

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

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

Parish Staff

Pastor, Rev. Michael J. Erpelding

(712) 423-2656

father@stjohnparishonawa.com

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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: When someone hurts you, are you more inclined to be just or to be merciful?

Children: When have you forgiven someone who treated you unfairly?

When I was in second grade, my prized possession was a metal Star Wars-themed lunch box. After school one day, another student ripped it from my hands. I helplessly watched in horror as my classmate threw it to the ground and violently stomped it into an unrecognizable heap of junk. I came home covered in tears of shame and rage. After a few months, I never thought about it again...until I was almost thirty years old and on a retreat to prepare for ordination to the priesthood.

That childhood memory – and the attendant outrage – came back afresh. My spiritual director helped me in the process of acknowledging that I was angry because that kid owed me my lunch box. Then she helped me, through the grace of Jesus, to forgive the debt. Almost immediately I felt a new peace. I was amazed that I hadn't forgotten what I had lost, even from years before. Aren't we human beings simply amazing at remembering what people owe us?

We see this week in Jesus' parable a servant who is forgiven much but then commands another servant: "Pay back what you owe!" He can't forget or let go of how he was wronged. He remembers – and he becomes a monster because of it. If only he had remembered not only the debts owed to him, but also his greater debt owed to – and forgiven by – his master. It's natural for us to remember what others owe us. But when we contextualize those offenses in Jesus' mercy toward us and them, we're free to be merciful like the Master and less like a monster who never forgets.



— Father John Muir

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WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

Mass Schedule for St. John and St. Joseph Churches

Day	Date	Time	Mass Intentions	Parish
Monday	September 18		No Mass	
Tuesday	September 19	9:00 AM	Brian Mareau	St. Joseph
Wednesday	September 20	9:00 AM	Isaac & Josh Pueppke	St. John
Thursday	September 21	9:00 AM	No Mass – Clergy Day	St. Joseph
Friday	September 22	9:00 AM	Fr. Frank Nemmers	St. John
Saturday	September 23	4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Bernard, St. John & St. Joseph	St. Joseph
Sunday	September 24	9:00 AM	Vincent & Mark Connealy	St. John
		11:00 AM	Shirley & Tom Lambert	St. Joseph

GROWING IN OUR FAITH

There will not be daily Mass at St. Joseph on Thursday, Sept. 21. Father will be attending a clergy day.

Join us for the Blue Mass!

You're cordially invited to the Blue Mass, a special event dedicated to honoring our first responders. Come together with our community as we express our gratitude for their unwavering service. This Mass will take place at **5:00pm on Friday, September 29 at the Cathedral of the Epiphany**. It will be followed by a reception. All are welcome, especially first responders and their families. RSVP at info@sccathedral.org is not necessary, but recommended.

Blessings,
Fr David Esquiliano

Question:

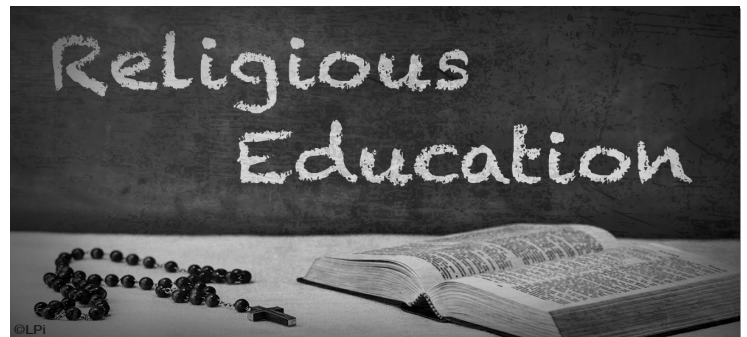
Why do we celebrate Catechetical Sunday?

Answer:

The mission of the church reflects the mission of Jesus to teach, preach, heal, and forgive. Through these acts, Jesus shares the good news of salvation and invites all people to share in the life and love of God. The church continues this mission in all its ministries, but especially, and perhaps most importantly, through catechesis.

Catechetical Sunday is celebrated on the third Sunday of September. The task of handing on the Gospel is entrusted to the whole community, who by word and example, form young and new members in the way of the Gospel. Parish programs assist parents in teaching the basics of faith through liturgical experience, instruction, and faith formation. This ministry is essential for the parish to grow, for individuals to develop as believers, and for the ongoing spiritual formation of the whole community. It reminds the church that preaching the Gospel and growing in faith are essential to our sacramental practice and our liturgical prayer.

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✍ We still have a few spots open in our Religious Education Program, specifically,

St. Joseph:

- Kindergarten (Catechist and aide)
- Middle School (1)

If interested, please contact Michelle, 712-202-6641.

September	
20 th	Classes 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
27 th	Classes 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
October	
4 th	Classes 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
11 th	Classes 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
18 th	Classes 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
25 th	St. Joseph, Classes 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
	St. John, Special Event, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

ST. JOHN & ST. BERNARD NEWS

St. John & St. Bernard Weekly Offering

Registered Families: 185
September 3, 2023

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$796.20
E-Offering	209.10
Building	\$20.00
St. Bernard	\$15.00
Retired Religious	\$10.00
Total for Sept 3, 2023	\$1050.30

ST. JOSEPH NEWS

St. Joseph Weekly Offering

September 2-3, 2023

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$2821.36
E-Offering	\$203.32
Food Pantry	\$50.00
Candles	\$73.00
Emergency/Maintenance/CC	\$203.00
Retired Religious	\$100.00
Total for Sept 2-3, 2023	\$3450.68



The **St. John Chicken Dinner** is **Sunday, Sept. 24**. This event is sponsored by the parishioners of St. John and underwritten by the Knights of Columbus. All proceeds stay with St. John Church. Parishioners are asked to participate in buying tickets, serving food & beverages, table cleanup and kitchen help.

A donation of your time is wanted. Amy Christensen (712-490-4484) is your contact person. Let Amy know if you will help downstairs..



Volunteers are needed for the Annual Knights of Columbus Highway Clean-up west of town. We will meet at the Church @ 10:30 AM on Sept. 23rd. A minimum of 8 volunteers are needed. With 8 volunteers, we only have 1

mile each. Please think about volunteering for this community project with your family. It could be a wonderful way to show your children the joy of giving back.

Knight of Month: Franklin Heisterkamp...for his efforts chairing a successful Campaign for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (C.P.I.D.).

Family of the Month: All the Volunteers & Knights...who helped feed people during the two days for the Seminarian Retreat & Discernment at St. Joseph.



FOOD & FUN!

The big day has arrived! Join us for our Chicken Dinner and Bazaar this Sunday, September 17, 11:00am-2:00pm. You don't want to miss out on a delicious meal featuring broasted chicken catered by Staley's, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, rolls, homemade salads and pies/desserts. Purchase tickets at the door!

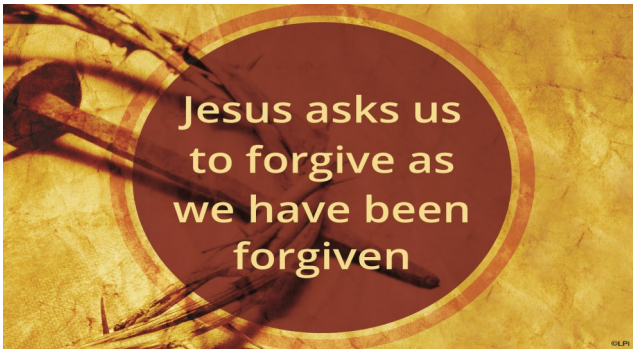
THANK YOU
for your generosity

A **HUGE** thank you goes out to these individuals and businesses that donated to the St. Joseph raffle— a total of over \$7400 in prize value! WOW!!! Thank You! Thank You!

Kathy Baker	Hawks Coffee Shop
Deb & Fred Craig	Hy-Vee
Gerald & Fr. Michael Erpelding	Johnnie Mars
Greg & Jane Heisterkamp	Kirby's Corner Market
Mary Herbst	Mallett Bees
John Janson	Nested Boutique
Gary Kluver	O'Reilly Auto Parts
Mary & Joe Lander	Pam Eliason
Randy Mahlberg	Pet Perfect
Rachel & Wray Wright	Pizza Ranch
AgriVision	Rebel Fitness
Big Fin Guide Service	Red Lobster
B-Line Logistics	Riddles
Culver's-Sioux City	Rooster's Harley-Davidson
Cut-Rite Lawn Care	SBL Nutrition
Fareway-Sergeant Bluff	Scheels
Flippin Vintage	Schrank's Bar & Grill
Floyd Golf Course	Sergeant Bluff Dental
Found at 926	Simply Signs
Goodin Insurance Agency	Sloan Tap
Gramma's Aprons	Small Town Girls
Green Valley Golf Course	Texas Roadhouse
Growing Up Lulu Fiber Arts	Truly Juli Photography
Gunderson's	Uncommon Grounds
H&R Construction	Westwood High School
Hard Rock Casino	

God Laughs

A priest and a Protestant pastor from the local churches are standing by the side of the road, pounding a sign into the ground that reads: The End is Near! Turn Yourself Around Now Before it's Too Late! As a car sped past them, the driver yelled, "Leave us alone, you religious nuts!" From the curve they heard screeching tires and a big splash. The priest turns to the Protestant pastor and asks, "Do you think the sign should just say, 'Bridge Out?'"



The Hateful Things We Hug Tight

At the end of "Lord of the Rings: Return of the King," Gollum fights with Frodo for possession of the One Ring. He wins the fight, but in doing so topples over the edge of the mountain ledge, falling into the cavernous fires of Mount Doom. As he falls, we see him smile, and clutch the ring to his chest. He is happy. He has won what he spent his life pursuing.

It is only in the last millisecond before his face slips below the lava that we see his eyes widen in terror as he realizes the truth: the thing he clutches to his heart is the thing that killed him. In choosing the ring, he chooses death.

Sin, and the fallen nature of this world, makes us addicted to something that kills us.

Like any addiction, it is a vicious cycle. The less we forgive, the more hardhearted we become ... and the less we seek forgiveness ourselves.

What breaks the cycle? Reconciliation with God — or, Confession, as we call it. In fact, it does more than break the cycle. It turns it backward. Not only does it detoxify our souls of sin, it weakens our addiction to sin's effects — anger, vengeance, unforgiveness. The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works, said St. Augustine.

Ultimately, I view our whole human life as a struggle on the ledge of a mountaintop. It is certain that we will choose sin — we always do. We will tumble over the side, toward ruin. But let us be Frodo, and not Gollum. Let us cling to the rock of the sacraments and accept the hand that would drag us away from the flames.

"Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight." — Sirach 27:30

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Our desire
for God
can only
grow when
we place
ourselves in
His presence.

-Pope Francis



Eucharistic Adoration

- * **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)



The campaign most essential to the work of the Diocese of Sioux City has begun for 2023-2024! Thank you for your continued support of the ministries and work of our Diocese. Join us today in support of TAO with a gift or pledge through the brochure that was mailed to you or giving online at scdiocese.org/tao. Your support enables the works of all Diocesan ministries including Faith Formation, Youth Ministry, Catholic Charities, Parish Accounting and much more!



LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the Week

Take some time to reflect on the enormity of what Christ offers us in salvation. Can we find the strength to offer just a fraction of that to our brothers and sisters?

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