

# 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 IN ORDINARY TIME**

**JANUARY 28, 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 – Friday  
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**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.

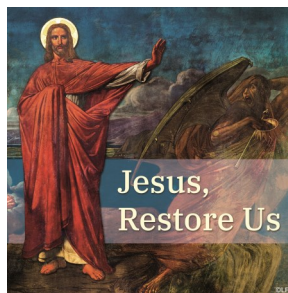
## Questions of the Week

**Adults:** What can I do to be better prepared to proclaim the Good News with conviction?

**Children:** How can I share my faith and trust in Jesus with my friends?

I love movies about exorcisms. Apparently, so do many others. The 2023 movie “Nefarious” features a possibly possessed inmate on death row. Critics were not impressed, but audiences scored it at 97% on the website Rotten Tomatoes. Most people have an appreciation for the demonic realm, even if cultural elites are generally embarrassed about it. As is standard in exorcism movies, the afflicted person (in this case, a man named Edward Brady) thinks and acts like multiple persons. He is someone besides himself. We know what that is like. We feel fake sometimes, not ourselves.

The same dynamic is on dramatic display this week in the Gospel. Jesus the Exorcist approaches a possessed man who utters, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?” Notice the plural, us. The basic effect of the demonic is division. The man’s identity is fractured, divided, and thus many. Jesus powerfully expels the spirit by saying, “Quiet! Come out of him!” Jesus’ word has the power to restore the man’s singularity – him – and indeed it does.



All this helps us to dismiss childish images of demons sporting red goat tails. Equally, it overcomes the cultured aloofness that dreams demons are mere metaphors for evil. We see instead that fallen angels are conscious and intelligent beings who orient their agency toward division. They bring about schism where there should be unity, e.g., in persons, families, communities, politics, and so on. Thankfully, Jesus commands demons to flee from all these places to restore wholeness and peace. What if we made room for his word where we need it?

– Father John Muir  
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# WEEK OF JANUARY 28, 2024

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

Day	Date	Time	Mass Intentions	Location
Monday	January 29		No Mass	
Tuesday	January 30	9:00 AM	No Mass – Father will be at Heelan	St. Joseph
Wednesday	January 31	9:00 AM	Father Patrick O’Kane	St. John
Thursday	February 1	9:00 AM	Dennis & Steven Wilt	St. Joseph
Friday	February 2	10:00 AM	Msgr. Tom Donahoe	Pleasant View Nursing Home
Saturday	February 3	4:00 PM	Maurice & Gloria Welte	St. Joseph
Sunday	February 4	9:00 AM	Msgr. Richard Zenk	St. John
		11:00 AM	Parishioners of St. John, St. Joseph & St. Bernard	St. Joseph

## GROWING IN OUR FAITH

### Religious Education News

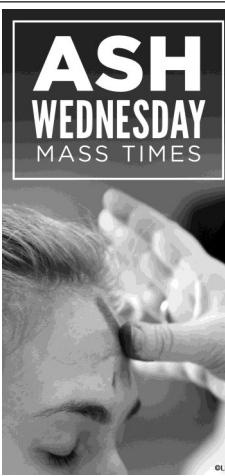
The **Schedule for Religious Education** is below. Please see the church bulletin boards for the complete schedule.

January	
31 <sup>th</sup>	Classes, 6:30 – 7:30 PM
February	
7 <sup>th</sup>	Classes, 6:30 – 7:30 PM
14 <sup>th</sup>	<i>No classes – Ash Wednesday Masses</i>
21 <sup>st</sup>	<i>No classes – Lent Reconciliation</i>
28 <sup>th</sup>	Classes, 6:30 – 7:30 PM
March	
7 <sup>th</sup>	Classes, 6:30 – 7:30 PM
14 <sup>th</sup>	Classes, 6:30 – 7:30 PM
21 <sup>st</sup>	Classes, 6:30 – 7:30 PM
28 <sup>th</sup>	<i>No classes – Holy Week</i>
April	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Classes, 6:30 – 7:30 PM

### LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

With one swift command, Jesus freed a man from the possession of evil spirits. He has that same power to banish the shadow of sin from our own lives. Let’s invite him into our hearts, asking him to cleanse the darkness he finds there.

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**St. Joseph-Salix**  
Wednesday, February 14  
5:00pm

**St. John-Onawa**  
Wednesday, February 14  
6:30pm

## Retreat

### St. John Church Second Grade Sacraments

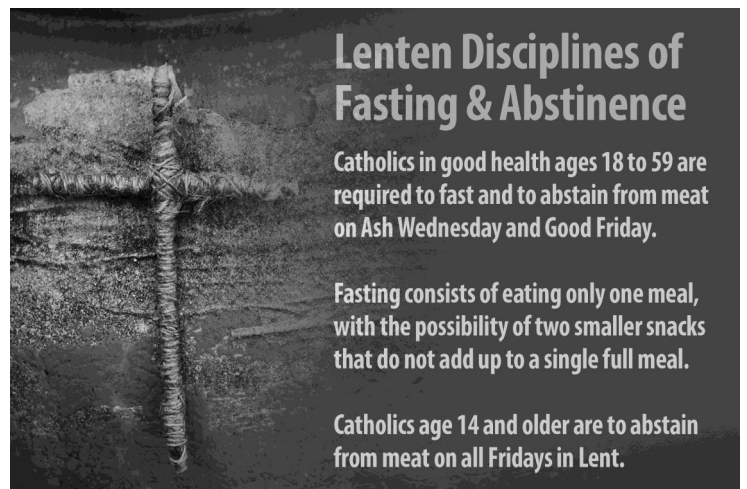
This Wednesday, January 31st, 6:30 PM will be the **First Reconciliation Retreat** at St. John Church. Children, please bring along one or both of your parents or guardians. The focus of this retreat is to offer practical guidance to making your first confessions while being mindful that this sacrament is one of the beautiful Sacraments of Healing. We look forward to you joining us as you prepare to make your first confessions! For questions, please contact Michelle Rethman, (712) 202-6641.

## Lenten Disciplines of Fasting & Abstinence

Catholics in good health ages 18 to 59 are required to fast and to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting consists of eating only one meal, with the possibility of two smaller snacks that do not add up to a single full meal.

Catholics age 14 and older are to abstain from meat on all Fridays in Lent.





# ST. JOHN & ST. BERNARD NEWS

## St. John & St. Bernard Weekly Offering

Registered Families: 185  
January 14, 2024

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$247.00
E-Offering	
Food Pantry	
St. Bernard	
Grain	\$2703.32
Catholic Charities	
<b>Total for January 14, 2024</b>	<b>\$2950.32</b>



It is not too late to make your contribution to Together As One. We are still \$2857.00 short of our goal. Any and all contributions are welcomed and appreciated. Thank you to *everyone* who has sent in a donation. If you

haven't sent in your pledge yet, please consider giving. Any contributions above our parish goal will return to our parish.



By now you should have received your yearly contribution statement for 2023. If for some reason you have not received it, please call the office and I will send another one for you to use for your taxes. Thank you for your continued support and generosity to our parish. May God Bless you!



We are forever grateful to each of our volunteers who unfailing help whenever we have a need, whether it be decorating, undecorating, landscaping, food donations for funerals, funeral dinner prep and serving, or teaching Religious Education. Thank you.

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH  
**PRAYER**

# ST. JOSEPH NEWS

## St. Joseph Weekly Offering

Jan 13-14, 2024

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$533.00
E-Offering	\$183.00
<b>Total for Jan 13-14, 2024</b>	<b>\$716.00</b>

If you would like to have the bulletin emailed to you each week, you can subscribe at [www.parishesonline.com](http://www.parishesonline.com). For all of our parishes (St. John, St. Joseph, St. Bernard), use the following information to subscribe:

**Church Name:** St. John  
**City:** Onawa



There will not be daily mass at St. Joseph on Tuesday, January 30th. Father Erpelding will be attending mass at Heelan High School.



Lent is right around the corner beginning Wednesday, February 14. The Lenten issue of "The Word Among Us" is available on the table in the entry of the church. Please enjoy your free copy to use during this season of fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

### Prayer for the Youth

Dear Lord,  
Be with our young people this week and always — keep them in Your care. Help them to form godly friendships, speak the truth, and know You in the personal way that will challenge, shape, and guide them.  
Amen.

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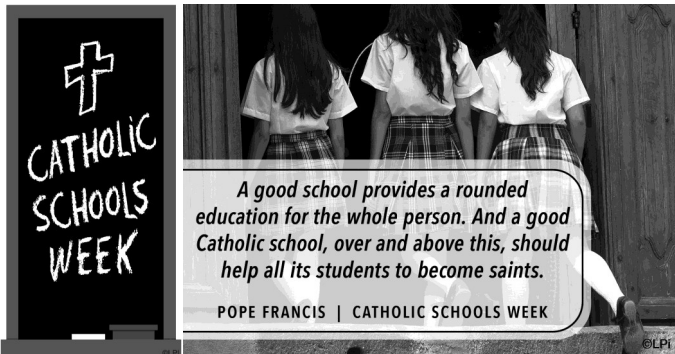
## God Laughs

Bill, Jim, and Scott were at a convention together and were sharing a large suite on the top of a 75-story sky scraper. After a long day of meetings, they were shocked to hear that the elevators in their hotel were broken and they would have to climb 75 flights of stairs to get to their room. Bill said to Jim and Scott, "Let's break the monotony of this unpleasant task by concentrating on something interesting. I'll tell jokes for 25 flights, and Jim can sing songs for 25 flights, and Scott can tell sad stories the rest of the way." At the 26<sup>th</sup> floor Bill stopped telling jokes and Jim began to sing. At the 51<sup>st</sup> floor Jim stopped singing and Scott began to tell sad stories. "I will tell my saddest story first," he said. "I left the room key in the car!"



Together as One (TAO) supports the Office of the Vicar General. This office is the highest administrative office in the diocese and oversees all administrative matters.

PARISH	GOAL	PLEDGES	REMAINING
ST. JOHN	\$8,987.00	\$6130.00	\$2857.00
ST. JOSEPH	\$12,481.00	\$10,457.00	\$2,024.00



## Briar Cliff Sunday

This year's **Briar Cliff Sunday Collection** will be held the weekend of **February 3-4**, closing out Catholic Schools Week. With this special collection's contributions, parishioners ensure a Catholic, Briar Cliff University education is affordable to high quality students who attend mass within the Sioux City Diocese. Thank you for contributing to this special collection. Envelopes are available in your giving packets.



## First Reconciliation

**First Reconciliation**, a Sacrament of Healing, is around the corner! Below is the schedule for each parish. Please contact Michelle Rethman if you have questions or concerns. We ask that at least one parent or guardian attend the retreat and first reconciliation. We look forward to walking with your children as they prepare for the sacraments this year!



### St. Joseph Church

#### First Reconciliation:

Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 5:00 – 5:30 PM

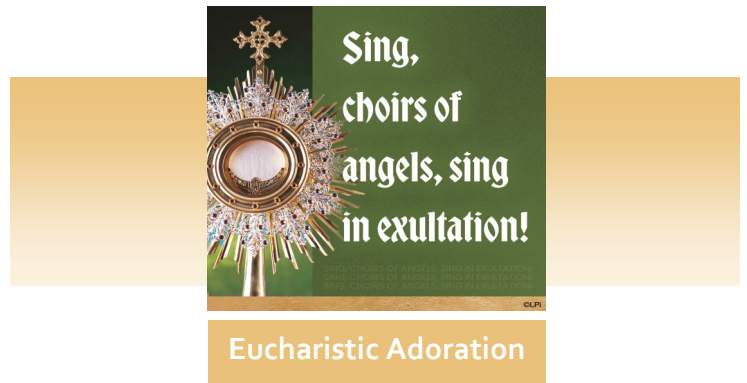
### St. John Church

#### Retreat:

Wednesday, January 31, 2024, 6:30 PM

#### First Reconciliation:

Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 6:00 – 6:30 PM



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

### Sunday, February 4

St. John-Onawa, 10:00am-2:00pm

### Sunday, March 3

St. Joseph-Salix, 12:00pm-2:00pm