

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 FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

DECEMBER 31 2023

Parish Staff

Pastor, Rev. Michael J. Erpelding

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Director of Faith Formation, Michelle Rethman

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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

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: Do I treat refugees and exiles today in the same way I would the Holy Family? How? Can I personally identify with what they went through?

Children: Have I ever been in a strange place where I did not feel at home? What happened?

I remember the first time my older sister asked me if I wanted to hold her newborn son. Terrified, I told her I didn't think it was a good idea. My résumé had nothing to suggest I would be a qualified baby holder. But she warmly told me, "I'll help you hold him." It struck me that she is baby's mother. She is the one who decides who is qualified to hold him. I took him in my arms and soon I began to feel comfortable with that tiny little warm cooing creature in my arms, and soon I no longer feared holding him. Now, twenty-seven nieces and nephews later, holding a newborn child is one of the great joys of my life.

Do we sometimes think that Jesus is given only to the highly qualified, special religious people? In the Gospel of Luke today we hear about the presentation of the Lord in the temple. The newborn son of God is passed around like a baton in a relay race, not guarded

like a precious jewel or a breakable china dish. We can see him going from the arms of Mary to Joseph, then to the priest performing the ceremony, then to Simeon the old man, then to Anna the old widow. Each one receiving him and then handing him to the next. A tidal wave of joy and thanksgiving follows wherever he is placed.

Believe me, you are qualified to hold Jesus in your arms. How can I say that with such confidence? Because the mother decides who is qualified. The Blessed Virgin, embodied in the Church, holds him out to you and me. She rejoices to place him in our arms to hold, and to hand him on, too.

– Father John Muir

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WEEK OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

Mass Schedule for St. John and St. Joseph Churches

Day	Date	Time	Mass Intentions	Location
Monday	January 1	9:00 AM	Father Patrick O'Kane	St. John
Tuesday	January 2	9:00 AM	Leo Bousquet	St. Joseph
Wednesday	January 3	9:00 AM	Everette Bradshaw Sr.	St. John
Thursday	January 4	9:00 AM	Ed Lamoureux	St. Joseph
Friday	January 5	10:00 AM	Fr. Charles Yetmar	Pleasant View Nursing Home
Saturday	January 6	4:00 PM	Gregg & Fran Mitchell	St. Joseph
Sunday	January 7	9:00 AM	Darrell Hewitt	St. John
		11:00 AM	Parishioners of St. John, St. Joseph & St. Bernard	St. Joseph

GROWING IN OUR FAITH

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

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 January 2nd.

Religious Education Schedule

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
March	
7 th	Classes, 6:30 – 7:30 PM
14 th	Classes, 6:30 – 7:30 PM
21 st	Classes, 6:30 – 7:30 PM
28 th	No classes – Holy Week

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK
 God's timing is not always our timing. Sometimes, we have to wait years for the answer to our prayer. Never despair. Remember that God keeps His word.

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FORMED: We are excited to announce a learning tool called FORMED that will be used by some of our teachers, and more importantly by students and parents in the home. FORMED.org is a premier on-line platform filled with over 4,000 Catholic studies, movies, cartoons, audio dramas, ebooks, and talks – and it's free for *every* parishioner. It's easy to subscribe! Just go to <https://signup.formed.org/> and enter "51040." Enter your name and email address, and now you're ready to go! Check out this week's recommendations! Please contact Michelle Rethman for more information.

THIS WEEK ON

FORMED

Week of December 31, 2023



THE AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE SHOW
DR. TIM GRAY

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS
WITH DR. SCOTT HEFELFINGER

New Year's Resolutions | The Augustine Institute Show

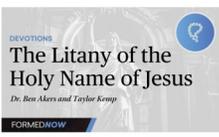
What's your resolution this year? Dr. Tim Gray welcomes Dr. Scott Hefelfinger, Assistant Professor of Theology in the Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology, to celebrate one year of the Augustine Institute Show!



CHRISTMAS
The Holy Family
Dr. John Scherr

The Holy Family

We are excited to announce our series of FORMED Now! Christmas and New Year special episodes. In these episodes, professors from the Augustine Institute Graduate School will lead us in reflections throughout the season!



DEVOTIONS
The Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus
Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp

Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as we celebrate the feast of The Most Holy Name of Jesus with this litany prayer of the Holy Name.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
 Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and  graces possess

ST. JOHN & ST. BERNARD NEWS

St. John & St. Bernard Weekly Offering

Registered Families: 185
December 17, 2023

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$1450.98
E-Offering	\$149.40
Food Pantry	
St. Bernard	\$307.00
Christmas Flowers	\$145.00
Total for Dec. 17, 2023	\$2062.38



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 16-17, 2023

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$7162.50
E-Offering	\$223.00
Christmas Flowers	\$80.00
Candles	\$108.00
Immaculate Conception	\$25.00
Catholic Charities	\$25.00
Christmas	\$50.00
Total for Dec 16-17, 2023	\$7673.50



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>



2024 Calendars are available in the church entrance courtesy of Meyer Brothers Funeral Homes. The calendars feature beautiful photography, reflections and the liturgical calendar.

As you make resolutions for the new year, consider praying with the saints throughout the year. Their solemnity, feast and memorial days are indicated on the calendar.

The January/February issue of the "Word among us" is available in the entry of the church and the day chapel. Please take a copy and read the daily scripture and meditation together as a family.



God Laughs

When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.

A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at him and says, "I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger."



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



Venerable Mary Elizabeth Lange was a trailblazing black Catholic who founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first congregation of black religious sisters in the USA. Her faith and perseverance helped break down barriers and create

new opportunities for black Catholics.

Almighty and Eternal God, You granted Mother Mary Lange extraordinary trust in Your providence. You endow her with humility, courage, holiness, and an extraordinary sense of service to the poor and the sick. You enabled her to fund the Oblate Sisters of Providence and provided educational, social, and spiritual ministry especially to the African American community. Mother Lange's love for all enabled her to see Christ in each person, and the pain of prejudice and racial hatred never blurred that vision.

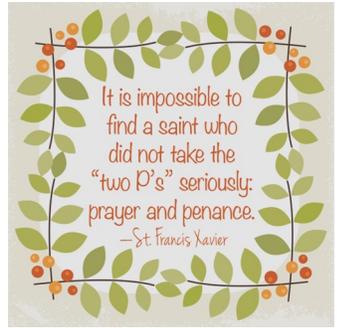
Deign to raise her to the highest honors of the altar in order that, through her intercession, more souls may come to a deeper understanding and more fervent love of You.

Heavenly Father, glorify Your heart by granting also this favor (state your request) which we ask through the intercession of Your faithful servant, Mother Mary Lange.

Amen.

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

