

*Working Together To
Build the Kingdom of God*

Mass Schedule:

St. John the Baptist, Mount Vernon

Sunday - 8:00 am

Wednesdays and Fridays - 8:30 am

St. Isidore the Farmer, Springville:

Saturday, 6 pm - Tuesday & Thursday 8 am

St. John's Parish Confession:

Sunday at 7:30 am or by appointment

Monday 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

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

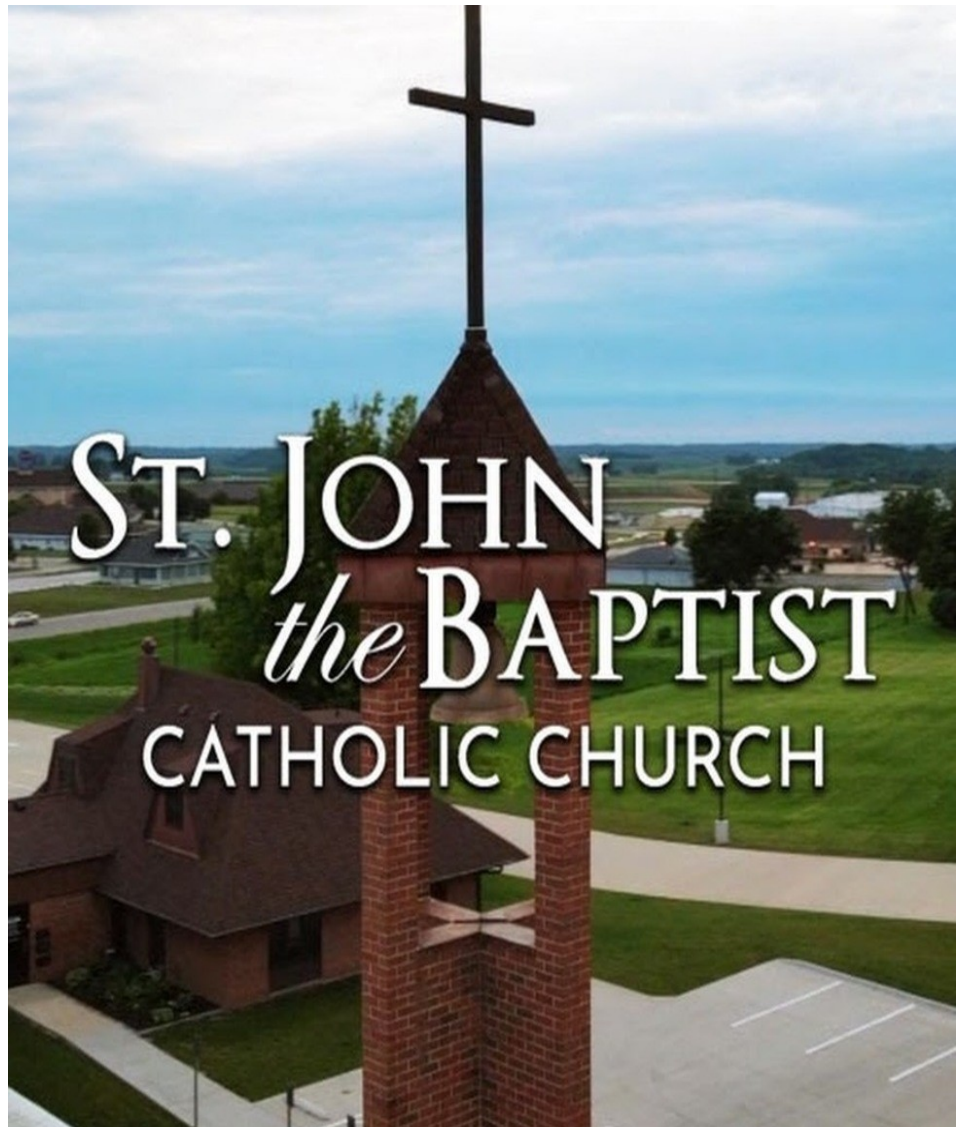
E-mail: t.sundstrom@dbqarch.org

Prayer Chain Contacts:

Thelma Rife: tbrife@gmail.com

Trevor Gretten: DBQ137SEC@dbqarch.org

*December 17th 2023
Third Sunday of Advent*



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

**Parish Theme: Jesus Christ is the Same Today, Yesterday & Forever, To Love,
Serve and Forgive One Another**

Pastor Speaks
"Behold, I Am Making All Things New"

Dear Parishioners,

As we enter the third Sunday of our Advent season, we are just a week away from celebrating the birth of Christ. So, let me express my warmest greetings of Happy Advent and Merry Christmas. It is becoming exciting as we ready ourselves to celebrate the remarkable Christmas feast and reawaken in one another the love of God that we share.

In addition, remember that piercing through time and space and standing before us now are the love, faith, and trust of the family at the center of the Advent and Christmas seasons—the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. So, may the love of Christ, the unquestionable faith of the blessed Mother Mary, and the trusting spirit of Joseph encourage us to embrace the new things God is seeking to accomplish in our lives.

In the Bible, it is written in Isaiah 43:19 "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." An even more powerful version of this verse is written in Revelation 21:5, "I am making everything new...Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Christian theology teaches us that the coming of Christ was the ultimate restoration of the world back to God; the world that was wrecked by sin, propelled by the devil. God's desire for you, your family, and friends, and for all humanity is to make us a holy, peaceful people full of joy. This is the new thing he has been doing for us in Christ.

We are all invited to be part of the new thing God is doing in Jesus. Like Mary, in Jesus, we also can receive the fullness of graces and blessings. In Jesus, we have received the Holy Spirit, making God closer to us. In Jesus, we can receive the power to amend our lives, overcome any addictions, improve our marriage and family difficulties, and experience inner peace.

When you think about the power and essence of Christmas and how Jesus comes to make all things new, think about the event of Jesus sleeping in the boat while the boat was being tossed about fearfully. All the disciples needed to do was to let Him know. He immediately calmed the sea. You, also, can allow Him to make all things for you; just ask Him.

Joyful Advent Sundays! Merry Christmas!



Parish Faith Formation

We Joyfully Wait for the Incarnation!

How do you live out joy in the waiting?

Faith Formation This Week:

Monday December 18th -

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM: SS. Monica & Anthony Holy Hour

Wednesday December 20th -

6:00 PM - 7:15 PM: 5th - 8th Grade Faith Formation

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Adoration

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM: High Scholl Faith Formation

Thursday December 21st -

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM: RCIA (Sacraments/Eucharist)

Sunday December 24th -

Family Time No Faith Formation

Merry Christmas From the Faith Formation Team!

2024 Archdiocesan Women's Conference: *Beauty in Christ: Reviving Our Hearts*

We will be watching as group at St. John's please contact Marcy for more info!

Saturday, January 27, 2024

Time: 8:00 AM to 1:30 PM (Time is tentative)

The theme of this year's virtual conference is "Reviving Our Hearts!" and will include keynote presentations by national speaker Mari Pablo and local speaker, Mary Pedersen. It's time to start planning to host a group at your parish or cluster!

More information can be found at <https://www.archwomensconference.org/> Contact Joanne Pohland

Save the Date for the 2024 Archdiocese of Dubuque Men's Conference!

You're invited to the 28th Annual Archdiocese of Dubuque Men's Conference on **Saturday, March 9, 2024 at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Cedar Rapids!** For those unable to attend in-person, the conference will also be livestreamed. The keynote speaker will be **John Edwards**, who is the founder and director of Pew Ministries, a Catholic apostolate with the mission of bringing the person of Jesus Christ to the person in the pew. John is also the host of the popular "Just A Guy in the Pew" Podcast (www.justaguyinthepew.com). The day will also include Mass celebrated by Archbishop Thomas Zinkula and breakout sessions presented by local speakers. For more information and registration, please visit www.archmensconference.org.

Readings for the week of December 17, 2023

Sun: Is 61:1-2,10-11/Lk 1:46-54/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Mon: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
Tues: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
Wed: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
Thurs: Sg 2:8-14/Zep 3:14-18/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
Fri: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
Sat: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66
Next Sunday:
2 Sm 7:1-16/Ps 89:2-5,27,29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38



Wednesday December 20th, 2023:

8:30 AM: Jim Schemmel

Friday December 22nd, 2023:

8:30 AM: Raphael & Elizabeth Pisarik

Sunday December 24th, 2023:

8:00 AM: Doris McElmeel

**St. John the Baptist
Advent Communal Penance Service**

Today, Sunday 12/17 at 2 PM

**There will be several priests present for
the Sacrament of Reconciliation.**

Christmas Eve Prelude Music

All children and adults are welcome to play or sing sacred Christmas prelude music before our 4 PM Christmas Eve Mass. Everyone is invited to come to Mass early to enjoy the music which will start at 3:15 PM. Email Theresa Sundstrom at dbq190s@dbqarch.org if you would like to be put on the Prelude music line-up!



Level 1 (6th grade and up) led by Theresa Sundstrom
Level 2 (try outs required) led by John Schroeder
Tryouts for Level 2: Sunday, Jan. 7th at 4:00pm
Once groups are formed, classes will be Jan. 14, 21, 28 and
Feb. 11, 18, and 25 at 4:00pm
Contact Theresa at dbq190s@dbqarch.org if interested.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Weekly contributions needed..... \$6623.08

Due to Bulletin Due Dates there have been no significant contributions since the last issue. There will be an update next week!

Liturgical Ministers December 24th, 2023

Ministers for Christmas Eve are being handled through signups in the gathering space. If you are able to help minister for any of the Christmas Masses please sign up there! Thank you all so much for serving in your ministries over the last year.

Meetings and Activities of the Week

Monday December 18th -

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM: SS. Monica & Anthony Holy Hour

Wednesday December 20th -

6:30 AM - 7:30 AM: Finance Council Meeting

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM: Mass

6:00 PM - 7:15 PM: 5th - 8th Grade Faith Formation

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Adoration

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM: High School Faith Formation

Thursday December 21st -

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM: RCIA (Sacraments/Eucharist)

Friday December 22nd -

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM: Mass (Fellowship to Follow)

Sunday December 24th -

Family Time No Faith Formation

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM: Mass

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Mass

Monday December 25th -

Merry Christmas

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM: Mass

Advent is flying by! This is supposed to be a time of peace and tranquility, but we all know that is not always the case. Here are some tips for families as Advent comes to a close **1. Be realistic.** Don't overdo it. **2. Maintain healthy habits.** Don't neglect the things that keep you and your family well. **3. Keep the kids in a routine.** This one is self explanatory. **4. Plan for family stress.** Stress is inevitable, so make a plan on how to take a break when it is needed. And lastly, but certainly not least, **5. Pray and worship.** And as we sing "O come let us adore him", remember Jesus is the reason for the season and what a beautiful gift that is!

St. Joseph's Catholic Elementary and Middle School in Marion is accepting out of town students for the 2024-2025 School Year!

Enrollment for Preschool-8th grade for the 2024-2025 school year starts on Friday, February 2. All new students in grades 1-8, Kindergarten students, and current students within 400% of the poverty level will qualify for an ESA to cover the cost of tuition. Please Contact the St. John's or St. Joseph's offices for more information!

Parish Theme: Jesus Christ is the Same Today, Yesterday & Forever, To Love, Serve and Forgive One Another