



# St. Joseph Catholic Church

Fed by Word and Sacrament to Love and Serve

1790 14th Street, Marion, IA 52302 ✚ 319-377-4869 ✚ [stjoesmarion.org](http://stjoesmarion.org)



## 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. - Mk 1:4

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

## December 10, 2023

Rev. David O'Connor, Pastor  
[d.oconnor@dbqarch.org](mailto:d.oconnor@dbqarch.org)

Deacon Ken Bauer  
[k.bauer@dbqarch.org](mailto:k.bauer@dbqarch.org)

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Deacon Dennis Ternes  
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Deacon Jeff Volker, Pastoral Minister  
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[j.quandt@dbqarch.org](mailto:j.quandt@dbqarch.org)

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Kristen Perreault, Adolescent FF Coordinator  
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Casey Kettmann, Principal  
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Peggy Brady, School Secretary  
[pbrady@sjcsmarion.org](mailto:pbrady@sjcsmarion.org)

Amy Diercks and Mallory Dudley  
Childcare Co-Directors  
[childcaredirector@sjcsmarion.org](mailto:childcaredirector@sjcsmarion.org)

Kevin Burmeister, Director of Maintenance  
[kburmeister@sjcsmarion.org](mailto:kburmeister@sjcsmarion.org)

**Weekend Mass:** Saturday, 4:00 PM  
Sunday, 8:00 & 10:30 AM

**Weekday Mass:** Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 7:30 AM  
Wednesday, 8:15 AM

**Adoration:** Monday, 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM

**Reconciliation:** Saturday, 3:00 PM to 3:30 PM

**St. Joseph Parish Office** 319-377-4869  
**Youth Faith Formation** 319-377-8402  
1790 14th Street, Marion, IA 52302

**St. Joseph Catholic School** 319-377-6348  
1430 14th Street, Marion, IA 52302

**New to the Parish: Welcome!** Please call the office to make an appointment to register at 319-377-4869.

**Prayer Chain:** Contact Deacon Jeff Volker at 319-377-4869 or [j.volker@dbqarch.org](mailto:j.volker@dbqarch.org)

**Sacrament of Matrimony:** Call the office and make an appointment with the priest or deacon.

**Advanced Care Planning Consultants:** Learn about church teachings on health issues and find help with documents pertaining to durable power of attorney for Health care and health care decision directives.

Parish contacts:

Theresa Alt 319-447-1132 or [alt.theresa@yahoo.com](mailto:alt.theresa@yahoo.com)  
Jean Randolph 319-377-0497 or [jmr926722@mchsi.com](mailto:jmr926722@mchsi.com)  
Deacon Dennis Ternes 319-377-4869 or [d.ternes@dbqarch.org](mailto:d.ternes@dbqarch.org)  
Deacon Ken Bauer 319-377-4869 or [k.bauer@dbqarch.org](mailto:k.bauer@dbqarch.org)

**Infant Baptism:** If you wish to have your infant child/children baptized at St. Joseph, please contact Deacon Dennis at: [d.ternes@dbqarch.org](mailto:d.ternes@dbqarch.org) or 319-377-4869 to discuss baptism preparation for the parents prior to scheduling of the baptism. The next Baptism Class will be Saturday, January 13, 2024

**Parish Disability Advocate:** Contact Amanda Weaver at 319-432-9347 or [aweaver222@gmail.com](mailto:aweaver222@gmail.com)

Follow us:



### Sunday Envelope Giving Week of December 3, 2023 - Week 23

<b>Budgeted Sunday Envelope Needs</b>	<b>\$20,192</b>
Year-to-date budget	\$464,423
Collected last weekend	\$11,831
<b>Actual Year-to-date envelope income</b>	<b>\$439,103</b>
<b>Over/(Under) Budget</b>	<b>(\$25,320)</b>
<b>Unrestricted Gifts and Offertory</b>	<b>\$113,756</b>
Budgeted Gifts and Offertory	\$126,058
<b>Over / (Under) budget</b>	<b>(\$12,302)</b>
<b>Bricks and Mortar Envelopes</b>	<b>\$18,082</b>
Bricks and Mortar budget	\$22,115
<b>Over/(Under) Budget</b>	<b>(\$4,033)</b>
Social Concerns 5% of Envelopes	\$592

## December 11 – December 17, 2023 Weekly Calendar & Mass Intentions

### Monday, December 11

7:00 AM Adoration  
12:00 PM Rosary - Church  
7:00 PM Scripture Study - Church Hall  
9:00 PM Benediction

### Tuesday, December 12

7:30 AM Mass † **Harold Matt**  
(Also broadcasted live at: [stjoesmarion.org](http://stjoesmarion.org))

### Wednesday, December 13

8:15 AM Mass † **Gus Cleppe**  
(Also broadcasted live at: [stjoesmarion.org](http://stjoesmarion.org))  
10:00 AM Scripture Study - Church Hall  
7:00 PM Men of Action - St. Joseph Room

### Thursday, December 14

6:00 AM Men of Action - Church Hall  
7:30 AM Mass † **Bill Spratte**  
(Also broadcasted live at: [stjoesmarion.org](http://stjoesmarion.org))  
6:00 PM School Advent Concert - Church

### Friday, December 15

7:30 AM Mass † **Lyndon Wolf**  
(Also broadcasted live at: [stjoesmarion.org](http://stjoesmarion.org))

### Saturday, December 16

3:00 PM Reconciliation  
4:00 PM Mass † **David Kucharski**  
(Also broadcasted live at: [stjoesmarion.org](http://stjoesmarion.org))

### Sunday, December 17

8:00 AM Mass † **For The People**  
10:30 AM Mass † **Gordon Hickert**

### Early Submission Deadlines for Bulletin

#### Bulletin Date

December 24

December 31

#### Early Deadline

Tues. Dec. 12th at Noon

Wed. Dec. 20th at Noon

Please send submissions to: [dbq126sec@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbq126sec@dbqarch.org)

Ministry Schedule	Saturday, December 16, 4:00 PM	Sunday, December 17, 8:00 AM	Sunday, December 17, 10:30 AM
<b>Sacristan</b>	Darwin Schuttloffel	Rhonda Sourwine	Kathryn Geers
<b>Lector</b>	Lisa Volker	Cody Albright	Cathy Wobbe
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Ella Westhoff Blaise Pacha, Cooper Pacha	Phoenix Albright Maddow Albright Kaia Lokasari	Natalie Nachazel Andrew Oakley Clara Haller Patrick O'Connor
<b>Video Ministry</b>	Peyton Stoller	n/a	n/a
<b>Ambassadors</b>	Terry Lynch Timothy O'Brien James Ickes <b>1 Open</b>	Michael Alt Mary M. Johnson Gregory Van Gorp James Angerer	Patrick O'Connor Sharron Konzen Barbara Wright Stephen Wright
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Abbi Westhoff Angela Sawyers Michael Cira Jeffrey Schussler Patricia Halstead Audra McAnany Erin Seymour	Renee Wiebel Terry Wiebel Linda Randklev Denise Lewis Jackson Tupper Jeffrey Alt Sandra Alt	David Adams Phyllis Koschmeder Steven Freemon Timothy DeWees Mary Breen Michael Wobbe Karri Kruser
<b>C.L.O.W.</b>	n/a	n/a	Philly Wall Mollie Burgeson
<b>Fun &amp; Faith Fcltr.</b>	n/a	n/a	Lydia Wall
<b>Door Greeters</b>	Linda Charlton Brian Reynolds Marjorie Jensen <b>1 Open</b>	Marcia Black Gunnar Black Dorie Kelchen <b>1 Open</b>	Jerry Dilger Dolores Dilger Barbara Gasaway <b>1 Open</b>
<b>Music Ministry</b>	Theresa Alt Emily Corder	Harmony Choir	Patty Kelly Roger Mach

Please volunteer for open ministry opportunities through Ministry Scheduler Pro or by calling Nancy Roush in the parish office.



Please remember in your prayers all those who have died, especially  
**Thomas Conrad**, brother of Dick (Kathy) Conrad, uncle of Scott (Lisa) Conrad;  
 and **Jeff Clark**, grandfather of Maleigh and Kamden Olmstead

### Confession during Advent

There are special opportunities to go to confession in the metro area during Advent. Here's the schedule:

- ◆ **December 10, 2023—St. Mary, Urbana, 3:00 PM**  
(Communal penance with individual confessions)
- ◆ **December 12, 2023—St. Matthew, Cedar Rapids, 6:00 PM**  
(Individual confessions)
- ◆ **December 16, 2023--St. Pius, Cedar Rapids, 10:30 AM**  
(Communal Penance with individual confessions)



### Young Adults Gathering Sunday, Dec 10th

Join us on **Sunday, December 10th** at the home of Deacon Tim and Lisa Dewees, 1850 39<sup>th</sup> St., Marion, from 5:00–7:00 PM for food and fellowship. For more information, contact Tim and Lisa DeWees at [t.dewees@dbqarch.org](mailto:t.dewees@dbqarch.org).

### Women's Connection Monthly Luncheon

Women's Connection, a support group for parish widows, will meet at 11:30 AM on **Thursday, December 14th** at the Indian Creek Country Club. As we gather this Advent season, we recognize the blessings of friendship while we wait together to celebrate the joy of Christmas. All widows of the parish are invited. An RSVP is required. Come join us. Questions and more information contact Sally at (319) 389-3225.



### Christmas Wreath and Poinsettia Memorials

If you would like to have a wreath or poinsettia placed in the church during the Christmas season as a memorial of a loved one, please clip this form and return it to the parish office by **Monday, December 18, 2023**. Your loved one's name will be placed on the wreath or poinsettia that you have sponsored. You may take it home after the season of Christmas ends in mid-January.



Check one: \_\_\_\_\_ Wreath \$12      \_\_\_\_\_ Poinsettia \$20  
 In Memory of: (Please print)

With love from:

Please provide contact email or phone number:

Please make checks payable to St. Joseph Church.  
 (Please note wreaths are artificial due to fire regulations)

## Adult Faith Formation

### RCIA: The Catechumenate



We celebrated the Rite of Acceptance on December 3 where our catechumens and candidates enter into a period of teaching called the Catechumenate in the RCIA. With the help of their sponsors and members of the community, they are learning about the teachings of the Church and growing in faith. This period will conclude with The Rite of Election – Call to Continuing Conversion which will take place the first Sunday of Lent, February 18. The rite celebrates the call of the catechumens and candidates to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. We also have an adult preparing to be confirmed at the Easter Vigil. Please continue to keep our catechumens and candidates in your prayers.



### December 10 Second Sunday of Advent:

In today's Gospel John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need.

**Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please consider giving to our newly formed Society of St. Vincent de Paul Conference here at St. Joseph Church so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.**

### Volunteers are needed to help care for the Altar Linens used in the Church

This would involve picking up the soiled linens from the Working Sacristy after the weekend Masses, washing and ironing them and then returning them. Each volunteer would cover 1 month of every 4th month. If you are interested in helping out, or have questions, please contact Sandy Alt (319-377-0414) or [salt3502@gmail.com](mailto:salt3502@gmail.com). Your help is greatly needed and appreciated.

### Covenant of Love Marriage Mentors

Do you desire a deeper understanding of God's plan for your marriage? Are you experiencing a time of difficulty in your relationship? Are you seeking a more intimate relationship with God and each other?

Trained *Covenant of Love* marriage mentor couples are available throughout the Archdiocese of Dubuque to help equip married couples with practical tools for everyday life. If you are looking for help to strengthen your marriage, you can sign up to meet with a marriage mentor couple to receive support and guidance for you as a couple. To learn more, visit: [www.dbqarch.org/marriage-mentors](http://www.dbqarch.org/marriage-mentors).





## Celebration of the Sacraments

Please remember in your prayers these parents who brought their children to the waters of Baptism: **Gregory & Ashley Steva** brought their son Kolby Allen on December 2nd and **Dylan & Audrey Walters** brought their son Finnian Lee on December 3rd



The next Healing Prayer gathering will take place with Adoration on **Sunday, December 10th at 11:45 AM** in the church. There will be small prayer teams available to pray with you individually and to intercede for you and your needs.

*"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them." - Matthew 18:20*



Join us for Lessons and Carols at Immaculate Conception in Cedar Rapids  
**Thursday, December 14th at 7:00 PM**  
for a night of prayer and music as we reflect on the beauty and mystery of the Advent season.

### SAVE THE DATE

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September 28 & 29, 2024



#### A Christmas Gift for the Soul!

*What could be a more perfect gift to give others and yourself than the love and joy of celebrating Jesus in the company of thousands of Catholics?*

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### Vote for Us!

Help your favorite nonprofit get free advertising in 2024 by voting in the Gazette Gives Back Program. Vote for St. Vincent de Paul at [rewards.thegazette.com/nonprofits](http://rewards.thegazette.com/nonprofits) or [thegazette.com/givesback](http://thegazette.com/givesback)

**Voting ends December 31st.**



## Campaign Corner

### Faith in Our Future Campaign Progress

Total Pledges:	432 families
Amount Pledged:	\$6.84 million
Amount Received:	\$1.58 million
Pledges Redeemed:	23%

### Marriage Enrichment



Advent is the season of anticipation for the birth of Christ. Make an Advent resolution with your family. It could be setting aside some money to tithe, committing to help an elderly neighbor this winter, or adding extra daily prayer time.

### The Retirement Fund for Retired Religious Collection

**Support a lifetime of service.** Women and men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer, ministry, education and care for those in need — usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. As they age, they require essential care and medications. Please support them by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation makes a difference for nearly 25,000 senior men and women religious. Please give generously.

**Collection date: December 9-10, 2023**



### Theology on Tap

All 21-39 year olds are invited to join us at Parlor City on **December 21st** at 6:00 PM to hear from Lynette Tasset on "Not another Chastity Talk! Catholic Dating in the 21st century." First drink is on us! Check out [facebook.com/CRTOT](https://facebook.com/CRTOT) for more information.

### The 28th Annual Catholic Men's Conference



The 2024 Men's Conference will take place on **Saturday, March 9th, 2023** at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Cedar Rapids (livestream available). The keynote speaker will be John Edwards, founder and director of Pew Ministries, a Catholic apostolate with the mission of bringing the person of Jesus Christ to the person in the pew. John is the host of the 'Just A Guy in the Pew' podcast ([www.justaguyinthepew.com](http://www.justaguyinthepew.com)). Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Thomas Zinkula and breakout sessions presented by local speakers. For more info and registration [www.archmensconference.org](http://www.archmensconference.org)

### St. Joseph School News

Congrats to Cole, Anna, Jillian, Cooper, Grace, Clara, and Aailah for being selected and participating in NEIBA last weekend. 4 Great Things Area 4: Educating the Whole Child.

Greetings, St. Joseph's Parish! This is Zach Bohannon, the Building Committee Chair for our Faith in Our Future (FIOF) campaign. Below you will find a rendering by our liturgical consultant, Conrad Schmitt Studios, for the interior of the Church. While there are still some minor edits that need to be made, with all your generous support, I am proud to announce this rich and beautiful design will be a reality for St. Joseph's Church come summer of 2025! You can also find the rendering on large poster boards at each entrance. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me ([zach.bohannon@fib.com](mailto:zach.bohannon@fib.com)) if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. Blessings!



**Advent Daily Reflections**—To support your participation in Advent, a St. Joseph staff member will be offering short, daily reflections for each day of the season. Designed to be a couple of minutes long, they can assist you in focusing each day on a thought that will guide you during your pilgrimage through Advent.

You can access the reflections on:

- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/StJosephCatholicChurchMarion>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stjoesmarion>
- St. Joseph Parish website: <https://stjoesmarion.org/videos>

## SAVE THE DATE

All Liturgical Ministers are invited to an evening of fellowship and ministry sharing on **Tuesday, February 20, 2024** beginning at 6:00 PM. Fr. Joseph Sevcik will be the keynote speaker on the Eucharistic Revival. Each ministry will gather with fellow ministers for a short discussion. Mark your calendar for Feb 20, 2024 and plan to attend!



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December 5, 2023

Dear Parishioners, School Families, and Community supporters,

This communication is being shared as a final update to the important work of our schools and parishes as it relates to the Cedar Rapids metro task force recommendation of systemization and the Middle School exploratory study committee recommendation of consolidation. During the month of November the pastors have worked with great care and concern, specifically in regards to the future of the Cedar Rapids metro Catholic schools and the communities for which they serve. There was much careful consideration given to the process, concerns, and possible adjustments with a goal that consensus was achieved over the course of the discernment process.

It is with much thanksgiving and gratitude to all those involved in any aspect of this process, most especially the pastors who have dedicated much time and discernment, that we share the results of that work.

***It has been decided that it is in the long term best interest of parishes and Catholic education in the metro area for all the Catholic schools to become a system; all schools will now join together as a single corporation and represent Xavier Catholic Schools in an official capacity beginning July 1, 2024.***

***It has been decided that it is in the long term best interest for LaSalle Catholic and Regis Middle School to become a consolidated 6-8 middle school at a location to be determined, as part of the Xavier Catholic Schools system.***

Given the results of these efforts, the following work will begin immediately:

- Identification of process to create the new Xavier Catholic Schools school board
- Identification of process for central office leadership hiring
- Feasibility study about current and possible future locations for a 600 person 6-8 middle school. St. Joseph will remain a PK-8 building for a minimum of five years, at which time system needs will be reassessed.

Additionally, the following timeline will be utilized, and adapted as necessary, to ensure progress towards the official systemization date of July 1, 2024. Monthly communications will be shared around the 15th of each month to update our communities on this process.

- December: Subsidy Formula Committee begins work
- January: Constitution and Consolidation Agreement are drafted; XCS School Board created; Central Office hiring begins
- February: Constitution and Consolidation agreements are signed; Middle School Location Feasibility Study begins
- March: Central Office hires continue; New Corporate Documents are drafted
- April: Central Office and Contact Information communicated
- May: Middle School Location Feasibility Study report available
- June: Current school boards hold last meeting
- July: New system officially begins

We offer our gratitude for the important work of the Cedar Rapids area Catholic communities and extend prayers for continued efforts as work is done to continually enhance the faith filled educational offerings through a unified system. Please be assured that you and your family remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Upcoming monthly communications will lay out work and provide answers to frequently asked questions. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please reach out to your local building administrator.

Countless blessings to you and your family this holiday season,

Cedar Rapids Metro Task Force Leadership Team





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