Naber	Volunteer
Music:	St. Patrick Choir	

Monday, November 17, 2025

Collection Counters: Sharon Moroney Susie Stafford

THE WEEK AHEADMonday, November 17, 2025**Nothing listed on schedule/calendar**Tuesday, November 18, 2025**Nothing listed on schedule/calendar**Wednesday, November 19, 2025**Mass:** Prairie Hills, 9:30 am (for Fr. Paul Peters)**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, November 20, 2025**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Cluster Office, 10:00 amFriday, November 21, 2025**Confessions at St. Patrick:** 7:15 - 7:45 am, before Mass**SJS Early Dismissal:** 1:00 pm for Professional DevelopmentSaturday, November 22, 2025**Confessions at St. Patrick's:** 3:15 - 3:45 pm, before MassSunday, November 23, 2025**Confessions at St. John:** 9:15 - 9:45 am, before Mass**Altar Linen Schedule:** All November Mary Lou Shonka**Readings for the week of November 16, 2025**

Sunday:	Mal 3:19-20a/Ps 98:5-6, 7-8, 9 (see 9)/2 Thes 3:7-12/Lk 21:5-19
Monday:	1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63/Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158/Lk 18:35-43
Tuesday:	2 Mc 6:18-31/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 19:1-10
Wednesday:	2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b and 15/Lk 19:11-28
Thursday:	1 Mc 2:15-29/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15/Lk 19:41-44
Friday:	1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11abc, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Lk 19:45-48
Saturday:	1 Mc 6:1-13/Ps 9:2-3, 4 and 6, 16 and 19/Lk 20:27-40
Next Sunday:	2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5 (see 1)/Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43

Cluster Finances

St. John For Sunday, November 9, 2025

Budget Envelopes	\$8,582.55
Offertory	\$362.00
EFT donations for the month are:	\$5,760.00
Needed Weekly to Meet Expenses	\$11,814.00

Last week we were short \$2,869.45 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

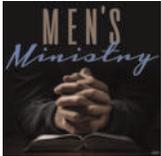
St. Patrick For Sunday, November 9, 2025

Budget Envelopes	\$1,385.00
Offertory	\$322.00
EFT donations for the month are:	\$880.00
Needed Weekly to Meet Expenses	\$3,376.00



Operation Threshold Crisis & Utility Assistance Needed

Operation Threshold provides financial assistance to households facing crisis situations such as utility disconnection, emergency fuel deliveries, air conditioning repair (homeowners only) and furnace repair/replacement and they need financial assistance currently. Please contact Donna at the Buchanan County location at 319-334-6081 or send your donation to them directly at
Operation Threshold, 105 – 2nd Ave NE, Independence, IA 50644



Men of the St. John Paul II Cluster

Once again we will be having our annual Advent Men's group. This year we will be reflecting on the life of St. Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus, and how his actions can be modeled in our own lives as a husband, father and friend. We will be using the book, "St. Joseph, Tender Father," His life and his care for us today from the author, Louise Perrotta. You can order this book on your own from Amazon, or from The Word Among Us Press. We will start our four week journey on Monday evening December 1st from 6:30pm until 7:30pm at the Parish Office. Please read chapter 1 for our first discussion and reflection. Call Polly at the parish office to sign up as we prepare to invite Jesus into our homes at Christmas.

~~Archdiocesan Events~~



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!



Totus Tuus Missionaries Needed

Do you know any college age men and women from your parishes who would be great role models for younger Catholics? The Archdiocese is looking for college-aged disciples of Jesus to serve on teams with other men and women like them during the summer of 2026. Totus Tuus missionaries serve parishes across the Archdiocese throughout the summer leading songs, teaching, performing skits, and sharing witness talks with the children and youth of the Archdiocese. This is a paid position with training and most expenses provided during the summer. Please encourage anyone who would be excellent at this to apply.

General information about Totus Tuus can be found at www.dbqarch.org/Totus-Tuus. Application information can be found at <https://dbqarch.org/2026-totus-tuus-missionary-application-information>. Please contact Joanne Pohland (j.pohland@dbqarch.org) with any questions.

Communal Anointing will take place at Masses this weekend November 15/16



During the Holidays the Cluster Office will be closed on:

Thursday, November 27 - Thanksgiving
Friday, November 28 – Thanksgiving

Holiday Day & Holy Day Mass Schedule:

Thanksgiving:

Thursday, November 27

St. John's @ 9:00 am

No Mass on Friday, November 28 @ St. Patrick's

Immaculate Conception:

Monday, December 8

St. John's @ 8:30 am / St. Patrick's @ 4:30 pm



SP Trim A Tree project

St. Patrick's Social Concerns Committee again invites you to participate in our Trim A Tree project. If you would like to be a part of this giving project, simply take an ornament from the tree, purchase the gift listed, attach the ornament tag to the UNWRAPPED gift and place it back under the tree. The gifts all need to be back by Mass on Sunday Dec. 13th. Everyone has been extremely generous in the past and we sincerely hope for your support again this year to help those locally in our community. We will have our tree up for the weekend of Nov 22/23rd.



SJ Giving Tree

The "Giving Tree" will be in the front of church on November 30th. We will begin collecting items for 2 families in Buchanan County through Operation Threshold. Please take an ornament, or two, off the tree and return your gift with the ornament attached by Sunday, December 21. Please wrap the gifts or place in a gift bag! Thank you!



St. John Cemetery - Mowing Bids for 2026

St. John Cemetery (located behind the fairgrounds in Independence) is now taking bids for lawn care services for 2026. If you are interested, please contact Fr. David Beckman or Polly Barreto at 319.334.7191 or email at dbq106sec@dbqarch.org. We will be accepting bids until January 30, 2026.



Remember in prayer: Eileen Barreca, Cindy Kremppes, Kari Magsamen Eddy, Barb Weber, Marlys Fischels, Mary Crawford Compean, Tom Breckler, Jim Welsh, Eileen Welsh, Lakyn Pomaville - as well as Elected Officials



We are in need of volunteers to help sell scrip before and after Mass. This is an easy way to give back to the school and church and takes about 45 minutes of your time (30 minutes before Mass and 15-20 minutes after Mass) about once a month. The current scrip sellers will happily train you on this volunteer opportunity. Please notify Brenda Davis at 319-327-2574 or Mr Hupke at St John school to ask any questions or get added to the scrip schedule! Thank you for giving of your time!

School News



Congratulations to the October Students of the Month of :

Left to right:
Ryan Woods 5th grade
Natalie White 8th grade
Harrison Campbell Kindergarten

Lunch Balances:

Please check your PowerSchool account and see if you need to send some money to school or Pay online by going to the school website under Parents/Lunch section and click on the Square link.

SJS on Facebook!

Check us out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088497703727>

Weather Reminder:

With the weather starting to get colder, please make sure your child/children come to school with a coat, hat, and mittens each day. We'll be going outside for recess as long as the weather allows, and we want everyone to stay warm and comfortable.

Just a friendly reminder that AA and Alanon meetings are held at St. John's. If you are struggling with an addiction you are most welcome to attend the AA meetings held on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday evenings at 7:00 p.m., as well as Tuesday at noon in the St. John's church hall. If you need support because of a family member who suffers from an addiction, the Alanon group meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 in the church office meeting room. You are most welcome.



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://stjohnstpat.org>



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



Journey in Faith

Feedback is Needed for Journey in Faith

The online feedback form is available until November 21st. Family members and neighbors are encouraged to assist parishioners who do not have access to a computer or mobile device so their feedback can be shared if they are unable to attend a session 2 and/or 3. Those who prefer not to use technology may also mail written feedback to Pastoral Planning, 1229 Mount Loretta Avenue, Dubuque, IA 52003.

How will I know my feedback was received?

We value your feedback and want to make sure we hear from as many people as we can. When you submit your feedback through dbqjourneyinfaith.org, you will receive an email response indicating the Journey in Faith Core Team has received it. Because of the volume of submissions we expect to receive, we will not be able to personally respond to all submissions. Be assured that your response will be read by the Journey in Faith Core Team and considered, with all the other feedback received and collected, as the Archbishop discerns the future of the Archdiocese of Dubuque.



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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

Cluster Website:

<https://stjohnstpat.org>

WEEKDAY MASSES:

See Mass Schedule Page 1

WEEKEND MASSES:

St. John the Evangelist - 97.1 FM

Saturday: 5:30 pm

Sunday: 10:00 am

St. Patrick - 97.3 FM

Saturday: 4:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am

RECONCILIATION:

St. John the Evangelist

Sunday: 9:15 - 9:45 am

St. Patrick

Friday: 7:15 - 7:45 am

Saturday: 3:15 - 3:45 pm

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:

Continued from last week..., **This week the final 5 principles of Catholic Social Teaching:**

•**Catholic Teaching on Solidarity:** We are one human family. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. Pope John Paul II insists, "We are all really responsible for all." Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that "if you want peace, work for justice." The Gospel calls us to be "peacemakers." Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we be "sentinels of peace" in a world wounded by violence and conflict. —USCCB Administrative Committee, *Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility*, p. 15

•**Catholic Teaching on the Dignity of Work:** The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's act of creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers, owners, and others must be respected—the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and choose to join a union, to economic initiative, and to ownership and private property. These rights must be exercised in ways that *advance the common good*. —USCCB Administrative Committee, *Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility*, p. 15

•**Catholic Teaching on Rights and Responsibilities:** Every person has a fundamental right to life—the right that makes all other rights possible. Each person also has a right to the conditions for living a decent life—faith and family life, food and shelter, education and employment, health care and housing. We also have a duty to secure and respect these rights not only for ourselves, but for others, and to fulfill our responsibilities to our families, to each other, and to the larger society. —USCCB Administrative Committee, *Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility*, p. 14

•**Catholic Teaching on the Option for the Poor and Vulnerable:** Scripture teaches that God has a special concern for the poor and vulnerable. The Church calls on all of us to embrace this preferential option for the poor and vulnerable, to embody it in our lives, and to work to have it shape public policies and priorities. A fundamental measure of our society is how we care for and stand with the poor and vulnerable. —USCCB Administrative Committee, *Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility*, p. 15

•**Catholic Teaching on Caring for God's Creation:** The world that God created has been entrusted to us. Our use of it must be directed by God's plan for creation, not simply for our own benefit. Our stewardship of the Earth is a form of participation in God's act of creating and sustaining the world. In our use of creation, we must be guided by a concern for generations to come. We show our respect for the Creator by our care for creation. —USCCB Administrative Committee, *Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility*, p. 15



St. John Paul II Cluster- Winter Weather Policy

If there is a 2 hour delay at either Independence or East Buchanan schools, there will be **NO** Mass on that particular day! Please check for announcements on the radio, television, or our Facebook pages to be informed.



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