The Lakes Catholic Community

St. Joseph Parish

1305 Okoboji Ave.

Milford, IA 51351 712-338-2274

FAX: 712-338-2191 www.stjosephmilford.org

St. Mary's Parish

1005 Hill Ave. Spirit Lake, IA P.O. Box 354 712-336-1742

www.stmarysspiritlake.org



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 JOSÉPH 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.

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.

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: | | |
|----------|--------|--|
| | | |
| | | |
| State: _ | Zip: _ | |
| | | |

PRAYERS and sympathy from the St. Joseph Parish Family to the family of +Dorothy Determan, 99, of Milford, who died Sun., Dec. 17. Her Mass of Christian Burieal was held Wed., Dec. 20 at St. Joseph.



THANK YOU!, THANK YOU!

- ✓ Thank you to Funeral Group #6 for serving the +Dorothy Determan coffee event following her funeral on Wed., Dec. 20. Your assistance to a family in their time of need is greatly appreciated. Funeral Group #7 will serve the next funeral luncheon.
- ✓ Thank you to the volunteers who placed the holiday roping on the front step area of the church and to those who set up the Christmas trees on the altar.
- ✓ Thank you to the Sporrer Family who set up the traditional nativity set in the church. Thank you all for taking the time to make God's House, inside and out, beautiful for the Christmas season.

Thank You Volunteers!







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.



Ministry Schedule

Holy Family Saturday, December 30th @ 4 p.m.

EMHC: Eldon Kraninger, Molly Mulqueen, Jerilyn Streit, Sheila Thelen

LECTOR: Irene McCoy

SERVERS: Grace Davis, Ron Swartz

HOSPITALITY: Doug Heller, Jim McCoy, Joel & Karen Naber

Sunday, December 31st @ 9 a.m.

EMHC: Connie Hinrichs, Deb & Mark Johnson, Susan Willette

LECTOR: Beth Lorch

SERVERS: Emily Breuer, Porter Prentice

HOSPITALITY: Julie & Tim Fairchild, John Heller, Jon Sorenson, Curt

Willette

News From St. Joseph Parish

Religious Education News By Erin Lorch

Director of Faith Formation

Greetings! Happy Advent! The fourth candle on the Advent Wreath is lit, and we are called to reflect on LOVE. Love came down from heaven on the very first Christmas. Our 4th graders have memorized John 3:16, "For God so LOVED the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." Love is the greatest of all the virtues we reflect on this Advent season. It truly encompasses Jesus' entire purpose. We have a God that loves us enough that He came to us, dwelled with us, and became one of us, Even in the present time, He loves us and pursues each of us. He wants us to be his adopted children, His divine heirs. While it's astounding that Mary, a virgin, gave birth to the Messiah, it's almost a bigger deal that Jesus came to redeem us and to help each of us form a relationship with God the Father. He not only taught us to love but modeled it for us. I encourage you to read the Gospels with an open heart. It could even change your life and the lives of those around you...Christmas is so much more than gift exchanges and food. It's the celebration of Christ's coming, and the anticipation of His second coming. May each of us experience the love of God this coming Christmas.

Last Wednesday, we wrapped up the Faith Formation calendar year with our K-8 prayer service. I pray that our catechists, students, families, and volunteers have a very Merry Christmas and experience the miracle of Christmas in a special way this year.

Blessings!

Colleen Mulder.

Frin

December Schedule

December 25. Dec. 26 Office Closed

December 27-No Class; December 29 Office Closed

Oaxaca Streetchildren Grassroots is an organization that was referenced in this past Sunday's "spontaneous" homily. Fr. Tom Flanagan had recently returned from serving alongside parishioners Amanda, Dori, and Dennis Lippon. The Lippons and many others have actively served in Oaxaca over numerous years and have sponsored many children to receive an education at the primary, secondary, and collegiate levels who otherwise would not have had the opportunity. Oaxaca is one of the poorest states in Mexico. Oaxaca Streetchildren Grassroots has served hundreds of children over the last 25 years. As Fr. Tom mentioned, a number of children still need to be sponsored for the 2024 school year. If you would like to sponsor a child or receive more information, please contact Erin Lorch at the parish office or Dennis Lippon at 712-330-7241. You can read more about this amazing organization on their website https://oaxacastreetchildren.org/donation-info

PRAY for these members: Donna Kramer, 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 Please he

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,

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, Dec. 23

4 p: +Betty Newman +Michael Newman

Sunday, Dec. 24

9 a: For The People 4 p: For The People 6 p: For The People

Monday, Dec. 25

9 a.m.: For The People

Tuesday, Dec. 26

No Mass Today

Wednesday, Dec. 27

No Mass Today

Thursday, Dec. 28

No Mass Today

Friday, Dec. 29

No Mass Today

Saturday, Dec. 30

4 p: +Dave Lambert

Sunday, Dec. 31

9 a: For The People

Monday, Jan. 1, 2024 9 a: For The People

THE grey January newsletters are on the table near the elevator.



Monday, Dec. 25

Parish Offices closed.

9 a.m.: Mass

Tuesday, Dec. 26

Parish Offices closed. No Eucharistic Adoration.

No Mass Today

Praying for...

Wednesday, Dec. 27

Parish Office open 8 to Noon. No Religious Education

Thursday, Dec. 28

Parish Office open 8 to Noon.

Friday, Dec. 29

Parish Office closed. No Mass Today.

Saturday, Dec. 30

4 p.m.: Mass

Sunday, Dec. 31

9 a.m.: Mass

Monday, Jan. 1

9 a.m.: Mass (New Year's Day)



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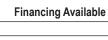


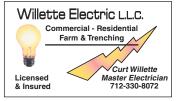






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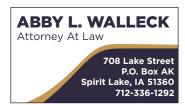
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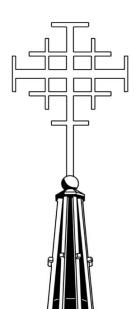


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News From St. Mary's Parish

Christmas Masses

Masses for Christmas Eve will be this Sunday, December 24 at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's and 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. at St. Joseph's. On Christmas Day, Mass will be at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's and 9 a.m. at St. Joseph's.

Religious Education News

There will be NO CLASS between December 20th and January 3rd- Have a wonderful Christmas! We will meet again for class on January 10th, and our 2nd Graders will celebrate their First Reconciliation on Saturday, January 13th from 10AM-Noon. Let's keep them in our prayers as they prepare for their First Communion by receiving the mercy of God!

Eternal Rest

Please remember Madeline Lynch, mother of Tom Lynch, in your prayers. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



Weekend Mass Schedule

Masses at St. Mary's are at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and 10:30 a.m. on Sunday.

Holiday Parish Office Hours

The St. Mary's parish office will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26 for the Christmas holiday. Office hours on December 27 and 28 will be 8 am – Noon. The office will be closed on Friday, December 29 and Monday, January 1 for the New Year's holiday. Thanks in advance for your understanding.

Note This Schedule Change

No Adoration or Mass on Wednesday and Thursday There will be no Mass and no Adoration at St. Mary's this Wednesday and Thursday (December 27 and 28).

Special Collections in December

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 "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 30, we have raised \$20,561.00 in gifts and pledges toward the goal of \$30,923.00 with gifts from 80 households. Will you help us meet our fundraising goals? Visit www.scdiocese.org/together-as-one.



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 P.O. Box 354 Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360 OFFICE: 712-336-1742

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), 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



Monday, Dec. 25

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

Tuesday, Dec. 26

No Mass Today

Wednesday, Dec. 27

No Mass Today

Thursday, Dec. 28

No Adoration Today No Mass Today

Friday, Dec. 29

No Mass Today

Saturday, Dec. 30

5:30 p.m.: Liv and Dec of St. Mary's

Sunday, Dec. 31

10:30 a.m.: +Pat Nellis



Monday, Dec. 25

Office Closed

10:30 a.m.: Mass (Christmas)

Tuesday, Dec. 26

Office Closed

Wednesday, Dec. 27

No Mass Today

12 p.m.: Office Closes

Thursday, Dec. 28

12 p.m.: Office Closes No Adoration Today No Mass Today

Friday, Dec. 29

Office Closed

Saturday, Dec. 30

5:30 p.m.: Mass

Sunday, Dec. 31

9 a.m.: Lectio Divina Group, clsrm.

10:30 a.m.: Mass

Monday, Jan. 1

10:30 a.m.: Mass (New Year's Day)

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church last weekend. You helped make our church look beautiful for Christmas. Thank you!



Mass on January 1st

St. Mary's will have Mass at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, January 1st.

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.

FORMED

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit 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.

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!

Worldwide Marriage Encounter for Married Couples

Consider making a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and enrich your lives together. It is a unique approach aimed at revitalizing Christian marriage. The upcoming dates are April 12-14, 2024, in Epworth; September 27-29, 2024, in Dubuque; and November 8-10, 2024, in Holstein. For more information, call 563-920-9419.



Ministry Schedule

The Holy Family

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

EMHC: Ron & Sharon Crowley, Patty Delaney, Jean Mohr

LECTOR: Dave Hansen **SERVERS:** Noah Lee

HOSPITALITY: John Delaney, Kevin Delaney, Gayle Eral, Tom Kellen,

Doug Zemler

Sunday, December 31st @ 10:30 a.m.

EMHC: Kim Kirshbaum, Jeannie James, Chris & Renee Quance

LECTOR: Mary Brandt

SERVERS: Jasper Robinson, Tyson Robinson

HOSPITALITY: Brady Kramer, Ruth Putnam, Kerri & Korey Robinson

ONLINE: Liam Fetcher

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.
- ✓ **EUCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Thursday from 2 to 5:15 p.m.



Thanks for goodies

Just a note to thank all for the Christmas cards, gifts and goodies that have been sent or dropped off at the parish office. They were delicious.

Calendars are here

The long-awaited 2024 church calendars have arrived! We had a bit of a snafu in this year's ordering process but all is well now. Thanks to the generosity of St. Mary's Parish and the St. Joseph Rosary/Altar Society for providing the calendars.

Office Hours During the Christmas Holiday

The parish offices at both Milford and Spirit Lake will be adjusted during the Christmas Holiday. Our offices will be closed on Monday, Dec. 25 and Tuesday, Dec. 26 so that our staff can celebrate with their families. Both offices will be open Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 27 and 28 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon to accept year end contributions. The offices will be closed on Friday, December 29 and Monday, Jan. 1 for the New Year's holiday. Offices will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 2 as usual. Thanks in advance for understanding.

Please Note This Change

Contrary to the information included in the Christmas Card, we are making a change in the Mass schedule for New Years. There will be no vigil Mass

on Sunday, Dec. 31 at Milford or Spirit Lake. There **will be** a New Year's Day Mass on Monday, Jan. 1, 2024 at 9 a.m. at St. Joseph and 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's. This day is not a holy day of obligation but we hope you will start the New Year out right by attending Mass.

Financial Books

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.

must be dated Dec. 31, 2023 to be credited to the 2023 stewardship statement. Statements will be sent to parishioners mid-month in January.

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



In the first reading, God promises King David that his house and his kingdom will endure forever. It is through Mary's "YUes" - "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say," - that the promise finds fulfillment.

ST. JOSEPH FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP Dec. 16-17, 2023 Att. 546

Adults: \$15,306.00 Loose: \$1,316.25 Online: \$1,980.00 Candles: \$124.95 Rosary/Altar: \$250.00 Online Ministry: \$150.00

ST. MARY'S FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

<u>Dec. 16-17, 2023</u> A Adults: \$10.278.00

Online: \$660.60 Loose: \$826.80 Votive: \$56.81

Dollar Collection: \$278.52



Pastor Fr. Brian Hughes Deacon Darwin Messerly and Deacon Ken Lindquist

Schedule

UPDATE

The St. Mary Staff

Brigitte Bouli.......Dir. K-8 Rel. Education smdre@thelakescatholic.church

Jacques Bouli......Director of Youth Ministry youth@thelakescatholic.church

Cynthia Gniadek......Office Manager smoffice@thelakescatholic.church

Ali Oyler......Director of Music/Technology liturgy@thelakescatholic.church

The St. Joseph Staff

Jacques Bouli......Director of Youth Ministry
youth@thelakescatholic.church

Erin Lorch......Director of Faith Formation
sjfaith@thelakescatholic.church

Ali Oyler......Director of Music/Technology
liturgy@thelakescatholic.church

Susan Reiser.....Business Manager
sreiser@milfordcable.net