

*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  
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**Coordinator of Music**

Theresa Sundstrom: 563-451-2054  
E-mail: t.sundstrom@dbqarch.org

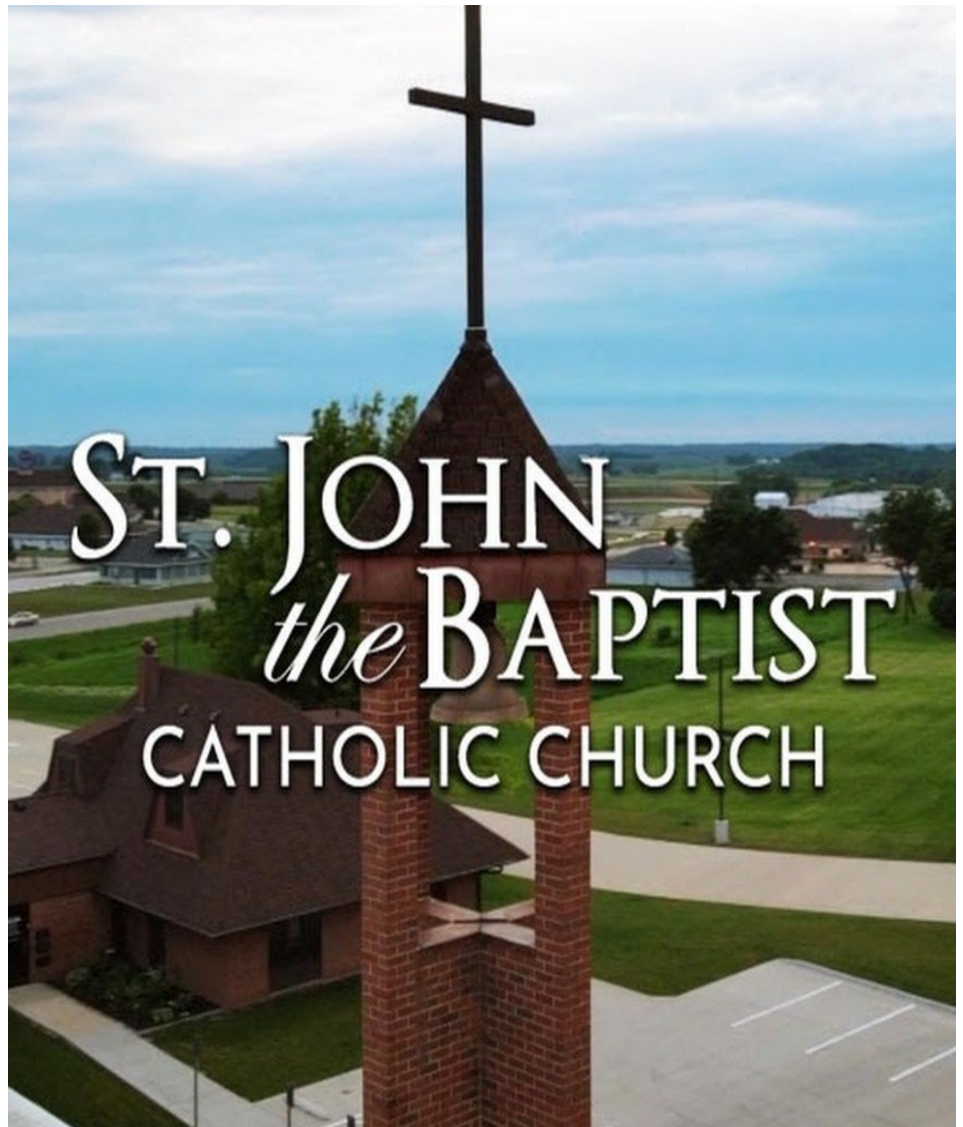
**Prayer Chain Contacts:**

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

*February 26th, 2023  
First Sunday of Lent*



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

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

## **Pastor Speaks**

As we start the season of Lent, I share excerpts from the pope's Lenten Message to all Catholics. I pray we all have a blessed Lenten Season.

### ***Lenten Penance and the Synodal Journey***

"The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke all recount the episode of the Transfiguration of Jesus. There we see the Lord's response to the failure of his disciples to understand him... "

....During this liturgical season, the Lord takes us with him to a place apart. While our ordinary commitments compel us to remain in our usual places and our often repetitive and sometimes boring routines, during Lent we are invited to ascend "a high mountain" in the company of Jesus and to live a particular experience of spiritual discipline – asceticism – as God's holy people.

....The Lenten journey of penance and the journey of the Synod alike have as their goal a transfiguration, both personal and ecclesial. A transformation that, in both cases, has its model in the Transfiguration of Jesus and is achieved by the grace of his paschal mystery. So that this transfiguration may become a reality in us this year, I would like to propose two "paths" to follow in order to ascend the mountain together with Jesus and, with him, to attain the goal.

....The first proposal, then, is very clear: we need to listen to Jesus. Lent is a time of grace to the extent that we listen to him as he speaks to us. And how does he speak to us? First, in the word of God, which the Church offers us in the liturgy. May that word not fall on deaf ears; if we cannot always attend Mass, let us study its daily biblical readings, even with the help of the internet....

....the Lord speaks to us through our brothers and sisters, especially in the faces and the stories of those who are in need. Let me say something else, which is quite important for the synodal process: listening to Christ often takes place in listening to our brothers and sisters in the Church. Such mutual listening in some phases is the primary goal, but it remains always indispensable in the method and style of a synodal Church....

....Here is the second proposal for this Lent: do not take refuge in a religiosity made up of extraordinary events and dramatic experiences, out of fear of facing reality and its daily struggles, its hardships and contradictions....

...Also on the synodal journey, when God gives us the grace of certain powerful experiences of communion, we should not imagine that we have arrived – for there too, the Lord repeats to us: "Rise, and do not be afraid". Let us go down, then, to the plain, and may the grace we have experienced strengthen us to be "artisans of synodality" in the ordinary life of our communities....

## **Faith Formation by Linda Hansmeier**

In preparation for First Reconciliation this past Saturday, February 25, our St. John First Communion parents and candidates met on Sunday, February 19, to continue to prepare for their child/children's First Reconciliation. A question that frequently comes up is why do I need to go to confession and how does it help me?

As people of God we are well aware of how sin can harm our relationship with God and the damage our sins do to those we care about, or the community we are a part of. When we have a change of heart we begin our journey back to God and this begins through the Sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation. During reconciliation two essentials are taking place: the acts of the penitent and the acts of Christ through the ministry of the Church. Conversion must involve a change of heart as well as a change of actions. Neither is possible without God's grace.

The Sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation is an experience of the gift of God's boundless mercy. It not only frees us from our sins, it challenges us to have the same kind of compassion and forgiveness for those who sin against us. St. Francis says it best: "it is in pardoning that we are pardoned."

### **Youth/Young Adult Ministry -**

If you are a Freshman / Sophomore this year, St. John's is offering a retreat located in Cedar Rapids called "Quest". This falls on April 15-16th from 1:00 p.m. on Saturday to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday. Here, high schoolers will meet other Catholic students from the Cedar Rapids parishes and grow in faith together. If this is something you'd be interested in, please contact Cade at [dbq137ym@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbq137ym@dbqarch.org).

### **Return to God with Eucharistic Adoration the Lent:**

Adoration will take place every Wednesday during Lent from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Spending time praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament is an intimate way to grow your relationship with Christ the Lent. You don't need to sign up and can stay for as little or as long as you'd like. We will begin after Ash Wednesday Mass on February 22nd.



SEE, I AM DOING A NEW THING | ISAIAH 43:19

**Do a New Thing This Year,  
Support Education in Haiti**

Click GIVING on the home page and  
choose "Haiti Education" in the drop-down menu.

## Readings for the week of February 26, 2023

Sun: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17 (see 3a)/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

Mon: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46

Tues: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15

Wed: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32

Thurs: Est C:12,14-16,23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab,2cde-3,7c-8/Mt 7:7-12

Fri: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 507a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26

Sat: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48

Next Sunday:

Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5,18-19,20,22/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9



### Wednesday March 1st, 2023:

**8:30 AM: Amanda Meeker**

### Friday March 3rd, 2023:

**8:30 AM: The Family of Dennis & Jeanne Duppong**

### Sunday March 5th, 2023:

**8:00 AM: John & Annice Lane**

### Knights of Columbus Lenten Seafood Dinner:

Please join the Knights of Columbus for Lenten Seafood Dinners every Friday from February 24 to April 7th from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. The dinners will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall off of Highway 13, the prices will be \$15 for Adults and Children over 12, \$6 for a Kid's meal, and Free for Kids 5 and younger.

Menu will be a choice between Baked Salmon/Tilapia, Vegetarian Lasagna, and Seafood Gumbo/Shrimp Alfredo on alternate weeks. The kid's option will be Mac and Cheese.

## News & Events

### **Adoration:**

- 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the Month 7:00-9:00 PM
- Every Wednesday During Lent 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:**

- On the 3rd Sunday of each month, join the Parish families for Family Life Connections immediately 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

## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

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

**Contributions Received Through February 21st 2023**

Budget, Adult .....	\$ 3450.00
Loose Coin/Currency .....	\$ 285.00
Fuel/AC .....	\$ 50.00
Misc. Donations .....	\$ 200.00
Total Collected.....	\$ 3985.00
YTD collection needed.....	\$ 197788.20
YTD collections received.....	\$ 253674.95
YTD .....	\$ <b>55886.75</b>

### Liturgical Ministers March 5th, 2023

Sacristan: Brett Kimm

EM: Bev O'Connor - Richard Povey  
Joey Rhomberg - Luke Stephens

EM (Cup): Judy Poduska - Leona Smith Faoro  
Lisa Thuerlauf - De Wagner - Diane Apel

Lectors: Erin Moeller - Stephen Poduska

Hospitality: Chuck & Marylynn Murray  
Tim & Abby Keegan & Family

Servers: Noah Sporrer - Clara Vavricek  
Lauren Stolte - Alaina Sellner

### Meetings and Activities of the Week

Monday February 27th -

6:30 PM - Tim Francis Presentation

Tuesday February 28th -

6:30 PM - Pastoral Council Meeting

Wednesday March 1st -

8:30 AM - Mass

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

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

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

7:00 PM - Adoration

Thursday March 2nd -

6:00 PM - RICA - Catholic Social Teaching

7:00 PM - Liturgy Meeting

Friday March 3rd -

8:30 AM - Mass (Fellowship to Follow)

9:00 AM - Adoration

Saturday March 4th -

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

8:30 AM - Sisters of Faith - All Women Welcome

Sunday March 5th -

8:00 AM - Mass - For Healthcare Workers

9:00 AM - Faith Formation K-4th

4:00 PM - First Communion Parent/Candidate Meeting

4:00 PM - Guitar Academy

### Social Justice Lenten Project:

Please Join us by donating new or gently used items to the Catherine McAuley Center. CMC serves immigrants, evacuees, and women in need by providing education, housing, transportation, and more. Some needed items include bedding, pots and pans, cleaning materials, hygiene items, beans, rice and canned goods. A complete wish list can be found on the parish website, Facebook page, and in the e-mail sent to all Parishioners.