Dear Padre,

MARIANA C. / CATHOPIC

I am in my third year of sobriety. Can I still become a eucharistic minister if I do not partake in Christ's blood?

Yes. Your personal sobriety practice has nothing to do with your eligibility for service as a minister of the Eucharist. Some would even argue that your commitment to sobriety is a powerful witness of your commitment to living a responsible and mature Catholic life. Instead of an obstacle to ministry, it is a shining example and witness of the power of God's grace at work in your life.

Practically, since ministers of the Cup are often required to consume any remaining Precious Blood after holy Communion is distributed, it might be a good personal practice to make sure there are enough ministers present to perform this necessary step in ablution. If everyone is informed in advance, it contributes to the shared sense of reverence and respect that is required of a eucharistic minister. ●

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.***

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

We live immersed in a culture of speed, immediacy, and haste—a culture of "discard" and indifference that prevents us from pausing along the way and drawing near to acknowledge the needs and suffering that surround us. In the parable, when the Samaritan saw the wounded man, he did not "pass by." Instead, he looked upon him with an open and attentive gaze—the very gaze of Jesus.

MESSAGE ON WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, ROME, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

ANDREY_POPOV / SHUTTERSTOCK

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Monday
August 10
St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr
2 Cor 9:6–10
Jn 12:24–26

Tuesday
August 11
St. Clare, Virgin
Ez 2:8—3:4
Mt 18:1–5, 10, 12–14

Wednesday
August 12
Weekday
Ez 9:1–7; 10:18–22
Mt 18:15–20

Thursday
August 13
Weekday
Ez 12:1–12
Mt 18:21—19:1

Friday
August 14
St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr
Ez 16:1–15, 60, 63 or 16:59–63
Mt 19:3–12

Saturday
August 15
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab
1 Cor 15:20–27
Lk 1:39–56

Sunday
August 16
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 56:1, 6–7
Rom 11:13–15, 29–32
Mt 15:21–28

Liguori PUBLICATIONS
A Redemptorist Ministry

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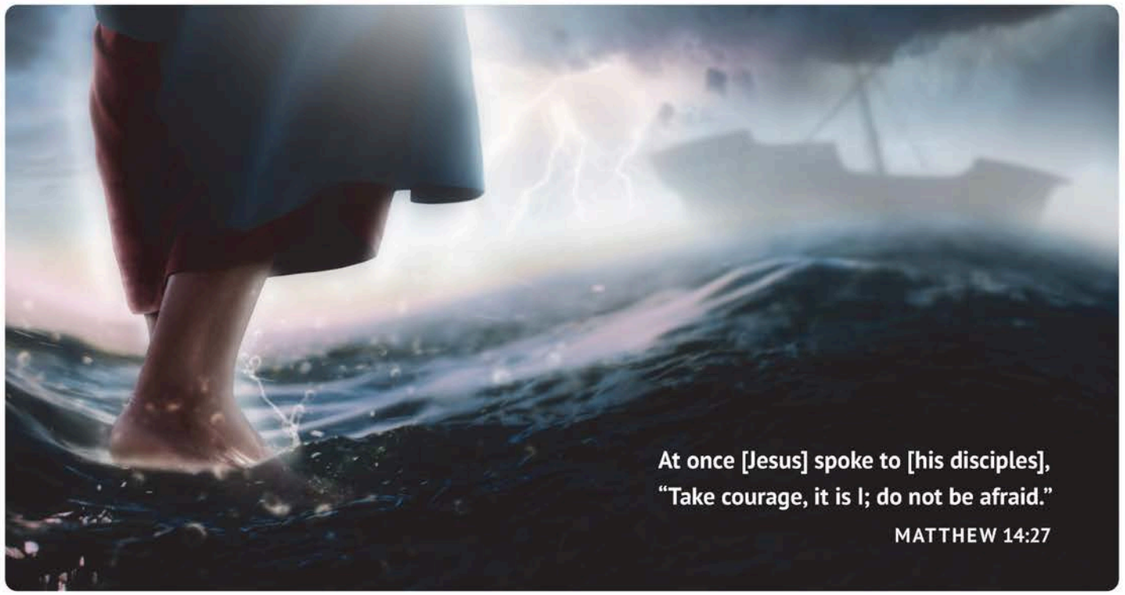
August 9, 2026
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
1 Kings 19:9a, 11–13a / Romans 9:1–5 / Matthew 14:22–33



At once [Jesus] spoke to [his disciples], "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."
MATTHEW 14:27

One for All

MIGUEL DULICK

In the first reading, Elijah is ready for anything—a whirlwind, an earthquake, a fire—because "the Lord will pass by" (1 Kings 19:11). But God comes tiptoeing, with a tiny whisper. Elijah, a giant of a prophet, covers his face like a child and wraps himself in the word of the Lord. Ordinarily, at this point, a homily would move on to the gospel. But in the second reading, from Romans, we are brought up short. Paul, a giant himself, would love a reassuring whisper from God. He is in utter agony, for the doubtful salvation of "my own brothers," the Jews. Such is his distress that he wishes he could offer himself in exchange, even to the extent of being "accursed and separated from Christ" (literally, "anathema") for "my kin." (See Romans 9:3.) His anguish is heartbreaking, especially since it seems to be a prayer he has repeated over and over. Paul was no doubt thinking of Moses, who dramatically offered his own life to save the Israelites from God's judgment after the golden calf: "[Lord,] if you would only forgive their sin! But if you will not, then blot me out of the book that you have written" (Exodus 32:32). Paul's faith told him that Christ had opened the door of salvation to everyone, and even rejection by the chosen people could not close it. In fact, it confirmed its universal promise. A paradox perhaps, much like when Jesus walked on water, as we hear about in today's gospel. ●

LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF *OUR PARISH COMMUNITY*

Reflect

Is there a situation that is causing you anguish? Do you believe God hears you?

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Welcome to St. Athanasius Catholic Church!

Whether you are a longtime parishioner, visiting family or friends, or joining us for the first time, we are blessed by your presence. We warmly welcome all who come to pray, worship, and grow in faith with us. May you find peace, hope, and the love of Christ here.

Saint Athanasius Parish

Fr. David Beckman, Pastor
d.beckman@dbqarch.org

Fr. Jeffrey Frieden
j.frieden@dbqarch.org

Fr. Douglas Loecke
dbqcmt1@dbqarch.org

Avery Youngblut, Parish Office Secretary
dbq109sec@dbqarch.org

Lori Schutte, Director of Faith Formation
l.schutte@dbqarch.org

623 Stevens St. (PO Box 316), Jesup, IA 50648
Parish Office: 319-827-6682
Parish Office Hours: M-F, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

saintaparish.com

Independence Area Pastorate Mass Times & Intentions

August 10th through August 16th 2026

We invite you to worship with us at any of our pastorate parish locations.

St. Mary of Mt. Carmel, Eagle Center
Wed. (12) 8:00 am Loren Stiemel

Immaculate Conception, Fairbank
Wed. (12) 8:00 am Norbert & Loyola Kleitsch

Immaculate Conception, Gilbertville
Mon. (10) 7:45 am Fr. Gossman's Intention
Fri. (14) 7:45 am Alvin Schares
Sat. (15) 1:00 pm Wedding of Kendall Becker & Madison Boldt
Sat. (15) 4:00 pm L/D Members of DB Class of 1966
Sun. (16) 8:00 am Marv & Nancy Schares
Sun. (16) 10:00 am People of the Pastorate

St. Joseph, Raymond
Tues. (11) 5:30 pm L/D Members of the Gerald & Rosemary Delagardelle Family

St. Athanasius, Jesup
Tues. (11) 8:00 am Nick Weber
Thurs. (13) 8:00 am
Fri. (14) 9:00 am (Winding Creek)
Sat. (15) 6:00 pm John Woods
Sun. (16) 8:00 am Becker & Fischels Families

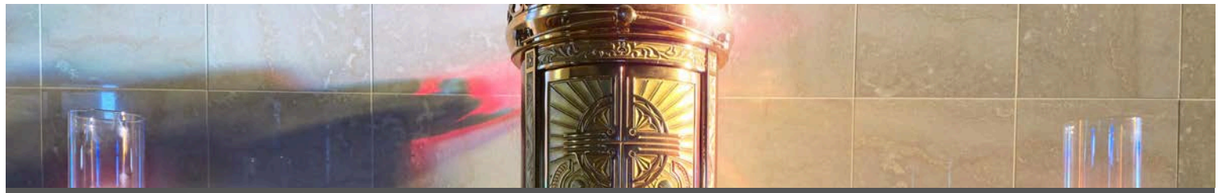
St. John Parish, Independence
Tues. (11) 9:30 am Msgr. Dean Walz (BCHC)
Thurs. (13) 8:00 am Joe, Helen & Fuzzy O'Loughlin
Sat. (15) 4:00 pm Sally McGraw
Sun. (16) 10:00 am Don & Ruth Hearn

Sacred Heart, LaPorte City
Thurs. (13) 12 pm Wayne Rosauer

St. Patrick Parish, Winthrop
Mon. (10) 4:30 pm Julie Madison Corkery
Fri. (14) 8:00 am Craney Family

St. Francis, Barclay
Wed. (12) 8:00 am

Rotating Monthly Mass Schedules
Tuesday – 9:30 am Inde Care Centers
1st Tuesday – Oak View
2nd Tuesday – BCHC - Lexington Estates
3rd Tuesday – Prairie Hills
4th Tuesday – ABCM West Village
5th Tuesday - No Mass
Friday – 9:00 am – Jesup Care Center
2nd & 4th Friday – Winding Creek Meadows
5th Friday - No Mass



St. Athanasius Sanctuary Personnel - August 15th & 16th

Saturday, 6:00 pm

Greeters- Joe & Natalie Rohlfsen **Servers & Cross Bearer-** Kale Harold, Lauren Drees **Music & Cantor-** Kraig Emick Amy Peyton **Commentator-** JoAnn Seliger **Lector-** Mark Becker **Eucharistic Ministers & Dishwashers*-** Sandy Even, Ian Farrell, Kurt & LouAnn Frush*, Teresa Knebel **Ushers & Counters*-** Mike & Charlie Sweeney, Ricky Weber*, Don Kass* **Gifts-** Mike & Michelle Sweeney* **Sacristan-** Dick & Jeanette Kester

Sunday, 8:00 am

Greeters- Chris & Laura Weber, Jim & Darlene Philips, Lee & Deb Bader **Servers & Cross Bearer-** Wyatt Fettkether Elias & Toby Franz **Music & Cantor-** Brett Hershberger, Kim Fettkether **Commentator-** Dan Fox **Lector-** Annette Ingles **Eucharistic Ministers & Dishwashers*-** Linda Youngblut, Tom & Connie Youngblut*, Ashlyn Ackerman, Dorthea Bovy **Ushers & Counters*-** Mike Reiter*, Tom Tempus*, Bob Thoma, Denis Weber **Gifts-** Adam & Mary Peterson* **Shut In's-** Thres Sadler, Mary Jean Bloes, Mark Kies **Folding Bulletins on Friday-** Bernard & Connie Kremer **Collections on Monday-** Cindy White & Annette Ingles

Unable to Serve?

If you are unable to fulfill your scheduled ministry, please arrange for a substitute. A list of available substitutes can be found on our parish website under Sanctuary Personnel. Thank you for your commitment and service to our parish community.

Reconciliation

- St. Athanasius: Saturdays from 5:00–5:45 p.m., before the 6:00 p.m. Mass.
- Weekdays: Before or after weekday Masses, or by appointment. To schedule a time, please contact the parish office at 319-827-6682.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a beautiful gift of God's mercy, offering forgiveness, healing, and grace. Through Confession, we acknowledge our sins, experience Christ's loving mercy, and are restored in our relationship with God and His Church.

Regular participation in Reconciliation strengthens our faith, helps us grow in holiness, and prepares our hearts to receive Jesus more fully in the Holy Eucharist. No matter how long it has been, Christ is always ready to welcome us with love and forgiveness.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
— 1 John 1:9

Sacraments

Baptism: New parents need to participate in a preparation session. Please contact the Parish Office to schedule a Baptism at dbq109sec@dbqarch.org or 319-827-6682.

Marriage: Preparations take at least six months.
Contact the Parish office for more information 319-827-6682.

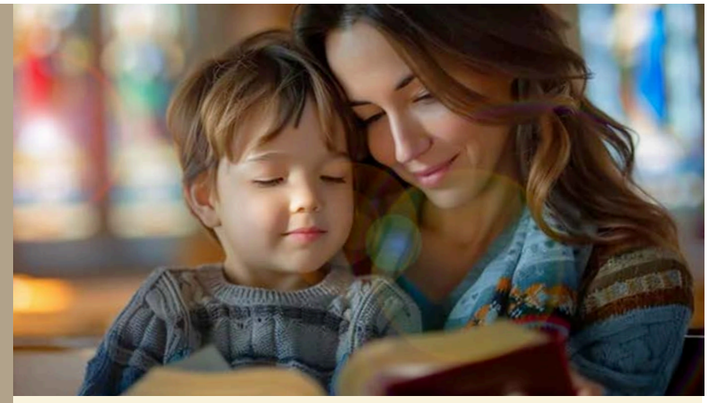
Becoming Catholic/OCIA: Order of **C**hristian **I**nitiation for **A**dults.
If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic please reach out to Lori Schutte l.schutte@dbqarch.org.

Anointing of the Sick: If you or a loved one are homebound, in hospice or admitted to the hospital and need to reach Fr. Beckman, please call 319-827-6682.

Growing in Faith Together

One of the greatest gifts we can give our children is a strong foundation of faith.

While learning begins at home, the parish community plays an essential role in helping children grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.



Regular participation at Mass teaches children that worship is an important part of everyday life. As they pray, listen to God's Word, and celebrate the Eucharist alongside family and fellow parishioners, they come to understand that they are valued members of the Body of Christ. These experiences help shape their values, strengthen their character, and provide a lifelong foundation rooted in faith.

Beyond Sunday Mass, involvement in parish life allows children to discover and develop the gifts God has given them. Whether serving as altar servers, participating in youth faith formation, singing in the choir, volunteering at parish events, or attending parish activities, children build friendships, learn the importance of service, and experience the joy of belonging to a faith-filled community.

A vibrant parish is one where children are welcomed, encouraged, and actively engaged. Their presence brings energy, hope, and new life to our community, while their participation helps ensure the future of our Church for generations to come. Parents are the first and most important teachers of the faith. By making Sunday Mass a priority and encouraging participation in parish activities, families help their children develop a personal relationship with Christ and a lasting connection to their parish family.

Together, let us continue to nurture the faith of our young people, encouraging them to grow as disciples of Christ and to use their God-given gifts in service to others. The investment we make in our children today helps build a stronger Church for tomorrow.

From the PEW

Connecting everyday life with the Catholic faith.

Finding Peace in a Busy World

Life rarely slows down. Between work, family, school, and daily responsibilities, it can feel like we are always moving from one thing to the next. Yet each weekend at St. Athanasius, we are invited to step away from the noise and spend time in the presence of God. As we enter the church, make the Sign of the Cross, and settle into our pew, we are reminded that we are not alone.

Through the Scriptures, prayers, music, and the Holy Eucharist, Jesus meets us where we are and strengthens us for the week ahead. Peace does not mean life is without challenges. It means knowing that God walks with us through every joy, struggle, and uncertainty. Whether we come with gratitude, a heavy heart, or simply a desire to reconnect with Him, Christ welcomes us at the altar. Our parish family is made up of people from every stage of life. Together, we support one another through prayer, kindness, and our shared faith.

As you come to Mass this weekend, take a few quiet moments to pray, give thanks, and place your worries before the Lord. May we continue to make St. Athanasius a place where faith is lived, hope is shared, and everyone is welcomed.

St. Athanasius Parish News & Events

Knights of Columbus Meeting

Our next Knights of Columbus meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 26, at Jesup City Hall.

The evening will begin with a social at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will include ribs, potatoes, vegetables, and a roll. Please RSVP by Monday, August 24, at 12:00 noon by emailing bhershberger1984@gmail.com or by texting 319-327-3185 so we can plan for the meal.

We look forward to an evening of fellowship and hope to see you there!

VBS Registration Is Now OPEN!

Get ready for an exciting week of faith, fun, and friendship at Vacation Bible School in the Park!

August 9–13 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Children 4 years old through those entering 4th grade are invited to join us for an unforgettable week of Bible stories, games, music, crafts, and more! **Best of all, it's FREE!**

Don't wait spots fill quickly! Use the registration link or scan the code and sign your child up today. vbspro.events/p/79b4c0

Seeds of a Lifelong Relationship

On your wedding day, you lovingly planted the seeds of a lifelong relationship. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will give you the “gardening tools” you need to help your marriage grow and blossom.

For information call Denise and Greg - 563-920-9419 or register at wwme.org. Upcoming dates are October 9-11, 2026 in Epworth and February 12-14, 2027 in Dubuque.

Free Swim August 9th

The Catholic Order of Foresters youth members, their family & friends can swim free at the La Porte Aquatic Center on Sunday August 9 from 6 pm to 8 pm. This is a private pool party. You can bring in your own food & drinks. There will be life guards on duty. Any questions call Donna Delagardelle at 319 239-9945.

Early Bird Raffle Reminder

All members are invited to attend the next Catholic Daughters Court #1714 Meeting on Monday, August 10, at 6:00 pm in the St. Athanasius Parish Center.

Please remember to bring your raffle tickets for the Early Bird Drawing and pick up your new program book at St. Athanasius Church. We look forward to seeing you there!

Grief Support Group

Eight week series beginning September 14th, 2026 from 4:00 - 5:30 pm at the Catholic Charities Waterloo Regional Office, 3835 W. 9th St., Waterloo, Iowa. While the group is provided at no charge, registration is required. Please call 319-340-4309 or email j.klesel@dbqarch.org for more information.

Facilitated by Julianne Klesel, LISW, Catholic Charities Therapist with more than 25 years of experience working in the mental health field. We look forward to your participation.

Catholic Order of Foresters

The COF regular monthly meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 12th at St. Mary Center, Gilbertville.

Talent Search

The BCSS Choir is looking for a Piano Accompanist!
We're looking for a talented pianist to join our choir program and work alongside our students throughout the school year.

The role would accompany occasional choir classes during the school day and play for concerts and competitions. If you are interested or know someone who would be a great fit, contact Mrs. Nichole Knepper at nknepper@boscocatholic.org.

Booster Club Golf Outing

Join us for the annual Bosco Catholic Booster Club Golf Outing. Register your team today!

Scan the QR Code or visit www.boscocatholic.org/golf for info.

Bulletin Submission Deadline

All bulletin announcements and submissions are due by **12 p.m. each Tuesday**, unless otherwise noted. Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and support.

Prayers for Healing and Strength

Heavenly Father, we place those who are ill into Your loving care. Grant them strength, comfort, and healing according to Your will. Fill them with Your peace and help us to trust always in Your unfailing love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Roxanne Blankenship, Tammy DeWald, Deb Ehr

Dale Kies, Joyce Lukes, Dick Mangrich, Craig Maurer

Dale Nation, Margaret Steffen, Chuck Tempus

*If you have someone in the hospital, please contact the office at **319-827-6682** and we will contact a priest for you.*

Mass Intentions Reminder

As we continue Journey In Faith, there are a few important reminders regarding Mass intentions. During this six-month interim period, Mass intentions may only be scheduled for dates between July 15, 2026, and January 15, 2027.

The offering for each Mass intention is now $10 (additional gifts are always welcome), and payment is requested at the time the intention is scheduled. To allow as many parishioners as possible the opportunity to remember their loved ones, each household may schedule 3–4 Mass intentions during this period. Intentions may be offered for an individual, a family, or two individuals together, but only one Mass intention may be scheduled for each Mass.

To schedule a Mass intention, please stop by St. John's Church in Independence or contact Polly at 319-334-7191or p.barreto@dbqarch.org. Having a few preferred dates in mind is helpful, as some dates may already be reserved. Requests may also be placed in your parish collection basket in an envelope marked "Mass Intentions", along with your name and phone number, or mailed to St. John's Church, Attn: Polly, 209 5th Ave. NE, Independence, IA 50644.

PICNIC

Winding Creek Meadows
A Western Home Community

You're Invited to the Winding Creek Picnic!

Join us as we celebrate with our residents and families on Wednesday, August 12, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for an evening of fun, fellowship, and community. Enjoy great food, games, and entertainment for all ages.

Please call 319-222-2049 if you plan to attend so we can prepare accordingly. We look forward to sharing a wonderful evening together.

Third-Annual Rural Life Mass

Plan to attend the third-annual Rural Life Mass on Friday, September 18th on the Lichty Family Farm located at 8110 Ansborough Ave. Waterloo, IA.

Archbishop Zinkula will celebrate this Mass to recognize the many people who work the land and live in our rural communities. Mass begins at 10:30 am, with a free-will lunch to follow.

Learn more here: https://dbqarch.org/rural-life Limited seating available, please bring lawn chairs. All are welcome to attend!

St. Athanasius School News & Events

Iowa Families Continue to Choose ESA's

IOWA ALLIANCE
FOR CHOICE IN EDUCATION

More Iowa families than ever are taking advantage of the Students First Education Savings Account (ESA) program. Participation increased from 27,866 students during the 2024–2025 school year to 41,044 students in 2025–2026, an impressive 47% increase in just one year. This remarkable growth reflects the confidence Iowa families have in choosing the educational environment that best meets their children's needs. At St. Athanasius Catholic School, the ESA program has made a Catholic education more affordable and accessible for many families. Combined with our commitment to academic excellence, faith formation, and individualized student support, the ESA allows families to invest in an education rooted in both strong academics and Christian values.

If you're considering a Catholic education for your child or would like to learn more about how the Students First ESAprogram can help make it possible, we invite you to contact our school office. We'd be happy to answer your questions, explain eligibility, and guide you through the application process. To learn more, contact St. Athanasius Catholic School at 319-827-1314. We look forward to helping your family discover the opportunities available through Iowa's Education Savings Account program.

Get the Insights You Need

Learn how schools are rethinking support for students with disabilities and learning differences. Explore fresh perspectives on ADHD, inclusion, accommodations, and IDEA, along with strategies for creating more equitable, student-centered classrooms. edweek.org/products/spotlight

INVEST IN THEIR FUTURE.

At St. Athanasius Catholic School, education is an investment in faith, character, and lifelong success.

We are excited to announce the ISave529 Scholarship Program for St. Athanasius families. Eligible students enrolled in Pre-K through 8th grade who complete the school year can receive annual scholarship contributions ranging from

$1,000 to $2,000

through the program, helping families invest in their child's future while supporting their Catholic education.

With openings available in all grade levels, now is a great time to enroll and take advantage of these valuable opportunities to make Catholic education more affordable and accessible.

Contact the main office at 319-827-1314 or scan the code to learn more.

ISave529
ST. ATHANASIUS
ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP
FAITH • EDUCATION • FUTURE

Immaculate Conception
COMMUNITY

IC Parish Center

Therese Steggall | IC Secretary/Bookkeeper
icfairbank@gmail.com | 319-635-2211

Office Hours | Monday - Thursday 9 am - 12 pm

Mailing Address | P O BOX 505 Fairbank, IA 50629

Website | icfairbank.weebly.com

Kim Weepie | DRE & Youth Ministry
kim.weepie@gmail.com | 319-240-5912

DRE Office
Located in the Parish Center at 405 Fairbank St
Mailing Address | P O Box 505, Fairbank, IA 50629

Parish Services

Communion To Our Sick Or Homebound Ministry – Contact Glenda Kane at 563-920-2678.

IC Parish Prayer Chain Hotline – Please contact Vivian Rourke at 319-238-3225 (V) or 319-238-2083 (M).

IC Cemetery – Please contact the parish office.

Funeral Dinners: Group #3 Sept, Oct, Nov & Dec. We provide desserts & serve a catered meal.

Mass Intentions -

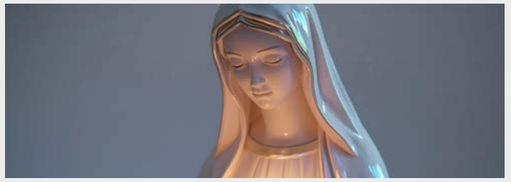
Please contact the office at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Independence for scheduling details. p.barreto@dbqarch.org or 319-334-7191. Checks can be mailed to St. John's Church to ATTN: Polly, 209 5th Ave. NE. Independence, IA. 50644.

Welcome!

Join us for weekday Mass at Immaculate Conception Church. All are welcome as we gather to celebrate the Eucharist and grow in faith together.

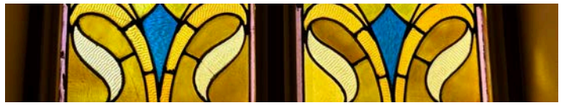
Mass Times & Intentions

Wed. (12) 8:00 am Norbert & Loyola Kleitsch



We Lift You in Prayer

Helen Hoefer, Rick VanDaele, Denise Tobey
Diana Snyder, Rose Kalb, Charlie Corey
Marisa Davidson, Marci Willey, Delphine Marrah
Michael McDonough, Carma Schmidtke, Dave Chase
Krayton Zimmerman, Bob Frame, Karyn Beenken
Glenda Brandt, Dick Snyder
Lindsey Ernst, Pat Vinson, Ron Babinat
Virginia Joyce Cunningham, Ted Vorwald



Heavenly Father, bless all who generously support our parish. May their kindness be returned with Your abundant grace, peace, and blessings as together we build Your Church. Amen.

August Money Counters:
Tom Kleitsch & Jean Sauerbrei

Thank you for your continued support!

Immaculate Conception
Community Events, Announcements & Celebrations

Mark Your Calendars

Tues., Aug. 11 Bible Talk at 7:30 pm

Aug. 13 - Parish Life Meeting 9:30 am

Tues., Aug. 13 - KC Meeting at Costa's in Fairbank 7:00 pm

Tues., Aug. 13 - Fatima Rosary- Mary's Garden 7:00 pm

Wed., Aug. 19 - Potluck at IC Parish Hall, Fairbank 11:30 am

Celebrating Milestone Birthdays

Join us as we celebrate the wonderful parishioners in our community who are celebrating 80 years of life and beyond. We give thanks for their faith, wisdom, and the many blessings they have shared with our parish family throughout the years. Happy birthday wishes to Joe Rubino, Dorothy A. Duffy, Jan Vorwald, and Jean Galleger.

Bible Talk

Bible Talk will start on Tuesday August 11, 7:30, at the IC Parish Center in Fairbank. Be Bold, Be Catholic. How is God working in your life? Come and share your faith, grow more in your faith or just listen. Everyone is welcome. Oct will begin a new bible study. Please watch for further details.

Golden Anniversary Celebrations

Join us as we honor the couples in our parish who are celebrating 50 years of marriage and beyond. Happy Anniversary to Phillip & Anita Destival, Terry & Janet McGrane and Carl & Marilyn Rechkemmer.

Healing Prayers to the Sutherland Family

Bob Sutherland has been diagnosed with cancer in two locations and is currently undergoing chemotherapy treatments before bladder and prostate surgery. During this time, Bob will be unable to work, creating additional challenges with medical expenses, lost income, travel, and daily living costs. If you are able, please consider a donation to help support Bob and his family. Donations may be sent to Fairbank United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 425, Fairbank, IA 50629, or through GoFundMe/Bob Sutherland. Please keep Bob and his family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Your prayers, kindness, and support are greatly appreciated.

LET YOUR TALENTS SING!

Find your voice at St. Athanasius by sharing your time and talents through our Sanctuary Personnel ministries. Serving is a meaningful way to connect with fellow parishioners, strengthen our faith community, and help create a welcoming worship experience for all.

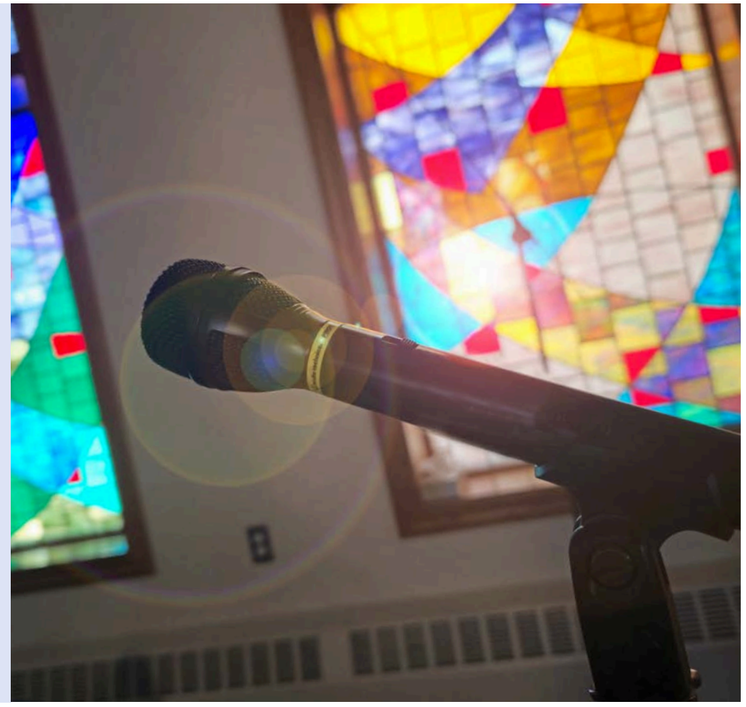
Whether through music, greeting, ushering, lectoring, Eucharistic ministry, or other areas of service, there is a place for you. Join our parish family and experience the joy of serving others.

GET INVOLVED TODAY!

Contact the Parish Office now to learn more about how to sign up.

319-827-6682 or
dbq109sec@dbqarch.org

Follow Us



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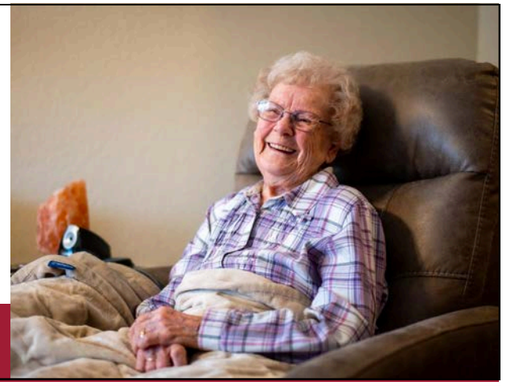

Director of Evangelization and Director of Operations

The Director of Evangelization and Director of Operations will be key leadership positions at the pastorate level moving forward. Each pastorate will hire a Director of Evangelization and a Director of Operations between September 2026 and January 2027. The Director of Evangelization will help lead the pastorate's mission of evangelization and forming disciples, while the Director of Operations will oversee the administrative and operational functions that support that mission. What can you do? Pray and discern.

Please pray for the success of the hiring process and discern if you or someone you know is called to serve in one of these important leadership roles. Both positions report directly to the pastor and require vision, initiative, and a commitment to our Catholic mission, with strong experience in supervision and leadership. More information, including job descriptions, will be shared in the coming months.

"Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." (Matthew 14:27)

In the midst of uncertainty and challenge, Jesus calls us to trust in His presence. Vocations invite us to step out in faith, whether to priesthood, consecrated life, or sacramental marriage, placing our lives in His hands and allowing Him to guide us.

How is He calling you? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at dbqcvo@dbqarch.org.

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