

Events this Week

Monday, Dec 1

5:30 pm Free Community Meal
7:00 pm (SH) Advent Study

Tuesday, Dec 2

8:00 am Mass (SH) + *L&D Peters family*
5:30 pm Mass (SM) + *Kris Geneser*
7:00 pm SH KC Meeting

Wednesday, Dec 3

NOON Mass (SH) + *Darlene Mosman*;
Religious Ed (SH, SM, SJ)
3:30 pm (SH) Westhaven Mass
6:30 pm (SH) OCIA

Thursday, Dec 4

8:00 am Mass (SH) + *L&D Garvey family*
Adoration (SH)
9:15 am Mass (SJ) + *Brodie Mosman*
2:30 pm (SM) Cedars Mass

Friday, Dec 5 Anointing Masses

8:30 am (SH) + *Kristin Ledvina*; + *Connie Pettinger*
9:00 am (SJ) + *Brodie Mosman*

Saturday, Dec 6

9:00 am - 3:00 pm (SM) St. Nicholas Bazaar
5:30 pm Mass (SH) L&D Barbara Wright family

Sunday, Dec 7

8:30 am Mass (SM) + *Donald & Doreen Hanlon*
9:30am - Noon (SM) St. Nicholas Bazaar (with breakfast)
10:00 am Mass (SH) For the People of Ascension Parish
1:00 pm (SH) Al-Anon

New to Our Parish?

We'd love to welcome you into our Ascension Parish family!



Whether you're new to the area, returning to the Church, or simply exploring the Catholic faith, we're here for you. Reach out to the parish office to learn more about becoming a member.

Parish Office

915 12th St.
Boone IA 50036
515-432-1971
Email:
secretary@ascensionboonecounty.org

Parish Website

www.ascensionboonecounty.org

Sacred Heart School

1111 Marshall St.
Boone IA 50036
515-432-4124
www.shboone.org

Rosary Schedule

St. Malachy
Before all Masses

Sacred Heart
Monday - 8:45 AM
T, W, Th, F - After Mass
Sa, Su - Before Mass

Adoration Schedule

St. Malachy
Tuesdays - 1 - 9 pm

Sacred Heart
Thursdays - 8:30 - 7:00 pm

Sacramental Life

Marriage

Dylan Elbert and Anna Langel
were married on November 22nd at Sacred Heart.

Stewardship

Nov 23 - Adult..\$12,955.32 Loose..\$556.07
Dollar..\$286.80 SM Improvement..\$50.00
Wreaths across America..\$209.00
Christmas Flowers..\$105.00 All Saints...\$25.00
Food Pantry..\$50.00 St. Joseph..\$5.00
Total..\$ 14,242.19

Scan the QR code to
give online to
Ascension Parish



Our Churches

Sacred Heart
915 12th St.
Boone IA 50036

St. Malachy
405 Gerald St.
Madrid IA 50156

St. John
801 W Division St.
Ogden IA 50212



Ascension Parish

Sunday November 30, 2025

A Message from Our Pastor - Fr. Tim Johnson

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths,” John the Baptist exhorts us in today’s gospel passage from Matthew. How do we prepare for the coming of Christ, the celebration of Christmas? Advent is a season of preparation as Christians, but how do we prioritize our faith when our life is already full and sometimes hectic. Quietly the pressures may mount during this season when we desire to bring a deeper sense of meaning to this holy season, and yet our life is full with family responsibilities, financial concerns, work expectations, school activities and sports, holiday preparations—all within the days that are getting shorter. Distractions from the holiness that God seeks within each of us. Most likely we will not slow the pace of life down, nor step away from the various responsibilities, but the possibilities of ‘holiness’ is nonetheless before us in the moments and circumstances within these four weeks of Advent.

We can awaken our soul to the holiness that surrounds our days—the moments—and the people within. Christ comes to us every single day. In the quiet of prayer, however brief, whether late at night, before a meal, a period of solitude, sharing in the Eucharist. Christ comes to us within moments with family, shared time with friends, an interaction with a co-worker, the person next to you in the pew, or the individual in line next you at a checkout counter. Christ comes to us when we share in the Eucharist, taking the risk to receive healing and peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Even within the people we struggle with, the strangers we pass by, Christ comes to us. In the moments we rush through and the moments we wish were different, Christ comes to us. In the people we love..

But if we move too fast, preoccupied with our ‘responsibilities’... we will miss Him. Our season begins with the holiday lights, the trees decorated, endless Hallmark seasonal movies, the Christmas music of Bing and many other singers, cards received and sent. Yet, the true blessing of this season will be the opportunities of Christ’s presence unveiled at a moment or time we cannot predict. Could it be, at a certain moment in this busy Advent Season Christ is telling us to “Look up; take a breath; God is closer than you think.

Our preparation during this Advent Season is a willingness to be aware of those opportunities that come at a moment’s notice, when life is most hectic. As a priest pointed out: *notice the blessings, we often overlook; be open to God’s nudge in our conscience or in a moment of kindness; hear Christ’s whisper in the middle of busyness or stress; and remember that we have a purpose in God’s eyes even on days when we feel overwhelmed.* God doesn’t wait for us when we think we are ready, less busy. He will meet us where we are at any given moment, in the chaos, the exhaustion, the pressure, within our generosity; indeed, in the imperfect moments of our ordinary life.

“Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what’s really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. Amen.” (Xavier University)

Next weekend we will host a retired priest who will preside at each Mass, specifically sharing about Unbound Ministry. Unbound is an international nonprofit based in Kansas City, Kansas, and founded by lay Catholics in the

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5:30 pm Boone
Sunday: 8:30 am Madrid
10:00 am Boone

Reconciliation Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 pm Boone
Sunday: 8:00 am Madrid
11:00 am Boone

early 1980’s, grounded in the Gospel call to put the needs of the marginalized and vulnerable first. Unbound offers a practical way for sponsors, donors and volunteers to make a personal and direct impact with a specific child and family, youth or elder on their path out of poverty. Unbound Ministry will not ask for donations; rather, they will offer individuals from our parish the opportunity to sponsor a specific child from another country. Especially in this Advent Season when we have been blessed with so much in our own culture, his message will resonate a deeper calling of our faith—whether or not you choose to sponsor a child—as we approach the birth of Christ, Christmas. Thank you to the parents whose son or daughter received their First Reconciliation last Sunday. Your support of a child’s faith will be the foundation that cannot be taken away as they grow older. As a parish we are blessed by your presence and faith shared within our Eucharist and parish life.

God Bless, Fr. Tim

FYI: “How did it get so late so soon? It’s night before it’s afternoon. December is here before it’s June. My goodness how the time has flown. How did it get so late so soon?” (Dr. Seuss)

Parish News

Giving Trees & Winter Warmth

The Social Justice Committee will sponsor the annual Giving Tree Collection from Nov. 30–Dec. 21 at St. Malachy. You’re invited to donate gift cards from the Market of Madrid or Dollar General or give monetary donations for the “Winter Warmth” program, which provides coats, hats, gloves, socks, and other winter items for those in need.

Trees with donation ornaments and envelopes will be near each church entrance. Donations may be placed in weekend collection baskets, mailed to the parish office, or given to a Social Justice Committee member.

Checks should be made payable to Ascension Parish with “Winter Warmth” or “SM Giving Tree” in the memo. Questions: Tammy (515-290-2580) or Doris (515-708-2161).

Thank you for your support and prayers!

Advent Bible Study

As we wait with hopeful anticipation for the birth of Christ, join us for an Advent Bible study focusing on the Sunday Gospel readings of the season. The study group will meet on the four Mondays of Advent, beginning Dec. 1 at 7 p.m., in the Sacred Heart Church conference room, concluding on Dec. 22. There’s nothing to prepare in advance—we’ll provide a copy of the previous Sunday’s Gospel for discussion.

All are welcome!

36th Annual National Night of Prayer for Life

We invite everyone to come pray with us in the chapel of St. Malachy on Dec. 8th anytime between 8pm (Monday) and 12am (Tuesday). Come for a few minutes, an hour, or the entire time! This event is always on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception Our Blessed Mother, asking her to protect Life and the Family; to renew the Church, establish peace, and inspire courage in the soul of our nation. The National Hour of Unity is from 11pm-Midnight (Central time).

Is Your Child Interested in Becoming an Altar Server?

Join us for 2 successive training sessions immediately following the 8:30 am Mass on Sunday, December 7th and 14th at St. Malachy. In Session 1, kids will learn the basics of serving - from vocabulary of the objects and tools used, to how to light candles and snuff them out! Don't forget a live practice session on ringing the Altar Bells! Attendees will also receive a picture reference guide that they can study at home with their parents to work on vocabulary. In Session 2, we will practice walking through the Mass once or twice in the sanctuary, where the students will be able to actually walk through the act of serving in Mass.

St. Nicholas Bazaar

Come to a craft and vendor fair in St. Malachy's Hansen Hall on December 6th 9am-3pm, & December 7th 9:30am-noon. Parishioners will have a variety of goods for sale; youth will sell refreshments; and Cup of Joy coffee truck will be there!

Interested in being a vendor?

Apply at

<https://forms.gle/dNgWDiqXeeyfRWQw5>



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who supported our St. Malachy Youth Group’s care packages for the less fortunate. They prepared 63 bags. If you would like to have a package to keep in your car to pass out to a person in need, they are in the Church hallways.

Rosary to Keep Christ in Christmas

A rosary on Saturday, December 6, 2025, at noon near the west church entrance at Sacred Heart in Boone. Give praise to the child Jesus as the Angels did on that night over 2000 years ago. Our society has strayed away from the true purpose and meaning of Christmas. Just as the angels spread the good news of the coming of our savior, we can imitate the angels and spread the glad tidings of our savior.

Tiny Tots Open Gym

Bring your little ones (ages 6 and under) and join us in the SHS Gym for a morning of play and socialization. Tiny Tots is FREE and will be held on Saturday, Dec. 13th, from 9–11 AM. This is the perfect chance for kids to climb, run, and explore in a safe, welcoming environment — and a time for parents to connect with other families. Please enter through the west gym doors.

Open to all!

Tiny Tots will take place on the 2nd Saturday of each month (Nov. - Mar).

Faith on Tap

This month we will hear from a representative from Martha’s House of Hope in Ames. Martha's House of Hope provides a loving home in a family-style environment for pregnant women. Their focus is on encouraging women to become self-sufficient. Doors open at 7 pm with the talk beginning at 7:30 pm.

Only two more Faith on Tap events remain until the program wraps up—be sure to catch this one!

Wreaths Across America – Sacred Heart Cemetery

As of November 23rd, we are behind on our wreath fundraiser. There are 332 Veterans resting at Sacred Heart Cemetery, and we hope to place a wreath on every single one.



Wreath Placement Ceremony

December 13 at 11:00 AM

Sacred Heart Cemetery

Please consider sponsoring a wreath or sharing this message to help us reach our goal.

Thank you!

Support the Gala With a Year-End Gift!

Have an auction item, experience, or donation to share? We’d be grateful for your support!

Watch your mail for our Gala donation letter after the first of the year, or donate today shboone.org/monetary-donations (Choose Gala from the donation dropdown menu)

Sacred Heart School News



Each Monday during Advent, Sacred Heart students will have an Advent Wreath Gathering in the school gym at 8:10 am. All are welcome to join us in this traditional celebration.

Save the Date:

Sacred Heart School Christmas Concert

Wednesday, December 17th

6:30 pm in the school gym

We will also have a Dress Rehearsal at 8:15 am the morning of the 17th
Everyone is welcome!