

# 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

**ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**JUNE 16, 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.

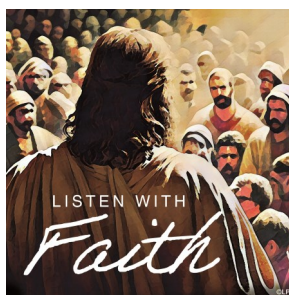
**Baptism Class:** Contact the Director of Faith Formation

**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 is the “good soil” that allows my faith to grow like a mustard seed?

**Children:** How do I help my faith grow like the mustard seed?



My mother and father fell in love with each other rather quickly. It was only a span of two months between their first meeting and quiet betrothal. They waited for a significant period of time before going public with the happy news. It simply wasn't time. Love's strength and speed can sprout scandal in public. Until the big reveal, they gave the outside world only little hints, gestures, and riddles.

Something like this — but even more wonderful — is at play when Mark says of Jesus, “he did not speak to them without a parable, but to his disciples in private he explained everything.” Jesus is the long-awaited messiah-king, but his identity as the Lord and Son of God is so new, surprising, and scandalous to human ears that the big reveal would have to wait. Thus, his parables are riddles, meant to conceal more than reveal. Even the disciples — who hear things explained directly — barely grasp what he is up to. It's only at the cross that Jesus' love for Israel and the world is explicitly revealed. Until then, much stays hidden and comes in riddles.

So it goes with us, too. I wonder at times why doesn't the Lord just speak to us directly in prayer about what we should do, or how to fix our problems. Or why doesn't he reveal himself directly to powerful leaders who are slow to act? Why does he allow life so often to be confounding, contradictory, and crazy? Because it simply isn't time yet. One glorious day, it will be. Until then, he teaches us in riddles, and only sometimes explains them.

— Father John Muir

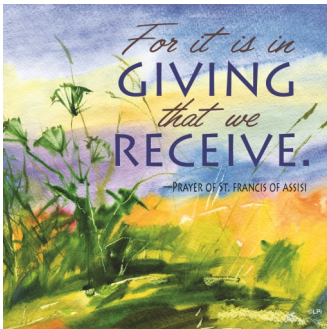
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## WEEK OF JUNE 16, 2024

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

Day	Date	Time	Mass Intentions	Location
Monday	June 17		No Mass	
Tuesday	June 18	9:00 AM	Swerczek Family	St. Joseph
Wednesday	June 19	9:00 AM	Mike McAndrews	St. John
Thursday	June 20	9:00 AM	Margaret & Wally Hansen	St. Joseph
Friday	June 21	9:00 AM	Marge Parks	St. John
Saturday	June 22	4:00 PM	Carla & Don Cleveland	St. Joseph
Sunday	June 23	9:00 AM	The Oneill Family	St. John
		11:00 AM	Parishioners of St. Joseph, St. John, and St. Bernard	St. Joseph

## GROWING IN OUR FAITH



The Office of Multicultural Ministries announces that Bishop Nickless has authorized another load of food and supplies be collected and shipped to Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen, Texas, to assist the staff and volunteers at the center in serving the many

people in need that they encounter. The Diocese is again partnering with the "Then Feed Just One Program" who uses volunteer labor from across our region to package healthy meals for distribution across the world. Hundreds of thousands of meals are packaged by the students at our Catholic Schools across the diocese each year. In addition to the meals, the diocese is requesting our parishes to organize drives to collect hygiene products beginning immediately and running through July 15, 2024.

Requested Items Are As Follows:

- Toiletries for men and women (deodorant, razors and combs)
- Undergarments for **children** (4T-11) **Men** (S, M & L) **Women** (S & M)
- Baby bottles, Nido powdered milk
- Ziploc bag sizes: gallon, quart, sandwich and snack
- Bath towels
- Paper goods: paper towels and toilet paper Foam bowls, utensils, & 39-gallon trash bags
- Germ X Hand sanitizer, Clorox, Lysol and Febreze
- Shoelaces and Chapstick

Donation boxes are located in the main entrance to the church. Thank you for helping those in need. Your contribution is greatly appreciated!



The Catholic Church in this country is about to enter a new phase of Revival - the Year of Mission. The national committee is hopeful the upcoming National Eucharistic Congress and the pilgrimage will set the tone for this mission.

A glimpse of what is to come in the Year of Mission:

- Each Catholic will be encouraged to connect in Eucharistic friendship with one person whom the Holy Spirit identifies, entering into a special form of one-on-one accompaniment that will bring many people home to the Catholic Church.
- Non-Catholics will hear the story of salvation and learn about Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist for the first time.
- Every member of your parish will be invited to discern becoming a Eucharistic Missionary — spreading the Good News and being Christ to others in a way that's unique to them and their strengths. Stay tuned for the Year of Mission Playbook, a comprehensive guide to discern and embark on Eucharistic mission.



**The Annual Collection for Peter's Pence** will be held June 29-30. You are invited to participate in the special collection to the Holy Father to carry out his charitable works around the world, to help victims of war, natural disasters, and other difficult situations. Thank you for your generosity to make a difference in building up the Church around the world.



## ST. JOHN & ST. BERNARD NEWS

### St. John & St. Bernard Weekly Offering June 2, 2024

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$1395.00
E-Offering	149.40
Building Fund	25.00
St. Bernard	\$55.00
Catholic Communications	
<b>Total for June 2, 2024</b>	<b>\$1624.40</b>



The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will be in our area! On **Saturday, June 22,**

**2024,** the pilgrimage will stop at SAINT BENEDICT THE MOOR CATHOLIC CHURCH, Omaha, 9:00–9:45 AM. This celebration begins with Mass. A fellowship breakfast follows Mass with the pilgrims (those walking to Indianapolis from the Pacific Coast). Also on **Saturday, June 22nd,** the pilgrimage will stop at SAINT AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH, Winnebago, 12:30–3:30 PM. This stop includes Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and fellowship. Starting at 3:30 PM, there will be a holy hour of prayer, music, reflection, and adoration which concludes with Benediction. The pilgrimage will then return to Omaha and celebrate adoration, music, and prayer at SAINT WENCESLAUS CATHOLIC CHURCH, 7:00–8:30 PM. Find more details at [Eucharistic Revival - Archdiocese of Omaha \(archomaha.org\)](https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/).



Please join us for a farewell party for Father Erpelding on Saturday, June 29th at 6 PM at St. John. The Knights of Columbus will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, coffee, lemonade, and ice water. We ask that you join us and provide either a vegetable dish, salad, or dessert. There are sign up sheets at the entrances to the Church and in the Parish Center. Please sign up or call the parish office with your reservation so that we know how many to plan on. Mark your calendars and take this opportunity to say goodbye to Father Erpelding and wish him well in his new parish.

## ST. JOSEPH NEWS

### St. Joseph Weekly Offering June 1-2, 2024

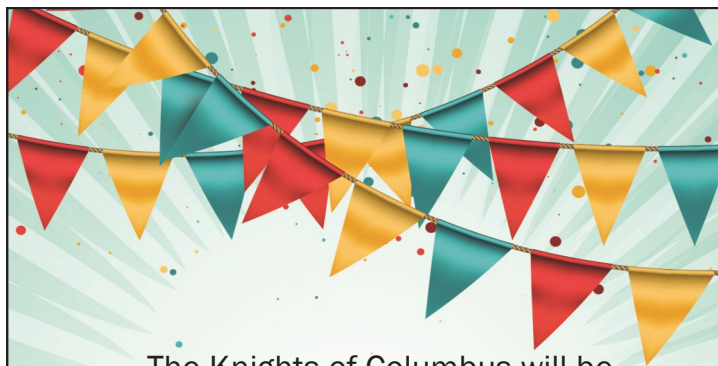
Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$3603.33
E-Offering	\$183.00
Candles	\$37.00
Aid to Domestic Churches	\$25.00
Food Pantry	\$50.00
Cemetery/Cemetery Perpetual Care	\$150.00
Emergency	\$30.00
<b>Total for June 1-2, 2024</b>	<b>\$4078.33</b>



Congratulations to Don and Carla Cleveland who will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on June 22. May you continue to grow in your love for God and one another.



Thank you to John Kluver for tending to the flower beds and planting a wonderful assortment of perennials. It adds to the beauty of our church and grounds that we will be able to enjoy for years to come.



The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a farewell party for Father Michael after his last weekend Mass at St. Joseph.

**Sunday, July 7 at 12:00pm**  
**St. Joseph Parish Hall**

The Knights will be grilling hamburgers and hotdogs. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

## God Laughs

In Florida, an atheist created a case against Easter and Passover Holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians and Jews and observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days. The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case dismissed!" The lawyer immediately stood and objecting to the ruling saying, "Your honor, how can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others. The Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays..." The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do. Your client, counselor, is woefully ignorant." The lawyer said, "Your Honor, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists." The judge said, "The calendar says April 1<sup>st</sup> is April Fool's Day. Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.' Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that, if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool."

## CHRIST OUR LIFE

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

**September 28 & 29, 2024**



**Meet one of the Speakers:** Msgr. Stephen Rossetti

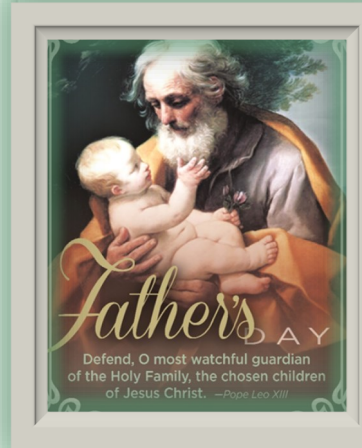
Msgr. Rossetti, a licensed psychologist and research associate professor at the Catholic University of America, served as Chief Exorcist of the Archdiocese of Washington for 13 years. He is an author of books including, "Diary of an American Exorcist" and pens numerous religious articles and reflections in "Living Faith." Monsignor is an expert on psychological and spiritual wellness issues for Catholic priests. Amidst all, he possesses a great sense of humor.

## Iowa March for Life at State Capitol

Pro-life organizations in Iowa are organizing the annual Iowa March for Life for June 22 at the Iowa state capitol building. The rally begins at 1 p.m. with the march at 1:45 where supporters will march around the capitol and supreme court buildings.



Father Michael Erpelding's final weekend Masses in our parishes will be Sunday, July 7. He will offer daily Mass at St. Joseph on Tuesday, July 9. We welcome Father Shinoj Jose on Wednesday, July 10.



Heavenly Father, you entrusted your Son Jesus, the child of Mary, to the care of Joseph, his foster father. Bless all fathers and grandfathers as they care for their families. Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience, give them ability to love in a way that reflects your love.

**Knight of Month:** [Marv Maly](#)...for his long service as Treasurer and his professional handling of our funds in a responsible and fiduciary manner.

**Family of Month:** [St. Joe volunteers](#)...for their time and care preparing the St. Joseph Cemetery for Memorial Day. It was beautiful! AND...the [Knights of 6249](#) who sponsored the Memorial Day Mass and donuts & coffee at the Onawa cemetery.



The **FAIR** is almost here! **The Monona County Fair is July 9 thru 14 in Onawa.** The Knights of Columbus food booth will again be in full swing serving delicious fare 🍔 to hungry patrons! Help is needed for all shifts, so please **VOLUNTEER!** Sign-up sheets are available at St. John and St. Joseph.



**REMEMBER**  
*in your prayers*

The sick of our parishes, those suffering both physically and mentally. The elderly of our parishes, that they may have enough food and shelter and care in the waning years of their lives. The young of our parishes, that they enjoy the blessings of youth and the wonders of life. The dearly departed, that their souls rest peacefully in the arms of our Lord. And lastly, our Priests, that they continue to keep the faith and find the strength to shepherd us through all our trials and tribulations.