Cedar Rapids Area East Pastorate

ALL SAINTS * ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST * ST. LUDMILA * ST. PIUS X





FR. KEN GLASER
Pastor
k.glaser@dbqarch.org



FR. HUNG LE
Parochial Vicar
h.le@dbqarch.org



FR. MATTHIAS TAKYI-AGYEMAN
Parochial Vicar
m.takyi-agyeman@dbqarch.org

Interim Mass schedule

DAILY MASS

*Monday | 5:30 pm - All Saints
Tuesday | 9:00 am - St. Pius X - School Mass
Tuesday | 5:30 pm - St. Ludmila
*Wednesday | 8:30 am - All Saints
Wednesday | 8:30 am - St. Pius X
Thursday | 8:30 am - All Saints - School Mass
Thursday | 5:30 pm - St. Pius X
Friday | 8:30 am - St. John The Baptist
Friday | 8:30 am - St. Ludmila

WEEKEND MASS

*Saturday Vigil | 4:00 pm - St. Ludmila
Saturday Vigil | 4:30 pm - St. Pius X
*Sunday | 8:30 am - St. John The Baptist
*Sunday | 9:00 am - St. Pius X
Sunday | 10:30 am - St. Ludmila
Sunday | 5:30 pm - St. Pius X

* Masses marked with an asterisk are livestreamed and can be found on that Parish's website

LOCAL FOREIGN LANGUAGE MASSES

Sunday | 8:30 am - Latin at St. Wenceslaus
Sunday | 12:30 pm - Spanish at St. Matthew
Sunday | 2:00 pm - Vietnamese twice/mo at St. Matthew - Oct. 4th / Oct. 25th
Sunday | 2:00 pm - French 1st Sunday at St. Jude

ADORATION

All Saints - Tuesday | 8:30 am to 9:30 am
St. John The Baptist
1st & 3rd Wednesday | 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
1st Friday | After 8:30 am Mass until 9:30 am
St. Ludmila - During open office hours by request
St. Pius X - Wednesday | 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Friday | 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

RECONCILIATION

All Saints - Wednesday | 7:30 am - 8:15 pm
St. Ludmila - Saturday | 3:00 pm
St. Pius X - Saturday | 3:30 pm, Sunday | 4:30 pm
St. John The Baptist - Friday | 7:30 am, Sunday | 7:30 am
*or by appointment

OCTOBER 25, 2026 | 30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In Sympathy

Butch Schmelzer - St. Ludmila
Mike Barton - St. Ludmila

Pastorate Obituaries are available at *Stjohnmv.org/pastorate-obituaries.* Please scan the QR code to view them.

Baptism

For Baptismal Prep information, please contact your local Parish Office!

Marriage

Ron Lowenberg & Danielle Mahnke

For Marriage Prep information, please contact your local Parish Office!

Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday to all of our Parishioners who are 90+

Mel Wiederhold - St. Ludmila
Vernon Jackson - All Saints
Bette Bradley - All Saints

Ministry Schedules

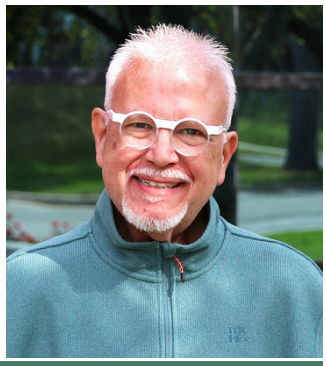
PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING QR CODE TO ACCESS THE MINISTRY SCHEDULES FOR THE UPCOMING WEEKEND MASSES
OR CONTACT SARAH COPPA AT *s.coppa@dbqarch.org*

Mass Intentions

Monday October 26| 5:30 pm All Saints -
✝ Joseph Mulick
Tuesday October 27 | 9:00 St. Pius X -
For the People
Tuesday October 27 | 5:30 pm St. Ludmila -
✝ John & Mildred Kehrer
Wednesday October 28 | 8:30 am St. Pius X -
✝ Steve Mullen
Wednesday October 28 | 8:30 am All Saints -
✝ Marilyn Leyes
Thursday October 29 | 8:30 am All Saints -
✝ Dolores Reisinger
Thursday October 29 | 5:30 pm St. Pius X - **Collective**
✝ Scherrman Barry Families
Friday October 30 | 8:30 am St. Ludmila -
For the People
Friday October 30| 8:30 am St. John the Baptist -
✝ Larry Haight
Saturday Vigil October 31 | 4:00 pm St. Ludmila - **Collective**
For the People
Saturday Vigil October 31 | 4:30 pm St. Pius X -
✝ Tom Laramee
Sunday November 1 8:30 am St. John the Baptist -
✝ Wilma Olsem
Sunday November 1 | 9:00 am St. Pius X -
✝ Sherbon & Bruhn Families
Sunday November 1 | 10:30 am St. Ludmila -
✝ Zachary Gilbert
Sunday November 1 | 5:30 pm St. Pius X -
✝ Special Intention

Mass Intentions can be requested by contacting
Dan Alpers at All Saints Parish
d.alpers@dbqarch.org 319-363-6130

Staff Spotlight - Bob Gardner



Bob grew up in Cedar Rapids in an amazing family where the seeds of his faith and his vocation were first planted. He graduated from the University of Iowa and later received his Master's Degree in Religious Studies from Seattle University. He devoted 38 years of his life to working as a teacher, campus minister, and speech & drama director in our local Catholic schools (the last 17 years at La Salle Middle School), while also serving as a youth minister part-time in area Catholic parishes (the last 19 years at St. Ludmila Parish.) For the past 6 years Bob has ministered as Pastoral Associate for St. Ludmila where he coordinates Adult Faith Formation - including OCIA - as well as Young Adult Ministry and Faith in Action (Social Justice.)

Bob enjoys music, theatre, reading, traveling, and making wonderful memories with great friends. In addition to his many church and community involvements, he feels very blessed to be an Associate Partner with the Presentation Sisters of Dubuque, committed to sharing their beautiful charism of Radical Hospitality with everyone he encounters. He is excited to be a part of our pastorate and looks forward to working together to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to Cedar Rapids, Mount Vernon ...and the world!

Financial Stewardship

Stewardship is the sharing of our time, talent, and treasure that God has provided for us. Here is the financial stewardship shared with our parishes from October 10 - 16

ALL SAINTS

Budget Giving - $4,965.23
Faith In Action - $305.09 & $177.00 for Haiti
Building - $151.41

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Budget Giving - $2,150.00
Faith In Action - $0.00
Building - $120.00

ST. LUDMILA

Budget Giving - $12,645.00
Faith In Action - $150.00
Building - $175.00

ST. PIUS X

Numbers were not available for this publication they will be reported in the next issue. Sorry for any inconvenience!

Important *- Please make checks payable to the specific parish or cemetery you wish to support. If you are donating to a designated purpose (such as Building and Grounds, Faith in Action (Formally Social Justice), etc.), please note the purpose in the memo line. If you are giving to more than one parish or fund, we kindly ask that you write separate checks for each, as each parish has a separate bank account. If you would like to give an online donation instead of a check, use the QR codes below.Thank you for your stewardship!*

Online Giving

ALL SAINTS

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

ST. LUDMILA

ST. PIUS X

Weekly Calendar

Monday October 26 -
5:30 pm - CGS Session, Atrium - St. John's
5:00 pm - St. Vincent de Paul, Church - St. Ludmila
6:00 pm - Musician Potluck, Lower Level - St. John's
6:00 pm - CEO Talk, SH - St. Ludmila
7:00 pm - AA Meeting, Bingo Hall Bride's Room - St. Ludmila
7:00 pm - Boy Scout Meeting, Pius Hall - St. Pius X

Tuesday October 27 -
6:00 am - Men of Action, Pastors Hall, St. Pius X
9:30 am - CGS Session, Atrium - St. John's
10:00 am - Adult Discussion Ladies Group, ND - St. Ludmila
3:00 pm - Prayer Group, Library - All Saints
5:00 pm - Intentional Walking Rosary, SH - St. Ludmila
5:00 pm - Evening Prayer, Eucharistic Chapel - St. Ludmila
6:00 pm - Divorce Ministry, Library - All Saints
6:00 pm - Men's Group - Soulful Saints - St. Ludmila
6:30 pm - Pastoral Council Mtg, Ed Wing - St. John's
7:00 pm - Walking with Moms in Need, Pius Hall - St. Pius X
7:10 pm - Walking with Moms in Need, SH - St. Ludmila

Wednesday October 28 -
3:30 pm - Serva Fidem, Clare - St. Pius X
6:00 pm - Bible in a Year, Clare - St. Pius X
6:00 pm - 9th Grade Bible Study, Pastors Hall - St. Pius X
6:00 pm - RE K-5 Classes, School - St. Pius X
6:00 pm - Middle School Formation, Youth Room - St. Pius X
6:30 pm - Wine & Wisdom, SH - St. Ludmila
7:00 pm - Men of the Eucharist, Library - All Saints

Thursday October 29 -
6:00 am - That Man is You, Pius Hall - St. Pius X
9:15 am - ProLife Rosary, Chapel - All Saints
10:15 am - Bible in a Year, Clare - St. Pius X
11:00 am - Immigration Mtg. w/ Speaker, CC - St. Ludmila
6:30 pm - Bible Study, Ed Wing - St. John's

Saturday October 31 -
Second Collection at Mass for Faith in Action
6:30 am - That Man is You, Lower Level - St. John's

Sunday November 1 -
Second Collection at Mass for Faith in Action
9:00 am - KC Pancake Breakfast, Pius Hall - St. Pius X
9:30 am - Confirmation, Ed Wing - St. John's
9:30 am - She Women's Group, LL - St. John's
9:30 am - PreK-5th Grade RE Class, Ed Wing - St. John's
10:30 am - Children's Liturgy, CH - St. Ludmila
11:30 am - Donut Sunday, SH - St. Ludmila
11:30 am - All Saints Day Potluck, Social Hall - All Saints
4:00 pm - Ad Altari Dei Workshop, Lower Level - All Saints
5:00 pm - Bingo, BH - St. Ludmila
6:45 pm - St Vincent de Paul, Pastors Hall - St. Pius X

Staff Directory



319-363-6130
720 29th St. SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403
allsaintscr.com

ALL SAINTS

Business Manager: Tracy A. Huk / *t.huk@dbqarch.org*
Bookkeeper: Jeremy Lutz / *j.lutz@dbqarch.org*
Medical Emergencies & Funerals: Tracy A. Huk / *t.huk@dbqarch.org*
Dir. of Adult Formation: Bob Lillibridge / *b.lillibridge@dbqarch.org*
Office Manager: Dan Alpers / *d.alpers@dbqarch.org*
IT Director: Ethan Weiland / *e.weiland@dbqarch.org*
Scrip Coordinator: Lori Jiacinto / *scrip@allsaintscr.com*
Deacon: Mike Klappholz / *m.klappholz@dbqarch.org*
Deacon: Ed Martin / *e.martin@dbqarch.org*



319-895-6246
212 7th St. SE
Mt. Vernon, IA 52314
stjohnmv.org

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Main Office: Secretary/Bookkeeper: Trevor Gretten / *t.gretten@dbqarch.org*
Director of K-12 Faith Formation: Marcy McElroy / *m.mcelroy@dbqarch.org*
Coordinator of Music & Liturgy: Theresa Sundstrom / *t.sundstrom@dbqarch.org*
Adult Faith Formation: Dcn. Mark Sandersfeld / *m.sandersfeld@dbqarch.org*
Prayer Chain Contacts: Trevor Gretten / *t.gretten@dbqarch.org*
Deacon: Josh Sundstrom / *j.sundstrom@dbqarch.org*
Deacon: Mark Sandersfeld/ *m.sandersfeld@dbqarch.org*



319-362-7282
211 21st Ave. SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
stludmila.org

ST. LUDMILA

Parish Administrator: Echo Wecker / *e.wecker@dbqarch.org*
Office Administrator: Linda Sills / *l.sills@dbqarch.org*
Pastoral Associate: Bob Gardner / *r.gardner@dbqarch.org*
Pastoral Care: Sue Berger / *s.berger@dbqarch.org* / 319-432-5359
Facility Coordinator: Jan Hanks / *j.hanks@dbqarch.org* / 319-721-3394
Music Director: Dr. Bradley Barrett / *b.barrett@dbqarch.org*
Director of Faith Formation: Monica Rannals/ *m.rannals@dbqarch.org*
Rel. Ed Admin. Assistant: Cassie Davis / *c.davis@dbqarch.org*
Special Projects: Dee Hanson / *d.hanson@dbqarch.org*
Scrip Coordinator: Paula Fries / p.fries@dbqarch.org
Maintenance Director: Tony Schmidt / t.schmidt@dbqarch.org
Sexton St. John's Cemetery: Tony Schmidt / t.schmidt@dbqarch.org / 319-362-8894
Deacon: Tim Neal / *t.neal@dbqarch.org* / 319-325-4601



319-393-4445
4949 Council St. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
crpiusx.org

ST. PIUS X

Parish Administrator: Brandon Marsh / *b.marsh@dbqarch.org* / 319-241-8070
Accountant: Carol Schulte / *c.schulte@dbqarch.org*
Secretary: Mary Swiderski / *m.swiderski@dbqarch.org*
Faith Formation: Anthony Lavorata / *a.lavorata@dbqarch.org*
Fellowship & Stewardship: Karissa Forde / *k.forde@dbqarch.org*
Pastoral Ministries: Jody Esker / *j.esker@dbqarch.org*
Faith in Action: Cyndy Logue / *c.logue@dbqarch.org*
Music & Liturgy: Brenda Sevcik / *b.sevcik@dbqarch.org*
Youth Ministry & Liturgy: Sarah Coppa / *s.coppa@dbqarch.org*
Marketing & Communications: Marita O'Connell / *m.o'connell@dbqarch.org*
Deacon: Scott Zogg / *s.zogg@dbqarch.org*

All Saints Ministries

A Message From Father Ken

We invite you to join us as Fr. Ken gives an update to All Saints parishioners as we pass the two month mark of the Cedar Rapids Area East Pastorate. Using the benchmarks of trust, transparency and consistency, Fr. Ken highlights some of the activities flourishing and some of the challenges in our Pastorate, most notably the sharp decline in financial giving at All Saints. Fr. Ken concludes with an invitation to join in the celebration of the Eucharist with our brothers and sisters and to recommit to the stewardship of All Saints through the sharing of your financial resources.

To hear Father Ken's words, please view this little YouTube video created by team members of the Cedar Rapids Area East Pastorate. It can be viewed at:
https://www.youtube.com/@allsaintscatholicchurchinc9029



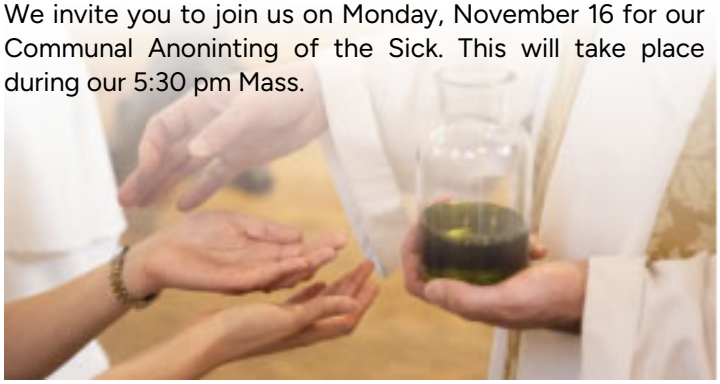
Grandparents Day at All Saints

One of our favorite days at All Saints Church and All Saints Elementary is Grandparents Day. The smiles say it all!



Communal Anointing of the Sick

We invite you to join us on Monday, November 16 for our Communal Anoninting of the Sick. This will take place during our 5:30 pm Mass.

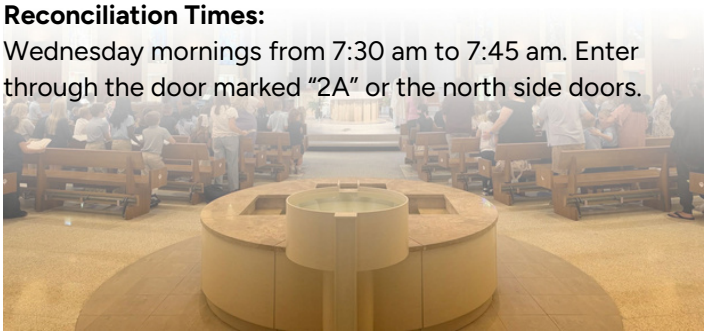


Hy-Vee Cash 4 Students Update

Thank you everyone for going out of your way to bring your Hy-Vee receipts to the All Saints Parish Office. Our first and second quarter totals are in! First quarter: $57,472.86 (April - June, 2026) Second Quarter: $75,629.16 (April - September) Grand total: $133,102.02 Keep printing those receipts and dropping them off! Every penny helps.

Opportunities for Prayer

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:
Tuesdays, 8:30 am to 9:30 am in the Chapel.
All Saints Prayer Group:
Tuesdays at 3:00 pm in the church library.
Prayer Tree:
Available to anyone who would like us to pray for their intentions. Please call Darlene Fandel at 319-560-4844.
Priest Holy Hour:
Thursday mornings at 7:00 am followed by morning prayer at 7:45 am.
M.O.M.S. Rosary:
7:30 pm on the 1st Monday of the month in the Chapel.
Pro Life Rosary:
Thursday morning after Mass in the Chapel until approximately 9:45 am.
Reconciliation Times:
Wednesday mornings from 7:30 am to 7:45 am. Enter through the door marked “2A” or the north side doors.

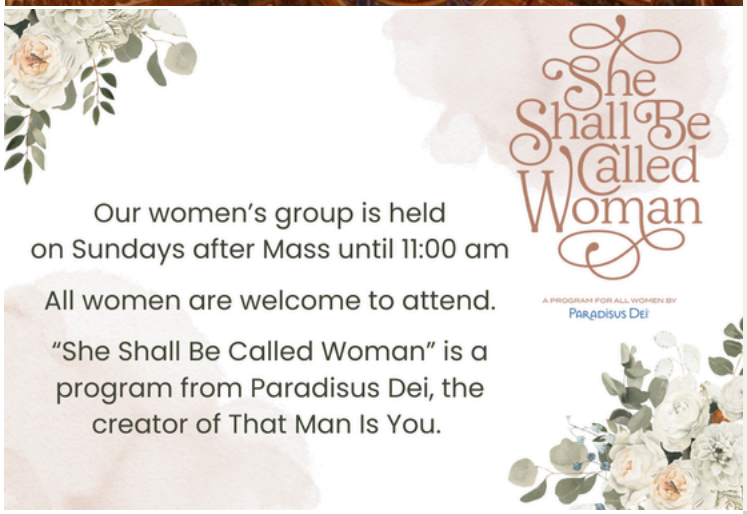


St. John The Baptist Ministries

First Reconciliation Parent/Candidate Retreat

All First Reconciliation Candidates and their parents will gather after Mass at 9:30 am on Sunday, November 15 in the Ed Wing for a retreat. This is an important aspect of preparing for this Sacrament, so please let us know if you or your student will not be able to attend. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Marcy at m.mcelroy@dbqarch.org!





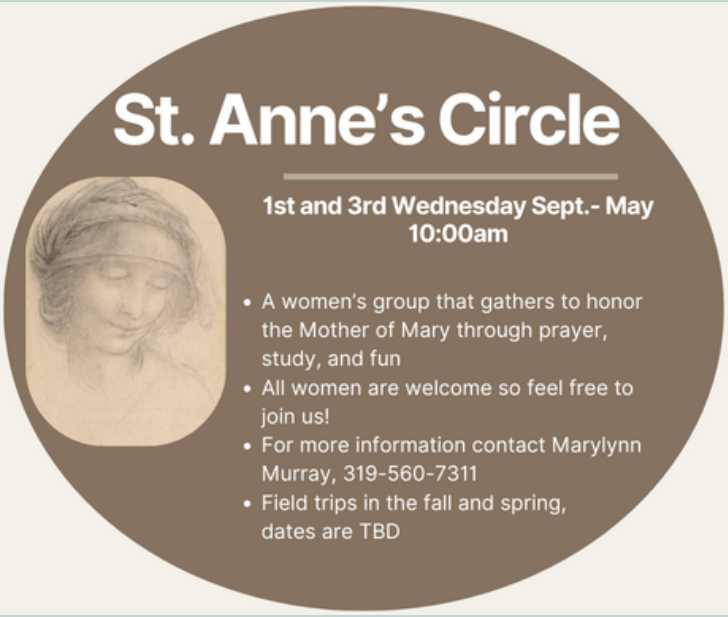
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



Deacon Mark trained 19 Altar Servers (both new and current) at St. John's last week!

St. John's Prayer Chain

Are you or someone you know in need of prayers? Our prayer chain would love to pray for any needs you may have! To have an intention placed on the prayer chain, contact Trevor Gretten at t.gretten@dbqarch.org or 319-895-6246. If you would like to join in prayer for those in need, please contact Trevor and he will place you on the email chain!



St. Ludmila Ministries

ProLife With Love

Tuesday, October 27th, following the 5:30 Mass, Pro Life With Love will assist in hosting Adoration for Respect Life Month. Following Adoration, the city-wide Walking With Moms In Need meeting will be held at 7:10 pm in the St. Ludmila Community Center.

St. Ludmila Rummage Sale News

I would like to share the sales figures from our past four rummage sales. With the help of volunteers from throughout our pastorate, each sale has been bigger than the last! Thank you! Susie Vecerka

May 2025	$ 3281.30
Sept. 2025	$ 3318.00
May 2026	$ 4291.40
Sept. 2026	$ 4356.13







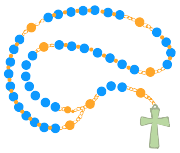


St. Ludmila Christmas Market

December 5, 2026 is the date for our annual Christmas Market which includes a popular silent auction. Your help is needed to fill baskets for others to bid on. Look in the St. Ludmila gathering space the weekends of November 7 through November 22, for a Christmas tree with cards that have ideas for those baskets. There are also requests for gift cards that you can purchase at the scrip desk for the bucket raffle. Paula will keep the gift cards safe until Susie collects them. Thank you for your support!

Intentional Walking Rosary

Join us in the St. Ludmila Community Center, each Tuesday in October at 5:00 pm, beginning on October 6th! We will say the rosary while walking to stay fit and be finished in time for the 5:30 pm Mass! We hope to see you there!



Legacy Gift Planning

You can share your faith beyond your lifetime by careful estate planning that includes St. Ludmila in your will. During your lifetime, you will have the joy of knowing that whatever you do not use in this life will continue in ministry through your church after your death. If you would like more information about leaving a legacy gift to St. Ludmila contact Echo Wecker at 319-362-7282 or e.wecker@dbqarch.org. If you would like information about gift planning, please contact our planning partner at the Catholic Foundation at 319-200-4657 or CFAD@OurCFAD.org.

Soup Supper for Seminarians

Please join us on Saturday, November 7, at St. Ludmila for a soup supper in honor of our seminarians. Serving begins after 4:00 Mass at 5:00 pm, and we will have three different soups, crackers, and dessert. There will also be a free will donation for the Seminary Education Endowment Fund. If you are able to donate cookies and bars for our dessert, that would be appreciated. Call Kathy Shelton for dessert details at: 319-366-4948. Please join us!



St. Pius X Ministries



Thanks to the generosity of parishioners and local donors, Metro Catholic Outreach (MCO) provides more than groceries to our neighbors in need. Each month, $7,200 in rent and utility assistance helps approximately 12–15 households stay on track during unexpected financial hardships. That's nearly $90,000 in assistance each year!

Current Urgent Needs

Pantry	Personal care	For the unhoused
Plastic grocery bags	Shampoo	Plastic forks & spoons
Canned soup	Soap	Protein items
Peanut butter	Deodorant	Individually wrapped sweet snacks
Canned chicken/tuna	Toothpaste	

Handbags of Hope - A fundraiser for Chains Interruped
Donate your gently used wallets, handbags, or totes at any GreenState Credit Union branch through November 30.
info@ChainsInterrupted.com

Weekday Mass changes
Weekday Masses sometimes change after the bulletin has been sent to the printer. If you would like an email when Mass is cancelled or changed due to a funeral, priests' absence, etc., please sign up on the clipboard in the Gathering Space or call the parish offce.

DIGITAL REFLECTIONS

- Matthew 22:34-40

The Gospel message this week is very clear: that our love of God is followed by our love for others. St. Thomas Aquinas expands on this in his concept of 'Ordo Amoris' (the order of love). For example, love (and patience) between siblings can encourage healthy interactions with our neighbors; a loving marriage often makes it easier to foster love within and between our children; and love for the Lord should encourage us to be better spouses. Where in this 'order' can you better show love?



PRAYER LINE: Contact Sara Veerhusen
StPiusPrayer@gmail.com or 319-551-6259





Pastorate Events

Journey in Faith: The Touchpoint Survey closes Sunday

This weekend is your final opportunity to complete our Journey in Faith Touchpoint Survey. Your input is important and will help pastorate leaders set priorities and develop a proposal for a final weekend Mass schedule. If you haven't responded, please take a few minutes to share your experience before the survey closes at midnight on Sunday, October 25. Thank you for helping shape our future together!

Heart & Soul Retreat for Young Adults

Nov. 7-8 at Camp Wapsie Register at stludmila.org and follow the prompts; after you complete the 3 forms required, submit. Registration deadline is Wed., Oct. 28!

All Saints Day Potluck

All Cedar Rapids Area East parishioners are invited to come together for a meal to celebrate All Saints Day! This event will be hosted at **All Saints Church in the Social Hall from 11:30am - 2:30pm on All Saints Day, November 1.** Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy an afternoon of delicious food and fellowship with our pastorate family.

All Souls Day Mass

Please join us on **Monday, November 2 at 5:30 pm at All Saints Church** for our pastorate's All Souls Day Mass. Names of all the deceased from Nov. 2025 - Nov. 2026 will be read, attendees may light candles for deceased loved ones and there will be a reception to follow. For more information email j.esker@dbqarch.org.

Do You Know Someone Who Is in the Hospital, Homebound or in Assisted Living?

Our pastorate is committed to caring for parishioners who cannot be with us at weekend Mass. If you know someone who is in the hospital, homebound, residing in an assisted living or nursing facility, or recovering at home, we would be grateful to hear from you.

Your help ensures that those who may feel isolated receive pastoral visits, Holy Communion, prayer support, and a continued connection to our pastorate family.

Please contact Mary Swiderski at 319-393-4445 or m.swiderski@dbqarch.org with their name, location, and your relationship to them. Together, we can make sure every member of our pastorate knows they are remembered, valued, and loved in Christ.

Pastorate Anointing of the Sick

November 10: St. Pius X, 11:30 am prior to Golden Age
November 13: St. John the Baptist during 8:30 am Mass
November 16: All Saints during 5:30 pm Mass
November 18: St. Ludmila, 11:30 am prior to Wisdom Generation Lunch

Homemade with Heart bazaar

Sponsored by Catholic Daughters Court CR #1768
November 14, 9am-3pm, St. Pius X Church, Pius Hall
Goodies of all kinds including a cookie walk, home-made crafts for all holidays & seasons, cafe with walking tacos. Proceeds benefit location charities. Cash & cards accepted.



Faith In Action Committee:

This committee is responsible for implementing a document written in 1891 by Pope Leo XIII, called Rerum Novarum, addressing "Catholic Social Teaching". Our local Pastorate Faith In Action Committee is responsible for providing education, service opportunities and vetting and financially supporting organizations in our local communities and beyond, that minister to those on the margins of life. In the midst of our reorganization, this ministry cannot be lost! Beginning the weekend of October 31/November 1, there will be a second collection once a month after communion, at all the Masses in our Pastorate to support the mission of our Faith In Action committee. 100% of these funds will be distributed during the current fiscal year. I am also excited to announce that a family in our Pastorate will match dollar for dollar, up to $10,000 all donations received for the Faith In Action Committee between now and December 7, 2026. As your pastor, I rely on your financial support for our annual operating budget. Please consider this invitation above and beyond your annual giving. (Please read Matthew 25) Thank you, Fr. Kenneth J. Glaser

Xavier High School Community Service Day Nov. 11

Xavier High School students will be out in the Cedar Rapids/Marion/Hiawatha communities for the annual Community Service Day on Wednesday, November 11, 2026. If you're elderly or living with a disability and could use help with leaf raking or window washing, we'd love to lend a hand! Just give us a call at 319-294-6635 and we'll get you on the list.



Pastor's Corner

The success of any non-profit organization is rooted in the involvement and commitment of its leadership and volunteers! The same can be said of any religious organization that is also a non-profit! As I reflect on my twenty-six years of priesthood, the most successful and fulfilling events were those that were conceived, organized and carried out by the volunteer parishioners I was connected with at that time.

As I learn more about our four respective parishes and communities, I am discovering the success and fulfillment of our parishes has also been built upon the commitment of the volunteers. My dad was on the parish council of my home parish, Immaculate Conception in North Washington, for many years. I remember him talking one time about an important decision. The priest at the time, Fr. John Friederick, sat back in his chair, smoking his pipe and said, "I am not going to make this decision. This is your parish; the decision lies in your hands, the leadership of the parish." The role of the priest and soon to be Director of Operations, is to make sure we are following guidance from the Archdiocese of Dubuque and the laws in the state of Iowa!

Volunteers ~ Our Sunday Masses would not happen without you!
Volunteers ~ Our funeral luncheons would not happen without you!
Volunteers ~ Our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and Faith Formation Programs would not happen without you!
Volunteers ~ Office helpers, bulletin stuffers, mailer assistance would not happen without you!
Volunteers ~ Trunk or Treat would not happen without you!
Volunteers ~ None of our standing committees in the parish or at the pastorate level would exist without you!
Volunteers ~ Our monthly luncheons would not happen without you!
Volunteers ~ Our Bingo program, Kolach Festival, as well as the Sweetcorn Festival, Fun Days, would not happen without you!
Volunteers ~ YOU ARE THE BACKBONE OF OUR PARISHES and OUR PASTORATE!

Over the past ten years, I have seen a shift in our volunteers in my parishes and in the community in general. There are individuals who have assisted for years, who are now asking the next generation to step up and take their turn. Today, I am asking the same thing! As we continue to move forward together as a pastorate, what would you like to see happen? What do we want to maintain? What do we want to change? What is something new you would like to see? I do not want to throw the baby out with the bath water! There are things that are unique to our parishes, but how do we open them up to the pastorate?

Did you know that St. Ludmila offers Bingo on Sunday evening, along with a concession stand? This is a great opportunity for students and families to gain service hours. I work Bingo about once a month! I cannot ask you to volunteer, if I do not volunteer myself! Go to the St. Ludmila website for more information. St. Ludmila also has the annual Kolach Festival and several smaller bakes throughout the year, including the upcoming Christmas Market. Some of you joined us this fall to learn what this is all about! I hope you will return. Currently, these are St. Ludmila fundraising events, but as we continue to move forward with the pastorate, they will eventually benefit and impact our pastorate budget as well!

This month I was notified by the leaders of our Kolach Festival, that they are ready to train new leaders for the 2027 Kolach Festival and beyond! They are looking for volunteers to serve as Co-Chairpersons for the Festival, Food & Concessions Coordinator(s), Silent Auction Coordinator(s), as well as volunteers interested in leading an area of the Festival, even if they are not yet sure which area. New volunteers will shadow current leadership in 2027, so they will be prepared to take over leadership in 2028.

The success of our pastorate depends upon the involvement of our parishioners! Consider this your personal invitation to get involved! I am blessed and humbled to be able to minister with you! Let's make 2027 a year to remember as we journey together, building the Kingdom of God!

Fr. Ken Glaser