

*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

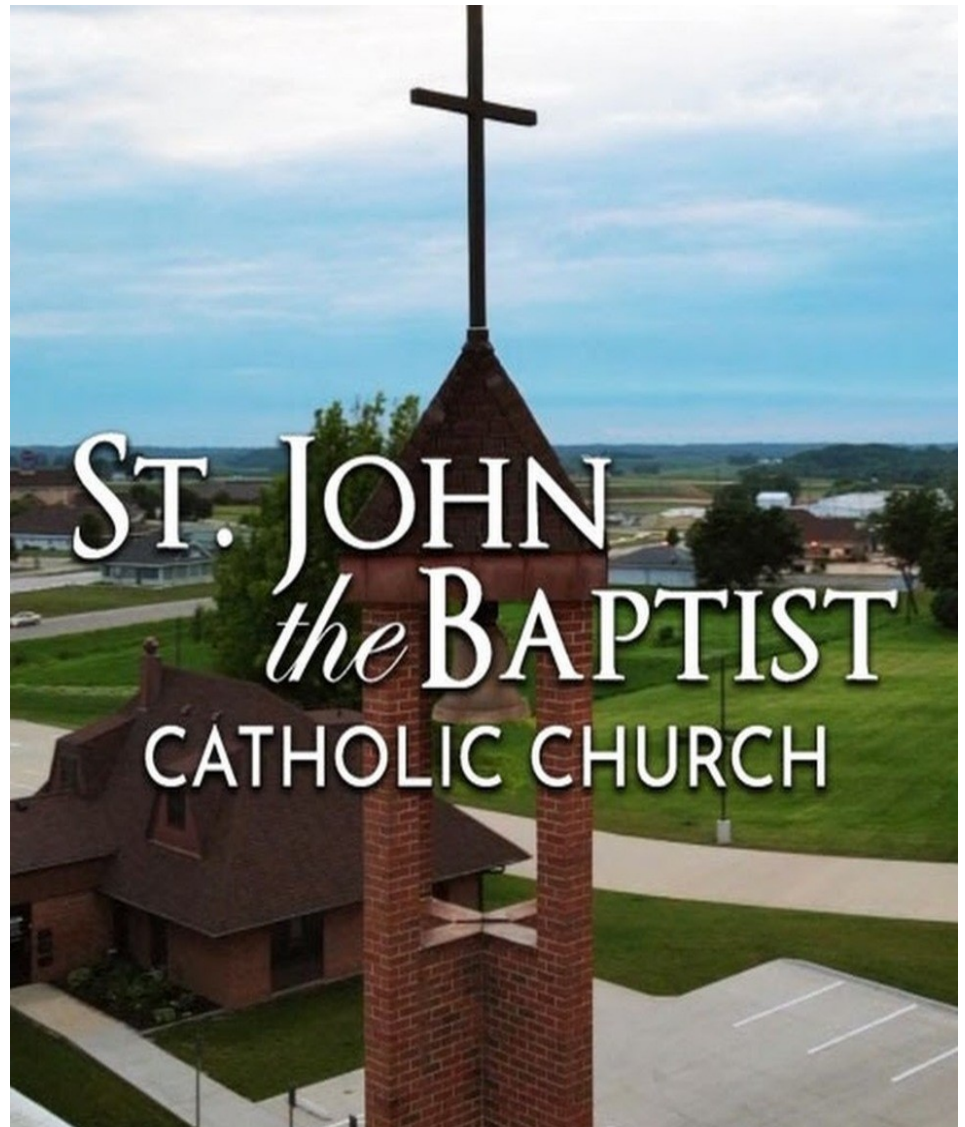
Prayer Chain Contacts:

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

*March 12th, 2023
Third 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

3rd Sunday of Lent: *Believe, Reflect, Act*

“We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world” (John 4:42).

One of the insightful highlights of this gospel is the verse above. We can describe it as resulting from good evangelization, catechesis, mission, preaching, faith formation etc.. However, what is obvious is the evidence of conversion; people moving from unbelief to a full confession of faith in the Lord.

Every Christian's heart is meant to turn to God the same way. Like a fertile, open field, when it has received God's Word, it “shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it” (Isaiah 11b).

The gospel notably leads us to discover Jesus' approach to evangelization. We can also apply it to evangelize non-Catholics and re-evangelize lukewarm and non-practicing Catholics.

Over the last few years I have been struck by a number of conversions to the Catholic Faith among Evangelicals and Protestants, some being leading ordained ministers and worship leaders. You can google it if you are curious.

It makes me wonder. What is it about Catholicism that is sweeping these Protestants and Evangelicals onto their feet to join the church? If you have the answer, tell me! But let me be the first to give you mine, The MASS! Yes, the Mass is the loadstar. Most of those I have listened to admit their lack of contact with the Mass before God led them to discover it in often mysterious ways.

We noticed in the gospel how the Samaritan woman initially related to Jesus in a rather bounded way. Her over focus on the Jewish-Samaritan divide caused her to have her guard up!

However, Jesus proved to her to be non-judgmental, uplifting, and respectful for who she was. She found that to be inviting and kept her engaged in the exchange until she found what she needed at that moment, “...a man who told me everything I have done” (John 4:29).

Here is one more thing. Tim Francis challenged us to maintain silence in the church immediately following Mass. He also urged us to spend time, even a moment, after Mass to pray before leaving. I hope we can start implementing these suggestions.

Faith Formation by Linda Hansmeier

There are three main things we focus on during Lent; prayer, fasting, and almsgiving or charity. Through prayer we focus more on our need for God's forgiveness. This includes repenting, as we turn away from our sins and receiving God's mercy and love. It is also through prayer that we find the strength to fast and give alms.

When we fast, we are giving up a regular part of our life, like eating dessert, or scrolling through Facebook. When we fast from food we remember our abundance which helps us find a way to walk in solidarity with people from around the world who struggle with daily hunger and starvation. When we limit social-media exposure along with fasting we quiet our minds and open our hearts to transformation.

Through almsgiving we reach deeper into our pockets of money and time to find ways to do good for others as a way to respond to God's grace, generosity, and love.

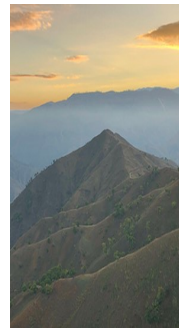
To help us on our Lenten journey Adoration is offered at St. John every Wednesday evening in March, beginning at 7:00 p.m. and on March 22 & 29 Stations of the Cross will be held at 7:00 p.m. with Adoration immediately following. Stations of the Cross will also be held during March following the 8:30 morning Mass. Our Haiti Alms Theme this year is doing something new. What might be something new your family and you can do to mindfully walk the Lenten journey in preparation for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery of our Lord?



Join us for the next
Family Life Connections on
March 19 after Mass

March's Topic:
**HOW TO SERVE EACH
OTHER WITH KINDNESS**

Please come to the lower level after Mass for coffee & refreshments. We will have an engaging presentation and a chance for discussion.
Childcare is provided for all ages.



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

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

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

Join women from all walks of life as we
Say Yes! and Walk with
Mary to the Cross

Date: Friday, March 24, 2023

Time: 6:30-8:30 PM

Location: Mt. Mercy University

1330 Elmhurst Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

**Cost: \$25 per person (includes talk by
Edward Sri and social with food)**

Several ladies from St. John's are going.

Contact Natalie Klostermann for car pooling.

Readings for the week of March 12, 2023

Sun: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2,6-7,8-9 (8)/Rom 5:1-2,5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42
Mon: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4/Lk 4:24-30
Tues: Dn 3:25,34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab,6 & 7bc,8-9/Mt 18:21-35
Wed: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19
Thurs: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23
Fri: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-9,10-11ab,14&17/Mk 12:28-34
Sat: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/Lk 18:9-14
Next Sunday:
1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38



Wednesday March 15th, 2023:

8:30 AM: Monica Friis

Friday March 17th, 2023:

8:30 AM: Dorris McElmeel

Sunday March 19th, 2023:

8:00 AM: Steve Horton

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.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry - Cade Naughton

Thank you all who have reached out and offered your hospitality to our college students! We had such a good response that now, the rest of the year is taken care of, but if you would like to put your name in for the Fall, please contact Cade at dbq137ym@dbqarch.org.

**Go to our website stjohnmv.org
to access FORMED!**

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 March 7th, 2023

Budget, Adult	\$ 3370.00
Loose Coin/Currency	\$ 362.00
Fuel/AC	\$ 20.00
Haiti Fund.....	\$ 50.00
Facility Upkeep.....	\$ 25.00
March ACH Payments.....	\$ 4980.00
February Online Donations.....	\$ 5613.47
Sacrificial Giving.....	\$ 15.00
Total Collected	\$ 14435.47
YTD collection needed.....	\$ 209422.80
YTD collections received	\$ 270488.42
YTD	\$ 61065.62

Liturgical Ministers March 19th, 2023

Sacristan: Hugh Scieszinski

EM: Charlene Vig - Tom Wieseler
Carol Woods Boren - Ellen Bentley

EM (Cup): Theresa Patterson - Leona Smith Faoro
Larry & Judy Poduska - Stephen Poduska

Lectors: Christine Tabak - Lisa Thuerlauf

Hospitality: Andy & Erin Moeller & Family
Dean & Kathy Mallie
Brian & Jennifer Donovan & Family

Servers: Michael Covington - Mitchell Covington
Tommy Rhomberg - Laura Swart

Meetings and Activities of the Week

Wednesday March 15th -

Spring Break No Faith Formation
6:30 AM - Finance Council Meeting
8:30 AM - Mass
9:00 AM - St. Anne's Circle Meeting - Pretzels
7:00 PM - Adoration

Friday March 17th -

8:30 AM - Mass (Fellowship to Follow)

Saturday March 18th -

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

Sunday March 19th -

8:00 AM - Mass (Communal Anointing of the Sick)
9:00 AM - Faith Formation K -4th
9:00 AM - Family Life Connections Session
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.

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry -

The Knights of Columbus have decided to switch back to doing Fish Frys on Fridays during Lent. They will be held at the hall just off of Highway 13 from 5 to 7 PM. The prices are \$12 for adults \$6 for kids. The menu includes Breaded Cod, Fries, Coleslaw, Soda, and Cash Bar. Proceeds go to benefit St. John's, St. Ludmila's, All Saints and KOC KC5677.