

*Working Together To
Build the Kingdom of God*

Mass Schedule:

St. John the Baptist, Mount Vernon

Sunday at 8:00 am

Wednesday & Friday - 8:30 am

St. Isidore the Farmer, Springville:

Saturday at 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

During SS. Monica & Anthony Holy Hour

St. John Office Hours

Monday to Thursday from:

8 am - 4 pm

Friday:

8 am - 2 pm

Pastor:

Rev. Andrew Awotwe-Mensah

Office: 319-895-6246

Email: DBQ137@dbqarch.org

Deacon & Pastoral Associate:

Rev. Mr. Mark Sandersfeld

319-743-5008

DBQ137D@dbqarch.org

Office Hours: Wednesday 9:00-12:00 pm

Main Office: Secretary/Bookkeeper

Trevor Gretten

Parish Office: 319-895-6246

E-mail: DBQ137SEC@dbqarch.org

Director of K-12 Faith Formation

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:

Trevor Gretten: DBQ137SEC@dbqarch.org

*December 7th, 2025
The Second Sunday of Advent*



Readings for the week of December 7, 2025

Sun: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

Mon: Gn 3:9-15,20/Ps 98:1,2-4/Eph 1:3-6,11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Tues: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2,3,10-13/Mt 18:12-14

Wed: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30

Thurs: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1,9,10-11,12-13/Mt 11:11-15

Fri: Zec 2:14-17/Rv 11:19;12:1-6,10/Jdt 13:18,19/Lk 1:26-38/Lk 1:39-47

Sat: Sir 48:1-4,9-11/Ps 80:2,3,15-16,18-19/Mt 17:9,10-13

Next Sunday:

Is 35:1-6,10/Ps 146:6-7,8-10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-1

**LISBON - MOUNT VERNON, IA
AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES**

Website: <http://www.stjohnmv.org>

Parish Theme: Pilgrims of Hope: We are Chosen, Faith Filled, Joyful!

Pastor Speaks

December 7 - Second Sunday of Advent

Some of us missed the first Sunday of Advent celebration in our sister parishes because of snow. And it's okay that it happened, as long as this inability to be at Mass was occasioned by natural conditions—being snowed out.

For who can stand in God's way when He acts through nature? It is He who has given us the laws and operations of nature to direct our actions and to teach us about human limitations that call for dependency on God.

History shows us that when God says no through nature, often no one dares challenge it any more than His yes can be thwarted by any person. For all things stand and fall under His careful watch. As we have this weekend to celebrate, I urge you to feel encouraged by it and receive it with gratitude.

The next paragraphs are a reflection from Archbishop Zinkula, relating the Journey in Faith process to the readings and celebration of the Second Sunday of Advent. The prophet Isaiah offers a beautiful message of hope in our first reading. God's chosen people, dealing with exile or who will be subject to it, can be confident in the One upon whom the Spirit of the Lord rests. The kingdom of this Messiah will be marked by peace.

It is amazing to ponder wolves and lambs cohabiting in tranquility, calves and young lions grazing in harmony, and cows and bears serenely resting together.

As we consider new arrangements of parishes this summer, we might initially object because of long-held grudges or divisions among towns and schools. Comments are made that parishioners will never worship at the neighboring parish because their sports teams have been rivals for years. Memories of injustices regarding benefits or programs might linger, and it seems impossible that the faithful of these different areas could come together for common worship and purpose.

Yet, it also seems inconceivable that a root could sprout from a stump, or that a baby could safely play beside a cobra's den. But the kingdom of God surpasses human imagination and transforms separation and doubt into communion and trust. Peace and right relationships mark the kingdom of the Messiah, the Christ.

Thomas Merton wrote, "We are not at peace with others because we are not at peace with ourselves, and we are not at peace with ourselves because we are not at peace with God." As we journey in faith together, may we produce good fruit as evidence of our desire to be peacemakers.



Christmas Eve Prelude Music

All St. John's Parishioners are invited to sing or play Christmas Music before our Christmas Eve Mass. Please contact Theresa Sundstrom at dbq190s@dbqarch.org if you or your kids are interested!

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Monday, December 8th
8:30 AM at St. John, MV
or 6:00pm at Sacred Heart,
Oxford Junction

It is a Holy Day of Obligation.

CHRISTMAS MINISTERS

WE ARE IN NEED OF ALL MINISTERS FOR
OUR CHRISTMAS MASSES:
4:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE
9:00 AM CHRISTMAS
PLEASE USE THE SIGNUPS IN THE GATHERING
SPACE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SERVE!



Advent Communal Penance

St. Isidore's Springville Iowa
Sunday December 14th
2:00 - 4:00 PM





Wednesday December 10th, 2025:

8:30 AM: Ed Ludwig

Friday December 12th, 2025:

8:30 AM: Irvin & Louise Clark

Sunday December 14th, 2025:

8:00 AM: Dr. William Hannah

Liturgical Ministers December 14th, 2025

Sacristan: Mark Anton

Lectors: Ellen Bentley - Dave Klostermann

EM: Lisa Thuerauf - Larry Collins - Charlene Vig

EM (Cup): Nikki Sporrer - Tom Wieseler - Conni Swart

Jeanne Muellerleile - Diane Apel

Hospitality: Jim & Cindy Kendall

Troy & Tracey Louwagie & Family

Andy & Erin Moeller & Family

Servers: Kiersten Swart - Adam Swart

Casey Swart - Rylan Sporrer

Meetings and Activities of the Week

Monday December 8th -

8:30 - 9:00 AM: Mass (Holy Day of Obligation)

1:00 - 4:00 PM: Carlo Acutis Exhibit

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

Tuesday December 9th -

6:00 - 7:00 PM: Liturgy Committee Meeting

6:00 - 7:00 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting

6:30 - 7:30 PM: Faith Formation Committee Meeting

Wednesday December 10th -

8:30 - 9:00 AM: Mass

1:00 - 4:00 PM: Carlo Acutis Exhibit

7:00 - 8:15 PM: 7th - 12th Grade Faith Formation

7:00 - 9:00 PM: Adoration

Friday December 12th -

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

Saturday December 13th -

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

Sunday December 14th -

8:00 - 9:00 AM: Mass

9:00 - 10:15 AM: K-6th Grade Faith Formation

2:00 - 4:00 PM: Communal Penance @ St. Isidore

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Weekly contributions needed..... \$7115.38

Contributions Received Through December 2nd, 2025

Budget, Adult	\$ 4428.25
Loose.....	\$ 3536.64
Misc. Donations.....	\$ 710.00
Online.....	\$ 7662.45
Total Collected.....	\$ 16337.34
YTD collection needed.....	\$ 163693.74
YTD collections received.....	\$ 133015.83
YTD	\$ 30677.91

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve: 4:00 PM

Christmas Morning: 9:00 AM



Archdiocesan Women's Conference

Save the Date:

Saturday, January 31st

8:30am-1:30pm

in the Lower Level



News & Events

Adoration:

- After 8:30 AM Mass on First Friday of the Month
- Every Monday Night 5:30 - 7:00 PM SS. Monica & Anthony Holy Hour
- Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday 7:00 - 9:00 PM

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. 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: 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 to start preparation.