

*Working Together To
Build the Kingdom of God*

Mass Schedule:

St. John the Baptist, Mount Vernon
Sunday, Wednesday and Friday - 8:30 am

Parish Confession:

Sunday at 8 am or by appointment

St. Isidore the Farmer, Springville:

Saturday, 5 pm - Tuesday & Thursday 8 am

St. John Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday:

8 am - 5 pm

Friday:

7 am - 3:30 pm

Pastor:

Rev. Andrew Awotwe-Mensah

Office: 895-6246

Email: DBQ137@dbqarch.org

Main Office: Secretary/Bookkeeper

Loraine Kula

Parish Office: 895-6246

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Director of Faith Formation

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E-mail: l.hansmeier@dbqarch.org

Coordinator of Youth/Young Adult Ministry

De Wagner: 895-6758

E-Mail : DBQ137YM@dbqarch.org

Coordinator of Music

Theresa Sundstrom: 563-451-2054

E-mail: t.sundstrom@dbqarch.org

Prayer Chain Contacts:

Thelma Rife: jtbr2@q.com

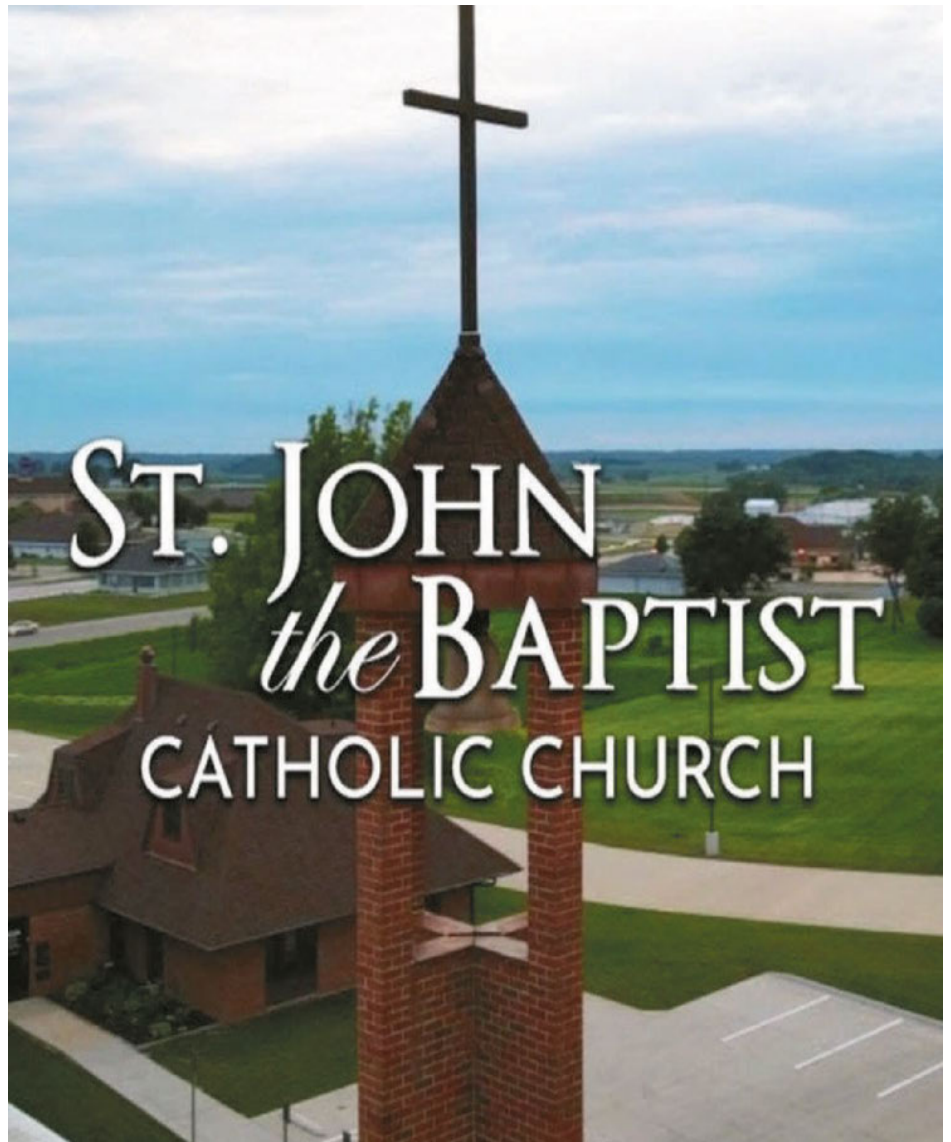
Loraine Kula: (c)319-350-8874

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*January 9, 2022
The Baptism of the Lord*



LISBON - MOUNT VERNON, IA
AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES
Website: <http://www.stjohnmv.org>

PARISH THEME: RETURN TO ME AND RENEW YOUR SPIRIT

The Baptism of the Lord

"We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ." — Pope Francis

What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of decisions can often get us into trouble. When a person has a confident sense of who they are and a real understanding of what is important and of value, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.

It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection we are called to order our life and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear.

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In his book *"Practice Makes Catholic,"* Joe Paprocki identifies five key characteristics that define what it means to be Catholic, this week I wish to talk about the first two:

A sense of sacramentality - Many of today's families do not have holy water fonts in each room or pray the rosary as a family. Are clueless to the rhythm of the Liturgical Year. Do they know what a novena is? They may have palms, be familiar with ashes, and may use an Advent wreath. How can you share the depth and meaning of ritual and symbol with families in non-threatening ways?

A Commitment to community - Young families understand and crave community. They belong to school communities, athletic teams, and neighborhood groups. They may not feel connected to the Catholic community. Is St. John a welcoming place? Do you know one another by name? Do you know what parents do for a living, or what gifts and talents they have? Look for ways to include families in parish events and for families to interact and support one another?

Linda Hansmeier, Director of Faith Formation



Liturgical Ministers January 16, 2022

- Sacristan: Ellen Bentley
- EM: Heidi Ryan Jake Ryan
Leona Smith Faoro Gwen Schimek-Tischler
- Lectors: Dave Klostermann Cindy Kendall
- Servers: Kiersten Swart Johnny Broulik
- Hospitality: Andy & Erin Moeller family
Tim & Kim Fall family
Darin & Charlene Vig Family

Readings for the week of January 09, 2022

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28

Wed. 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday:
Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 [3]/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11



Catholic Jam

Sunday, January 16
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MASS

Immediately following Mass on January 16, please stay in the church for a while to enjoy our new music group, *Catholic Jam*. This is a group of our young people who will showcase their great musical talent for us. After *Catholic Jam* plays, **ALL YOUNG ADULTS** (ages 18 – 30ish) are invited to a Prayer and Fellowship Gathering in the Parish Hall/Lower Level.

Meetings and Activities of the Week

Tuesday, January 11th

7:00 pm - Social Justice Mtg.

Wednesday, January 12th

6:00 pm - Faith Formation grades 4th - 8th
7:00 pm - Faith Formation grades 9th - 12th

Thursday, January 13th

6:00 pm - RCIA Session

Sunday, January 16th

8:30 am - Preschool Faith Formation
9:30 am - K –3rd grade Faith Formation
After Mass “Catholic Jam”

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Weekly contributions needed..... \$5,423.08

Contributions Received

December 24/25/26/28, 2021

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Christmas | \$ 8,847.36 |
| Budget, Adult..... | \$ 1,990.00 |
| Our Call to Share | \$ 50.00 |
| Flowers | \$ 10.00 |
| Lose Coin/Currency..... | \$ 136.00 |
| Total Collected | \$ 11,029.36 |
| YTD collection needed | \$ 140,000.00 |
| YTD collections received | \$ 141,651.62 |
| YTD | \$ 1,651.62 |

Contributions Received

January 2, 2022

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Budget, Adult..... | \$ 615.00 |
| Lose Coin/Currency..... | \$ 151.00 |
| Snow Removal..... | \$ 20.00 |
| Total Collected | \$ 786.00 |
| YTD collection needed | \$ 146,423.16 |
| YTD collections received | \$ 158,562.62 |
| YTD | \$ 12,136.46 |



Wednesday, January 12th

8:30 am - Al Opatz

Friday, January 14th

8:30 am - Irvin Clark

Sunday, January 16th

8:30 am - Mary Ann Hotka



Christmas Flower Donation:

Frances and Lorretta Connor in memory of our Grandson Matthew White and the 9Supple and Conner families.

Rev. Phillip E. Schmitt passed away on Friday, December 31, 2021 at the age of 91. Fr. Phil was a priest from the Archdiocese of Dubuque for 65 years, ordained on February 4, 1956. Please hold his family in your prayers.

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