

*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 7:30 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
FAX #: 319-895-0973

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
E-mail: t.sundstrom@dbqarch.org

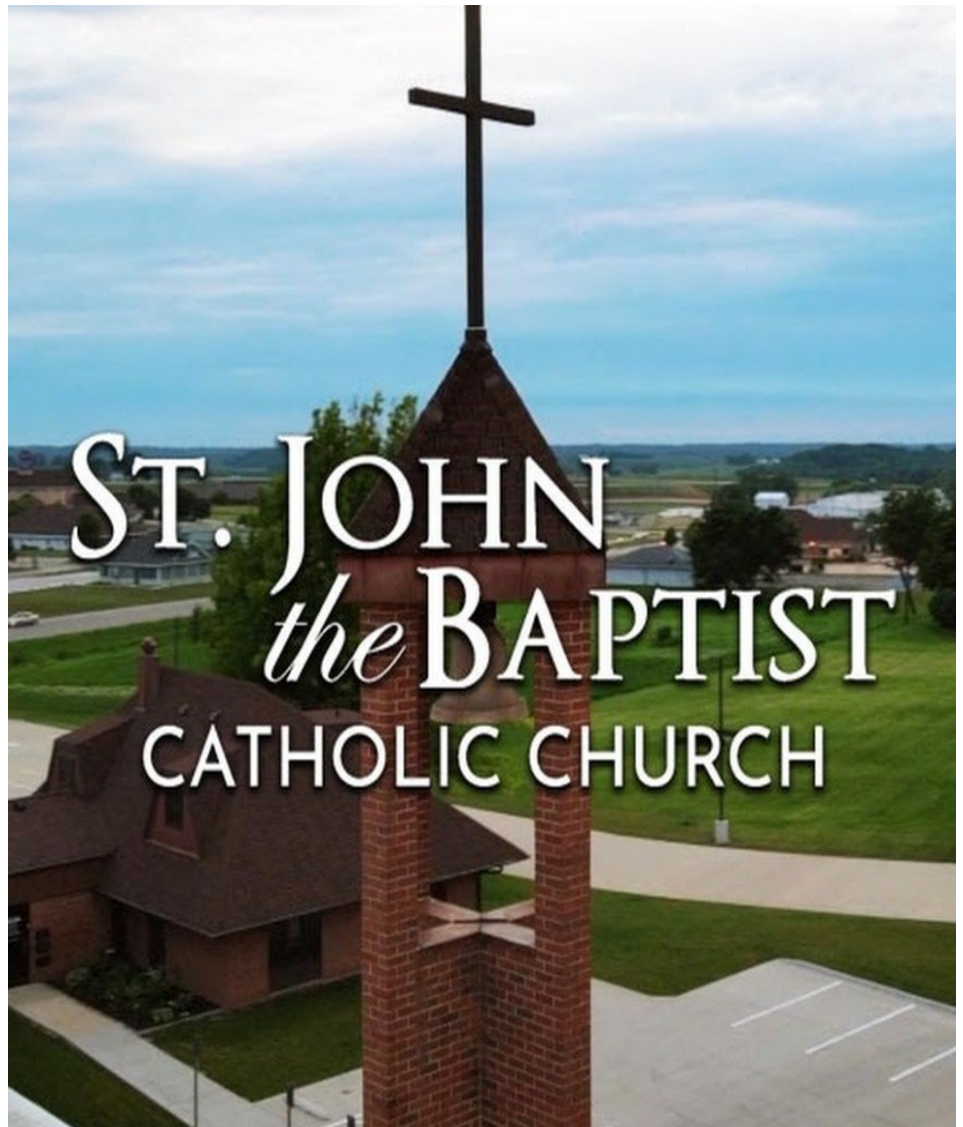
Prayer Chain Contacts:

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

Catholic Charities: 1-800-772-2758

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

*December 25th 2022
Christmas Day
Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord*



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

Parish Theme: Building Our Parish Through Love, Prayer, Service, Community

Pastor Speaks

The Christmas Story of Jesus,

Friends, it's Christmas! Have you taken a moment to express your heartfelt wish of Merry Christmas to your family and friends? Remember the words of the song, It's the most wonderful time of the year." I'm happy for your life. The Christmas story of the birth of Christ is the greatest and most seamless love story about God becoming one with us.

Fr Peter J. Cameron quoted the following from the CCC no. 563 in the Magnificat readings for December 25, "No one, whether shepherd or wise man, can approach God here below except by kneeling before the manger at Bethlehem and adoring him hidden in the weakness of a newborn child."

I recall my experiences of the sights and sounds in Bethlehem in Israel, during my visit last Summer: the nativity scenes, the shepherds' field, the imposing church of the Nativity, the throng of pilgrims, besieging this holy site, seeking to walk the very ground where Jesus was born. It's a remarkable place to visit and enjoy the experience.

To every Christian at the birthplace of Jesus, it reveals that great things happened to humanity and these things still continued when God became human to mix with humankind; a lofty experience of God's presence in the world, which we are celebrating during this Christmas season. Christ truly came on earth; He is still present to us.

So, what should that mean to us? Take the analogy of sports fans. For every American football team, be it college or professional team, there are likely to be two kinds of supporters: those who are with the team through thick and thin win or loss and those who are fair weather fans.

The Christmas story presents to us the loving and forgiving heart of God, which led Him to come to take on our broken humanity in order to fix us. Since God creates us in His image, He loves what is in us—the soul of every person—and He never abandons them.

The incarnation shows God as a die hard fan of everyone of His creatures. He follows us to where we are and to stick with us, which only calls for our reciprocity—to stick around with Him too.

For those who may be here because its Christmas and they needed to join their families to Church as a tradition or as a one-time church attendance and are thinking of Easter or next Christmas to go to church again, we are so glad you are here. But please consider not being a fair weather Christian or fan of Christ.

Be a super, regular fan of Christ and follow Him, worship Him, and fellowship with His buddies in the church. This is the reason the Christmas story is a seamless love story; it involves all of us.

Faith Formation by Linda Hansmeier

Joe Paprocki describes Christmas as unabashedly Catholic by characterizing our Catholic identity with the following traits:

A sense of sacramentality—Sacraments are signs, tangible realities that point to the intangible mystery of God's grace. Christmas celebrates Jesus as the "sacrament of God"—the Word become flesh. In Jesus, the divine becomes tangible. In the Eucharist, we continue to encounter the Word made flesh in a very real way.

A commitment to community—Why is it that at Christmas, we go to such great lengths to bring family together? It is because we are inherently communal. In the communal nature of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—one God, three Persons we find that Catholicism is not a "me and God" experience, but an experience of finding God in all people. Christmas reminds us of our duty to reconcile broken relationships so that we can be truly communal, thus reflecting the image of God.

A deep respect for the dignity of human life, leading to a commitment of social justice—Catholicism is Incarnational, meaning that God became human in Jesus. In doing so, God brought divine dignity to the human condition. Our belief in the life and dignity of the human person is the foundation of our moral vision. Christmas is a time when we renew our commitment to care for the poor as we recognize their human dignity which becomes a year-round practice.

A reverence for tradition—We look to the past to see how the saints before us encountered God's grace, so that we can recognize that grace in the present and move confidently into the future. Just like Ebenezer Scrooge who vowed, "I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all year. I will live in the past, the present, and the future. The spirits of all three shall strive within me," we too allow the traditions of the past to speak to the present and to point us confidently to the future.

A disposition to faith and hope and not despair—We Catholics are a people of hope. We belt out the song "Joy to the World" during the Christmas season. However, all year long, we "wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ!" This joy is fueled by the realization that God loves us so much that he gave us his only Son, which is what we celebrate today, on Christmas. We are called to be evangelizers, eagerly proclaiming the good news of Jesus to others in word and deed. The joy of Christmas is a joy that we are called to carry with us year-round. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year! Linda

Readings for the week of December 25, 2022

Sun:

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2,3,11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Mon: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Tues: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Wed: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18

Thurs: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

Fri: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Sat: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18

Next Sunday:

Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21



Wednesday December 28th 2022:

8:30 AM: Robert Kottenstelte

Friday December 30th 2022:

8:30 AM: Arnold Brawner

Sunday January 1st 2022:

8:00 AM: Francella Kottenstelte

Meetings and Activities of the Week

Tuesday December 27th-

6:30 PM - Pastoral Council Meeting

Wednesday December 28th -

Family Time No Faith Formation

8:30 AM - Mass

Friday December 30th-

8:30 AM - Mass (Fellowship to Follow)

Sunday January 1st -

8:00 AM - Mass (Feast of the Epiphany)

Youth Ministry by Cade Naughton

We have just recently heard of the new dates for NCYC 2023! It will be in Indianapolis on November 16-18th. If you have any questions about NCYC, or you'd like to share a past experience, please contact Cade at dbq137ym@dbqarch.org.



STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

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

Contributions Received

Budget, Adult	\$ 2550.00
Loose Coin/Currency	\$ 310.00
December ACH Contributions	\$ 4830.00
Facility Upkeep.....	\$ 120.00
Misc. Donations (Snow/Flowers...etc.).....	\$ 365.00
Total Collected.....	\$ 8175.00
YTD collection needed.....	\$ 145432.50
YTD collections received.....	\$ 172379.68
YTD	\$ 26947.18

Liturgical Ministers January 1st, 2022

Sacristan: Brett Kimm

EM: Anna Vavrick - Ellen Bentley
Tom Wieseler - Carol Woods Boren

EM (Cup): De Wagner - Diane Apel - Diane Kimm
Dave Klostermann - Andy Moeller

Lectors: Lisa Thuerauf - Charlene Vig

Servers: Andrew Dix - Jackson Rhomberg
Johnny Broulik - Liliana Grosse

Hospitality: Larry & Judy Poduska
John & Amanda Rhomberg & Family
Tyler & Theresa Patterson & Family

News & Events

Adoration:

- 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the Month 7:00-9:00 PM
- Every Wednesday During Advent 7:00 - 9:00 PM
- After 8:30 AM Mass on First Friday of the Month

Reconciliation:

- Confessions are held 30 minutes before Sunday Mass at 7:30 AM.
- First Wednesday of the month 7:00-8:00 PM During Adoration
- They can also be made by appointment by contacting Father Andrew either call the office at 319-895-6246 or email dbq137@dbqarch.org to schedule.

Baptism: Baptismal Catechesis is done by Father Andrew.

Please contact the office at 319-895-6246 or email dbq137sec@dbqarch.org with any questions and to schedule a baptismal appointment.

Marriage Prep: Matrimonial Catechesis and preparation is done by Father Andrew. Please contact the office at 319-895-6246 or email dbq137sec@dbqarch.org with any marriage related issues or questions and to schedule an appointment.

Family Life Connections:

- Join the Parish families for Family Life Connections on the third Sunday of the month after Mass

That Man is You Men's Group:

- Join the men of the Parish for Fellowship and discussions each Saturday at 6:30 AM in the lower level of the Church

Sisters of Faith:

- Join the women of the Parish for Fellowship and discussions the 1st Saturday of the month at 8:30 AM