

# 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  
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**Coordinator of Religious Education**

Linda Hansmeier: 319-895-6758  
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**Director of Youth/Adult Ministries**

Marcy McElroy: 319-895-6758  
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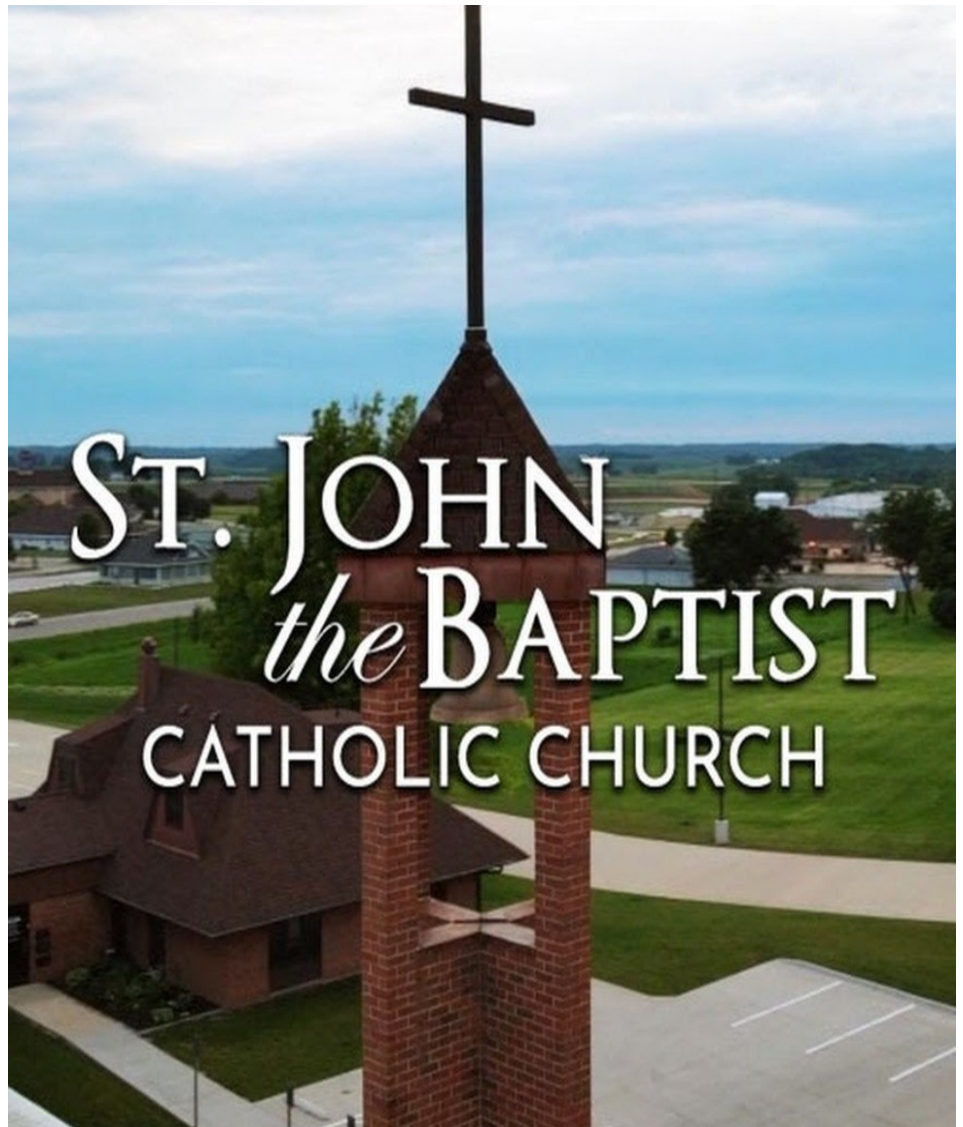
**Coordinator of Music and Liturgy**

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

Thelma Rife: tbrife@gmail.com  
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*September 24th 2023*  
*Twenty-Fifth 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**

## **Jesus & The Eucharist: A Personal Response**

The gospel for this weekend gives us a fresh lens to view our response to the ongoing call toward Eucharistic revival in the church, particularly here in the U.S.

What I want to emphasize in the gospel story is not the drama that unfolded around the payment of wages but the understanding of its spiritual significance.

The first thing we notice in the story is that it is about a vineyard. Vineyards in the scriptures signify a special possession. Isaiah hinted at this when he referenced Israel in the Old Testament as the vineyard of the Lord (Cf. Isaiah 5:1-7).

In the era of the New Testament, it is Jesus who calls himself the vine, and his followers as the branches of the vine; his father is the vine grower (Cf. John 15:4-6).

So what is the big takeaway from the story? You see, here is the thing. The church is what is being referred to as the vineyard. God's church, which he has established at the lofty price of the Son's blood, is in our midst. And we are called not only to be part of it but also to be welcoming to all those who join us.

We should also understand that people are called to the church at different times and under distinct circumstances. We must always welcome them, appreciate their arrival in the church, and celebrate with them. Recall another teaching of Jesus in John 6:44: "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them at the last day."

Equal rewards or pay in the church is nothing but the big B and B. This Body and Blood of Jesus is not simply a reward for participating in the celebration of the liturgy but a thankful gift of love we receive from God who freely calls us to be part of his Church. All this comes to one revealing truth: The Eucharist is not a gift to miss or to fail to receive. It is also not a meritorious gift but a gratuitous one to be received with a thankful heart.

When we enter the church to receive Christ in Holy Communion or Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, we are rewarded with many graces, both spiritual and temporal. The devoted practice of Eucharistic adoration can thus nurture and enrich the spiritual lives of the members and the overall parish community.

The good news is that Jesus and the Eucharist in the Church make us God's particular possessions. So take a fresh look at the place of Jesus and the Eucharist in your life and make the personal response needed towards an enthusiastic revival and regular participation in Mass to receive the B&B.



## **Parish Faith Formation**

With the beginning of our Faith Formation year, you will notice a new weekly ***Proclamation*** in the bulletin. This will be a phrase or key point of the weekly Scripture readings. The ***Proclamation*** will be discussed in all FF classes and will be used in their materials and activities. Additionally, there will be a question posted each week related to the ***Proclamation***. This could be a great discussion starter on the way home or around the dinner table.

### **God's Love is Generous**

***In what ways are you generous with your love?***

#### **Faith Formation this Week:**

##### **September 27th -**

**Family Time No Faith Formation**

##### **October 1st -**

**Children's Liturgy of the Word: 4-5 yr. olds. 8:00 a.m. Mass. Following the introductory rites, they will be dismissed by Fr. Andrew and return to their parents following the homily.**

**K-4th Faith Formation 9 AM - 1015 AM**

**Care Packages for College Students:** We are looking for donations of non-perishable snack items like granola bars, individual trail mixes and individual apple cider or hot cocoa mixes. Drop off at the parish office or entryway at church. If you have a young adult you would like us to send a care package, please send their name and mailing address to Marcy at [dbq137ym@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbq137ym@dbqarch.org).

### **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 24, 2023**

Sun: Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-18/Phil 1:20-27/Mt 20:1-16a  
Mon: Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/Lk 8:16-18  
Tues: Ezr 6:7-8,12b,14-20/Ps 122:1-5/Lk 8:19-21  
Wed: Ezr 9:5-9/Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8/Lk 9:1-6  
Thurs: Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Lk 9:7-9  
Fri: Dn 7:9-10,13-14/Rv 12:7-12a/Ps 138:1-5/Jn 1:47-51  
Sat: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/Lk 9:43b-45  
Next Sunday:  
Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-9/Phil 2:1-11/Mt 21:28-32



### **Wednesday September 27th, 2023:**

**8:30 AM:** Rosalyn Ludwig

### **Friday September 29th, 2023:**

**8:30 AM:** Irvin & Louise Clark

### **Sunday October 1st, 2023:**

**8:00 AM:** Joan Kohl

#### **An Invitation from the Catholic Daughters of the Americas**

I write to ask every Catholic woman in the Archdiocese of Dubuque to consider joining the Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) as a member. For some of you that means right at your local parish, and for others that may mean at a neighboring parish. Visit [www.iowacatholicdaughters.org](http://www.iowacatholicdaughters.org) for more information and to find a local chapter.

The Catholic Daughters is one of the oldest and largest organizations for Catholic women having been founded in 1903, and is dedicated to the principles of "unity and charity". Today the CDA focuses on the concerns of a contemporary church and society as well as issues that affect the well-being of women and children. CDA offers the opportunity for women to come together to share their faith as well as in service to their church and civic communities.

Thank you for your continued support of the Catholic Daughters.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Most Rev. Richard E. Pates, Apostolic  
Administrator of Dubuque

### **STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

**Weekly contributions needed..... \$6623.08**

#### **Contributions Received Through , 2023**

|                               |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Budget, Adult .....           | \$ 2250.00         |
| Loose Coin/Currency .....     | \$ 245.01          |
| Upkeep.....                   | \$ 20.00           |
| Total Collected.....          | \$ 2515.01         |
| YTD collection needed.....    | \$ 81339.27        |
| YTD collections received..... | \$ 66970.47        |
| YTD .....                     | <b>\$ 14368.80</b> |

#### **Liturgical Ministers October 1st, 2023**

Sacristan: Hugh Scieszinski  
Lectors: Craig Lynner - Erin Moeller  
EM: Luke Stephens - Bev O'Connor  
Richard Povey - Joey Rhomberg  
EM( Cup): Diane Apel - Andy Moeller - Stephen Poduska  
Dave Klostermann - Theresa Patterson  
Hospitality: Chuck & Marylynn Murray  
Tim & Abby Keegan & Family  
Servers: Natalie Thuerlauf - Bailey Crock  
Selah Loyd - Noah Sporrer

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

##### **Tuesday September 26th -**

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

##### **Wednesday September 27th -**

**Family Time No Faith Formation**

**8:30 AM - Mass**

##### **Friday September 29th -**

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

##### **Saturday September 30th -**

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

##### **Sunday October 1st -**

**8:00 AM - Mass**

**9:30 AM - K-4th Faith Formation**

#### **Attention All St. John's Parishioners:**

The City of Lisbon will be doing cemetery cleanup through the month of October. They will begin on the 1st and end on the 31st. During this time all decorations need to be removed from graves in our cemetery. If your decorations have not been removed by the 1st the city will dispose of them. Please contact the office with any questions!

The Knights of Columbus are collecting new and gently used winter clothing for local families in need. Please bring any coats, gloves, scarves, hats...etc. to the donation box in the gathering space!

St. Patrick's in Anamosa will be hosting their annual Fall Festival on Sunday October 15th from 11am to 2 pm. Tickets are \$14 for adults \$7 for children. There is a ham and roast beef dinner included. There will be a raffle and many other activities and crafts!