

*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 14th, 2025  
The Third Sunday of Advent*



**Readings for the week of December 14, 2025**

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

Mon: Nm 24:2-7,15-17/Ps 25:4-5,6,7,8-9/Mt 21:23-27

Tues: Zep 3:1-2,9-13/Ps 34:2-3,6-7,17-19,23/Mt 21:28-32

Wed: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

Thurs: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Fri: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25/Ps 71:3-4, 5-6, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Sat: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Next Sunday:

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-6/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

**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 14 - Third Sunday of Advent

Dear Friends,

As we enter the third week of Advent and continue to pray for the archdiocese during the discernment time, when the archbishop and his team seek to reflect and make decisions, it is necessary that we stay in close contact with the archbishop and get to know everything he says to his flock. Hence, like the previous weeks, I share another reflection from Archbishop Zinkula intended for the people of God in the archdiocese with you.

#### *A reflection on the readings by Archbishop Zinkula:*

The first followers of Jesus in His Way likely expected Him to return soon after His ascension into heaven. St. Paul promised that the archangel's voice would be heard with the sounding of the trumpet on the last day as Jesus arrives on the clouds. Therefore, in anticipation they gathered together each Lord's Day to celebrate the Lord's Meal. But Jesus didn't return after a whole year, and another year, and an additional year. No doubt they began to wonder and to grow concerned about the promises of Christ.

St. James, in our second reading, urged them to be patient. Faith and hope are virtues that require perseverance. He made an analogy between waiting for the coming of Christ and farmers who must be resilient as they hold out for favorable weather and the fruit of their labors. Jesus will return, but not on our terms and not according to our expectations. Patience doesn't excuse us from activity, allowing us to be completely passive, sitting back and doing nothing. But it does demand understanding, wisdom, and trust. Activities such as farming, teaching, or fishing call us to recognize the big picture—that for every problem there will be a solution and for each setback, a triumph will follow.

We likely wonder what parish life will look like in July. How will parish staff be impacted? Will our faith formation programs be altered? What about finances? What time will Masses be celebrated? Where will the priests live? For now, it's good to consider possibilities. It's important to pray for wisdom. During the interim period next year, from July to January, parishioners from pastorates will work together to determine how to fulfill our purpose to know, love, and serve God. We will be invited to share our insights. Patiently working together, we will continue to prepare the people of God for Christ's return one day.



## 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](mailto:dbq190s@dbqarch.org) if you or your kids are interested!

## 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



## Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve: 4:00 PM  
Christmas Morning: 9:00 AM





Wednesday December 17th, 2025:

**8:30 AM:** Todd Conner

Friday December 19th, 2025:

**8:30 AM:** Rosalyn Ludwig, Ron Fekkether & Jim Pattison

Sunday December 21st, 2025:

**8:00 AM:** Jackie Kerr & Jim Schemmel

Liturgical Ministers December 21st, 2025

*Sacristan:* Todd & Samantha Phillips

*Lectors:* Charlie Liberko - Patty Lynch

*EM:* Ellen Bentley - Marty Fall - Ruth Horton

*EM (Cup):* Janet Huebner - Dave Klostermann

*Diane Kimm - Mark Kraus - Pam Kraus*

*Hospitality:* Dean & Kathy Mallie

*John & Amanda Rhomberg & Family*

*Jamie & Annalyn Elloren*

*Servers:* Tommy Rhomberg - Andrew Dix

*Liliana Grosse - Damon Phillips*

Meetings and Activities of the Week

Monday December 15th -

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

Wednesday December 17th -

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

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

**9:00 - 11:00 AM:** St. Anne's Christmas Party

**6:00 - 7:30 PM:** OCIA (Mary, Saints, Last Things)

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

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

Friday December 19th -

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

Sunday December 21st -

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

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

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

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Weekly contributions needed..... \$7115.38

Due to bulletin due dates there have not been any major contributions since the last issue. There will be a report in next week's bulletin. Thank you all so much for your continued generosity!

**Any donations you would like to appear on your 2025 tax statement must be received by Wednesday December 31st. (Please allow several business days for online donations)**

*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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:dbq137sec@dbqarch.org) with any marriage related issues or questions and to schedule an appointment to start preparation.

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