

# THE CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF



**ST BERNARD**

201 Main St, Blencoe, IA



**ST JOHN**

1009 13th St, Onawa, IA



**ST JOSEPH**

510 TIPTON ST, SALIX, IA

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**MAY 7, 2023**

## Parish Staff

**Pastor, Rev. Michael J. Erpelding**

(712) 423-2656

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**Director of Faith Formation, Michelle Rethman**

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**Secretary – St. John & St. Bernard, Colleen Maule**

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**Office Hours:** Monday – Thursday  
7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Secretary – St. Joseph, Mary Brady**

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**Office Hours:** Monday – Friday  
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Websites – St. John:** [www.stjohnonawa.com](http://www.stjohnonawa.com)

**St. Joseph:** [www.stjoesalix.com](http://www.stjoesalix.com)

## Sacraments

**Reconciliation:** 30 min. before Mass or by appointment

**Baptism:** St. John – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

St. Joseph – Sunday, 11:00 a.m.

**Baptism Class:** Contact the Director of Faith Formation

**Marriage:** Arrangements at least six (6) months prior to marriage. Interview with the pastor is required before date for marriage can be given.

## **Questions of the Week**

**Adults:** In what ways does your personal relationship with Jesus thrust you into the role of service?

**Children:** How would you describe Jesus?

## **The Pastor's Toolbox**

### **Seven Reputable Men**

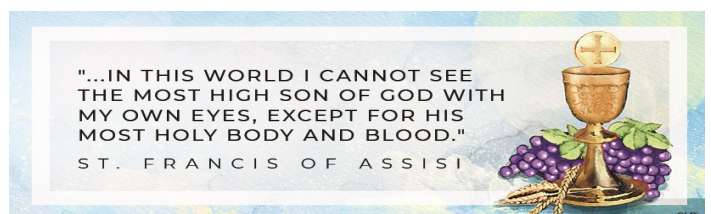
Today we see the beginning of the organizational structure of the Church. The apostles had established a sort of free soup kitchen in Jerusalem. A problem quickly arose because of a division among the Jews. Those who were born inside of Israel tended to look down on those born outside. The non-Israeli Jews – aka “Hellenists” or Greeks – tried to make themselves more “orthodox” to demonstrate their faith. This split continued among converts to Christianity.

The apostles resolved to settle the squabble by appointing seven waiters to see to an equitable food distribution. In time they would be called “Deacons”. Later the church would also ordain women as deaconesses.

### **Whoever Has Seen Me Has Seen the Father**

Philip plays only a small role in the Gospels, but here his role is pivotal. Jesus has warned his apostles that he is leaving – probably a reference to his death and ascension. Philip responds to Jesus’ claim that they “have seen the Father”. Like the other apostles, he has not comprehended the depth of Christ’s identity. He can see only the man and not the God. Our Lord expresses the nature of his person and his unity with the Father. It is a clear statement that he is God. In the beauty of Jesus we see the qualities of God because Jesus is divine. What do we see in Jesus? Surely among his attributes are love, mercy, compassion, strength, humility, self-sacrifice...in short all that is good and nothing that is wrong.

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## WEEK OF MAY 7, 2023

### Mass Schedule for St. John and St. Joseph Churches

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Mass Intentions</u>	<u>Parish</u>
Monday	May 8			
Tuesday	May 9	9:00 AM	Ed Lamoureux	St. Joseph
Wednesday	May 10	9:00 AM	Maurice Benjamin	St. John
Thursday	May 11	9:00 AM	Glenda Ullrich	St. Joseph
Friday	May 12	9:00 AM	Paul Benjamin	St. John
Saturday	May 13	4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Bernard, St. John, and St. Joseph	St. Joseph
Sunday	May 14	9:00 AM	Christieann Zobel	St. John
		11:00 AM	Mary Lue Schneiders	St. Joseph

## GROWING IN OUR FAITH

### MEMORIAL DAY MASS

**Monday, May 29**

8:00am at St. Joseph Cemetery-Salix  
(coffee and doughnuts to follow)

10:00am at Onawa City Cemetery

### Summer Opportunity

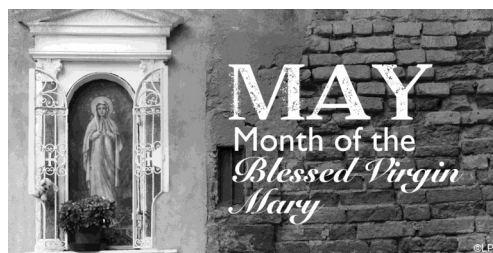
Hey, kids! Baseball season is here! If you are 11 years of age or older, you are eligible to be a "bat boy" for the Sioux City Explorers! If you would like to be in the dugout on game days, email [rethman@xsbaseball.com](mailto:rethman@xsbaseball.com) for more information. Let's play ball!



Father Shane Deman has put together a wonderful video entitled "The Call to Carmel: The Carmelite Nuns of Sioux City". The video gives a glimpse into the vocation to contemplative life with the cloistered Carmelite Nuns of Sioux City. The video can be found on YouTube by searching the title, or there is a link on our parish websites.



Congratulations to **Rachel Christensen, Patti Nevin, Karissa Reynolds, and Jakob Shattuck** who received the sacraments on Sunday, May 7, 2023 at the Cathedral of the Epiphany. Welcome to our faith community!



**May** is the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary. At Masses this weekend, we honor our graduating high school seniors. The fol-

lowing Sunday, we celebrate Mother's Day, and the celebrations continue this month with the Ascension, Pentecost, and our veterans. So, high school seniors, we dedicate this column to you.

Below is an excerpt from a blog written in May 2020 from a director of faith formation to the high school seniors of the parish:

*Jesus' life, ministry, Passion, Death and Resurrection was in line with God's plan of salvation. Everything Jesus' said and did – everything – was in the shadow of the Cross. In scripture, every time Jesus mentions "his hour," he isn't speaking about a particular time of day; rather, Jesus is speaking directly to his Passion and Death. So, do you have a plan for your life? Now, I write this cautiously, as someone with a great deal of experience in this regard: God laughs when we make plans. For example, if someone would have told me on the day of my high school graduation that I would someday be a Director of Faith Formation at a Catholic church, I would have laughed, not because it was ridiculous, but because it wasn't even on my radar. My first response would have been an incredulous, "But I'm not even a Catholic!" And that was true. But, as the saying goes, God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called. So, will you open your mind and heart to whatever God asks of you?*

Seniors, let the Lord lead you as you write the next chapters of your life. Go, set the world on fire, and always remember you have a community of faith between the Missouri River and the Loess Hills cheering for you.



## ST. JOHN & ST. BERNARD NEWS

### St. John & St. Bernard Weekly Offering

April 23, 2023  
Registered Families: 185

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$653.00
E-Offering	\$804.28
Building/ Tuckpointing	\$75.00
St. Bernard	\$115.00
Easter Flowers	\$120.00
<b>Total for April 23, 2023</b>	<b>\$1767.28</b>



Today is our Mass celebrating our graduating Seniors. We have watched these young men and women grow in their faith and their maturity and it is with love and pride that we send them on their next step in their journey. Please remember to keep them in your prayers. Our seniors are:

**Aidan Bosanek**, son of Jim & Shannon  
**Adalia DeRocher**, daughter of Aaron & Melodie  
**Laura Heisterkamp**, daughter of Bart & Lisa  
**Carly Miller**, daughter of Tommy & Brenda  
**Brooklyn Pekarek**, daughter of Rob & Lori  
**Damian Orr**, son of Tony & Cinda  
**Ava Stangel**, daughter of Aaron & Jessica  
**Carter Struble**, son of Nick & Amanda  
**Abigail Wessel**, daughter of Jackie Wessel

*A new Ministry schedule has been placed in the back of the Church. Please take some time to peruse the schedule and sign up for the dates that you can serve in your ministry. Please note that starting June 11th, The Feast of Corpus Christi, we will need 3 Eucharistic Ministers at each Mass. Thank you.*

A reminder to all our parents and students that our summer break from Religious Education is not a break from our obligation to attend Mass on the weekends and Holy Days.

We wish you a happy, healthy and fun filled summer. Classes resume in September.

## ST. JOSEPH NEWS

### St. Joseph Weekly Offering

April 22-23, 2023

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$2778.75
E-Offering	\$388.00
Candles	\$55.00
Food Pantry	\$100.00
Retired & Infirm Priests	\$250.00
<b>Total for April 23, 2023</b>	<b>\$3571.75</b>

# Congrats

Congratulations to the graduating seniors of St. Joseph Parish.

**Carter Brown**, son of Brent & Kim Brown  
**Jackson Dewald**, son of Brent & Niki Dewald  
**Kyle Eliason**, son of Eric & Victoria Eliason  
**Tom Heilman**, son of Hugh Heilman & Stacy Collins  
**Payton Lewis**, daughter of Bryan & Laura Lewis  
**Levi MacClure**, son of Jeremy & Heather MacClure  
**Dylan Waite**, son of Ryan Waite & Melynda Stokes

Dear Lord,

*Bless the lives of these graduates with goodness and love.  
 Help them to use their gifts wisely,  
 Pursue their dreams boldly and  
 Guide them to walk in the future with  
 Faith, hope and great love. Amen.*



Please continue to keep in your prayers the souls of Fran Mitchell who passed away April 1 and Jerry Newman who passed away April 6. *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithfully departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.*

Thank you to the liturgical ministers and musicians who served at their funerals. Thank you to all ladies of the Tabernacle Society who provided food and served at the luncheons. It is greatly appreciated by the families and parish.

## God Laughs

Little Audrey's brother was a jailbird. One time when he was up for three years he broke out of jail. The sheriff looked and looked for him, but he couldn't find him anywhere. After about a month the sheriff decided to put the bloodhounds on the trail. And that made Little Audrey just laugh and laugh, 'cause she knew all the time that her brother was anemic.

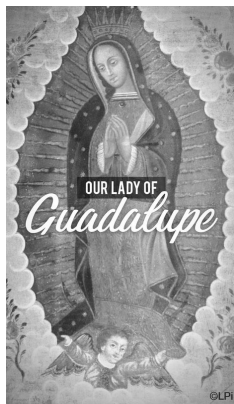


## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Immaculate Conception Parish of Cherokee is hosting and displaying the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe during the month of May. This missionary image is a 4' by 6' actual replica of the original, miraculous tilma (cloak) of Blessed Juan Diego. Veneration will be available for visitors daily, Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to noon; except when the image is being shared.

There are only four such images in the world and Pope St. John Paul II stated in one of his homilies, "Now Our Lady accompanies each one of her daughters and sons with her motherly presence. I ask her to 'visit' as a 'pilgrim of faith' — each and every diocese, parish and family in America."



Pope Saint John Paul II prayed for conversions and a culture of life and civilization of love. He wants the faithful to pray for an end to abortions and for the conversion of millions of hearts to Jesus. It is known that those who venerate this image are charged with the energy of faith.

## ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST



The bishops of the United States have called upon all the faithful to renew their belief and worship of the Eucharist. Each month the members of the three local churches will have the opportunity to pray during the exposition of the Eucharist.

- \* Sunday, May 7, 2023: St. Joseph, Salix, Noon to 2 PM (in the daily Mass chapel)
- \* Sunday, June 4, 2023: St. John, Onawa, 10 AM to 2 PM (in the main church)

## Our Lady of Fatima

Fátima was named for a 12th century Moorish princess, and since 1917 it has been one of the greatest Marian shrines in the world, visited by thousands of pilgrims annually. On May 13, 1917, and in each subsequent month until October of that year, three young peasant children, Lucia dos Santos and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto, reportedly saw a woman who identified herself as the Lady of the Rosary. During her appearances, Our Lady of Fátima supposedly gave the children three secrets and repeatedly exhorted them to pray the rosary for world peace and emphasized the necessity of devotions to her Immaculate Heart in order for souls to be saved. The children also said that she told them God would perform a miracle on October 13 so that people would believe. A crowd estimated at about 70,000 gathered at Fátima on that day and witnessed what has been described as a miraculous solar phenomenon in which the Sun appeared to fall toward Earth—sometimes called the Miracle of the Sun—immediately after the lady's final appearance to the children.

After initial opposition, the bishop of Leiria on October 13, 1930, accepted the children's visions as the appearance of the Virgin Mary; in the same year, papal indulgences were granted to pilgrims. The content of the devotion includes frequent recitation of the rosary and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

At the end of the 20th century, there was growing speculation concerning the three secrets Our Lady of Fátima allegedly revealed to the children in 1917. Though two of the messages had been disclosed in the 1940s — commonly interpreted as the prediction of the end of World War I and the start of World War II and the rise and fall of communism — the third had been kept secret by the Vatican, giving rise to numerous theories. In May 2000 it was finally announced that the third message was the Virgin Mary's vision of the May 13, 1981 assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II, and the pope publicly credited Our Lady of Fátima for saving his life.