

The Epiphany of the Lord • January 4, 2026

St. John Paul II Cluster

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
**THE WISE
STILL SEEK HIM**



MASS INTENTIONS

January 4, through January 11, 2026

St. John Parish, Independence

Tues.	8:00 am	Fr. Walter Kleinfehn
Wed.	9:30 am	Charles Werner, Sr. (at Oak View)
Thurs.	8:30 am	St. John School - Class of 1956
Sat	10:00 am	Wedding of Ken Albert & Linda Bagby
	5:30 pm	Marilyn Harberts
Sun.	10:00 am	LaVern Millard

St. Patrick Parish, Winthrop

Mon.	4:30 pm	No intention listed at the time of printing
Fri.	8:00 am	Chris Gibbs
Sat	4:00 pm	Parishioners of the St. John Paul II Cluster
Sun.	8:00 am	Deceased Members of the Slattery & Burke Families

Scrip Cash Table Volunteers for January 10/11

5:30 pm	Brenda Davis & Sharon Schares
10:00 am	Rod & Donna Nabholz

Altar Linen Schedule:	January 4 & 11	Jane Gates
	January 18 & 25	Denise Hawker

ST. JOHN PARISH, INDEPENDENCE**Saturday, 5:30 pm, January 10, 2026**

Eucharistic Ministers:	B: Fr. Beckman	Brenda Davis	
	C: Dc. Post	Mary Reed	
Hospitality Ministers:	Sharon Schares	Jeff Schares	
	Volunteer	Volunteer	
Lector:	Kevin Pink		
Altar Servers:	Skarlett Johnson	Graden Gruman	n/a
Music:	Bonnie O'Brien	Keith Wieland	

Sunday, 10:00 am, January 11, 2026

Eucharistic Ministers:	B: Fr. Beckman	Andrea Huston	
	C: Dc. Post	Kathy Post	
Hospitality Ministers:	Robert Butters	Nila Turner	Kyle Zieser
	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Lector:	Sherry Plein		
Altar Servers:	Koth Family Members		n/a
Music:	Bonnie O'Brien	Jubilee Choir	
Rosary Ministry:	Dan Crawford		

ST. PATRICK PARISH, WINTHROP**Saturday, 4:00 pm, January 10, 2026**

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

Sunday, 8:00 am, January 11, 2026

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

Monday, January 5, 2025

Collection Counters:	Annette Slattery	Mary Beth Flexsenhar
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Stewardship Quotes

Today we remember the three wise men from the East who came to pay homage to the infant Jesus, bringing Him rich gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The gifts we bring --- our time, service, and some share of what we earn for the work we do --- are equally precious in his sight.

THE WEEK AHEADMonday, January 5, 2026**Nothing listed on schedule/calendar**Tuesday, January 6, 2026**Nothing listed on schedule/calendar**Wednesday, January 7, 2026**Mass:** Oak View, 9:30 am (for Charles Werner, Sr.)**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, January 8, 2026**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Cluster Office, 10:00 am**SJS Board of Education:** St. John School, 6:00 pm**Baptism Class:** Cluster Office, 6:30 pmFriday, January 9, 2026**Confessions at St. Patrick:** 7:15 - 7:45 am, before Mass**SJS Early Dismissal:** 1:00 pm for Professional DevelopmentSaturday, January 10, 2026**Confessions at St. Patrick's:** 3:15 - 3:45 pm, before MassSunday, January 11, 2026**Confessions at St. John:** 9:15 - 9:45 am, before Mass**Readings for the week of January 4, 2026**

Sunday:	Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Monday:	1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday:	1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday:	1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52
Thursday:	1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a
Friday:	1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16
Saturday:	1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30
Next Sunday:	Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17



Just a reminder to please contact the cluster office at 319-334-7191 if you have a new address, new phone number, or have removed your landline phone.

Thank you for helping us keep our records updated.

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.

~Archdiocesan Events~

Gratitude and Hope in the New Year

As the Archdiocese of Dubuque continues its Journey in Faith, Archbishop Thomas Zinkula expresses sincere gratitude to all who have shared their hopes, concerns, and faith throughout this process.



The feedback received from parishioners across the Archdiocese is now guiding the next stage of discernment. Over the coming months, all input and parish data will be carefully reviewed. This spring, the final pastorate plan and clergy assignments will be shared.

Beginning in July 2026, each new pastorate will begin with an interim six-month Mass schedule while parishes work together to grow as communities of joyful missionary disciples, centered in the Eucharist and united in faith.

As the new year begins, Archbishop Zinkula invites everyone to see this time as one of prayer, reflection, and trust in the Holy Spirit's guidance. Questions about the process can be answered at dbqjourneyinfaith.org/faq. May this season of renewal bring peace, hope, and new opportunities for grace in the year ahead.

"9 Days for Life" Novena Jan. 16 - 24

In January, join Catholics nationwide in a novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. You can download the "9 Days for Life" novena or get the daily prayers and reflections by email or text message at respectlife.org/9-days-signup

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.



Don't Miss the 2026 Catholic Men's Conference!

Do you want to be inspired in your faith and experience fellowship with other men? Are you looking to grow in your prayer life? You're invited to the 30th Annual Archdiocese of Dubuque Catholic Men's Conference on Saturday, March 28, 2026! The conference theme will be: Rooted in the Power of Prayer, Inspired by the Witness of the Saints. The 2026 conference will feature Gabriel Castillo as the keynote speaker and Keith Nester as a breakout session speaker. It will take place at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Cedar Rapids. Learn more and register at www.ArchMensConference.org.



Baptism Class

Have you recently had a child? Are you expecting a child? Congratulations! We welcome children into our Christian community through the waters of Baptism. To prepare for this celebration, we ask all parents, who would like to have their children baptized, to attend baptism class. The next class is, Thursday, January 8 at 6:30 pm at the parish office. Please call the cluster office at 319-334-7191 to register.



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.

AA and Alanon Meetings

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.



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

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the St. Patrick's Social Concern Committee for the gift basket and to the St. Patrick's Choir for carolling at Oak View for all the residence. We really appreciate it.

Doris Burns

~AREA EVENTS~

Aurora Legion & Auxiliary Sunday Breakfast

Carry-outs available!

All you can eat pancakes; 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
January 4	February 1	March 1 April 5

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, January 25, 2026
 Serving from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
 St. John Church Hall



Menu: Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Cinnamon Rolls,
 Milk, Juice & Coffee
 Free Will Offering
 Sponsored by St. John School

\$100 Club Thank You!!!

A sincere THANK YOU to all the participants in the 2025 \$100 Club! We collected \$6,200 total and the proceeds go to the Athletic Fund, Technology, Student Field Trips and the Library!

Congratulations to this year's winners!! They are David & Susan Greiner (\$500), Mike & Jacque Adams (\$250), Jim & Cheryl Reed (\$250), Marv & Marcie Hosch (\$100), Jake Flanders (\$100), Farrah & Ethan Henderson (\$100), Brad & Ann Kegler (\$100), and Dave & Cindy Francois (\$100).

We truly appreciate your generosity! Thank you for your support of St. John School!

**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.

Epiphany Prayer

Now there appeared a brilliant Star
 Which led the wise Men from afar.
 They came and, kneeling down, adored
 And offered gifts to Christ, the Lord.



Christ has appeared among us.

Come, let us adore Him.

The precious gifts which the Magi brought to the Lord this day are threefold, and they are signs of divine mysteries.

By gold the power of the King is signified,
 by frankincense His great priesthood,
 by myrrh the burial of the Lord.

The Magi worshipped the Author of our salvation in the crib, and of their treasures they brought to Him gifts of mystic nature.

O God,
 by the leading of a star you manifested Your only begotten Son to the Gentiles on this day;
 mercifully grant that we who know You by faith, may be brought to contemplate the beauty of Your majesty.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

[From: The Story of the Redemption for Children.]
 [Source: Christmas to Candlemas in a Catholic Home by Helen McLoughlin, The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota.]

Remember in prayer: Scott Kinseth, John O'Loughlin, Pete Ciesielski, Vickie Schultz - as well as World Leaders and Elected Officials



School News

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)

St. John Scrip Voucher

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Remember in prayer: Scott Kinseth, John O'Loughlin, Pete Ciesielski, Vickie Schultz - as well as World Leaders and Elected Officials

*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:

As the Magi from the East brought gifts of gold (for a king), frankincense (for the high priest) and myrrh (for his burial) in response to God's gift to the world in the life of his only begotten son, we are reminded of how, we too, give gifts to God through our many acts of charity. God's gift to us brings salvation and glory to his people, which are something truly to be thankful for, and we respond with generous hearts, heartfelt gladness, and merciful acts of kindness centered on the Corporal Works of Mercy.

I give special thanks to all the parishioners who sent Christmas greeting cards, New Year's wishes, and for your many prayers during the Christmas season. I also want to express my gratitude for the many wonderful holiday snacks, food baskets, monetary gifts, gift cards, and a variety of other nice gifts. They are gratefully appreciated. I am truly thankful for the support you show in so many ways. May your HEART be filled with the joy of Christmas, your HOME be filled with the warmth of Christmas, and your LIFE be filled with the spirit of Christmas throughout this holy season and the New Year.

Fr. David Beckman (Pastor)

Mass Intention information!

We want to make you aware of a few important details regarding the scheduling of Mass intentions as we undergo the pastoral planning process known as Journey In Faith (JIF).



1. Currently, Masses can only be scheduled from January 2026 to June 30, 2026 as we wait for the final decisions to be made by the archbishop from the pastoral planning process.
2. **The offering for each Mass intention has been increased from \$5.00 to \$10.00**, but you do have the option to give more. Mass intentions must be paid for once they are scheduled.
3. Because of the large number of Masses being scheduled for deceased loved ones, weekend Masses are just about completely full with only a few remaining at Winthrop. Additionally there are only a few weekday Masses still available as well; however, the 4:30 Monday evening Mass at St. Patrick's in Winthrop has several openings still available.
4. Normally, in the past, due to the high volume of Mass intentions we receive, you could schedule 5 Mass intentions per year. You may schedule 3 weekend Masses out of the 5 during a calendar year, as this allows more people the chance to schedule a weekend Mass for their loved ones.
5. A Mass intention can be listed as an individual "Joe Smith" as a family "For the deceased members of the Smith family" or as two people "For Joe & Mary Smith".

Please have a few dates in mind when scheduling your Masses as the date you may want could be spoken for already.

Please stop by or call the office at 319-334-7191 to schedule Masses.



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