

# THE WORKER

SUMMER 2017

## From the Pastor

### Father Gabriel Anderson

[dbq062@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbq062@dbqarch.org)



This summer we welcome newly ordained Fr. Ralph Davis as our St. Joseph the Worker and St. Columbkille Associate Pastor. Along with celebrating Mass, he will be closely involved with engaging our high school youth and journeying with them — calling forth their gifts in service to the Lord Jesus.

We have completed the installation of new audio equipment and screens for the church. Digital technology is another way to enhance our Mass experience

while still inviting full, active and conscious participation in the liturgy. We are grateful for all the talented (young and older) individuals who have stepped up to help with the enhancements.

The Sunday 11:00 am Eucharistic Liturgy is now our contemporary Mass, and once monthly (beginning in the fall), our youth will bring their gifts to all aspects of this liturgy with the help of Fr. Davis.

Adam Mumm, our newly hired Communication Minister, is looking forward to connecting with all of you. Through the use of technology, Adam will strive to reach out to welcome everyone into the Kingdom of God. (See page 2 for how you can help Adam with

this mission!)

With abundant gratitude, we are nearing the finish line for our Amazing Parish fund raising efforts. Our parishioners, and even some from beyond our parish, have given great support to this effort. In just 6 months, we have reached our financial goal! (See page 2 for more details.)

I continue to look forward to celebrating Eucharistic Liturgies with all of you (Saturday 5:00 pm; Sunday 8:30 and 11:00 am), as we experience together the spiritual fruitfulness and faith-filled fellowship of our amazing parish!

Blessings upon all of you!

Fr. Gabriel

## From the Associate Pastor

### Father Ralph Davis

[dbq062ap@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbq062ap@dbqarch.org)



Hello Parishioners! Allow me to introduce myself. I am Fr. Ralph Davis, your new Associate Pastor and Director of Youth Ministry.

My home is near Waterloo, in Gilbertville. I graduated from Don Bosco High School (the wrestling capital of Iowa) in 2009. I entered seminary at St. Pius X at Loras

College that fall. I graduated from Loras with a BA in Philosophy and a second major in music performance. I graduated from Mundelein Seminary this past spring where I earned a Master of Divinity.

Some of my hobbies include games, sports, and model trains. I also love liturgy and the study of liturgy. I look forward to being with all of you, during my time as your Associate Pastor.

God bless,

Fr. Davis

### WELCOMING CELEBRATIONS AFTER MASS

*Deacon Travis King:*  
July 22-23

*Father Ralph Davis*  
July 29-30

**HELP US WELCOME THEM TO ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER!**

St. Joseph the Worker Church

*Living the Gospel of Jesus Christ as a welcoming Catholic community by building faith together through worship, faith formation and service.*

## Amazing Parish Fund Drive Update

Our Amazing Parish effort is a response to Christ's call to "Go out and make disciples of all nations." Through the generosity of many of you, we have installed new speakers, projectors, and screens for our church. Soon we will be initiating dynamic new ways to continue our efforts to "awaken the faithful, reach the lost, and make church matter." We appreciate your support of this important mission.

We are pleased to announce that we have received an anonymous donation of \$25,000 to our Amazing Parish fund drive. Our Finance Committee, Pastoral Council, and Fr. Gabriel have approved matching this donation with \$25,000 from the growth in our parish endowment account. We continue to be blessed not only by the gifts from current parishioners but also by benefits of the growth

Thank  
you

and earnings of past endowment gifts from our parishioners.

Our Amazing Parish fund drive will soon come to a close. If you still want to give to this effort or if you want to increase your earlier participation, please make your gift or pledge now. You can make your gift through the collection basket (write 'Amazing Parish' fund drive in the memo), by mail to 60 South Algona St., Dubuque, Iowa, 52001, or by calling the parish office at (563) 588-1433. Thank you!

## Amazing Parish - Continuing the Journey



On April 20, 2017, 30 parishioners and staff loaded a bus to attend the Dubuque Archdiocesan Pastoral Leadership Study Day in Waterloo. The presenters for this Diocesan-wide training day were Fr. Michael White and Tom Corcoran, co-authors of *Rebuilt*. This book is one of the blueprints we've been following to grow our community. Our staff and Parish Council are continuing to use the insight gained from the content of the day which dealt with the topics of 'Awakening the Faithful, Reaching the Lost, and Making Church Matter.'

One way to 'make church matter' for parishioners is to assist all of us in moving from 'consumers'

of the parish to 'contributors' of the parish. This movement will become evident as we all step into a ministry or volunteer role that fits our particular gifts and talents.

As we continue to utilize more fully our new equipment for the church, purchased as a result of the Amazing Parish fund drive, we will be looking for parishioners who wish to become 'contributors' and use their talents to help run the screens, etc. during the weekend Masses. We will soon be scheduling training dates for those who are interested in this new 'technology ministry.' Contact our new Communication Minister, Adam Mumm, if you want to volunteer for this new ministry (A.Mumm@dbqarch.org; 563-588-1433).

## New Employee

### Adam Mumm

[a.mumm@dbqarch.org](mailto:a.mumm@dbqarch.org)



I'm thrilled to be the new Communications Minister at St. Joseph the Worker! I am originally from Janesville, WI and graduated from the University of WI—Madison in May of 2017 with degrees in Strategic Communications and Political Science. I'll be preparing the slides for weekend masses as well as developing new ways to share the good news of our parish with others. In the words of Vince Lombardi, my priorities are God, family, and the Green Bay Packers (in that order!), but I also enjoy fishing and running. I'm happy to be part of the parish staff, and I can't wait to get to know you!

## VBS 2017

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Created by God  
Build for a Purpose!

Kids age 4 - Grade 5

July 10-14

Sign up at [www.theworker.org/vbs](http://www.theworker.org/vbs)

Contact Julie Hill for more info  
([j.hill@dbqarch.org](mailto:j.hill@dbqarch.org))



## First Communion Celebrations - May 2017

Congratulations to the 26 students who received the Sacrament of Eucharist for the first time this past spring. Special thanks to their parents, teachers and catechists who were all part of the preparation process—because we know that it takes a village!



### Mass or Mayhem:

### Why Parents with Young Children Should Still Attend Mass

“Sunday Mass is supposed to be a time of peace and reflection, an opportunity to deepen our relationship with God through the gift of the Eucharist. And, of course, it can be all that. But if you are parents of small children, church can feel more like a game of liturgical hot potato, where you take turns tossing off a squirming child and trying not to be the one left holding the diaper blowout at the sign of peace. During these awkward times, Mass can seem like a chore. Weary from lack of sleep and overstimulated by too many cartoons, you just may want to take

a week off. Don't!

Keep going, no matter how loudly the kids yell or whether you keep getting the cold fish handshake from the people in front of you. Keep going to Mass even if you feel like everyone is staring at your crying baby or your toddler who spilled the bag of Cheerios across the pew. (More likely than not, we are remembering somewhat nostalgically how that was us at some point.)

You may not get an hour of undivided attention to speak with God. Your spouse may spend the consecration with a wailing baby

in the vestibule. Maybe your only prayer will be saying, “Amen,” when you receive Communion. That is enough.” The Holy Spirit is still at work!

(Excerpt taken from: ‘Going to Mass Strengthens Our Marriage’ by Kelly Bothum, Catholic News Service.

Reprinted in The Witness, February 5, 2017.)



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SUMMER 2017

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## Octoberfest 2017

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### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

#### **Saturday, September 30th:**

After the 5:00 pm Mass, join us for —

Turkey & Dressing Sandwiches

Euchre Tournament

Craft Corner & Bake Sale

#### **Sunday, October 1st:**

Dinner Served from 11:00 am—5:00 pm

Chicken by Kalmes

Pork by D & J B Enterprises (Darrel Biechler)

Fun activities including: Kid's Corner, Bingo,  
Big Money Wheel and more!

*Silent Auction Chairperson Still Needed!*

Contact Kerry at the parish office;  
(563) 588-1433; K.Rogers@dbqarch.org

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## Looking Ahead

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**July 15-22:** High School Service Trip

**July 17-21:** Middle School Service Trip

#### **July 22/23:**

Welcome at all Masses for Deacon Travis King

#### **July 29-30:**

Welcome at all Masses for Fr. Ralph Davis

#### **August 6:**

St. Columbkille Golf Outing

#### **September 5, October 10, November 7:**

Treasure Luncheons

#### **September 30/October 1:**

Octoberfest

#### **October 29/30:**

St. Joseph the Worker Parish Mission