

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
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E-mail: DBQ137SEC@dbqarch.org
FAX #: 319-895-0973

Coordinator of Religious Education

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

Director of Youth/Adult Ministries

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

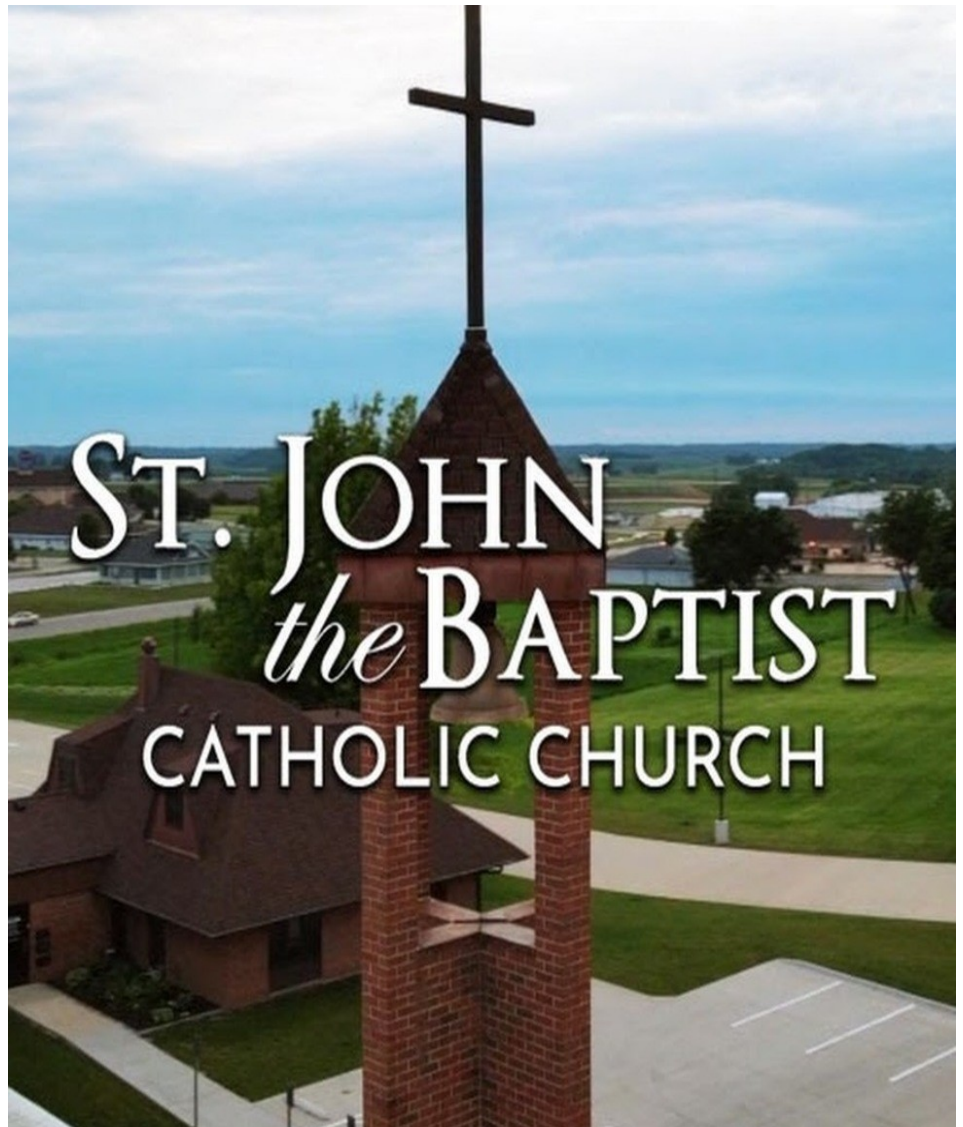
Coordinator of Music and Liturgy

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

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

September 17th 2023
Twenty Fourth 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

Pastor Speaks Andrew Awotwe - Mensah

Why Forgiveness must be a Gift

Barely, a month ago, a man called his longtime friend and told him that their friendship is over. These people have been friends forever. The guy who made the phone call was part of the groom's men during his friend's wedding. The reason for the call could be considered something silly. He was asking the friend to do something that he knew he was not physically able to accomplish. Was this a sufficient cause for ending years of good friendship?

Last weekend at Mass I related Jesus' teachings about forgiveness to marriage/family, friendship, and church. Obviously, these share commonalities stemming from human interactions involved. Most people mean well in their relationships whether they pertain to the church, marriage/family, or friendship.

Yet the vulnerability that clothes all of us as humans can cause us to put some members of our circle of relationships off or hurt them. If we see and understand all our relationships with the eyes and mind of Jesus, we can prevent relationships from turning sour or getting lost or even restore broken ones. This can only happen if we consider forgiveness as a gift.

Here is another story recorded in the book, True Colors, by Jim Talley, and Terry Benner. Joe was taking an afternoon walk near a lake where he was fishing. He was bitten by a snake and soon discovered the snake that bit him slithered into some undergrowth.

While in pain, he thought to himself, "I must get to a hospital. But first, I'll find that blankety-blank snake and kill it!" He spent precious time seeking sheepishly for the snake until the snake's venom quickly moved through his body to his heart. By the time he decided to go back to his car and seek medical assistance he was unable to move; right beside his car he fell, and he was later pronounced dead.

Paramedics found that where the incident occurred was only five minutes away from his car, and the hospital was twenty minutes away. It's simply that, in his anger, he wanted revenge on the rattlesnake more than he cared about the seriousness of the rattlesnake bite.

What a tragic and avoidable ending to a precious, active life. Lack of forgiveness has left many relationships to end tragically like what we find in the two stories and in this week's gospel story of the man who refused to forgive despite having experienced the joy of being FORGIVEN himself.

Jesus is asking us not to "GET MAD," not to "GET EVEN" but to FORGIVE. In other words, Jesus wants us to forgive "not seven times but seventy-seven times."



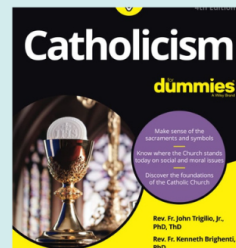
Parish Faith Formation

Faith Formation for the Week:

- This year, we will once again follow the first three Wednesdays and the first three Sundays for our faith formation sessions. The last Sundays and Wednesdays of the month are meant to be time for family to spend together. Classes will begin this coming Wednesday for 5th to 8th graders beginning at 6:00 p.m. with prayer in the Church proper and ending at 7:15 p.m.
- For September only, the first class for grades kindergarten to 4th grade will begin on September 24, normally used as family time.
- September 24 will be our first parent meeting for the parents of First Communion candidates. The family will meet in the lower-level following Mass for brunch and then the children will head to their designated classes and younger siblings to childcare.
- September 20, St. Annes Circle will be meeting in the education wing with Katie Book providing a presentation on how to make the Sac Mats. She will teach us how to cut the bags that are used to make the mats. All women of the parish are invited to attend.

HAVE YOU VISITED THE PARISH LIBRARY LATELY?

***Catholicism for
Dummies* is one of the
new selections.**



We are looking for a few volunteers to help keep the library upated and tidy. Please contact the office if you can spare a few minutes each week.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Presentation Saturday, October 7

You're invited to a presentation on Our Lady of Guadalupe on Saturday, October 7 from 8:30-10:00 AM at St. John's Catholic Church in Mt. Vernon. Our speaker, Kim Smith, who visited the shrine in Mexico City this past January, will show photos from her pilgrimage and talk about the apparition, Mary's miraculous image on Juan Diego's tilma, and the various scientific discoveries within the image. Refreshments will be served.

All are welcome!

Readings for the week of September 17, 2023

Sun: Sir 27:30-28:7/Ps 103:1-12/Rom 14:7-9/Mt 18:21-35
Mon: 1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 28:2, 7, 8-9/Lk 7:1-10
Tues: 1 Tm 3:1-13/Ps 101:1b-3ab,5,6/Lk 7:11-17
Wed: 1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 7:31-35
Thurs: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Mt 9:9-13
Fri: 1 Tm 6:2c-12/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/Lk 8:1-3
Sat: 1 Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 8:4-15
Next Sunday:
Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-9,17-18/Phil 1:20-27/Mt 20:1-16a



Wednesday September 20th, 2023:

8:30 AM: Leonard Poduska

Friday September 22nd, 2023:

8:30 AM: Jim Schemmel

Sunday September 24th, 2023:

8:00 AM: Dorothy Mullaley

Care Packages for College Students:

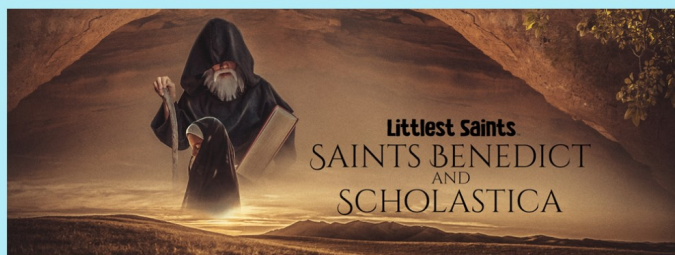
Do you have a college student? We would love to reach out and let them know our community is thinking of and praying for them even though they have moved away from home. Please contact Marcy, at dbq137ym@dbqarch.org, with their mailing address, so that we can send them some snail mail.

**SEPTEMBER 23 IS THE
FEAST DAY OF
ST. PADRE PIO**



Always remain close to the Catholic Church,
because it alone can give you true peace, since
it alone possesses Jesus in the Blessed
Sacrament, the true Prince of Peace.
St. Padre Pio

FORMED FOR KIDS



STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Weekly contributions needed..... \$6623.08

Contributions Received Through September 12th, 2023

Budget, Adult	\$ 7985.00
Loose Coin/Currency	\$ 902.00
ACH/Online Donations.....	\$ 11435.17
Holiday Donations.....	\$ 900.00
Snow Removal.....	\$ 1171.77
Fuel/Upkeep/SG.....	\$ 2100.00
Total Collected	\$ 24493.94
YTD collection needed.....	\$ 74716.19
YTD collections received	\$ 64755.46
YTD	\$ 9960.73

Liturgical Ministers September 24th, 2023

Sacristan: Ellen Bentley
Lectors: Dave Klostermann - Patty Lynch
EM: Ruth Horton - Mark Kraus
Pam Kraus - Joe Lynott
EM(Cup): Judy Poduska-Andy Moeller-Lisa Thuerauf
Larry Poduska - Leona Smith Faoro
Hospitality: Jeremy & Abbie Stolte & Family
Tyler & Theresa Patterson & Family
Servers: Chasen Caskey - Dashlyn Caskey
Andrew Dix - Liliana Grosse

Meetings and Activities of the Week

Tuesday September 19th -

6:30 PM - Faith Formation Committee Meeting

Wednesday September 20th -

6:30 AM - Finance Council Meeting

8:30 AM - Mass

9:15 AM - St. Anne's Circle Meeting

6:00 PM - 5th - 8th FF

7:00 PM - Adoration

7:00 PM - HS FF

Thursday September 21st -

6:00 PM - Bereavement Ministry Meeting

7:00 PM - Rite of Admission to the Diaconate @ Isidore

Friday September 22nd -

8:30 AM - Mass (Fellowship to Follow)

Saturday September 23rd -

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

Sunday September 24th -

8:00 AM - Mass

9:30 AM - Sacramental Parent Meeting

9:30 AM - K - 4th FF

Join us at the Archdiocesan Catholic Parenting Conference on October 28th at St. Pius X in Cedar Rapids from 9AM-3:30PM. This day will be filled with insights, resources, and formation as we explore the joys and challenges of parenting together. This conference is for parents of all ages and stages, and will include keynote presentations by Mike & Alicia Hernon (The Messy Family Project) and Jonathan & Amanda Teixeira (Wallet Win), breakout sessions, Mass, vendors and more! Don't miss this opportunity to strengthen your domestic church. Register by October 15th for the early bird pricing by going to <https://dbqarch.org/parenting-conference>. For more information about Wallet Win and the Teixeiras, check out their videos on FORMED. To create an account (again, for free), go to <https://formed.org/signup> and type in (enter zip code). Click on (parish name) and that's it! There's also an app available.

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