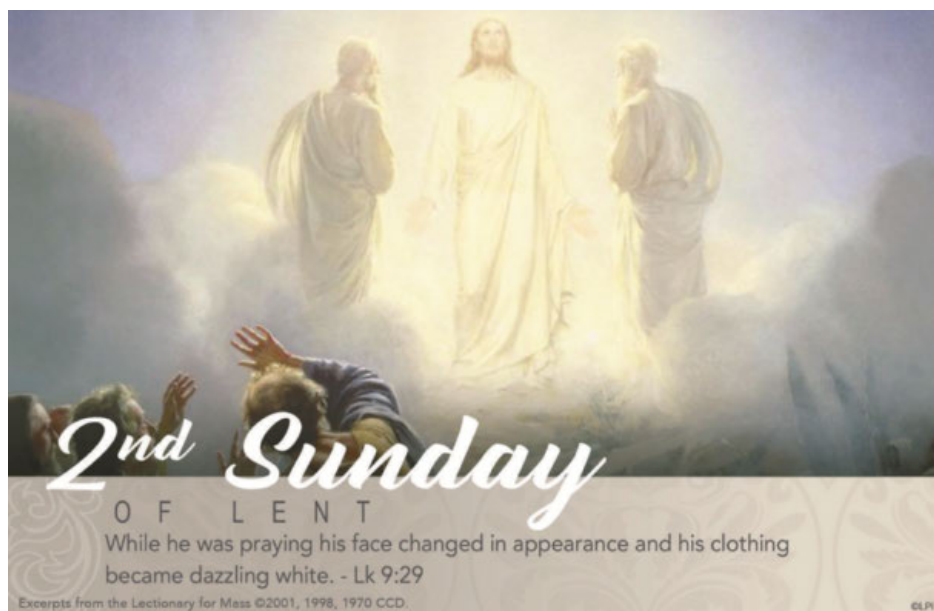




March 16, 2025 | First Sunday of Lent



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mon. - Thurs. 8 am – 4 pm / Fri. 8 am – 2 pm

NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION

The registration form can be found on our website or contact the parish office.

RECONCILIATION

M, W, @ 7:30 am
Fri. @ 11:30 am – noon
Sat. @ 2:30 – 3:45 pm
Sun. 7 am – 7:45 am

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY: Contact Deacon Stan (319) 533-0425 or the parish.

BAPTISM

Parents must attend a baptism class **prior** to scheduling baptism. Call or email the parish office to register for classes: v.hergert@dbqarch.org

MARRIAGE

Contact the pastor eight months before your wedding.

Mass Times

Sat. @ 4 pm / Sun. @ 8 & 10 am
M, W, @ 8 am
Fri. @ 12:15 pm

PARISH OFFICE

8100 Roncalli Drive
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404-9178
Phone: (319) 846-3139
Website: stjohn23cr.org

STAFF

Priest: Rev. Greg Bahl

(Ext. 103) g.bahl@dbqarch.org

Deacon: Stanley Scheiding

(Ext. 110) s.scheiding@dbqarch.org
319-533-0425

Business Manager: Ron Junge

(Ext. 102) r.junge@dbqarch.org

Secretary: Vicki Hergert

(Ext. 101) v.hergert@dbqarch.org

Religious Ed: Allison Wilhelm

(Ext. 112) a.wilhelm@dbqarch.org

Youth Ministry: Sabrina Marte

(Ext. 113) s.marte@dbqarch.org

Prayer Chain:

blessedjohnprayerchain@gmail.com

Mission Statement

We, the parishioners of St. John XXIII, commit to be disciples of Jesus through prayer, worship, study & service.



Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Continued blessings on your Lenten experience. I pray that this is a time set apart to enter into a spiritual desert, one of extra (*noticeably so!*) silence, solitude, and conversion. The Gospel this weekend is Saint Luke's account of the Transfiguration (Lk 9:28-36). Jesus brings Peter, James, and John up the mountain and they experience a powerful expression of His divinity, including a change of appearance as dazzling light, engagement with the great prophets, culminating in the voice of God, "This is my chosen Son, listen to him." The three disciples, although they were of the closest, inner circle to the Lord and have often experienced the miraculous firsthand, are still stunned into silence and told no one of their experience at the time.

In recent homilies, I've been beating the drum for the need for silence in our lives, if you'll pardon the irony. How are we to listen to the chosen Son of God, if we are distracted by the too-many-things of the world? The too-many-things isn't necessarily the imprudent, frazzled pace that we stupidly demand of ourselves. It can be good or even the best of holy things.



Consider Peter's exuberance at the experience of the Transfiguration. As the Lord is demonstrating his pure holiness, Peter understandably wishes to, what, help? To cling to the experience?

To have some influence on the event? He offers his idea of building three tents, but does not even know what he is saying!

Listen to Jesus, we are told. If you take seriously the invitation of the Lenten season to experience extra silence, solitude, and conversion, it is quite possible (probable?!) that you have a direct, incomprehensible experience of God and His love for you. It may come as a call to conversion from a particular sin. It may come as a great consolation of his peace. You may recognize that the experience of prayer produces in you fruits of the Holy Spirit: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control or chastity.



As wonderful as this might seem, it might be unsettling! Even Jesus' closest disciples were frightened. In the last few weeks, I've encountered *several* people who have had a powerful, prayerful experience, and then second-guess it. You can trust the Holy Spirit directed such an experience when it produces fruit of the Spirit. You might not even know *what to do* with such an experience - well, neither did the disciples. It may take time before you do, so don't rush to build tents.

Make time for the Lord this Lent, and when He speaks to you, listen.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Greg



Weekly Shared Treasure March 8-9, 2025

Envelopes & Online Contributions	\$15,947
Offertory & Visitor	\$1,036.70
ACH Budget (Monthly)	\$9,995.00
ACH Extending the Dream (Monthly)	\$2,205.83
Total	\$29,184.53

Celebrating 25 Years of Faith & Service



In celebration of our 25th Anniversary, we invite you to join us in a special Service Challenge as we share hope,

build community, and make a difference! Our goal is to honor this milestone by committing **2,500 hours of service**. Whether it be by volunteering at a local shelter, helping a neighbor in need, supporting parish initiatives, or finding other ways to serve. This challenge is an opportunity to live our faith and inspire others through acts of kindness and generosity.

Together, let's reach our goal by our 25th Anniversary on Sept. 3rd, 2025. Every hour of service brings us closer to creating a lasting impact in our parish and community. To track your service, there is an acrylic box in the church where you can record your hours. Simply fill out a card and drop it in. *We have already received recorded hours towards our goal!* Every hour counts as we work together to meet this challenge!

Parish Life Event Reminders:

Sign up via Flocknote for Trivia Night on March 29th, and Euchre Night, April 5th. Event details are listed on each sign-up. To register, visit <https://john23cr.flocknote.com/signups>, or call the parish office (319)846-3139. All are welcome!

Paying It Forward



In Nigeria, over 25 million people are experiencing extreme food insecurity due to climate change, poverty and conflict.

Because of violence in their hometown, Amina and her family were forced to flee and start life over again in a new village. Learn how Amina's participation in a Catholic Relief Services program helped her prepare nutritious meals for her family and support other families in her community to overcome the challenges of hunger and malnutrition. Visit crsricebowl.org/week2 to read this week's Story of Hope.

Two Ways to Support Youth Ministry

- **Lasagna For Sale:** Youth Ministry is selling take-and-bake lasagna. A home cooked meal provided for you! We will be taking order this weekend after each Mass. The cost is \$25 per lasagna. Lasagnas will be ready for pick-up the weekend of March 22nd - 23rd.
- **Free will donation dinner:** We will also be hosting a free-will meal prior to Trivia Night on March 29th, from 5 - 6 pm. Sloppy Joes, chips, and dessert is on the menu. All are welcome! Please stay and support our youth!



All proceeds will fund the youth going to Catholic Heart Work-camp this summer in Memphis, TN. Thank you for supporting our service project through CHWC!

Thursday Evening Holy Hour

Join us each week on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm here at St. John XXIII pm for a Holy Hour of evening prayer, rosary and Adoration. We begin with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, pray the Evening Liturgy of the Hours, pray the Rosary and end with the Repose of the Blessed Sacrament. Take a break from the distractions of your week and join us in this hour of peaceful prayer and adoration.

Pray for Their Return

Join St. Monica's Hope prayer group on Monday, March 17th, from 12:15 – 1:15 pm here at St. John XXIII. We share a heartfelt hour of group prayer for our loved ones who have stepped away from their faith. Let's come together to lift them up in prayer! All prayer materials will be provided. Bring your rosary if you like. Stay afterward for food, fellowship, and encouragement as we support one another on this journey. See you there!



KC's Burrito Sale for Scholarships!



The Knights of Columbus will be selling breakfast burritos for \$7 after Masses on April 5 & 6th and at Euchre Night on April 5th. They are made with egg, sausage, cheese, potato, onion, green pepper and tortilla. Get them warmed up to eat here or take them to go. (They freeze well too!) A pre-sale will be held the weekend of March, 28 - 29th. Supplies are limited, order ahead to reserve your order.

All proceeds from the sale will support the KC's Dollars for Scholars program. If you know a high school senior who attends St. John XXIII parish, please encourage him/her to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship for college or vocational school!

In the Community

A Search for Truth and Meaning

In March, CEO will be hosting Joe Enabnit as our speaker. Come listen how the search for truth and meaning in life has lead Joe down many rabbit holes, such as atheism and paganism, but the one constant that kept pulling him back from the abyss was the unwavering love of his earthly and heavenly Fathers. This event is held on Tuesday, March 18th from 6:30 - 8 pm at St. Wenceslaus, 1224 5th St. NE, Cedar Rapids.

A light meal will be served after the talk. Child-care is not available. If you are unable to attend, you can watch live via YouTube at youtube.com/live/OWkf4dFPfoM?feature=share.

Theology on Tap Special Event!



All 21 - 39 year olds are invited to join us at Lion Bridge Brewing on Thursday, March 20th at 6 pm to hear Archbishop Zinkula speak on "Leading with Humility." First drink

is on us! Check out facebook.com/CRTotT for more information.

His Hands Free Clinic Movie Fundraiser

His Hands Free Clinic is excited to host Movie Night at Marcus Theaters on Thursday, April 3rd at 6 pm, featuring The Chosen: Season 5, Part II and several other current releases. The Chosen will start at 7 pm.

Movie ticket is \$15. Movie tickets for the Chosen are *valid only on April 3rd*. Movie tickets only for other current releases (not The Chosen) are valid anytime. Movie ticket and Concessions prices range from \$30 - \$45. For more information or to purchase tickets, scan the QR code. Concessions and *meal tickets must be made by March 26th*.

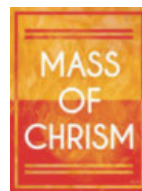


Funds raised from this event will go directly toward providing medical care for those who are uninsured and underinsured in our community, ensuring they receive the compassionate healthcare they need.

Xavier High School Mattress Fundraiser

If you are looking to replace a bed in your home, now is the time. Xavier High School is excited to announce it will be hosting the 6th Annual one-day Mattress Fundraiser on Saturday, April 5th, from 10 am - 5 pm. For one day only, the High School Practice Gym will be transformed into a mattress showroom. For information about the sale, go to: bit.ly/beds4xavier25.

Chrism Mass Trip



Join us for a one day bus trip on April 15th to the Cathedral of St. Raphael in Dubuque to celebrate the Chrism Mass, Blessing of the Oils. We will depart from St. Ludmila Church at 11:30

am and return around 7:30 pm on April 15th. The cost is not yet verified but will be approximately \$70, which includes bus fare and dinner. If you have questions for would like to reserve a seat, contact Isabelle Miller at (319) 363-8269 or email i.miller@dbqarch.org, RSVP's are due by April 5th.

~Sponsored by the Cedar Rapids Council of Catholic Women.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 15 - *Lenten Weekday*

4 pm Robert & Josephine Stallman

Sunday, March 16 - *Second Sunday of Lent*

8 am Louis Buresh

10 am All Parishioners

Monday, March 17 - *St. Patrick, Bishop*

8 am Patricia Charipar

Tuesday, March 18 - *St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor of the Church*

No Mass

Wednesday, March 19 - *St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

8 am, Peg & Emmett Cahill

Thursday, March 20 - *Lenten Weekday*

No Mass

Friday, March 21 - *Lenten Weekday*

12:15 pm Fr. Paul Peters

Saturday, March 22 - *Lenten Weekday*

4 pm All Parishioners

Sunday, March 23 - *Third Sunday of Lent*

8 am Gary & Betty Butz

10 am Kenny Patton

READINGS FOR WEEK OF MARCH 16

Sunday: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14/Phil 3:17—4:1

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Next Sunday: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11 (8a)/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9

ST. JOHN XXIII WEEKLY PLANNER

Monday, March 17

7:30 am, Reconciliation

12:15-1:15 pm, St. Monica's Hope

6-7 pm, Exodus 90 Men's Group

6:15-7:15 pm, Parish Life Meeting

Tuesday, March 18

6:45-7:30 am & 6-7 pm, Men of Action

8 am-7 pm, Adoration

7-8 pm, Rosary & Benediction

Wednesday, March 19

8:30-10 am, Cleaning Crew

10 am, Faith Study Group

5:30-6:30 pm, Pastoral/Finance Council Meeting

7-8 pm, Knights of Columbus Meeting

Thursday, March 20

6:30-7:30 pm, Holy Hour

Friday, March 21

9-10:30 am, Prayer Shawl Group

11:30 am-noon, Reconciliation

5:30-6:30 Stations of the Cross

6:30-7:30 pm, Soup Supper

Saturday, March 22

10 am-noon, Grieving with Great Hope

2:30-3:45 pm, Reconciliation

5-5:30 pm, Donuts and Fellowship

5-5:30 pm, CHWC Lasagna Pick Up

Sunday, March 23

7-7:45 am, Reconciliation

9 & 11 am, Donuts and Fellowship

9 & 11 am, CHWC Lasagna Pick-Up

4-6 pm, Confirmation

6-8 pm, Youth Group

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 22, 28, April 4, 11 - Stations of the Cross

March 29 - Trivia Night

April 5, Euchre Night

May 3 - Confirmation Retreat

May 4 - First Communion

May 11 - Confirmation Mass

June 8— Catholic Heart Work Camp

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