

**Daily Readings for the  
Week of September 22, 2024**

Sunday, 9/22: Wisdom 2:12,17-20/ Ps 54:3-8/ James 3:16-4:3/ Mark 9:30-37  
Monday, 9/23: Proverbs 3:27-34/ Ps 15:2-5/ Luke 8:16-18  
Tuesday, 9/24: Proverbs 21:1-6,10-13/ Ps 119:1,27,30,34-35,44/ Luke 8:19-21  
Wednesday, 9/25: Proverbs 30:5-9/ Ps 119:29,72,89,101,104,163/ Luke 9:1-6  
Thursday, 9/26: Ecclesiastes 1:2-11/ Ps 90:3-6,12-14,17/ Luke 9:7-9  
Friday, 9/27: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11/ Ps 144:1-4/ Luke 9:18-22  
Saturday 9/28: Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8/ Ps 90:3-6,12-14,17/ Luke 9:43-45

**Schedule for Sept 29, 2024**

Lector: Shari  
Greeters/Gifts: J. Ahrendsen Family  
Servers: Declab  
Money Counters: Margo/Sharon  
Extraordinary Ministers  
of the Eucharist: Rick/Ron



**Today's Mass Intention**  
**Josephine Behn**  
**Mass Intention 9/29/2024**  
**Treyton Lange**

**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, Rich Kleineck, Bill Ihns,  
Marilyn Stevenson, Julie Ahrendsen, Zoey Meyers,  
Carrie Leeper, Larry Marek, Carl Koppes,  
Marsha Lasack, Chris Gibbs, Wendy Larive, Fr. Andrew



# SACRED HEART



September 22, 2024

**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

**"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)

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Ladies of the Sacred Heart:**

Mary Ann Mostaert:

mamostaert@gmail.com

**Director of Religious Education:**

Sarah Rissler:

sahrissler10@gmail.com

**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

## Thriving or Declining? A Parish Vitality Dilemma

Dear Parishioners,

What keeps you awake at night? What constitutes your nightmares, your sweet-dream-killer issues? I assume that most people have things that keep them awake and even sap their energy all day.

As a priest, it is primarily the things about the church that keep me awake at night. This is probably because I have spent half my life in the church and possibly more than half my working years serving the church. The only institution I have given my full commitment to is the Church. So, it may not surprise me that things about the church can keep me awake at night. I care deeply about what I do; my passion for the priesthood and ministry is unflinching. Similarly, issues that impact the state of the church, either positively or negatively, affect my life in an expected direction.

Generally, every kind of issue, good and bad, generates psychological, emotional, and physical effects. Empty pews, poor Mass attendance, and low participation in activities, clergy sex abuse, failed church leadership, lack of growth and vitality, failed vision to advance the mission of the church with transformative message, planning, programming geared towards making passionate and exciting missionary disciples in the parish and the community keep me up at night.

Indeed, I am not the only person thinking about these issues. I know most parishioners do care and have the same burning desires in their hearts to see a new day emerging on the horizon when the church will be all it was meant to engender for God's holy people, a consecrated nation, a chosen race, a people set apart for God's glory (Cf. I Peter 2:9).

As Catholics, every step towards healing and resolving our dilemmas starts with the Mass. As the most profound way of expressing our faith and identity, it is when we are together at Mass that our collective Christian faith and identity are defined and strengthened, and our individual faith and commitment are reinforced.

In **"The Joy of the Gospel,"** Pope Francis asks each Catholic to assume the responsibility of a preacher during our conversations with others. He writes, "It has to do with bringing the Gospel to the people we meet, whether they be our neighbors or complete strangers. This is the informal preaching which takes place in the middle of a conversation, something along the lines of what a missionary does when visiting a home" (No. 127). If we can honor this challenge, our parish vitality dilemma will probably be lessened.

We have another successful kolache bake under our belt, with all proceeds going to our Sacred Heart Parish. Thank you ladies for all the hard work. Let's watch the thermometer on our wall in the hall get hotter as we work towards our goal. Totals are posted on the bulletin boards in the hall. The ladies baked and sold 282 dozen kolaches. Thank you to Sharon and Doris for spearheading this fundraising project.

A huge Thank You to all who helped make the kolache bake, last weekend, such a huge success. 282 dozens of kolaches were baked and sold. You will find a complete accounting of income and expenses involved in this kolache bake, located on the bulletin boards in the hall. Thank you to Sharon and Doris for spearheading this fundraising project.

The 1/4 Beef Raffle has begun. Sacred Heart Church will be raffling off two 1/4 Beef with basic processing included. Tickets are \$20 each or you can purchase 6 tickets for \$100. We will be raffling two 1/4 beef. Parish Council members and Finance Committee members will be handling the raffle ticket sales. You will find these members on the front of your bulletin. More details will be coming, and posted on the bulletin boards. Please do your part and sell, sell, sell raffle tickets to your friends and co-workers. This raffle will have huge potential for our fundraising goal.

I know that it is over a month away, but I also wanted to mention that The Ladies of the Sacred Heart will also be having a cinnamon roll bake in Mid November. Look for future information and help make this another successful sale.

The Ladies of the Sacred Heart will have a meeting after Mass today. Please attend. We will be discussing plans for the "Table of Plenty" sale next month.



### Sept. 15th 2024 Collection

Envelopes	\$1,225.00
Offertory	153.00
Candles	32.00
Rel. Ed	59.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,469.00</b>
Bldg Fund	5.00

Parish Baptism Preparation Class for Families Seeking Infant Baptism at St. John, St. Isidore, and Sacred Heart.

Preparation Class Venue:  
St. John the Baptist Mt. Vernon, IA  
Time: 2:00pm

Scheduled Dates for Classes:

**January 28, 2024**  
**April 28, 2024**  
**July 28, 2024**

Please have all bulletin submissions to Wendy Swan by Wednesday PM