



# PAGE 2

more of the Courier's front page

## DIOCESAN PRIESTS BY THE NUMBERS:

**31** parish groups to be served in 2021

**44** active priests



### Upcoming Retirements

**8** priests plan to retire by 2025



2022 - 1 retirement  
2023 - 3 retirements  
2024 - 3 retirements  
2025 - 1 retirement

A total of **23** priests will be eligible for retirement by the year 2032, having reached the age of 70.

**8** seminarians

Major seminary - projected ordination 2022  
Major seminary - projected ordination 2023  
Major seminary - projected ordination 2025  
College - projected ordination 2026  
College - projected ordination 2026  
Pre-theology - projected ordination 2027  
College - projected ordination 2027  
College - projected ordination 2028

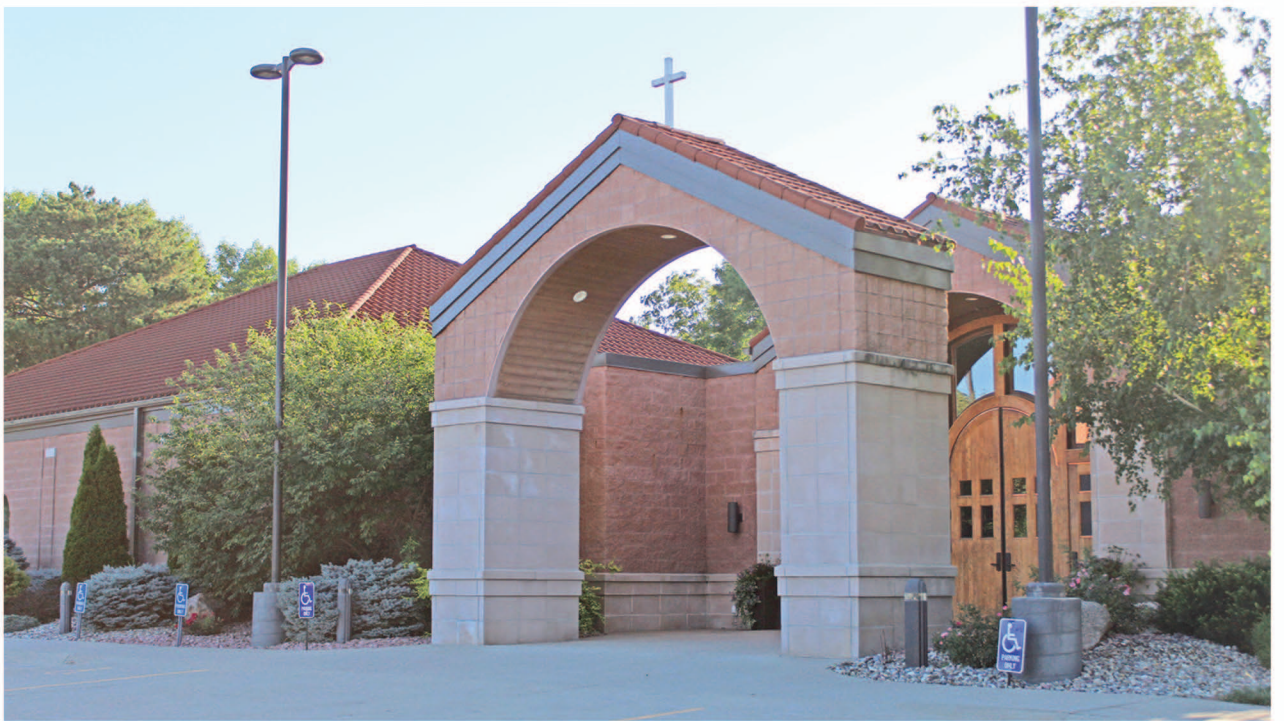


Photo by Brent Harm • Ida County Courier

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Ida Grove

### —more about

(continued from page 1) years to attract seminarians and with falling Mass attendance, aggravated during 2020 with the suspension of weekly Mass. Dioceses across the country have struggled to get parishioners to return to Mass attendance following the suspension.

At present, the diocese is set to ordain just one priest coming up, the Deacon Zach Jones with only two men in major seminary at other points in the process, not including men in college study.

Nationally, vocations numbers are uneven with some areas faring much

better, for example next door in the Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska where 28 men are listed for the 2022 Diocesan Vocations.

The Diocese of Sioux City has 24 counties in northwestern Iowa and has roughly 100,000 baptized members while the Diocese of Lincoln has 95,000

baptized members.

According to the Sioux City diocesan website, the parish had 44 active priests in 2021 with 23 priests eligible to retire by 2032, leaving the diocese eyeing a major shortfall in serving the needs of the faithful within the next 10 years.

## ... Parish

## DIocese OF SIOUX CITY STATISTICS

**1990**

**2020**

1969  
Infant Baptisms



786  
Infant Baptisms

2207  
First Communion



1223  
First Communion

1751  
Confirmations



995  
Confirmations

498 (402)  
Marriages (Mixed)



244 (95)  
Marriages (Mixed)

1196  
Funerals



987  
Funerals

101,770  
Registered Catholics



84,653  
Registered Catholics

### —more about

## ... Trick or Treat

(continued from page 1) Trick or treating in Galva will be from 5 to 7 p.m. at houses with porch lights on.

Trick or treating in Battle Creek will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at houses with porch lights on.

Galva

Trick or treating in Arthur will be from 5 to 7 p.m. at houses with porch lights on.

Arthur

Trick or treating in Arthur will be from 5 to 7 p.m. at houses with porch lights on.

**United Women of Faith Wreath Making Event**  
Ida Grove Methodist Church Fellowship Hall  
Oct. 29 • 10 a.m.  
Please call 712-364-2412 to register

### —more about

(continued from page 1) on the task of helping with back taxes, payroll, and government letters. We've resolved issues like federal and state unemployment, and work comp."

"Taking care of my people is the best part of the job. We all have a real consideration for our clients, in making sure they're taken care of with their business needs."

Bengford also mentioned the most challenging part of the job.

"We've recently taken

some things that people might be surprised to learn about H&R Block.

"People are often surprised we do bookkeeping," said Bengford. "It's

a misconception that H&R Block only does taxes. The whole company is evolving to bookkeeping, and corporate and partnership tax. Things have changed over the last 20 years."

H&R Block is an American tax preparation company operating in Canada, the United States, and Australia. The company was founded in 1955 by brothers

Henry W. Bloch and Richard Bloch.

As of 2018, H&R Block operates approximately 12,000 retail tax offices staffed by tax professionals worldwide. The company offers payroll, and business consulting services, consumer tax software, and online tax preparation/electronic filing from their website.

## ... H&R Block

**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**27th Annual November Fest**  
Sunday, Nov. 6 • 4:30-6:30 p.m.  
Veterans' Memorial Hall, Holstein, IA  
*Pork Loin Supper with all the trimmings*  
**CARRY-OUTS ONLY: \$15**  
Homebound deliveries: 712-368-2228  
Presale Tickets: Church office, Holstein Banks, Hair Salons, VT Industries, CornerHaus 101, Stevenson's  
Holiday Auction: Phone bids Oct. 31-Nov. 7  
Call or text 712-490-1038  
www.holsteinstpaul.lutheran.com

**Happy HALLOWEEN**  
Sponsored by Ida Grove Chamber  
**Trick or Treat Kick off:**  
5:30 p.m. • Godbersen Park • Ida Grove  
Safety talk by Sheriff Wade Harriman.  
Trick or Treat bags for all kids.  
Free popcorn and treat sponsored by Ida County Farm Bureau.  
**31 October Trick or Treat**  
6-8 p.m.  
Ida Grove

READ THE  
IDA COUNTY COURIER  
**\$48/YEAR**  
214 Main St., Ida Grove, IA  
712-364-3131

**VOTE NOV. 8 YOUR FREEDOM is on the ballot**

These are the freedom fighters on your ballot who believe that "In Iowa, America Still Works"

U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley, Congressman Randy Feenstra, Governor Kim Reynolds, Secretary of State Paul Pate, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig, Sen. Jason Schultz, Rep. Steve Holt, Brenna Bird for Attorney General, Roby Smith for Treasurer, Todd Halbur for Auditor, County Treasurer Traci Riessen, County Recorder Julie Phillips, Devlun Whiteing for Supervisor

**Turn your ballot to page 2 and VOTE YES to protect your Right to Own & Bear Arms**

In-person absentee voting for the Nov. 8 election has begun. You may vote at the Ida County Auditor's office until Monday, Nov. 7.

Ida County Republicans  
**IDAGOP**  
PAID FOR BY IDA COUNTY REPUBLICANS

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