



St. Thomas Aquinas Pastorate

The mission of the St. Thomas Aquinas Pastorate is to use our love and faith to inspire and serve God's people by cultivating a welcoming Catholic Community – working as one and living as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Pastoral Directory

Pastor, Rev. Mark Osterhaus (563)852-3524
 E-mail dbq023@dbqarch.org
 Deacon Marvin Recker (retired) (563)879-3448
 Deacon Steve Strang (563)852-3435
 Deacon Ray Noonan (563)852-3181
 Deacon Joe Schockemoehl (563)852-3126
 Director of Faith Formation -
 Nicole Casey (563)852-3331
 E-mail dbq023ff@dbqarch.org

Pastorate Office

408 3rd Ave. NW; PO Box 699, Cascade, IA 52033
 Phone (563)852-3524
 FAX (563)852-3528
 E-mail dbq023sec@dbqarch.org
 Website www.stapastorate.org
 Hours Monday – Thursday: 8:30am-4:30pm
 Friday: 8:30am – 1:00pm

Pastorate Support Staff

Business Manager, Kerri Takes
 E-mail dbq023bm@dbqarch.org
 Administrative Assistant, Shellie Schlemme
 E-mail dbq023sec@dbqarch.org
 Music Ministry, Becky Williams
 E-mail dbq023s@dbqarch.org

Aquin System of Catholic Education

Aquin Catholic Elementary School (563)852-3331
 Principal, Vicki Palmer
 E-mail vpalmer@aquin.org
 Aquin Little Angels Early Childhood Ctr 563-852-7020
 Director, Jenny Knapp jknapp@aquin.org

New Parishioners

Welcome! Contact the pastorate office 563-852-3524

Baptisms

Baptism class required.
 Contact Ray & Carol Noonan at 852-3181 to register for the class.
 Contact the pastorate office to schedule a baptism.

Weddings

Contact Fr. Mark at least six months prior to the wedding date.

National Days of Prayer for Inclusion of People with Disabilities and the Families Who Love Them

LIVING AND TRUE GOD, YOU CREATED ALL THAT IS GOOD AND HOLY IN YOUR IMAGE. BE CLOSE TO US, YOUR SERVANTS, WHO GATHER HERE TODAY. BE OUR CONSTANT HELP AND PROTECTION AS WE LOVINGLY REACH OUT TO WELCOME AND EMBRACE ALL YOUR CHILDREN, REGARDLESS OF THEIR ABILITIES, IN OUR PARISHES AND SCHOOLS. BLESS OUR CHILDREN AS THEY GROW TOGETHER IN FAITH, KNOWLEDGE AND FRIENDSHIP. AND BLESS THEIR PARENTS AND EDUCATORS WHO GUIDE THEM THROUGH CHALLENGES, WHO CELEBRATE THEIR SPECIAL GIFTS AND WHO ENCOURAGE THEM TO REACH THEIR POTENTIAL. WE ASK THIS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, YOUR SON, OUR LORD, WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, FOREVER AND EVER.

Liturgy Schedule

(Cascade-C; Fillmore-F; Garryowen-G; Temple Hill-T
 W/C-Word & Communion Service)

Sat Dec 5	4:00pm (G) Michelle Molony, Andy & Helen Laban, Justin & Cecelia Gavin
Sun Dec 6	5:30pm (C) Robert Peryon 8:00am (C) St. Thomas Aquinas Past. 10:00am (C) Charlie Sadler 11:15am (C) Communal Reconciliation
Mon Dec 7	7:00am (C) W/C
Tue Dec 8	7:00am (C) Kay Mooney 8:30am Aquin Mass The Steve O'Neill Family
Wed Dec 9	6:30pm (T) Zacharia Peiffer & Terese Peiffer, Fr. Paul Ouderkirk
Thu Dec 10	7:00am (C) Deceased Members of the Harold & Luella Manternach Family
Fri Dec 11	7:00am (C) Ken Green, The Joe & Mary Merfeld Family
Sat Dec 12	7:00am (C) The Jake & Marie Ressler Family, Leonard, Cecelia & Laura McGuire
Sun Dec 13	4:00pm (F) Joe & Betty Mausser 5:30pm (C) Ralph & Florence Tranel 8:00am (C) Leon, Berttha, Dale & Loras Driscoll
Sun Dec 13	10:00am (C) St. Thomas Aquinas Past., Herb Green

Second Sunday of Advent, December 6, 2020

From Fr. Mark

Isaiah has a message that begins with the words: "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God". Michael Hoy writes about this in his reflection book for the season of Advent on page 3. Comfort is what we need when we are worn out. On a cold dark evening, we like to grab our sweats and put on thick socks and slippers and relax. Many of us enjoy the holiday season because of the large amounts of "comfort food."

John the Baptist, however, did not preach a comfortable message to the people. But the people did recognize its value and importance. His message was one of repentance and conversion. His diet was not exactly comfort food either. He fed on locusts and wild honey. These foods have symbolic meaning. Locusts remind us of the plagues which God set upon the Egyptians in the Book of Exodus, when they would not free the enslaved people of Israel. Having to eat locusts means we are subject to the consequences if we stray from God's commands. Honey, however, represents the sweetness and satisfaction we have within us if we stay on God's path. Repentance and conversion may actually lead to a greater serenity and peace in our lives, which is the deepest and most lasting comfort we can have.

For that reason, we are offering communal reconciliation right after the 10 AM Mass on Sunday, December 6. You are offered the peace and serenity of God's mercy and forgiveness.

This Tuesday, December 8th, we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We offer masses at 7 AM at St. Matthias, 8:30 AM with the Aquin students, and 6:30 PM at Temple Hill.

Pastorate

Archbishop Jackels Virtual Fireside Get-Together Invitation - December 9 at 6:30 pm

Pull up a chair to the virtual fireplace and join Archbishop Jackels for a family-friendly evening with warm conversation, entertainment and good cheer. Archbishop will be hosting a first ever virtual *Fireside Get-Together* on *Wednesday, December 9 from 6:30-7:30 pm*.

The evening will include scripture, reflections by Archbishop on this crazy year we've had, surprise musical performances and opportunity to spread Christmas cheer...and much more. You have to register in advance at www.dbqarch.org/fireside. You'll be emailed a special link you will use to electronically join when you sign up. "See" you there.

Retirement Fund for Religious

In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have served our Church and world. Today, they pray for a world that is hurting. Yet hundreds of religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for aging members. Your gift to today's Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

There will be a sign up in the back of St. Matthias for our Christmas Masses 4:30pm, 6:30pm and 8:00am Masses for Lector/Commentator, 2 Eucharistic Ministers and 4 Ushers each Mass. And then a family at the 4:30 and the 6:30 Mass to carry up baby Jesus. If you didn't get a chance to sign up, please call the Pastorate Office at 852-3524.

St. Thomas Aquinas Pastorate Advent Reconciliation 2020

St. Matthias - Sun, Dec 6, 11:15am- Communal Reconciliation
Temple Hill - Tuesday, December 8, after 6:30pm Mass
Sacred Heart - Saturday, December 12, 3:00pm
St. Matthias - Saturday, December 12 after 5:30pm Mass
St. Matthias - Sun, Dec 13 after 8:00am & 10:00am Mass
St. Matthias - Tuesday, December 15, 7:00pm-8:00pm
Sacred Heart - Wednesday, December 16, 5:30pm-6:30pm
St. Patrick - Thursday, December 17, 5:30pm-6:30pm
St. Matthias - Saturday, December 19, after 5:30pm Mass
St. Matthias - Sun, Dec 20, after 8:00am & 10:00am Mass
St. Matthias - Wednesday, December 23, 5:30pm-6:30pm

If there is a 2 Hour Delay or cancellation at Western Dubuque Schools – there will be no morning 7:00am Mass.

Poinsettias: We will continue the custom of donating in memory of loved ones to cover the cost of the poinsettias to decorate the churches. The requested donation is \$15. Place in an envelope separate from your budget envelope and on a separate check from your budget check. Make a separate check out for each church. On a separate sheet of paper or on the outside of the envelope write the parish to receive the donation, your name and the name of the persons for whom the memorial is being made. Place in the collection or bring to the pastorate office by Sun. Dec. 13th. A list of memorials will be in the Dec. 27th bulletin.

Advent begins the first season of the liturgical year! What will you do to prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ during Advent? In the bulletin this weekend is an informational insert about Advent. In the back of church are some booklets titled, "Our Greatest Gift: A Wonderful Life in Christ". These daily reflections by Michael Hoy are based around the scenes and themes of the beloved Christmastime film, "It's A Wonderful Life". Other Advent opportunities include a daily reflection by Bishop Robert Barron of The Word on Fire Institute available on our website, Formed Daily Advent Reflections, and Dynamic Catholic's Best Advent Ever. Visit the websites of these online options to sign up and receive a daily email to help you reflect during this "reason for the season"!

The St. Thomas Aquinas Pastorate Social Justice Committee is once again hosting a

Pop-Up Food Pantry

on Saturday mornings from **10:00am- 12:00 Noon** in the St. Thomas Aquinas Pastorate Office Basement at 408 3rd Ave NW, Cascade.

Food Drive for St. Thomas Aquinas Food Pantry

The Committee is again in need of non-perishable food items, personal care items, & laundry soap. If anyone would like to donate these items or a monetary donation, you can drop it off at the Pastorate Office. Thank you!!!

Caring For Your Marriage- “John [the Baptist] appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” (Mk 1:4) The sacraments are essential to the Christian life. Encourage your spouse to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation regularly. Participation in this sacrament will strengthen not only your relationship with God, but your relationship with your spouse.

Sacred Heart, Fillmore

Sacred Heart Generosity: Nov. 28-29, 2020: Budget: \$365.00; Thanksgiving: \$110.00; Auction: \$2,550.00; Total: \$3,025.00

Liturgical Participation-Saturday, December 12, 2020 4:00pm

Commentator/Lector: Marty Mausser; *Ushers:* Nick & Jake Wagner

Church & Hall Cleaning December 2020:

Chuck & Amy Noonan, Nic & Cody Noonan, Morgan & Laura Ryan, Chad & Keeley Curoe, Martin Stoffel



Sacred Heart Auction Fundraising Goal

By December 31, 2020:

\$30,000

Amount Contributed as of

November 29, 2020:

\$18,975

Amount still needed:

\$11,025

We are at 64% of our goal

St. Patrick, Garryowen

St. Patrick Generosity: Nov. 28-29, 2020: Budget: \$1,755.00; Offertory: 147.00; Thanksgiving: 613.00; Holy Days: \$5.00; Rent: \$200.00; Total: \$2,720.00

Liturgical Participation – Saturday, Dec. 26-4:00pm

Commentator/Lector: Wanda Loewen;

Ushers: Rich Molony, Mark Redmond

Weekend Money Counters: December 2020

Cathy Rubel & Adam Rollinger

Church & Hall Cleaning (Dec. 2020):

Chuck & Mary Shanahan, Lois Lynch, Don & Joan Meloy

St. Peter, Temple Hill

St. Peter Generosity: Nov. 28-29, 2020: Budget: \$155.00: Youth Budget; \$1.00; Thanksgiving: \$45.00; Holy Days: \$5.00; Total: \$206.00

Liturgical Participation: (Holy Day) - (December 8 2020 - 6:30 PM) *Lector/Commentator:* Chris Krapfl;

Eucharistic Minister: Sue Trumm;

Usher: Scot & Marty Knepper;

Liturgical Participation: (December 19, 2020 - 4:00 PM)

Lector/Commentator: Joe Trumm

Eucharistic Minister: Marie Knepper

Usher: Jason & Lisa Kurt; Ralph & Janice Trumm

Church Cleaning: Joe & Sara Trumm (leader), Jordan & Robert Trumm, Kevin & Janet Schockemoehl, Eric & Stacie Schockemoehl, Ryan & Shelly Schockemoehl, Renee Coyle, John & Evelyn Noel (before December 19)

The holy day Mass for the Immaculate Conception will beat St. Peter's on December 8, 2020 at 6:30 PM.

The sacrament of Reconciliation will follow Mass.

Our next weekend Mass at St. Peter's is Saturday, December 19, 2020 at 4:00 PM.

Rosary & Adoration at St. Peter's - Wednesday, December 9 at 7 PM.

St. Matthias, Cascade

St. Matthias Generosity: Nov. 28-29, 2020 – Budget: \$5,025.00; Offertory: \$677.18; Thanksgiving: \$2,440.00; Christmas: \$175.00; Holy Days: \$10.00; Grain Bank: \$1,832.94; Total: \$10,160.12

Liturgical Participation: (Weekdays Dec.- 7-11): Jean Lynch
Saturday – Dec. 12, 5:30pm-

Lector/Commentator/Eucharistic Minister: Mark Otting

Ushers: Barb Otting, Joyce McQuillen

Sunday – Dec. 13, 8:00am

Lector/Commentator/Eucharistic Minister: Loren Manternach

Ushers: Jake & Tara Noonan

Sunday – Dec. 13, 10:00am

Lector/Commentator/Eucharistic Minister: Sue Trumm

Ushers: Ken & Karen McDermott

We're excited to announce registration is open for the 2021

Archdiocesan Women's Conference, Beauty in Christ: On Fire with the Holy Spirit!!! Saturday, January 30, 2021, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM (“doors” open at 8:30 AM!)

Connect with Women: Spark your Spirit: Fuel your Faith

This virtual conference offers all the GREAT aspects of Beauty in Christ: a welcome by Archbishop Jackels, two dynamic speakers, live music, a variety of vendors, opportunities for prayer and Adoration, and more!

Our national speakers, Maria Vadia and Caroline Gambale-Dirkes, will spark a fire within us for a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit! (Maria will present in English and Spanish).

REGISTER NOW: \$25.00 per person, with graduated discounts for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and more. To check out the pricing options and to

register: <https://archwomensconference.org/registration/>.

We hope to see you Saturday, January 30, 2021!

The National Night of Prayer for Life is a prayer service consisting of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the holy Rosary, prayer to St. Michael, silent prayer, and hymns, organized locally by Dubuque County Right to Life.

On Tuesday, December 8th, churches from across the nation will gather in unity to pray in an effort to help bring back the world to Christ and to bring about an end to abortion. Please join for a few hours, one hour, or even for just a few minutes to adore Christ in His True Presence! The National Night of Prayer for Life will be held at Church of the Nativity in Dubuque and at the Basilica of St. Francis Xavier, from 6:00pm-9:00pm. We hope you can join us!