

4th Sunday of Advent • December 21, 2025

# *St. John Paul II Cluster*

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# PEACE

## BE WITH YOU



**MASS INTENTIONS**

December 22, through December 28, 2025

**St. John Parish, Independence**

Tues.	8:00 am	Dorothy Jack
Wed.	4:00 pm	Dr. John, Lorraine, & Doug Mochal
	6:00 pm	Parishioners of the St. John Paul II Cluster
Thurs.	10:00 am	Deceased Members of the O'Loughlin Family
Sat	5:30 pm	Parishioners of the St. John Paul II Cluster
Sun.	10:00 am	Deceased Members of the McCardle Family

**St. Patrick Parish, Winthrop**

Mon.	4:30 pm	Al Hotchkiss
Wed	4:00 pm	Donald & Marie Baragary
Thurs.	8:00 am	Germaine Beckman
Fri.	8:00 am	No Mass Offered
Sat	4:00 pm	Melvin Matteson
Sun.	8:00 am	Julie Jack

**ST. JOHN PARISH, INDEPENDENCE****Wednesday, 4:00 pm, December 24, 2025**

<b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b>	B: Fr. Beckman	Jean Crawford	
	C: Dc. Post	Abby Crawford	
<b>Hospitality Ministers:</b>	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
<b>Lector:</b>	Jodi Grover		
<b>Altar Servers:</b>	Koth Family	n/a	
<b>Music:</b>	Shelly Reck	Childrens Choir	

**Wednesday, 6:00 pm, December 24, 2025**

<b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b>	B: Fr. Beckman	Susan Johnson	
	C: Dc. Post	Donna Nabholz	
<b>Hospitality Ministers:</b>	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
<b>Lector:</b>	Kevin Pink		
<b>Altar Servers:</b>	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
<b>Music:</b>	Bonnie O'Brien	Jubilee Choir	

**Thursday 8:00 am, December 25, 2025**

<b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b>	B: Fr. Beckman	Volunteer	
	C: Dc. Post	Volunteer	
<b>Hospitality Ministers:</b>	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
<b>Lector:</b>	Jodi Grover		
<b>Altar Servers:</b>	Erin & Everly Thompson	n/a	
<b>Music:</b>	Bonnie O'Brien	Bill Luebbers	

**Saturday, 5:30 pm, December 27, 2025**

<b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b>	B: Fr. Beckman	Mike Finnegan	
	C: Dc. Post	Chuck Mazur	
<b>Hospitality Ministers:</b>	Volunteer	Volunteer	
	Volunteer	Volunteer	
<b>Lector:</b>	Jodi Grover		
<b>Altar Servers:</b>	Bryson Nicols	Evelyn Priebe	n/a
<b>Music:</b>	Bonnie O'Brien	Keith Wieland	

**Sunday, 10:00 am, December 28, 2025**

<b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b>	B: Fr. Beckman	Andrea Sauser	
	C: Dc. Post	Zach Boss	
<b>Hospitality Ministers:</b>	Mark Merfeld	Deb Merfeld	Mark McGarvey
	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
<b>Lector:</b>	Diane Williams		
<b>Altar Servers:</b>	Regan Sauser	Avery Jensen	n/a
<b>Music:</b>	Bonnie O'Brien	Jubilee Choir	
<b>Rosary Ministry:</b>	Joan O'Loughlin-Good		

**Scrip Cash Table Volunteers for December 27/28**

5:30 pm Deb Merfeld &amp; Amy Holle

10:00 am Joe &amp; Lisa Kremer

Altar Linen Schedule: All December Debbie Michael

**ST. PATRICK PARISH, WINTHROP****Wednesday, 4:00 pm, December 24, 2025**

<b>Eucharistic Ministers :</b>	B Fr. Beckman	Greg/Michelle Schmitt
<b>Eucharistic Ministers :</b>	W n/a	
<b>Hospitality Ministers*:</b>	Kevin Naber	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>	Kevin Naber Family	
<b>Altar Servers:</b>	Kaleb Naber	Volunteer

**Thursday 8:00 am, December 25, 2025**

<b>Eucharistic Ministers :</b>	B Fr. Beckman	Mark Gaffney
<b>Eucharistic Ministers :</b>	W n/a	
<b>Hospitality Ministers*:</b>	Mark Gaffney	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>	Dean & Lola Baragary	
<b>Altar Servers:</b>	Alice & Jacob Kunze	
<b>Music:</b>	St. Patrick Choir	

**Saturday, 4:00 pm, December , 2025**

<b>Eucharistic Ministers :</b>	B: Fr. Beckman	Jess Flexsenhar
<b>Eucharistic Ministers :</b>	W: n/a	
<b>Hospitality Ministers*:</b>	Bryan Flexsenhar	Volunteer
	*Ushers - Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to Mass to greet people as they walk into church	
<b>Lector:</b>	Tricia Zhiss	
<b>Gift Bearers:</b>	Bryan Flexsenhar Family	
<b>Altar Servers:</b>	Leo Flexsenhar	Volunteer
<b>Music:</b>	St. Patrick Choir	

**Sunday, 8:00 am, December 28, 2025**

<b>Eucharistic Ministers :</b>	B Fr. Beckman	Jessi Opitz
<b>Eucharistic Ministers :</b>	W n/a	
<b>Hospitality Ministers*:</b>	Jessi Opitz	Volunteer
	*Ushers - Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to Mass to greet people as they walk into church	
<b>Lector:</b>	Randy Takes	
<b>Gift Bearers:</b>	Volunteers	
<b>Altar Servers:</b>	Olivia Opitz	Volunteer
<b>Music:</b>	St. Patrick Choir	

**Monday, December 22, 2025**

Collection Counters: Sharon Moroney Susie Stafford

**Cluster Finances**

St. John For Sunday, December 7, 2025

Budget Envelopes	\$12,751.50
Offertory	\$194.00
EFT donations for the month are:	\$5,760.00
Needed Weekly to Meet Expenses	\$11,814.00

**Last week we were short \$0.00 to meet our operational expenses! Thank you for your generosity!**

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, December 7, 2025

Budget Envelopes	\$1,720.00
Offertory	\$179.00
EFT donations for the month are:	\$880.00
Needed Weekly to Meet Expenses	\$3,376.00

**Readings for the week of December 21, 2025**

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24  
 Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56  
 Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66  
 Wednesday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79  
 Thursday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/ Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/ Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20  
 Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14  
 Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22  
 Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
 Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 (see 1)/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

**THE WEEK AHEAD**Monday, December 22, 2025**Advent Men's Group:** Cluster Office, 6:30pmTuesday, December 23, 2025**Nothing listed on schedule/calendar**Wednesday, December 24, 2025**St. John Religious Education:** No Classes**St. Patrick Religious Education:** No ClassesThursday, December 25, 2025**Merry Christmas!**Friday, December 26, 2025**Nothing listed on schedule/calendar**Saturday, December 27, 2025**Confessions at St. Patrick's:** 3:15 - 3:45 pm, before MassSunday, December 28, 2025**Confessions at St. John:** 9:15 - 9:45 am, before Mass**~Archdiocesan Events~****Rejoice—The Lord Is Near!**

Advent reminds us that Love is coming. Love draws near. As this holy season unfolds, parishioners are encouraged to take part in the Archdiocese of Dubuque's online Advent meditations—a daily opportunity to pause, pray, and be transformed in hope.

Through the witness of the saints— Mary, St. Francis Xavier, St. Nicholas, and St. Juan Diego—the Archdiocese invites all to trust, love generously, share peace, and carry the Gospel with joy. Find joy in praying together and in the Eucharist, the source of our hope.

Join the Advent journey on social media at @DBQArch and let your heart be renewed in the light of Christ.

**Holiday Day Mass Schedule****Christmas Mass Schedule:**

Christmas Eve: Wednesday, December 24

St. Patrick's - 4:00 pm

St. John's - 4:00 pm &amp; 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

**SJ Giving Tree**

The "Giving Tree" will be in the front of church on November 30th. We are 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!

**During the Holidays the Cluster Office will be closed on:**

Wednesday, December 24

Thursday, December 25

Thursday, January 1, 2026

**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.

**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.



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

# School News



## November Students of the Month

Congratulations to:  
Sutton Hickey 1st grade  
Jaclynn Lake 3rd grade

### Scrip -

Gift Cards make great Christmas gifts! No need to worry about if its the right size, or will they like this color!! Instead of running from store-to-store, why not purchase ALL of your Gift Cards from the St. John's Scrip Program?



**Business Owners** - Looking for easy gifts for your employees, customers, or business associates this holiday season? Look at our selection of gift cards as there is something for everyone!

**Teacher Gifts** - For gifts that pass the test, look no further than Scrip Gift Cards!

**Need stocking stuffers** - Gift Cards make the perfect addition to any stocking! Check out all the affordable gift card ideas for a fun little surprise this holiday season!

**Last minute gift is needed** - Look at our selection of gift cards as there is something for everyone!

**The Cluster Office will be open on Monday, December 22 and Tuesday, December 23 from 8:00 - 5:00 if you are needing any Scrip for those last minute gifts!**



### From the Desk of Fr. Beckman:

Why do we seek God? God has placed in our hearts a longing to seek and find him. St. Augustine says, "You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." We call this longing for God, Religion.

It is natural for man to seek God. All of our striving for truth and happiness is ultimately a search for the one who supports us absolutely, satisfies us absolutely, and employs us absolutely in his service. A person is not completely himself until he has found God. "Anyone who seeks truth seeks God, whether or not he realizes it" (St. Edith Stein). As we long in joyful expectation for the fulfillment of our salvation through Jesus Christ, our Lord, may this Christmas season be a reminder of the redemption, joy and peace that the Christ child has already brought into our lives by his birth, and through his passion, death, and resurrection. We call this the Paschal Mystery, which began with his birth. I wish a **MERRY CHRISTMAS** to you and your loved ones.

May you have the Spirit of Christmas which is PEACE. The joy of Christmas which is HOPE. The heart of Christmas which is LOVE.

*Fr. David*

### May the Spirit of Christmas be yours!

May the Spirit of Advent's **prayerfulness** to which we were called by St. John the Baptist, Isaiah, and St. Nicholas bring you **peace** this holy season. May the Spirit of the angel's **awe**, the shepherd's **humility**, the **faith** of Mary, the Mother of God, and the Christ Child's **blessing** be yours this faithful season. May the Spirit of **joy** brought about by Christmas trees, luminaries, colorful ornaments, holly and mistletoe **brighten** your celebrations this joyous season. May the Spirit of **sharing** through gifts freely given and gratefully received remind us of the **gift of God's Son to the world** this charitable season. May the Spirit of the **beauty** of ancient Christmas Carols, and festive holiday songs bring you **hope and enlighten** your life of **faith** this hopeful season. May the Spirit of **adoration** of the Magi and the **wonder** of the night-time stars be yours throughout the twelve days of the Christmas season.

**Have a Blessed and Spirit-filled Christmas with the continuous birth of His LOVE in your heart and in your home throughout the New Year!**

*Fr. David Beckman (Pastor)*

### Vocation Blurp

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 21, 2025

"They shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" (Matthew 1:23) Mary's trust in God's plan is a model for all vocations. Could God be inviting you to priesthood, consecrated life, or holy matrimony, living fully for Him to bring His presence to others? Embrace His call with courage. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at [dbqcvco@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbqcvco@dbqarch.org).



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



## St. John Scrip Voucher

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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: 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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