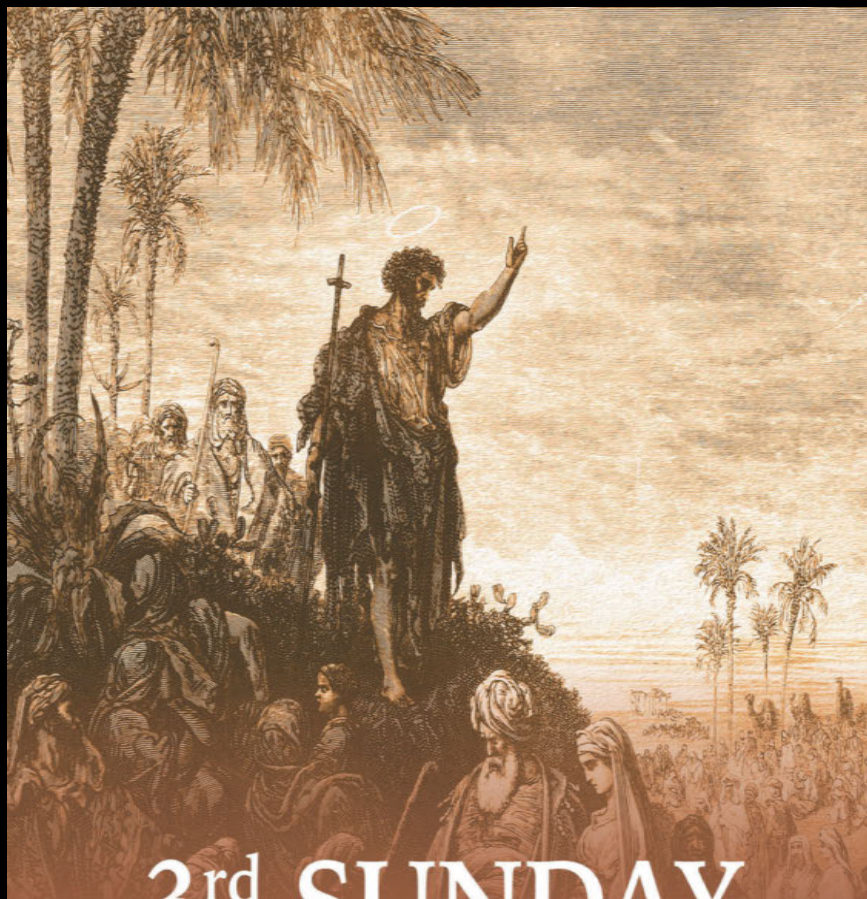




St. Joseph Catholic Church

Fed by Word and Sacrament to Love and Serve

1790 14th Street, Marion, IA 52302 ✚ 319-377-4869 ✚ stjoesmarion.org



3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." - Jn 1:26-27

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

December 17, 2023

Rev. David O'Connor, Pastor
d.oconnor@dbqarch.org

Deacon Ken Bauer
k.bauer@dbqarch.org

Deacon Tim DeWees
t.deweese@dbqarch.org

Deacon Brian Logan
b.logan@dbqarch.org

Deacon Dennis Ternes
d.ternes@dbqarch.org

Deacon Jeff Volker, Pastoral Minister
j.volker@dbqarch.org

Doug Brock, Business Manager
d.brock@dbqarch.org

Nancy Roush, Business & Ministry Asst.
n.roush@dbqarch.org

Bridget Becker, Director of Adult FF
b.becker@dbqarch.org

Patty Kelly, Director of Liturgy & Music
p.kelly@dbqarch.org

Julie Quandt, Parish Secretary
j.quandt@dbqarch.org

JoAnn Starr, YFF Coordinator
j.starr1@dbqarch.org

Kristen Perreault, Adolescent FF Coordinator
dbq126ff6@dbqarch.org

Casey Kettmann, Principal
ckettmann@sjcsmarion.org

Peggy Brady, School Secretary
pbrady@sjcsmarion.org

Amy Diercks and Mallory Dudley
Childcare Co-Directors
childcaredirector@sjcsmarion.org

Kevin Burmeister, Director of Maintenance
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

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

Jean Randolph 319-377-0497 or jmr926722@mchsi.com

Deacon Dennis Ternes 319-377-4869 or d.ternes@dbqarch.org

Deacon Ken Bauer 319-377-4869 or 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 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

Follow us:



December 18 – December 24, 2023 Weekly Calendar & Mass Intentions

Monday, December 18

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

Tuesday, December 19

7:30 AM Mass † **Robert & Kathryn Bradley**
(Also broadcasted live at: stjoesmarion.org)

Wednesday, December 20

8:15 AM Mass † **Scott Richards**
(Also broadcasted live at: stjoesmarion.org)
10:00 AM Scripture Study - Church Hall
7:00 PM Men of Action - St. Joseph Room

Thursday, December 21

6:00 AM Men of Action - Church Hall
7:30 AM Mass † **Darrell Volker**
(Also broadcasted live at: stjoesmarion.org)

Friday, December 22

7:30 AM Mass † **Michelle Niles & Dewain Fluckiger**
(Also broadcasted live at: stjoesmarion.org)

Saturday, December 23

3:00 PM Reconciliation
4:00 PM Mass † **Al & Ann Smith**
(Also broadcasted live at: stjoesmarion.org)

Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

8:00 AM Mass † **For The People**
4:00 PM Mass † **Stephan & Frances Frana Family**
(Also broadcasted live at: stjoesmarion.org)
6:30 PM Mass † **Herbert Schulte Sr.**
(Also broadcasted live at: stjoesmarion.org)

Early Submission Deadlines for Bulletin

Bulletin Date

Early Deadline

December 31

Wed. Dec. 20th at Noon

Please send submissions to: dbq126sec@dbqarch.org

Sunday Envelope Giving Week of December 10, 2023 - Week 24	
Budgeted Sunday Envelope Needs	\$20,192
Year-to-date budget	\$484,615
Collected last weekend	\$23,741
Actual Year-to-date envelope income	\$462,848
Over/(Under) Budget	(\$21,767)
Unrestricted Gifts and Offertory	\$125,893
Budgeted Gifts and Offertory	\$131,538
Over / (Under) budget	(\$5,645)
Bricks and Mortar Envelopes	\$18,967
Bricks and Mortar budget	\$23,077
Over/(Under) Budget	(\$4,110)
Social Concerns 5% of Envelopes	\$1,187

Ministry Schedule	Saturday, December 23, 4:00 PM	Sunday, December 24, 8:00 AM
Sacristan	Angela Sawyers	Robyn Ginther
Lector	Marjorie Jensen	Emily Logan
Altar Servers	Ian Perreault Genevieve Sullivan Nathanial Perreault	Marlowe Ginther Ossie Ginther Josie Logan
Video Ministry	Peyton Stoller	n/a
Ambassadors	David Bowen Arlene Wiley David Sullivan Scott Irlbeck	John Dolphin Mark Barnd Gregory Van Gorp James Angerer
Eucharistic Ministers	Rachel Dunnwald Marguerite Bowen Liam Perreault Christine Hoeger Douglas Hoeger Lea Gentzler Bob Blocklinger	Kaeden Ginther Jim Holt Emily Geiser Janice McCusker Mary Mikkola Matthew Ramsey Judy Scott
Door Greeters	Gary Raymond Julie Raymond Brian Reynolds Linda Charlton	Marcia Black Gunnar Black Jim McPartland Kathy McPartland
Music Ministry	Patty Kelly Kristen Perreault Handbell Choir	Jacob Weaver Kimberly Menke

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 **Monsignor James Barta; Lloyd Beuter**, brother in law of Lola (John) McAreavy; **Mike Nolan**, son of Carole Nolan; and **Pauline Randall**, mother of Charlene (Tom) Zrudsky

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)

Catholic Worker House Meals

Help feed the hungry! Every 2nd Monday of the month, the St. Joseph Social Justice Committee & friends collaborate to provide a meal for 25 children and adults staying at the St. John of the Cross Catholic Worker House in Cedar Rapids. Sign up to provide part of a meal, then drop off your ready-to-eat contribution at St. Joseph Catholic Church (main front doors) between 4:00-4:30pm on that second Monday. Our volunteer transporter will leave St. Joe's at 4:30pm to ensure that all the dinner components will arrive by 5pm.

Sign up at <http://signup.com/go/PYkXJGy>

Thank you for your generosity!

Adult Faith Formation



RCIA Catechumenate and Dismissals

We celebrated the Rite of Acceptance the weekend of December 3 where our inquirers entered into a period of teaching called the Catechumenate. 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. The rite celebrates the call of catechumens to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

After the Rite of Acceptance, the catechumens and candidates are usually dismissed from Mass after the Liturgy of the Word to reflect more deeply on Scripture and prepare themselves for their eventual participation in the Liturgy of the Eucharist. This dismissal is not meant to exclude those in RCIA from the Liturgy of the Eucharist, but to help them and the parish joyfully build up anticipation of the Easter Sacraments. During the dismissal we have time to slowly read and reflect further on the Scripture readings of the day. We break open the word with them and help them to see God's work in their life through the Scripture readings. I have heard year after year from those who participate in dismissals how much they enjoyed and benefited from the dismissals. It is time well spent becoming familiar with and discussing openly the Word of God. We could use help with dismissals. Do you have a love for sharing the Word with others? Contact Bridget to find out more, 319-377-4869 or b.becker@dbqarch.org.

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 or thegazette.com/givesback

Voting ends December 31st.

Ministry Schedule	Christmas Eve 4:00 PM	Christmas Eve 6:30 PM	Christmas Day 9:00 AM
Sacristan	Robyn Ginther	1 Open	1 Open
Lector	Nicole Trapani	Jeffrey Alt	Jeffrey Alt
Altar Servers	Nick Walter Ossie Ginther Chase Decker Natalie Decker	Sarah Foerster Eli Mroch Caleb Wall	3 Open
Video Ministry	1 Open	1 Open	Craig O'Brien
Ambassadors	Francis Ginther David Bowen Nick Decker Jennifer Decker	Emily Logan 3 Open	Michael Alt Gary Schmidt 2 Open
Eucharistic Ministers	Angela Sawyers Christine Hoeger Douglas Hoeger Kaeden Ginther Marguerite Bowen Denise Lewis Matt Thompson Joyce Helmick George Cleppe Kristen Perreault Abbi Westhoff	7 Open	Sandra Alt 6 Open
Door Greeters	Lisa DeWees Tim DeWees 2 Open	4 Open	4 Open
Music Ministry	JAM and Major Miracles Choirs	Patty Kelly Tim Crumley Theresa Crumley	Jubilation Choir



Celebration of the Sacraments

Please remember in your prayers **Jared and Jayne Nisly**, who brought their daughter **Kate Carmel** to the waters of Baptism on December 10th



December 17 Third Sunday of Advent:

In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, "I am the voice of one crying in the desert; make straight the way of the Lord." Let us ask for the grace to help others to know the love of the Lord.

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.

If you're interested in helping those in need in our community please join us! Our next St. Vincent de Paul Conference meeting will be held Tuesday, December 19 at 6:30 PM in the St. Joseph room.

The Retirement Fund for Retired Religious Collection

Our women and men religious offer gratitude. A sister shares, "I thank the Lord for all who give. I don't think we would make it without them." Thank you for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious last week. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious. To learn more about how your gift helps, visit retiredreligious.org.



To all women of St. Joe's:

Please join other St. Joe's women at **Coffee & Conversation**, which is held at Mr. Beans Restaurant on the 4th Friday at 9:30 AM. The date for December is **Friday the 22nd**.

This is a good way to meet and make new friends. Please join us.

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!

End of Year Giving Tips

It's that time of year we make lists and check them twice!

- St. Joe's office is open Dec 29th; deliver any contributions by 4:00 PM Dec. 29
- Contributions made by check and mailed must be postmarked by USPS by Dec. 30
- Online contributions can be made by Dec. 31
- Contributions at Masses on Dec. 30 & 31 will count in 2023

Marriage Enrichment

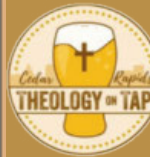
"I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul" (Is 61:10)

Today is also Gaudete Sunday. It reminds us of God's gift of joy ("Gaudium" in Latin), no matter what trials we are experiencing in our family. Advent is a season doing;

meaning service towards others and to those in need. Such acts serve as a reminder of the Christian practice that makes each of us another Jesus Christ for others, whether we perform works of charity or receive them.

We are to use the gifts we have been given through God's infinite grace to the best of our ability in service to our families and to those whom we encounter. Each of us has been uniquely gifted by God for a role in the advancement of His kingdom, using the talents He has given us. In our encounters with others, we should strive to recognize the face of Christ in those whom we serve with our acts of kindness.

G.K. Chesterton said that only when he realized that the things of this world would not make him ultimately happy did he find real joy in them.



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 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). Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Thomas Zinkula and breakout sessions presented by local speakers. Register at: www.archmensconference.org

St. Joseph School News

We wrapped up our fall clubs. We were able to offer a math club for K-2, a STEM programming club for 3-5 and a 3D printing club for 3-8. We are looking forward to offering more clubs in the spring. 4 Great Things Area 4: Educating the Whole Child.



For us,...thanksgiving is expressed fully in the Eucharist. In every Holy Mass, we bless the Lord, God of the universe, presenting to him the bread and wine, fruits "of the earth and of the work of man." To these simple foods, Christ has united his sacrificial oblation. United to Him, believers are also called to offer to God their lives and daily work.

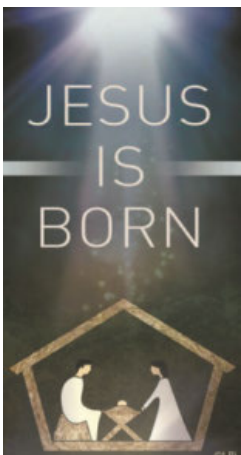
May Mary, Mother of Divine Providence, teach us to be grateful to the Lord for all that nature and human effort produce for our sustenance, and make us ready to share our resources with all those who are in need.

Saint John Paul II

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>



**CHRISTMAS
MASSES**

Christmas Eve:
4:00 PM
6:30 PM

Christmas Day:
9:00 AM

SAVE THE DATE

**CHRIST
OUR LIFE**

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
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?

- World Class Speakers
- Beautiful Masses
- Superb Music
- Vendor & Organization Books

- Adoration
- Reconciliation
- Fellowship

Let's Believe...Live...and Celebrate Our Faith!

Go to ChristOurLifeIowa.com for information & tickets

**MEFFERD'S
AUTO SERVICE**
Serving The Area Since 1968
365-5505
4580 Mt. Vernon Rd. SE

**ENNEKING
PLUMBING
& HEATING**
New • Remodel & Service
3543 3rd Ave. **377-0745**

**BOB MICKEY
COLLISION CENTER**
4813 Center Point Rd. NE
393-3226
bobmickeycollision.com

**BOYSON
DENTAL**
DOUGLAS J. RECKER, D.D.S.
CHRIS M. MOOTHART, D.D.S.
1475 Boyson Road, Hiawatha, IA 52233
(319) 393-4019

Sheila King
REALTOR®
417 1st Ave SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401
319.213.0779
sheilaking@skogman.com
www.sheilaking.skogman.com
Parishioner **SKOGMAN REALTY**

**McALEER
WATER CONDITIONING INC.**

373-6965
For Sale or Rent
• Iron Filters • Water Conditioners
Parishioner Rent with 12 Month option to buy

ISAIAH
1:18 | 53:5
Shirts, Mugs & More
www.isaiahflagstaff.com

 **Terrace Glen
VILLAGE**
INDEPENDENT LIVING • ASSISTED LIVING
SHORT-TERM REHAB • LONG-TERM CARE
3400 Alburnett Rd Marion, IA 52302 • 319.377.9000

**Affordable
PRO EXTERIORS**
ROOFING, SIDING, GUTTERS, ETC
319-899-8000 • affordableproroofting.com

Birthright of Cedar Rapids
• Pregnant? Need Help?
♥Free Pregnancy Tests
♥Complete Confidentiality
375 Collins Road NE, Suite 107
1-800-550-4900 • 393-3251
www.birthright.org/cedarrapids

**KMMK FM 88.7
RADIO for
CATHOLICS**

 **Winslow House
care center**
kind • compassionate • care
319-377-8296


**WADE'S
AUTO COLLISION LLC**
Over 30 Years of Experience
All Makes & Models • Frame Straightening
Work With All Insurance Companies
560 31st St. • Marion, IA 52502
319-377-WADE (9233)
www.wadesautocollision.com

HOUSE OF CARPETS
COMPLETE FLOORING CENTER
House of Carpets
2712 First Ave NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
319-363-1734

**CARPET KING
CARPET ONE**
FLOORINGS & HOME
carpet • vinyl • laminate • ceramic • hardwood
quality, selection, price & value
Locally Owned and Operated
319-377-9801 • 998 44th St. • Marion, IA
www.carpetkingcarpetonemarion.com

MOONEY
HEATING & COOLING
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR
"Service Most Brands"
24 Hour Service
319-377-2647 www.mooneyhcei.com

Farmers State Bank Proudly Supports
St. Joseph's Church!
FSB
myfsbonline.com | (319) 377-4891

 **(319) 804-5646**
Exterior & Interior Remodeling

Murdoch
FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATION SERVICE
"How Do You Want To Be Remembered?"
MARION • CEDAR RAPIDS • CENTRAL CITY
CENTER POINT • MANCHESTER • EARLYVILLE
www.murdochfuneralhome.com

At the corner of 5th Ave. & 31st St.
**Hubbell's
Auto Repair**
Hours 7am to 5:30pm Monday to Friday
Storage Garages Available
539 31st St., Marion, IA 52302
Mike Hubbell, Owner (319) 377-6614

 **Knights of
Columbus®**
Andrew Hlubek, Field Agent
319-432-4636
andrew.hlubek@kofc.org
Life Insurance • Long-Term Care Insurance
Retirement Annuities • Disability Income Insurance
Protecting Catholic Families since 1882

HyVee
EMPLOYEE OWNED
319-377-4803
Marion, IA

 **TEAHEN**
Celebrates Life
Honors Memories
Personalized Funerals • Cremation Services • Prearrangement Plans
Cedar Rapids (319) 396-2616 | Vinton (319) 472-2233
www.TeahenFuneralHome.com

JOIN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS!

• Charity
• Unity
• Fraternity
**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
Council 5390
Contact: Andrew Hlubek
319-432-4636

INSECT CONTROL SPECIALISTS INC.
 **TERMITE CONTROL** FAMILY OWNED AND
OPERATED SINCE 1948
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL SERVICE
TERMITE & PEST CONTROL SERVICE
PEST CONTROL SUPPLIES **363-1676**

 **ed**
Ed Dye Family Dentistry
Parishioner | **319-377-4805**
3250 10th Ave, Marion | ed@eddyedds.com

 **Culver's**
FROZEN CUSTARD
BUTTERBURGERS™
1375 Red Fox Way, Marion
-Locally Owned-

 **PERFORMANCE
FOODSERVICE**
4100 44th Ave SW., Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
319-396-1300

HOGAN • HANSEN
A Professional Corporation
Jennifer J. Decker, CPA
Certified Public Accountants & Consultants
2750 1st Ave., NE, Suite 150
366-8267 • www.hoganhansen.com

 **Divine Mercy Gifts**
NOW REOPENED!
Catholic Gifts for All Occasions
319-200-4591 divinemercygifts.com
510 First Ave NW | Cedar Rapids
Located on the 1st Floor of the St Patrick Catholic Church Rectory

 **Rinderknecht**
Building a Stronger
Community
www.rinderknecht.com

 **ST DECLAN
HOMECARE LLC**
319-435-7020
provincare@stdeclanhomecare.org
www.stdeclanhomecare.com

 **TIM O'BRIEN**
HANDYMAN / SMALL PROJECTS
319-551-5980
TIMOBRIEN6345@HOTMAIL.COM
PARISHIONER

MARION IRON
• Recyclers of all types of scrap metals
4000 3rd Ave.
377-1527

Supporting and Serving the
Catholic Community for 90 Years
 **CEDAR MEMORIAL**
CedarMemorial.com • 393-8000
Cremation • Funeral • Cemetery

**The keystones
of Cedar Rapids**
Independent and National Living Communities for Seniors
Keystone Cedars
Assisted Living
6325 Rockwell Dr. NE
(319) 393-9500
Call & schedule
a visit today!
Keystone Place
Independent Living
6126 Rockwell Dr. NE
(319) 393-7900
www.thekeystonesofcedarrapids.com

HIGH QUALITY HOME MAINTENANCE
"Your Home Repair Professional"
Gutter Cleaning • Siding
Roof Leak Specialist • Storm Damage
Ceiling Fans • Drywall Repair
Call: (319) 721-1859
www.hqhomemaintenance.com

NEW RELEASE!
 **BY THERESA ALT**
parishioner
WEBSITE:
amazon.com/author/theresaalt
**Captivating
Catholic Fiction**

 **Call
Callahan**
Real Estate Team
Cassie Shouse, Parishioner
319.551.1565 | cassie@callcallahan.com
www.CallCallahan.com
RE/MAX (800) 888-8888
Licensed Realtor in Iowa • Over 12 Years of Experience

**MORNING STAR
STUDIO**
ARCHITECTURE • INTERIOR DESIGN
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING
PHONE • **319-362-5484**
TERI PETRZALEK • PARISHIONER
SHANNA DUGGAN

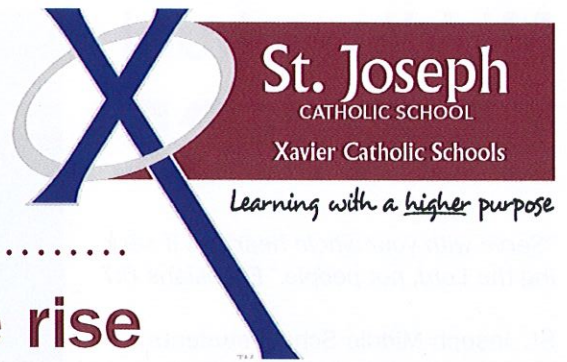
Edward Jones Member SIPC
TED STEGER, Financial Advisor
 755 22nd St., Marion, IA 52302
(319) 373-6174
• IRAs - 401(K) Options
• Tax-Advantaged Investments
• Protection Strategies

HANNA
PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.
 1155 3rd Ave
Marion, IA 52302
PHONE: 377-2809

Make Our New View, Your New View ✨
 **Summit Pointe
Senior Living**
Call and schedule a tour.
319-373-4242
3005 English Glen Ave • Marion, IA 52305

The Mission

Fall 2023 newsletter



School's enrollment on the rise



St. Joseph's enrollment increased significantly this school year. The school went from 139 K-8 students to 186, which is a 34% increase and the largest in the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

St. Joseph already was growing before the state of Iowa created Education Savings Accounts, but that accelerated the number of new students who can now afford a Catholic education.

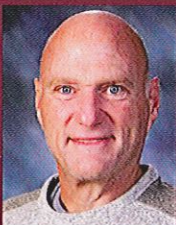
"We are thrilled to welcome all the new students to St. Joseph this school year and in future years," Principal Casey Kettmann said. "We will continue to provide our four great things: faith in action; safe, welcoming, family-like atmosphere; high academic standards; and educating the whole child."

Shining a light on St. Joseph staff

St. Joseph Catholic School is fortunate to have a great teaching staff made up of hard working and dedicated individuals. In this issue, we would like to spotlight the newest faces among the St. Joseph Catholic School staff.



Kari Greiter is the preschool and reading resource teacher. She grew up in Marion and received her teaching degree from Iowa State. She has taught in Kansas City, Fort Lauderdale and Chicago. She moved back to Cedar Rapids this summer with her family and is excited to be teaching in her home state! When not at school she stays busy with her young children, enjoys trying new restaurants and going to concerts and shows. She also enjoys reading, meeting with her book club and teaching dance classes. "From the second I stepped into St. Joseph's, I knew it was a great place to be," she says.



Mark Stern is a fifth-grade teacher. He graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in 1991. His first teaching job was in Dike, where he taught fifth grade and coached girls basketball. He then coached basketball and baseball at Loras College in Dubuque. After taking time off from teaching to explore business interests, he went back into education 10 years ago with the Iowa City school district. He is the current basketball and baseball coach at Clear Creek Amana. When not teaching he likes to be active! He rides his bike, plays tennis, golf and pickleball, and spends time with his dog. "My first year at St. Joseph has been awesome," he says. "The people here are truly special and very good at what they do."



Clara Pacha is the K-8 art teacher. She is an alumna of St. Joseph Catholic School (2015) and Xavier High School (2019). She graduated from the University of Iowa in May. She teaches art at St. Joseph three days a week, then spends the rest of her week teaching at St. Patrick's in Anamosa and Sacred Heart in Monticello. When not teaching she likes to spend time with family and friends, paint and listen to music or podcasts. "I'm looking forward to getting to know my students and sharing my love of art with them," she says.

Middle school SERVICE

"Serve with your whole heart, as if serving the Lord, not people." Ephesians 6:7

St. Joseph Middle School students have spent a lot of time this first semester serving the needs of others. Service gives students the opportunity to live out their faith in the community. They gain real-world skills through these experiences, helping educate the total student. Here are some ways that the middle school students have served others so far this year.

Each day middle school students help Mr. Burmeister and Mr. Kling by washing the lunch tables and helping put them away.

Middle school students also participated in the Eucharistic Revival with activities led by the Lead, Learn, Serve Committee (LLS) as well as our teachers. Students visited the displays in the church basement and spent time learning about Eucharistic miracles. The students then went to teach their kindergarten and preschool buddies about the Eucharistic miracles, and



how Jesus is in the body and blood at Eucharist.

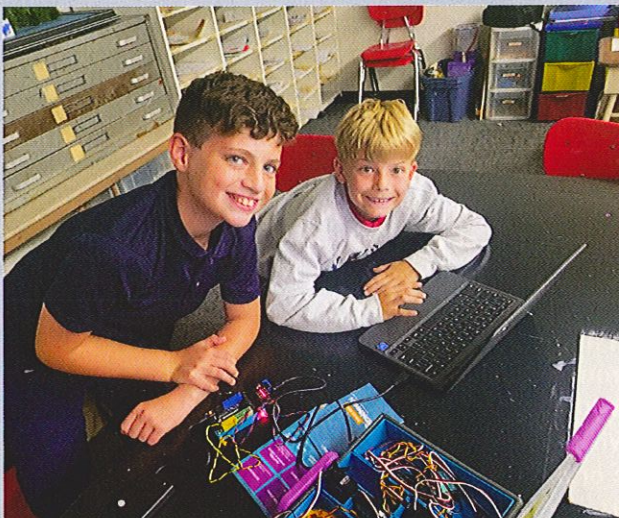
Also, led by the LLS Committee and the middle school teachers, the middle school students had an afternoon dedicated to service where they raked leaves at parishioners' homes, helped winterize the gardens at Prairie Woods, and helped Mr. Burmeister complete tasks on the St. Joseph property.

Currently, led by the LLS Committee and the middle school teachers, stu-

dents are helping with the Advent Angel at church. Students have helped to put stickers on each angel, hole punch them, put hangers on each angel, and write the gifts on each angel. As gifts have been given by parishioners, students have begun sorting them. The students and their buddies also will spend time decorating and filling gift bags for the elderly and homebound.

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10

Extracurricular clubs explore math, robotics and more



St. Joseph was able to offer many different club opportunities this fall. At the K-2 level the school offered Crazy 8's Math Club. Crazy 8's offers unique, high-energy math activities that appeal to kids of all math abilities. This club was facilitated by teachers Mrs. Rhinehart and Mrs. Schleier.

In grades 3-5 the school had the Hummingbird Robotics Club. A kit consisting of lights, sensors and motors allows students to build a robot out of any materials. This club was facilitated by teachers Mrs. Virden and Mrs. Gadiant.

In grades 3-8 the school offered a 3D printing club. Parent and 3D printing enthusiast Mr. Ryan Unruh ran this club. Students were able to design and print objects such as keychains, toys and decorations.

TOGETHER

a monthly bulletin insert from the archdiocese



ARCHDIOCESE
of DUBUQUE

Comments regarding this insert may be sent to communications staff by emailing contactus@dbqarch.org or by calling (800) 876-3546 and asking for the director of communications.

December 2023 Vol. 3 | No. 14

This document is available as a PDF at www.dbqarch.org/together



THREE SEMINARIANS ADMITTED TO CANDIDACY FOR HOLY ORDERS

By Cassie Bird

Archdiocese of Dubuque seminarians Steven Kessler, Jackson Miller, and Matthew Smith were admitted to Candidacy for Holy Orders on Wednesday, August 30, at Mundelein Seminary.

Candidacy is an important step in priestly formation when a declaration is made by the seminarian that he is resolved to prepare himself for Holy Orders and ministry in the Church. That declaration is then acknowledged and received by the Church.

The current ceremony of Admission of Candidacy began to be used in the Roman Catholic Church on January 1, 1973. In its current form, the man in formation for the priesthood or the permanent diaconate states his intention to receive the sacrament of Holy Orders, and the clerical state. The bishop or archbishop will then formally accept him as a candidate. The ceremony calls to mind when the twelve apostles answer Jesus' call to be with him and follow him. It includes three parts: the call to candidacy, the scrutiny of the candidate, and the blessing of the candidate.

"To be formally admitted as a Candidate for Holy Orders, a seminarian has developed a relationship with Jesus as a disciple who follows the Lord, listens to His word, and



Archdiocese of Dubuque seminarians Jackson Miller, Steven Kessler, and Matthew Smith (pictured L to R) were admitted to Candidacy for Holy Orders on Wednesday, August 30, at Mundelein Seminary.

puts the word into practice," said Fr. Mark Murphy, Director of Vocations for the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

"He gives evidence of striving for a life of virtue, of prayer, and of human qualities that will be beneficial to him, and to God's people, as a priest. As it takes time to be formed as a disciple of Jesus with the intention of priesthood, a seminarian is formally admitted as a Candidate for Holy Orders after several years in seminary formation. He will then have several more years of formation until he is ordained a priest."

"In the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders, a bishop asks the seminarians two questions similar to these below, and the seminarians respond with 'I do.'"

1. Dear sons, the pastors and teachers charged with your formation, and those who affirm that they know you, have given a good report of you which we fully trust. In response to the Lord's call, do you resolve to complete your preparation, so that in due course you are made ready to undertake ministry in the Church through Holy Orders?

2. Do you resolve to form your mind and heart in such a way that you will be able faithfully to serve Christ the Lord and his Body, the Church?

Below, the three newest candidates for Holy Orders in the Archdiocese of Dubuque share remarks regarding their experience of the ceremony and its significance.



Steven Kessler

The actual part of the Mass in which we were admitted to Candidacy for Holy Orders was short. We simply stood up when our names were called

and then answered two questions posed to us by the Cardinal. "In response to the Lord's call, do you resolve to complete your preparation so that in due time through Holy Orders you will be prepared to assume ministry within the Church?" and "Do you resolve to prepare yourselves in mind and spirit to give faithful service to Christ the Lord and his Body, the Church?" These two simple questions have a deep and very important impact on our lives. If you think of ordination like a wedding, then candidacy is like an engagement. We promised to continue to say "yes" to God's call and to do everything we can to prepare ourselves to be ordained into the priesthood and into service to God's people and His Holy Church.

It was short and simple, but so powerful, beautiful and moving. It's hard to put into words how I felt in the moment but now, looking back, it was a life-changing night. I felt a new sense of confirmation that this is what God is calling me to do, who God wants me to be. I cannot express the joy this brings me but I will say, it is a

great moment to look back on when I am struggling with classes, or with life. A great reminder that I am moving toward what God wants of me. I said “yes” to God’s call and now I have promised the Church to follow through with my formation so I am fully ready to say “I do” on the day of my ordination.



Jackson Miller

It was on me to kick off the process of admission by writing a formal letter to Bishop Pates requesting to be admitted to candidacy. I was grateful to express in handwriting that I freely wish to serve the people of God in Dubuque as a priest and that I resolve to guard and foster my vocation in preparation for priestly life. In the week before the ceremony, my classmates and I were on a silent retreat and were especially encouraged to pray about the resolutions we were going to make in a week. This time of reflection enabled me to make a firm and emphatic “Yes!” in front of the Church during the rite of admission. Since the Mass, it has been wonderful to know that the Church has received my resolve and is calling me to continue in formation for the priesthood!



Matt Smith

“You’re in the big leagues now” said a priest in one of the first Masses upon my arrival at Mundelein seminary. Two short weeks later I found myself standing in the front of the main chapel for the “Rite of Candidacy” where I made public my desire to become a priest and to serve the people of God. This “public declaration” was nothing more than professing five simple words total, but the gravity of the ceremony was not lost on me. It was a profession I was making in the presence of many witnesses, both human and divine! The gathered community and the heightened

sense of solemnity was a deeply personal call to me to approach my formation and my prayer life with a greater sense of intensity, purpose, and responsibility.

God-willing, it is only four short years until I am ordained, and that time will no doubt fly by quickly. This experience was a call to give myself over completely to the Lord so that He can mold me into the priest He wants me to be. As I continue this journey in major seminary, the phrase “you’re in the big leagues now” continues to echo in my mind as a constant reminder that there will be challenges ahead and that there are great expectations. But with each passing day I am fueled by the love of God and the anticipation of becoming the servant of God that seminary is preparing me to be.



**Fr. Mark Murphy,
Dir. of Vocations**

Let us pray for our seminarians that God who has begun this good work in them will bring it to fulfillment. And I express gratitude

for those whose financial stewardship makes possible the formation of our seminarians for the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

Update on ArchdioceseOne Progress:

So far, over \$17.2 million has been raised for the ArchdioceseOne special appeal. Of which, \$8.2 million of this amount is unrestricted, and over \$2.9 million has been restricted for Seminary Education. Thank you for your support not only for current seminarians, but also for future vocations to the priesthood.



2024 Women's Conference



**Beauty
In Christ**
Archdiocese of Dubuque Women's Conference

reviving our
hearts

SPEAKER



Mary Pedersen

Saturday
JAN 27, 2024
8:00AM - 1:30PM

SPEAKER



Mari Pablo

Register now either through your parish or by going to
www.archwomensconference.org
where you will find more information.