

*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

*January 4th, 2025  
The Epiphany of the Lord*



**Readings for the week of January 4, 2026**

Sun: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2,7-13/Eph 3:2-3,5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Mon: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tues: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44

Wed: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52

Thurs: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2,14,15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a

Fri: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13,14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16

Sat: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2,3-4,5,6 and 9b/Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday:

Is 42:1-7/Ps 29:1-4,9-10/Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17

**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

### *Epiphany: The Light of Christ Still Shines on Us*

Dear Parishioners and friends,

Happy and Blessed New Year 2026 to you. We mark the first Sunday of the new year with the celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. The celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord makes the story of the Magi's visit an integral part of Christmas.

Matthew's Gospel, which is usually chosen for Epiphany Sunday, details how shortly after Christ was born, "Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage'" (Matt. 2:2).

In most traditional societies organized around monarchical leadership, it was customary for subjects and foreigners alike to visit and pay homage to ruling kings in their palaces explaining why the magi went to Herod's palace to ask for the new king.

The Magi understood that this newborn king was extraordinary; he was a baby, a simple child, yet a Mighty God. And Herod fearfully interpreted the news about the birth of Christ the King as foreshadowing the end of his rule and ordered the massacre of all male infants two years old and under to secure his reign.

The magi left everything behind and traveled long distances to meet Him and do Him homage. Their journey marked the beginning of their conversion to a new life. They needed Him to save them and to lead them to life. The long journey of the Magi from the east also mirrors our own walk with Jesus, which begins with our baptism as disciples.

The gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh express an act of Christian devotion to the Lord. Like the Magi, we are invited to present ourselves to Jesus as the ultimate act of devotion. They teach us that devoting ourselves to Christ must become our constant and concrete expression of authentic Christian discipleship.

Finally, please remember to join Archbishop Zinkula, for a special Novena going on from January 3, the Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus through the Baptism of the Lord, January 11, to ask the Holy Spirit to guide our discernment and renew our unity as one Church.

**I wish you a Happy Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord Jesus Christ!**

## Epiphany Program

Sunday January 4th

4:00 PM

Potluck to follow!



### Sign up Now!

*You don't want to miss the 2026 Archdiocesan Women's Conference*

*Beauty in Christ: Grace for the Journey*

**Saturday, January 31, 2026, 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM**

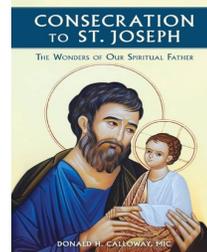
Dynamic speakers Kitty Cleveland and Kelsey Kaiser, will share insights on how we can be filled with "Grace for the Journey"! This conference, attended virtually or at a parish near you, begins with Archbishop Zinkula leading us in prayer and includes great speakers, conversation and more! Check out the site, invite your sisters and friends, and be ready to have your faith strengthened!

Scan to Sign up



For more information go to [www.archwomensconference.org](http://www.archwomensconference.org)

## Lenten Book Study

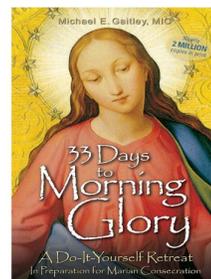


Meeting on Thursdays  
Begins Feb. 15th



Deacon Mark will be hosting a study focused on "Consecration to St. Joseph" by Fr. Donald Calloway during Lent. Please scan the QR code to sign up, or signups can be found in the Gathering Space!

## Easter Book Study



Meets on Thursdays  
Begins April 10th



Deacon Mark will be hosting a book study in the Easter season based on "33 Days to Morning Glory" by Fr. Michael E. Gaitley. Please scan the QR code above to sign up, or signups can be found in the Gathering Space!



Wednesday January 7th, 2025:

**8:30 AM:** John Apel

Friday January 9th, 2025:

**8:30 AM:** Doris McElmeel & Carl Morrison

Sunday January 11th, 2025:

**8:00 AM:** Ernie, Nancy & Kurt Adams

Liturgical Ministers January 11th, 2025

**Sacristan:** Hugh Scieszinski

**Lectors:** Tom Wieseler - Vicky Wieseler

**EM:** Larry Collins - Conni Swart

Jeanne Muellerleile

**EM (Cup):** Diane Apel - Ellen Bentley - Marty Fall

Ruth Horton - Janet Huebner

**Hospitality:** Jim & Cindy Kendall

Mike & Ruth Clark

Troy & Tracey Louwagie & Family

**Servers:** Casey Swart - Adam Swart

Kiersten Swart - Liliana Grosse

Meetings and Activities of the Week

Monday January 5th -

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

Wednesday January 7th -

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

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

**6:00 - 7:30 PM:** OCIA (Baptism & Confirmation)

**6:00 - 7:00 PM:** Stewardship Committee Meeting

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

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

Friday January 9th -

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

Sunday January 11th -

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

**9:00 - 10:30 AM:** Confirmation Sponsor Renewal

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

**4:00 - 6:00 PM:** Catechist Inservice

**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 been no major contributions since the last bulletin. There will be an update in the next issue. Thank you all for your continued generosity!

**Confirmation  
Sponsor/Candidate Renewal  
Sunday January 11th  
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM**



**Catechist Inservice**

SUNDAY JANUARY 11TH

4:00 - 6:00 PM

IT IS REQUESTED THAT ALL CATECHISTS ATTEND!

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.

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