

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT & THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

DECEMBER 24, 2023

Parish Staff

Pastor, Rev. Michael J. Erpelding

(712) 423-2656

father@stjohnparishonawa.com

father@stjoeparishsalix.com

Director of Faith Formation, Michelle Rethman

(712) 202-6641

michelle@stjohnparishonawa.com

michelle@stjoeparishsalix.com

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.

Life is troubling. Who among us has not struggled with anxiety and difficulties, sometimes massive ones? I certainly have, as have many of my loved ones. If we do, does this mean that we don't trust the Lord or just need to toughen up?

I don't think so. How encouraging for us anxious and troubled souls to hear Luke describe the Blessed Mother Mary in these words, "But she was greatly troubled at what was said." An archangel has visited her. An inconceivable promise has been made to her. Her life has become wildly unpredictable, perhaps more so than any person before or since. The first point for us: the Lord is with her precisely when she is troubled. Her anxiousness and God's presence are not mutually exclusive. Christianity is not about a trance-like robotic indifference. It's about the presence of divine love. Even in – especially in – troubled circumstances.

Our troubled soul can become our greatest treasure. What seems so troubling at first to Mary becomes the best possible thing, Jesus, the Savior and Lord, is now her son. All the difficulties and troubles remain, and yet her movement into the fullness of God is accelerated. What is troubling you right now? This scripture invites us now, this week, to hear the Lord's messenger say to us what he said to Mary, "Do not be afraid! You have found favor with God."

– Father John Muir

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Questions of the Week

Adults: When have you followed the example of Mary and said, "Let it be done to me as you say?"

Children: Is there something hard you need to do this week? What might make it easier?

Christ the Savior is Born

WEEK OF DECEMBER 24, 2023

Mass Schedule for St. John and St. Joseph Churches

Day	Date	Time	Mass Intentions	Location
Monday	December 25	9:00 AM	Joe Fouts	St. John
		11:00 AM	Mary Lue Schneiders	St. Joseph
Tuesday	December 26	9:00 AM	Carl & Rita Bode	St. Joseph
Wednesday	December 27	9:00 AM	Maggie and Paul Gilkison	St. John
Thursday	December 28	9:00 AM	Paula Wagner	St. Joseph
Friday	December 29	9:00 AM	Mark McNutt	St. John
Saturday	December 30	4:00 PM	Glenda Ullrich	St. Joseph
Sunday	December 31	9:00 AM	John Marjorie & Robert Zink	St. John
		11:00 AM	Parishioners of St. John, St. Joseph & St. Bernard	St. Joseph

GROWING IN OUR FAITH



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
Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God		
Monday, January 1	9:00 am	St. John-Onawa

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

In observance of Christmas, both parish offices will be closed on **Monday, December 25th** and **Tuesday, December 26th**. We will reopen on Wednesday, December 27th. For New Year's Day, both parish offices will be closed on **Monday, January 1st** and **Tuesday, January 2nd**. We will reopen on Wednesday, January 3, 2024. Father will still celebrate mass at St. Joseph at 9:00am on the Dec 26th and Jan 2nd.

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

God's plans are not always what we imagined. Sometimes they make us hesitate. Be like Mary. Say "Yes, Lord" — and God will show you that His imagination is better than yours. ©LPi



Prayer for the 4th Week of Advent

Dear Lord,
 Visit our homes!
 Visit our families!
 Bring your goodness and light
 to every broken heart we've met
 on this journey of life.
 Your presence brings healing and re-
 birth.
 Come, Lord Jesus!
 Amen. ©LPi

St. Joseph Church welcomes Karissa Shattuck to her volunteer position as Kindergarten catechist! Kindergarteners are welcome to join us on Wednesday evenings for Religious Education, 6:30 – 7:30 pm. And we are *always* in need of co-catechists, aides, or substitutes. Please contact Michelle at 712-202-6641 if God is calling you to volunteer in this important ministry.

Religious Education Schedule

December	
27 th	No Religious Education Classes
January	
3 rd	No Religious Education Classes
10 th	Classes, 6:30 – 7:30 PM
17 th	Classes, 6:30 – 7:30 PM
24 th	Classes, 6:30 – 7:30 PM
31 th	Classes, 6:30 – 7:30 PM
February	
7 th	Classes, 6:30 – 7:30 PM
14 th	No classes – Ash Wednesday Masses
21 st	No classes – Lent Reconciliation
28 th	Classes, 6:30 – 7:30 PM

ST. JOHN & ST. BERNARD NEWS

St. John & St. Bernard Weekly Offering

Registered Families: 185
December 10, 2023

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$1928.00
E-Offering	\$149.40
Food Pantry	\$50.00
St. Bernard	\$100.00
Christmas Flowers	\$510.00
Camp. Human Development	\$10.00
Total for Dec. 10, 2023	\$2737.40

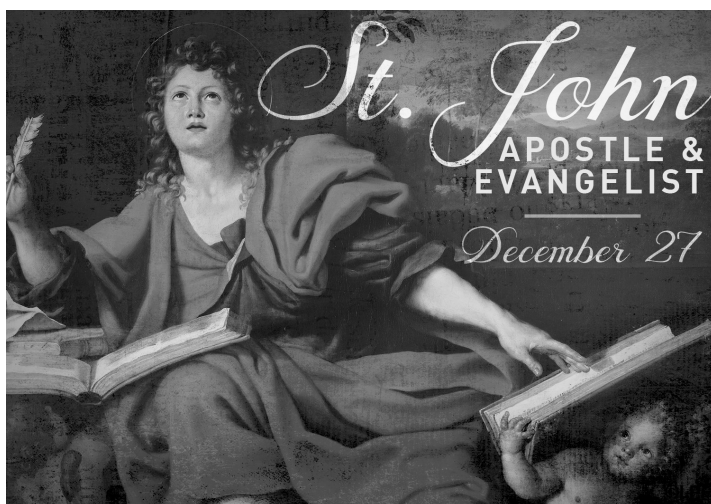


Thank you to everyone who donated poinsettias to beautify the sacred space and enhance our experience as we enter into the Christmas Season.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our Advent and Christmas Season beautiful and blessed. Thanks to the Knights of Columbus for their community service and for sponsoring the pizza party for our Religious Education children. Thanks to all who helped decorate. And thanks to those who served in liturgical ministries: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, Musicians, and Altar Servers. Thanks to Mike Lage, our videographer.



And a special thank you to our pastor, Fr. Michael Erpelding. Our parish community is blessed to have all of you share your time, talent, and treasure with us.



ST. JOSEPH NEWS

St. Joseph Weekly Offering

Dec 9-10, 2023

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$8743.00
E-Offering	\$415.70
Maintenance/Emergency	\$80.00
Candles	\$35.00
Immaculate Conception	\$150.00
St Joseph Education	\$25.00
Christmas Flowers	\$230.00
Total for Dec 9-10, 2023	\$9678.70



Thank you to the volunteers who helped with our "Pizza with Padres" event. It was a wonderful evening with Father Crotty and Father Erpelding. Thank you to those who helped with set-up, picking up the pizzas, supplying desserts, donations and clean-up. We appreciate the support of our Religious Education program!



Please welcome these families to our parish!

- * Zach & Hannah Greder and their son Graham
- * Steve & Denise Griebel and their children Corinne & Delaney
- * Michael Emanglur & Ileen Hetiback and their children Simon, Riana & Amari



St. Joseph Church is now equipped with an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) thanks to the support of the St. Joseph Tabernacle Society. The AED is located on the wall by the elevator on the ground floor. During a cardiac emergency, every passing second counts. AED's are designed to swiftly analyze the patient's heart rhythm and determine if defibrillation is required. If you are certified in CPR, you will be familiar with how to use an AED. However, you do not need to be certified to use one. The machine will give you step by step verbal commands on what to do in case of a cardiac emergency. If you would like to learn more about the Philips AED, you can visit the following link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6JbQ7kmvX38>

God Laughs

- ☞ A man walks into a library and asks the librarian for books about paranoia. She whispers, "They're right behind you!"
- ☞ Want to hear a roof joke? The first one's on the house.



THANK YOU for your support of the Together as One campaign. We are inching closer to our goals. If you have not made a contribution, please consider a donation today!

PARISH	GOAL	PLEDGES	REMAINING
ST. JOHN	\$8,987.00	\$5660.00	\$3327.00
ST. JOSEPH	\$12,481.00	\$9457.00	\$3024.00

DIOCESAN ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES
DECEMBER 24 & 25, 2023

GIVE THE GIFTS OF THE SEASON TO

children and families in need.

With your help, we will continue to bring His light to all who are vulnerable through compassionate, life-changing programs and services.

- Drop your special offering envelope in the collection basket
- Respond to the mailing sent to your home
- Venmo: catholiccharities_siouxcity
- Give online: cathchar.com/Christmas

Thank you for blessing others!

SCAN FOR ONLINE

venmo

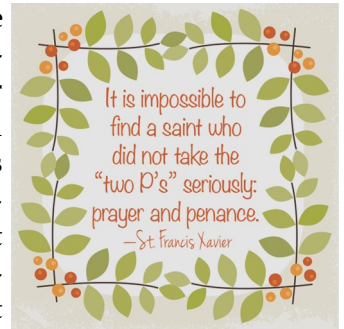
Catholic Charities
DIOCESE OF SIOUX CITY

SIOUX CITY (712) 252-4547
CARROLL/STORM LAKE (712) 792-9597
FORT DODGE (515) 576-4156
SPENCER (712) 580-4320
cathchar.com

The Annual Collection for Catholic Charities will be taken December 24-25. This collection helps to support Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Sioux City to empower and strengthen individuals and families, through charity, advocacy and mental health services that are inspired by Christ's love and compassion. Your donation helps Catholic Charities provide hope, healing, and understanding for God's beloved children. Please consider prayerfully your contribution to this important local collection and use the special envelope in your contribution pack or the QR Code provided above to give directly to Catholic Charities. Thank you for your generosity.

First Reconciliation

First Reconciliation, one of the Sacraments of Healing, is around the corner for our delightful second grade students. Below is the schedule for each parish. Please contact Michelle Rethman, Director of Faith Formation, at 712-202-6641 if you have



questions or concerns. Parents, regarding the dates below, we invite both parents to participate; however, we ask that at least one parent attend the meeting, retreat, and first reconciliation. We look forward to walking with your children as they prepare for the sacraments this year!

St. Joseph Church

- ☞ **Parent Information Meeting:**
Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 6:45 PM
- ☞ **Retreat:**
Wednesday, January 24, 2024, 6:30 PM
- ☞ **First Reconciliation:**
Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 5:00 – 5:30 PM

St. John Church

- ☞ **Parent Information Meeting:**
Wednesday, January 17, 2024, 6:45 PM
- ☞ **Retreat:**
Wednesday, January 31, 2024, 6:30 PM
- ☞ **First Reconciliation:**
Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 6:00 – 6:30 PM

