

# The Basilica of St. John

1915 University Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50314 • 515-244-3101 • Fax: 515-244-3165  
email: basilicadm@msn.com • www.basilicaofstjohn.org



**Named to the National Historic Registry, September 8, 1987**  
**Elevated to the rank of Minor Basilica by Pope John Paul II, October 4, 1989**

Pastor: *The Very Reverend Aquinas M. Nichols*

Deacons: *Rev. Mr. Luke Tieskoetter*  
*Rev. Mr. Mark Campbell*  
*Rev. Mr. Juan Bustamante*

Business Manager:  
Bookkeeper:  
Pastor's Secretary/Office Manager:  
Office Assistant:  
Director of Religious Education &  
Adult Faith Formation, RCIA Coordinator:  
Holy Family School Principal:  
Music Director:  
Altar & Rosary President:  
Knights of Columbus:  
Finance Council:  
Pastoral Council:  
Hispanic Ministry:

Hispanic Office-Secretary:  
Homebound Ministry:  
Baptism Preparation/Youth Ministry/Annulments:

Charles Stastny (244-3101, ext. 205)  
Karen Hoff (244-3101, ext. 205)  
Barb Kean (244-3101, ext. 0)  
Pamela Meis (244-3101, ext. 0)

Margaret Stastny (244-3101 ext 204)  
Martin Flaherty (Office: 262-8025)  
Gail Johll (515-462-1266)  
Lisa Chicchelly  
Council 644 (515-244-3101 ext 300)  
Hugh O'Hagan  
Seth Sojka  
Fr. Reynaldo Hernandez, Chaplain (515-554-7138)  
Rev. Mr. Juan Bustamante (515-868-9218)  
Elvia Garza (515-771-3900)  
Rev. Mr. Luke Tieskoetter (249-1327)  
Rev. Mr. Mark Campbell

Masses:	Saturday:	9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (Sunday Vigil), 6:00p.m. (Spanish Mass)
	Sunday:	8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. (Festive Sung Mass)
	Holy Days:	Usually 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. (check voicemail for Mass Schedule changes)
	National Holidays:	Usually 9:00 a.m. (or check Mass Schedule on the inside of this bulletin)
	Weekdays:	12:00 noon

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament:  
Sacrament of Reconciliation:  
Baptism:  
Marriage:  
Visit to Sick:  
New Parishioners:  
Mass Homily:  
Pregnancy Hotline:

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
Saturday: 2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. or by appointment  
Parishioners contact the parish office - (515)244-3101 ext. 0  
Parishioners contact the office at least 6 months prior to requested date of marriage  
Please inform office of any illness or hospitalization in the family  
Please contact the Parish Office to register as a member of our parish  
BasilicaofStJohn.org click on Live Telecast tab.  
For those considering abortion: 1-800-848-LOVE



# A great prophet has arisen in our midst, God has visited his people.

My Dear Brothers and Sisters.

This week we will begin the holy Lenten Season. It is a time of preparation for the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection. The Church gives us these days of reflection and penitence to pause and take stock of our lives and to make the necessary adjustments. I encourage you all to take this time seriously and to strive to grow closer to the Lord.

There will be two Masses for Ash Wednesday at 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. The ashes will be given out only at these Masses.

Due to the pandemic, there will be no Fish Fry Suppers again this year. Hopefully by next year we will be back to our normal routine. Present plans are to begin the coffee and donuts once again after the Sunday Masses on Divine Mercy Sunday, the Sunday after Easter. Let us make Lent truly penitential so that we can rejoice during the Easter Season!

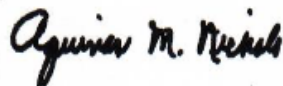
His Excellency Bishop Joensen has extended the mask mandate through Easter. Please obey his wishes in this regard. He has also allowed us to enter into Phase III. Meetings and other small gatherings can be held, provided that the guidelines of wearing masks, social distancing and sanitizing are followed.

We were unable to find a guest for Divine Mercy Sunday this year due to the pandemic and conflicts of scheduling, and so I will have to take care of this feast myself.

I encourage you to attend one of the nights of prayer and reflection which will be held on Wednesdays and Fridays. There is a bulletin insert this week with that information.

May the Lord continue to bless you with every good thing during this holy season.

Devotedly in the Lord,



(The Very Reverend) Aquinas M. Nichols  
Pastor

## WEEKLY INCOME – 2/7/21

Total - \$17,655.81  
Need - \$17,372.08

Year to Date (YTD) – Fiscal Year July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021

YTD Total - \$570,937.93  
YTD Need - \$555,906.56

New ways to give to the Basilica of Saint John: Text-To-Give phone number. With Text-To-Give you simply put in a dollar amount and send a text to the following: (515) 293-4810. Scan the following QR Code for a one-time gift or setup an account.



## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

**FEBRUARY 13 TO FEBRUARY 21**

### TIMES FOR EUCHARIST AND INTENTIONS

<b>SAT</b> <b>13</b>	4:00PM 6:00PM	+Chuck Davis Spanish Mass
<b>SUN</b> <b>14</b>	8:30AM 10:30AM	Intentions of Ian & Tamara Steward Parish & Benefactors
<b>MON</b> <b>15</b>	12:00PM	+Matt Davis
<b>TUE</b> <b>16</b>	12:00PM	+Lucille Molloy
<b>WED</b> <b>17</b>	12:00PM 7:00PM	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> +Chuck O'Leary +Connie Turner
<b>THU</b> <b>18</b>	12:00PM	+Joseph O'Reilly
<b>FRI</b> <b>19</b>	12:00PM 6:30PM 7:00PM	+James Teehan Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Stations of the Cross
<b>SAT</b> <b>20</b>	9:00AM	<b>NO MORNING MASS AT THE BASILICA</b> +Janet Laudel
<b>(Vigil Mass)</b>		
	4:00PM	+Robert & +Berdeana Piziali
<b>SUN</b> <b>21</b>	8:30AM 10:30AM	Parish & Benefactors Friends/Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters, FEHJ

THE BASILICA OF ST. JOHN STREAMING ONLINE:  
[www.BasilicaofStJohn.org](http://www.BasilicaofStJohn.org) home page, scroll down to "Streaming Masses" & click on the tab to watch daily Mass and the Sunday Mass.

**PRAYER CHAIN:** Do you know someone who is in need of prayer? The Basilica Prayer Chain can help. To request prayers email Deacon Luke Tieskoetter at [tieskoetterluke3@gmail.com](mailto:tieskoetterluke3@gmail.com) or Terri at 321-2743 or [sinc2@aol.com](mailto:sinc2@aol.com).

## CATECHISM CORNER:

Last week's question: **\*What is the purpose of holy images?\***  
**ANSWER:** The image of Christ is the liturgical icon *par excellence*. Other images, representations of Our Lady and of the Saints, signify Christ who is glorified in them. They proclaim the same Gospel message that Sacred Scripture communicates by the word and they help to awaken and nourish the faith of believers.





# The Basilica of St. John

## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### February 14, 2021

Respect  
Life



#### YOUR PARISH THIS WEEK FEBRUARY 15 THRU FEBRUARY 21

MON 15	9:00AM 6:30PM	NO Adoration RCIA(H)
TUE 16	8:00AM	Organ Practice
WED 17	9:00AM 6:45PM	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> NO Adoration NO Adoration, Prayer (Ch)
THU 18	8:00AM	Organ Practice
FRI 19	9:00AM	NO Adoration NO Fish Fry Dinners this year
SAT 20	8:30AM	NO Chaplet of Divine Mercy
SUN 21	8:00AM 12:00PM	NO Vietnamese Prayer Group Pastor Council Meeting (CR)



**CONGRATULATIONS:** To Ja'Voni Jackson, who recently made his First Holy Communion here at the Basilica!

**ADORATION & PRAYER:** You are invited to join us every Wednesday from 6:45pm to 8pm to experience the beauty and power of spending time in Eucharistic Adoration. The night will conclude with Benediction. On select nights the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. **There is no Adoration this Wednesday, February 17 because of Ash Wednesday Mass.**



**HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC SCHOOL:** Will hold their Preschool and Kindergarten Round-Up on Wednesday, February 24th at 6:00 pm at the school. Please come to learn more about our free four-year-old Preschool program and Kindergarten for the 2021-2022 school year. We ask that parents wear masks and leave children at home to allow us to maintain social distancing. If you would like to attend "virtually" over Zoom, please contact the school for a Zoom invite, 515-262-8025

**END OF YEAR TITHING STATEMENTS:** **When requested, statements will be mailed, emailed or can be picked up.** If you wish to receive a statement, please call the parish office (515-244-3101, ext. 0).

#### Daily Scripture Readings for the week of February 15, 2021:

Monday: Gn 4:1-15, 25; Mk 8:11-13  
 Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8, 7:1-5, 10; Mk 8:14-21  
 Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18  
 Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25  
 Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15  
 Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32  
 Sunday: Gn 9:8-15; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

**LIFELINES:** The truth about abortion is repugnant and abhorrent. It is therefore not easy and requires courage to speak out about abortion. However, as Catholics, we must boldly speak the truth and contradict the untruths and misleading rhetoric which surrounds the issue. Some of the myths are: "The government should not interfere with someone's personal choice." This is neither practical, desirable or correct. If there is only one legitimate function of government, it is the protection of innocent human life and to prevent one individual victimizing another. The word "choice" might sound good, but the reality is that some "choices" are crimes and all crimes are "choices". \*Abortion advocates try to use smokescreen language to conceal the truth about abortion. A good example is the term "women's reproductive rights". The biological reality is that when a woman is pregnant, reproduction has already occurred. If that were not true, there would be nothing for the abortionist to abort. \*Another deliberately misleading term is "woman's access to healthcare". Healthcare relates to the treatment of diseases, injuries or illnesses. Since pregnancy is none of these, abortion is definitely not "healthcare".

(Pro-Life Articles)

#### AROUND THE DIOCESE

**Holy Hour:** At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, while much of the world was shut down, Pope Francis gave a transformative witness to the power of prayer, Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction in an extraordinary blessing, televised across the world. The strength of that call to have faith in the time of crisis was a sign of what a Eucharist-centered Church can offer the world. Bishop William Joensen is encouraging us to renew our focus on the Eucharist. He will host a Holy Hour at St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines on Mondays from 5-6pm. You can watch it at Facebook.com/dmdiocese. **The Basilica's Holy Hour is scheduled for Wednesdays from 6:45pm-8pm. Also, on Fridays during Lent at 6:30-7pm, with Stations of the Cross at 7pm followed by Benediction.**

**Hy-Vee "My Heart" Bag:** A Valentine to those in need. For the month of February, Catholic Charities Food Pantry will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable red "My Heart" Bag at the Hy-Vee store at 2540 E. Euclid Ave., Des Moines. Make the bag a special family or classroom project by filling it with food and donating it to the Catholic Charities Food Pantry. FOOD: Chunky soup, peanut butter, cereal, beans (canned or dried), macaroni & cheese. PPE: Hand sanitizer, masks, hand soap. DROP OFF AT: Catholic Charities Food Pantry, 1815 Hubbell Ave. Des Moines, (515) 262-7290, Monday – Thursday: 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. and Friday: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Go to <https://www.catholiccharitiesdm.org/events/> for all of the details.

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# Basilica of Saint John

The Very Rev. Aquinas M. Nichols  
Pastor

17 February 2021

Ash Wednesday

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My prayers are with all of you as we begin the holy Season of Lent for 2021. I pray that the graces of the coming Lenten Season may inspire you to grow in your faith and in holiness.

May I suggest that during Lent you consider the following for your spiritual growth?

- Prayer:** Spend extra time in prayer, individually and as a family. Attend the Holy Mass. Pray the Rosary, and join us for exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament and the Stations of the Cross and Benediction on Friday beginning at 6:30 p.m. It will begin with exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament at 6:30 p.m., followed by Stations of the Cross and Benediction at 7:00 p.m. As the Lord asked his disciples, "Can you not spend one hour with me?" Bishop Joensen has encouraged this devotion. Since the Holy Father has declared this a year devoted to St. Joseph, pray his novena for the nine days leading up to his feast on 19 March. There will be an insert in the bulletin. Pray to him often so that he will protect the Church and our parish.
- Fasting:** Remember that Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are Ecclesiastical fast days with only one full meal allowed for those who are able and two partial meals, and they are also to be meatless. Fasting is also recommended on Wednesdays and Fridays of Lent and Fridays are to be meatless. Due to the pandemic, there will be no Fish Fry Suppers this year because of people who would come from all over the city. We hope to be back to normal next year.
- Alms Giving:** Try and give a little more to the parish to help us stay current with our financial obligations. Since we will not be having the Fish Fry Suppers again, we will lose the income that we normally make on Fridays. Donations to Food Pantries and other charities should also be considered. Contributions to the Pro-life movement would also be a very good idea since the present Administration is setting back many of the advances that were made in the last four years. Millions of babies are in danger of being murdered under the legislation of the land. We cannot be silent or inactive as practicing Catholics until this evil is removed from our society. All life, from conception to death, is precious to the Lord and is his gift.

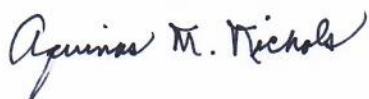
The MASK MANDATE asked for by the Bishop for all parishes in the Des Moines diocese has been extended until Easter. Everyone is asked by His Excellency to wear a mask while in the Basilica and the vestibule for Mass and any other function in the Basilica. I ask that you please obey the wishes of the Bishop out of a spirit of obedience. We are all subject to his authority. We did well for the Christmas Masses and there is no report of the virus spreading here. His Excellency has allowed

an exception to be made for physical or psychological reasons. Small gatherings and meetings may now be held provided that the precautions already in place are followed. I am hoping that we may be able to start Sunday coffee and donuts again on the Second Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy, first observing Lent in a more penitential and sacrificial manner. This year we are unable to find anyone who can come for Divine Mercy and so I will do it myself. The reception afterward will not be the normal meal, but coffee and donuts.

Please be cautious and stay well. Take seriously the restrictions that have been placed upon us for our good and the good of others, such as frequently washing hands, using hand sanitizer, using masks and social distancing, and **STAYING HOME IF YOU FEEL ILL IN ANY WAY OR MIGHT BE MORE VULNERABLE**. Let us continue to pray for the day when we will be able to once again gather normally around the altar of the Lord and return to normal parish life.

I will be celebrating my 40<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood on Sunday 16 May at the 10:30 Mass. I postponed it last year due to the pandemic. Please plan to come and celebrate this special event with me. Let us go forward, trusting Divine Providence in all things. May all the Lord's blessings of grace be yours!

Devotedly yours in the Lord,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aquinas M. Nichols". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

(The Very Reverend) Aquinas M. Nichols  
Pastor



# LENTEN SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

During the holy Season of Lent this year you are invited to participate in the following events to better prepare yourselves for the great Solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection.

## WEDNESDAY EVENINGS:

6:45 P.M.—8:00 P.M.

Exposition and Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament followed by Benediction  
On some Wednesdays confession will also be available.

## FRIDAY EVENINGS:

6:30 P.M.

Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament with time for private prayer.

7:00 P.M.

Stations of the Cross followed by Benediction.

As the Lord asked, "Can you not spend one hour with me?" These are excellent opportunities to do a little more to prepare for Easter.





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