

*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:  
8 am - 2 pm

**Pastor:**

Rev. Andrew Awotwe-Mensah  
Office: 319-895-6246  
Email: DBQ137@dbqarch.org

**Main Office: Secretary/Bookkeeper**

Trevor Gretten  
Parish Office: 319-895-6246  
E-mail: DBQ137SEC@dbqarch.org  
FAX #: 319-895-0973

**Director of Faith Formation**

Linda Hansmeier: 319-895-6758  
E-mail: DBQ137RE@dbqarch.org

**Coordinator of Youth/Young Adult Ministry**

Cade Naughton: 319-895-6758  
E-Mail : DBQ137YM@dbqarch.org

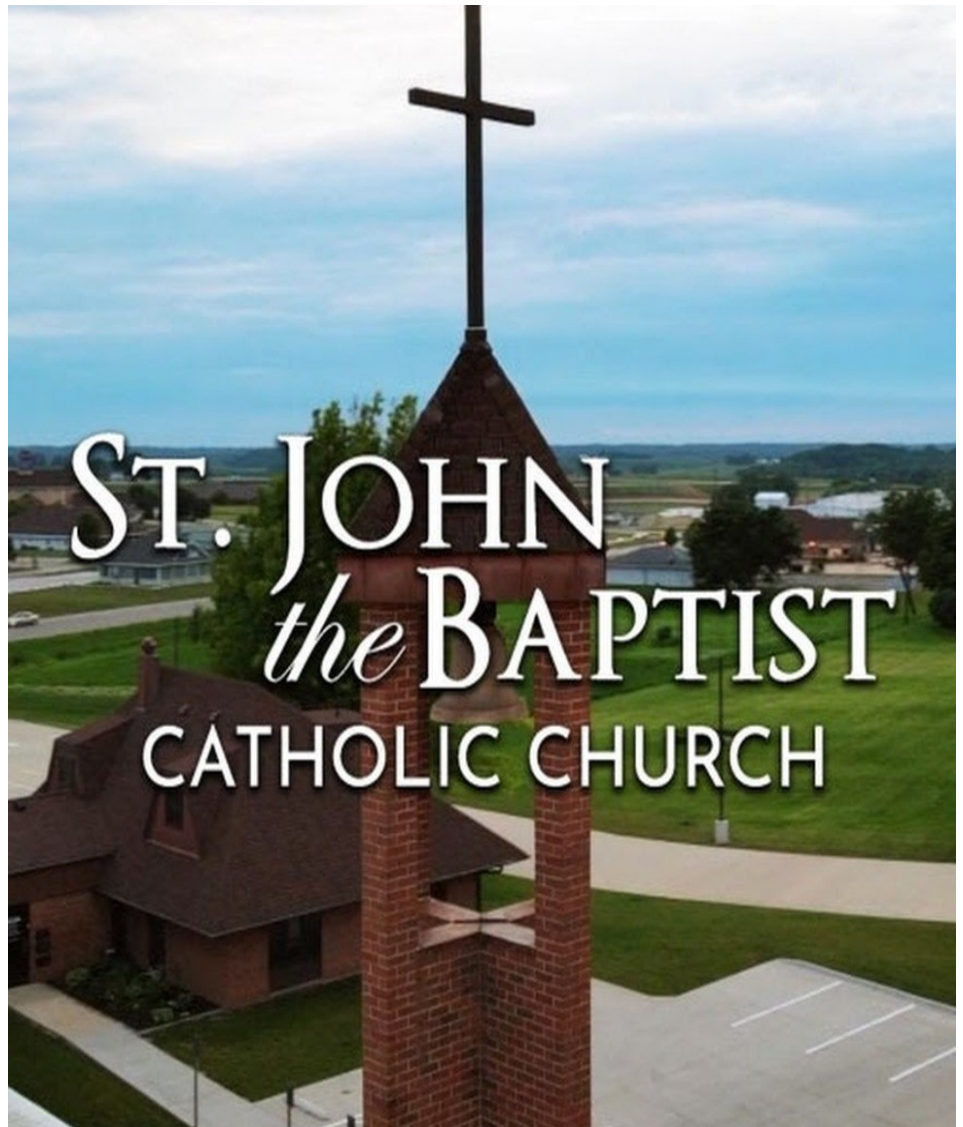
**Coordinator of Music**

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

**Prayer Chain Contacts:**

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

*April 23rd 2023  
Third Sunday of Easter*



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

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

## Pastor Speaks

### *Encounter Jesus and Others*

Happy Easter Season! It is with great excitement and deep joy that I want to welcome both parishioners and friends to our weekly encounter with the Lord and with one another. We are a parish family happily striving to encounter Jesus in our Sunday celebrations and share Him with others— old and new faces!

In fact, we have just entered one of the happiest moments of the year in our parish, the *Easter Season!* *It's a hopeful time! It's a time we look forward to many exciting celebrations, including the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation.*

Filled with tremendous faith, hope, and excitement, we will join sixteen children and their families in the parish to celebrate their First Holy Communion in two celebrations, this Sunday and the next.

To the First Holy communion candidates, be prepared to Encounter Jesus. You're in for a ***Treat! There is something very special about the Eucharist. It is real food, but it is also the real Body of a person; we call him Jesus. So what you are going to receive is the Body and Blood of Jesus.***

Soon after the First Holy Communion celebrations, Confirmation of nineteen candidates in the parish will follow on May 10. It will be jointly celebrated with the candidates from St. Isidore.

To the Confirmation candidates, be prepared to encounter the Holy Spirit. You're in for a ***Treat!*** He will anoint you with the oil of gladness. And remember, that will be the time to shine your spotlight on all the virtues, gifts, and talents and use them to serve the parish and the world. **Become missionary disciples in our parish. Share your faith, announce it, be proud of it!**

And by the way, this year's Confirmation of our candidates will be celebrated by Fr. David O'Connor who is the Dean of Cedar Rapids. He has been delegated by the Apostolic Administrator, Bishop Richard Pates following Archbishop Jackal's early retirement for health reasons.

All parishioners congratulate the two groups of candidates and their families. We also thank their families for permitting the children to be part of this ***LIFE, this ENCOUNTER, this UNDYING LOVE for Jesus in the Eucharist and for the Church.***

I welcome all families and friends of our candidates who have come to join us at St. John's.

### The Social Justice Committee at St. John's THANKS YOU!

The Social Justice Committee provides opportunities for parishioners to live out their faith by following the teachings contained in the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church. Recently, we focused on three projects that each upheld the Option for the Poor and Vulnerable. We wish to express our sincere gratitude for your thoughtful and generous response to these calls as we continually strive to live according to God's love for every human person.

**LENTEN ALMS:** This year for Lenten Alms, the Social Justice Committee asked for your help in sustaining the chapel schools of Notre Dame de Lourdes in Haiti. St. John's Parish raised over \$3450 that will be sent directly to support the children's education. Thank you for praying for our brothers and sisters and for giving so generously!

**HOUSEHOLD GOODS:** The Social Justice Committee sends a hearty thank you to St. John's faith community for the generous response to the collection of household goods for the Catherine McAuley Center during Lent. The committee collected over 228 items. The last of three car loads of donations was delivered on April 12.

**GROCERY SACKS:** Thank you for grocery sack donations which we share with St Pat's Catholic Church in Anamosa to make into sleeping mats for the homeless. The Willis Dady Homeless Center in Cedar Rapids has asked for at least 10 more mats every month due to increased need, and it takes over 500 sacks to make ONE MAT. We will continue to collect grocery sacks all summer and all year to help meet this goal. We appreciate your help for people in need!

### Children's Choir Invitation

All students in 2nd grade and up are invited to sing in our Children's Choir on the last Sunday of each month. The group continues to sing through the summer, and we would love to see new faces in the choir! Email Theresa Sundstrom at [dbq190s@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbq190s@dbqarch.org) for more information and to be put on the Children's Choir email list.

### Faith Formation by Linda Hansmeier



Meet our St. Isidore and St. John First Communion Candidates for 2023. Sunday, April 16 we met at St. John's church for some final preparations to receive their First Holy Communion in the coming weeks. "Jesus Day" is a special time as together we emphasized the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

This is an exciting time for these children with special outfits, relatives and friends gathering to help them celebrate and remembering that these wonderful and fun things are happening because they will be receiving Jesus' Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, for the first time. St. Pius X called Holy Communion "the shortest and surest way to heaven. So not only on the day of first Holy Communion, but after every Communion, let's hold each other in prayer as we give thanks to God for the great gift of Jesus who we receive in the Eucharist.



### **Readings for the week of April 23, 2023**

Sun: Acts 2:14,22-33/Ps 16:1-2,5,7-11/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35  
Mon: Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30/Jn 6:22-29  
Tues: 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17/Mk 16:15-20  
Wed: Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a/Jn 6:35-40  
Thurs: Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20/Jn 6:44-51  
Fri: Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 6:52-59  
Sat: Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Jn 6:60-69  
Next Sunday:  
Acts 2:14,36-41/Ps 23:1-6 (1)/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10



### **Wednesday April 26th 2023:**

**8:30 AM:** Susan Weih

### **Friday April 28th 2023:**

**8:30 AM:** Dorothy Mullaley

### **Sunday April 30th 2023:**

**8:00 AM:** Jerry & Agnes Litz

## **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

### **High School Choir Singers and Musicians**

High School students are also invited to sing or play an instrument in any of our Adult Choirs each month. Email Theresa Sundstrom at dbq190s@dbqarch.org for more information and to be put on the Adult Choir email list!

## **STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

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

### **Contributions Received Through**

Budget, Adult .....	\$ 1535.00
Loose Coin/Currency .....	\$ 617.30
Easter.....	\$ 5690.00
March Online Donations .....	\$ 7672.92
April ACH.....	\$ 4980.00
Haiti Donations.....	\$ 350.00
Sacrificial Giving.....	\$ 15.00
Total Collected.....	\$ 20860.22
YTD collection needed.....	\$ 244326.60
YTD collections received.....	\$ 305526.75
YTD .....	\$ 61200.15

### **Liturgical Ministers April 30th, 2023**

Sacristan: Brett Kimm

Lectors: Children's Mass

EM: Pete Bahl-Ellen Bentley-Marty Fall-Trevor Gretten

EM( Cup): Leona Smith Faoro - Lisa Thuerauf  
De Wagner - Diane Apel - Diane Kimm

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

Servers: Rylan Sporrer - Libby Dix  
Michael Covington - Mitchell Covington

### **Meetings and Activities of the Week**

#### **Tuesday April 25th -**

**6:30 PM - Pastoral Council Meeting**

#### **Wednesday April 26th -**

**8:30 AM - Mass**

**6:30 PM - End of Year Mass for Faith Formation (All Welcome)**

#### **Thursday April 27th -**

**6:00 PM - RCIA (Mystagogia - Role of the Laity)**

#### **Friday April 28th -**

**8:30 AM - Mass (Fellowship to Follow)**

#### **Saturday April 29th -**

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

#### **Sunday April 30th -**

**8:00 AM - Mass (First Communion)**



Check out **FORMED** Great Catholic stuff for everyone!