

# The Lakes Catholic Community

## St. Joseph Parish

1305 Okoboji Ave.

Milford, IA 51351 712-338-2274

FAX: 712-338-2191

[www.stjosephmilford.org](http://www.stjosephmilford.org)

## St. Mary's Parish

1005 Hill Ave.

Spirit Lake, IA

P.O. Box 354

712-336-1742

[www.stmarysspiritlake.org](http://www.stmarysspiritlake.org)



PEACE

Second Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023

# News From St. Joseph Parish



## 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.: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fri.: 8 a.m. - 12 noon

## RECONCILIATION:

3:15 pm Sat;

8:15 am Sun

## BULLETIN DEADLINE

Tuesday 12 noon

## MASS SCHEDULE:

### Winter

Saturday at 4 p.m.

Sunday at 9 a.m.

### Summer

Saturday at 4 p.m.

Sunday at 7, 9 and 11 a.m.

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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.

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## Special Collections in December

The deadline for donations for the Christmas Flowers collection is Tues., Dec. 19 at 12 noon. Contributions may be placed in the basket on the weekend or dropped off at the office. Donations for the Catholic Charities collection can be placed in the basket at one of the Christmas Masses (December 24 or 25). Please make checks payable to "St. Joseph," and write "Christmas Flowers" or "Catholic Charities" in the memo line.



**ADVENT**  
*A Season of Preparation*

**THE** next Faith Break for men and women of St. Joseph and St. Mary's will be held Sat., Dec. 16, 8:30 to 10 a.m. at St. Joseph. Please contact Jacques Bouli with any questions at youth@thelakescatholic.church. "The topic will be "The Nativity," derived from the first to fifth Gospel

## ST. JOSEPH

placed first in the soup/chili contest sponsored by the Milford Commercial Club during Holiday Fantasy in Milford last weekend. Thanks to Dean Reiser for making the winning chili and to all who voted.



## THE St. Joseph

Mitten Tree is up and we are accepting new mittens, gloves, scarves, hats to be distributed to less fortunate families this holiday season. Deadline for contributing items is Mon., Dec. 11. Thanks in advance for your participation in this project.



**MILFORD Community Blood Drive** on the Bloodmobile Bus by LifeServe Fri., Dec. 22, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the St. Joseph parking lot. Appointments are encouraged by text LIFESERVE to 999-777, call 1-800-287-4903 or visit lifeservebloodcenter.org.



## Together As One

**Thank you** to those who have already supported diocesan ministries through TAO. As of Nov. 30, we have raised \$19,422 in gifts and pledges toward the goal of \$40,197.00 with gifts from 109 households. Will you help us meet our fundraising goals? Visit [www.scdiocese.org/together-as-one](http://www.scdiocese.org/together-as-one).



## Ministry Schedule

### Third Sunday of Advent

**Saturday, December 16th @ 4 p.m.**

**EMHC:** Deb Faulkner, Faith Garcia, Jeff Knudtson, Jean Petitti

**LECTOR:** Connie Chapman

**SERVERS:** Ron Swartz

**HOSPITALITY:** Doug Heller, Monica Koeppen, Eldon Kraninger, Joel & Karen Naber

**Sunday, December 17th @ 9 a.m.**

**EMHC:** Erin Lorch, Jim & Laurie Murray, Jeff Nelson

**LECTOR:** Linda Hirsch

**SERVERS:** Jerron Heller, Jocelyn Heller

**HOSPITALITY:** John Heller, Marshall Matuska, Michael & Sharon Sjoblom, Jon Sorenson



# News From St. Joseph Parish

## Religious Education News

By Erin Lorch

Director of Faith Formation

Greetings! Happy Advent! The second candle on the Advent Wreath is lit, and we are called to reflect on PEACE. Jesus offers us peace, but we have to be willing to get rid of the things that get in the way of it. Every week, Fr. Hughes offers the opportunity to receive the peace of Christ through the sacrament of Reconciliation. Our sins get in the way of peace. Repentance brings peace. Today at 4 p.m., Communal Penance will be offered. I kindly invite you and encourage you to attend. Maybe it's been months, a year, or decades since your last confession. I am here to tell you that it's never too late. You're never too far gone. Jesus wants to grant you His peace. We need the peace of Christ to experience the glory of Christmas. We simply need to show up in prayer, in the sacraments, and Jesus offers us His peace that surpasses all human understanding. Even in the midst of the joy and chaos, we can receive and offer peace to others.

Pray the following prayer for a renewal of peace.

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi (Prayer for Peace)

Prayer of St. Francis (Prayer for Peace)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

### December Schedule

December 13-Christmas Prayer Service and Pizza starting at 6 p.m.

All are welcome!

-Grades 9-12 Class 6:45-8pm

December 20-No Class, Catechist Gathering at St. Mary's in Spirit Lake at 6 p.m.

December 27-No Class

*Erin*

**PRAY for these members:** Pat Graves, Dean Ulrich, Charles Reckard, Vince Bronson, Linda Cunningham, Mark Kollasch, Tutti Willison, Becky Wittrock, Kiana Svoboda, Andrew Gross, Mary Mittag, Mary Langel, Geneva Knudtson, Rick DeMuth, Mary Ann Sigler, Dennis and Alma Klute, Jerry Clark, Robert Rowland, Bill James, Marie Van Hofwegen, Steve Painter, Ginny Yore, Finley Brunsvold, Phyllis Hintz.

**PLEASE pray for these special persons:** Hudson Grace Koeppen, Kim Higgins, Angel Henkenius, Janet Norgaard, Cozy Nelsen, Ron Heller, Zenrik Young, Elizabeth Olson, Mark McGill, Kevin Tracy, Mary Jones, Pat Reckard, Hope Anderson, Christine Fischer, Tom Kallis, Cheryl Kallis, Duane Doran, Jane Baxter, Wanda Randall, Norine Kennedy, Bruce and Sandy, Kaydan, Adam Hall, Kate Jensen, Cooper Hatfield, Corey Langner, Claire Yaw, Sammy Schumann, Ellie Wiemers, Mary W., Mary Bolan, Charles Graves, Zoe Lorenzen, Heather Hamann, Esther Morris, Wayne Bellinghausen, Maxine Thompson, Lois Doran, Dale Gentry, Mike Cooper, Denny Daberkow, Ray Langel, Tailen Sturtz, Aimee Wallrich, Peggy Price, John Bruening, Ashlyn Clark, Jerry Wolford, Kami Svoboda, Darrel Wedeking, Dan Mulder, Colleen Mulder.



## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, Dec. 9

4 p: +Dave Lambert

### Sunday, Dec. 10

9 a: For The People

### Monday, Dec. 11

No Mass Today

### Tuesday, Dec. 12

5:30 p.m.: +Chuck McCabe

### Wednesday, Dec. 13

No Mass Today

### Thursday, Dec. 14

No Mass Today

### Friday, Dec. 15

7:30 a: +Steve Muhlbauer

### Saturday, Dec. 16

4 p: Deceased Wuebker Family

### Sunday, Dec. 17

9 a: For The People

**THE "ONES"** will meet Thursday, Dec. 14, 11:30 a.m., at Minerva's. Please note the change of meeting time to 11:30 a.m.

**January Newsletter** - Monday, Dec. 18, 12 noon is the deadline for submitting items to the January newsletter.



### Monday, Dec. 11

7:30 p.m.: Al-Anon meets by zoom

8 p.m.: AA meets in Nazareth Hall

### Tuesday, Dec. 12

2 p.m.: Eucharistic Adoration.  
Mass at 5:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, Dec. 13

Rel. Ed: 6 p.m. K-8 Christmas Pageant. Pizza to follow.

### Thursday, Dec. 14

No Mass Today

11:30 a.m.: Ones meet at Minerva's

### Friday, Dec. 15

7:30 a.m. Mass

### Saturday, Dec. 16

8:30-10 a.m. Men's and Women's Faith Break at St. Joseph.

4 p.m.: Mass

### Sunday, Dec. 17

9 a.m.: Mass

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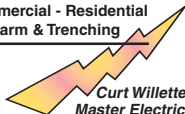
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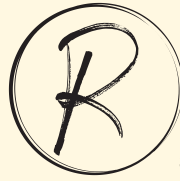
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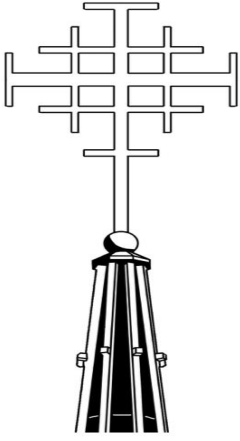
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# News From St. Mary's Parish



## Sauce and Books Ordered at Fr. Sichko Talk

The sauce and books that were available to order at the Fr. Sichko talk have arrived. If you have not picked up your sauce or book yet, please contact Cynthia in the parish office when you are ready to pick up your order.

## Thank You

Thank you to Funeral Group #1 for your donations of food for the +LeRoy Heideman funeral luncheon. Thank you also to the kitchen helpers.



## Remembering Loved Ones for Christmas Flower Offering

If you would like to remember your loved ones when submitting your Christmas Flower offering, please include their names on the Christmas Flower Offering envelope that you received in your packet of offertory envelopes this month. If you give online, you can give to the Christmas Flowers fund online but will need to give your list of names to Cynthia in the parish office ([smoffice@thelakescatholic.church](mailto:smoffice@thelakescatholic.church)). To be included in the list of names in the bulletin, we will need your envelope or list of completed names by 8 a.m. on Monday, December 18.

## FORMED

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup) and select our parish. Once you have an account, consider downloading the FORMED app on the App Store or on Google Play (search: FORMED Catholic). Downloading the app makes viewing FORMED content easy.

## Magnificat Advent Prayer Companion Booklets

We still have a few copies of the Magnificat Advent Prayer Companion booklets available in the narthex. This booklet provides scriptural reflections for each day of the Advent season. You will also find a wealth of meditative prayers, essays, and poetry, as well as an examination of conscience and Advent Stations. Please pick up a copy of this booklet as you leave the church today—one copy per family, please.

## Giving Tree

St. Mary's Parish will continue its Giving Tree tradition, a Christmas opportunity to share the joy of Christmas with others outside of our church walls. This year, in addition to supporting the Cherish Center (which provides expecting mothers and their children with a safe and supportive home), we will have the opportunity to bless our Seminarians and to bless those who have chosen to welcome life and those who assist them. What would be a better way to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the "yes" of Mary than to celebrate those who are welcoming the gift of life today? There will be a tree with paper ornaments in the narthex beginning this weekend. Parishioners can choose an ornament, purchase the item(s) on it, and return the items to the church by Dec. 20th (either by the tree or to Brigitte in the parish office). Items will be distributed December 22-23rd. You can pick from the various options: wish list items we received from the Cherish Center; "Bless a Seminarian" with a Christmas card, a prayer commitment and a Gift card for one of our seminarians; "Bless an OB Provider" at Lakes Regional Healthcare with a Christmas card, a prayer and a gift card or gift basket; or "Bless a Mother" who welcomes life at Lakes Regional between December 23rd -January 23rd with a gift basket. This would be a wonderful family opportunity, so please think about blessing others at this time of year. We are 'richer' than many others in the world, in one way or another.



## WELCOME TO SAINT MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

We hope your visit here will be a prayerful time as you enjoy the lakes region. Please consider St. Mary'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 MARY'S  
1005 Hill Avenue  
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OFFICE: 712-336-1742

[stmarysspiritlake.org](http://stmarysspiritlake.org)

### Parish Office Hours:

Mon.- Thurs.: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fri.: 8 a.m. - 12 noon

### Reconciliation:

4:45 pm Sat;

9:45 am Sun; 11:30 am Wed

### Bulletin Deadline

Monday at 8 a.m.

### Mass Schedule:

Winter:

Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

If you are a new parishioner at St. Mary's, we welcome you to register with our parish. Simply go to our parish website ([stmarysspiritlake.org](http://stmarysspiritlake.org)), and click on "Parish Registration" at the top of the page. Then complete the form, and click "Submit." We look forward to serving you here at St. Mary's!

# News From St. Mary's Parish

## This Week's Mass Schedule

**Monday, Dec. 11**

**No Mass Today**

**Tuesday, Dec. 12**

**No Mass Today**

**Wednesday, Dec. 13**

**12 Noon:** +Richard Grienke

**Thursday, Dec. 14**

**2 p.m.:** Adoration

**5:30 p.m.:** +Catherine Brown, +Blake Mart

**Friday, Dec. 15**

**No Mass Today**

**Saturday, Dec. 16**

**5:30 p.m.:** +Marlyn & +Joyce Lonneman

**Sunday, Dec. 17**

**10:30 a.m.:** Liv and Dec of St. Mary's

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

## WEEKLY Calendar

**Monday, Dec. 11**

No events today

**Tuesday, Dec. 12**

No events today

**Wednesday, Dec. 13**

**12 p.m.:** Mass

**Thursday, Dec. 14**

**2 p.m.:** Adoration

**5:30 p.m.:** Mass

**6 p.m.:** Adult Choir Rehearsal

**Friday, Dec. 15**

No events today

**Saturday, Dec. 16**

**5:30 p.m.:** Mass

**Sunday, Dec. 17**

**9 a.m.:** Lectio Divina Group, clsrn.

**10:30 a.m.:** Mass

## NEWS & Notes

### Special Collections in December

Donations for the Christmas Flowers collection should be placed in the basket on the weekend of December 10. Donations for the Catholic Charities collection should be placed in the basket at one of the Christmas Masses (December 24 or 25). Please make checks payable to "St. Mary's," and write "Christmas Flowers" or "Catholic Charities" in the memo line.

If you would like to give to these collections online, please visit our website (stmarysspiritlake.org), and click on the "Give" option at the top of the screen. Then click on the "Click Here to Make an Online Donation" button. To see all available funds, click on "View All Funds." Choose the fund you want to give to, and click "Give Now." The December special collections will be available on our website until December 28. Thank you for your generous support!

### Together As One

Thank you to those who have already supported diocesan ministries through TAO. As of November 14, we have raised \$19,331.00 in gifts and pledges toward the goal of \$30,923.00 with gifts from 72 households. Will you help us meet our fundraising goals? Visit [www.scdiocese.org/together-as-one](http://www.scdiocese.org/together-as-one).

### New Parishioner Registration

If you are a new parishioner at St. Mary's, we welcome you to register with our parish. Simply go to our parish website (stmarysspiritlake.org), and click on "Parish Registration" at the top of the page. Then complete the form, and click "Submit." We look forward to serving you here at St. Mary's!

### Jesse Tree

St. Mary's is once again presenting the Jesse Tree during the 4 Sundays of Advent at the 10:30 Mass. The Jesse Tree tells the story of Salvation History through the use of ornaments and a short text about each story. The Jesse Tree will be in the narthex throughout Advent and Christmas, along with the complete text on each segment of the story and its ornament. Our students will be presenting 5 ornaments each of the Sundays of Advent.

### Prayer Chain

All Confidential Prayer Chain requests may be directed to Jean Mohr, our Prayer Chain Coordinator, at 712-320-0748. Prayer intentions may be entered in the prayer request book, which can be found in the narthex of the church.

### Ministry Schedule

#### Third Sunday of Advent

**Saturday, December 16th @ 5:30 p.m.**

**EMHC:** Kim Ingwersen, Eileen & Jed Skogerboe

**LECTOR:** Ron Crowley

**SERVERS:** Noah Lee

**HOSPITALITY:** Joe Endres, Dave & Linda Hansen, Tom Kellen, Sarah Mayer

**ONLINE:** Jean Mohr

**Sunday, December 17th @ 10:30 a.m.**

**EMHC:** Don & Linda Breuker, Kelly Ferguson

**LECTOR:** Cyndy Powers

**SERVERS:** Layne Jacobsma, Lucas Jacobsma

**HOSPITALITY:** Mike Davis, Alan Ditsworth, Sylvia Jennings, Jim Wiese

### Following is general information that may be helpful to you.

- ✓ **BAPTISMS:** Contact the office to inquire about pre-baptismal class.
- ✓ **MARRIAGE:** Contact the office at least six months before the date of the wedding.
- ✓ **CONFESSIONS:** Wednesday at 11:30 a.m., Saturday at 4:45 p.m. and Sunday at 9:45 a.m.
- ✓ **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Thursday from 2 to 5:15 p.m.



This Sunday afternoon we will be sponsoring a communal Penance Serve at both St. Mary's (2:30 p.m.) and St. Joseph's (4 p.m.) We will have priests here to celebrate God's mercy with the Sacrament of Confession. The practice of going to Confession in preparation for Christmas is an ancient tradition that dates back more than 1,500 years. Of course, it

is difficult and of course it demands self-honesty on our part. Opening your heart to God and to his great mercy is at the heart of going to Confession. Please join us this Sunday afternoon for this great moment of preparation for Christmas.

### Many Thanks

We are finishing up on our annual campaign to assist the food pantry at the Upper Des Moines outreach facility in Spirit Lake. Upper Des Moines serves families and individuals in a wide area of northwest Iowa. We are grateful to everyone who brought non-perishable food items and personal hygiene products for our effort to assist the needy in our neighborhood. We are in the process of delivering more than 600 pounds of items to Upper Des Moines. We have also received cash donations which will be converted in to food cards for use by the Upper Des Moines staff. Thanks to all who have assisted in this great project. It is not too late to make a donation so do not hesitate to drop items off or mail a check to our offices. Please clearly mark all cash donation.

### Advent and Christmas Blessings

In the narthex of both church buildings, you can find cards that contain a blessing for your home nativity scenes and Christmas trees. Decorating our homes with all the beauty of the season is a delightful way to recall the Birth of Jesus, Savior of the World. Please feel free to take a Christmas Blessing card and use them as you decorate your homes or as you gather with your family.

**The 4th Degree** Monsignor McCoy Assembly meets Tues., Dec. 12, Mill Creek, Milford. 6 p.m. Social. Meeting at 6:30. Bring socks for kids.

### Christmas Eve Masses

Sunday, Dec. 24

4 p.m. and 6 p.m. at St. Joseph; 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's

### Christmas Day

Monday, Dec. 25 - 9 a.m. at St. Joseph; 10:30 at St. Mary's

As always, the financial books for both parishes will close Sun., Dec. 31. Any checks received that weekend must be dated Dec. 31, 2023 to be credited to the 2023 stewardship statement. Statements will be sent to parishioners mid-month in January.

## Stewardship REPORT

John the Baptist's call to repentance is echoed in the US bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship: "Christians must beg God for the grace of conversion: the grace to know who they are, to whom they belong, how they are to live--the grace to repent and change and grow, the grace to become good disciples and stewards."

### ST. JOSEPH FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP Dec. 2-3, 2023 Att. 472

Adults: \$8,980.00  
Loose: \$955.00      Endow: \$65.00  
Online: \$490.00  
Altar/Rosary: \$105.00  
Candles: \$27.88  
P & J: \$210.00  
Building: \$3,587.00

### ST. MARY'S FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP Dec. 2-3, 2023 Att. 585

Adults: \$5,405.00  
Online: \$1,770.60  
Loose: \$979.60  
Dollar: \$273.00  
Votive: \$41.00



## Pastor Fr. Brian Hughes

Deacon Darwin Messerly and Deacon Ken Linquist

### The St. Mary Staff

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