

# 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

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**APRIL 14, 2024**

## 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, Tues, Thurs, Friday  
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 2:00pm – 6:00pm

**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 decisions can I make to protect the fragile gifts of our earth's environment?

**Children:** Do I realize that God has given me my body and that I must take care of it?

When I was a kid, a friend at my home parish told me, "If you get to Mass by the Gospel reading, it counts!" As a lifelong late-arriver, it's something I have told myself many times, especially in my earlier years as a Catholic. If the "it counts" is justifiable on a pathetically minimal scale of liturgical legalism, then the Gospel reading today shows how insanely wrong-headed it is, and how helpful it is to re-think the Mass in its light.

The famous "Road to Emmaus" story recounts, on that first Sunday of the Resurrection, the basic two-fold structure of the Mass: Word, followed by Eucharist. Jesus spends a significant period of time with two dismayed disciples, as he connects a wide swath of the Hebrew scriptures with his own suffering, death, and resurrection. They would later report that this Liturgy of the Word touched their hearts with an inexplicable fire. This Word-induced flame alone is what leads the two disciples to discover Jesus' presence in the "breaking of the bread."

With this in mind, how can we possibly think that the Liturgy of the Word is unnecessary or incidental? The two disciples needed the Scriptures explained to them in order to experience Jesus alive in the eucharistic breaking of bread. Sure, we say, but they had the Risen Jesus. But that's precisely the point: Jesus is risen and accompanies us in both parts of the Mass. Imagine how much our experience

of Jesus in the Eucharist would deepen if we (preachers and listeners) took even more seriously that Jesus himself sets our hearts ablaze with his Word so that we know him in the Eucharist. That Word-induced fire counts, too! – *Father John Muir* ©LPi



# WEEK OF APRIL 14, 2024

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

| Day       | Date     | Time     | Mass Intentions                                    | Location   |
|-----------|----------|----------|--|------------|
| Monday    | April 15 |          | No Mass  |            |
| Tuesday   | April 16 | 9:00 AM  | Henry Lamoureux                                    | St. Joseph |
| Wednesday | April 17 | 9:00 AM  | Marge Parks  | St. John   |
| Thursday  | April 18 | 9:00 AM  | Swerczek Family                                    | St. Joseph |
| Friday    | April 19 | 9:00 AM  | Louis Benjamin                                     | St. John   |
| Saturday  | April 20 | 4:00 PM  | Parishioners of St. John, St. Joseph & St. Bernard | St. Joseph |
| Sunday    | April 21 | 9:00 AM  | O'Neill Family                                     | St. John   |
|           |          | 11:00 AM | Geralda McGregor                                   | St. Joseph |

## GROWING IN OUR FAITH

### Religious Education Schedule

Parents and guardians, please see the remaining schedule for Religious Education below. The last evening for the **St. Joseph Religious Education Program** is **April 24, 2024**. The last evening for the **St. John Religious Education Program** is **May 1, 2024**.

| April            |  |
|------------------|--|
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | Classes, 6:30–7:30 PM                                |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | Classes, 6:30–7:30 PM – <i>St. Joseph Last Night</i> |
| May              |  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Classes, 6:30–7:30 PM – <i>St. John Last Night</i>   |

### ICC Advocates for Public Policy Guided by Catholic Teaching

On behalf of the Iowa bishops, the Iowa Catholic Conference (ICC) advocates for policies at the State Capitol that respect the life and dignity of the human person and apply the principles of Catholic social teaching to critical issues of the day. Sign up for the ICC weekly news update by clicking on "Take Action or Sign Up for Alerts" at [iowacatholicconference.org](http://iowacatholicconference.org).



### Live the Liturgy—Inspiration for the Week

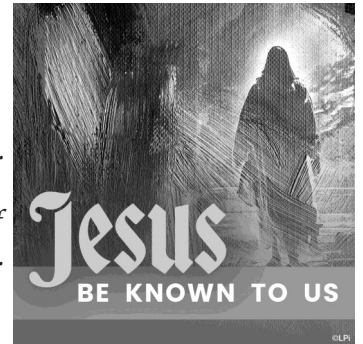
Sometimes when God appears in our path, we do not recognize him. In these moments, Jesus invites us to reach out and touch him. Remember that Christ is real, Christ is alive, and Christ stands before each one of us – so reach out. Touch him.

©LPi

### Prayer In Times of Darkness

*Dear Jesus,  
When I feel troubled, alone,  
frightened, be with me. Be a  
flicker of flame in this darkness.  
Help me to know you in the  
stark seasons as I do in times of  
elation. You are the light I seek.  
Amen.*

©LPi



Thank you to everyone who donated food items to the food pantry this Lenten season. We are grateful to all of you and the Knights of Columbus for organizing the food drive. If you or someone you know could benefit from the food pantry, please contact the parish office to schedule a time for food pick up.

## Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped make Holy Week a very special and sacred time in our parishes. Lectors, altar servers, musicians, greeters, ushers, eucharistic ministers, catechists, decorators, cleaners and staff all made this Lenten and Easter season a beautiful time of worship and praise. Thank you to Father Micheal Erpelding for being a humble and faithful servant of God and leading your flock to the resurrected Christ. May you all continue to be filled with Easter joy.



## ST. JOHN & ST. BERNARD NEWS

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

Registered Families: 185

March 31, 2024

|                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Envelopes and Loose Giving      | 2068.18          |
| E-Offering                      | \$164.40         |
| Candles                         |                  |
| St. Bernard                     | \$420.00         |
| Retired/Infirm Priests          | \$1277.42        |
| Holy Land                       | \$140.00         |
|                                 |                  |
| <b>Total for March 31, 2024</b> | <b>\$4070.00</b> |



May the sunlight and the rain be reminders that You are at work renewing the earth. As a God of renewal, You are ever at work in our lives, too. Open our eyes and lives to the needed changes in our lives this Spring. Awaken us to new life and perspective, for we pray in Jesus' name. *Catholic Health Association*



### HIGHWAY CLEANUP

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 20th at 10am. The Knights of Columbus will pick up litter on a 2 mile stretch of highway just west of town.

Volunteers will meet at St. John's parking lot at 10 AM and carpool from there.

Please wear old clothes and shoes, and bring gloves if you have them. Bright vests and large trash bags will be provided.

If eight volunteers show up, everyone would walk 1 mile total and the job would get done in less than two hours.

God bless and look forward to seeing you there.

Questions ? Call Larry Christensen at 712-490-4484.

## ST. JOSEPH NEWS

### St. Joseph Weekly Offering

March 30-31, 2024

|                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Envelopes and Loose Giving         | \$2936.00        |
| E-Offering                         | \$125.00         |
| Candles                            | \$35.00          |
| Retired/Infirm Priests             | \$1392.00        |
| Holy Land                          | \$75.00          |
|                                    |                  |
| <b>Total for March 30-31, 2024</b> | <b>\$4563.00</b> |

On Sunday, April 28, St. Joseph will celebrate the



graduating high school seniors of our parish with a breakfast and mass. Graduates, their parents,

siblings and grandparents are invited to attend **Breakfast at 9:30am** in the parish hall followed by **Mass at 11:00am**. Please bring your graduation cap and gown to wear at mass if possible.

The breakfast is hosted by the junior class parents and Tabernacle Society. Please RSVP how many will attend to secretary @stjoeparishsalix.com. The following is our list of graduates. Please contact the office if we are missing anyone so we can update our records.

MJ Crawford  
Joseph Gengler  
Ella Hanner  
Lydia Harpenau  
Frank Lewis  
Cassie Skinner  
Carson Topf

Kyran Flowers  
Kayla Gray  
Micke Hansen  
Devin Labruno  
Kelsi Skatges  
Will Tischer

### In Sympathy

Please remember in your prayers Helen Martin who passed away March 20, 2024. Her funeral will be held later in May. *May her soul and all the souls of the faithfully departed rest in peace. Amen.*



Interested in joining our parish? Please fill out a registration form found on the table in the entryway. Any families who are registered, but not receiving the weekly giving envelopes, please email the office (secretary@stjoeparishsalix.com) so our records can be updated.

## God Laughs

### Who Came First?

A computer scientist, a surgeon, and a civil engineer were gathered at the pub. The surgeon boasts, "Surgery is the oldest technology in the world! It's in the Bible. God removed Adam's rib while he slept. This is clear evidence that surgery pre-dates all other technological endeavors!"

Without so much as a beat, the civil engineer says, "Well, before that, God formed the Earth, the stars, and everything from nothing but chaos. He created rivers, mountains and oceans. This was clear evidence that civil engineering pre-dates all other technological endeavors."

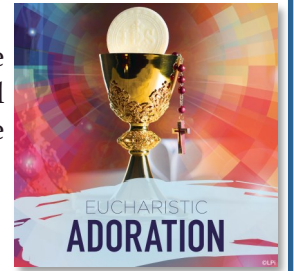
Not to be outdone, the computer scientist points out, "Yes, but where do you think the Chaos came from?"

| PARISH     | GOAL        | PLEDGES     | REMAINING  |
|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| ST. JOHN   | \$8,987.00  | \$6,190.00  | \$2,797.00 |
| ST. JOSEPH | \$12,481.00 | \$11,082.00 | \$1,399.00 |



Together As One (TAO) is an opportunity for all Catholics in our diocese to express unity in carrying out our mission in support of the work of Christ in our lives today. Join us today in support of TAO with a gift or pledge through a brochure that will be mailed to you next week or by giving online at [scdiocese.org/tao](http://scdiocese.org/tao).

The Holy Eucharist will be available for Adoration. All are invited to spend some time with the Lord.



**Sunday, April 14**

St. John, Onawa, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Please join us as we celebrate our graduating Seniors on April 28th at the 9 AM Mass at St. John's. Help us to celebrate their accomplishments and pray for their continuing success as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

Our graduating seniors are:

**Emma Jensen, Maggie Lage, Kacy Miller, Gracie Reicks, Jack Jamison, Andrew Orr, Jordan Orr, Caleb Terry**  
Plan on wearing your cap & gown and be at Church by 8:40am. A breakfast for the seniors and their families, sponsored by the Rosary Society and the 9th grade parents, will follow Mass.



"THANK YOU!" to our parishioners at St. John and St. Joseph for supporting the Knights' Lenten Food Drive! You all are SO incredibly generous!

St. Joe parishioners helped to restock the church's food pantry. Your selfless gifts of non-perishable food items will benefit our friends in need in the parish's service area.

St. John & St. Bernard parishioners donated over 220 lbs of non-perishable food items that were accepted by West Central Outreach (in Onawa) for distribution to the many needy families & individuals in Monona County.

Remember, your help is always appreciated and will be asked for again next Lenten season. However, hunger is an ongoing problem and donations are accepted and welcomed all year long. (In Monona County contact Amy Johnston at West Central Outreach @ 712-423-2603.)

**SUNDAY  
APRIL 14TH**  
**11:30AM  
-4PM**

**IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION  
CATHOLIC  
CHURCH**  
1212  
MORNINGSIDE  
AVE

**7YR+  
\$13**

**6YR &  
UNDER  
\$5**

**MATER DEI  
CHICKEN DINNER**

**TAKE-OUT ORDERS  
AVAILABLE  
11:15-3:30**

**STOP IN TO PLACE YOUR ORDER &  
WE'LL GET IT READY FOR YOU!**

**Mater Dei Bus Trip  
to the West Bend  
Grotto**



**Saturday, April 27th**

All are invited to join a trip to the Grotto of the Redemption in West Bend, IA. The bus will leave Immaculate Conception Church in Sioux City at 8:00am. Cost is \$40/person; \$75/couple. This includes the bus ticket, donation to the Grotto and a small tip to the bus driver. Lunch will be at a local restaurant. Please call Sam Hacker at (712) 226-4318 to reserve your seat.