

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
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FAX #: 319-895-0973

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

Director of Faith Formation

Linda Hansmeier: 895-6758
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Coordinator of Youth/Young Adult Ministry

De Wagner: 895-6758
E-Mail : DBQ137YM@dbqarch.org

Coordinator of Music

Theresa Sundstrom: 563-451-2054
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Prayer Chain Contacts:

Thelma Rife: jtbr2@q.com
Loraine Kula: (w)895-6246 or (c)319-350-8874
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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

Faith Formation Information by Linda Hansmeier

“Exposed to a Higher Standard”

“And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

How I approach Christmas changes every year as I get older. As a child, I recall the excitement of Christmas. It was a time of families, gifts, and food. For children today, the same excitement is still there. During preschool learning sessions this past Sunday I asked the children what they liked best about Christmas. Abigail Ross said Poppa Troll, and of course I had to ask what that was. Evangelyn Ross was excited to put up the Christmas tree and Jett Caskey looked forward to giving presents. Lydia Sellner, Bea Elloren and Natalie Henik all agreed that receiving presents was the greatest. Ryker Hill pointed out how much he liked a certain toy he had received before and later said, “...and Jesus will come.” And of course, cookies and kolaches were mentioned.

As an adult today I have a much deeper understanding of the “Birth of Christ.” The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), Chapter Two entitled “God comes to meet man says “By natural reason man can know God with certainty, based on his works, but there is another order of knowledge, which man cannot possibly arrive at by his own powers: the order of divine Revelation. Through an utterly free decision, God has revealed himself and given himself to man. This he does by revealing the mystery of his plan of loving goodness, formed from all eternity in Christ, for the benefit of all men. God has fully revealed this plan by sending us his beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit” (#50 CCC).

“...In giving us his Son, his only Word (for he possesses no other), he spoke everything to us at once in this sole Word – and he has no more to say...because what he spoke before to the prophets in parts, he has now spoken all at once by giving us the All Who is His Son (#65 CCC).

“The Church is both the means and the goal of God’s plan: prefigured in creation, prepared for in the Old Covenant, founded by the words and actions of Jesus Christ, fulfilled by his redeeming cross and his Resurrection, the Church has been manifested as the mystery of salvation by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. She will be perfected in the glory of heaven as the assembly of all the redeemed of the earth” (cf. Rev 14:4, #778 CCC). “The Church in this world is the sacrament of salvation, the sign, and the instrument of the communion of God and men” (#780 CCC).

I have been “Exposed to a Higher Standard” and look at Christmas through new lenses of understanding what the birth of Christ means for each of us. Wishing each of you a Blessed Christmas and New Year.

Youth Ministry

The high school students talked about how **Jesus was famous before he was born**. Throughout the Old Testament, references are made to the Messiah, the Holy one of God, who would come and save God’s people. As Christians, we believe that Jesus is the Messiah. In the Biblical sense, a prophet is to be a messenger from God. A prophecy can speak of current issues, warnings, encouragements, or foretell what is coming in the future. There were a lot of prophecies about the coming of the Messiah. You already heard about some during the Advent Sunday Mass Liturgies. During our last week of Advent, Our Young Church challenges you to look up some of these prophecies and their fulfillment:

Prophecy	Fulfillment
Jesus is from the line of David: Isaiah 11:1-3	Matthew 1:1-6
Jesus is born of a virgin: Isaiah 17:12-14	Luke:26-33
Wise Men bring Jesus gifts: Isaiah 11:1-3	Matthew 2:1-12
Jesus is betrayed by a friend: Psalm 41:9-10 & Psalm 55:12-14	Matthew 1:1-6
Jesus is betrayed for 30 pieces of silver:	Zechariah 11:12-13
Jesus is beaten, spit on and mocked	Mark 15:16-20



Christ means for each of us. Wishing each of you a Blessed Christmas and New Year.



Milton Woodrow Torkelson was baptized on December 6, 2020 by Fr. Andrew Awotwe-Mensah. Milton is the son of Andrew and Katherine Adolph Torkelson.

Wednesday, December 23rd

8:30 am - Dolores Suchomel

Thursday, December 24th

4:00 pm - Doris McElmeel



Friday, December 25th

9:00 am - John & Annice Lane

Sunday, December 27th

8:30 am - Jim Schemmel

Readings for the week of December 20, 2020

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
 Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
 Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
 Wed: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66
 Thursday: *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14. *Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20. *Day:* Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
 Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22
 Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Liturgical Ministers for December 27th

Sacristan: Jim Kendall
 EM: Dave Klostermann Pam Kraus
 Mark Kraus Fr. Andrew
 Lectors: Stephen Poduska Charlene Vig
 Servers: Betsy Louwagie Kiersten Swart
 Hospitality: Andy and Erin Moeller family
 Tim & Kim Fall



Online Giving -

Between demanding schedules, traveling, or just trying to get out the door on time for Mass, it can be challenging to tithe on a regular basis as God calls us to do. Plus, for many families, the parish is one of the last places where you still have to use a check-book or cash. Not any more.

We are excited to share that St. John the Baptist will now accept one-time and recurring donations directly on our website! You can make a secure donation via electronic check or debit/credit card by visiting <https://stjohnmv.org/giving> and if you choose to set up a recurring gift, you will be prompted by email to create your own online donor account to manage your tithing. It's as easy as online shopping or banking!

How do you get started?

Visit:

<https://stjohnmv.org/giving> from any device with an internet Connection.

- Choose a one-time or recurring donation
- Choose where you want your donation to go: (Adult Budget, Christmas, Faith Formation Fees, Sacramental Fees, etc.) Select your preferred form of payment (electronic check or debit/credit card)
- Enter your information and submit your donation

It's that easy!

Provided by E-Catholic, the same company that hosts the parish's website, this online giving service has already been a proven success for many parishes, schools, and dioceses. And it makes for safer record-keeping, faster processing, and more efficient communication for the parish office.

Learn more and consider the possibilities for sharing your gifts without the hassle of remembering checks and envelopes. And thank you for all your generous support as we launch this new and convenient way to provide for our growing and thriving parish community! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Loraine Kula in the parish office at 319-895-6246 or l.kula@dbqarch.org