

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 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 7, 2024

Parish Staff

Pastor, Rev. Michael J. Erpelding

(712) 423-2656

father@stjohnparishonawa.com

father@stjoeparishsalix.com

Director of Faith Formation, Michelle Rethman

(712) 202-6641

michelle@stjohnparishonawa.com

michelle@stjoeparishsalix.com

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

(712) 423-1004

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

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.

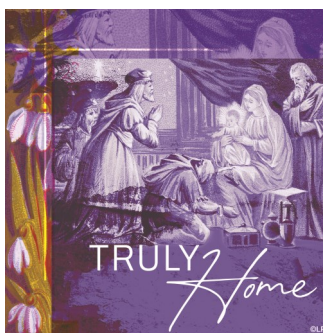
Questions of the Week

Adults: When have you been jealous or fearful of another person? When are such feelings harmful?

Children: When have you been jealous because something good happened to another person instead of you? What is the problem with feeling that way?

A stranger in a foreign land, I was exhausted and homesick as my summer Spanish immersion ended in Guatemala. The rusty minivan arriving outside my small residence filled me with joyful hope. I was flying home to the U.S. and would be, at long last, completely happy. Or so I thought. After about half an hour of being home, I thought to myself, "This place is boring. I want to go somewhere." So, I hopped in my car and left to see my friends. As I drove, I wistfully wondered, "Where am I truly at home?"

The feast of Epiphany has a lot to do with our notion of home. Where is our origin? Where are we going? When is our wandering done? Saint Matthew tells us of the Magi, "They were overjoyed at seeing the star." This star will bring them home, to a place where their



questing will end, and they will be satisfied. Their real home is neither in the East nor in the earthly Jerusalem. Somehow, their home is wherever this boy and his parents are.

If you're a teenager or older, you probably know by now that every physical home we have is temporary. So, we look up at the countless stars in our proverbial skies: things which bedazzle and beckon us to follow toward peace. The Gospel invites us to behold that – at long last – God has sent us a star to follow home, one that whispers, "Follow me! I will take you home!" Perhaps that star is your spouse. A friend. An opportunity. A cause. An intuition about a new direction. A prayer group. What is it for you? How will you know? It will lead you to Mary and Joseph and their son, and you will be home.

– Father John Muir

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WEEK OF JANUARY 7, 2024

Mass Schedule for St. John and St. Joseph Churches

Day	Date	Time	Mass Intentions	Location
Monday	January 8		No Mass	
Tuesday	January 9	9:00 AM	Henry Lamoureux Family	St. Joseph
Wednesday	January 10	9:00 AM	Joe Fouts	St. John
Thursday	January 11	9:00 AM	David Menard	St. Joseph
Friday	January 12	9:00 AM	Joan Samson	St. John
Saturday	January 13	4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. John, St. Joseph & St. Bernard	St. Joseph
Sunday	January 14	9:00 AM	O'Neill Family	St. John
		11:00 AM	Pauline & Walter Scott	St. Joseph

GROWING IN OUR FAITH

Religious Education News

Religious Education Classes resume this week on Wednesday, January 10th. Please see below for future dates.

January	
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	<i>No classes – Ash Wednesday Masses</i>
21 st	<i>No classes – Lent Reconciliation</i>
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	<i>No classes – Holy Week</i>

St. Joseph Church – Second Grade Sacraments: We will have a Parent Meeting this Wednesday, January 10th, in the parish center beginning at 6:45 PM. This meeting will provide information for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion. If your child(ren) wasn't baptized at either St. John or St. Joseph Churches, please bring with you your child's/children's Certificate of Baptism. See you there!

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Though the magi did not know where the star of Bethlehem would lead, they trusted that God would be with them along the way. Let us all embrace that same faith as we go about the journey God has planned for us this year.

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St. Joseph Church – Baptism: Please join us in welcoming **Graham, son of Zachary and Hannah Greder**, who was baptized at St. Joseph Church on December 31, 2023. Congratulations, Greder Family!

FORMED: 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.


THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.



CHRISTMAS
Who Are the Magi?
Dr. Michael Barber

FORMEDNOW

Who Are the Magi?

In this FORMED Now! special episode, Dr. Michael Barber sits down to reflect on the Magi from the Gospel accounts and what spiritual lessons can be learned from this historical event recorded in Scripture.

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  GRACIANA PRESS

ST. JOHN & ST. BERNARD NEWS

St. John & St. Bernard Weekly Offering

Registered Families: 185
December 24 & 25, 2023

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$10,320.00
E-Offering	
Food Pantry	\$40.00
St. Bernard	\$315.00
Christmas Flowers	\$40.00
Catholic Charities	\$445.00
Total for Dec. 24 & 25, 2023	\$11,160.00

ST. JOSEPH NEWS

St. Joseph Weekly Offering

Dec 23-25, 2023

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$5532.25
E-Offering	\$265.00
Christmas Flowers	\$50.00
Candles	\$63.00
Immaculate Conception	\$5.00
Catholic Charities	\$957.00
Christmas Offering	\$3925.00
Total for Dec 23-25, 2023	\$10797.25



As we begin the new year and we look to our future, let us make resolutions we can keep. Let us resolve to be kinder, to ourselves and others. Let us resolve to be peacemakers and not contribute to gossip or discord.

Let us prayerfully seek God in all things. Let us look to heaven and ask God for the strength and acceptance we need to navigate hard times. Let us go to Church weekly and thank God for all His blessings. Let us celebrate the birth, life and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Prayer for the New Year

Dear Lord,
With thanksgiving we entrust our year to You: whatever it holds, whoever we encounter, wherever we traverse. What You supply is a gift. May our comings and goings be aligned with Your will. Amen.

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We are looking for a few more people to serve in the liturgical ministries. Please consider volunteering to be a Greeter, Usher, Altar Server or bring up the gifts. (No experience necessary!)



We have automated the scheduling system making it very easy to volunteer when you are available. We realize schedules are busy and sometimes making a commitment to a ministry can be a bit daunting.

To make scheduling easier and more flexible for volunteers, we have been using a software program at St. Joseph is called Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP). It is an online program which gives you easy access to your schedule and the ability to easily make changes if needed. MSP allows you input dates you know you will not be available before the schedule is run. If something comes up after you are scheduled, you can simply request a sub online and an email will go out to all qualified individuals for that ministry. It can easily be filled by someone who is available. Reminders are sent out a few days before you are scheduled to serve so you don't have to worry about forgetting your assignment. If you are a snowbird, you can block out the months you will be gone and once you are back, you can resume your chosen ministries.

If you are interested in volunteering, please fill out a ministry form found on the table in the entry of the church. You can also email the office at secretary@stjoeparishsalix.com. Thank you to all who serve in the parish. We are truly blessed with many wonderful people willing to give their time, talent and treasure.

God Laughs

They used to time my runs with a stopwatch... now they use a calendar.



Together as One (TAO) supports the Office of Marriage and Family Life. This office provides support to the parishes in preparation for the vocation and sacrament of marriage as well as family ministry.

PARISH	GOAL	PLEDGES	REMAINING
ST. JOHN	\$8,987.00	\$5,660.00	\$3,267.00
ST. JOSEPH	\$12,481.00	\$10,457.00	\$2,024.00

Wise Men See God in the Simple Things

If you're on social media, you have probably seen a meme going around that features this quote: "God has a plan for your life. The enemy has a



plan for your life. Be ready for both. Just be wise enough to know which one to battle and which one to embrace."

There were certainly two competing plans for the Magi: God's and Herod's. And, wise as they supposedly were, it wasn't entirely easy for the Magi to discern which was which.

After all, Herod posed as a friend. He offered the Magi hospitality and kindness. Though the Gospel doesn't say so, he probably flattered them and appealed to every moral weakness he could observe in them. In his palace, they must have felt great physical comfort — rest and tables of plenty on what was an otherwise long and treacherous journey.

But if the Magi were honest with themselves, I'll bet they would have admitted that, regardless of Herod's charm, they felt a gnawing sense of doubt while in his presence. When they looked upon the Christ Child, born in a stable without any of the comforts of the world or protections of wealth, they probably felt the opposite. They probably felt safe.

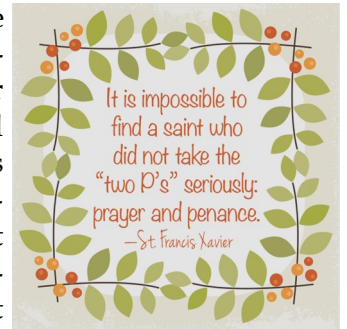
The Magi were lucky enough to have the right plan spelled out for them in a dream, but for the rest of us, it's enough to remember this: God's plan is often the one that leads us to places of great simplicity, great humility and great love. Let's have the wisdom to view power with suspicion, and innocence with admiration.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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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.

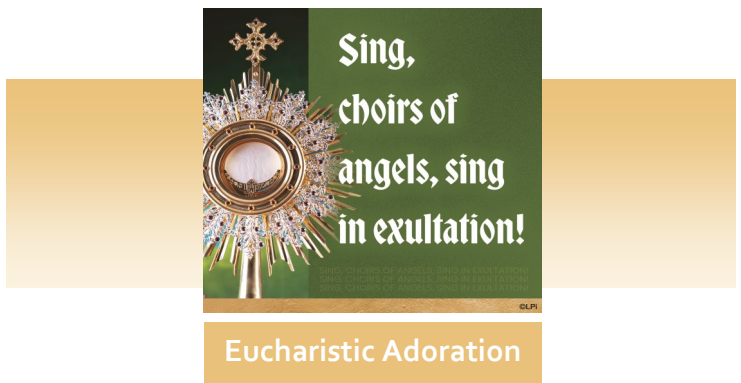
We look forward to walking with your children as they prepare for the sacraments this year!

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



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

Sunday, January 7

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

Sunday, February 4

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