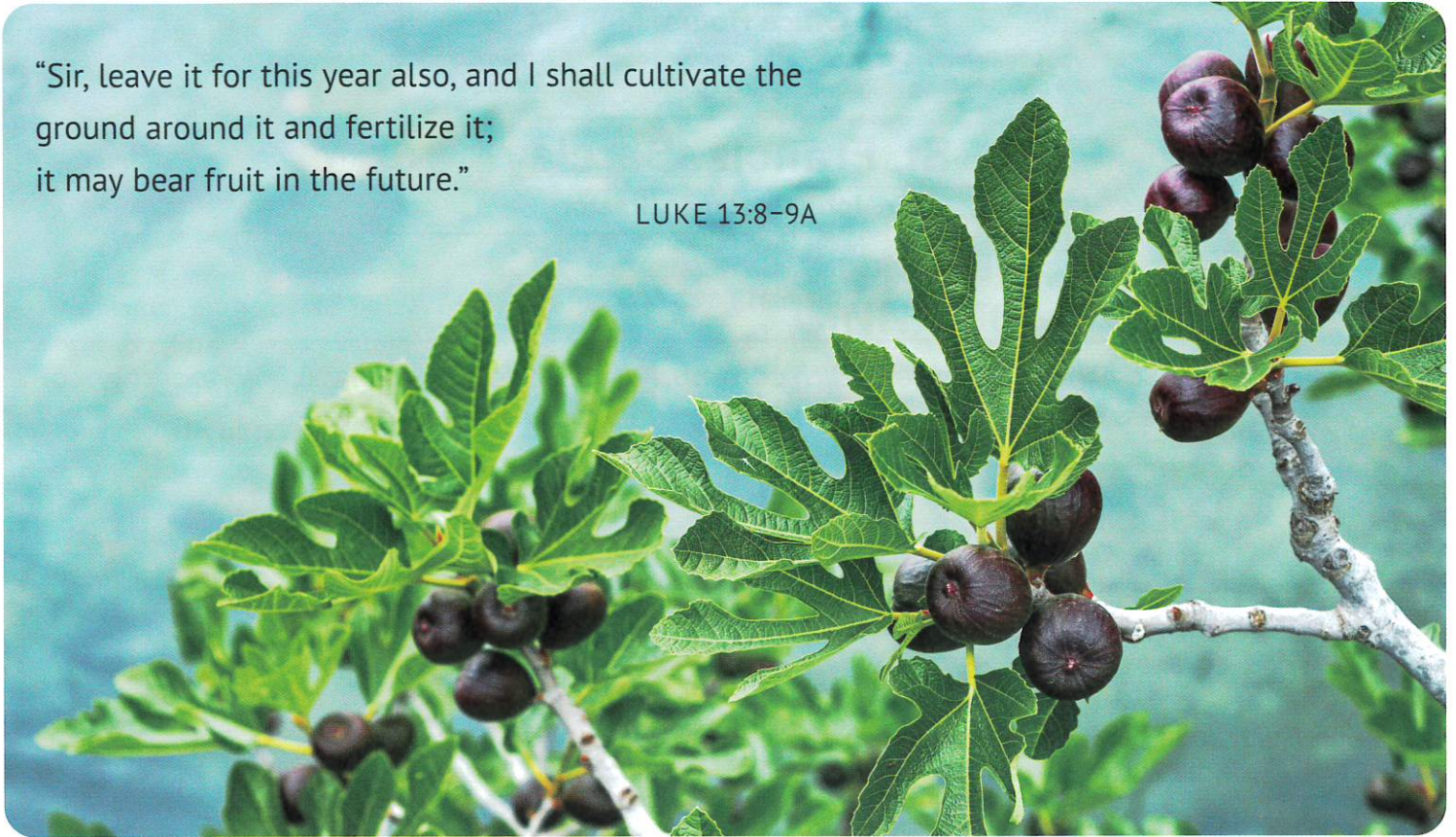




“Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future.”

LUKE 13:8-9A



A Gardener God

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

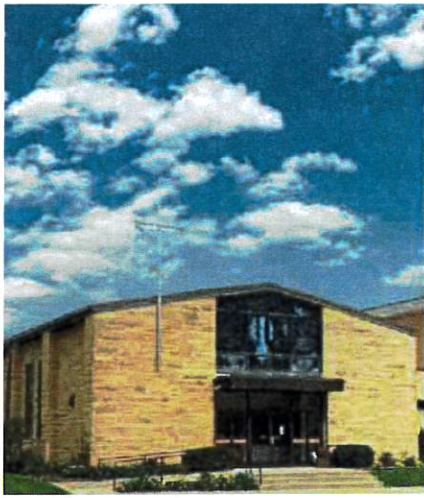
Charles Baudelaire was a French poet and essayist in the mid-1800s. He once observed that life is like a hospital in which each patient is possessed by the desire to change beds. In other words, he thought everyone seemed to think life would be so much better if only they had a different set of circumstances, a different job, a different marriage, a different place in life. Like trees, however, not everyone grows and matures at the same pace. There are forty-year-olds who still act and think like teenagers, and there are ten-year-olds who have an attitude toward life like that of an elder. Over time, we all grow into the lives we're given.

In this week's Parable of the Barren Fig Tree, some think God is like the owner who planted the tree, as

if God is impatient with us to begin bearing fruit and quick to uproot us if we fail. A case could be made, however, for God to be the gardener who patiently fertilizes and nurtures. In the beginning, it was God who had a garden called Eden, filled with all kinds of trees and plants among which God walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the evening. After the resurrection, it was Mary Magdalene who went looking for the body of Jesus and mistook him for the gardener. It is God who hovers over us, watering and nudging and nurturing, waiting until in God's good time, we begin to bear fruit. ●

Reflect

***What needs nurturing in my life,
and what needs weeding out?***



St. Athanasius Church

St. Athanasius Church

Fr. John Gossman, Pastor

319-827-6682 or 319-290-5342

623 Stevens St. (PO Box 316), Jesup, IA 50648

www.saintaparish.com

Parish Office Hours: M-F, 8-4

Lori Schutte, Director of Faith Formation | dbq109ff@dbqarch.org

Kris Kayser, Parish Secretary | dbq109sec@dbqarch.org

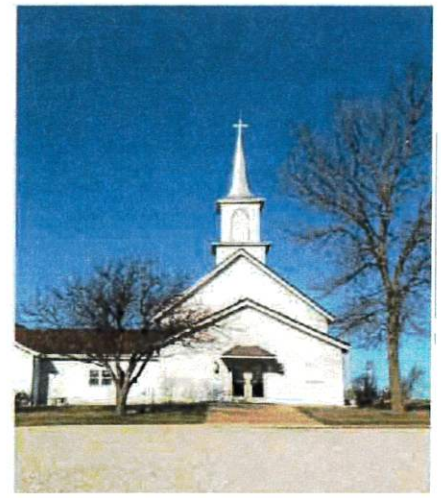
St. Francis, Barclay

Fr. John Gossman, Pastor

7837 E Airline Hwy, Dunkerton, IA 50626

Carol Steffen - Secretary | dbq010sec@dbqarch.org

Office: 319-822-7477



St. Francis, Barclay

"We, the people of St. Athanasius, are a faith community called to pray and worship together, to witness and teach the Gospel, and to serve and minister to others."

Mass Times & Intentions

Please Note: If school is delayed or cancelled for the day, Mass will NOT be held at St Athanasius.

Tuesday, March 25 - Special

Wednesday, March 26 - 8:00 a.m. at St Francis, Barclay

- Jim & Pat Ehr

Thursday, March 27 - 8:30 a.m. at St. Athanasius (School Mass)

- Mary & Norb Delagardelle

Friday, March 28 - 1:30 p.m. at Winding Creek

- Dale White

Saturday, March 29 - 5:00 p.m. at St. Athanasius

- Maye Sturm

Sunday, March 30 - 8:30 a.m. at St. Athanasius

- For the People of the Parishes

Sunday, March 30 - 10:30 a.m. at St. Francis, Barclay

- Art, Rosie, Ken & Char Kass

Sacraments

Baptism: New parents need to participate in a preparation session. Please contact the Parish Office to set up a session or schedule a Baptism.

Marriage: Preparations take at least six months. Contact the Parish office for more information.

Becoming Catholic/RCIA: If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Lori Schutte at dbq109ff@dbqarch.org.

• Next RCIA session is March 30th.

Anointing of the Sick: If you or a loved one are homebound, in hospice or admitted to the hospital, please call 319-827-6682 or Fr. Gossman at 319-290-5342.

Stewardship – March 15th & 16th

St. Athanasius Parish:

Adults -	\$3,187.80
Children -	\$26.00
Offertory -	\$317.87
Rent -	\$50.00
Flowers -	\$180.00
Memorial -	\$100.00
Advertising -	\$125.00
Maintenance -	\$50.00

Total: \$4,036.67

St. Francis Parish:

Budget -	\$930.00
Children -	\$3.00
Offertory -	\$15.00

Total: \$948.00

*Thank you for
your generosity
and continued
support!*



Reconciliation

By appt, call 319-827-6682, or scheduled times listed.

- St. Athanasius - Tuesday at 4:30-5:15 p.m. before 5:30 Mass and Saturday at 4:00-4:45 p.m. before 5:00 p.m. Mass.
- St. Francis – Second Sunday of the month following Mass.

Children's Offering

My Good Deed Was...

- "Playing with my cousins."
- "usiing manners."
- "playing with my cousins."
- "plaiynge wif my cusins."

St. Athanasius News

The Last weekend collection is for the Jesup Ministerial Association.

St. Athanasius School Calendar

- **March 24** - No School
- **March 25** - 5-8 will be taking ISASP test
- **April 2** - Early Dismissal / Staff PD
- **April 3** - Grades 3 & 4 ISASP Testing

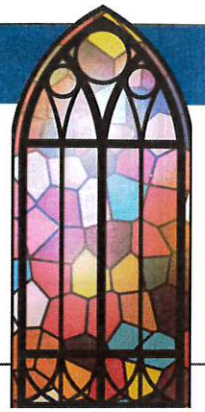
Amy Kies Bautista - K-8 Principal
Dawn Hansen - Business Manager
Danielle Skinner - Office Secretary
Michael DeWald - Marketing Director

www.saintschool.com 



St. Francis News

- **Stations of the Cross** - will be after the 8:00 am Mass on Wednesday mornings.
- **Last Weekend Collection** - Goes to Don Bosco School instead of having a parish breakfast. Please be generous.
- **Donuts & Coffee** - will be served next Sunday in the parish hall. Everyone is welcome.

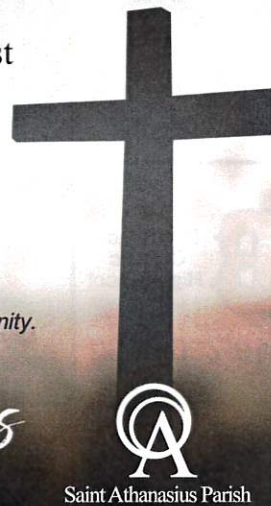


We invite you to join us in our upcoming *Stations of the Cross* events, commemorating Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man.

- **Wednesday, March 26th at 6:30 p.m.**
-Hosted by Youth Faith Formation
- **Wednesday, April 2nd at 6:30 p.m.**
-Hosted by Parish Society

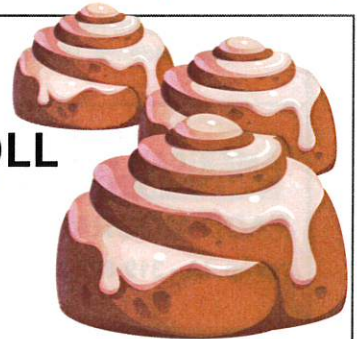
Watch for more upcoming dates for this opportunity.

Stations OF THE Cross



Saint Athanasius Parish

JUMBO CINNAMON ROLL Sale!



Choose from delicious Plain or Frosted Cinnamon Rolls or Caramel Rolls, with or without Pecans.

Only \$3 each or \$15 for 6

Deadline for orders is **Monday, March 24th**. Pick up for orders is **Sunday, March 30th**, 8-10 a.m. at the South entrance of the St. Athanasius school gymnasium.

Call 319-827-6682 today to place your orders or by scanning the QR code below.



Faith Formation News

- **March 26** - Free Family Meal Night starting at 5:45 p.m. - The menu will be BBQ Beef, Mac & Cheese and Cheesy Potatoes.
- YFF students will be doing the Stations of the Cross for Young Christians starting at 6:30 p.m.
- **April 2** - YFF class
- **April 9** - Final YFF class of the year!




UPDATE only 6 spots remaining, get your tickets ASAP! On Sunday, March 30th at 1 p.m. the Faith Formation Commission has organized a watch party for *The Chosen*, Season 5, Part 1. This will take place at Marcus Theaters Crossroads in Waterloo. The cost is \$6 a ticket and must be paid for in advance. Cash or check can be dropped off in the Parish office or you can Venmo @StAthanasius-School with the description 'Chosen tickets'. You can contact Kris Kayser or Lori Schutte with questions.

First Communion Retreat for our St. A school and YFF students will be on Saturday, April 26th from 9 am-noon. Parents and students should meet in the lunchroom.




First Communion will be celebrated at our regular mass times this year. **Saturday, April 26 at 5 pm** and **Sunday, April 27 at 8:30 am**. Please be aware of reserved seating at these special masses.



Knights OF Columbus

Omelette Breakfast!



Join us after Mass!

Sun. March 23 at St. A. 8 am-12 pm

ORDER A CHEESE, VEGGIE PIZZA OR LOBSTA ROLL EVERY FRIDAY

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Half of all proceeds is directed to the school.

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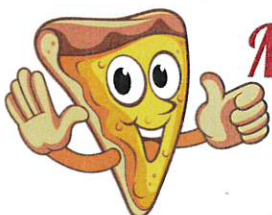
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Amy Kies Bautista - Principal
Byron Manternach - Board President
www.saintaschool.com

641 Stevens St. Jesup, IA. 50648 | 319-827-1314



Saint Athanasius
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Praying for Our Sick

If you have someone in the hospital, please contact the office at **319-827-6682**. It's likely that Fr Gossman will visit.

Dear God, we place our sick under your care and humbly ask that you restore your servant to health again. Above all, grant us the grace to acknowledge your will and know that whatever you do, you do for the love of us. Amen.

**Deb Andrews • Greg Barber • Erin Jeffries • Debbie Kester • Joyce Lukes
Linda Lukes • Craig Maurer • Dale Nation • Sarah Staebell • Jean Welter • Rosie Youngblut**

News and Calendar of Events

- **St. Athanasius Second Collection** - this weekend will be for the prevention of Domestic Violence.
- **KC Scholarships**- The Knights of Columbus Council 8227 Jesup, is offering scholarships to graduating seniors from Don Bosco High School and Jesup Community High School. For more information and applications contact your Guidance Counselor.
- **CDA Scholarships**- The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court St. Pius X #1714 (Jesup), is offering two scholarships at \$250 each to be awarded to Catholic individuals (male or female), within the court community, who wish to continue their education: a high school student going into college, or a current college student and/or adult furthering their education. Scholarship recipients will be chosen on the criteria listed on the application. Application forms are available at St. Athanasius Church in Jesup, St. Francis Church in Dunkerton, Immaculate Conception Church in Gilbertville, Don Bosco High School, or Jesup Community High School. Completed applications may be mailed to: CDA Court St. Pius X #1714, %Darlene Phillips, 334 Purdy St., Jesup IA 50648 or submitted by email to jphillips@jtt.net by April 11, 2025.
- **Knights of Columbus #8227** will hold their monthly meeting on Wednesday March 26th in the basement of Jesup City Hall. Social at 6 p.m. with the meal at 6:30 and then scheduled meeting. Contact Brett Hershberger (319 327 3185) to make a reservation.
- **Flower Donations for Easter** - Please use your envelope or put in a plain envelope your donation for Easter flowers along with the name of the person/family you are donating in memory of and drop into the collection basket during Mass or leave at the Parish Office. Donations must be turned in by March 30.
- **SAVE THE DATE** - Agnus Dei Ministry will present a concert featuring the middle and high school choirs from the Bosco Catholic School System. and Cedar Valley Catholic Schools on Sunday, April 6, at 2:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church in Gilbertville. This is a free event.
- **Catholic Daughters Court #1714 Upcoming Events** - Catholic Daughters Court #1714 Upcoming Events - March 22nd and March 23rd Domestic Abuse Prevention collection at St. A's, March 23rd CDA Bake Sale in conjunction with the KC breakfast in Jesup, April 22nd CDA Blood Drive at the American Legion 1-5:30 p.m., Monday April 28th CDA Banquet 6 p.m. in St. A's Lunchroom. Please RSVP Monica 415-5275 or Nancy Kies 415-8819 by April 11th. Speaker-Troy Belmer, Alive & Running, Suicide Prevention.
- **CDA National Scholarships** - National CDA is offering scholarships. Three Graduate Scholarships for an undergraduate who wants to pursue a graduate degree. Also two scholarships for an 8th grade student who will be attending a Catholic High School. All scholarships are due before April 1st. Application forms are available in the main entrance of St. Athanasius Church. If you have questions please contact Monica Bengston at 319-415-5275.

New Sanctuary Personnel List is now available at the entrance of the church.

Sanctuary Personnel - March 29th - 30th

	5:00 pm - St. Athanasius	8:30 am - St. Athanasius	10:30 am - St. Francis	Folding Bulletins
Greeters (Main, West & East)	Kurt & LouAnn Frush	Jon & Kim Fettkether Kelly & Amy Peyton Jim & Annette Ingles	Volunteer	JoAnn Seliger Kitty Kaiser
Servers & Cross Bearer	Nate, Julia & Maria Zuck	Toby Franz, JD Schmitz Hayden Schmitz	Steffen's	
Music & Cantor	Monica Bengston Todd Rohlfen	Kraig Emick Ryan Weber		
Commentator Lector	Michelle Sweeney JoAnn Seliger	Tom Tempus Ann Tempus	Jeannine Zuck Byron Manternach	
Eucharistic Ministers & Dishwashers	Gerald & Sue O'Loughlin Netty Rohlfen	Dan & Mary Fox Michelle Corkery	Carol Steffen	
Ushers	Kevin & Denise McCombs Joe & Justin Rohlfen	Dennis Weber, Justin Weber Frank Weber & Michael Weber	Mike Smith Russ Zuck	
To Shut In's (Sunday) Collections (Monday)	Judee Alexander, Mary Jean Bloes & Sue O'Loughlin Karen Weber & Karen Emick		Count Collection: Byron Manternach	

Dear Padre,

May I receive Communion if I'm divorced and haven't gotten an annulment?

Yes, you may. Divorce, in itself, is not an impediment to the reception of Communion. Divorce, although regrettable because of the many ramifications that may be part of the experience, is not in itself a sin. There are situations when divorce may be the most loving choice and make it possible for all parties involved to live the lives God is calling them to live.

Remarriage, when a person is not free to marry because of the presence of a previous bond, is an impediment to the reception of holy Communion. Although this situation is more and more common, it does not mean that the law of the Church, representative of the teaching of Jesus, can be set aside. As part of the process of healing from your divorce and moving on with your life, you may want to seek an annulment, particularly if you think you might want to marry again. The annulment process can often be healing and a source of great blessing. It also provides a rare opportunity to reflect on what was lost as a result of the original divorce and what can be learned as a way of moving forward and building a second marriage that is strong and life-giving.



STEVE LOVEGROVE / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
March 24	March 25	March 26	March 27	March 28	March 29	March 30
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>The</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>
2 Kgs 5:1-15b Lk 4:24-30	<i>Annunciation of the Lord</i> Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38	Dt 4:1, 5-9 Mt 5:17-19	Jer 7:23-28 Lk 11:14-23	Hos 14:2-10 Mk 12:28-34	Hos 6:1-6 Lk 18:9-14	Jos 5:9a, 10-12 2 Cor 5:17-21 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32



VATICAN MEDIA

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

I like to think that a nice name for God could be “the God of another possibility”.... [God] does not look at the achievements you have not yet reached, but the fruits you can still bear. He does not keep track of your shortcomings but encourages your potential. He does not dwell on your past, but confidently bets on your future.

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 20, 2022