

*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

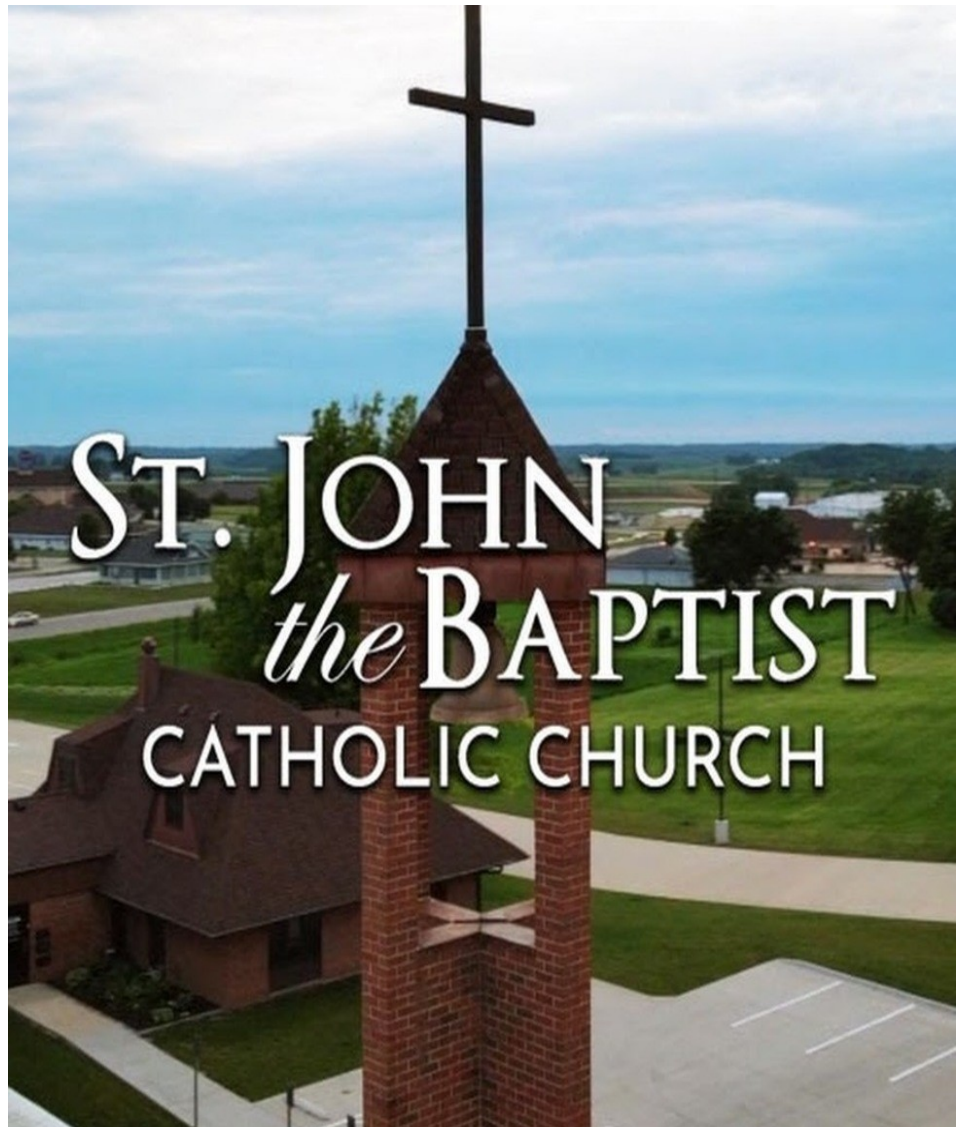
E-mail: t.sundstrom@dbqarch.org

**Prayer Chain Contacts:**

Thelma Rife: tbrife@gmail.com

Trevor Gretten: DBQ137SEC@dbqarch.org

*February 18th, 2024  
First Sunday of Lent*



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

Dear Parishioners,

### Making use of the Lenten season

Our annual 40-day Lenten pilgrimage, which is to lead us to the celebration of the Paschal Mystery, has commenced this week. Embarking on this wondrous journey can fill us with both *trepidation* and *hope*. Trepidation, because these days of Lent demand from us intense spiritual efforts to break some routines, habits, and tastes for certain things. But the Lenten season is also imbued with remarkable hope because of the merciful love of God and the transformation of life open to us.

### Taking the Lenten mirrors

As each day of the Lenten season finds us, various spiritual mirrors are available to assist us. We need to take these mirrors and look into them to reflect on what is deeply within us. Could you look at it this way? We normally look in the mirror to have a good view of ourselves, to appreciate our looks, and at the same time get rid of anything on us that doesn't naturally belong there.

Similarly, Lenten practices such as attending daily and weekend Masses, daily meditations, daily reading of scriptures, regular prayer times, confession, fasting, and almsgiving can become authentic channels of grace and avenues of knowing and understanding ourselves more deeply; it can result in our transformation. If we set our hearts to these exercises, not approaching them as providing us with information or routine things to do but for the sake of our transformation, then they will truly help transform us and get rid of anything we cannot be proud of in our lives.

### Practicing daily or regular discernment

Another Lenten exercise of considerable significance we can deploy for deeper self-disclosure is spiritual discernment. Spiritual entails connecting on a much deeper level with one's inner self to gain a perceptive insight or make good judgment regarding your life or something related. Spiritual transformation or a major life direction is often borne out of prudent discernment.

Daily discernment enables us to hear what God is revealing to us or what our inner voice is whispering to us. When we discern daily to know the will of God or our authentic selves, we begin to notice other synchronicities that emerge to support our judgment or insights. Everything will start to align in the right direction that God is leading us. May our Lenten season lead us to connect to our authentic "image" as God's.



## Parish Faith Formation

### Jesus Teaches Good News About God *How Does The Spirit Help You Live as a Follower of Jesus*

#### **Faith Formation This Week:**

##### **Monday February 19th-**

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

##### **Wednesday February 21st -**

**9:15 - 11:00 AM: St. Anne's Circle Meeting**

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

**7:00 - 9:00 PM: Adoration**

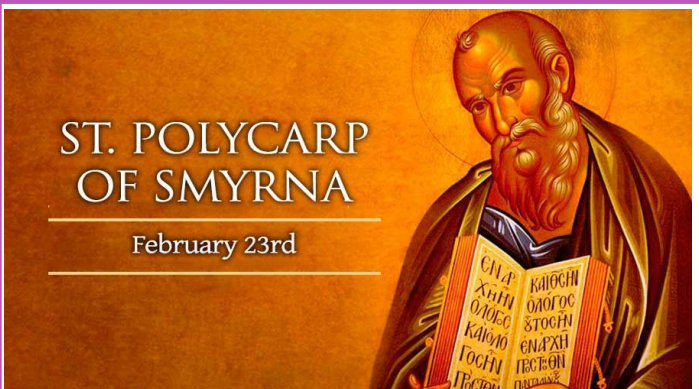
**7:00 - 8:30 PM: High School Faith Formation**

##### **Saturday February 24th -**

**6:30 - 8:00 AM: That Man is You Men's Group**

##### **Sunday February 25th -**

**Family Time No Faith Formation**



Thank you to everyone who helped with our Parish Pancake Breakfast last weekend! A special thank you to the local Knights of Columbus who cooked for us, and all of the Faith Formation Students/Families who helped us serve. Also of course a huge thanks goes out to everyone who came and ate or made a donation at the breakfast! Thank you all so much for helping to support our Faith Formation programs!

**Lenten Guidelines on Fasting & Abstinence:** On days of fasting dur Lent (Ash Wednesday and Good Friday), we are asked to eat one full meal without meat and two small snacks (no meat), which together, do not equal one full meal. On Fridays during Lent, we are asked to abstain from eating meat. May your Lenten sacrificial practices bring you closer to Christ and strengthen you spiritually.

**Go to our website [stjohnmv.org](http://stjohnmv.org)  
to access FORMED!**



## Readings for the week of February 18, 2024

Sun: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-9/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15  
Mon: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46  
Tues: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15  
Wed: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32  
Thurs: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/Mt 16:13-19  
Fri: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26  
Sat: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48  
Next Sunday:  
Gn 22:1-2,9-18/Ps 116:9-19/Rom 8:31-34/Mk 9:2-10



## Wednesday February 21st 2024:

**8:30 AM: Harry & Dolores Suchumel**

## Friday February 23rd, 2024:

**8:30 AM: Carl & Marie Morrison**

## Sunday February 25th, 2024:

**8:00 AM: John & Annice Lane**

## 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 held 30 minutes before Sunday Mass - 7:30 AM.
- Monday 5:30 - 6:30 PM During SS. Monica & Anthony Holy Hour
- 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 our Baptismal Catechesis Team. They hold Catechesis Sessions four times a year. The 2024 Dates are: January 28th, April 28th, July 28th, and October 27th. All sessions will be held at St. John's at 2:00 PM. Please contact the office at 319-895-6246 or email dbq137sec@dbqarch.org with any questions and to sign up for a session.

**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.



**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 if you would like to inquire or converse about NFP

## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

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

**Contributions Received Through February 13th, 2024**

Budget, Adult .....	\$ 2185.00
Loose.....	\$ 1365.00
Upkeep.....	\$ 50.00
Total Collected.....	\$ 3600.00
YTD collection needed.....	\$ 220423.95
YTD collections received.....	\$ 234173.27
YTD .....	\$ 13749.32

## Liturgical Ministers February 25th, 2024

Sacristan: Hugh Scieszinski  
Lectors: Dave Klostermann - Cindy Kendall  
EM: Pam Kraus - Dan Pederson  
Bev O'Connor - Ruth Horton  
EM( Cup): Joe Lynott - Diane Apel - Lisa Thuerauf  
Theresa Patterson - Andy Moeller  
Hospitality: Chuck & Marylynn Murray  
Tim & Abby Keegan & Family  
Servers: Noah Sporrer - Clara Vavricek  
Alaina Sellner - Betsy Louwagie

## Meetings and Activities of the Week

### Monday February 19th -

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

### Wednesday February 21st -

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

**8:30 - 9:00 AM: Mass**

**9:15 - 11:00 AM: St. Anne's Circle Meeting**

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

**7:00 - 9:00 PM: Adoration**

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

### Friday February 23rd -

**8:30 - 9:00 AM: Mass (Fellowship to Follow)**


### Saturday February 24th -

**6:30 AM - 8:00 AM: That Man is You Men's Group**

### Sunday February 25th -

**8:00 AM - 9:00 AM: Mass**

**Family Time No Faith Formation**



The St. Jude Church  
Faith Formation  
Commission  
welcomes

**ARCHBISHOP  
THOMAS  
ZINKULA**  
for a special  
*Leap Day*  
presentation.

## MY ROAD TO BEING A BISHOP

*What's God Saying to You?*

**29** February  
2024

**6:30 PM | Church**  
Reception to follow  
in the Community Center

For more information, visit [judes.org](http://judes.org) or call 319-390-3520.

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