

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

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MAY 21, 2023

Parish Staff

Pastor, Rev. Michael J. Erpelding

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Director of Faith Formation, Michelle Rethman

(712) 202-6641

michelle@stjohnparishonawa.com

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

(712) 423-1004

secretary@stjohnparishonawa.com

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

Secretary – St. Joseph, Mary Brady

(712) 946-5635

secretary@stjoeparishsalix.com

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 are the most influential Christian beliefs in my life? In what ways do these beliefs shape who I am and what I do?

Children: What can I do this week that will show I am a Christian?

The Pastor's Toolbox

This reading, used in the Roman Liturgy's office of readings for the Solemn Feast (Solemnity) of the Ascension, is taken from a homily by St. Augustine (Sermo de Ascensione Domini, Mai 98, I-2, PLS 2, 494-495). The Ascension is the second glorious mystery of the Rosary.

Today our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven; let our hearts ascend with him. Listen to the words of the Apostle: *If you have risen with Christ, set your hearts on the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God; seek the things that are above, not the things that are on earth.* For just as he remained with us even after his ascension, so we too are already in heaven with him, even though what is promised us has not yet been fulfilled in our bodies.

Christ is now exalted above the heavens, but he still suffers on earth all the pain that we, the members of his body, have to bear. He showed this when he cried out from above: *Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?* and when he said: *I was hungry and you gave me food.*

Why do we on earth not strive to find rest with him in heaven even now, through the faith, hope and love that unites us to him? While in heaven he is also with us; and we while on earth are with him. He is here with us by his divinity, his power and his love. We cannot be in heaven, as he is on earth, by divinity, but in him, we can be there by love.

He did not leave heaven when he came down to us; nor did he withdraw from us when he went up again into heaven. The fact that he was in heaven even while he was on earth is borne out by his own statement: *No one has ever ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man, who is in heaven.*

These words are explained by our oneness with Christ, for he is our head and we are his body. No one ascended into heaven except Christ because we also are Christ: he is the Son of Man by his union with us, and we by our union with him are the sons of God. So the Apostle says: *Just as the human body, which has many members, is a unity, because all the different members make one body, so is it also with Christ.* He too has many members, but one body.

Out of compassion for us he descended from heaven, and although he ascended alone, we also ascend, because we are in him by grace. Thus, no one but Christ descended and no one but Christ ascended; not because there is no distinction between the head and the body, but because the body as a unity cannot be separated from the head.

WEEK OF MAY 21, 2023

Mass Schedule for St. John and St. Joseph Churches

Day	Date	Time	Mass Intentions	Parish
Monday	May 22			
Tuesday	May 23	9:00 AM	Kavanaugh Family	St. Joseph
Wednesday	May 24	9:00 AM	Joan Samson	St. John
Thursday	May 25	9:00 AM	Fran Mitchell	St. Joseph
Friday	May 26	9:00 AM	Doe & Mabel Walker	St. John
Saturday	May 27	4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Bernard, St. John, and St. Joseph	St. Joseph
Saturday	May 27	6:00 PM	Jim & Bette Marley	St. Bernard
Sunday	May 28	9:00 AM	Joan Samson	St. John
		11:00 AM	Greg & Jane Heisterkamp	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
(coffee and doughnuts to follow)

The parish offices at St. John's and St. Joseph's will be
closed on Monday, May 29

in observance of Memorial Day. We honor, remember
and celebrate those who have served our great nation.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

This month, please consider giving an offering for Aid to Domestic Churches (May 28 special envelope). This special collection benefits the Black and Indian Missions, Catholic Home Missions, Catholic Communications Campaign, Catholic Campaign for Human Development and the Military Archdiocese. It helps to build parish and school buildings and train priests, religious, teachers, and catechists for those needy communities and dioceses.

WOMEN'S Retreat

Silent Women's Ignatian Retreat
by Sharon Doran

Women of Hope Who Find God in All Things

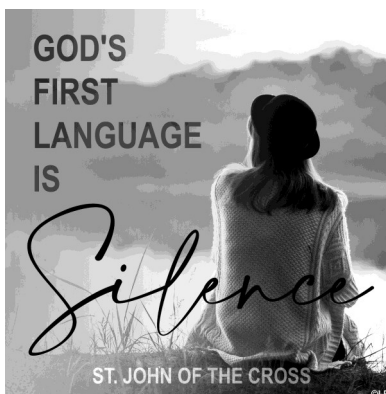
August 24-27, 2023

Creighton University Retreat Center, Griswold, IA

Get away from the hectic pace of life and take time to deepen your relationship with God by engaging your heart, mind, body and eternal soul. Hear God speak to your heart in the community of silence. There will be 11 preached conferences by Sharon Doran who combines her love of Sacred Scripture with the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius.

Creighton University Retreat Center is 1 hour east of Omaha and 1.5 hours west of Des Moines. Cost for lodging, meals and retreat: \$425. Check-in between

4:30-5:30pm on Thursday & concludes Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Register at creighton.edu/curc or by using this QR code:



ST. JOHN & ST. BERNARD NEWS

St. John & St. Bernard Weekly Offering

May 7, 2023
Registered Families: 185

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$2145.00
E-Offering	\$149.40
Building/ Tuckpointing	\$25.00
St. Bernard	\$130.00
Total for April 30, 2023	\$2449.40

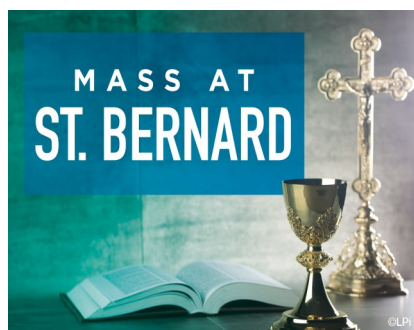
Jesus & Joe

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.



Please consider joining us for fellowship, fun and
C.O.F.F.E.E. !

Christ Offers Forgiveness For Everyone Everywhere



**Saturday, May 27
6:00pm**

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

May 13-14, 2023

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$3133.00
E-Offering	\$388.70
Candles	\$19.00
Maintenance	\$5.00
Total for April 30, 2023	\$3545.70

ST. JOSEPH TABERNACLE SOCIETY

All women of our parish are asked to be a part of the Tabernacle Society. This group serves our parish with both volunteers and monetary contributions. Some of the activities the Tabernacle Society supports are funeral luncheons, First Communion, Confirmation, Senior Mass, the Parish Dinner, and funding for special projects within the parish. Thank you to all who participate in this ministry.

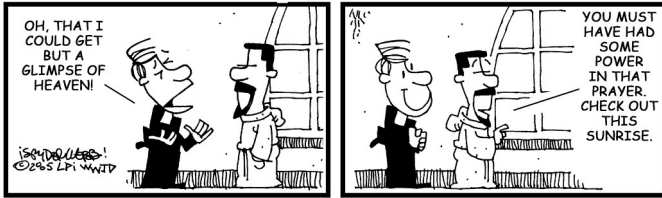
The next funeral committee to serve is Committee #1. Thank you to Bonnie Brouillette and Deanna Smith for your many years of service as chairladies. We welcome JoAnn Black and Jo Prince as the new chairladies for this committee. Thank you for saying "yes" to this ministry.

Those assisting JoAnn and Jo are: Karen Allen, Kathy Baker, Doreen Becker, Anita Bekish, Kathryn Belvin, Carol Benjamin, Ann Bradshaw, Mary Brady, Leah Brouillette, Jennifer Burkhart, Terri Christensen, Jenny Kenny, Heather MacClure, Chennie Mae Menard, Sue Schoen, Martha Skatges, Deanna Smith. Thank you to committee members for donating a salad, dessert or your time for the funeral luncheon.

Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund

If you would like to contribute to the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund for the St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, please use the lavender envelope in your packet for May. Your support goes toward the annual care of the cemetery including mowing, fertilizing, watering and general maintenance. Thank you for helping us take care of this beautiful sacred space.

ASCENSION



Mary's Choice Pregnancy Resource Center

Mary's Choice Pregnancy and Family Resource Center's 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!** Pray 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



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

SPEND TIME WITH OUR LORD IN
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

- * **Sunday, June 4, 2023:** St. John, Onawa
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (in main church)
- * **Sunday, July 23, 2023:** St. Joseph, Salix
Noon to 2 p.m. (in daily Mass chapel)
- * **Sunday, August 6, 2023:** St. John, Onawa
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (in main church)
- * **Sunday, September 3, 2023:** St. Joseph, Salix
Noon to 2 p.m. (in daily Mass chapel)
- * **Sunday, October 1, 2023:** St. John, Onawa
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (in main church)
- * **Sunday, November 5, 2023:** St. Joseph, Salix
Noon to 2 p.m. (in daily Mass chapel)
- * **Sunday, December 3, 2023:** St. John, Onawa
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (in main church)

Ascension of the Lord

Jesus' departure allows the Apostles to become the leaders he has formed them to be. Jesus is no longer situated in only one geographical location, and his Church will never be a political kingdom. Soon after the Ascension, we celebrate Pentecost — the descent of the Holy Spirit and the radical empowerment of the followers of Jesus. We share in that empowerment and in that mission. Jesus is present in the sacraments, and he is present in us. Through our faith, hope, and love, we are called to be the good he does here on earth!