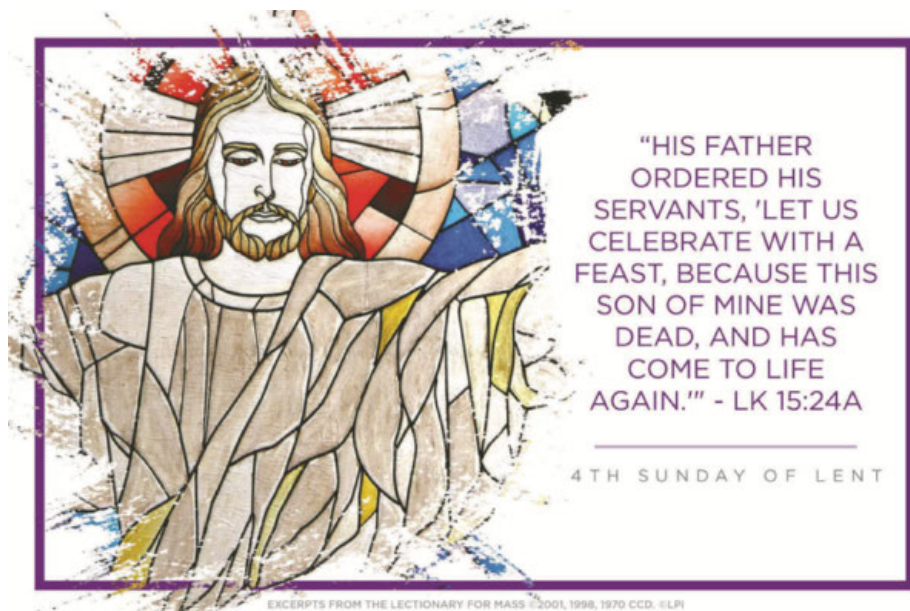




## *March 30, 2025 | Fourth Sunday of Lent*



**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 Stanley (319) 533-0425

### **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**

#### **Pastor: 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,

In the parish, we have had a fair number of baptisms recently. Baptisms are always joyous occasions, and they are a powerful expression of God's great love for us: they are a supernatural experience! It can be easy to be distracted by the natural, often times very human elements of the ritual. All these elements visibly point to the invisible realities that happen through the prayer, even if we are distracted by the child's screaming. The outward acts of pouring/sprinkling/immersion with water, the anointings, the prayers on behalf of the child show us a bit of what is truly happening between God, His child, and all of creation.

The sacraments are not just communal offerings of prayer, but they are signs given to us by Jesus that point out how the Holy Spirit is at work; they are signs that actually do what they express! There are three effects of our baptism that are:

A.) "Sin out." B.) "God in." 3.) "Church joined!" (That is a worth-memorizing shorthand to answer, "what does Baptism do?" Or "Why do we baptize?") This is to say that we are cleansed the effect of Original Sin, we are made receptive to God's loving grace, and become one in the Body of Christ, the Church.



You see the grace of baptism played out in this weekend's second reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 5:17-21.

"Whoever is in Christ is a new creation." In baptism, we know we are meant to be in right relationship with God. The sins of our forefathers and of our human nature to reject

God are washed away, even if the temptation and succumbing to temptation continues. This is effect "A", "sin out". *The old things have passed away, behold, new things have come.* Born again, we are given all that we need to be the perfect saints He planned for us to be. He pours the Holy Spirit upon us - effect "B", "God in." So we are *ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us.* In baptism, we join the Church, the Body of Christ.

I invite you to revisit today's second reading. (2 Corinthians 5:17-21) Take it to prayer, asking the Lord for guidance on how to more fully express the mystery of our own baptismal call in the world. We're about halfway to the Easter Season, a time we celebrate the grace of our baptism. May our preparation prepare us for whatever share in the Paschal mystery, and prepare us to the light of Christ in the world.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Greg



### Weekly Shared Treasure March 22-23, 2025

Envelopes & Online Contributions	\$6,464.00
Offertory & Visitor	\$744.09
Holy Thursday	\$10.00
Good Friday	\$10.00
Easter	\$75.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,303.09</b>

## J23 April Potluck



St. John XXIII will be hosting their monthly potluck on Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Lunch is served at noon. The main dish, spaghetti, will be provided, no foolin'!

Please bring an additional side dish or dessert to share. We just missed April Fools by one day, there's nothing up our sleeve, how about you?

## Music Ministry Easter Preparations

**Choir Practice:** We invite all choir members to attend a practice for Easter on Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the church. We look forward to seeing you all there in full voice!

**Instrumentalists Needed for Easter:** We are in need of instrumentalists for Easter and/or Christmas. If you are interested in playing your band instrument and would like to join us, email Chad Allard at Allard-callard0311@gmail.com. We would love to have you!

## Still Taking Registrations for Euchre

April 5<sup>th</sup> is just a week away, but we are still taking registrations for Euchre night. You can register individually or as a team of four. Sign-up in Flocknote at [john23cr.flocknote.com/signups](http://john23cr.flocknote.com/signups), or call the parish office at (319) 846 - 3139.

## \$1,000 Dollar College Scholarships

The Knights of Columbus, Fr. Schwinn Council, are now taking applications for three, \$1,000 scholarships! The scholarships are available to high school seniors who are members of St. John XXIII Catholic Church. The money can be used at an accredited vocational program, two-year college, four-year college, or university.



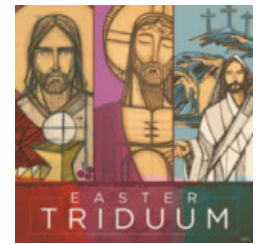
You have a better chance at winning a scholarship than you may think!

Your completed application must be submitted by April 28<sup>th</sup>. To apply,

scan the QR code or visit [stjohn23cr.org/knights-of-columbus/scholarships](http://stjohn23cr.org/knights-of-columbus/scholarships).

## Catholic Q & A

**What is the Triduum?** The Church teaches that the Triduum is really one celebration that lasts for three days. However, in the liturgy, each



day has its unique qualities and different focuses.

The Triduum begins at dusk on Holy Thursday, and continues through dusk on Easter Sunday.

The liturgies during Holy Week are unique and rich in symbolism. The Mass for *Palm Sunday* follows the pattern of the day 2,000 years ago when Jesus entered Jerusalem. It includes a Gospel reading outside the church building and the entrance of the priest into the sanctuary while the congregation waves palms.

The *Holy Thursday* Mass also follows the rhythm of the ancient Last Supper. The presider washes the feet of members of the congregation, like Jesus washed the feet of the disciples. After Mass, all remaining hosts are taken to an altar of repose, where adoration of the Blessed Sacrament occurs late into the night. Parishioners can remain like the disciples in Gethsemane, asked to "watch and pray."

On *Good Friday*, we celebrate another special liturgical service. Following the Liturgy of the Word, there is a communal reverencing of the cross. The intercessions are solemn and include prayers for many different groups of people, reminding us that Jesus' passion is for the whole world. There is no Liturgy of the Eucharist. Hosts consecrated on Holy Thursday are distributed, after which the tabernacle is empty. The tabernacle remains empty through *Holy Saturday*, just as Jesus departed from this earthly world in death, and we wait in hope for *Easter Sunday*!

## Holy Week Liturgical Schedule

Mark your calendars for Holy Week liturgies. Here is the schedule for St. John XXIII:

- Holy Thursday Mass - 7 pm
- Good Friday Service - 5:30 pm
- Easter Vigil Mass - 8:30 pm
- Easter Sunday Mass - 8 & 10 am



## From the Archdiocese

### Save the Date - Eucharistic Pilgrimage



Join Catholic pilgrims from across the nation for a Eucharistic Pilgrimage Event in our Diocese beginning in Dubuque on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, and continuing through cities and rural parishes through May 26<sup>th</sup> before journeying to the Des Moines Diocese.

The Pilgrimage will include processions with the Blessed Sacrament, opportunities for Reconciliation, Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, and social gatherings, as well as an opportunity to receive a plenary indulgence.

*Please consider joining the Pilgrimage as the Blessed Sacrament leads pilgrims across the archdiocese.* Contact Deacon Brian Zeman with any questions at [b.zeman@dbqarch.org](mailto:b.zeman@dbqarch.org), or call (563) 556-2580, ext. 257.

### Stewardship Quotes

The stewardship message in the parable of the Prodigal Son is that it is never too late to become a good steward. Blessed is the elder brother who had been a good steward all along, but blessed, too, is the prodigal who had to lose all he had in order to understand the value of what he'd been given.

### Protecting Crops From National Disasters

Catholic Relief Services tells a story of hope each week during lent to raise awareness on how people are rising above the challenges of hunger and malnutrition with their help.

Shahadat's village, and much of Bangladesh, is located on flat lowlands. The intense rainy season causes flooding that often destroys farms and crops. Find out how Shahadat learned new farming skills from a Catholic Relief Service program that enabled him to increase the yield of his vegetable crops despite the challenges of climate change. Visit [crsricebowl.org/week-4](http://crsricebowl.org/week-4), to read this week's Story of Hope.

## In the Community

### Chains Interrupted Freedom Gala 2025

We invite you to join us on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> for 2025 Freedom Gala as we celebrate progress, empower change, and work together to break the chains of trafficking. This will be an unforgettable evening honoring two amazing women who after having been trafficked in their youth are thriving in their journey.

Social Hour begins at 5 pm, dinner at 6, program and mingling begins at 7. Located at the Veterans Memorial Building, 50 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave Bridge, Cedar Rapids. Dress Code is formal. Reserve your tickets at [chaininterrupted.com/events](http://chaininterrupted.com/events). Thank you for standing with us as we contend for freedom of youth from trafficking.

### Coalition for Life - Save the Date

The overturning of Roe v Wade reminds us that we are all called to do what is necessary to end the injustice of abortion through prayer and fasting at peaceful vigils. *Can you commit to come at least one hour?*

Save the date for our Closing Rally on Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> from 5 - 7 pm. Sign up at [40daysforlife.com/cedar-rapids](http://40daysforlife.com/cedar-rapids). We will be collecting items for a mom in need. Pray that we do not ignore the cries for help from the unborn, their mother and fathers. Questions? Call Vanessa, (319) 569-9725 or Pat, (319) 721-9730.



### Mount Mercy Spring Lecture on Holiness



On Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm, in the Francis J. Pruss Auditorium in Donnelly Center 300 Lecture Hall, Sr. Mary Angelica Neenan, OP, of the University of Dallas will give our Aquinas Lecture, titled "Aquinas and Holiness: The Spiritual teachings of St. Thomas Aquinas." In this lecture, she will seek to set out how St. Thomas answers the question, "How can I become Holy?"

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, March 29** - *Lenten Weekday*

4 pm Fr. Dennis Conway

**Sunday, March 30** - *Fourth Sunday of Lent*

8 am Gary Volz

10 am All Parishioners

**Monday, March 31** - *Lenten Weekday*

8 am Special Intention (Michelle) & Timothy Pisacich

**Tuesday, April 1** - *Lenten Weekday*

No Mass

**Wednesday, April 2** - *St. Francis of Paola, Hermit*

8 am, Frank & Libbie Formanek

**Thursday, April 3** - *Lenten Weekday*

No Mass

**Friday, April 4** - *St. Isadore, Bishop & Doctor of the Church*

12:15 pm Roger Bussey

**Saturday, April 5** - *St. Vincent Ferrer, Priest*

4 pm Robert Moeller

**Sunday, April 6** - *Fifth Sunday of Lent*

8 am All Parishioners

10 am Douglas Tauke

## READINGS FOR WEEK OF MARCH 30

**Sunday:** Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 (9a)/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

**Monday:** Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Jn 4:43-54

**Tuesday:** Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16

**Wednesday:** Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30

**Thursday:** Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 5:31-47

**Friday:** Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

**Saturday:** Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-53

**Next Sunday:** Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11

## ST. JOHN XXIII WEEKLY PLANNER

**Monday, March 31**

7:30 am, Reconciliation

6-7 pm, Exodus 90 Men's Group

**Tuesday, April 1**

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

8 am-7 pm, Adoration

7-8 pm, Rosary & Benediction

**Wednesday, April 2**

8:30-9:30 am, Lenten Prayer Group - Conf. Room

9-10:30 am, Cleaning Crew

10 am, Faith Study Group

12-1 pm, J23 Potluck Group

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

**Thursday, April 3**

1-2:30 pm, Women's Scripture Sharing Group

5:30-6:30 pm, Liturgy Committee Meeting

6:30-7:30 pm, Holy Hour

**Friday, April 4**

9-10:30 am, Prayer Shawl Group

11:30 am-noon, Reconciliation

5:30-6:15 Stations of the Cross

5-7 pm, Knights of Columbus Kitchen Prep

**Saturday, April 5**

10 am-noon, Grieving with Great Hope

2:30-3:45 pm, Reconciliation

5-6 pm, Knights of Columbus Burrito Sale

**Sunday, April 6**

7-7:45 am, Reconciliation

9 & 11 am, Knights of Columbus Burrito Sale

11:15 am-12:15 pm, Evangelization Team Meeting

4-5:15 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Religious Education

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March April 4, 11 - Stations of the Cross

April 5 - Euchre Night

May 3 - Confirmation Retreat

May 4 - First Communion

May 11 - Confirmation Mass

June 8 - Catholic Heart Work Camp

July 20 - Parish Picnic

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