

Dear Padre

August 24, 2025

My wife mentioned that neither the Book of Mormon nor the Catholic Bible mentions purgatory. Please comment.

A not-uncommon frustration is when a person searches the Bible for a particular word or phrasing. Frankly, it is expecting too much from the religious text to be able to faithfully record a particular word or phrase that originated hundreds of years after the ancient text was composed. Purgatory is one such example of this frustration. The concept of purgatory is referenced in the biblical text, particularly in 2 Corinthians 5:10 and 7:1, Hebrews 9:27 and 12:14, and 2 Maccabees 12:46, but the word is never used.

This should come as no real surprise because it was not until the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) that the concept was expanded and formed into a theological statement of belief that has become central to Roman Catholicism. And what is that belief? The Catechism of the Catholic Church is clear: "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. The Church gives the name purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned" (CCC, 1030, 1031a). The Book of Mormon never references purgatory, but it does speak about the afterlife and the experience of "waiting" in the spirit world for the completion of earthly time.

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

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MONDAY

August 25 *Weekday* 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10 Mt 23:13-22

TUESDAY

August 26 *Weekday* 1 Thes 2:1–8 Mt 23:23–26

WEDNESDAY

August 27 St. Monica 1 Thes 2:9-13 Mt 23:27-32

THURSDAY

August 28 St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church 1 Thes 3:7-13 Mt 24:42-51

FRIDAY

August 29 The Passion of St. John the Baptist 1 Thes 4:1–8 Mk 6:17–29

SATURDAY

August 30 *Weekday* 1 Thes 4:9–11 Mt 25:14–30

SUNDAY

August 31 Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time Sir 3:17–18, 20, 28–29 Heb 12:18–19, 22–24a Lk 14:1, 7–14

FR. PODHAJSKY INSTALLATION: Join us Sunday, August 31 at 10:00 AM Mass at Holy Family. Fr. Huber will be presiding in the installation of Fr. Chris. All are welcome to the reception following Mass.

WELCOME TO THE GOOD SHEPHERD CLUSTER

HOLY FAMILY, NEW HAMPTON IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, NW ST. BONIFACE, IONIA

313 W. Court St. New Hampton, IA Email Address: clustergs@gmail.com

GOOD SHEPHERD
PARISH OFFICE HOURS:
MON.-THURS. 8 AM-4:30 PM
FRIDAY 8 AM-NOON

VISIT US ON OUR WEBSITE

www.goodshepherdcluster.com

MISSION STATEMENT

"As a Catholic faith community we strive to unite as a people of God whose life is centered in the Eucharist. We seek to live the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, called to be faithful stewards of God's gifts, growing in faith and attending to the spiritual and social needs of all."

GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF

Hours: Monday-Thursday 8 AM-4:30 PM Friday 8 AM-Noon

Pastoral Office	641-394-2105
St. Joseph Community School	641-394-2865
St. John's School of Religion	641-394-2404
Pastor: Rev. Chris Podhajsky	641-394-2105
Principal: Michele Nehls	641-394-2865
Deacon: Victor DeSloover	563-429-2773

Cluster Business Manager: Becky Ptacek-Havlik

Hispanic Minister: Gustavo Jimenez

Interim Director Faith Formation: Tara Underwood **Pastoral Assistant:** Gladys Christoph 641-330-9223

Cluster Secretary: Marcia Howe

St. Boniface-Dave Bonfig

Social Media: Chris Vital

Custodian: Dave Roethler

Music Director: Michelle Lau

Adult Choir Director: Ann Bennett

Calvary Cemetery-Don Dixon

St. Mary's, New Hampton-Mike Pickar.

St. Mary's, N. Washington-Jake Hackman

641-330-6841

RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation from 3-3:30 p.m. Saturday in the Reconciliation Chapel at Holy Family, New Hampton. Reconciliation may be celebrated on request at St. Boniface, Ionia & Immaculate Conception, North Washington. Sunday Reconciliation from 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Reconciliation Chapel at Holy Family, New Hampton.

Weekly Prayer & Faith Sharing & Ministry

 $1\mbox{:}30$ PM-Rosary @ MercyOne Hospital Chapel on Tues.

- 2-4 PM Sharing Room, Pastoral Office on Wednesday
- 4 PM-Midnight-Holy Family-Adoration on Thursday
- 9-11 AM Sharing Room, Pastoral Office on Friday
- 9 AM Bible Study, Pastoral Office on Saturday

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULES

St. Boniface & Immaculate Conception Parish Alternate Saturday 6 PM Mass Holy Family Spanish Mass 1st & 3rd Sunday 11:30 AM

Saturday

4 PM Holy Family, New Hampton

6 PM St. Boniface, August 23 September 6 & 20

6 PM Immaculate Conception, August 30 September 13, 27

Sunday

8 AM & 10 AM Holy Family, New Hampton

SPOTLIGHT ON: We wish to recognize and thank our Advertiser of the Week **Eckenrod Farms-Jim & Julie Eckenrod.** Please patronize our advertisers. Let them know you appreciate their support of the parish bulletin.

Baptisms: Please contact Deacon Vic DeSloover @ 563-429-2773.

Marriage: Please contact the priest at least six months in advance.

Visiting the Sick or Anointing: If you would like a visit from Fr. Chris, please contact the Pastoral Office at 394-2105. The hospital and nursing homes do not notify us unless a family member requests.

PRAYERS for the SICK: We ask the Lord Jesus to bless all those in sickness, in weakness & in pain. Please join us in prayer for. Mary Lee Einck-Moothart, Norbert, Bob, Tom Rasing, Louise Conry, Edna Shinstine, Terry Lynn Rausch, Michele K, Bill Sinnwell, Charlene Longhom, Ron, Justin Shekleton, Alan Gilbert (Ruth's husband) Troy, Joyce Lowe, Beatrice Miller, Patty Forkenbrock, Brady Einck, all special intentions & cancer patients.

PRAYER NETWORK: For a prayer request, please call the parish office during the business day @ 394-2105 or after hours to Jan Gorman @ 641-229-6072, or Carol Schmitz @ 394-6072.

Please note: <u>Due to the length of our prayer list, we will list the special intentions for prayer for two weeks</u>. If you wish names to remain longer, please call the parish office 394-2105 & we will be glad to leave the names in for as long as needed. Thank you for your understanding.

Military active duty- SGT. Trevor J. Burgart, SGT Adam J. Burgart, Dylan Usher, Kaleb Macon, SGT. Andrew Kasuboski, SFC. Michael Messersmith, Adam Tieskotter, Michael Nosbisch, Staff Sgt. Nathan Schulz, Nichole Caldararo, Dustin Boeding, Paul Langreck

REST IN PEACE: Please remember those in your prayers who recently died: Dennis Richter and Magdalen Wieling

641-394-4703



Trust. Transform. Together.

The Archdiocese of Dubuque is holding **34 regional informational sessions for parishioners to learn more about the Journey in Faith process.** These sessions will further explain information that will be released at dbqjourneyinfaith.org in early September.

What will be the focus of these informational sessions?

Participants will learn more about:

- Rationale, process, and timeline for Journey in Faith
- Importance of prayer and synodal listening in this process
- Proposed pastorate models as possible new groupings of parishes for the future
- Ways to listen, learn, ask questions and provide insights throughout the process

including engaging in your parish's October and November local meetings and providing written feedback via the Journey in Faith website

Why should I attend?

Attending these meetings will give you background about the challenges we face and the opportunities we have to be honest, courageous, faithful, and hopeful. Your ideas about how we can have vibrant and sustainable parishes focused on evangelization for the next 25+ years is very important as future plans are developed. While these September meetings are information focused, they set the stage for parishioners to provide thoughtful verbal feedback at local parish input sessions in October and November and written feedback via the Journey in Faith website.

How do I know which meeting to attend?

Parishioners should attend a meeting held in their Regional Planning Area (RPA). The overall information will be the same at each meeting, however, the proposed pastorate models that are explained will be specific to your RPA. (See RPA (v5) for your region.)

When and where are the meetings?

There are 34 September Regional Journey in Faith Information Sessions from which to choose. Each is held in a parish church and is scheduled for three hours.

How do I sign up to attend?

In order to assist us in our planning, we ask that parishioners RSVP using https://tinyurl.com/JIFSeptSignUp or the QR code:



What if I'm unable to attend a September regional meeting or registration in my region reaches capacity?

If you are unable to attend a September regional meeting, you are urged to review all of the information on the website including videos, maps, and spreadsheets that will be released in early September. This will enable you to have background prior to attending your own local parish's meetings in October and November. Although the September meetings will not be live streamed, a summary video with key points from those meetings about prayer and synodal listening will be released at the end of September. Registration is capped at 500 per event (or the maximum seating capacity for churches with less than a 500 person capacity) and registration will be closed once registration reaches capacity.

CLUSTER NEWS

LONGEST MARRIED COUPLE: 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 and nominate them at the top of the page. Nominations should be in by **September 1st.** For questions call 641-753-6953.

REMINDER FUNERAL DISHES: We have several funerals dishes waiting to be pick up in the Gathering Space. Please take the time to stop by and pick them up. Thank you.

PROVIDED IN CRISIS: Gaza and surrounding areas in the Middle East cries out for the assistance of the Catholic community of the United States. The Catholic Near East Welfare Associations (CNEWA) is there providing vital emergency humanitarian relief and medical and psychological care for those who are sick, malnourished and wounded. Catholic Relief Service (CRS) is working through local Church partners to provide food, shelter, cash assistance, hygiene supplies, and care for people's emotional well-being. Both organization have well-established partnerships with the Catholic Church in the region, which allow them to respond quickly and efficiently. Send to

For CNEWA Donations by check:

Catholic Near East Welfare Association, Gaza Emergency Relief 220 East 42nd Street 27th Floor New York, NY 10017

For CRS Donations by check:

Catholic Relief Services Holy Land Response PO Box 5278 Tipton, IA 52772-0517

CONFIRMATION MASS: We will celebrate with Archbishop Zinkula and our Junior students, sponsors and families Confirmation on Sunday, September 21 at 10 am Holy Family Mass.

PASTORAL OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED: Monday, September 1, in honor of Labor Day. Money counters we will see you Tuesday, September 2. Just a reminder of **Pastoral Office Hours are:**

Monday-Thursday 8:00 am-4:30 pm Friday 8:00 am-Noon

BULLETIN NEWS: Send bulletin news to the Good Shepherd email **clustergs@gmail.com** by Noon on Monday to guarantee it make the weekend's bulletin.



Calling ALL K-8th Graders!

It's a brand-new season of Faith Formation!

Just like in sports, we need time to huddle up, learn the game plan, and grow our skills. Faith Formation is our practice time to strengthen our hearts, our minds, and our love for God—so we're ready to live out our faith every day. So register TODAY!



But a great team needs more than just players—we need coaches, helpers, and encouragers! From the pre-game meal to helping teach and assist in classes, **we need YOU** to help make this season a win for our kids and families.

Reach out to the Parish Office of Tara Underwood and come be part of the Holy Huddle and help us kick off a great year!"

Taith Formation Nights Game Plan

5:00 - 5:45PM

101 Pre-Game Meal

Optional Free-will donation dinner for Faith Formation kids & families. Fuel up before the huddle!

5:45 - 6:00pm

O Suit UP

Make your way to the Church and get ready for the Holy Huddle.

6:00 - 6:45pm

Holy Huddle

All grades K-8 gather to learn, grow, and practice our faith.

6:45PM

Final Whistle

Classes wrap up—take what you've learned and live it out all week!



Good Shepherd Job Openings

Director of Religious Education - Good Shepherd Cluster, New Hampton, Iowa, is seeking a full-time Director of Religious Education. This person must be a Catholic in good standing with the Church. This person will be responsible for overseeing the instructional program for children and teens, including sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation and First Communion. Additional responsibilities include providing religious education for high school students at St John School of Religion (primarily freshman and sophomores), overseeing community building and/or spiritual opportunities for teens, and recruitment/supervision of employees/volunteers for the religious program. This person should be proficient with technology and the internet, be organized and able to meet deadlines. preferred that this person hold some theological education or related field and 3 years of experience in Faith Formation. However, these are not required if you are the right person for this role. If interested in this position, please contact Fr. Chris Podhajsky at 641-394-2105 or email at dbq141@dbqarch.org.

Pastoral Assistant - Good Shepherd Cluster, New Hampton, is seeking a part-time Pastoral Assistant. This person must be a Catholic in good standing with the Church. This person will be responsible for initiating and administering programs and activities intended for faith formation (primarily adults), coordinating local involvement in larger events (Women's conference, Men's conference, World Day of Prayer, etc), and assisting in the planning of liturgical celebrations for major feasts. When needed, this person will also meet with families to assist in planning funerals for loved ones. This person will also be involved in ordering liturgical materials for the Cluster. This person should be proficient with technology and the internet, be organized and able to meet deadlines. It is preferred that this person have 2 years of experience in parish-based ministry. However, this is not required if you are the right person for this role. If interested in this position, please contact Fr. Chris Podhajsky at 641-394-2105 or email at dbq141@dbqarch.org.

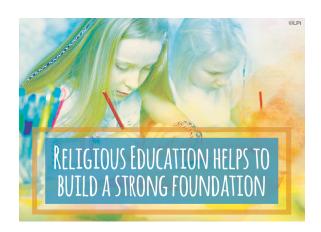
HOLY FAMILY

WELCOME NEWLY BAPTIZED: Lowen Marie Shekleton, daughter of Robert & Sally Shekleton. Also Landon Jon Lukes, son of Austin & Justine Lukes. Lowen and Landon were baptized last weekend by Deacon Vic DeSloover. Congratulations and welcome to our family cluster community.

COLLECTIVE MASS, AUGUST 24 AT 10 AM: Lorna, Wayne, Gene, and Don Gorman, Stanley & Agatha Busta, Allyson Brannon, Clem & Bernice Langreck, Florence Boos, Glenda Holthaus, Daniel Kobliska, Rev. Walter Kleinfehn, Mac, Jovina & Jim Scally.

ADULT CHOIR: We are always looking for new choir members! Practices are on Wednesdays at 7 PM in the Gathering Space, starting September 3rd. Sopranos, altos, tenors, basses...we have room for all! Please contact Betsy Zenk if interested (betsy.zenk@gmail.com).

YOUTH CHOIR: Looking for singers, grades 3-8. We sing at the 8:00 AM Mass once a month. Practices are weekly, after 8AM Mass in the Gathering Space, starting in September. Please contact Betsy Zenk if interested (betsy.zenk@gmail.com).



Grow in Faith, Build the Future

Faith Formation and St. John School of Religion Registration is OPEN now through August 29th! Whether you're enrolling your child or helping a friend, now is the time to take the next step in their faith journey. Classes begin Wednesday, September 10th at 6:00 PM.

Register online today at: <u>goodshepherdcluster.com/online-registration</u>

Paper forms are also available at the cluster office.

Feeling called to serve? We're looking for Catechists and Catechist Aides to help share the love of Christ with our young people. If you or someone you know is interested, reach out!

Call the Cluster Office or email: <u>clustergs@gmail.com</u> Together, let's inspire the next generation of disciples!

AREA NEWS & EVENTS

Cookies for Cancer: August cookie of the month-Cowboy (pecans, oatmeal, coconut, & chocolate chips) 15/\$10. Or you may purchase gift certificates \$5.00 and up!!! Contact Rose Ann Schwickerath 641-557-8530.

Back to School Breakfast: Sunday, August, 24, St. Teresa of Calcutta, Ossian. Serving from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Breakfast Menu: Scrambled eggs, with toppings, sliced ham, cubed potatoes, fruit cup, toast, cinnamon rolls, and drinks. Tickets: Adults: \$12; Children 6-12: \$6; and under 6 free. Great way to start school!!!

New Hampton Community Blood Drive: LifeServe Ultimate Tailgate Give-A-Way—Give Blood on Tuesday, August 26, 12-5:30 p.m. at the Community Center, 112 E. Spring St., and all donors will be entered to win a \$600 tailgate prize package. Call today to make an appointment 800-287-4903 or visit lifeservebloodcenter.org. Walk ins welcome!!!

St. Rose Cemetery Mass: Will be held on Wednesday, August 27 at 5:00 p.m. Bring your own lawn chair. In case of inclement weather, the Mass will be offered at St. Mary, Waucoma. St. Rose Cemetery, located on a hill four miles northwest of Waucoma, is all that remains today of what was once the first Catholic Church and cemetery in Fayette County. If you'd like to learn more about St. Rose Cemetery or need assistance in planning for a loved one, we invite you to contact David Balk at 563-379-2093 or Carl Kroeber at 563-379-1621.

Annual Salad Supper: The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Lawler, will be hosting their Annual Salad Supper complete with a hot chicken casserole on Wednesday, September 3, in the Gold Room of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church. Serving begins at 5 p.m. and goes until 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15.00 and may be purchased from a Catholic Daughter member or at the door. Children 5 yrs and under are free.

For tickets, please call Pat Zajicek 563-569-8257, Edna Jirak, 641-330-5957 or Jeanne Loftus, 563-379-6091.

Our Lady of Seven Dolors Fall Festival on Sunday, September 7th. Serving Mike Reicks' famous chicken, pork cutlets, mashed potatoes and gravy, homemade dressing, sauerkraut, hand-picked sweet corn, garden fresh relish trays, fresh rolls, delicious pies, and other desserts. Be sure to take part in Bingo, the cake walk, and the country store and other activities. Meal Tickets \$20 in advance, \$22 at the door; 410 kids age 6-10, age 5 & under free.

The meal will be served from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm; <u>carry-outs are available</u>. Tickets available at South Winn Insurance, Drillings All Season Sports, The Zipper OR any parish member are \$20 in advance and \$22 at the door.

Married Couples. Would you like to relive the excitement, romance and passion from your honeymoon? Rekindle that spark on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. For more information call 563-920-9419 or you can sign up at www.even.org. Upcoming dates are September 12-14 and February 13-15, 2026 both in Dubuque, Iowa. Sign up soon as space is limited.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land & Jordan: Come along with Fr. Chris Podhajsky January 12-22, 2026 as we visit the Holy Land and Jordan. Visit the sites along the shores of the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan River. Visit Nazareth and Jerusalem where Jesus grew up and daily Mass while traveling. Cost is \$4,898 with departure from Chicago. For a brochure and more information contact the Pastoral Office or Donald Krouse, Tour Leader, email donaldkrouse@aol.com telephone number: 319-521-1106.

Pilgrimage to England & Scotland: Come along April 20-30, 2026, as we visit some of the most beautiful and historical places in all of Europe. We will visit the prehistoric Stonehenge, Stratford, the home of William Shakespeare, Edinburgh and its famous Scottish Castle, Big Ben in London, Buckingham Palace and so much more! We will have Mass each day in great Churches and Cathedrals along the way. Cost is \$5,169 with departure from Omaha. For a brochure and more information, contact Fr. Dan Guenther, 276 Country Club Drive, Lake Park, Iowa 51347 or call 712-899-6870 or email. **frdanguenther@gmail.com**



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Advertising Space Available For Rent Contact Becky at Good Shepherd Cluster Pastoral Office 641-394-2105

GOOD SHEPHERD MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY-AUGUST 23, 2025

4 PM-Holy Family-Joe "Arnie", Louis, Brian & Justin Tierney Jeff Leach, Dan & Jerry Kuhn

6 PM-St. Boniface-John Brummond

SUN-AUGUST 24, 2025-21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

8 AM-Holy Family-For the People of the Cluster

10 AM-Holy Family-Collective

11 AM-3 PM—Holy Family Fall Festival, Parish Center

MONDAY-AUGUST 25, 2025

1st Day of School Welcome Back Students, Teachers & Staff! Bulletin News Due at Noon

TUESDAY-AUGUST 26, 2025

5:15 PM-Immaculate Conception-Rodney Lenehan

WEDNESDAY-AUGUST 27, 2025

10 AM-NH Rehab-Lorraine Hackman

THURSDAY-AUGUST 28, 2025

10 AM-Kensington-Norbert & Joyce Kramer & Susan Brooks FRIDAY-AUGUST 29, 2025

8:30 AM-Holy Family-Louis & Lucille Zeien

SATURDAY-AUGUST 30, 2025

1:30 PM-Holy Family Wedding-Alejandro Torres & Daniela Barrios

4 PM-Holy Family-Andy Schmitt

4 PM-Holy Family Baptisms

6 PM-Immaculate Conception-For the People of the Cluster

SUN., AUGUST 31, 2025-22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

8 AM-Holy Family-Marilyn Elenz

10 AM-Holy Family-Jim & Joyce Cavanaugh

Installation of Fr. Chris Podhajsky reception to follow Mass.

Good News!

August 24, 2025

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) Isaiah 66:18-21 / Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13 / Luke 13:22-30

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Some people find love in their lives; others complain of loneliness. Some find peace, while others seem to be perpetually angry. Some live comfortably amid human diversity, yet others insist that the rest of the world be like them. There are those who are able to forgive and compromise and offer compassion and those who cannot. The difference seems to be the ability to forgo one's own desires for the sake of a greater good or the common good. Such may be the narrow gate through which some may not be strong enough to enter.

Phrases like *the kingdom of God* or *the kingdom of heaven* are not just references to places to which we go but also ways of being or states of existence. They all refer to God's presence, to life with God. You've heard people say they were so happy that they felt it was like heaven on earth. It wasn't a place they went but an experience of being filled with joy and peace. It's pure gift. No one ever finds it by focusing on oneself. It is the narrow gate by which we find our way into such a life. It is the doorway of caring for others. lacksquare

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August 17, 2025		Budget Report	
Parish	Holy Family	Immaculate Conception	St Boniface
Received Last Week	\$11,936.33	\$225.00	\$150.00
Year to Date Recd to 08.17.2025	\$65,899.66	\$3,247.00	\$2,725.00
Difference			
Offertory	\$818.00	\$117.00	
Hispanic Mass Offertory	\$270.00		
*This is the amount needed to balance each respective church's budget.			

