

## WELCOME TO SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

We hope your visit here will be a prayerful time as you enjoy the lakes region.

Please consider St. Joseph's as your church away from home. Contact us at the Parish Office if we may serve you in any way.

We are committed to proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ and invite you to join us! May the Holy Spirit lead us in living as a welcoming Catholic community.

### SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

1305 Okoboji Ave.  
Milford, IA 51351  
OFFICE: 712-338-2274  
FAX: 712-338-2191  
stjosephmilford.org

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon.-Thurs.:  
7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Fri.: 7:30 a.m. - 12 noon

### RECONCILIATION:

30 minutes before each Mass

### BULLETIN DEADLINE

Tuesday 12 noon

### MASS SCHEDULE:

Winter

Saturday at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday at 8 and 10 a.m.

Summer

Saturday at 4 and 5:30 p.m.

Sunday at 7:30, 9 and 10:30 a.m.

Are you new to the community? Would you like to join St. Joseph Parish? Just fill out the coupon below and return to the office or in the collection basket.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

**Kozy Heat  
Fireplaces**

Arnolds Park 507-662-5161

DEC. 9, 2018

Our holy day, the Immaculate Conception of Mary, fell on Saturday this weekend. As always there is confusion about the premise of this feast day on our Church calendar. Recognized and celebrated in our Church for over a thousand years, it was formalized in 1854, when Pope Pius IX solemnly proclaimed: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin." Such proclamation, inspired by the Holy Spirit, has guided the Church to remember Mary's place in salvation history, her definitive faith, and her gentle spirit that continues to intercede upon those seeking God's grace in their lives. Though born without original sin Mary was human in every other aspect, facing her struggles and anxieties, her daily responsibilities and friendships, her blessings and steadfast beliefs. My grandmother Johnson had a rosary on her kitchen table, on the living room stand next to her chair, and on her nightstand. Her faith has given me a better understanding of Mary's grace guiding us toward Christ Jesus.

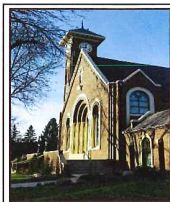
We welcome Cain Junkman whom I hired to replace Jennifer. He has considerable experience with music and piano from high school years onward, staying present to the liturgy of our church playing at various churches over the past few years. He moved to the lakes region two years ago, presently working as a dispatcher for our law enforcement at the courthouse. In my discussions with Cain I emphasized the quality of the music Jennifer has established at our parish, and my hope that such remains a vital part of our gatherings for the Eucharist and other Sacraments. Jennifer was a gift to our parish, and Cain will likewise bless us with his talents and faith and presence. Please welcome him.

Next week Sunday, December 16, 1 p.m., our parish will have its Advent Reconciliation Penance Service with the help of additional priests. I welcome all to this Sacrament regardless of how long it may have been. May this Sacrament be a blessing of peace in preparation for Christmas. At the same time I will be in the Reconciliation Room before each weekend Mass, and before each daily Mass.

Rosary/Altar Society's Open House is today (Sunday) from 2 to 4 at the parish rectory. Please feel welcome and enjoy the refreshments they provide. At 4:30 p.m. the Benson Family Singers will provide a concert in our church, with seasonal music and joyful compositions. Open to all with a reception following in our parish hall. *Fr. Tim*

OUR PARISH will consecrate gluten free hosts for communion on weekends, and the priest will hold the container of those hosts at each Mass.

COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION for Advent is set for 1 p.m. Sun., Dec. 16.



By Fr. Tim Johnson

## FAITH FORMATION

By Sharon Mayer

The first big blow has come and gone and I must say it could have been worse. The Holiday Fantasy soup and chili feed was slightly affected by the snow and slick conditions which kept some people home. The ones that ventured out had twelve choices of chili and soup plus perhaps won some gifts or money at the raffle. The night before was very nice for the parade, tree lighting and visit by Santa and Mrs. Claus. Families enjoyed it very much. Then after making it into church on Sunday, I traveled to Ames to see a Christmas concert which my youngest was in. It was his last as he will be student teaching next semester then graduates. So that will make four through Iowa State!

This weekend we enjoy seeing our third grade class help with Mass. Thank you to them and parents. With hopes that Mother Nature will continue to cooperate, our last Christmas program dress rehearsal will be this Wednesday and the program will be on the 16th at 4 p.m. All are invited to come, watch, sing along, and stay for pizza following the program. Our students work hard learning their lines and doing their best to tell the timeless story of Jesus birth.

Our last class will be on Dec. 19. Then we will not see our RE kids until January 9. Families get a nice long break and my only hope is that January flies by as fast as December seems too. Not that I don't like Epiphany. I love that season as we celebrate the Word made known throughout the land after Jesus was born. There was not telephone, telegraph, mail, email....; Just word of mouth to spread the most amazing news of all: The long-awaited Savior had finally arrived. Herod of course was still bent on getting rid of Him, thus the Holy family fled to Egypt. This would not stifle those who witnessed that star or the baby in the manger.

Many of the times and dates we assigned to different events are mostly a guess. They try to match things up to Herod decrees or what the stars were doing to "create" the Bethlehem star, when shepherds would actually be in the fields... does it really matter? The first thing we need to believe is that nothing is impossible with God. What's important is that it happened and not everything can be explained by any means. I wish I could have a glimpse of that time; it must have been spectacular! Better than the Fourth of July at Okoboji!

## UPCOMING EVENTS



Monday, Dec. 10

8 p.m.: AA in Nazareth Hall; Al-Anon in NW.

Tuesday, Dec. 11

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration.

5:15 p.m.: Mass

7 p.m.: Choir Practice

Wednesday, Dec. 12

3:40-5 p.m.: Religious Ed for grades K-6

7-8 p.m.: Religious Ed for grades 7-12.

Thursday, Dec. 13

11 a.m.: Ones meet at Minerva's.

Saturday, Dec. 15

6 p.m.: Private Anniversary Party in PC.

Sunday, Dec. 16

9-11 a.m.: KC Coffee and refreshments, PC.

1 p.m.: Advent Reconciliation.

4 p.m.: Annual Children's Christmas Pageant with pizza to follow.

PLEASE return your DAA card/pledge.

### DAA UPDATE:

Goal: \$49,533.00

Rec'd this week: \$625.00

Total Pledged/Pd: \$21,534.00

% of Goal: 43.5%

# Contributors: 175/680 or 25.7%

Remaining Amount: \$28,624.00



JUST A REMINDER... there is still time to get a poinsettia in memory of a loved one. Poinsettias are \$13 each. There is an envelope in your packet or you can call the office. If you wish to contribute, the deadline for inclusion in the bulletin is Wed., Dec. 19 at 12 noon.

PRAYERS and sympathy from the St. Joseph Parish Family to James Thompson on the death of his brother, +Joseph Thompson, 80, of Spencer. His Mass of Christian Burial was held Tues., Dec. 4 at Sacred Heart, in Spencer.

ST. JOSEPH'S chili entry in Milford's Holiday Fantasy promotion won first place. Thanks to St. Joseph Parishioner Dean Reiser for cooking the chili. St. Joseph Parishioners Doug and Becky Heller, of Northwest IA Sprinkler, won the soup division with their taco soup recipe.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Welcome to our visitors who are worshipping with us this weekend. May your time in the lakes region be special.

Third Sunday of Advent  
Saturday, Dec. 15 @ 4:30 p.m.  
KC Mass

EMES: (6) KC's  
LECTOR: KC's

SERVERS: John Gracia, Loretta Halbur

USHERS/GREETERS: KC's

GIFTS: Waltrich/Adams Family

Sunday, Dec. 16 @ 8 a.m.

EMES: (5) Jim and Irene McCoy, Marlene Nelsen,

Faith Garcia, Charree Sweeten

LECTOR: Chris Bjornstad

SERVERS: Alex Stoll, Ethan Weston

USHERS/GREETERS: Tom and Terri Rierson

GIFTS: Volunteers

Sunday, Dec. 16 @ 10 a.m.

EMES: (6) Donna Clark, Aaron and Erin Lorch, Bill

and Cheryl Aumer, Connie Lange

LECTOR: Sara Laven

SERVERS: Addison Frerichs, Dakota McDonald

USHERS/GREETERS: Dick and Connie Mataloni

GIFTS: Doug Svoboda Family

CHILDREN'S LIT: Heidi Wittrock

We will be singing again this year at the midnight Christmas Eve Mass. Practices will be held Tuesday, December 11 @ 7:00 p.m. and Tuesday, December 18 @ 6:15 p.m. We will meet on Christmas Eve at 11:00 p.m. If you've never been a part of the choir before, now is the perfect time to join. Contact Cain Junkman, Director of Music, with any questions at junkman.cain@gmail.com.

The 'Arts at St. Joseph' presents The Benson Family Singers Christmas on Sunday, December 9, 2018, 4:30 p.m. The free Advent concert will feature the family music group from Faribault, Minnesota who will share their unique ministry consisting of barbershop, bluegrass, Christmas and gospel music. A reception will follow in the Parish Center. Doors will open at 4:00 p.m.

The Knights of Columbus are accepting non-perishable food donations up until December 18th for our Annual Christmas Box deliveries to those who need a little help at this time of year. Please bring and drop off in the blue tubs in the church lobby. The Council adds milk, bread, potatoes and meat. We have 12 turkeys already donated. We thank you.

Good stewards believe that God, who has begun this good work in them, will carry it through to completion. In words and deeds, they can sing with the Psalmist, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!"

Weekly budget needs are \$7,582

Dec. 1-2, 2018

Weekly: \$4,272.00

Candles: \$29.92

Bells: \$282.60

Rental: \$50.00

Loose: \$303.57

Haiti: \$1,450.00

Campaign Human Dev.: \$20.00

Memorial: \$300.00

## MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, Dec. 8

4:30 p. +Leroy Wintz

+Darrold Tatman

Sunday, Dec. 9

8 a. +Sara Jane Rolles

10 a. +M.L. & +E.T. Northup

Monday, Dec. 10

7:30 a. Special Int. (JLW)

Tuesday, Dec. 11

5:15 p. +Bud Brooks

Wednesday, Dec. 12

7:30 a. Halbur/Johnson Fam

Thursday, Dec. 13

7:30 a. +Carol Kesteloot

Friday, Dec. 14

7:30 a. +Larry & Jenny Pick

10:30 a. +Roger Eilers

Saturday, Dec. 15

4:30 p. +Don Kruse

Sunday, Dec. 16

8 a. +Paul Delaney

10 a. +Lynn Knudtson

+Ken Knudtson

+Joy Walz

+Bo Schnetter

WE are in need of greeters at 8 a.m. on Sun., Dec. 23 and a family to bring up the gifts on Mon., Dec. 24 at 4 p.m. Please call the office if you are planning on attending these Masses and can help. Thanks in advance.

Prayers for the Sick  
Please pray for these St. Joseph Parishioners:

Jean Kennedy, Jerry Clark, Sharon Knudtson, Joan Langel, Jeff Langel, Irene Clark, Harlan Schumacher, Robert Rowland, Bill James, Jane Black, Marie Van Hofwegen, Ethel Wilson, Steve Painter, Ginny Yore, Gerald Cummins, LaDonna Jansen, Dale Langel, Finley Brunsbold, Dee Bryant, Cindy Rush, Phyllis Hintz, Harold Eilers, Terry Abbas, Susan Robinson, Leona

Other Special Persons: Dan Donovan, Leah Brevik, Colleen Muller, Michael Langel, Jamie O'Neill, Carol Willeite, Nancy Yornie, Pat Juza, Kathy Reimers, Bea Reiter, Paula Bernady, Peg Meyer, Mary Jones, Andy Bensman, Todd Clausen, Zach Buden, Lindsay Fry, Roman Schierholt, Jan James, Sharon Forsman, Aden Remme, Jeff Harbst, Esther Baxter, Melissa Hruby, David Smith, Jean Stille and Howie Holdenried Please call to add persons.