

## Daily Readings

### Week of July 23, 2023

Sunday, 7/23: Wisdom 12:13,16-19/ Ps 86:5-6, 9-10,16-19/ Romans 8:26-27/ Matthew 13:24-43

Monday, 7/24: Exodus 14:5-18/ Exodus 15:1-6/ Matthew 12:38-42

Tuesday, 7/25: 2Cor 4:7-15/ Ps 126:1-6/ Matthew 20:20-28

Wednesday, 7/26: Sirach 44:1, 10-15/ Ps 132:11,13-14,17-18/ Matthew 13:16-17

Thursday, 7/27: Exodus 19:1-2,9-11,16-20/ Daniel 3:52-56/ Matthew 13:10-17

Friday, 7/28: Exodus 20:1-17/ Ps 19:8-11/ Matthew 13:18-23

Saturday, 7/29: Exodus 24:3-8/ Ps 50:1-2,5-6,14-15/ John 11:19-27



**Liturgical Ministers**

### Schedule for July 30, 2023

Lector: Eli

Greeters/Gifts: Leeper Family

Servers: Kevin/Declan

Money Counters: Kris/Monte

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: Volunteers

### Today's Mass Intention

**Deloris 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](mailto:DBQ137@dbqarch.org).

### Prayer Corner

Betty Anderson, Rich Kleineck, Leonard Lasack,  
Marilyn Stevenson, Julie Ahrendsen, Jeramie Driver,  
Isaiah Leeper, Larry Merrick, Rosie Stephan,  
Fr. Andrew



# SACRED HEART

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

309 Church Street • PO Box 98

Oxford Junction, IA 52323

Mass Schedule: 10:30am Sunday

[www.sacredheartoj.org](http://www.sacredheartoj.org)



## July 23, 2023

## 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time

### 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](mailto:DBQ137@dbqarch.org)

### Administrative Assistant:

Wendy Swan: [dbq155sec@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbq155sec@dbqarch.org)

Phone: 319-320-5003

### Bookkeeper:

Sue Zeller: [dbq155bk@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbq155bk@dbqarch.org)

### Parish Council Chairperson:

### Finance Council Chairperson:

Kris Leeper: [kjlgl@hotmail.com](mailto:kjlgl@hotmail.com)

### Sanctuary Guild Chairperson:

Mary Ann Mostaert:

[mamostaert@gmail.com](mailto:mamostaert@gmail.com)

### Director of Religious Education:

Sarah Rissler:

[sarahrissler10@gmail.com](mailto:sarahrissler10@gmail.com)

### Music Ministry Leaders:

Carmie Nowachek:

[nowachekfarms@hotmail.com](mailto:nowachekfarms@hotmail.com)

Karen Bachman: [wlbach@netins.net](mailto:wlbach@netins.net)

### Website & Facebook Administrator:

Colleen Coon: [collcoon@gmail.com](mailto:collcoon@gmail.com)

### Parish Council Members:

Monte Ahrendsen

Jon Eganhouse

Mary Ann Mostaert

Abby Inglis

Amber Fall

Colleen Coon

Kristina Agnitsch

### Finance Council Members:

Donna Schewe

Brett Moorman

Ron Nowachek

## PASTOR SPEAKS

### 16th Sunday: *On Choosing God's Way*

This weekend, we continue with our study or reading of Matthew Chapter 13. We notice that the string of parable presentation continues. Jesus follows the parable of the sower, which we studied last weekend with three more agricultural images: the parable of good seeds in the field, the parable of the weeds, and the parable of the mustard seed; He then concludes with a fourth parable, that of the yeast.

It is the characteristics of great teachers to be mindful of their listeners and convey their message clearly to them in familiar language, metaphors, and examples. Such was the purpose and the contexts of Jesus' many parables. The risk for those of us who are secondary listeners of Jesus' teachings is that sometimes the parables themselves could appear confusing and distorting to our understanding of what Jesus intended for His listeners.

Think about it this way. Most of the time, we must enter into the biblical world of the time so we can figure the meaning of some things Jesus says. Take as an instance when Jesus said "It is easier for a camel to go through the *eye of a needle* than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God" (Matthew 19:24), or the report that John the Baptist ate "*locusts*" and wild honey in the Judean desert (Cf. Matthew 3:4).

It is only when entering the biblical world in which Jesus presented these teachings that we discover that the *eye of a needle* is actually a tunnel in Jerusalem, and *locusts* are fruits that grow in the desert. In this case the ambiguity is removed.

The point I am trying to make here is that following Jesus' teachings in order to apply it to our lives means that we must understand them. Many times, once we understand something, our appreciation of it becomes elevated, and the application of it to our lives becomes easier.

The effort required in understanding the Bible calls for some time investment; one must intend to know and understand the message of Jesus to make such investment.

But unless we enter into the biblical world, we won't grasp the depth of what the scriptures teach and pay attention to the lessons. It was Pope St. Gregory the Great (d. 604) who said that the more we learn and know the Bible, we become like an *elephant* and the less we study and understand it, we are like a *mouse* in the wilderness of scripture.

With that in mind, the various images employed in the gospel today reveal to us the complex reality of living in the world as Christians. Each of the images in the parables reveal some aspect of the Christian life and how delicate and valuable it must mean to us.

The salvation we have received from our baptism is described as *good seed* or *mustard seed* or *yeast*. What it means is that for our Christian life to grow, we are expected to protect and nourish it. Therefore, it is essential that we are aware of the "weeds" that may be growing alongside to prevent our true growth.

Thank you to all who participated last Sunday in our celebration of Fr. Juhl's 50th Anniversary in the priesthood. As most of you know, Fr. Juhl has been with us several times during the last few years, and he enjoys coming to visit us. We had great music, food and fellowship. We especially appreciate and thank the Guild members who headed up this celebration and those who helped them. Fr. Juhl was very appreciative and said he will be back sometime.



Community Vacation Bible School will be on July 25th, 26th and 27th from 6-7:30 each evening at Sacred Heart Church with a short ending program on July 27th at 7:30 pm. Pre-K-4-6th Grade are welcome. Sponsored by St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Oxford Junction United Methodist Church and Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

It's time to get kids signed up for CCD for 2023-2024! Please sign up your child through this link. Check the church Facebook for a clickable link or email Sarah to be sent the clickable link via email or <https://forms.gle/7HXMBFpDt3TzsHWD8> We also need teachers - Please contact Sarah to sign up to teach or inquire about teaching. It takes a village!

The Sacred Heart Church Dinner is approaching fast. Please mark your calendars for September 17th. We need all of our church family to help in various ways!!!

It's not too soon to be thinking about silent auction items to donate the Fall dinner. People love to bid on great gift baskets at the silent auction. Here are some great ideas that Shari Crockett suggests: Holiday Basket, Fall Basket, Beauty Basket, Favorite Team Basket and so many more. Team up with a friend to create a basket. Be creative and have fun with it!!

Please, if you have been stuck with a job at the fall dinner that you do not like, talk with Karen or Mary Ann. We meet in August to plan jobs and donations. If we know, we can change your job.

The Ladies Guild (all church women are members of the Guild) is putting together a church-related basket for the silent auction. Please consider a cash donation to cover the cost of the contents of the basket. There will be a box in the church hall to place your donation. Any amount you feel comfortable donating is greatly appreciated. Please have your donation in by August 13th. Any cash left over will be donated to the church.



### July 16th Collection

Envelopes = \$350.00  
Offertory = \$ 34.00  
Total = \$384.00

Please have all bulletin submissions to Wendy Swan by Wednesday PM

Email: [dbq155sec@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbq155sec@dbqarch.org)