

**Pastor:**

Rev. Andrew Awotwe-Mensah  
Office: 895-6246  
Email: DBQ137@dbqarch.org

**Mass Schedule**

Saturday: 6 pm @ St. Isidore  
Sunday: 8:30 am @ St. John  
Weekday Mass Schedule  
As stated in the weekly bulletin  
Confessions Sunday: 8 am or by appointment

**Main Office Hours**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday:  
8 am - 5 pm  
Friday:  
7 am - 3:30 pm

**Main Office: Secretary/Bookkeeper**

Loraine Kula  
Parish Office: 895-6246  
E-mail: l.kula@dbqarch.org  
FAX #: 319-895-0973

**Web:** <http://www.stjohnmv.org>

**Director of Faith Formation**

Linda Hansmeier: 895-6758  
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: (w)895-6246 or (c)319-350-8874  
l.kula@dbqarch.org or ljula55@gmail.com

**Catholic Charities:** 1-800-772-2758

**Birthright:** 319-393-3251 or 1-800-550-4900

# ST. JOHN

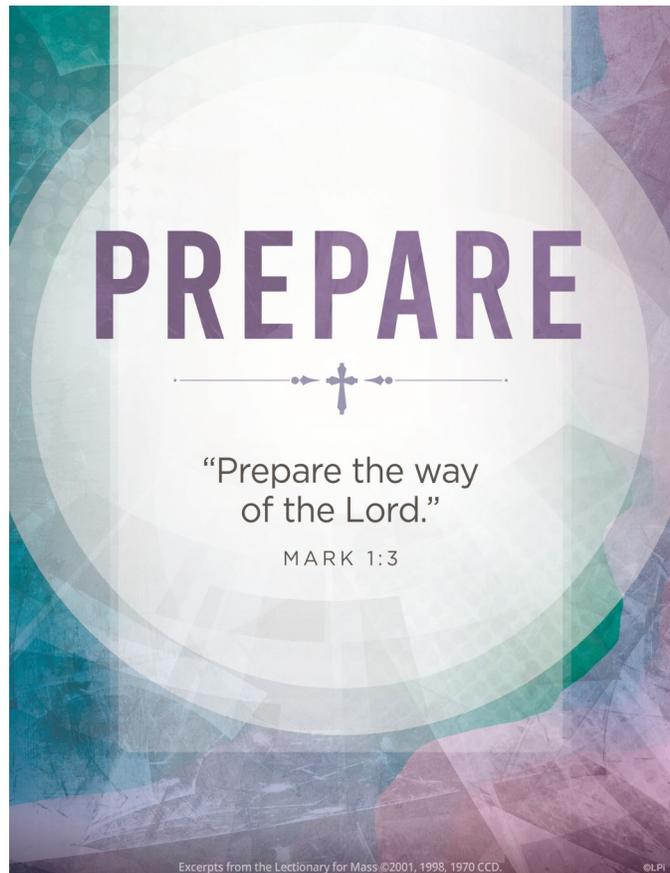
THE BAPTIST

CATHOLIC CHURCH

212 7TH ST. SE  
MOUNT VERNON, IA

LISBON - MOUNT VERNON, IA  
*AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES*

*Working Together To  
Build the Kingdom of God*



**Year of Seeking and Healing through Prayer and Kindness**

## A Season of Waiting

Theresa Sundstrom

As Christians, we are waiting and preparing not only for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, but also, for the return of Christ at the Second Coming. Advent also marks the beginning of a new Church Year – A time to reflect on the past year and prepare for the next. How can we grow in our relationship with Christ in the new year? I had been expecting to start this Season of Advent waiting patiently to see our new bundle as we wait for Jesus' birth, but we unexpectedly welcomed Karter Xavier Sundstrom three weeks early! Like all children before Christmas, my kids were beginning to get impatient waiting for their new sibling. Imagine the Jewish people who had been waiting years for the coming of Emmanuel and the true joy they felt at the birth of Jesus. As our family slows down to enjoy Karter, I pray that you take this season to pause, trust and wait for the Lord. He is preparing each of your hearts for wonderful things in this new Church Year. You never know, He may surprise you as He surprised us with our early gift! Here is one of my favorite Advent hymns written by Sr. Marianne Missetich SNJM – first published in 1977:

### *The Whole World Is Waiting for Love*

We're waiting for Jesus like Mary, We're waiting for Jesus the Lord.

Come down, Lord Jesus! Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

The whole world is waiting for Love, The whole world is waiting for Love.

### Faith Formation Information by Linda Hansmeier

#### A Holiday Celebration of God's Love

*"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Romans 8: 38, 39.

This past Sunday Mrs. Elloren (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade catechist) and I held a First Communion Parent/Candidate meeting. Twenty First Communion candidates, with their parents, joined us to talk about how much God loves us and how forgiveness is a gift. One of the greatest gift's for both Mrs. Elloren, and myself, during this time was being able to visit with the communicants and the parents without wearing a mask. Being able to see their smiles and facial expressions served as a reminder of how Covid-19 has altered how we live each moment of the day, but a reminder of the many things to be thankful for.

We spent some time getting to know one another by going around the screen and sharing one thing no one else probably knows about us. From owning several dogs and cats, to holding up a baby sister, each communicant shared something that was important to them and that they were proud of.

Stressing how much God loves us and how God loves each of us just as we are, they were reminded of how much God loves us by sending us Jesus to tell us about God's love. We finished with a treasure hunt by asking the children to fetch different items from their house and bringing them to the screen for all to see. It was amazing. Talk about Catholic Imaginations, talents, and gifts. Everyone has much to be thankful for.

Each of us celebrated Thanksgiving this past week and now we enter the Advent season and the Birth of Christ at Christmas. This is a time for us to be thankful for all the blessings of God despite our circumstances and situations and to focus on the greatest blessing of all, God's gift of His Son. How will you express your thankfulness during this Advent season as we celebrate God's love for us?



**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](http://www.dbqarch.org/fireside). You'll be emailed a special link you will use to electronically join when you sign up. "See" you there.

**Youth Ministry** by Deanna Wagner

The week prior to Thanksgiving, the high school had a session on Thankfulness. It was a fun youth ministry night that consisted of a Thanksgiving Litany, Pizza, an "I am Thankful for \_\_\_\_", activity and writing thanksgiving greetings.



Picture of our Young Church during our fun activity: Isaac Stevenson, Joe Huebner, Molly Louwagie, Peyton Simpson, Sara Rhomberg, Emma Stevenson Natalie Clark, Henry Ryan, Mark Liberko, Jackson Rhomberg, Ryne Moeller, Charley Liberko, Ryder Bunch, Colton Johnson, and Parker Sauser.

**Weekly contributions needed..... \$5,326.92**

**September 22, 2020**

Budget, Adult.....	\$3,260.00
Loose Coin/Currency.....	\$ 37.00
Religious Retirement.....	\$ 250.00
Facility Up-Keep.....	\$ 375.00
Thanksgiving.....	\$ 270.00
<b>Total Collected.....</b>	<b>\$ 4,192.00</b>
YTD collection needed.....	\$111,865.32
YTD collections received.....	\$102,935.25
YTD over/short.....	\$ <b>8,930.07</b>

**Monday, December 7th**

\*6:00 pm - Vigil Mass for Immaculate Conception Of the Virgin Mary - Holy Day

**Wednesday, December 9th**

8:30 am - Al Opatz

**Friday, December 11th**

8:30 am - Irvin & Louise Clark

**Sunday, December 13th**

8:30 am - Carol Stahle



**Liturgical Ministers for December 13th**

- Sacristan: Jim Kendall
- EM: Carol Woods Boren      Pete Bahl  
Kathy Dix                      Fr. Andrew
- Lectors: Charlie Liberko      Gwen Schimek-Tischler
- Servers: Jenna Woodward      Joey Rhomberg
- Hospitality: Chuck & Marylynn Murray  
Tim & Abby Keegan family  
Jeremy & Abbie Stolte family

