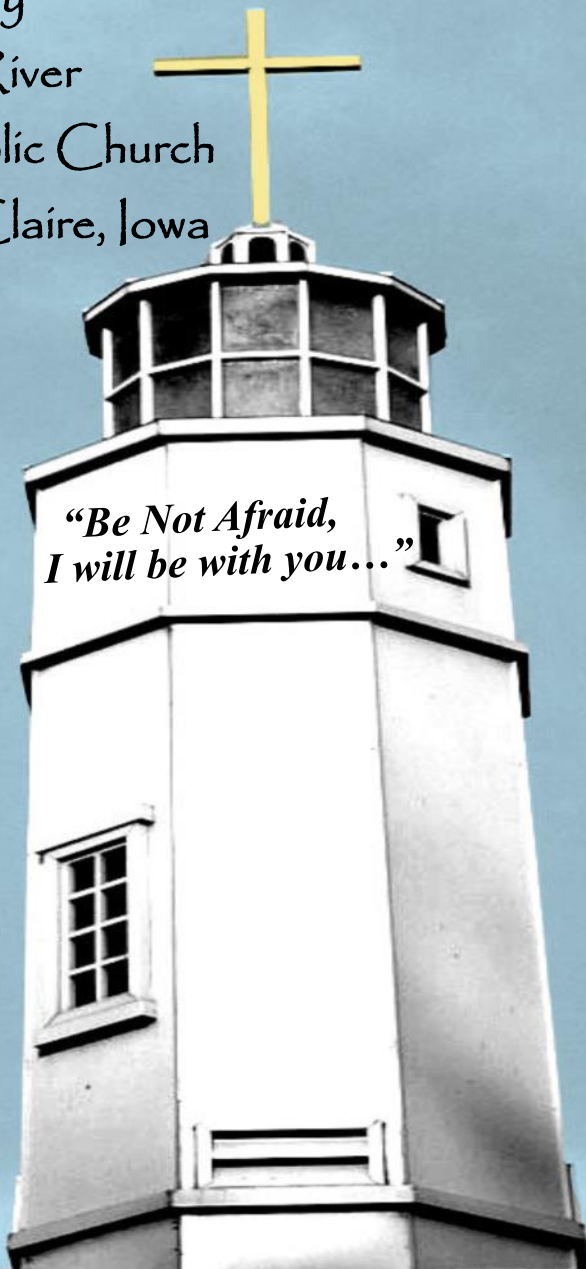


# *The Lighthouse*

Our Lady  
of the River  
Catholic Church  
Le Claire, Iowa

*“Be Not Afraid,  
I will be with you...”*



**Our Lady of the River Catholic Church.....563-289-5736**  
**E-mail address.....leclaireolor@diodav.org**  
**Web site.....www.olotr.org**  
**Follow the happenings of OLOR on Facebook**  
**Pastor ... Fr. Apo T. Mpanda ... 319-371-5088**

## *Mass Times*

### **OUR LADY OF THE RIVER—LeClaire**

28200-226th Street Place

**Saturday 5:30 p.m. — Sunday 8:30 a.m.**  
**Weekday Masses 8:00 a.m.—Wednesday and Friday**

**Second Friday of the month ... 8:00 a.m. Mass -**  
**Followed by 8:30 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast.**

#### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**Immediately following the Saturday 5:30 p.m. Mass**  
**or by appointment**

#### **Open Bible Study**

**Church Hall—every Tuesday—9:30 a.m.**

### **CHURCH OF THE VISITATION—**

#### **Camanche**

1028 Middle Road

**Saturday 4:00 p.m.—Sunday 10:30 a.m.**

#### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**Saturday 3:30 p.m.—or by appointment**

## *Mission Statement*

*Our Lady of the River Catholic Church is a vibrant, welcoming community of Catholics seeking to know and imitate Jesus through the celebration of the Sacraments, education and service.*

# Pastors Corner



Dear Parishioners,

Last week my secretary, Michelle Mahrt, reminded me that it is a time for another Lighthouse article. My first reaction was oh, it is summer already. For many people, summer comes with a lot of opportunity to rest and relax .

I am sure that many parents with younger kids will laugh when they hear the words “summer break,” because they usually are busy with their kids’ summer activities: camps, Vacation Bible School and family vacations making things different than the rest of the year. Of course, it is still often very busy.

I have heard from many of you that summer vacation travels are beginning. I pray that your travels are safe and filled with wonder. I am just as glad as you that summer has come. It is so great to be able to get outside and go for a walk, a bike ride or sit by a pool or a lake and, of course, to drink the cold one with buddies.

At Our Lady of the River, we are looking forward to our annual celebrations with Cheese and Wine on June 7, and Hog Roast on July 12. Father Steve Page, a soon to be retired priest (July 1), will be moving into the rectory.

There are a number of places in Scripture where we see Jesus taking a break, going to the beach or the

mountains to be with his friends. Jesus saw those times as a blessing from God. Like Jesus, we should take advantage of them. Like Jesus, we should not see the difference between the goodness of things in the world and the presence of God. God really wants to join you on your summer break. Just remember to invite Him to join you. While on “summer break”, please don’t forget to go to church. You are on vacation, but God is not. And if you are still in town, we look forward to seeing you at Our Lady of the River.

For me, this Summer I will be going to the Congo to preside at my two nieces’ weddings. It will be an honor to officiate their ceremonies. These two girls lost both their parents several years ago and I took them under my wings. They call me “dad, mom and uncle.” Also, this summer I will celebrate 37 years of priesthood. What a blessing! Please pray for me and I will do the same.

Peace!

Fr Apo, pastor



The Social Action Commission served the noon meal at Café on Vine on April 5. Almost 60 meals were served.

The Health Cabinet is scheduled to serve the next meal on June 7. A sign up sheet for food items as well as for opportunities to help the day of the meal is posted in the Church Hall.

*Social Action Committee*

# OLOR News

## Baptisms:

3-29-2025—Finan Daniel Tomlinson  
son of Jacob and Emily Tomlinson



## OCIA—Easter Vigil—April 19, 2025

Kathy Lynn Peters



## New Parishioners

Jacob and Emily Tomlinson and family  
Thomas and Brooke Terronez



## Power of Prayer—OLOR Prayer Chain

We would like to remind parishioners of our e-mail prayer chain. If you have a prayer concern, or would like to be added to our prayer chain, please e-mail **Teresa Anderson** [jite2@mchsi.com](mailto:jite2@mchsi.com) - or - call 563-340-9470



We provided 14 local families with food baskets this Easter. This was only possible because of your overwhelming generosity in providing food and nonperishable items for these families. Thank you!!

*Social Action Committee*

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education  
2025 - 2026 School year

***Registration for  
Pre-School students through 9<sup>th</sup> grade***

Registration following Saturday and Sunday Masses  
August 23/24.

Registration Forms and Religious Education Schedules  
will both be available at registration. Religious education  
registration also available on OLOR's website at  
[www.olotr.org](http://www.olotr.org)

## **Registration Fees**

**\$30.00 - 1 child**

**\$50.00 - 2 children**

**\$70.00 - 3 or more children**

***Volunteers are needed. Special discounts are  
available for volunteers who serve as catechists  
or catechist assistants.***

***No child will be turned away due to inability to  
pay.***

***For more information contact Roberta Pegorick at  
[leclaireolordre@diodav.org](mailto:leclaireolordre@diodav.org)***

Our Lady of the River offers Religious Education classes are  
on

Sunday morning. Class begins at 9:30 a.m. and  
ends at 10:45 a.m.

Classes run September through April. Our first class for this  
year is September 7<sup>th</sup>!



**JOIN US FOR**  
**Our Lady of the River's**  
**SUMMERTIME WITH JESUS**

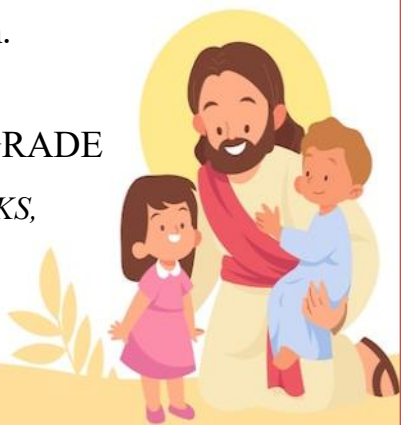
June 25 ... 5:30-8:00 p.m.

July 30 ... 5:30-8:00 p.m.

**ALL CHILDREN**  
**KINDERGARTEN—FIFTH GRADE**

*JOIN US FOR GAMES, SNACKS,  
BIBLE STUDY & CRAFTS*

Register by June 18th  
at <https://olotr.org>



**Color this picture**





## **Our Lady of the River HEALTH CABINET NEWS**

### **Health Cabinet Members:**

Rita McRoberts, Brian Dugan,  
Barb Arland-Fye, Josh Lawlor, Terese Harrison,  
Jim Walsh, Mary Tyrrel, Jennifer Hildebrand,  
Janis Smith, Roxanne Schmertmann, Sara Gravert,  
Jordan Werderitch, and Fr. Apo

**We are always looking for more members, you don't have to have a health background. \*If you would like to serve on the Health Cabinet, please contact Fr. Apo.**

MISSION STATEMENT: To enrich those we serve, with the healing blessings of faith; to be present and promote the wellness of body, mind and spirit.

## **Caregiver Support Group Here at Our Lady of The River**

The Caregiver Support Group has been meeting at OLOR since June. We meet the first Monday of every month from 10:30-11:30 am unless it falls on a holiday. The caregivers meet in the lower level of the church with a Caregiver Specialist from Milestone's Area Agency on Aging and the loved ones who attend meet in the parish hall with Jennifer Hildebrand. There are a variety of topics and activities for both groups. ALL ARE WELCOME and there is no charge.

Please contact Jennifer with any questions:

(563) 370-4412 or [kjhildebrand@windstream.net](mailto:kjhildebrand@windstream.net)

The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 2nd.



## **CAFE ON VINE JUNE 7th**

The Health Cabinet is looking forward to preparing and serving at Cafe on Vine. We are looking for parishioners to help supply items needed to prepare the meal and to help us serve the meal. There is a sign up in the vestibule.

## **Summer Walking Program**

We will have a summer walking program! Please watch the bulletin for details to come. This is a great way to challenge your family and friends! Every step is a step to a healthy lifestyle.

## **Blood Drive**

Our May 12th Blood Drive was a success! We had 10 units of blood donated. Those units can help as many as 30 people in our community. We will be hosting again this fall. If you have any questions please contact Sara Gravert, [sgravert12@gmail.com](mailto:sgravert12@gmail.com).

## **Blood Pressure Screenings**

Are held the 2nd full weekend of each month. A list of 2025 blood pressure screening dates are posted in the vestibule.

Reminder: If you or a family member would like us to know and/or visit while in the hospital, independent care, assisted care, memory care or home please reach out to Sara Gravert, [sgravert12@gmail.com](mailto:sgravert12@gmail.com) or OLOR office. **Due to HIPAA regulations we need you to notify us.**



## **Altar & Rosary**

Every OLOR lady is invited, encouraged to attend and join  
(\$5 membership dues)

**August 13**—Official Business Meeting at noon, in the church hall; dessert and coffee served. Teresa Anderson leader.

**October 4**—Arts and Crafts items due.

**October 18/19 and 25/26** - Arts and Crafts Raffle sale in church hall.

**November 12**—Official Planning Meeting at noon in the church hall; dessert and coffee served. Joanne Rumpza leader.

**December Christmas Luncheon**—Date and location to be announced.

## **Blessing of the Backpacks**

Father Apo will be blessing the backpacks of ALL students. Please bring your backpack to Mass with you the weekend of August 23/24.

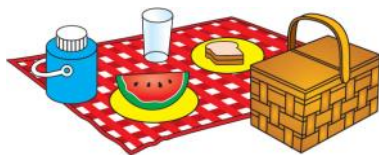


Father will invite students to bring up their backpack and give them a special blessing for the school year.

## **OLOR Back to School Picnic**

Saturday, August 23, after the 5:30 p.m. Mass.

We will have hotdogs, brats, hamburgers & veggie burgers with chips, salads, and desserts. There will be activities and goodie bags for the children.



## **Wine & Cheese Tasting**

Saturday, June 7, 2025,  
6:30 p.m.,  
OLOR Parish Hall



Childcare will be available with pizza  
and activities provided

YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS THIS!!

**Men of the River...** Please Watch the weekly Church Bulletin and listen for any announcements from the pulpit for any upcoming activities planned by the Men of the River.



***If your committee needs any assistance carrying out an activity, please contact The Men of The River through the church office and we will be happy to provide any help that we are able to.***

## **Join Us...**

### **For a Hog Roast**

- \* July 12—Saturday
- \* In the Church Hall
- \* Following the 5:30 p.m. Mass, featuring the Congolese Choir from Iowa City
- \* There will be games and goodie bags for the kids

*Hosted by Family Life and Men of the River*





## **Attention! High School STUDENT'S and their Mom's and Dad's!**

*Everyone knows how expensive it is to prepare for our post high school education be it College or Trades.*

*Are you aware that the Katie Dlouhy family along with the Altar and Rosary Society provide a scholarship each year?*

*Requirements include being an active member of the church and a graduating senior. How can you be an active member?*

*Here are a few suggestions:*

- Serve at Mass as an altar server, lector, choir member, instrumentalist or music accompanist
- Help with Faith Formation classes or youth group activities
- Assist at Vacation Bible School
- Assist Men of the River with breakfasts, hog roast, elderly parishioner yard clean up and parish grounds clean up
- Serve at Café on Vine
- Assist with minor church maintenance ie: changing missals out yearly, cleaning of church and Faith Formation classrooms, decorating and take down of church decorations
- Youth representative on the Parish Council
- Visiting homebound parishioners
- Assisting at Night to Shine
- Prayer chain
- Helping with baskets at Easter and Christmas

Contacts for nearly all of these activities can be found on the OLOR website. Look under the "Become Involved" tab for all of these activities and many more!

If you are a high school senior interested in financial help with your post high school education expenses pick up an application in the office or on the table in the vestibule, available in January of the year you graduate. Remember, this can be used for tuition, books, or anything associated with your college or trade school education!

If you have additional questions please contact Joanne Rumpza at #563-289-3521



## Would You Like To Share Your Creation In The Arts/Crafts Raffle?



The Altar and Rosary Society is hosting it's fall Arts and Crafts Raffle to be held on **October 18/19 and 25/26**. We are *shouting out* to any and all parishioners who would like to share their talents with the parishioners and support this raffle.

This is A&R's only fund raiser of the year which contributes to helping our Unbound child, local schools, annual High School Scholarship, Altar needs, etc.

If you have an item you would like to share, contact:

Joanne Rumpza—563-289-3521 - Rumpzajuno@gmail.com

Nancy Murray—563-289-3131- nancyjim1@live.com

Teresa Anderson—563-340-9470 - jite2@mchsi.com

Kelly Kruck—563-508-1336 - Kellykruck@aol.com

Kathy Peters—817-559-5316 - kpeters316@icloud.com



All donations need to be in our hands by October 4.

Thank you for your donation...

Your wonderful contribution makes this a great success!



## Haiti Layette



Please pray for the people of Haiti. Even though we are not able to send any help to our sister parish, we can all pray that the political strife will end and we can start our mission again.

## **The Christ Child of the Quad Cities**

is asking for new or gently used baby clothes, sizes newborn to 6 months, for their Layette Program for new mothers. These layettes are given to moms' who cannot afford the essentials that every newborn needs. Please see Lisa Levy or Pam Hughes if you can help.



### **Prayer Shawls are Available...**



*Prayer shawls and quilts are available for those in need. Prayer shawl/quilt recipients do not have to be a member of OLOR. Brochures are available in the vestibule if you would like more information. To request a prayer shawl, or create them, please contact Roberta Pegorick or Jennifer Hildebrand.*

### **Upcoming Café on Vine Assignments:**

6/7	Health Ministry Cabinet	10/4	Family Life
8/2	Liturgy and Choir	12/6	Parish Council

## **Calling all “Knitters”**

Join our project for OLOR “knitters” – baby washcloths for our friends in Haiti. Although the trips to Haiti have been temporarily suspended, donations are still being accepted by Pam Hughes for “Haiti Layette” and the Christ Child of the Quad Cities. If you would like a copy of the baby washcloth pattern, contact Nancy Murray at (563-289-3131) or e-mail to [nancyjim1@live.com](mailto:nancyjim1@live.com).





## **Join the Music Ministry Team!**



The Music Ministry Team of Our Lady of The River would like to invite anyone who is interested to join our ministry. We welcome anyone who enjoys singing or has a musical talent they would like to share with our parish. If you aren't comfortable being a cantor, but want to participate in some area of singing, we have a spot for you in the choir. Perhaps you have instrumental musical talents, we would welcome you.

**Choir** – The choir currently practices 30 minutes before the Mass we are scheduled to sing at. If you enjoy being part of a group, like to sing and want to become more involved with our parish, please consider joining the choir. You just have to enjoy singing, no other musical skills needed.

**Cantor** – To be a cantor, you need to feel comfortable singing solo on the Responsorial Psalm and the Gospel Acclamation. You will be scheduled to cantor at the Mass you prefer, either Saturday evening or Sunday morning. We will meet 30 minutes immediately before your scheduled Mass and review the music for that service.

**Accompanist** – If you have musical skills on the piano/organ and would be willing to play on occasion, we would welcome your assistance. You should possess the ability to sight read music of medium difficulty and be able to set a tempo for congregational singing. All the hymns for Mass are preselected and you would have several weeks' time to become familiar with the music. This position has a stipend attached to it.

**Instrumentalist** – During special occasions we would like to add some instrumental musicians. If you have this talent, please consider sharing with our congregation.

***A very special thank you*** to all of our current musicians who continue to enhance our Music Ministry Program...

Barb Arland-Fye   Chris Barber   Kateeya Brown   Tom Resig  
 Dave Donovan   Sean Mahrt   Cheryl Costello   Mady Costello  
 Joanne Rumpza   Molly Sichterman   Loran Stutenberg  
 Dom Stutenberg   Jaclyn Jacobi

For additional information or to become involved, please contact Ladonna Czachowski at 563-209-2176 or [lmczach@gmail.com](mailto:lmczach@gmail.com)

# **St. Pierre/ServeHAITI**

*Liz McDermott is away for some personal time with her family, so we decided to share this entry by Jennifer Hildebrand after her first trip to Haiti.*

## **Haiti, Summer 2008**

“If the poor would only get out and find work, they would not be poor!” This common misconception pacifies the conscience of many people. Instead, Jesus says that we shouldn’t let people suffer; we must reach out to them. He is neither suggesting nor encouraging us to respond; he is demanding that we do. He also states quite clearly that we will be judged by God as to how well we care for those who are disadvantaged.

*“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Mt 25.31-36*

It was over a year ago that I planned to join the summer 2008 delegation to help out in the clinic in St. Pierre. As fate would have it, my husband, Kim suffered a major injury from a fall in February of 2008 that would require many months of intensive physical therapy and support from me. My trip to Haiti was doubtful. How could I even consider such a trip when there was so much to do right here at home? As the months drew nearer and planning was underway, it was Kim who insisted that I secure a spot on this trip. He had been on an earlier delegation and knew what I would miss out on if I did not go. He wanted me to experience the joy and gratitude of the Haitian people and to see the beauty of the Gran Bois region.



As a wound nurse, my job was to treat chronic wound patients and teach the Haitian nurses about current wound care supplies. My employer, Genesis Medical Center, as well as other reps, were very willing to donate supplies for our trip. Many of the patients who came to the clinic turned out to have very serious wounds but were surprisingly patient, calm, and very appreciative.

I remember the advice Ed Choate gave to me. He said "concentrate on the few you will be able to help and do not dwell on those you cannot." That was good advice. It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the magnitude of poverty and lack of resources available. We would end every day with a reflection and time for journaling our thoughts and prayers. One evening we did the Stations of the Cross which took on a whole new meaning. Our own lives even took on greater meaning and things were put into a different perspective "after Haiti".

Having gone to Haiti has made me a better and stronger person in many ways. I find myself looking at situations in the eyes of the Haitians, amidst their daily struggles. In spite of their many challenges and lack of resources, their joy is what is so evident and inspiring. It is their devotion to Jesus and their faith in God in which they rely on to give them strength, not money or power. I now push myself and challenge myself in ways I never did before. I have since run a quarter marathon and finished RAGBRAI (471 mile bike ride across Iowa). When I feel like quitting, I tell myself..."I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." I often think of the beautiful Haitian people whom I met and have gotten to know. I literally

left the clothes off my back for my new Haitian friends when I came home to Iowa. I would encourage anyone to take a leap of faith and travel to Haiti. It is an experience you will never forget and one in which Jesus is asking you to consider!

Submitted by Jennifer Hildebrand  
"Lighthouse, August, 2008"

*Jennifer with a patient after she debrided her wound and redressed it.*



# Calendar of Events

## June

*(Bible Study in church hall... every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.)*

- 1—9:30 a.m. - Fellowship following Graduation Mass, hosted by Family Life
- 2—10:30 a.m. - Caregiver Support Group
- 3—5:15 p.m. - Buildings and Grounds Meeting
- 5—6:15 p.m. - Mom's Book Study
- 6—6:00 p.m. - Adoration
- 7—Café on Vine (Health Cabinet)  
—6:30 p.m. - Wine and Cheese Tasting
- 11—9:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting
- 12—6:15 p.m. - Mom's Book Study
- 13—8:00 a.m. - Second Friday Mass, followed by 8:30 a.m. Fellowship  
—9:00 a.m. - "The Chosen" Viewing and Discussion
- 14—6:30 p.m. - Blood Pressure Screening
- 15—9:30 a.m. - Blood Pressure Screening
- 19—5:30 p.m. - Finance Council Meeting  
—6:15 p.m. - Mom's Book Study  
—7:00 p.m. - Parish Council Meeting
- 26—6:15 p.m. - Mom's Book Study



## July

*(Bible Study in church hall... every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.)*

- 1—5:15 p.m. - Buildings and Grounds Meeting
- 2—4:30 p.m. - Family Life Meeting
- 3—6:15 p.m. - Mom's Book Study
- 4—6:00 p.m. - Adoration
- 7—10:30 a.m. - Caregiver Support Group
- 9—9:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting
- 10—6:15 p.m. - Mom's Book Study
- 11—8:00 a.m. - Second Friday Mass, followed by 8:30 a.m. Fellowship  
—9:00 a.m. - "The Chosen" Viewing and Discussion
- 12—5:30 p.m. - Mass with Congolese Choir from Iowa City  
—6:30 p.m. - Hog Roast  
—6:30 p.m. - Blood Pressure Screening
- 13—9:30 a.m. - Blood Pressure Screening
- 17—5:30 p.m. - Finance Council Meeting  
—6:15 p.m. - Mom's Book Study  
—7:00 p.m. - Parish Council Meeting
- 24—6:15 p.m. - Mom's Book Study
- 31—6:15 p.m. - Mom's Book Study



## **August**

*(Bible Study in church hall... every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.)*

- 1—6:00 p.m. - Adoration
- 2—Café on Vine (Liturgy Commission and Choir)
- 4—10:30 a.m. - Caregiver Support Group
- 5—5:15 p.m. - Buildings and Grounds Meeting
- 6—4:30 p.m. - Family Life Meeting
- 7—6:15 p.m. - Mom's Book Study
- 8—8:00 a.m. - Second Friday Mass, followed by 8:30 a.m. Fellowship
- 9:00 a.m. - "The Chosen" Viewing and Discussion
- 9—6:30 p.m. - Blood Pressure Screening
- 10—9:30 a.m. - Blood Pressure Screening
- 13—9:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting
- 12:00 p.m. - A&R Business Meeting in Church Hall
- 14—6:15 p.m. - Mom's Book Study
- 21—5:30 p.m. - Finance Council Meeting
- 6:15 p.m. - Mom's Book Study
- 7:00 p.m. - Parish Council
- 23—5:30 p.m. - Blessing of Backpacks
- 6:30 p.m. - Back to School Picnic
- 24—8:30 a.m. - Blessing of Backpacks
- 28—6:15 p.m. - Mom's Book Study



**Prayer Shawls and Pamphlets**—contact Roberta Pegorick in church office or Jennifer Hildebrand

**Prayer Request**—contact Teresa Anderson - 563-340-9470 or [jite2@mchsi.com](mailto:jite2@mchsi.com)

**OLOR Sacramental Program or Faith Formation**

**Opportunities**—contact Roberta Pegorick - 563-289-5736

**Music Ministry**—contact Ladonna Czachowski - 563-209-2176

**Christ Child of the Quad Cities**—contact Pam Hughes

**Lighthouse Contributions**—Joanne Rumpza - deadline for all articles for the Fall Lighthouse edition is **August 10, 2025** ...

Contact Joanne at [Rumpzaedjo@gmail.com](mailto:Rumpzaedjo@gmail.com), 563-289-3521, or through the office.



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