



**July 19, 2026**  
**Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19; Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 13:24-43

*“Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;  
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.”*

A field rarely springs to life overnight. A farmer plants the seed, tends the soil, trusts the rain, and patiently waits. Along the way, weeds appear. Storms come. There are seasons when growth is obvious and seasons when it seems nothing is happening at all. Yet beneath the surface, God is still at work.

This weekend marks the beginning of a new season in the life of our parish. We joyfully welcome our new pastor, Fr. Jon Seda, our parochial vicar, Fr. Francis Anane, and our brothers and sisters from St. Benedict Parish as we begin this journey together as one pastorate. For some, this weekend is filled with excitement. For others, it carries uncertainty. We may wonder what will change, what will remain the same, or how God is leading us forward. The beautiful truth found in today's Scriptures is that God has always worked through people coming together, trusting Him one step at a time.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells us that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a field where wheat and weeds grow side by side. Rather than rushing to uproot what seems imperfect, the master urges patience, trusting that God sees the whole picture. Our pastorate, too, is not about creating something perfect overnight. It is about allowing God to cultivate His people with patience, mercy, and hope. The first reading reminds us that God's strength is shown not through force but through mercy. As we begin working alongside one another, may we imitate that same patience, offering grace when things are unfamiliar, understanding when adjustments are needed, and kindness as new relationships are formed. St. Paul offers another reassurance in today's second reading: "The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness." We do not have to know exactly what lies ahead. We do not have to have every answer. The Holy Spirit is already praying within us and guiding this new chapter far better than we could ever imagine.

A pastorate is much more than shared buildings, schedules, or ministries. It is people becoming one family in Christ. Each parish brings its own history, traditions, gifts, and stories. Together, those gifts become richer as we learn from one another and continue the mission Jesus has entrusted to His Church. As we celebrate this first weekend together, let us pray for Fr. Seda and Fr. Anane as they begin serving among us. Let us pray for every parishioner of Notre Dame and St. Benedict, for our staffs, volunteers, and ministries. And above all, let us ask the Holy Spirit to make us fertile soil where faith can grow, hope can flourish, and Christ can be known through the way we love one another.

Next Week's Readings:

1 Kings 3:5,7-12; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52

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**Katie Schmitt, School  
Principal**

563.547.4513

School Website:

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# MASS SCHEDULE

## Monday, July 20 | Mass

11:15 a.m. +

Sacristan: Melanie Vobr

## Tuesday, July 21 | Mass

11:15 a.m. +

Sacristan: Melanie Vobr

## Wednesday, July 22 | Mass

11:15 a.m. +

Sacristan: Melanie Vobr

## Thursday, July 23 | Mass

11:15 a.m. +

Sacristan: Melanie Vobr

2:00 p.m. Mass at Evans

## Friday, July 24 | Mass

11:15 a.m. +

Sacristan: Melanie Vobr

## Saturday, July 25 | Mass

4:00 p.m. +

EMHCs: Duane Heit; Angie Kappes; Brian McGee

Lectors: Karen Hyke; Duane Heit

Servers: Reid Plaht

Music: Melanie Vobr; Polly Jones

Greeters: Pat Korsmo; Rita Shea

Hosts: Bootie Kapler

Ushers: Joe & Lynn Rose; Bryan & Denise Sheehy

Sacristan: Mindy Jones; Carol Stoker

## Sunday, July 26 | Mass

9:00 a.m. +

EMHCs: Michelle Midthus; Sue Runyan; Boyd Turnbull

Lectors: Brian & Michelle Midthus

Servers: Brendon Hovden; Mason Keune

Music: Dee Hosek; Andrea Klimesh

Greeters: Dale & Lynette Andera; Mike & Rachel Gooder

Hosts: Mike & Rachel Gooder

Ushers: Chris & Atley Bina; Alisha Carolan; Tom Mullen

Sacristan: Boyd Turnbull

## Stewardship of Prayer

Please pray for the sick of our parish, including the following and those listed in the Book of Petitions.

BRENT NEWMAN  
JODENE VANDYKE  
LINDA WOOD  
CHARLENE RYAN  
WAYNE SCRABECK  
AUDREY HYKE  
MICKIE SIR  
ANONYMOUS TEEN

LISA PETER  
STU GORDON  
DI KOVARIK  
JERRY SMITH  
MARIA LARSON  
OLIVE NESVIK  
MARY LARSON  
JIM DEANGELO

MADONNA KUENNEN  
KENNY MOELLERS  
JOYCE KAPLER  
PATTY ELSBERND  
MARK TIESKOTTER  
BETTE SULLIVAN  
TAMMY COURTNEY  
LORI MOORE



## MEET OUR CLERGY



Fr. Jon Seda

Pastor

Father Jon Seda was raised on a small family farm near Traer, Iowa with four brothers. His home parish is St. Paul in Traer. He has received degrees from Loras College in Dubuque, St. John's University in Collegeville, MN and after ordination, from Santa Clara University in California. He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Dubuque in 1988. His assignments have included associate pastor, faculty member at two Catholic high schools, vocation director, chaplain at the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown, and pastor of several parishes. But most of this priesthood has been in campus ministry, seventeen years at Iowa State, and then four years at UNI.

Fr. Francis Kwame Anane

Parochial Vicar

Father Francis Kwame Anane is a priest from the Diocese of Techiman in Ghana. He has been serving as pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas in Webster City and St. Mary in Williams since 2021. Known for his deep faith, he brings a strong sense of joy to his ministry, often drawing from the rich traditions of the Church in Africa. His leadership has been especially marked by a welcoming spirit and a commitment to helping people encounter Christ more deeply.



Deacon Nick Francois

Deacon

Hello, I am Deacon Nick Francois. My wife, June and I moved to Decorah with our two children 24 years ago. Zach and Laura are both married now, and we have 3 beautiful, fun grandkids. I retired from my job as Territory Sales Manager with Kent Feeds two years ago, after a 35 year career. I have been serving St. Benedict Parish and the Decorah area as Deacon for the past 17 years. I look forward to meeting many of you and working with you, as we continue our Journey in Faith together.

## Stewardship of Offering

JULY 12, 2026

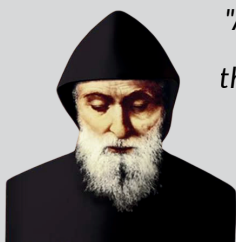
Total Stewardship Contributions/Offertory Income

|                                           |              |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Needed each week:                         | \$ 10,837.00 |
| Last week's Envelope Contribution Income: | \$ 3,876.00  |
| Last week's ACH Contribution Income:      | \$ 7,391.00  |
| Last week's offertory income:             | \$ 555.50    |

Good stewards in a parish are like the yeast in today's Gospel. Their selfless gifts of time and talent help the parish grow and thrive, and their example inspires others to become good stewards, too.

"All forces of evil are focusing on destroying the family because they know that by destroying the family, the foundations of the plan of God will be shaken."

-Saint Charbel Makhlouf  
(Feast Day: July 24th)





## JOIN OUR TEAM!

Notre Dame Catholic School is hiring a  
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or email [kschmitt@nd.pvt.k12.ia.us](mailto:kschmitt@nd.pvt.k12.ia.us)

St. Benedict in  
Decorah is

## HIRING!

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- ◆ 3/4 to Full-Time Coordinator of 7-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Faith Formation/Youth Ministry
- ◆ The Youth Minister is responsible for developing and leading a dynamic program for middle and high school students (grades 7-12).

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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#### TO APPLY, SEND RESUME AND COVER LETTER TO:

✉ [stbenedict@stbenedictcc.com](mailto:stbenedict@stbenedictcc.com)

✉ St. Benedict  
307 West Main Street  
Decorah, IA 52101



## You're Invited!

Father Gehling's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
(Brother of Vince Gehling and  
Brother-in-law of Tom Frana)

1-4 p.m. | Epiphany Parish-Holy Family  
(Mason City) Social Hall

A big thank you to  
those who helped  
get Fr. Anane's  
house ready for  
him to move into.



## This Week at Notre Dame

**Knights of Columbus Council #1571** will meet on Tues., July 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the KC Room.

**Bible Study** will be held on Wed., July 22<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to join. No cost to attend. No registration needed.

**Parish Hall will be unavailable until July 19<sup>th</sup>** due to the floors being waxed. Please do not enter the parish hall during those days. There will not be a Card Party on July 13<sup>th</sup> due to this.

**Mass intentions can now be scheduled** for the next 6 months. With limited availability, there will be a max of 3 intentions scheduled for each person. Mass intentions are a suggested donation of \$10.



### Our Sympathy

Your prayers are requested for  
the repose of the soul of  
**Patrick Newton**  
(brother of Sheila Slifka)

## In the Community

**Hamburger/Steak Sandwich Meal** will be served on Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at the Ossian Pavilion - Carey's Park, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Cost is \$10 for hamburger meal, and \$15 for the steak sandwich meal which includes diced seasoned potatoes, baked beans, bars, and water. Proceeds are going to new front doors for Stavanger Lutheran Church. Sponsored by Stavanger Lutheran Church & Winneshiek County Cattleman.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church, rural Lawler/Jerico** invites you to their **annual Ice Cream Social** at air-conditioned Bethany Hall, 1241 Pembroke Ave, rural Lawler, on Tues., July 28<sup>th</sup>, from 4:30-7 p.m. Menu includes pork sandwiches, sides of potato salad, fruit, & baked beans and a fabulous soft serve ice cream buffet. Advance tickets not needed. Freewill donation at the door. Carry-outs available. Raffle tickets for quilt and cash prizes available at the door or from members.

**Dad's Belgian Waffles (All You Care to Eat)** will be served on Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, from 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. at the Lime Springs Community Center for \$10 (children 5 and under are free). Carry-outs are available. Sponsored by the Oneota Study Club. Serving: waffles, sausages, toppings, and beverages.

**Cresco Community Card Party** will be held at the Kessel Lodge each Tues., playing 500, and Wed., playing Euchre, at 1:00 p.m. \$2 to play.

**Do you know a couple who have been married 70, 75 or more years?** Worldwide Marriage Encounter highlights and honors couples who have very long marriages. Every state in the US will honor one nominated couple who is married the longest. Please nominate a couple by going to [wwme.org](http://wwme.org) and nominate them at the top of the page. Nominations should be in by September 1st. For questions call 641-753-6953.

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