

SACRED HEART

**“BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY
OF SACRED HEART: LOVE,
PRAYER & SERVICE”**



PASTOR SPEAKS

March 15, 2026

Sacred Heart Office Hours

Mon., Wed., Fri.

10:00am-11:00am

Phone: 319-320-5003

St. John the Baptist (Mt. Vernon)

Office Hours:

Tues.: 8:00am-5:00pm, Fri.: 7:00am-3:30pm

Phone: 319-895-6246

St. Isidore (Springville) Office Hours:

Wed. & Thurs.: 10:00am-3:00pm

Phone: 319-854-6141

Pastor:

Rev. Andrew Awotwe-Mensah:

DBQ137@dbqarch.org

Deacon:

Mark Sandersfeld

dbq137d@dbqarch.org

Administrative Assistant:

Wendy Swan: dbq155sec@dbqarch.org

Phone: 319-320-5003

Bookkeeper:

Sue Zeller: dbq155bk@dbqarch.org

Parish Council Chairperson:

Jon Eganhouse: egnhws@netins.net

Finance Council Chairperson:

Brett Moorman: bdmooman@gmail.com

309 Church Street • PO Box 98

Oxford Junction, IA 52323

Mass Schedule: 10:30am Sunday

www.sacredheartoj.org

4th Sunday of Lent

Ladies of the Sacred Heart:

Mary Ann Mostaert:

mamostaert@gmail.com

Director of Religious Education:

Stacey Moorman

dbq155re@dbqarch.org

Music Ministry Leaders:

Carmie Nowachek:

nowachekfarms@hotmail.com

Karen Bachman: wlbach@netins.net

Website & Facebook Administrator:

Colleen Coon: collcoon@gmail.com

Parish Council Members:

Monte Ahrendsen

Jon Eganhouse

Abby Inglis

Amber Fall

Colleen Coon

Julie Ahrendsen

Glenda Leeper

Finance Council Members:

Donna Schewe

Brett Moorman

Ron Nowachek

Kris Leeper

Mark Denniston

Fourth Sunday of Lent: Seeing Prayer, Fasting, Charity in the Light of Christ

We have gone through three weeks of Lent. As today marks the fourth Sunday of Lent, Lent is hastening to an end to culminate in the Triduum. The question each of us may want to ask himself/herself is, how far are the Lenten season and practices transforming you or supporting your growth.

Saint Peter Chrysologus, in one of his sermons that appeared in the Office of the Hours readings earlier this week, reminds us that prayer, fasting, and mercy/charity belong together. And together, they reflect the spirit of Lent. According to him, prayer knocks on the door, fasting obtains what we seek, and charity receives. He added that these three virtues sustain faith, strengthen devotion, and help virtue endure.

Understandably so, Lent is not simply a season for private sacrifice; it is a time that calls us to turn to God with a humble heart in prayer and to discipline ourselves through fasting, and to let mercy or charity flow from us toward others. Without mercy, fasting dries up; without prayer, fasting loses its soul, the saint observes.

This message fits beautifully with this Sunday's readings. In the first reading, Samuel is taught not to judge by appearance, because God looks into the heart. Lent invites us to let God search our hearts and find us as people who are aware of our brokenness and approach Him with humbled spirit.

Saint Paul also tells us in Ephesians that we were once darkness, but now we are light in the Lord, and we must live as children of light. Prayer, fasting, and mercy again help expose what is hidden in us so that Christ's light can heal and transform us.

The Gospel of the man born blind shows what happens when Christ's light enters human darkness. Jesus does not merely restore physical sight; He leads the man to faith, worship, and new life. Meanwhile, those who think they see remain spiritually blind. Lent asks each of us: am I willing to be healed by Christ, or do I cling to pride and self-certainty? Prayer opens our eyes, fasting humbles our desires, and mercy turns our healed hearts outward toward others.

So, this Fourth Sunday of Lent calls us to walk in the light by joining prayer, fasting, and mercy. If we want God to hear our prayer, we must hear the cry of others. If we want Christ to heal our blindness, we must let His light expose our hearts. And if we want Lent to bear fruit, mercy must water all that we do.

Happy Fourth Week of Lent.

News

“Bible in a Year” Bible study group will meet on Wednesday, March 18th at 6:15pm in the church library.

Sacred Heart OJ will have Stations of the Cross and Mass lasting about 1 hour, 6:00pm every Friday evening of Lent up until Psalm Sunday.

The Spring Kolache bake day will be March 20th and 21st, 2026. Please help out with your time and/or donations to help support this fundraising effort. Donations can be put in the Ladies Guild Box in the hallway, as well as the sign up sheets to help out. Orders must be in by March 13th

Providing Help & Creating Hope: Did you know that Catholic Charities is the largest provider of social services in the United States, second only to the federal government? There are approximately 160 Catholic Charities agencies across the United States, all working independently to reduce poverty and help the most poor and vulnerable among us. Your local Catholic Charities agency offers life-changing ministries throughout the Archdiocese of Dubuque, including Mental Health Counseling, Affordable Housing, Immigration Legal Services, Jail & Prison Reentry Services, Case Management, and Crisis Pregnancy Counseling. Learn more about these services at www.CatholicCharitiesDubuque.org.

In Faith ACH Sign Up

As part of our Journey In Faith, we invite parishioners to strongly consider electronic offertory giving via ACH/EFT. This secure, reliable, and widely used giving method ensures your generosity reaches your parish as intended. It provides a way to give consistently and intentionally for you, and it reduces administration costs and increases stability for your parish. As we move toward pastorates and greater collaboration among parishes, accurate financial data will be extremely important. Giving electronically will help ensure your offertory gift is properly credited and directed as you intend. For parishioners, it offers peace of mind and convenience. For the parish, it reduces administrative burden and uncertainty. Transitioning parishioners to ACH/EFT giving will help parishes make a smooth and responsible transition into the future. Contact Wendy at the office or Sue Zeller, our bookkeeper, to learn more or set up your giving schedule.

WEEKLY OFFERING

Collection for March 8, 2026	
Envelope	\$ 740.00
Offertory	31.00
Candles	14.00
Total	\$785.00

Baptism Information

If you wish to have your child baptized, please contact Wendy Swan at (319) 320-5003 or e-mail dbq155sec@dbqarch.org to get the process started.

Please have all bulletin submissions to Wendy Swan by Wednesday PM

Daily Readings for the Week of March 15, 2026

- Mar 15: 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13/ Psalms 23:1-6/ Ephesians 5:8-14/ John 9:1-41
- Mar 16: Isaiah 65:17-21/ Psalms 30:2, 4-6, 11-13/ John 4:43-54
- Mar 17: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12/ Psalms 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/ John 5:1-16
- Mar 18: Isaiah 49:8-15/ Psalms 145:8-9, 13-14, 17-18/ John 5:17-30
- Mar 19: 2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16/ Psalms 89:2-5, 27, 29/ Romans 4:13,16-18, 22/ Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24
- Mar 20: Wisdom 2:1, 12-22/ Psalms 34:17-21, 23/ John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- Mar 21: Jeremiah 11:18-20/ Psalms 7:2-3, 9-12/ John 7:40-53

Liturgical Ministries

Schedule for March 15, 2026

- Lector: Oliver
- Greeters/Gifts: J. Ahrendsen Family
- Servers: Kevin
- Money Counters: Sharon/Mary
- Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: Rick/Margo

Schedule for March 22, 2026

- Lector: Mark
- Greeters/Gifts: Denniston Family
- Servers: Evie/Kevin
- Money Counters: Mark/Margo
- Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: Doris/Mark

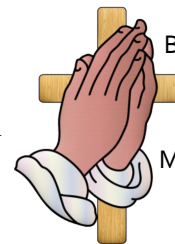
Today's Mass Intention

Deceased Members of Koppes and Schewe Families

Mass Intention March 22, 2026
Dolores Eganhouse

Priest Visit to the Homebound
If you are sick or homebound or know someone who is, and would like Fr. Andrew to visit and pray, contact the main office at 319-320-5003 or email Fr. Andrew at DBQ137@dbqarch.org.

PRAYER CORNER



- Betty Anderson, Karen Kleineck, Heather Scheiman, Bill Ihns, Mary Hansen, Marilyn Stevenson, Ed Schwerts, Gene Schwerts, Julie Ahrendsen, Carrie Leeper, Margaret Fowler, Larry Marek, Marsha Lasack, Phyllis Ludwig, Marvin Ludwig, Paul Rowan, Wendy Larive, Fr. Andrew