

Liturgies & Events This Week						
Monday Dec 18	Tuesday Dec 19	Wednesday Dec 20	Thursday Dec 21	Friday Dec 22	Saturday Dec 23	Sunday Dec 24
8:30 am Pew Polishing (SH)	7:30 am Rosary (SH)	11:30 am Rosary (SH)	7:30 am Rosary (SH)	7:30 am Rosary (SH)	5:00 pm Rosary (SH)	3:30 pm Rosary (SH)
8:45 am REC Rosary (SH)	8:00 am Mass + <i>Joanne Matt Baldus</i> (SH)	12:00 pm All School Mass + <i>Kevin Miles</i> (SH)	8:00 am Mass + <i>Anagail &amp; Bob Peters</i> (SH)	8: 00 am Mass + <i>Arlo &amp; Donita Schrاد</i> (SH)	5:30 pm Mass + <i>Rosemary Moorman</i> (SH)	4:00 pm Mass + <i>Living &amp; Deceased Ladurini &amp; Madison families</i> (SM)
7:00 pm Men’s Zoom Bible Study (SH)	12:00 pm The Chosen (SH)	3:30 pm Westhaven Mass (SH)	Adoration after Mass 8:30am - 7 pm (SH)	12:30 pm Live Nativity (SH)		5:00 pm Rosary (SH)
	1:00 -9 pm Adoration (SM)	No Religious Ed at (SH/SJ/SM)	3:00 pm Madrid Home Mass (SM)			5:30 pm Mass + <i>Judith Weeg, Living &amp; Deceased Flynn family</i> (SH)
	5:30 pm Mass + <i>Tim Cowles</i> (SM)	6:30 pm RCIA (SH)	5:30 pm Mass + <i>Judy Frieders</i> (SM)			9:00 pm Special Music (SH)
		7:00 pm Christmas Pageant in Hansen Hall (SM)	6:30 pm Al - Anon (SH)			10:00 pm Mass + <i>Harry Sechrest and Tom Thielen</i> (SH)
		7:45 pm Youth Group (SH)				

<u>Baptisms</u>	<u>Marriages</u>	<u>Born into Eternal Life</u>
Cecilia Claire Schaller - SM		
Larry Jay Fuller III - SM		

Welcome to Ascension Parish

Newcomers are asked to register by going to [www.boonecountycatholics.org](http://www.boonecountycatholics.org), printing a registration form, filling it out in its entirety, and returning it to the parish office. Please let us know of any changes in your contact information so that we can keep our records current.

\*If you would like to add something to the bulletin please e-mail Deanna Pearson at [parishsecretary@shboone.com](mailto:parishsecretary@shboone.com).

\*If you would like to use any of our Boone County Halls please call the Parish Office at 515-432-1971

Ascension Stewardship for Dec 11, 2023

**Sacred Heart** Adult...\$10,536.50 Loose...\$338.42 Dollar & Children...\$348.99 Votives...\$32.15 Wreaths Across America...\$120.00 Christmas Offering.....\$125.00 Immaculate Conception...\$332.00 Food Pantry...\$110.00 Catholic Charities...\$150.00 St Joseph...100.00 Improvement...\$50.00 **Total...\$12,243.06**

**St. Malachy** Adult...\$2,030.00 Loose...\$167.00 Votives...\$12.00 Christmas Flowers....\$50.00 Improvement...\$50.00 Food Pantry...\$50.00 St. Joseph Fund....\$50.00 Immaculate Conception...\$286.00 Winter Warmth...\$195.00 **Total...\$3,115.00**

SH - Sacred Heart SM - St. Malachy SJ - Saint John

Boone County Catholic Community



**Sacred Heart**  
915 12th St  
Boone, Iowa 50036  
515-432-1971

**St John’s**  
801 W. Division St  
Ogden, Iowa 50212

**St Malachy’s**  
405 Gerald St  
Madrid, Iowa 50156  
515-795-2731

**Our School**  
1111 Marshall St  
Boone, Iowa 50036  
515-432-4124

**Church Website**  
[www.boonecountycatholics.org](http://www.boonecountycatholics.org)

**Website**  
[www.shboone.org](http://www.shboone.org)

Third Sunday of Advent · December 17, 2023

Fr. Tim’s Tidbits

Last Wednesday evening, prior to the Advent Reconciliation Service for Religious Education families, a child pointed to our Advent wreath in church and inquired, “Why is one of the candles pink?” Good observation and question. Whether not she was satisfied with my reply, her parents seemed gracious for her inquisitive faith. Our rose colored candle amidst the three purple encircling the Advent wreath is lit on the Third Sunday of Advent, traditionally called “Gaudete Sunday.” “Gaudete” is taken from Philippians 4:4,5, “Rejoice in the Lord always.” On this Sunday with the lighting of the rose colored candle we are reminded of the nearness of Jesus’ return, the celebration of Christmas. Breaking from the penitential and reflective mood of Advent, this Sunday brings forth a joyous spirit. In the spirit of this Gaudete Sunday, may we reflect on the traditions within other cultures during this Advent and approaching Christmas Season. Ten years ago, possibly, in a discussion with two Arab Christians who were selling Olive wood carvings at our parish, they mentioned the difference between our Christmas celebration and theirs. Though they enjoy the modern conveniences within our country, they emphasized a radical different in their Christmas and ours. There are gifts offered, though considerably less than what we exchange, but Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and the days following to New Year, meals shared with family or friends or neighbors are the overflow of the Christmas joy. Businesses are closed and people take the time to visit nearby relatives, neighbors and friends.

In the Ukraine a part of their Christmas festivities include the crafting of spider webs to be placed on decorated trees. Going back decades, many Ukrainian families hold to a folktale “about a poor widow who could not afford to decorate a tree for her children. Legend has it that spiders in the house took pity on the family, and spun beautiful webs all over the tree, which the children awoke to find on Christmas morning.”

There neighbor, Poland, have a tradition at Christmas where families share “ oplatek (an unleavened religious wafer), each person breaking off a piece as they wish each other Merry Christmas. Dinner may not begin until the first star appears in the night sky and, traditionally, an extra setting is left at the table should someone show up uninvited.” In Egypt where the majority of the population identifies as Muslim, the Coptic Christians begin preparing for Christmas exactly 43 days prior to the 25th with the Christians fasting from all animal products, including cheese, eggs and milk. On the eve of January 7th the fast ends with a gracious feast known as the Coptic Christmas. Though Muslims dominate the country’s population, the Christians freely observe this celebration of Christmas and other religious holy days. Just to our south, the Catholics within Mexico continue to celebrate Advent and Christmas beginning in early December with Las Posadas, a religious procession that re-an acts the journey of Mary and Joseph. Many churches put

Ascension End of Year Giving

As we prepare for year end, to comply with federal law, donations must be received (or postmarked) by 12/31/2023 to be included on your 2023 parishioner statement. If received (or postmarked) on 1/1/2024 or after, the donation will be included on your 2024 statement. We cannot accept donations in 2023 for 2024 or in 2024 for 2023. Thank you for your understanding and generosity!

Together As One

Together as One (TAO) supports Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities empowers and strengthens all individuals and families, through charity, advocacy and mental health services that are inspired by Christ’s love and compassion. To date we have raised \$24,292.50 towards our goal of \$47,388.00.

Parish Office Need

We are in need of a gently used full or Queen bed for the apartment above the parish office. If you have or know of someone who has one please call the parish office.

on “Pastorelas,” Shepherd’s Plays, retelling the Christmas story. No less than our decorations surrounding Christmas, the Catholics in Mexico hold dear to various arrangements of red only poinsettia flowers. Catholics in Mexico are much more demonstrative of their Christian beliefs especially on holy days like that of Our Lady of Guadeloupe on December 12th. Iceland’s population is nearly 90 percent Christian (primarily Lutheran) yet they begin their pause to celebrate the Lord’s birth in a most unusual manner. On Christmas Eve night families exchange books. Without giving other gifts, family members spend the evening reading their respective books before the warmth of a fireplace. And the quiet evening is further enhanced with the enjoyment of special sweet treats. In Venezuela, a country with a predominate Catholic population, Midnight Mass is still very popular, as well as services on Christmas morning. However, instead of families arriving to church in cars or motorbikes, the vast majority put on roller skates and skate through the streets on their way to Mass. So popular is this tradition that certain streets are closed to vehicle traffic allowing the safety of young and old to roller skate to Midnight Mass or Christmas morning services. On this Gaudete Sunday we joyfully consider our spiritual preparation for the holy days of Christmas with a spirit of generosity alongside the many different traditions throughout the world that allow Christians to consider the Light of Christ born into this world regardless of culture, language or country. Last Sunday St. Malachy church celebrated 100 years of Catholic mission as a parish, doing so with dignity, and a desire to embrace the next one hundred years nourished by the Eucharist and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Sharing in the Eucharist that morning, with Christian hospitality for all, the community then listened to a talk embracing the highlights of St. Malachy’s history to the present before graciously sharing a delicious brunch, conversation, and teacup succulent plants for all. Many volunteers pitched in for the Eucharist, the talk, the decorations, the meal and music—all of which highlighted a spirit of gratitude for St. Malachy’s past, our continued mission as a Catholic-Christian community, and the Eucharist that nurtures us. A dignified pause of celebration prior to Christmas recognizing how God continues to bless our parish. Thank you to Marsha and the many volunteers.

God Bless, Fr. Tim

FYI: “It is the life of the crystal, the architect of the flake, the fire of the frost, the soul of the sunbeam. This crisp winter air is full of it.” (John Burroughs, American naturalist & author)

Sacred Heart Gala

Save the Date: Friends of Sacred Heart School Gala Saturday March 2nd at the Boone County Fairgrounds. New this year Dueling Pianos! More information to come!

Al-Anon Meeting

Al-Anon open meeting for those seeking support dealing with loved ones afflicted with alcoholism and drug addiction. Meeting will take place in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall Library at 6:30 PM Every Thursday in December. For more information contact Meri Parent at 515-520-3368.

Sacred Heart Pew Polishing!

First thing Monday morning (12/18) we will be polishing all the pews. We ask for as many volunteers as possible, to make the work go quickly. If you can, please bring old rags, towels, or sheets. See you Monday at 8 am.

Save the Date!

Fr. Schon will be our featured speaker for our next Theology on Tap held on January 9th.

Catholic Charities

The Annual Catholic Charities collection will be taken December 24-25. This annual collection of the Diocese of Sioux City helps to support Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Sioux City to empower and strengthen individuals and families, through charity, advocacy and mental health services that are inspired by Christ’s love and compassion. Your donation helps Catholic Charities provide hope, healing, and understanding for God’s beloved children. Please consider prayerfully your contribution to this important local collection and use the special envelope in your parish’s contribution pack or the QR Code provided by your parish to give directly to Catholic Charities. Thank you for your generosity.

Sacred Heart/St. John PreK-5th Nativity Play Dec. 17th

All are invited to stay after Mass at Sacred Heart on Dec. 17th to watch our religious education students perform their short, sweet and cute nativity play! A great way to remind us all about the true meaning of Christmas.

St. Malachy Nativity Program

Save the date! St. Malachy Nativity program will be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, 12/20. All are welcome to join the children of our religious education program as they share the gospel story of Christ's birth.

Giving Tree at St. Malachy

The St. Malachy Social Justice Committee will be sponsoring the annual Giving Tree Collection this Advent starting on the weekend of Dec 3rd and running through the weekend of Dec. 17th . You are invited to purchase \$10 or \$15 gift certificates from either the Market of Madrid or Dollar General in Madrid, and/or make a monetary donation to purchase items for “Winter Warmth” which will be used to purchase coats, hats, gloves, socks, etc. for those in need. Donations can be dropped in the collection baskets at the weekend Masses, mailed to the church office at Sacred Heart in Boone at 915 12 th St Boone 50036, or given to one of the Social Justice Committee members. Checks can be made payable to Ascension Parish. Please add “Winter Warmth” or “Giving Tree” on the memo line. Any questions can be directed to Tammy at 515-290-2580 or Doris at 515-708-2161. Thank you and God Bless you for your support and prayers for this collection and for those who will benefit from it!

\$50,000 Vehicle Raffle for Schools

The Office of Stewardship and Development has kicked off a Vehicle Raffle to raise funds for the diocesan Catholic schools. Each ticket is \$100 with the chance to win a \$50,000 voucher towards a vehicle through Knoepfler Chevrolet or Rick Collins Toyota dealerships. A maximum of 2,500 tickets will be sold. Contact Deb Franzenburg at development@shboone.com for a ticket.

**Ascension Parish Youth Worship Night January 10th** All middle and high school youth are invited to join us at Sacred Heart for an evening of adoration, music and a talk on the Eucharist by Fr. Travis Crotty, vocations director for our diocese. Confessions will be available. Wednesday, January 10th from 6:45-7:45 pm.

Exodus 90 for Men at Ascension Parish

Calling all men! Join us in a 90-day spiritual exercise centered around prayer, asceticism, and fraternity. Our journey through the Book of Exodus will start on January 1 and end on Easter Day. We look forward to growing our faith with you as brothers in Christ! For St. Malachy's, please contact Vince Ewald (309-428-0126), or for Sacred Heart, Michael Kruse (712-579-9168), by December 28, 2023 for more details or to sign up. Learn more about Exodus 90 here: <https://exodus90.com/> More than 100,000 men from around the world have journeyed through the Exodus with their brothers. Single men, married men, priests, bishops, Christians and non-Christians alike. They overwhelming tell us Exodus has given them a level of freedom they did not have before by following along with the Israelites' journey from slavery to freedom in the book of Exodus, and living an intense 90 day exercise devoted to prayer, asceticism and fraternity.



**Sacred Heart School Live Nativity** All are welcome to join us for our annual Live Nativity held in Sacred Heart Church on Friday, Dec. 22nd at 12:30 pm.

Holy Moments

*\*A student realized his behavior was received rougher than he intended, so he apologized and let the other person know he didn't mean to be rough.*

*\* Mrs. Franks was so generous to pay it forward and give me a copy of Matthew Kelly’s Worst Christmas Ever: 28 Things that will prevent you from having your best Christmas ever!/28 Practical ways to make this the Best Christmas of your life!. She knew I wanted to order it, but gave me her extra copy. Many, many thanks Mrs. Franks.*

Use [holymoments@shboone.com](mailto:holymoments@shboone.com) to let us know what you’re grateful for.



Tips to Create This Holy Moment:

- Do your chores at home with a smile.
- Try your best in your least favorite activity this week.
- Pray before an activity you aren’t looking forward to.

We want to hear about the amazing ways you and your family are collaborating with God! Email holymoments@shboone.com and tell us about a special Holy Moment you witnessed or created.

Let’s keep the Holy Momentum going!