

3rd Sunday of Advent • December 14, 2025

St. John Paul II Cluster

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

IN JOY,
WE WAIT



MASS INTENTIONS

December 15, through December 21, 2025

St. John Parish, Independence

Tues.	8:00 am	Colleen Grover
Wed.	9:30 am	Alice Elsblend (at Prairie Hills)
Thurs.	8:30 am	Vince & Betty Keneally
Sat	5:30 pm	Francis & Clara Toale
Sun.	10:00 am	Richard & Darlene Higgins
St. Patrick Parish, Winthrop		
Mon.	4:30 pm	Gilbert Gibbs
Fri.	8:00 am	Dorothy Jack
Sat	4:00 pm	Joe, Helen & Fuzzy O'Loughlin
Sun.	8:00 am	Parishioners of the St. John Paul II Cluster

Scrip Cash Table Volunteers for December 20/21**5:30 pm** Joan Wieland & Brenda Davis**10:00 am** Monica House & Jessie Doyle**ST. JOHN PARISH, INDEPENDENCE****Saturday, 5:30 pm, December 20, 2025**

Eucharistic Ministers:	B: Fr. Beckman	Scott Kleve	
	C: Dc. Post	Brenda Davis	
Hospitality Ministers:	John Evers	Taylor Simmons	
	Volunteer	Volunteer	
Lector:	Connie Weber		
Altar Servers:	Skarlett Johnson	Graden Gruman	n/a
Music:	Karen Kremer	Julie Weber	

Sunday, 10:00 am, December 21, 2025

Eucharistic Ministers:	B: Fr. Beckman	Ron Hearn	
	C: Dc. Post	Linda Bagby	
Hospitality Ministers:	Kelli Frisch	Pat Mahoney	Mary Wells
	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Lector:	Brenda Corkery		
Altar Servers:	Lucy Flanders	Bennett Clark	n/a
Music:	Bonnie O'Brien	Jubilee Choir	
Rosary Ministry:	Joan O'Loughlin-Good		

ST. PATRICK PARISH, WINTHROP**Saturday, 4:00 pm, December 20, 2025**

Eucharistic Ministers :	B Fr. Beckman	Don Sperfslage
Eucharistic Ministers :	W n/a	
Hospitality Ministers*:	Don Sperfslage	Volunteer
*Ushers - Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to Mass to greet people as they walk into church		
Lector:	Becky Peyton	
Gift Bearers:	Volunteers	
Altar Servers:	Lilly Hansen	Volunteer
Music:	St. Patrick Choir	

Sunday, 8:00 am, December 21, 2025

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

Monday, December 15, 2025**Collection Counters:** Annette Slattery Mary Beth Flexsenhar**Vocation Blurb**

"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Matthew 11:2-3) John's question invites us to seek Christ's presence in our lives. If you feel a spark of joy in serving others, God might be calling you to the priesthood or consecrated life, sharing His healing love as a shepherd. Listen closely to His voice. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at dbqcv@dbqarch.org.

THE WEEK AHEADMonday, December 15, 2025**Advent Men's Group:** Cluster Office, 6:30 pm**Advent Women's Group:** Post Residence, 6:30 pmTuesday, December 16, 2025**Nothing listed on schedule/calendar**Wednesday, December 17, 2025**Mass:** Prairie Hills, 9:30 am (for AliceElsblend)**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, December 18, 2025**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Cluster Office, 10:00 amFriday, December 19, 2025**Confessions at St. Patrick:** 7:15 - 7:45 am, before Mass**SJS Early Dismissal:** 1:00 pm for Professional DevelopmentSaturday, December 20, 2025**Confessions at St. Patrick's:** 3:15 - 3:45 pm, before MassSunday, December 21, 2025**Confessions at St. John:** 9:15 - 9:45 am, before Mass**Altar Linen Schedule:** All December Debbie Michael**Readings for the week of December 14, 2025**

Sunday:	Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
Monday:	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday:	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17
Thursday:	Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
Friday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
Saturday:	Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
Next Sunday:	Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Cluster Finances

Because of an early publication deadline for the holiday, Collection and Budget figures are not available.

EFT Opportunities....

We have many ways you can contribute to your individual parish. Besides bringing your envelope to church or mailing it to our office, you can consider automatic withdrawal from a checking or savings account. This option is available for both St. John's and St. Patrick's. If you are interested in EFT (Electronic Fund Transfer), please contact the parish office at 319-334-7191.



**Next Sunday, December 21,
is Food Pantry Sunday.
Please be generous.**



New to the Area-- Welcome to the St. John Paul II Cluster!

We are delighted that you've joined us for worship during this great season, and we hope that you'll return to pray with us often.

As a church community, St. John's and St. Patrick's, we offer lots of services to our members in addition to our weekly worship. If you have moved into the area or are now an adult with your own household, we invite you to become a member. Feel free to call the cluster office at 319-344-7191 if you would like to join, or have questions about our parishes.

~~Archdiocesan Events~~



Walk Together in Hope This Advent

As the Church continues its Advent journey, all are invited to grow closer to Christ through daily prayer and reflection. The Archdiocese of Dubuque is sharing short Advent meditations each day on social media to help hearts prepare for the coming of the Lord.

This season's reflections highlight saints who show us how to live in faith and love— St. Francis Xavier's zeal for mission, Mary's trust in God, St. Nicholas's generosity and St. Juan Diego's humble peace.

Rejoice—the Lord is near! Let these reflections renew your spirit and remind you that Christ is our light.

Follow the Archdiocese of Dubuque on Facebook, Instagram, or X (@DBQArch) for daily inspiration throughout Advent.

Registration Now Open! Archdiocesan Women's Conference: Beauty in Christ: Grace for the Journey

Saturday, January 31, 2026

Time: 8:00 AM to 1:30 PM (Time is tentative)



The theme of this year's virtual conference is "Grace for the Journey" and will include keynote presentations by Kitty Cleveland and Kelsey Kaiser. It's time to start planning to host a group at your parish or cluster! A hosting packet will also be available soon.



Remember in prayer: Scott Kinseth, John O'Loughlin, Pete Ciesielski, Vickie Schultz - as well as Religious Men and Women

Holiday Day Masses

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Christmas Eve: Wednesday, December 24

St. Patrick's - 4:00 pm

St. John's – 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Christmas Day: Thursday, December 25

St. Patrick's – 8:00 am / St. John's – 10:00 am

Mass will not be offered on Friday, December 26.

New Years Eve Day: Wednesday, December 31

St. Patrick's - 4:00 pm

New Years Day: Thursday, January 1

St. John's – 9:00 am



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. 14th. 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.



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!



Financial Books Closing Date

The 2025 parish financial books for St. John's and St. Patrick's will close at the end of business December 31, 2025. Any donations post marked after December 31, 2025 will be applied to 2026.

During the Holidays the Cluster Office will be closed on:

Wednesday, December 24

Thursday, December 25

Thursday, January 1, 2026



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.

THANK YOU!

The Independence Area Food Pantry has received many blessings. We truly appreciate all that were donated to help our mission to fight hunger in our communities.

St. Johns Elementary school donated 20 lbs of produce and 42.8 lbs of food.

St. Johns Catholic Church donated 88.3 lbs of produce, 324.7 lbs of food, 16.3 lbs of non food and \$3619.03

St Patrick's donated 11.1 lbs produce and \$305

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.

SJS on Facebook!

Check us out on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088497703727>

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**From the Desk of Fr. Beckman:**

The Advent season has typically been associated with what is known as the seven (7) "O" Antiphons. These short verses are sung before the Magnificat during Evening Prayer of the Church on the seven days before the vigil of Christmas. They each begin with the exclamation "O!"

Each of them ends with a plea for the Messiah to come. As Christmas approaches the cry becomes more urgent.

The antiphons were composed in the 20+ seventh or eighth century when monks put together texts from the Old Testament that looked forward to the coming of our salvation. They form a rich mosaic of scriptural images. They became very popular in the Middle Ages. While the monastic choirs sang the antiphons the bells of the church were rung.

A curious feature of these antiphons is that the first letter of each invocation may be taken from the Latin to form an acrostic in reverse. So, the first letters of Sapientia, Adonai, Radix, Clavis, Oriens, Rex, and Emmanuel, provide the Latin words: ERO CRAS. The phrase spells out the response of Christ himself to the heartfelt prayer of his people: "Tomorrow, I will be there."

1. O Wisdom (*Sapientia*), holy Word of God, announced by the prophets.
2. O Sacred Lord (*Adonai*), shepherd of the house of Israel, who guides your people.
3. O Flower of Jesse's stem (*Radix*), you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples.
4. O Key of David (*Clavis*), royal scepter of the house of Israel.
5. O Rising Sun (*Oriens*), splendor of eternal light and sun of justice.
6. O King of Nations (*Rex*), expectation of peoples and cornerstone of the Church.
7. O Emmanuel (*Emmanuel*), king and hope of nations and savior of all people.

December 17th: O Wisdom, you come forth from the mouth of the Most-High. You fill the universe and hold all things together in a strong yet gentle manner. O come to teach us the way of truth (Isaiah 11:2-3 and 28:29 and Sirach 24:2-3 and Wisdom 8:1).

December 18th: O Lord and Leader of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of a burning bush and you gave him the Law on Sinai. O come and save us with your mighty power (Isaiah 11:4-5; 33:22 and Exodus 3:2; 20:1; 6:6).

December 19th: O Root of Jesse, you stand as a signal for the nations; kings fall silent before you whom the peoples acclaim. O come to deliver us, and do not delay (Isaiah 11:1-3; 11:10; 52:13-15 and 53:2).

December 20th: O Key of David and scepter of Israel, what you open no one else can close again; what you close no one can open. O come to lead the captive from prison; free those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death (Isaiah 9:6; 22:22 and 42:6-7 and Revelation 3:7 and Psalm 107:10, 14).

December 21st: O Rising Sun, you are the splendor of eternal light and the sun of justice. O come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death (Isaiah 9:1; Malachi 3:20; Psalm 19:6-7 and 2Peter 1:19).

December 22nd: O King whom all the peoples desire, you are the cornerstone that makes all one. O come and save humankind whom you made from clay (Isaiah 2:4; 9:5; 28:16; and Psalm 2: 7-8; Ephesians 2:14-20; Jeremiah 10:7).

December 23rd: O Emmanuel, you are our king and judge, the One whom the peoples await and their Savior. O come and save us, Lord our God (Isaiah 7:14 and 33:22).

Come Lord, come Lord Jesus, and set your people free!

Fr. David

*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.



**Celebrate the Birthday of Jesus!
Make our Worship space overflow with
loving gifts in His honor.
Remember Your Loved One**

At St. Patrick Parish: Donate Money to purchase flowers in memory of a loved one.

At St. John Parish: Donate a Flowering Plant, or money in memory of a loved one.

If you would like to participate in this project, please complete the form below.

If donating a plant/flower please deliver the plant/flower to the parish office by Tuesday, December 23, no later than noon! Please send in this form or put in the collection basket prior to December 22 and indicate plant to have your name on the list for the bulletin.

If donating money, the form and money can be dropped in the collection basket, mailed to the cluster office, or brought into the cluster office until Monday, December 22 by 1:00 pm. Mark the envelope "Christmas Flowers". Any leftover money will be put into a flower/environment fund to help purchase flowers or items to enhance the liturgy for the rest of the year.

We will be publicizing the names of the loved ones and who made the donation inside the bulletin. **We will need to have your name(s) to us by Monday, December 22 by 1:00 pm to be included on the insert for the Christmas bulletins.**

Please be sure to PRINT all information on the form.

There is a limit to 20 spaces/characters per line.

(Please PRINT all information)

In Loving Memory

Check Parish: St. Patrick _____ St. John _____

Type of donation: Money _____ Flower _____

In Memory of: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Memory of: _____

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