

*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 Children's Faith Formation

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

Coordinator of Youth/Adult Ministry

Marcy McElroy: 319-895-6758
E-Mail : DBQ137YM@dbqarch.org

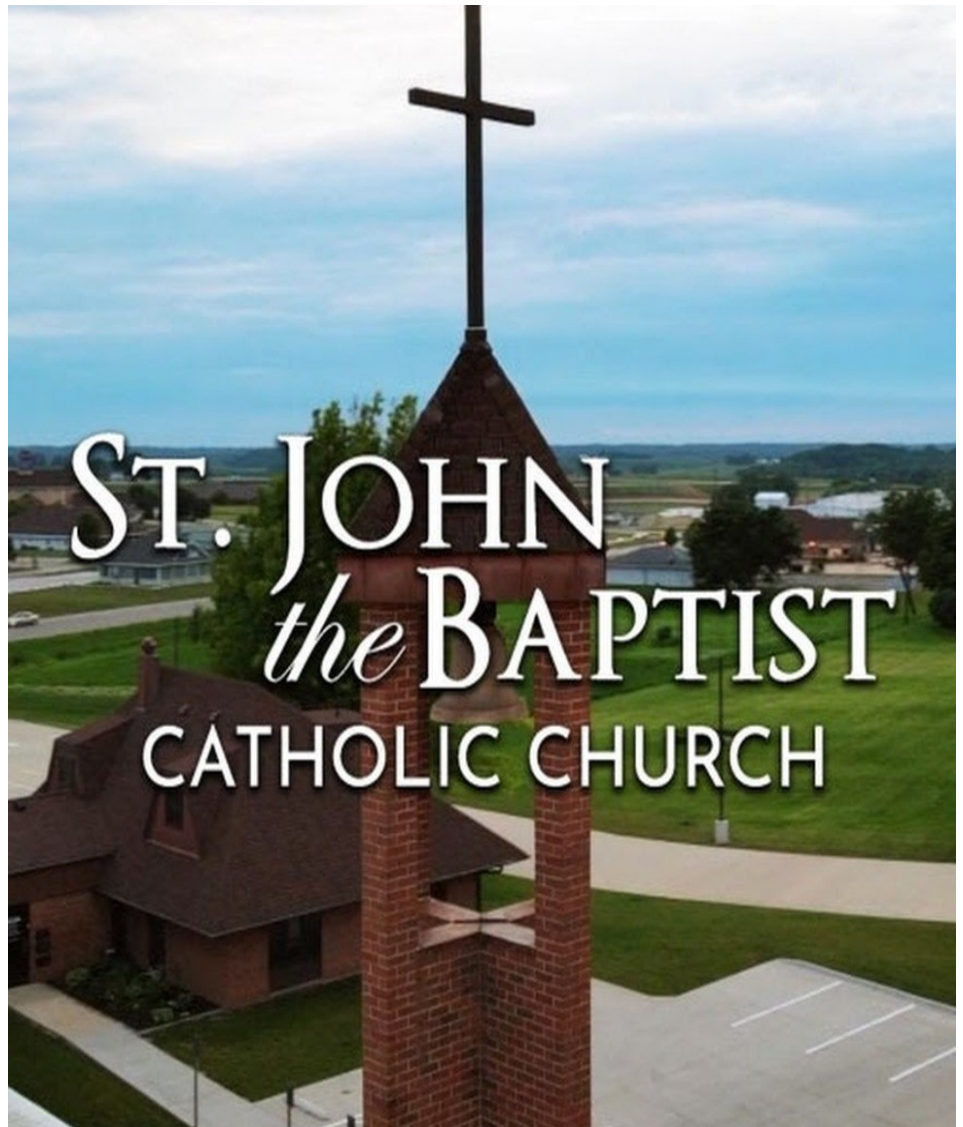
Coordinator of Music and Liturgy

Theresa Sundstrom: 563-451-2054
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Prayer Chain Contacts:

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

*July 30th, 2023
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*



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

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

Setting and Implementing Parish Vitality Goals

By Father Andrew Awotwe-Mensah

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

This weekend, I wish to introduce some discussions that should concern all of us in the parish; it is on the issue of Parish Vitality. The necessity for the discussions is partly seeking to follow Archdiocesan efforts at promoting vital parish communities in the Archdiocese of Dubuque, and partly due to our need to build an engaging parish. While the key point of these discussions will not be new to you, this time, it calls for more altruistic actions from all of us.

Almost two years ago, the archdiocese began a broad outreach to engage parishioners to reflect on parish vitality and assist the archdiocese to come up with some markers of this concept. Obviously, the immediate reason was to take a bottom-up approach to study the state of the Archdiocese and, perhaps, provide a roadmap for future planning and development of the archdiocese.

Fast forward, in the past few months, our parish Pastoral Council, upon the recommendation of the archdiocese, has been working on some areas within the parish that need more attention for us to be a more vital parish. The council has decided that among other pressing concerns of the parish, we will focus on two goals this year. By this year, I mean the archdiocesan fiscal year from July 2023 to June 2024.

For this bulletin edition, I intend to just draw your attention to the issue and invite you to start reflecting on our need to revitalize our parish community. Subsequent editions will carry the goals and more details of it.

Please, remember that currently the issue is no longer about what the archdiocese wants to do; it is about what we need to initiate in our parish to foster a strong, exciting parish community.

There are several reasons people join parishes; among them is being part of an engaging community with a sense of belonging and participation. Most people these days deem connecting and networking with others to be critical for personal wellbeing and fulfilment. Therefore, I hope all parishioners will show interest in the parish vitality goals that we will be working on during the year.

Thank you for your interest in our holy enterprise.

Faith Formation by Linda Hansmeier

In reading “Becoming Eucharistic People,” I came across a question I think a lot about, “How do we restore what has been lost in many of our parishes?”

When I was in high school, I worked in our local hospital as an aide. Sometimes I was asked to sit with someone who was dying, had lost a baby, or had received bad news during the day from their doctor and for other reasons. Now I am the first to admit, in the beginning I found it overwhelming and a little scary. How would I know what to say? But I quickly found out that what most of them wanted was for someone to recite prayers with them or read some familiar verses from Scripture. Prayers and Scripture readings they had been taught about and learned when they were children.

“How do we reclaim the devotions that have been important to Catholics for so many generations? These devotions are themselves part of our Eucharistic faith of the Church rather than separate from it... everything that is authentically human can find a place in the Mass” (pg. 87, *Becoming Eucharistic People*). How do we help our children, and ourselves, reclaim the devotions that are life-giving in our lived experiences?

Help Us Connect your Graduating Senior with Catholic Campus Ministry

Did you know that Campus Ministry is one of the strongest ways to form highly faithful young adults? One of the best things you can do for teens who are moving on to college is to connect them with a College Campus Ministry. If someone you love is heading off to college in the fall, we want to help them connect with college campus ministry. Send your student’s name, cell number, and email to Marcy at dbq137ym@dbqarch.org and we will let their Catholic Student Center know they are coming!

Social Justice School Supply Drive!

The Social Justice Committee is raising money for school supplies to serve students in the local area and students in Haiti. The collection will be split between Southeast Linn Community Center and the students of Notre Dame de Lourdes Parish in Haiti.

Over 150 families from our communities have signed up to receive school supplies this year, and any donation that you make will really have an impact for them.

It’s simple to help out this year—we are asking for monetary donations. Southeast Linn can order in quantity to maximize the supply, and Haiti can purchase their supplies locally.

Collection will start now and go until August 7th. Use the St. John online giving site or mark a check or envelope “School Supplies.” Thank you for your generous support!

Readings for the week of July 30, 2023

Sun: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130 (97a)/Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52 or 13:44-46
Mon: Ex 32:15-24,30-34/Ps 106:19-23/Mt 13:31-35
Tues: Ex 33:7-11;34:5b-9,28/Ps 103:6-13/Mt 13:36-43
Wed: Ex 34:29-35/Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 9/Mt 13:44-46
Thurs: Ex 40:16-21,34-38/Ps 84:3-6a & 8a, 11/Mt 13:47-53
Fri: Lv 23:1,4-11,15-16,27,34b-37/Ps 81:3-6,10-11ab/Mt 13:54-58
Sat: Lv 25:1, 8-17/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Mt 14:1-12
Next Sunday:
Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9/2 Pt 1:16-19/Mt 17:1-9



Wednesday August 2nd, 2023:

8:30 AM: Darlene Kabela

Friday August 4th, 2023:

8:30 AM: Amanda Meeker

Sunday August 6th, 2023:

8:00 AM: Jerry & Agnes Litz

National NFP Awareness Week

This past week (July 23rd-29th) was National NFP Awareness Week as designated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Unlike contraception, Natural Family Planning (NFP) refers to the scientific, natural, and moral methods of family planning that can help couples either achieve or postpone pregnancies. Today's bulletin insert Titled "Top Ten Reasons to Use Natural Family Planning"; summarizes the value in using NFP. To find out more, you can visit the diocesan website at <https://nfp.dbqarch.org/>. Additionally, the Archdiocese of Dubuque is working to appoint and train NFP Ambassadors to each parish in an effort to raise awareness, promote, and support couples in their family planning journey. The ambassadors for St. John's are Blake and Sarah Covington. Please feel welcome to contact them at blakesaracovington@gmail.com if you would like to inquire or converse about NFP.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Weekly contributions needed..... \$6623.08

Contributions Received Through July 25th, 2023

Budget, Adult	\$ 2760.00
Loose Coin/Currency	\$ 198.00
Other Donations (Fuel, Upkeep, SG).....	\$ 135.00
July ACH Donations.....	\$ 5030.00
Total Collected.....	\$ 8123.00
YTD collection needed.....	\$ 28384.63
YTD collections received.....	\$ 17506.25
YTD	\$ 10878.37

Liturgical Ministers August 6th, 2023

Sacristan: Hugh Scieszinski

Lectors: Christine Tabak - Lisa Thuerauf

EM: Nikki Sporrer - Anna Vavricek
Charlene Vig - Tom Wieseler

EM(Cup): Judy Poduksa - Larry Poduska - Diane Kimm
Theresa Patterson - Leona Smith Faoro

Hospitality: Jamie & Annalyn Elloren
Dave & Natalie Klostermann

Servers: Clara Vavricek - Alaina Sellner
Betsy Louwagie - Kiersten Swart

Meetings and Activities of the Week

Tuesday August 1st -

6:00 PM - Stewardship Committee Meeting

Wednesday August 2nd -

8:30 AM - Mass

7:00 PM - Adoration

Thursday August 3rd -

7:00 PM - Liturgy Committee Meeting

Friday August 4th -

8:30 AM - Mass (Fellowship to Follow)

9:00 AM - Adoration

Sunday August 6th -

8:00 AM - Mass

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.

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PARISH THEME: Building Our Parish Through Love, Prayer, Service & Community