

# 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 SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE**

**NOVEMBER 26, 2023**

## Parish Staff

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

(712) 423-2656

[father@stjohnparishonawa.com](mailto:father@stjohnparishonawa.com)

[father@stjoeparishsalix.com](mailto:father@stjoeparishsalix.com)

**Director of Faith Formation, Michelle Rethman**

(712) 202-6641

[michelle@stjohnparishonawa.com](mailto:michelle@stjohnparishonawa.com)

[michelle@stjoeparishsalix.com](mailto:michelle@stjoeparishsalix.com)

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

(712) 423-1004

[secretary@stjohnparishonawa.com](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@stjoeparishsalix.com)

**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:** What changes in attitude do I need to make to follow Jesus' idea of kingship?

**Children:** What can I do each day this week to serve others?

In May 2023, for the first time in almost three quarters of a century, a monarch was crowned in England. A few days later a friend of mine scoffed, "What a waste of time and energy! What is the point of a king?"

I'm a proud American who wants neither theocracy nor monarchical restoration. I like our democratic republic. But the coronation of King Charles reminded me of something needed in every person and community: confidence in the future. The king's most basic role is to symbolize the unity of the nation. In England, the parliament members handle many of the practical duties of governance. But the king or queen can do what they cannot: embody in a single person the reality and future of a whole nation. To say, "this is our king" is to say, "we exist as a community, and we have a future." Kingship isn't primarily about the power of one person or family. It's about the enduring identity and unity of the whole.

To say Christ is our King is to say we exist as a people. We are one in him. We are, and we will be as long as he is. And since he will be our risen king forever, together we have a future filled with hope. Even the best countries will finally fall. But Christ and his Church will endure forever. What good news! It's not a waste of time to crown a king. We do it all the time. Let's be sure to crown the right one – the one whose kingdom never ends.



— Father John Muir

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## WEEK OF NOVEMBER 26, 2023

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

Day	Date	Time	Mass Intentions	Location
Monday	November 27		No Mass	
Tuesday	November 28	9:00 AM	Fran Mitchell	St. Joseph
Wednesday	November 29	9:00 AM	Jerry & Bonnie Trudeau	St. John
Thursday	November 30	9:00 AM	Lawrence Topf	St. Joseph
Friday	December 1	10:00 AM	Fr. Thomas Donahoe	Pleasant View Nursing Home
Saturday	December 2	4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. John, St. Joseph & St. Bernard	St. Joseph
Sunday	December 3	9:00 AM	A. J. Benjamin	St. John
		11:00 AM	Bud & Rita Brassfield	St. Joseph

## GROWING IN OUR FAITH

### Religious Education News

#### Religious Education Schedule

##### November

29 <sup>th</sup>	St. John, Reconciliation, 3:30 – 5:30 PM
	St. Joseph, Reconciliation, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

##### December

6 <sup>th</sup>	St. Joseph, Special Event, 6:30 – 7:30 PM
	St. John, Classes, 6:30 – 7:30 PM
13 <sup>th</sup>	Classes, 6:30 – 7:30 PM
20 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Pizza Party!, 6:30 – 7:30 PM



#### December 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 7:30 PM

"Pizza with Padres" at St. Joseph will be on December 6, the Feast of St. Nicholas. We invite all family members to join our Religious Education students for an evening of food, fellowship, and fun! Fr. Travis

Crotty, Vocation Director of the Diocese of Sioux City, will join us as our special guest. Please RSVP to Michelle Rethman in the Google doc that was emailed to you.



### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Father Michael will hear confessions on **Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>**. He will hear confessions at **St. John, 3:30 – 5:30 PM**, and at **St. Joseph, 6:00 – 8:00 PM**. We will not have Religious Education classes that evening so that students and families can receive this sacrament.

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE *Blessed Virgin Mary*

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a *holy day of obligation*. Mass times are as follows:

- **Thursday, December 7:** St. Joseph, 6:30 PM
- **Friday, December 8:** St. John, 5:30 PM

This year Christmas falls on a Monday which shortens the 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Advent to one day. The obligation is to attend mass for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent AND Christmas. Father Erpelding is offering the following mass times to celebrate both occasions.

### HOLIDAY *Mass Schedule*

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23	4:00 pm	St. Joseph-Salix
Sunday, December 24	9:00 am	St. John-Onawa
Sunday, December 24	11:00 am	St. Joseph-Salix

#### Christmas

Sunday, December 24	4:00 pm	St. Joseph-Salix
Sunday, December 24	6:00 pm	St. John-Onawa
Monday, December 25	9:00 am	St. John-Onawa
Monday, December 25	11:00 am	St. Joseph-Salix

## ST. JOHN & ST. BERNARD NEWS

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

Registered Families: 185  
November 12, 2023

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$1389.00
E-Offering	\$74.70
Food Pantry	\$50.00
St. Bernard	\$125.00
St. Joseph Education Society	\$25.00
Church/ Hall Rental	
<b>Total for Nov. 12, 2023</b>	<b>\$1663.70</b>



Now is the time to continue the tradition of donating Christmas Flowers to decorate our Church for the beautiful Christmas Season. Please use the envelope in your packet or just mark an envelope "Christmas Flowers" and list the names you are donating in memory of. These will be published in the Christmas week bulletin.

### Knights of Columbus Christmas Toy Drive



From now until December 11th, you can donate new, unwrapped toys at the following locations: Bomgaars, Dollar General, Fiesta Foods, Stangel Pharmacy, Zima Investments and St. John's Catholic Church. West Central will distribute all toys and food items to needy families in Monona County.



A "FREE WILL" breakfast will be held on Sunday, Dec. 10th at St. John Church from 10am – 11am. This will benefit the Toy Drive. Everyone is invited!

## ST. JOSEPH NEWS

### St. Joseph Weekly Offering

Nov. 11-12, 2023

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$2516.00
E-Offering	\$90.00
Maintenance/Emergency	\$75.00
Candles	\$84.00
Flowers	\$165.00
St. Joseph Education	\$95.00
<b>Total for Nov. 11-12, 2023</b>	<b>\$3025.00</b>



We will be changing out the missalettes for the upcoming new liturgical year. If you are able to help after daily Mass on **Tuesday, November 28**, it would be greatly appreciated. Coffee and rolls will be served.

### Altar Server — TRAINING —

**St. Joseph Church, Altar Server Training:** We will offer training to any student, grades 3–12, who would like to serve for Mass. Training will have two parts: The first will be instruction on **Wednesday, November 29, 5:30 – 6:30 PM** in the Parish Center. Training includes dinner. The second part will be on **Sunday, December 3, 12:00 – 1:00 PM** in the church. Students will practice with mentors. This training includes lunch. Please RSVP to Mary in the parish office, 712-946-5635, by Monday, November 27th.



On November 14, St. Joseph Church was the host parish for the priests of the southwest deanery and their monthly holy hour and dinner. Thank you to the following couples who served a delicious meal and provided wonderful hospitality to the visiting priests. Thank you to Mary Johnson for coordinating the food and volunteers. It was greatly appreciated!

- ☞ Deb & Fred Craig
- ☞ Jane & Greg Heisterkamp
- ☞ Mary & Larry Johnson
- ☞ Mary Kay & Kenny Miller



## God Laughs

### Wise Sayings:

- Wrinkled was not one of the things I wanted to be when I grew up.
- Procrastinate now!
- I have a degree in liberal arts; do you want fries with that?
- A hangover is the wrath of grapes.



Together as One (TAO) supports the Office of Pastoral Planning. The goal of the Pastoral Planning Office is to create a road map by which every aspect of parish life is intentional, missionary driven and open to periodic evaluation and improvement. Through prayer and guidance these plans will set the path for vitality and vibrancy for now and the future. If

you have not yet contributed to TAO, you may do so by placing your pledge in the weekly collection basket. *Thank you for helping us get closer to meeting our parish goals!*

PARISH	GOAL	PLEDGES	REMAINING
ST. JOHN	\$8,987.00	\$5455.00	\$3532.00
ST. JOSEPH	\$12,481.00	\$8457.00	\$4024.00

Each season in the liturgical calendar comes with its own local and regional rituals. During the Advent season, wreathes adorn church sanctuaries and family dining room tables. You may have said Advent wreath prayers in childhood or taken a turn lighting the candles. The Advent wreath is full of symbolism about Christ and his coming at Christmas. The wreath is made of evergreen boughs, reminding us that the life of grace doesn't falter with the changing seasons. It always remains fresh and new. Similarly, a circular wreath re-eternal, never-ending nature of God's love.



Candles remind us that Christ is the light of the world, the One who "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." We use four candles to represent each week of Advent. Traditionally they come in the liturgical colors of the season. Purple has historically represented penance and sacrifice. We see the same color for the season of Lent. On the third Sunday of Advent, however, we light a rose color. The priest will wear rose vestments at Mass. This is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin. On the third Sunday of Advent, we're roughly halfway through the season. The Church chooses the midpoint to remind us to celebrate in the midst of our anticipation! Whatever the color and whatever the day, the Advent wreath is a beautiful practice to focus our attention on Christ's coming at Christmas.

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## Eucharistic Adoration

**Sunday, December 3, 2023**

St. John, Onawa, in the main church

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

*Please wait with the Lord*



## CHRIST OUR LIFE

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

**September 28 & 29, 2024**



"This was the most joy-filled experience of my life. To be with thousands of other like-hearted individuals was truly uplifting. I want this conference in every city and community. We need that in our world right now."

*- 2022 attendee quote*

***Let's Believe...Live...and Celebrate Our Faith!***

Go to [ChristOurLifeIowa.com](http://ChristOurLifeIowa.com) for information & tickets.