

*Working Together To
Build the Kingdom of God*

Mass Schedule:

St. John the Baptist, Mount Vernon
Sunday - 8:00 am
Wednesday's and Friday's - 8:30 am

Parish Confession:

Sunday at 7:15 am or by appointment

St. Isidore the Farmer, Springville:

Saturday, 6 pm - Tuesday & Thursday 8 am

St. John Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday:
8 am - 4 pm
Friday:
7 am - 2 pm

Pastor:

Rev. Andrew Awotwe-Mensah
Office: 895-6246
Email: DBQ137@dbqarch.org

Main Office: Secretary/Bookkeeper

Trevor Gretten
Parish Office: 895-6246
E-mail: DBQ137SEC@dbqarch.org
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Director of Faith Formation

Linda Hansmeier: 895-6758
E-mail: DBQ137RE@dbqarch.org

Coordinator of Youth/Young Adult Ministry

Cade Naughton: 895-6758
E-Mail : DBQ137YM@dbqarch.org

Coordinator of Music

Theresa Sundstrom: 563-451-2054
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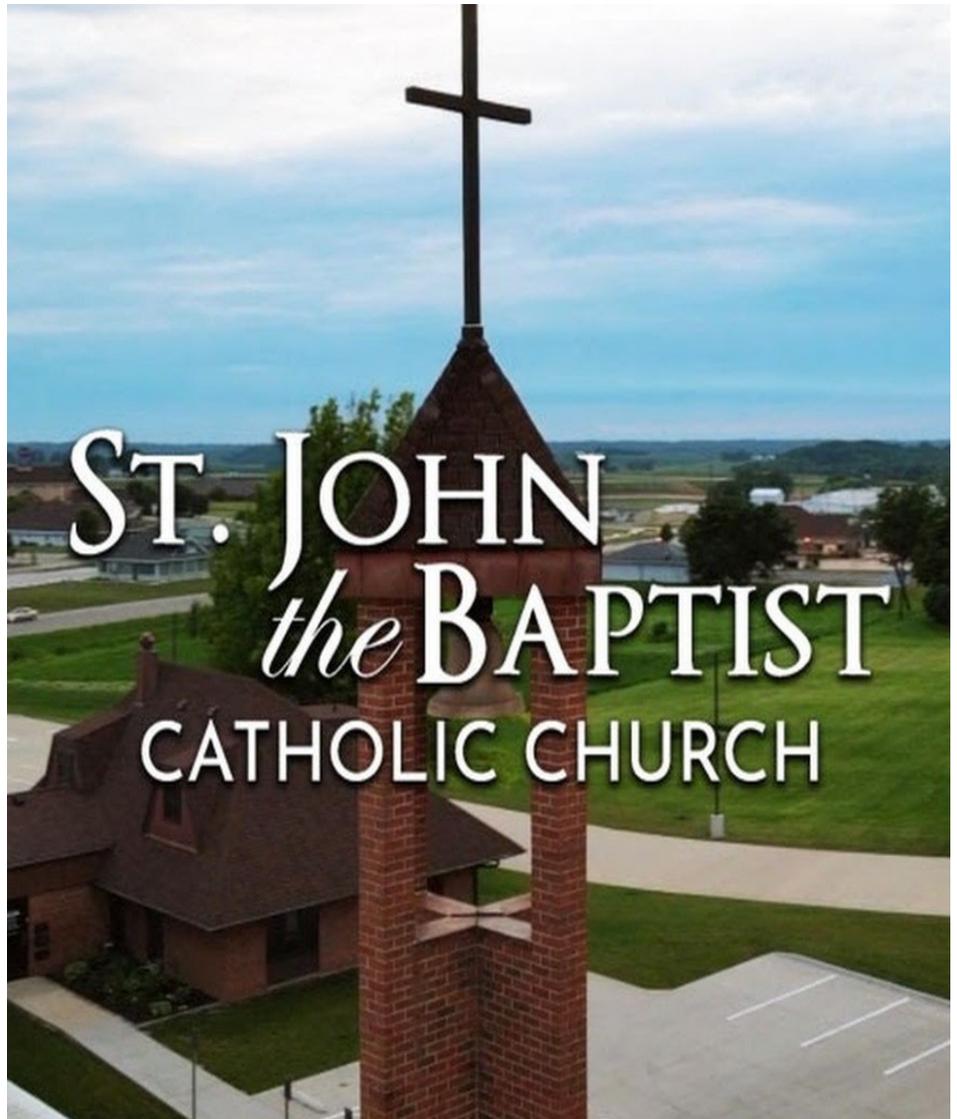
Prayer Chain Contacts:

Thelma Rife: tbrife@gmail.com
Trevor Gretten: DBQ137SEC@dbqarch.org

Catholic Charities: 1-800-772-2758

Birthing: 319-393-3251 or 1-800-550-4900

*September 18th, 2022
Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*



LISBON - MOUNT VERNON, IA
AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES
Website: <http://www.stjohnmv.org>

PARISH THEME: RETURN TO ME AND RENEW YOUR SPIRIT

Pastor Speaks

25th Sunday: *Sharing is a Blessing*

My reflection on the readings for this weekend leads me to share with you an aspect of the ongoing Archdiocese One capital campaign as we get closer to the commitment weekend. What I am referring to is the immigration services support in the campaign.

Now as one who just became a U.S. citizen after ten years in the country, I personally know how expensive it is to keep our international immigrant priests in the Dubuque Archdiocese. It cost the archdiocese lots of money to pay immigration processing fees and attorney fees.

Moreover, there are frequent renewal of visas and in each case, the cycle of payments continues. Currently, there are over 12 international priests working in the archdiocese, not counting those that have returned to their home dioceses or countries after serving the people of Dubuque Archdiocese.

I do not intend to speak for the archdiocese or justify their reason to have the immigration support services as a component of the campaign. However, as I stated earlier, I'm personally aware of the humongous expenses the archdiocese makes for keeping the international clergy in the archdiocese.

One may say, "I'm not against paying to keep our priests here to serve us." Well, it is not so simple as that. There may be those who are not priests but are in equally reasonable circumstance that end up benefitting the people in the archdiocese in one way or another. We just don't know.

We know that in conformity to the social teachings of the church, the archdiocese through Catholic Charity, has a moral obligation to take care of the poor and those in need of help to live a meaningful life.

I have personally been approached about the rationale for the archdiocese to include immigration services support in the campaign. Maybe you also have a similar concern. Will this explanation help as you consider your decision to support the entire campaign

Also, I must point out that the campaign organizers have been explicit that they would respect the intention of the donors or contributors. That means, if you give to any specific area, your contribution will not be directed to anything else; it will be used to reflect your desire.

We notice in the gospel the challenge Jesus gives us to use what has been entrusted us to help others and gain eternal reward without making exceptions.

Gospel Meditation

"You cannot serve both God and mammon." Merriam-Webster defines mammon as material wealth or possessions, especially having a debasing influence. While God does not take issue with our need to use money for the business of our lives, there can be a problem with the attitudes we bring to it. We can easily become so preoccupied and obsessed with money that it becomes the real "god" we worship. Do we serve mammon instead of God? In their book, *Wealth, Riches and Money*, Craig Hill and Earl Pitts outline symptoms of mammon's influence in our lives. Some of these are worry and anxiety over money, money mismanagement, fear over "never having enough," an "I can't afford it" mentality, impulse buying, stinginess, greed, debt, and discontent

Many of the things on that list can consume us to the point that we are distracted from what we really need to be doing. Many people spend an inordinate amount of time worrying about money and it becomes the source of their worst fears. If we are honest with ourselves, we need to admit that we place far more emphasis on our material securities than we ought. In fact, we have actually convinced ourselves that we cannot live without it. Are we that certain about the presence of God? Many of the world's problems, especially those involving inequity and injustice, result from conflicts about money. Many equate money with happiness. Those successful in accumulating large amounts of it quickly realize just how wrong they are.

"Your ultimate allegiance is not to the government, not to the state, not to nation, not to any man-made institution. The Christian owes his ultimate allegiance to God, and if any earthly institution conflicts with God's will it is your Christian duty to take a stand against it. You must never allow the transitory evanescent demands of man-made institutions to take precedence over the eternal demands of the Almighty God (Martin Luther King, Jr.)." This is the point Jesus is trying to make. Unfortunately, when we look around our man-made kingdoms are far more prevalent than God's kingdom. When we start seeing greater evidence of justice, equity, dignity, respect, opportunity, gentleness, holiness, solidarity, honesty, simplicity, care for creation, and a decrease in ambition, then we will know that God's kingdom is being served. We will be doing what we are supposed to do.

Readings for the week of September 18, 2022

Sun: Am 8:4-7/Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8/1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13
Mon: Prv 3:27-34/Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, \5/Lk 8:16-18
Tues: Prv 21:1-6,10-13/Ps 119:1,27,30,34,35,44/Lk 8:19-21
Weds: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Mt 9:9-13
Thurs: Eccl 1:2-11/Ps 90:3-4,5-6,12-13,14 and 17bc/Lk 9:7-9
Fri: Eccl 3:1-11/Ps 144:1b and 2abc, 3-4/Lk 9:18-22
Sat: Eccl 11:9-12:8/Ps 90:3-4,5-6,12-13,14 &17/Lk 9:43b-45
Next Sunday:
Am 6:1a,4-7/Ps 146:7,8-9,9-10[1b]/1 Tm 6:11-16/Lk 16:19-31



Wednesday September 21st,

8:30 am - Leonard Poduska

Friday September 23rd,

8:30 am - Virginia Kotzbauer

Sunday September 25th,

8:00 am - Ann Hufford

ArchdioceseOne: Give Online and Pray for Success

Please remember that you can also give to ArchdioceseOne online. This can be done at www.archdioceseone.org/support. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of a gift to ArchdioceseOne. Please email Jeff Schneider at jeff.schneider@dbqarch.org with any questions. Also, please continue to pray for the success of this special appeal and for its beneficiaries as we move forward. Please email Jeff Schneider at jeff.schneider@dbqarch.org with any questions. Thank you.
God, come to our assistance. Lord, make haste to help us. Amen.

Sisters of Faith
WOMEN'S COMMUNITY & FELLOWSHIP
IMPORTANT message from
Sisters of Faith
Sisters of Faith will begin on
Saturday, **October 1** at 8:30 AM.
We will NOT meet in September.

Go to our website stjohnmv.org to access FORMED!

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Weekly contributions needed..... \$5,817.30

Contributions Received

July 17, 2022

Budget, Adult.....	\$ 5750.00
Loose Coin/Currency	\$ 519.00
Electricity/Fuel	\$ 285.00
September ACH Donations	\$ 4775.00
Facility Upkeep.....	\$ 110.00
Other Donations (Pancake/Backpack/Pie).....	\$ 1224.00
Total Collected	\$ 12663.00
YTD collection needed.....	\$ 63990.30
YTD collections received	\$ 63991.00
YTD	\$.70

Liturgical Ministers August 28th, 2022

- Sacristan: Ellen Bentley
- EM: Marty Fall - Ruth Horton
Cindy Kendall - Diane Kimm
- EM (Cup): Lisa Thuerauf - Leona Smith Faoro
Diane Apel - Andy Moeller
Chuck Murray
- Lectors: Stephen Poduska - Erin Moeller
- Servers: Lauren Stolte - Alaina Sellner
Betsy Louwagie
- Hospitality: Mike & Ruth Clark & Family
Dave & Lesley Panos & Family
Troy & Tracey Louwagie & Family

Meetings and Activities of the Week

Tuesday September 20th:

6:30 PM: Faith Formation Committee Meeting

Wednesday September 21st:

6:30 AM: Finance Council Meeting

8:30 AM: Mass

9:00 AM: St. Anne's Circle Meeting

6:00 PM: Faith Formation 5th-8th

7:00 PM: Adoration

7:00 PM: Faith Formation 9th-12th

Thursday September 22nd:

6:00 PM: RCIA

Friday September 23rd:

8:30 AM: Mass

Saturday September 24th:

6:30 AM: That Man is You (Men's Group)