

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 28, 2024

Parish Staff

Pastor, Rev. Michael J. Erpelding

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

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

Secretary – St. Joseph, Mary Brady

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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: Is there anything or anyone that keeps me separated from Christ? What can I do about it?

Children: When I have something to do that is very hard, do I ask Jesus to help me and trust that he will?

My friend and fellow pastor, Father Paul, noticed unsightly, overgrown trees near his parish church. He asked the maintenance crew to cut back the growth, which they happily did, telling him the trees would be much healthier and even fuller after a good pruning. A few days later, Father Paul received a letter from an irate man in the neighborhood who wrote, “Jesus would never prune trees like that. He loves trees, unlike you.”

I suspect that the neighbor was not familiar with this week’s Gospel in which Jesus says of his Father, “He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit” (John 15:2) I don’t mean to pick too much on that fellow. He was perhaps ignorant of arboriculture. But I’d wager his main confusion was the pruning and removing quality of God’s love. That confusion afflicts us all to some degree, doesn’t it? It is just so darn easy to react negatively when God cuts something out of our lives and assume it’s not his work at all. In the moment, all we see is the loss, and not the loving desire for future flourishing.

The cross is the great pruning of Christ’s body. Jesus’ rising is the brand-new growth. It is God’s promise to us that all the painful pruning in life is leading us somewhere beautiful. What has been cut back or out in your life? A friend, an opportunity, a sense of certainty, a job, health, a relationship? This week, offer those dry branches to the one who lovingly prunes us in order to make our lives burst with verdant growth.

– Father John Muir

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WEEK OF APRIL 28, 2024

Mass Schedule for St. John and St. Joseph Churches

Day	Date	Time	Mass Intentions	Location
Monday	April 29		No Mass	
Tuesday	April 30	9:00 AM	Margaret & Wally Hansen	St. Joseph
Wednesday	May 1	9:00 AM	Marge Parks	St. John
Thursday	May 2	9:00 AM	Father Dennis Meinen	St. Joseph
Friday	May 3	10:00 AM	Fr. Victor Ramaeker	Pleasant View Nursing Home
Saturday	May 4	4:00 PM	Maurice & Gloria Welte	St. Joseph
Sunday	May 5	9:00 AM	Frank & Martha Heisterkamp Family	St. John
		11:00 AM	Parishioners of St. John, St. Joseph & St. Bernard	St. Joseph

GROWING IN OUR FAITH

Religious Education News

Parents and guardians, the last evening for the **St. John Religious Education Program** is **May 1, 2024**.



Thank you to the middle school and high school students of the St. Joseph Religious Education Program for brainstorming ideas for the year-end celebration. Their ideas were thoughtful; moreover, their energy and enthusiasm were contagious. We'd also like to thank the Pizza Post for delivering pizza and breadsticks, Lindsay Hansen for making cupcakes, and the many volunteers who helped with set up and clean up.

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.



Live the Liturgy—Inspiration for the Week



Every Christian is a vine awaiting the loving attention of our gardener to prune and perfect us, to remove the parts of ourselves that are dead so that the fruitful parts burst forth with life. Trust the wisdom of the gardener. He alone can make us bloom. ©LPi

FORMED is an online platform available to *all* parishioners. Check out what is on FORMED this week!

FORMED

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

Beloved

Beloved - Session 1: Does Marriage Matter?

Is your marriage all it can be? Beloved unlocks the sacrament of marriage in 12 sessions, showing how God designed it to fulfill you. Open to all couples, young or old.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.
Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.

An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and IGNATIUS PRESS

ST. JOHN & ST. BERNARD NEWS

St. John & St. Bernard Weekly Offering April 14, 2024

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$1139.00
E-Offering	\$74.70
Candles	
St. Bernard	\$170.00
Loretta Simoff Memorial	\$765.00
Flowers	\$140.00
Total for April 14, 2024	\$2288.70



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

7 Things Every High School Graduate Should Hear

1. Live with intention. College will be full of new opportunities. Think carefully about your priorities for your new start.
2. Make the right friends. There will be plenty of new people! Concentrate on the ones who motivate you to be a better person.
3. It's a big world! Look for new perspectives, new opportunities, and new ideas that push you to grow.
4. Find a mentor. Building relationships with people who have "been there, done that" can be a great help.
5. Give yourself away. You may not need to volunteer anymore, but you'll be surprised what you learn, how you grow, and who you meet when you serve.
6. Before you go, learn how to do your laundry, address an envelope, schedule a doctor's appointment, use public transportation, and cook basic meals (ramen doesn't count!).
7. Remember that God is in control. And that's a good thing!

ST. JOSEPH NEWS

St. Joseph Weekly Offering April 13-14 2024

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$2135.00
E-Offering	\$152.00
Candles	\$40.00
Retired/Infirm Priests	\$25.00
Emergency	\$80.00
Food Pantry	\$50.00
Total for April 13-14, 2024	\$2482.00



We congratulate the high school seniors graduating from our parish this year. We wish you the best of luck as you embark on a new journey. We pray that you will continue to walk with Jesus where ever your road leads.

MJ Crawford, Joseph Gengler, Kayla Gray, Ella Hanner, Micke Hansen, Lydia Harpenau, Devin Labruno, Frank Lewis, Kelsi Skatges, Cassie Skinner, Will Tischer and Carson Topf

Fundraiser 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. All are invited to attend the breakfast (free will offering) and silent auction. Please continue to keep Eric and his family in your prayers.



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

St. Joseph will have altar server training on **Wednesday, May 8, at 5:00-6:00pm**. Those who have served before or those just starting out are invited to attend.



Please remember in your prayers Margaret Hansen who passed away April 4, 2024. Her funeral was held at St. Joseph on April 15. *May her soul and all the souls of the faithfully departed rest in peace. Amen.*

God Laughs

A Lesson From A Lawyer...

"Our research shows that out of a yearly income of at least \$500,000, you give not a penny to charity. Wouldn't you like to give back to the community in some way?"

The lawyer mulled this over for a moment and replied, "First, did your research also show that my mother is dying after a long illness, and has medical bills that are several times her annual income?"

Embarrassed, the United Way rep mumbled, "Um ... no."

The lawyer interrupts, "...or that my brother, a disabled veteran, is blind and confined to a wheelchair?"

The stricken United Way rep began to stammer out an apology, but was interrupted again.

"...or that my sister's husband died in a traffic accident," the lawyer's voice rising in indignation, "leaving her penniless with three children?!"

The humiliated United Way rep, completely beaten, said simply, "I had no idea..."

On a roll, the lawyer cut him off once again, "So if I don't give any money to them, why should I give any to you?"

TOGETHER AS ONE

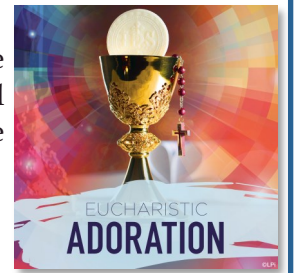
Both parishes are very close to meeting their goals. If you have not donated to this campaign, please consider a gift so that we can complete the 2023-2024 Together As One. Just scan this bar code and follow the directions to give online or donations can be placed in the collection basket and marked "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!!!

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



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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 **National Day of Prayer** is an annual day of observance designated by the United States Congress and held on the first Thursday of May, when people are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation". The National Day of Prayer shares common roots with the celebration of Thanksgiving; both were national proclamations establishing a day of prayer. In the New England Colonies under British rule, traditional observances in late fall called for prayer and thanksgiving, while observances in the spring or summer called for prayer and fasting. The fall observance was established by President Abraham Lincoln as the official Thanksgiving holiday in 1863. The spring observance was established by President Harry S. Truman in 1952 as the National Day of Prayer. This year's date is May 2nd.

Come Rock AT THE GROTTTO



Saturday, June 8, 2024

5:30 - 9:00 p.m at The Grotto, West Bend

4:30 p.m. Mass at Sts. Peter & Paul
 5:30 p.m. Festival & Silent Auction Begin
 6:30 p.m. Official Welcome
 6:45 - 7:00 p.m. Live Auction Items
 8:00 p.m. Auction Closing Begins
 9:00 p.m. Festival Concludes

Please join us for food beverages, kid's games, entertainment, tours and our silent and live auction. Call 515-320-2874 or email: grottofestival@gmail.com for more info.