

DEC. 23, 2018

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

True Value

*Hardware *Housewares *Appliances

Milford 338-4323

I had to smile as the "replacement" angel Gabriel read her part for the Children's Christmas Pageant last Sunday. She had the voice and the inflection to give our Mary the notice of God's calling. With a sudden illness the replacement angel filled in, reminding us of God's grace in unexpected, last minute, spontaneous, unplanned for, spur-of-the-moment incidents/occurrences of which we have no control over. Such is the gift of this season with all our planned gatherings, gift giving and meals: God's light will descend upon you and I at a moment we cannot predict, no less than the unexpected arrival of that young couple and their newborn before the animals within the stable of Bethlehem. May we simply receive such grace as a gift of this Christmas, whenever the unexpected occurs.

Our parish has always offered the gift of hospitality for all who desire to pray with us and share in the Eucharist. Such will be the blessing at our Christmas Masses at 4 and 6 p.m. on the 24th, Midnight and 9 a.m. on the 25th. To all who will share in the ministries within these Christmas Masses—Ushers, Greeters, Altar Servers, Musicians & Singers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Homebound Ministers—thank you for your faith and presence! I believe every parish and church has their own attributes that bring individuals closer to God's presence; likewise within the blessing of the Sacramental Life and individuals within our parish of St. Joseph. Approaching this holy and gracious time, may we gratefully recognize the blessing we share together as Christians, the Body of Christ. Thank you to all our parishioners and visitors who share your presence and faith within our parish.

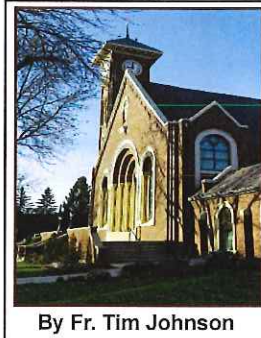
"And when we give each other Christmas gifts in His name, let us remember that He has given us the sun and the moon and the stars, and the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans—and all that lives and move upon them. He has given us all green things and everything that blossoms and bears fruit and all that we quarrel about and all that we have misused—and to save us from our foolishness, from all our sins, He came down to earth and gave us Himself." (Sigrid Undset, Catholic author, Norway)

God Bless.

Fr. Tim

For Your Information....

- ✓ The Parish Office will be open from 8 a.m. to 12 noon Dec. 26-28. The office will be closed Dec. 24-25, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. The office reopens Wed., Jan. 2.
- ✓ 2018 contributions to St. Joseph must be received at the church prior to Jan. 1, 2019. Please be mindful of this IRS ruling that is strictly enforced by the diocese.
- ✓ 2019 stewardship envelopes have been sent. Please watch for them in your mailbox. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call the parish office at 338-2274.



By Fr. Tim Johnson

SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

FAITH FORMATION

By Sharon Mayer

If Jesus Came to Your House

If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two,

If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do.

Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honored Guest

And all the food you'd serve Him would be the very best.

And you would assure Him you're glad He's there

That serving Him is a joy beyond compare! And when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door

With arms outstretched in welcome for your special visitor?

Would you need to change your clothes before He came in or hide

some magazines and put a Bible where they'd been?

Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard or wish you

hadn't uttered that last nasty word?

Could you let Jesus walk right in without rushing about?

And I wonder...if the Savior spent a day or two with you

Would you do the things you always do?

Would you say the things you always say and have life go on as it

Does from day to day?

Would the family conversation keep its usual pace?

Would you find it hard each meal to try to say grace?

Would you sing the songs you always sing and read the books you read

And let Him know these are the things on which your spirit feeds?

Could you take Jesus everywhere you planned to go or would you change your plans for a day or so?

Would you be happy to have Him meet your friends or

Would you hope they stay away until His visit ends?

Would you invite him to stay on forever or would you sigh

With great relief when He at last was gone? It could prove interesting the things you would do

If Jesus came in person to spend the Holidays with you.

Anonymous

Our story of Christmas as told by the children of St. Joseph happened last Sunday. About 50 students participated in the program. They and their families were treated to pizza afterwards. Many thanks to the students, parents, Catechists helpers and people in the kitchen who all made a wonderful day.

UPCOMING EVENTS



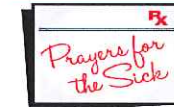
Monday, Dec. 24

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

Tuesday, Dec. 25

NO Eucharistic Adoration today

9 a.m.: Christmas Day Mass



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 Brunsvold, Dee Bryant, Cindy Rush, Phyllis Hintz, Harold Eilers, Terry Ab-

Other Special Persons: Peri & Vern Hughes, Dan Donovan, Leah Brevik, Colleen Mulder, Michael Langel, Jamie O'Neill, Carol Willette, Nancy Younie, Pat Juza, Kathy Reimers, Bea Reiter, Paula Bernardy, Peg Meyer, Mary Jones, Andy Bensman, Todd Clausen, Zach Budden, Roman Schierholt, Jan James, Sharon Forsman, Aden Remme, Jeff Harbst, Esther Baxter, Melissa Hruby, David Smith, Jean Stillel and Howie Holdenried Please call to add persons.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no Eucharistic Adoration on Tues., Dec. 25 and Tues., Jan. 1.

DAA UPDATE:

Goal: \$49,533.00

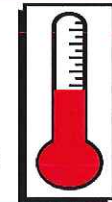
Rec'd this week: \$685.00

Total Pledged/Pd: \$23,769

% of Goal: 48.0%

#Contributors: 186/680 or 27.4%

Remaining Amount: \$25,764.00



✠ PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY from the St. Joseph Parish Family to David Johnson on the death of his mother, +Mary Jean Johnson, 89, of West Branch, IA, who died Mon., Dec. 17. Her Mass of Christian Burial was Fri., Dec. 23 at St. Bernadette's Catholic Church, in West Branch.

The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship, she who had given herself to bear the Savior gave her time and love to others as well.



Weekly budget needs are \$7,582

Dec. 8-9, 2018

Weekly: \$7,296.00

Loose: \$1,261.96

Candles: \$58.00

Haiti: \$1,250.00

Haiti Education: \$350.00

Endow: \$5.00

Bells: \$1,000.00

Building: \$20.00

Peace & Justice: \$160.00

Children: \$36.00

Christmas Flowers: \$937.00

Arts: \$600.00

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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

Christmas Eve

Monday, Dec. 24 @ 4 p.m.

Children's Mass

EMES: (7) Jeff and Pat Rolfes, Tony Peschong, Karen Naber, Connie Lange, Connie Hinrichs, Alma Klute
LECTOR: Joseph Schmidt

SERVERS: Melika Smith, Kaleb Peschong

USHERS/GREETERS: Bill and Cheryl Aumer

GIFTS: Kim Haisman Family

Monday, Dec. 24 @ 6 p.m.

EMES: (5) Deb Travis, Connie and Chris Jones, Pete and Sara Laven

LECTOR: Lois Eckard

SERVERS: Nick Stein, Will Anderson

USHERS/GREETERS: Linda Thiesen

GIFTS: Tom Johnson Family

Monday, Dec. 24 @ 12 midnight

EMES: (7) Bonnie Duhn, Dori Lippon, Sharon & Jim Metzger, Jerilyn Streit, Mark and Deb Johnson

LECTOR: Beth Lorch

SERVERS: Isabel Nelson, Dawson Kuker

USHERS/GREETERS: Duane and Tammi Schnetter

GIFTS: Mark Johnson Family

The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas Day

Tuesday, Dec. 25 @ 9 a.m. ONLY

EMES: (5) Darlene Moritz, Tom and Terri Rierson, Bob and Barb Kollasch

LECTOR: Donna Clark

SERVERS: Jocelyn Heller, Loretta Halbur

USHERS/GREETERS: Jack and Julie Kliegl

GIFTS: Volunteers

The Holy Family

Saturday, Dec. 29 @ 4:30 p.m.

EMES: (6) Roger and Cheryl Moss, Pat Rolfes, Alex Jones, Eldon Kraninger, Marlys Nolan

LECTOR: Jeff Rolfes

SERVERS: Dylan and Brian Jones

USHERS/GREETERS: NEED HELP HERE

GIFTS: Tom Rierson Family

Sunday, Dec. 30 @ 8 a.m.

EMES: (5) Marlene Nelsen, Aaron Hyatt, Connie and Chris Bjornstad, Karen Naber

LECTOR: Loretta Halbur

SERVERS: Cory Knudtson, Liam Knudtson

USHERS/GREETERS: Tom and Jan Johnson

GIFTS: Volunteers

Sunday, Dec. 30 @ 10 a.m.

CDA Mass

EMES: (6) CDA members

LECTOR: Darlene Moritz

SERVERS: Loretta Halbur, Deb Johnson

USHERS: CDA Members

GIFTS: CDA Members

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, Dec. 22

4:30 p +Charles James

Sunday, Dec. 23

8 a +Art Reiser

10 a +Floyd Sporrer

Russel Drown

Monday, Dec. 24

No Morning Mass

4 p +Dennis Kasperbauer

+Dennis Karl

+Beverly Longmore

+Darrell Karl

+Lawrence & +Louise Lambert

+Tom and +Ver Karl

+Hilda Huelsbeck

+Martha Rolfes

+Sara Rolfes

+Eloise Lambert

+M.L. and +E.T. Northup

+Korey Halbur

+Bob Berning

+Albert & +Veronica Berning

6 p.m. +Leroy Wintz

+Steve Muhlbauer

+Jim and Donna Murray

12 mid +Betty Newman

+Dixie Wittrock

+Matt and +Mildred Richter

+Keith and +Roberta Carlson

+Todd Wittrock

+Matt and +Rita Wittrock

+Harvey Baxter, Sr.

Tuesday, Dec. 25

9 a +Vince Bernardo

+Dr. A.H Van Hofwegen

Liv & Dec CDA Members

+Fr. Robert Thiele

+Edith and +Francis Long

+Joseph and +Margaret Berg

+Rob and +Clara Long

+Raymond Long

Wednesday, Dec. 26

No Mass Today

Thursday, Dec. 27

No Mass Today

Friday, Dec. 28

No Mass Today

Saturday, Dec. 29

4:30 p +Darrold Tatman

Sunday, Dec. 30

8 a +Bud Brooks

10 a +Bo Schnetter

PLAN AHEAD - Beginning Mon., Jan. 7, the Parish Offices will be out of order for most of the week to allow crews to lay new carpet. If you can avoid visiting the offices that week, please do so. We will be available by phone but finding stuff may be a challenge.