

*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  
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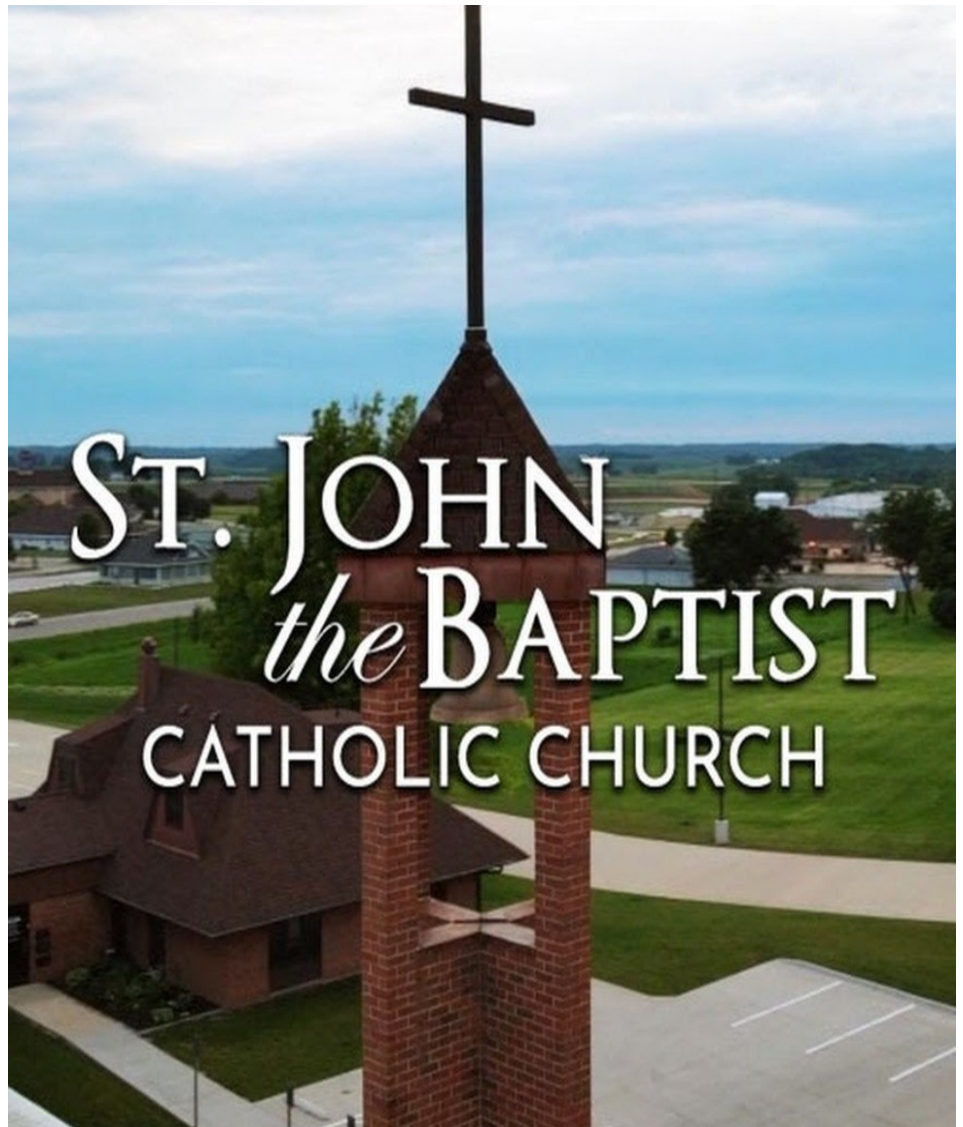
**Coordinator of Music**

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

**Prayer Chain Contacts:**

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

*May 14th 2023  
Sixth 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

### Come, build the Church!

Sacrament celebrations— First Holy Communion and Confirmation— are over now in our parish. Whether you received First Holy Communion or Confirmation, what is at the heart of both sacraments is the ***Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist***. The Holy Spirit is what transforms bread and wine into the ***Body*** and ***Blood*** of Jesus Christ.

We congratulate all the candidates for boldly stepping forward to receive the sacraments and the grace of God that flows to us abundantly whenever we receive them.

Also, note that this grace has been poured abundantly into your hearts just as it did with so many of us in earlier times. God's grace is never lacking in the church. On the contrary, "grace is everywhere" present to us (Romans 5:21) enabling us to be attentive to and appreciate the good, the true, and the beautiful (Ephesians 2:6-10).

Now the next exhortation is to come and build the church. Whether you received First Holy Communion or Confirmation, you can support in building the parish. God is working in and with all of us, children and adults; each person has something to bring to the parish. Don't consider yourself too little or young, do something with the grace bubbling inside you.

As the florist can make various bouquets with the same flowers, so the Holy spirit is able to use the grace from the same sacrament you have received to accomplish different things in different people for the church. Therefore, as the Lord has exhorted us, "Let your light shine for others to see," (John 5:14).

You can participate in the Children's Mass to sing, pray, and come to church. Confirmation candidates can sign up as Lectors, Eucharistic ministers, Greeters, and Sacristans.

Besides serving in the church, why don't you also become a missionary disciple and ambassador of our parish. Be the kind of person who stands up for the truth, the good, and the beautiful.

Be that young Catholic who decides to speak up for his or her faith, to defend it in the face of onslaught, and to be proud of being Catholic when others find it hard to do so. That is how we make a difference as did the disciples Philip, Peter, and John who went to Samaria to share their faith and won many people for the Lord with great joy. You too can make a difference!

## Faith Formation by Linda Hansmeier

Last Sunday, May 7 was a busy Sunday, beginning with the Mass. After Mass, Social Justice handed out different varieties of lettuce, raised by Katie Book, to the parishioners. This was in support of, and honoring, the eighth anniversary of *Laudato Si*, by Pope Francis.

Faith formation commission members sponsored a brunch for our St. John Catechists to celebrate in thankfulness all their many gifts and talents shared with our St. John children, youth, and adults. Brunch, a thank you and great fellowship followed for those who sacrifice much to serve in honor of the "Yes" in response to their baptismal calling.

There were those who gathered in the gathering space for coffee and donates, a time spent visiting and playing catch-up with their St. John friends. The lower level was being used as a reception for newly baptized Eli Ross, who became a new member of our St. John community. It was truly an amazing morning with much to celebrate!

These happenings reminded me of a message from Pope Francis: "Like the Apostle Thomas wonder: how can we get there, what is the way? At times, especially where there are major problems to face and there is the sensation that evil is stronger, we ask ourselves; what should I do, what path should I follow?"

Let us listen to Jesus' answer: "I am the way and the truth, and the life" (Jn 14:6) Jesus himself is the way to follow to live in truth and to have life in abundance. He is the way and therefore faith in him is not a "package of ideas" in which to believe, but rather a road to be travelled, a journey to undertake, a path with him.

It is following Jesus because he is the way that leads to unflinching happiness. Following Jesus and imitating him, especially with deeds of closeness and mercy towards others. This is the compass for reaching Heaven: loving Jesus, the way, becoming signs of his love on earth. Pope Francis

Every Sunday should start with Mass, where we listen to His Word, and we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus as we follow him. When we leave Mass, we imitate Jesus through our deeds of closeness with family and community as we show mercy and love to one another.



### **Readings for the week of May 14, 2023**

Sun: Acts 8:5-8,14-17/Ps 66:1-7,16,20/1 Pt 3:15-18/Jn 14:15-21  
Mon: Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-6a & 9b/Jn 15:26-16:4a  
Tues: Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8/Jn 16:5-11  
Wed: Acts 17:15,22-18:1/Ps 148:1-2,11-14/Jn 16:12-15  
Thurs: Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 16:16-20  
Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3,6-9/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20  
Friday: Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 16:20-23  
Saturday: Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10/Jn 16:23b-28  
Next Sunday:  
Acts 1:12-14/Ps 27:1,4,7-8/1 Pt 4:13-16/Jn 17:1-11a  
Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3,6-9/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20



### **Wednesday May 17th, 2023:**

**8:30 AM: Dorris McElmeel**

### **Friday May 19th, 2023:**

**8:30 AM: Dorothy Poduska**

### **Sunday May 21st, 2023:**

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

## **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**

Budget, Adult .....	\$ 2690.00
Loose Coin/Currency .....	\$ 399.50
Facility Upkeep .....	\$ 145.00
Sacrificial Giving.....	\$ 15.00
May ACH Donations.....	\$ 5030.00
Total Collected.....	\$ 8279.50
YTD collection needed.....	\$ 261778.50
YTD collections received.....	\$ 328876.02
YTD .....	\$ 67097.72

### **Liturgical Ministers May 21st, 2023**

Sacristan: Ellen Bentley

Lectors: Seniors

EM: Joey Rhomberg - Ryne Moeller  
Heidi Ryan - Jacob Ryan

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

Hospitality: Brett & Diane Kimm  
Nick & Allison Nissen & Family  
Jeremy & Abbie Stolte & Family

Servers: Chasen Caskey - Dashlyn Caskey  
Luke Stephens - Natalie Thuerauf

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

**Tuesday May 16th -**

**6:30 PM - Faith Formation Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday May 17th -**

**6:30 AM - Finance Council Meeting**

**8:30 AM - Mass**

**9:15 AM - St. Anne's Picnic**

**7:00 PM - Adoration**

**Friday May 19th -**

**8:30 AM - Mass**

**Sunday May 21st -**

**8:00 AM - Mass**

Please join us for a Mass honoring all St. John's High School Seniors next Sunday the 21st. We will be giving them some special recognition and Father Andrew will be giving them a blessing. After Mass we will be hosting a brunch for all Seniors in the Ed Wing in the large classroom by the Kitchen. Congratulations to all Seniors we hope to see you on the 21st!

**Go to our website [stjohnmv.org](http://stjohnmv.org)  
to access FORMED!**