

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 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 3, 2023

Parish Staff

Pastor, Rev. Michael J. Erpelding

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

(712) 423-1004

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

Secretary – St. Joseph, Mary Brady

(712) 946-5635

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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: At this time, how faithful do you feel you are to God's plan for you?

Children: What good thing might God be asking you to do right now?

Lately I've been listening to a science-based podcast on healthy daily living. The host frequently discusses the wide range of health benefits of sleep. So, each night I'm trying to get more, and better, slumber, and it's helping me feel energized. So, why in the world should we follow Christ's advice this week? "Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house will come ... lest he find you asleep." Isn't sleep, especially at midnight and cockcrow, a good thing?

Of course, it is. But the wakefulness the Lord calls us to is a deep, personal orientation to Him. A nightly vigil is therefore a metaphor for this, but it's not just that. We should give up real sleep in order to pray, too. This difficult practice is a time-tested way to foster wakefulness of heart. When we give up sleep to pray, it focuses us. We learn that life is not an endless series of days. You and I belong to the Lord – awake or asleep, in life and in death. Sooner or later, even our need for our physical sleep will pass away. And our attentiveness to God – that is, whether we are awaiting Him to meet us – will be all that matters.



May I challenge us this week and this Advent to intentionally give up at least one hour of sleep each week for prayer? Stay up later, wake up in the middle of the night, or an hour earlier, and pray. Will we be a bit more tired the next day? Yes. But we'll be amazed at the spiritual wakefulness that results, too.

– Father John Muir

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WEEK OF DECEMBER 3, 2023

Mass Schedule for St. John and St. Joseph Churches

Day	Date	Time	Mass Intentions	Location
Monday	December 4		No Mass	
Tuesday	December 5	9:00 AM	Leo Bousquet	St. Joseph
Wednesday	December 6	9:00 AM	Bob Lesenyie	St. John
Thursday	December 7	6:30 PM	David Menard	St. Joseph
Friday	December 8	5:30 PM	Fred Servia & Virgil Hedges	St. John
Saturday	December 9	4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. John, St. Joseph & St. Bernard	St. Joseph
Sunday	December 10	9:00 AM	Brynnlie Hausman	St. John
		11:00 AM	Shirley Lambert	St. Joseph

GROWING IN OUR FAITH

Religious Education News

Religious Education Schedule

December	
6 th	St. Joseph , Special Event, 6:30 – 7:30 PM St. John , Classes, 6:30 – 7:30 PM
13 th	Classes, 6:30 – 7:30 PM
20 th	Christmas Pizza Party!, 6:30 – 7:30 PM
27 th	No Religious Education Classes

December 6th, 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.

Attention Parishioners: This year presents a special occurrence as the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on December 24th, immediately followed by Christmas Day on December 25th. Please note that each of these days is a separate holy day of obligation. We kindly remind you to attend two distinct Masses, one for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and another for Christmas, to fulfill your sacred obligations.



4th 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

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

* There will *not* be 9:00am mass on these two days.

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Advent is a time for waiting, for hoping, for praying. It is a time for reflecting on the special work to which God calls us all. Stay alert. Show Him you are listening. ©LPI

ST. JOHN & ST. BERNARD NEWS

St. John & St. Bernard Weekly Offering

Registered Families: 185
November 19, 2023

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$791.00
E-Offering	
Food Pantry	
St. Bernard	\$240.00
Christmas Flowers	
Total for Nov. 19, 2023	\$1031.00



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/in Honor of. These will be published in the Christmas week bulletin.

Knights of Columbus Christmas Toy Drive



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!



Don’t forget your bells for the procession at Christmas Eve Mass !

ST. JOSEPH NEWS

St. Joseph Weekly Offering

Nov. 18-19, 2023

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$8659.00
E-Offering	\$40.00
Maintenance	\$55.00
Candles	\$57.00
St. Joseph Education	\$10.00
Total for Nov. 18-19, 2023	\$8821.00

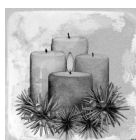


Congratulations to Summer Brenden, catechumen, and her fiancé, Brandon

Thompson, candidate, who celebrated the Rite of Welcome on November 26th at St. Joseph, and who will be received into the church at the Easter Vigil Mass. Please pray for Summer and Brandon as they continue to prepare to come into the Church.

Altar Server TRAINING

We will offer training to any student, grades 3–12, who would like to serve for Mass. The second part of training – pairing the newly trained altar servers with mentors – will be on **Sunday, December 3, 12:00 – 1:00 PM** in the church. This training includes lunch.



The Advent edition of “the WORD among us” is available at the back of church. This edition is titled “Living as a Holy Family.” There are great articles to help you grow as a family using Jesus, Mary and Joseph as models. The booklet also offers easy access to the daily readings and a thought-provoking meditation. Allow God’s word to bring you hope, love, joy and peace this Advent season.



As fall changes to winter, we would like to thank John Kluver for all of his work taking care of the landscaping around church. The flower beds looked beautiful and the butterflies enjoyed a summer filled with tasty treats. Thank you, John, for planting, weeding, and watering this summer and for putting the flowers to bed for the winter. Your work in this ministry is greatly appreciated!

God Laughs

A mother was giving instructions to her three children as they walked into Mass, "And, why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" Her son quickly responded, "Because people are sleeping!"



Together as One (TAO) supports Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities empowers and strengthens all individuals and families, through charity, advocacy and mental health services that are inspired by Christ's love and compassion.

PARISH	GOAL	PLEDGES	REMAINING
ST. JOHN	\$8,987.00	\$5455.00	\$3532.00
ST. JOSEPH	\$12,481.00	\$8957.00	\$3524.00



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 for information & tickets.



"Immaculate Mary, your praises we sing!" December 8th is one of our feasts celebrating Mary - the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. From the beginnings of the Church, spiritual writers and theologians have acknowledged the innocence and holiness of Mary. St. Irenaeus called her the "new Eve." Both faced with the pure freedom to accept or reject God, Mary began with work of redemption with her yes to Christ! The Church began to celebrate the feast of Mary's conception in the early Middle Ages. In 1854, Pope Pius IX infallibly declared that Mary was free of original sin from the first moment of her conception. On this feast day, we celebrate the beauty and goodness of Our Lady! ©LPi