

# 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

**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

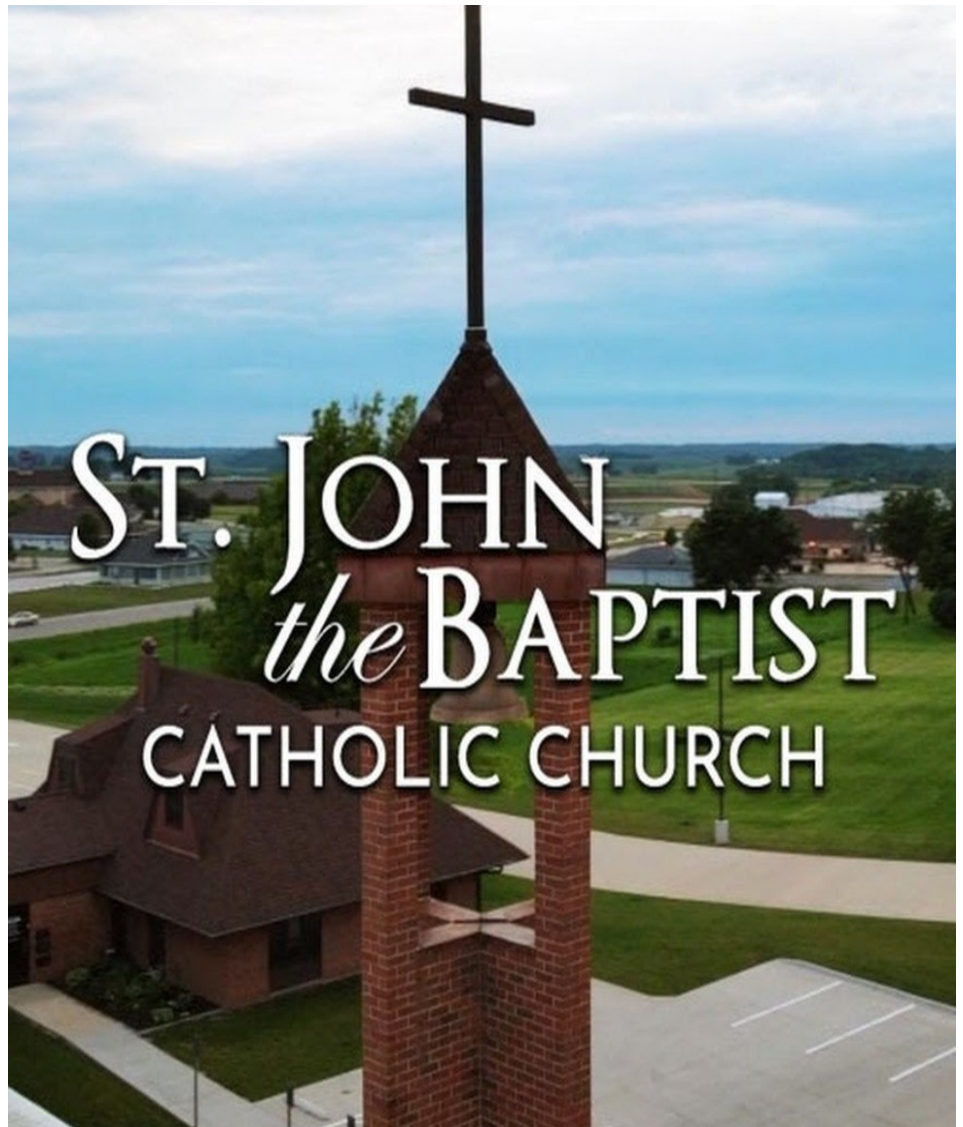
**Coordinator of Music and Liturgy**

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

**Prayer Chain Contacts:**

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

*October 1st 2023*  
*Twenty-Sixth 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 *Go with "the first"*

This weekend's gospel from Matthew continues with Jesus' deployment of parables as a pedagogical technique and style to communicate the truth about the kingdom of God. As a matter of understanding, these kingdom parables are imbued with both mundane and ordinary and spiritual lessons. Therefore, this parable about a father and his two sons offers us some practical lessons for life and deeper insights into our spiritual affairs.

The first reading from the prophet Ezekiel coincides with the gospel about the theme of a person's present state of life. The question it provokes is, which is better, who I am now or who I used to be? The prophet Ezekiel 18:25-28 paves the way for understating that God cares more about the present situation of a person than the past. Thus, we heard that in regard to sin and condemnation, "When someone virtuous turns away from virtue to commit iniquity and dies, it is because of the iniquity he committed that he must die" (18:26). However, those who make amendments and "turn from the wickedness they did and do what is right and just, they save their lives; since they turned away from all the sins they committed, they shall live; they shall not die" (18:27-28).

Similarly, Jesus' parable cites the first son who initially resisted his father's will and requested to have him labor in his vineyard as the one who eventually followed and fostered an unbreakable family bond. On the contrary, the second son, whose words initially appeared appealing to the father, reneged on his words and disappointed the father. Therefore, as we have said yes to God through baptism, let's continue to follow it.

The application of the readings to our daily experiences can occur in the area of family relationships and interactions. There are things that foster family bonds and well-being; it is up to all members to recognize and apply themselves to the responsibilities placed on them to build and maintain an enduring, safe, and respectful home. Loving and honoring your family to the end is what issues forth a meaningful and happy life.

The spiritual meaning of the readings highlights personal growth and change as integral to human experiences in the physical and spiritual domains. We grow better by learning to undertake the right actions and amend our negative tendencies, experiences, and relationships.

Indeed, growth and change can be painful because they often restrict and limit us. But we learn from the readings that God's desire is to see us transform and lean forward toward obedience and love for Him, which is something that needs to occur daily.

Again, Jesus' use of work in the vineyard is a metaphor for God's special possession and for the Eucharist. The father's request to both sons to be in the vineyard symbolizes truly the invitation to all people to receive the "Blood" of Christ to be poured out for many. And while one refused it, the other accepted it when he recognized its value.

Sometimes, we wonder about the truth about Jesus in the Eucharist and it affects the way we respond to the invitation and how we prepare to receive it. But, like the first son, if you doubt it then pray that one day you will perceive this reality and intensely turn to it.



## 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 gives everyone Free Will which makes us responsible for our choices!

*How do you take responsibility for your actions?*

#### Faith Formation This Week:

##### October 4:

- St. Annes Circle - 9:15 - 11:00 AM
- Bill Mueller, author of "Time to Ship Another Steer" will talk about his book. St. Annes will begin following Mass, there will be refreshments. Bill is Marcy McElroy's dad and we are inviting everyone to join!
- Faith Formation grades 5-8 from 6:00 to 7:15 PM
- High School from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

##### October 7:

- Sisters of Faith Speaker - Kim Smith will present about Our Lady of Guadalupe, **everyone is welcome!**

##### October 8:

- Sunday Liturgy of the Word: immediately following the introductory rites all 4 year Old children are called forward to be dismissed. The children will return to the Parents following Fr. Andrew's homily.
- Faith Formation grades K-4th from 9:00 AM to 10:15 AM.
- Blessing of Pets - 3:30 PM in Mary Prayer Garden

*RCIA begins Thursday, October 5 at 6 PM.*

*We have four people who are inquiring about the Catholic faith. Please keep them in your prayers as they embark upon this spiritual journey. Parishioners are always welcome to visit any RCIA session and join the conversation and learning.*

**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).



### Readings for the week of October 1, 2023

Sun: Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-9/Phil 2:1-11/Mt 21:28-32  
Mon: Zec 8:1-8/Ps 102:16-21, 29 and 22-23/Mt 18:1-5, 10  
Tues: Zec 8:20-23/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 9:51-56  
Wed: Neh 2:1-8/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6/Lk 9:57-62  
Thurs: Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Lk 10:1-12  
Fri: Bar 1:15-22/Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9/Lk 10:13-16  
Sat: Bar 4:5-12, 27-29/Ps 69:33-35, 36-37/Lk 10:17-24  
Next Sunday:  
Is 5:1-7/Ps 80:9, 12-16, 19-20/Phil 4:6-9/Mt 21:33-4



### Wednesday October 4th, 2023:

**8:30 AM: Edmond Ludwig**

### Friday October 6th, 2023:

**8:30 AM: Stephen Kebros**

### Sunday October 8th, 2023:

**8:00 AM: Marvin Wiesler**



**Natural Family Planning (NFP)** refers to the scientific, natural, and moral methods of family planning that can help couples either achieve or avoid pregnancy.

Blake and Sarah Covington are the newly trained NFP Ambassadors to St. John the Baptist and are eager to support couples in their Family Planning Journey.

Please contact them at  
[blakesarahcovington@gmail.com](mailto:blakesarahcovington@gmail.com) if you would like to inquire or converse about NFP

## **Blessing of Pets**



We will honor the Feast  
Day of St. Francis of Assisi  
with a Blessing of Pets on:

**SUNDAY,  
OCTOBER 8  
3:30 PM IN THE  
MARY GARDEN**

### Bereavement Ministry

St. John the Baptist has established a new Bereavement Ministry. Our goal is to provide consolation, assistance, and support to family members at the time of a loved one's death. Bereavement ministers partner with Father Andrew to help families plan funeral services and personalize the sacramental celebration of life. The mission of this team also involves outreach with correspondence, providing resources for managing grief, and establishing a connection with parish members who are in the midst of the grieving process.

If you would like to know more about this ministry, please contact the office. Additionally, if you are interested in our grief resources, contact the office and a bereavement minister will reach out to you.

## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

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

### Contributions Received Through September 26th, 2023

Budget, Adult .....	\$ 1890.00
Loose Coin/Currency .....	\$ 492.00
Total Collected .....	\$ 2382.00
YTD collection needed.....	\$ 87962.35
YTD collections received.....	\$ 69352.47
YTD .....	<b>\$ 18609.88</b>

### Liturgical Ministers October 8th, 2023

Sacristan: Trevor Gretten

Lectors: Christine Tabak - Lisa Thuerauf

EM: Marylynn Murray - Heidi Ryan

Jacob Ryan - Nikki Sporrer

EM( Cup): Diane Kimm - Larry Poduska - Judy Poduska

Chuck Murray - Leona Smith Faoro

Hospitality: Mike & Ruth Clark & Family

Dave & Lesley Panos & Family

Troy & Tracie Louwagie & Family

Servers: Clara Vavricek - Alaina Sellner

Betsy Louwagie - Kiersten Swart

### Meetings and Activities of the Week

#### Tuesday October 3rd -

6:00 PM - Stewardship Committee Meeting

7:00 PM - Social Justice Committee Meeting

#### Wednesday October 4th -

8:30 AM - Mass

9:15 AM - St. Anne's Speaker (Bill Mueller)

6:00 PM - 5th - 8th FF

7:00 PM - Adoration

7:00 PM - HS FF

#### Thursday October 5th -

6:00 PM - RCIA (Missal/Parish Tour)

Friday October 6th -

8:30 AM - Mass (Fellowship to Follow)

9:00 AM - Adoration

#### Saturday October 7th -

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

8:30 AM - Sisters of Faith Speaker - **Everyone Welcome!**

#### Sunday October 8th -

8:00 AM - Mass

9:30 AM - K-4th FF

3:30 PM - Blessing of Pets

### Seven Sisters Apostolate

As you may know, St. John's has a group of seven women and substitutes who take turns praying an hour in adoration for Father Andrew every day. This is a part of a larger apostolate, worldwide, who work to ensure that every priest and bishop have someone praying a Holy Hour for them every day. In fact, the desire is that there are three women who pray for each bishop every day.

If you feel called to pray an hour, once a week, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament for our native Archbishop-elect Zinkula once he's installed October 18th please contact:

Sarah Covington at [blakesarahcovington@gmail.com](mailto:blakesarahcovington@gmail.com) to be connected with the anchoress for the bishop.