

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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 14, 2023

Parish Staff

Pastor, Rev. Michael J. Erpelding

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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

St. Joseph: 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: What is one thing that I can do this week to show to others the joy that my faith gives me?

Children: What help do I need this week to be brave when others make fun of how I live my faith?

The Pastor's Toolbox

Philip in Samaria

Last week we saw that the apostles had ordained seven men to administer the soup kitchen in Jerusalem. The men, later known as deacons, quickly expanded their role to missionary work. One of these travels to Samaria, part of what is now the West Bank. There had been a bitter antagonism between the Jews and Samaritans, but Jesus had broken the ice. One of the deacons, Philip, capitalizes on this and begins making converts.

Philip baptizes several people. When the apostles hear the news, they dismiss Peter and John to evaluate the situation. They complete the initiation of the converts by laying hands on them administering Confirmation. We might see this as a foreshadowing of the differing roles of deacons and bishops. The former baptize, but only the latter can confirm.

I Will Not Leave You Orphans

Jesus did not want the apostles to remain dependent upon his physical presence. They would have to make their own way in the world. They had a destiny to fulfill as missionaries, spreading the faith to the world. At a certain point Christ had to cut the apron strings. As he had said to Mary Magdalene on Easter, "do not cling to me, but go and tell my brothers..." Now it was the apostles' turn to let go.

But Jesus did not abandon them. He promised to send another "Paraclete" – a legal word implying a defender, a sort of barrister. This would be the Holy Spirit who would come a little over a week later on Pentecost. Jesus gave ample warning of his departure, but the reality of this farewell did not sink in until he finally ascended into heaven.

WEEK OF MAY 14, 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 15			
Tuesday	May 16	9:00 AM	Tom Lambert	St. Joseph
Wednesday	May 17	9:00 AM	Maryann Muller	St. John
Thursday	May 18	9:00 AM	David Menard	St. Joseph
Friday	May 19	9:00 AM	Joan Samson	St. John
Saturday	May 20	4:00 PM	Dennis O'Keefe	St. Joseph
Sunday	May 21	9:00 AM	Peggy Morrow Richardson	St. John
		11:00 AM	Parishioners of St. Bernard, St. John, and St. Joseph	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

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.

Jesus & Joe



We will offer coffee following daily Masses every Wednesday and Friday at St. John beginning on **Wednesday, May 17th**. For more information, please contact Michelle Rethman, 712-202-6641.

C.O.F.F.E.E.

Christ Offers Forgiveness For Everyone Everywhere

Please consider joining us for fellowship and fun!

May is the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and this weekend we honor our mothers — all women who have selflessly devoted themselves to our physical and spiritual growth.

Below is an excerpt from a blog from a director of faith formation to anyone who has known the love and sacrifice of a special woman.

"... bottom line: my mom wanted this, me playing on this team. Can't say no to someone who drove me to practice every day, right?"

Miracle

Have you ever done anything because your mom asked or encouraged you to do it? Gratefully, I reflect on the many ways my mother shaped the person who I am today. Meditate on the special women who influence, inspire, and encourage you, and then ask: How does our spiritual Mother, Mary, influence, inspire, and encourage me?

Love and sacrifice. I know my mother's sacrifices are manifestations of her love. St. Paul writes to the Corinthians (1 Cor 13:4—8):

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

To love is to will the good of the other, and I suspect to live that definition to the fullest means I must decrease so another may increase: *Sacrifice*. Now read the above passage, but this time substitute the word "sacrifice" for the word "love". With this amendment, the passage reads:

Sacrifice is patient, sacrifice is kind. It is not jealous, [sacrifice] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Sacrifice never fails.

Pause and reflect on all of the women in your life who have shaped you, and meditate on Mary, Mother of God, and her love and sacrifice. And then take time today to tell these women just how much you love them.

ST. JOHN & ST. BERNARD NEWS

St. John & St. Bernard Weekly Offering

April 30, 2023
Registered Families: 185

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$3532.00
E-Offering	\$154.70
Building/ Tuckpointing	
St. Bernard	\$115.00
Easter Flowers	\$30.00
Total for April 30, 2023	\$3831.70



. To all the women in our parishes who have taken the time to nurture and love a child, either biological, adopted or by choice. Have a Blessed Mother's Day.



Thank you to the Rosary Society and especially Mary Tramp for hosting the Senior Breakfast for our graduates and their families. This parish tradition means a lot to our students and families and we truly thank you!

Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for serving supper to our Religious Ed students and teachers at our last class for this year. Randy Bottoroff grilled hamburgers and hotdogs. We had baked beans and chips served by Doug Zima, and then topped it off with delicious cakes made by Wanda Heisterkamp with the help of Franklin. Thank you all so very much. This means a lot to the students and teachers, and it is appreciated more than you know.

Every May, the Cystic Fibrosis community comes together for CF Awareness Month. The theme of this year's CF Awareness Month is "Unity in Community." The Onawa-Blencoe Knights of Columbus are sponsors of Cystic Fibrosis awareness.

ST. JOSEPH NEWS

St. Joseph Weekly Offering

April 29-30, 2023

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$3605.05
E-Offering	\$303.32
Candles	\$81.00
Cemetery Perpetual Fund	\$20.00
Retired & Infirm Priests	\$100.00
Peter's Pence	\$30.00
Total for April 30, 2023	\$4139.37



Thank you to Laura Lewis, the Junior class parents and the Tabernacle Society for organizing and hosting the Senior breakfast. Thank you for celebrating these young men and women.

7 Things Every High School Graduate Should Hear

1. Live with intention. College will be full of new opportunities. Think carefully about your priorities for your new start.
2. Make the right friends. There will be plenty of new people! Concentrate on the ones who motivate you to be a better person.
3. It's a big world! Look for new perspectives, new opportunities, and new ideas that push you to grow.
4. Find a mentor. Building relationships with people who have "been there, done that" can be a great help.
5. Give yourself away-volunteer. You'll be surprised what you learn, how you grow, and who you meet when you serve.
6. Before you go, learn how to do your laundry, address an envelope, schedule a doctor's appointment, use public transportation, and cook basic meals (ramen doesn't count!).
7. Remember that God is in control. And that's a good thing!

God Laughs

One day Little Audrey and her mother were driving along when all of a sudden the car door flew open and Little Audrey's mother fell out. Little Audrey just laughed and laughed, 'cause she knew all the time that her mother had on her light fall suit.



Mary's Choice Pregnancy Resource Center

Mary's Choice Pregnancy and Family Resource Center is a 503(c)(3) nonprofit resource center serving over 1500 families annually in the Sioux City area. The mission is to give men and women the knowledge, support, and resources to choose life for their unborn child, and to support them once their child is born. They also assist grandparents, foster parents, guardians, and others who are raising children that are not their own.

Help keep Mary's Choice available for pregnant mothers and families raising children. Here are ways you can help:

- ✱ Make a monetary gift
- ✱ Donate your unused clothing of all sizes, small household items, diapers, wipes and baby items. **There is a current need for size 6 diapers.**
- ✱ Volunteer to help families who come in
- ✱ Sort through donations
- ✱ Help with maintenance or administrative tasks.
- ✱ Be a public witness to life outside of Planned Parenthood Mon, Tues & Wed 9 am - 3 pm. Not everyday is an abortion day, but everyday is a chance to spread the message of life.

Call: 712-274-6279
Text: 712-217-6185
www.maryschoice.org

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, June 4, 2023:** St. John, Onawa, 10 AM to 2 PM (in the main church)



ASCENSION THURSDAY

Have you ever noticed how often we use "up" and "down" to judge things? Beethoven's Ninth Symphony is "high" art, while professional wrestling is "low." If I'm having a good day, I'm on "cloud nine." A bad day means I am "down in the dumps." A successful career is "moving up the ladder." Failure in work or personal life can be "falling from the heights." Life is filled with "ups and downs" — no one has the slightest problem understanding that means life has both "good and bad."

Now consider Jesus' ascension. He ascends not just to some level slightly higher of goodness, but "above all the heavens," to use the words of Saint Paul (Eph.4:10). That expression means to the source of all goodness. He has gone all the way down — to the farthest depths of human suffering, and death. And now he has taken our humanity all the way up into God. In doing so he has demonstrated what he says in the Gospel of John to the Father: "Everything of yours is mine." He now reigns over every possible aspect of creation in and through his human nature. That's what the ascension is all about.

So what? No matter what the lows and highs, ups and down we face this week, we are totally encompassed by the one who descended and ascended. So, we should happily and confidently entrust ourselves to him. He has shown us not only his power, but especially his love, in filling all our ups and down with his presence.

— Father John Muir