

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 EASTER

APRIL 21, 2024

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

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

Adult: Do my motives and actions reflect Christ's presence within me?

Children: What other Bible stories do I know about shepherds?

Recently I was with my little dog Libby at a retreat center in the Arizona desert. I sat in a chair near a ravine filled with shrubs. Unbeknownst to me, Libby wandered down there and disappeared. Suddenly an animal's wild shriek erupted from the area. Without thinking, I bolted down into the ravine fully expecting to see coyotes, javelinas, or rattlesnakes. I didn't care. I desperately wanted to get Libby out of there, without any self-regard. Before I could face whatever danger lay hidden, my dog blissfully trotted out from an entirely different area, utterly unaware that I had (quite heroically) just placed my life on the line.

When the adrenaline wore off, I thought to myself: how far would I have been willing to go to save her? I don't know. But I do know, if I had literally died, my friends and family would have certainly thought me insane for dying for a dog. No offense, Libby.

How passionately Jesus wants us to know him and his willingness to die for us!

This week he says, "I know my own and my own know me," and "I lay down my life for the sheep." Here we encounter an insanely excessive love for us. Christianity is a relationship and not simply a religion or ethical code. In Jesus, God rescues and saves us. He laid down his life for you and me – and he has taken it up again. So often we are like Libby – blissfully ignorant of the reality of both our spiritual danger and his saving love. This Easter season, the risen Jesus calls us to be more conscious than ever before about his love. He never ceases to lay down his life for us.

– Father John Muir

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WEEK OF APRIL 21, 2024

Mass Schedule for St. John and St. Joseph Churches

Day	Date	Time	Mass Intentions	Location
Monday	April 22		No Mass	
Tuesday	April 23	9:00 AM	Paula Wagner	St. Joseph
Wednesday	April 24	9:00 AM	Herb Benjamin	St. John
Thursday	April 25	9:00 AM	Kavanaugh Family	St. Joseph
Friday	April 26	9:00 AM	Wally & Margaret Hansen	St. John
Saturday	April 27	4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. John, St. Joseph & St. Bernard	St. Joseph
Sunday	April 28	9:00 AM	Breyne Maule	St. John
		11:00 AM	Stan & Elliott Johnson	St. Joseph

GROWING IN OUR FAITH

Religious Education News

Parents and guardians, 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	
24 th	Classes, 6:30–7:30 PM — <i>St. Joseph Last Night</i>
May	
1 st	Classes, 6:30–7:30 PM — <i>St. John Last Night</i>

Thank you to all of our catechists who have donated their time and shared their faith and talent with the students in our Religious Education Programs. We are very blessed to have faithful and committed adults, men and women, who are willing to dedicate their time preparing for and teaching lessons to our greatest resource — *our children*. We'd like to particularly thank Fr. Michael Erpelding for the nights he taught, whether fourth grade or middle school and high school students. We will miss you, Father Michael!

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.



Prayer of the Good Shepherd

Dear Lord,

You are my Shepherd, a Good Shepherd, who leads in ways beyond my understanding. Guide me in the paths You would have me go.

Amen.

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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.



Live the Liturgy—Inspiration for the Week

Jesus the Good Shepherd knows that real love is an action, not an idea. His sacrifice is the proof of his love for his flock. Let us remember to love one another as the Good Shepherd loves us: not just in words but in actions, in choices, in deeds.

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ST. JOHN & ST. BERNARD NEWS

St. John & St. Bernard Weekly Offering

Registered Families: 185
April 7, 2024

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$3129.00
E-Offering	\$74.70
Candles	
St. Bernard	\$135.00
Retired/Infirm Priests	\$350.00
Flowers	\$30.00
Total for April 7, 2024	\$3718.70



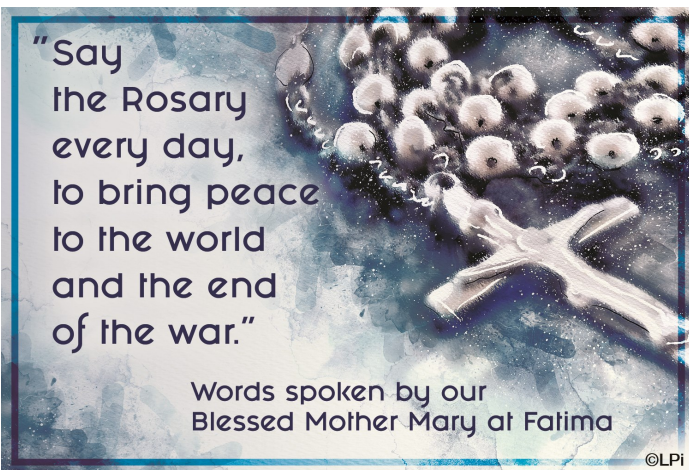
Please join us as we celebrate our graduating seniors on April 28th at the 9 AM Mass at St. John's. Help us to celebrate their accomplishments and pray for their continuing success as they begin this new chapter in their lives.



Our Graduating Seniors are:

Emma Jensen, daughter of David & Lori Jensen
Maggie Lage, daughter of Mike & Peggy Lage
Kacy Miller, daughter of Tommy & Brenda Miller
Gracie Reicks, daughter of Daryl & Anita Reicks
Jack Jamison, son of Mitch & Beth Jamison
Andrew Orr, son of Tony & Cinda Orr
Jordan Orr, son of Tony & Cinda Orr
Caleb Terry, son of Jason & Katie Terry

Plan on wearing your cap & gown and be at Church by 8:40 AM for instructions. A breakfast for the seniors and their families, sponsored by the Rosary Society and the 9th grade parents, will follow Mass.



ST. JOSEPH NEWS

St. Joseph Weekly Offering

April 6-7, 2024

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$3928.50
E-Offering	\$358.70
Candles	\$57.00
Retired/Infirm Priests	\$70.00
Emergency	\$95.00
Food Pantry	\$50.00
Total for April 6-7, 2024	\$4559.20



Sunday, April 28
Breakfast at 9:30am
Mass at 11:00am

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. 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	Kyran Flowers
Joseph Gengler	Kayla Gray
Ella Hanner	Micke Hansen
Lydia Harpenau	Devin Labrune
Frank Lewis	Kelsi Skatges
Cassie Skinner	Will Tischer
Carson Topf	



There will be a benefit Pancake Breakfast on **Saturday, May 18, 8:00am-11:00am** at St. Joseph Parish Hall for Eric Eliason. Eric is undergoing cancer treatment. The benefit will assist Eric and his family with expenses associated with his illness. Please join us for this free will offering and keep Eric and his family in your prayers.



If anyone is interested in planting an Easter lily (or two!) in their garden, plants are available for the taking in the parish hall.

God Laughs

Who Came First?

There was a magician on a cruise ship, and he was really good. He was performing the highlight of his show when a parrot walked onstage and squawked, "It's in his sleeve!" The magician chased the bird away. The next day the magician was performing his highlight again (in front of a smaller audience) when the parrot walked onstage and declared, "It's in his pocket!" The magician chased the bird away. The next day, as he was performing the highlight, he saw the parrot in the crowd. But before the parrot could ruin the magic trick, the boat crashed into a rock and sank. The magician was lucky enough to find a board to hang on to. On the other end of the board was the parrot. They stared at each other for three full days, neither of them saying anything, when suddenly the parrot said, "I give up, what did you do with the ship?"



Together as One (TAO) supports the Office of Archives. The Archives Office collects, organizes, preserves and makes available for research the historical and vital records of the Diocese of Sioux City, as well as materials which reflect the work of the Church with the Diocese, thereby promoting an understanding of the history and heritage of the Catholic Church in northwest Iowa.

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

Both parishes are very close to meeting their goals. If you have not donated to this campaign, please consider a gift so that we can complete the 2023-2024 Together As One. Donations can be placed in the collection basket and marked "Together As One". Checks should be made out to "Together As One". Pledge cards are available on the table in the entry way. Please help us finish strong! Thank you for your support!!!



American Legion Pancake Breakfast Sunday, April 21

9:00am-12:30pm

American Legion, Sergeant Bluff

Adults: \$10; 6-12 years: \$5;

5 years and under: Free



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



Sunday, May 5

St. Joseph, Salix, Noon – 2:00 pm



The purpose of World Day of Prayer for Vocations is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). As a climax to a prayer that is continually offered throughout the Church, it affirms the primacy of faith and grace in all that concerns vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life. While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood and diaconate), consecrated life in all its forms (male and female religious life, societies of apostolic life, consecrated virginity, secular institutes), and to the missionary life.

2024 marks the 61st Anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.



**Knights of
Columbus®**

Thank you to everyone who supported the Pennies for Heaven collection sponsored by the Knights

of Columbus. The Pennies for Heaven program collects around **\$30,000 a year** from the contributions of individual Councils during the State Conventions. The contributions are then distributed to the four dioceses in Iowa. These funds are used to support vocation programs in our diocese. The core of our Church is the Eucharist, the living presence of the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is through our priests that the mystery of the Eucharist takes place. Let us be that strong arm of the Church and help promote vocations through prayer, financial support, and most of all by telling our youth: *"You would make an excellent priest!"*