

**Pastor:**

Rev. Andrew Awotwe-Mensah

Office: 895-6246

Email: DBQ137@dbqarch.org

**Mass Schedule**

Saturday: 6:00 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

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

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

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

# ST. JOHN

THE BAPTIST

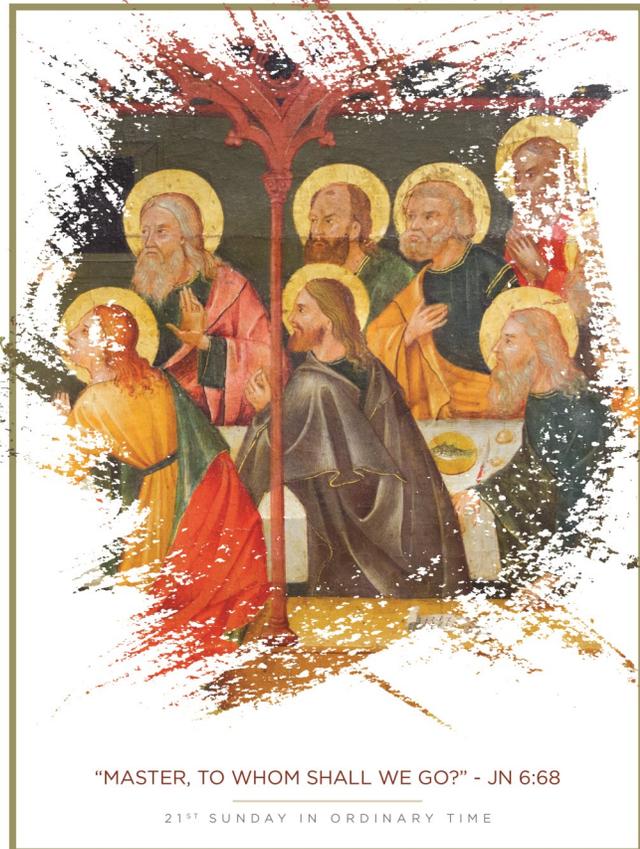
CATHOLIC CHURCH

212 7TH ST. SE

MOUNT VERNON, IA

LISBON - MOUNT VERNON, IA  
AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

*Working Together To  
Build the Kingdom of God*



"MASTER, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?" - JN 6:68

21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

## To Our Parishioners & Friends

### Living Life as God Envisioned It for Us.

To the Christian, living life is analogous to using lenses. We live it as God envisioned it for us. Take the bifocal lenses for instance, they have an upper lens that improves our distance vision and a lower lens that supports close vision and reading. One must effectively negotiate the two lenses for better results and use. Progressive lenses, however, sharply blend the two lenses so well that it eliminates any disruption in sight when one looks at the distance and then at something up close. The smooth transition back and forth from the head down to the head up, including the space in the middle, supports better sight.

From the readings for this weekend, we notice the place of the lens analogy in effective Christian living; it requires fostering progressive lenses— combining in real time service to God and living our daily lives. The Christian must negotiate the two dimensions of our purpose on earth to give no room for disruptions.

Consider Joshua's challenge to the Israelites as they arrived at the promised land to begin their lives. In the earlier verses in the same chapter 24, Joshua had recounted to the people God's ubiquitous presence to them from the time of the patriarchs till that very moment. He then impressed it on the people to blend the worship of God with their daily duties. For laboring on the land and raising children are not isolated from worshipping God; however, they blend. "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord," Joshua intimated.

Think about it, if our work, family life, and all the daily endeavors ahead of us were meant to lead us away from God, then why will He put these at our disposal? Indeed, how God wants us to live life is that as He takes care of us, and our work flourishes, and confidence in ourselves grows, our spiritual "companionship" with God and the church should become increasingly more fruitful.

There is another great lesson in the gospel that clarifies the point above. Notice how a cross section of Jesus' disciples truncated their companionship with him and "returned to their former way of life." All of us are living life like wearing lenses. These lenses constitute everything that happens to us in our lives, and we see and judge the world through the lenses of our glasses.

Nevertheless, over time, our lenses get dirty, cracked, scratched, smudged, so that we may need to change our prescription completely or readjust the lenses of glasses. This calls for spiritual guidance, wisdom, and graces from the sacraments and the word of God to clean up our lenses or change them to improve our sight. I think that is what Peter meant when he said: "*Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.*" That is what it means to cultivate progressive lenses for living life as God envisioned it for us.

Are your activities, work, life, and family needs becoming your excuses, or as Joshua puts it, the "gods ...beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites" stopping you from serving God? You are meant to blend living your life with honoring God.

## Faith Formation Information by Linda Hansmeier

*"Train the young in the way they should go; even when old, they will not swerve from it."* Proverbs 1:8-9

Children learn through observation, but they learn best through participation. We take them to church so that being part of a church family and gathering regularly to worship God in community with others becomes part of the fabric of their lives.

1. **BE POSITIVE** Instead of saying, "We have to go to church" say "we get to go to worship." Teach your kids that worship isn't just a place we go, it's something we do with God's family, and when we're not there, God's family isn't complete.
2. **TAKE ALONG WORSHIP TOOLS** Bring along tools that will involve your children in worship rather than simply keep them busy. Some ideas: a children's storybook Bible, a small notebook and colored pencil for drawing/writing questions, impressions, and prayers.
3. **LET KIDS CHOOSE THE SEATS** Parents with young children often sit toward the back of the worship space so they won't be embarrassed by their children's behavior and can exit easily. But often children prefer the front because they can see, hear, and participate better.
4. **BE A "CHURCH WHISPERER"** Help kids stay engaged during worship by asking questions and making observations. During a song, whisper, "My favorite verse of this song is the third one. Which part do you like the best?" As Scripture is read, ask your child how it would feel to be living in that story.
5. **TALK ABOUT WORSHIP ON THE WAY HOME** Ask kids about what they saw and heard in worship. Affirm their insights and encourage them to learn more. Ask if they wonder about anything that was said. As you talk, use the language of worship to build your children's vocabulary.

## Faith Formation Information by Linda Hansmeier

It is time to register your children/youth for Faith Formation. Go to <https://www.myschoolsystems.com/ArchDBQ/DBQ137/>

Don't forget, you can pay online. [stjohnmv.org](http://stjohnmv.org). Just click "**online giving.**" There are two choices and if you have a child in the Sacramental program please pay separately from Faith Formation.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE BACKPACK PROGRAM

Again, this year we are asking for monetary donations for the Annual Backpack Program. Your donation makes a big impact to our local children by providing them with healthy food option – fresh fruit.

Thanks to your generosity last fiscal year July 2020 – June 2021 donations came to \$786.55, and we spent \$737.82 of those funds on fresh fruit for the Backpack program.

Children SE Linn, Lisbon, and Mount Vernon schools will benefit from your donation.

How can you help. You may send your donation in the mail to:

St. John Catholic Church  
**Back Program**  
 212 7<sup>th</sup> St. SE  
 Mount Vernon, IA 52314-1518

Or you may bring to the church in an envelope marked Backpack Program. Or better yet go to [stjohnmv.org](http://stjohnmv.org) and **click online giving then find Backpack Pack Donation.**

Social Justice Committee thanks you for any monetary donation you can give.

### Youth Ministry

All parents who have signed their teen up for high school Faith Formation are invited to attend a **Parent Information Session on August 29, 2021, following our 8:30 Mass in the lower level – Parish Hall.**

**Mark your calendars** for the next Women's Mini Retreat to be held September 4, from 9-11:30 a.m.

**The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Run For Pie, 5 K race** be held on Sept. 18. To register, be a sponsor, give a donation or volunteer, go [www.runforpie.com](http://www.runforpie.com).

### Thank you from the Knights of Columbus:

The KC's would like to thank those who donated to the annual Tootsie Roll Drive last Sunday. \$301.00 was collected, these funds will help Discovery Living with their programs for the mentally challenged.

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

August 15, 2021

Budget, Adult..... \$1,170.00  
 Loose Coin/Currency..... \$ 149.00  
 Total Collected ..... \$1,319.00

### Monthly ACH August 6, 2021

Budget, Adult..... \$5,530.00  
 YTD collection needed ..... \$37,961.56  
 YTD collections received ..... \$36,520.01  
 YTD ..... \$ **1,441.55**

### Liturgical Ministers August 29th

Sacristan: Jim Kendall

EM: Carol Woods Boren Pete Bahl  
 Marty Fall Sara Rhomberg

Lectors: Youth

Servers: Libby Dix Landon Stolte

Hospitality: Andy & Erin Moeller family  
 Tim & Kim Fall family

### Wednesday, August 25th

8:30 am - Faye Pitlik



### Friday, August 27th

8:30 am - Steve Horton

### Sunday, August 29th

8:30 am - Terry Lessmeier

### Readings for the week of August 22, 2021

Sunday: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23 [9a]/Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32/Jn 6:60-69  
 Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Mt 23:13-22  
 Tuesday: Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18 [12]/Jn 1:45-51  
 Weds: 1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab [1]/Mt 23:27-32  
 Thurs.: 1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 90:3-5a, 12-13, 14 and 17 [14]/Mt 24:42-51  
 Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12 [12a]/Mt 25:1-13  
 Sat: 1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 [9]/Mt 25:14-30  
 Next Sunday: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 [1a]/Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27/Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

**21st Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 August 22, 2021**