

*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 5 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 21st, 2025
The Fourth Sunday of Advent*



Readings for the week of December 21, 2025

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

Mon: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1,4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Tues: Mal 3:1-4,23-24/Ps 25:4-5,8-9,10,14/Lk 1:57-66

Wed: 2 Sm 7:1-5,8-12,14,16/Ps 89:2-5,27,29/Lk 1:67-79

Thurs: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5,16-17,27,29/Acts 13:16-17,22-25/Mt 1:1-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-3,11-13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:

11-12/Ps 97:1,6,11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52: 7-10/Ps 98:1-6/

Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18

Fri: Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59/Ps 31:3-4, 6,8,16,17/Mt 10:17-22

Sat: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Next Sunday:

Sir 3:2-6,12-14/Ps 128:1-5/Col 3:12-21/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

**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

Fourth Week of Advent – Finding Peace Both in Advent and Christmas

Dear Parishioners and friends,

We enter the last weekend of our Advent season. It is my hope that you have had a good season and are still catching up with the last-minute shopping and preparation to make this Christmas a memorable one with your family and friends.

The readings for the Fourth Week of Advent focus our attention on the initial struggle of St. Joseph in accepting the reality of Mary's pregnancy by the power of the Holy Spirit. How could Mary be pregnant? She was his betrothed and a good, loving, joyful, and holy maiden. But once Joseph understood what God was doing, he submitted to the divine will at work in their lives. Through the "yes" of both Mary and Joseph, we have become part of their family. And though they are now in heaven, we still have their Son, the Emmanuel, "God is with us."

Some of us may be anticipating our 2025 Christmas in the parish with mixed feelings of excitement and uncertainty. Is this our last Christmas together as a parish? Will we become part of a larger pastorate that will earn us a weekend Mass? Will our close-knit parish family and connection change? These questions are real, and many of us feel them deeply.

But these very experiences make Christmas even more meaningful this year. Isaiah 9:1–6 places us in a similar situation as the Israelites, who longed for hope in uncertain times. The prophet tells us, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light... For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests." Human confidence must always be placed in God's promise of the Savior, who is the one we follow and worship.

God is truly with us in His Church—through His Word, the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, the priests, and the parish community, whether made up of long-time members or newly gathered ones. God is with us now in this Journey in Faith, and He will be with us after the new pastorate is announced.

As Archbishop Zinkula says, "As pastorates come together in July, it will be especially important to see the face of Christ in others, especially within people unfamiliar to us. We'll need to introduce ourselves, form new relationships, and be open to different means of ministering and worshiping... Just as the world of St. Joseph was upended, so too our lives will change... yet as Joseph remained steadfast, we too will triumph over the temptations of the evil one toward division, if we listen to the voice of God's angel urging us not to be afraid."

Let us remember that God still loves His creation; He loves each of us. Filled with Christmas hope, let us continue to build our faith, seek God wherever He leads, encourage one another, help those who feel brokenhearted, and rebuild new communities together, bringing peace among people of goodwill.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas to you and your family. Amen

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!



Epiphany Program

Sunday January 4th

4:00 PM

Potluck to follow!



Archdiocesan Women's Conference

Save the Date:

Saturday, January 31st

8:30am–1:30pm

in the Lower Level



**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)**



Wednesday December 24th, 2025:

8:30 AM: Doris McElmeel

Friday December 26th, 2025:

8:30 AM: Carl Morrison

Sunday December 28th, 2025:

8:00 AM: Larry Haight/Dorothy & Don Shaffer

Liturgical Ministers December 28th, 2025

Sacristan: Brett Kimm

Lectors: Youth Mass

EM: Joe Lynott - Marylynn Murray - Chuck Murray

EM (Cup): Teresa Patterson - Stephen Poduska

Dan Pederson - Larry Poduska - Judy Poduska

Hospitality: Todd & Samantha Phillips

Jeremy & Abbie Stolte & Family

Brian & Jennifer Donovan

Servers: Eden Baker - Brick Baker

Jake Baker - Fitz Doyle

Meetings and Activities of the Week

Monday December 22nd -

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

Wednesday December 24th -

Christmas Eve

No Faith Formation

Parish Office Closes 2:00 PM

8:30 - 9:00 AM: Daily Mass

4:00 - 5:00 PM: Christmas Eve Mass

Thursday December 25th -

Merry Christmas

Parish Office Closed

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM: Mass

Friday December 26th -

8:30 - 9:00 AM: Mass

Parish Office Closed

Sunday December 28th -

Feast of the Holy Family

No Faith Formation

8:00 - 9:00 AM: Mass

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Weekly contributions needed..... \$7115.38

Contributions Received Through Dec. 11th, 2025

Budget, Adult	\$ 10190.00
Loose.....	\$ 629.00
ACH Donations.....	\$ 4410.00
Holiday Donations.....	\$ 535.00
Upkeep.....	\$ 20.00
Total Collected.....	\$ 15784.00
YTD collection needed.....	\$ 177924.50
YTD collections received.....	\$ 148799.83
YTD	\$ 29124.67



Go to our website stjohnmv.org to access FORMED!

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.