

# Good Shepherd CLUSTER

Sunday, September 28, 2025  
26th Sunday of Ordinary Time

## Dear Padre

September 28, 2025

### **Why does my parish priest preach about love practically every Sunday?**

"Through the course of the liturgical year, the homily sets forth the mysteries of faith and the standards of the Christian life on the basis of the sacred text" (Lectionary, 24). A translation of the English word "love" appears in the Bible more than 500 times; by comparison, "sin" appears approximately 400 times. Thus, insofar as the homily "should be an explanation of some aspect of the readings from sacred Scripture" (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 65), God's word on "love" is far too prevalent to overlook.

Pope Francis called God's word "a love letter, written to us by the One who knows us best." In the Bible, this God who desires to bestow his love on us (See 1 John 3:1), is essentially telling us, "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways." How we love God in return may be likened to two partners in a committed relationship. Over time, they become so intertwined that they can even assume each other's speech patterns, mannerisms, and views. Likewise, for those who love God, over the years we can begin to internalize the words from God's "love letter" and reflect them in our Christian speech, actions, and outlook! "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him" (John 14:23). ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

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#### MONDAY

September 29  
Sts. Michael,  
Gabriel, and  
Raphael, Archangels  
Dn 7:9-10, 13-14  
or Rv 12:7-12ab  
Jn 1:47-51

#### TUESDAY

September 30  
St. Jerome,  
Priest and Doctor  
of the Church  
Zec 8:20-23  
Lk 9:51-56

#### WEDNESDAY

October 1  
St. Thérèse of the  
Child Jesus,  
Virgin and Doctor  
of the Church  
Neh 2:1-8  
Lk 9:57-62

#### THURSDAY

October 2  
The Holy Guardian  
Angels  
Neh 8:1-4a,  
5-6, 7b-12  
Mt 18:1-5, 10

#### FRIDAY

October 3  
Weekday  
Bar 1:15-22  
Lk 10:13-16

#### SATURDAY

October 4  
St. Francis of Assisi  
Bar 4:5-12, 27-29  
Lk 10:17-24

#### SUNDAY

October 5  
Twenty-seventh  
Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4  
2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14  
Lk 17:5-10

## 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: clustergrs@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](http://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."*

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

Wednesday, New Hampton Nursing Rehab

3:00 PM

Thursday, Rotating Accura (Linn Haven) & Kensington 2:00 PM

## GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF

**Hours: Monday-Thursday 8 AM-4:30 PM**

**Friday 8 AM-Noon**

<b>Pastoral Office</b>	<b>641-394-2105</b>
<b>St. Joseph Community School</b>	<b>641-394-2865</b>
<b>St. John's School of Religion</b>	<b>641-394-2404</b>
<b>Pastor:</b> Rev. Chris Podhajsky	641-394-2105
<b>Principal:</b> Michele Nehls	641-394-2865
<b>Deacon:</b> Victor DeSloover	563-429-2773
<b>Cluster Business Manager:</b> Becky Ptacek-Havlik	
<b>Hispanic Minister:</b> Gustavo Jimenez	
<b>Interim Director Faith Formation:</b> Tara Underwood	
<b>Pastoral Assistant:</b> Gladys Christoph	641-330-9223
<b>Cluster Secretary:</b> Marcia Howe	
<b>Social Media:</b> Chris Vital	
<b>Custodian:</b> Dave Roethler	
<b>Music Director:</b> Michelle Lau	641-229-6589
<b>Adult Choir Director:</b> Ann Bennett	641-394-5407
<b>North Washington Choir:</b> Sharon Heying	641-330-7714
<b>Calvary Cemetery-</b> Don Dixon	319-290-4991
<b>St. Mary's, New Hampton-</b> Mike Pickar	641-430-2446
<b>St. Mary's, N. Washington-</b> Jake Hackman	641-330-6841
<b>St. Boniface-</b> Dave Bonfig	641-394-4703

## 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

1:30 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, October 4 & 18,  
Nov. 1, 15 & 29

6 PM Immaculate Conception, September 27  
October 11 & 25, Nov. 8 & 22

### *Sunday*

8 AM & 10 AM Holy Family, New Hampton

**SPOTLIGHT ON:** We wish to recognize and thank our Advertiser of the Week **Geerts Plumbing & Heating**. 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: Elizabeth Gomez Vasquez, special intention, Rhonda Dreckman, June Rosonke, Norbert, Tom Rasing, Louise Conry, Edna Shinstine, Terry Lynn Rausch, Michele K, Bill Sinnwell, Charlene Longhom, Ron, Troy, Joyce Lowe, Beatrice Miller, Patty Forkenbrock, 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: **Due to the length of our prayer list, we will list the special intentions for prayer for two weeks.** 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: Bernice Kout sister of Delores Schluetter



***Good Shepherd Cluster  
Confirmation Mass  
September 21, 2025***



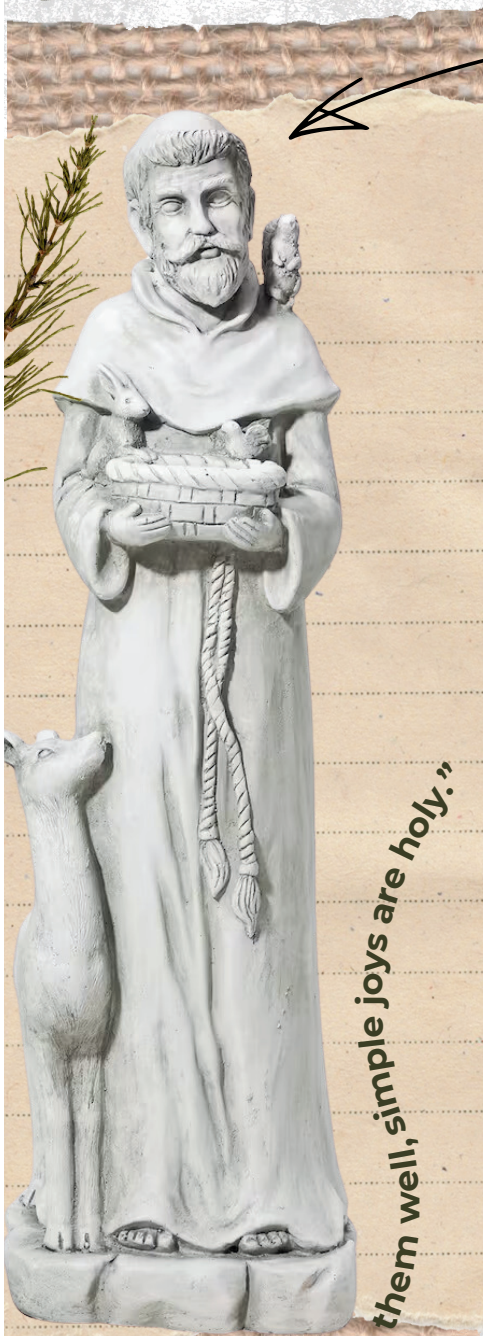
**First Row-**William Camarillo Moncada, Cristal Rodriguez, Tori Lantow, Kayme Hackman, Rylie Vsetecka, Zoey Kellogg, Sophie Glaser, Fr. Chris Podhajsky

**Second Row:** Troy Federspiel, Ava Leichtman, Kennadee Anderson, Caycee Crawford, Marjorie Reicks, Riann Schwarz, Kinslee Rings, Johana Valdez

**Third Row-**Archbishop Thomas Zinkula, Israel Ortiz Perez, Brayan Guevara Santoyo, Cade Carpenter, Wyatt Schwickerath, Jax Shekleton and Titan Bearman



# Blessing of the Pets



"Do few things but do them well, simple joys are holy."

## Who is St. Francis of Assisi? What is a blessing of the pets?

St. Francis of Assisi is famous for his love of animals of all kinds. He once blessed a group of birds, and from that day on, often preached to the animals he encountered.

He made friends with all sorts of animals, and even famously befriended a wolf who was threatening a town.

As a homage to St. Francis and his great love of animals and nature, on his feast day, some parishes will offer a "Blessing of the Animals" in which parishioners can bring their pets to church to receive a blessing.

## Before School Blessing of the Pets

October 3, 2025  
at 8:00am

Parish Members, Parents, Students  
and pets please meet at Runion  
Park Ballfield

After the blessing parents and pets can return home. Students will go to school to prepare for Mass. If you are unable to attend, normal drop off will still take place.

Please do not park on West Hale Street (to keep our drop off system running smoothly) Thank you!



## CLUSTER NEWS

**WELCOME NEWLY BAPTIZED:** Dario Lopez Garcia and Brianna Lopez Garcia, children of Briant Lopez and Marlyn Garcia. Dario & Briant was baptized by Fr. Chris Podhajsky last weekend. Congratulations!

**CURIOUS ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH?** Deacon Vic DeSloover will be starting classes after the 10 am Mass **beginning September 28**. If you have questions or are interested in starting this journey, contact Deacon Vic at 563-429-2773. More information is coming in our Good News watch your mail.

**JOIN A GROUP OF FUTURE FRIENDS !** This is your chance to widen your pool of friends. Groups of parish members are gathering to share insights, ask questions, and build new relationships. The kick off for Small Groups is the first week of October and will meet for 6 weeks to share a book, view videos, and join conversations. We will look into our faith or any topic you choose. Two possibilities are the Gospel of Luke or The Chosen Season 5. Contact the Cluster Office at 641-394-2105, ask for Gladys or her cell phone at 641-330-9223.

**PRAYING THE ROSARY IN OCTOBER:** October is dedicated to Mary and the Holy Rosary to commemorate the 1571 Battle of Lepanto, Pope St. Pius V attributed the Christian victory over the Ottoman Empire to the powerful intercession of the Virgin Mary, granted through the praying of the Rosary. To honor this miraculous event and the power of the Rosary, Pope Pius V established the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7th, which then led to the entire month being recognized as the Month of the Rosary.

We will need volunteers to lead the Rosary before the weekend Masses. Please sign up in the back of each church or call the Pastoral Office @ 394-2105 to volunteer.

**HOLY FAMILY-COLLECTIVE MASS, SEPTEMBER 28 AT 10 AM:** Katie Schmit, Jim & Joyce Cavanaugh, Mac, Jovina & Jim Scally and Alvin & Joanne Winter. Matt & Christina Carlton 20th Wedding Anniversary

**HOLY FAMILY-COLLECTIVE MASS, OCTOBER 4 AT 4 PM:** Michael Blazek, John & Margaret Shekleton, Ila Mihm, Donald Schwickerath, Mike Carlin, Phyllis Carlin, Joe "Arnie", Lois, Brian, Justin Tierney, Jeff Leach, Dan & Jerry Kuhn, Jim & Leoona Stahl, Dan Heying & Steve Dvorak.

**ST. BONIFACE-COLLECTIVE MASS, OCTOBER 4 AT 6 PM:** Louis & Mary Link, Hoop & Frances Burgart, Dan Burgart, Marv Hoeft.

**FAITH FORMATION & ST. JOHN'S ENROLLMENT:** Registrations and fees for St. John's & Faith Formation are **due by October 15**. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Pastoral Office at 394-2105.



**Journey  
in Faith**

Trust. Transform. Together.

The Archdiocese of Dubuque continues its *Journey in Faith*, an invitation to renewal and growth for parish life. Based on survey responses from more than 22,000 parishioners and additional parish data, proposed pastorate models have been prepared to encourage prayer, listening, and dialogue. You can view these proposed models at [dbqjourneyinfaith.org](http://dbqjourneyinfaith.org).

This September, parishioners were invited to attend one of 34 Regional *Journey in Faith* Information Sessions. The next step will be our local parish meetings.

**Good Shepherd Cluster will now be hosting local meetings** on Sunday, October 12, 3 pm at Immaculate Conception Parish, North Washington and Sunday, November 2, 3 p.m. at St. Boniface, Ionia. These sessions will provide opportunities for listening and input. **Please all cluster members plan to attend, both meetings if possible.**

Additional resources and online feedback opportunities are available at [dbqjourneyinfaith.org](http://dbqjourneyinfaith.org).

**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. It is 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](mailto: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](mailto:dbq141@dbqarch.org).



## **AREA NEWS & EVENTS**

**Cookies for Cancer:** October cookie of the month Almond Joy 15/\$10. Or you may purchase gift certificates \$5.00 and up!!! Contact Rose Ann Schwickerath 641-557-8530. Thanks for your support.

**The Fort Atkinson Rendezvous will be held Saturday, September 27 and Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>.** The Fort grounds will be open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please bring the family and join the fun. No admission fee and free parking available.

We are serving a Chicken Dinner on Saturday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Fort Atkinson Community Center. Cost of the meal is \$16.00.

St. John's Parish is holding a breakfast on Sun., Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> from 8-12 at the Fort Atkinson Community Center. Cost of the meal is \$13.00.

Please bring the family for a fun weekend at the FORT!!!!

**The Annual Fall Mass at St. Clements:** Will be held on Thursday, October 9, 9 AM. There will be fellowship, kolaches & coffee following mass. We hope to see many of you there. St. Clement's is located 1 mile south of Spillville on W14.

**AmVet Auxiliary Post 90 Omelet Breakfast:** Sunday, October 12th, 8 AM-12 PM at the Fredericksburg Community Center. Free Will Donation. Everyone Welcome! Dine in or drive thru. See you there!!!

**Chickasaw County Public Health and Homecare**  
Walk-in clinics for adults 18 and older-  
No appointment needed

**Fredericksburg**-Fredericksburg Municipal Hall,  
151 W. Main St  
• Monday, September 29: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Ionia** -Ionia Comm. Library, 101 W. Iowa St.  
• Monday, October 6: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Nashua**-Nashua United Methodist Church, 314 Brasher St.  
• Wednesday, October 8: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**Alta Vista**-Alta Vista Public Library, 203 S. White Ave  
• Thursday, October 9: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Lawler**-Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 2940 Hwy 24  
• Friday, October 10: 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

Insurance cards or payments are required at the time of vaccination. Most insurance plans are accepted. If insurance does not cover or there is no insurance to bill, the cost is as follows;

High-Dose (age 65+): \$65.00,

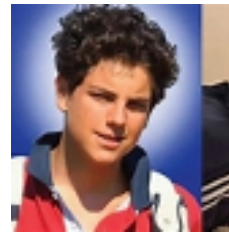
Flu Blok (age 18-64): \$65.00,

Regular Flu (6 months and older): \$40.00

Please call 641-394-4053 if accommodations are needed.

## **SAINT CAROLO ACUTIS' EUCHARISTIC MIRACLE EXHIBITION**

**October 19-October 26 at Holy Family Parish**



An Invitation To all Parishioners, Members of the Good Shepherd Cluster and friends:

Our school St. Joseph Community School and parish have the opportunity to have St. Carlo Acutis' Eucharistic Miracle exhibition **from October 19 to October 26.**

Carlo Acutis (3 May 1991 – 12 October 2006) was an English-born Italian Catholic teenager who was known for his devotion to the Eucharist and his use of digital media to promote Catholic devotion. Born in London and raised in Milan, he developed an early interest in computers and video games, teaching himself programming and web design and assisting his parish and school with digital projects. His favorite sport was soccer.

Active in parish life, he served as a catechist and helped inspire several people to convert to Catholicism. He later created a website documenting Eucharistic miracles and Marian apparitions. He was diagnosed with acute promyelocytic leukemia and died at the age of fifteen. Since his death, his relics have been displayed in Assisi and his exhibitions on Eucharistic miracles have travelled worldwide. St. Benedict Church in Decorah, has a relic donated by parishioners in the chapel.

In 2020, he was beatified by the Catholic Church after the Church recognition of a proposed 2013 miracle in Brazil attributed to his intercession, while a second miracle in Italy was confirmed in 2024. Acutis was canonized as a saint on 7 September 2025, alongside Pier Giorgio Frassati. Acutis has been referred to as the "patron saint of the Internet", "God's Influencer" and the "first millennial saint".

Parents, grandparents, it is well worth your time to visit the display with your children, talk about their reactions to the miracles, etc. One viewer stated: "If you have trouble believing in the true presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, this will make you a believer."

This exhibition was made possible with the assistance of the Decorah Deanery Council of Catholic Women.



**Our Faith STO**  
a School Tuition Organization

# 75%

## IOWA TAX CREDITS

are available to farmers  
making Crop Gifts to  
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- Farmers receive a 75% Iowa Tax Credit on the sold value



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- Students attending Archdiocesan Catholic Schools
- Families meeting federal income guidelines

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To make a Crop Donation, please fill out the form on the reverse side and return to:  
Our Faith STO, 1229 Mt. Loretta Ave, Dubuque, IA 52003 or visit

**OurFaithSTO.org**

For more information, contact Steve Kane, STO Director:  
[stodir@dbqarch.org](mailto:stodir@dbqarch.org) or (563) 552-0297



## Crop Ownership Transfer Form

### Donor Information

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Street/City/State/Zip): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Corn or Soybean Donation Information

I (we) authorize transfer of \_\_\_\_\_ (number) bushels of \_\_\_\_\_ (corn or soybeans)

to the Our Faith STO on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ (date). *(Corn or soybeans are not under contract.)*

**Donor Signature** (required) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

### Elevator Information

Name of Elevator/Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Elevator E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Elevator Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Elevator Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**Operator Statement:** On behalf of the elevator listed above, I have processed this commodity transfer and *confirmed that the items were not under contract*. The corn or soybeans have been transferred to the Our Faith STO account.

**The corn or soybeans are to be sold immediately.**

**Commodity Operator Rep Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**To the Operator:** Please fax or email this form to the Our Faith STO at (563) 556-5464 (fax) or [stodir@dbqarch.org](mailto:stodir@dbqarch.org).

The donation check should be mailed to:

**Our Faith School Tuition Organization | 1229 Mt. Loretta Ave | Dubuque, IA 52003**

Key Points for a Valid Crop Donation:

- Please consult your tax preparer for professional advice for your individual station.
- The Our Faith STO will open an account with the elevator in anticipation of your corn or soybean donation. Please contact us in advance so the account can be established before delivery.
- You must deliver corn or soybeans to the elevator or currently hold crops in your name to provide proof of production. *Contracted corn or soybean sales will not be accepted as a crop donation.*
- You must transfer the ownership title of the commodity to the Our Faith STO, prior to sale to make a valid donation.

**For more information, contact the Our Faith School Tuition Organization at**  
(563) 556-2580 x 296 | [www.OurFaithSTO.org](http://www.OurFaithSTO.org) | [stodir@dbqarch.org](mailto:stodir@dbqarch.org)

**For Internal Use:** Person Contacted: \_\_\_\_\_ #Bushels and Crop Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Sales Price: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Donated: \_\_\_\_\_



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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-SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

Fr. Kucera will be presider on Saturday evening masses

**4 PM-Holy Family**-50th Anniversary Dean & Joyce Gebel

For the People of the Cluster

**6 PM-Immaculate Conception**-Roger Nosbisch

### SUN., SEPTEMBER 28, 2025 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time

**8 AM-Holy Family**-Andrea Burgart

**10 AM-Holy Family**-Collective Mass

### MONDAY-SEPTEMBER 29, 2025

Bulletin News Due at Noon

### TUESDAY-SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

**5:15 PM-St. Boniface**-Merle & Alice Rethamel

### WEDNESDAY-OCTOBER 1, 2025

**3 PM-NH Rehab**-Cletus & Doris Ries

6:00 PM-Faith Formation Classes @ Holy Family K-8

### THURSDAY-OCTOBER 2, 2025

**2 PM-Accura HealthCare (Linn Haven)**-Travis Rasing

### FRIDAY-OCTOBER 3, 2025

**8:30 AM-Holy Family**- Fr. Carl Schmitt

### SATURDAY-OCTOBER 4, 2025

**St. Boniface wedding**- Baylee Weiss & Shane Hillesheim

**4 PM-Holy Family**-Collective

**6 PM-St. Boniface**-Collective

### SUN-OCTOBER 5, 2025-27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**8 AM-Holy Family**-Mark Rethamel

**10 AM-Holy Family**-Virgil & Dolly Schwickerath

**11:30 AM-Holy Family**-For the People of the Cluster

## Good News!

September 28, 2025

*Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)*

Amos 6:1a, 4-7 / 1 Timothy 6:11-16 / Luke 16:19-31

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**In *A Christmas Carol***, Ebenezer Scrooge found himself confronted by the person he had become: someone forced to accept the reality painted by the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come. Scrooge hadn't realized how he had slowly drifted into becoming an uncaring and greedy person, unable to show compassion because he never really saw someone else's pain. The story of Ebenezer Scrooge is the story of the rich man in this Sunday's gospel who was unmoved by poor Lazarus, sitting at the gate of the rich man's sumptuous life. They are both stories of human beings drifting into emptiness.

St. Thomas Aquinas suggested that our motivations in life can ultimately be reduced to eight different categories. If we're interested in understanding what sort of people we are becoming, we might ask ourselves which of these questions best describes our motivation: Am I making my decisions and choices about life based on wealth? Or am I looking to be admired by others and be praised? Is it lasting glory that I seek? Or power so that I can be noted for "making a difference?" Is what I seek a life of ultimate pleasure and comfort? Is it health that I look for? Or perhaps something related to my inner life—some intangible good, like virtue or knowledge? Or is it to see God already in this life what I truly want? It is always a challenge to know our true selves because all too often we may be adrift, unaware of who we are becoming. ●

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## Giving Tree Applications

**Are available in the entrances of the churches or the Pastoral Office.**

September 21, 2025	Budget Report		
Parish	Holy Family	Immaculate Conception	St Boniface
Yearly Collection Needed *	\$627,787.00	\$48,667.00	\$42,091.00
Yearly Collection Needed to 09.21.2025	\$144,873.96	\$11,230.80	\$9,713.28
Needed Weekly Amount	\$12,072.83	\$935.90	\$809.44
Received Last Week	\$8,936.33	\$650.00	\$310.00
Year to Date Recd to 09.21.2025	\$111,776.99	\$4,572.00	\$4,270.00
Difference	-\$33,096.97	-\$6,658.80	-\$5,443.28
Offertory	\$1,092.00		\$52.00
Hispanic Mass Offertory			
This is the amount determined to balance each respective church's budget. This includes only the adult budget envelopes and not a reflection of the actual income statement.			