

Events this Week

Monday, Dec 15

7:00 pm (SH) Advent Study

Tuesday, Dec 16

8:00 am Mass (SH) + *Jeannett Dotzler*; ;*Connie Pettinger*;
+ *Kristin Ledvina*

1:00 pm (SH) Prayer Shawls

5:30 pm Mass (SM) *Souls in Purgatory*

6:30 pm (SM) Social Justice Committee Meeting

7:30 pm (SH) Faith on Tap (*Fitzgerald Hall)

Wednesday, Dec 17

Noon Mass (SH) + *Evelyn & F Duane Klute*

3:30 pm (SH) Westhaven, Mass

Religious Ed (SH, SM, SJ)

6:30 pm (SH) OCIA

Thursday, Dec 18

8:00 am Mass (SH) +*Ryan Mahoney*; + *Brian Robiski*

2:30 pm Mass (SM) Cedars Home

5:30 pm Mass (SM) + *John Alan Wade*

Friday, Dec 19

8:00 am Mass (SH) + *Larry Schroeder*

9:15 am Mass (SJ) + *Barbara Stanley*; + *Susie Anthoney*

Saturday, Dec 20

5:30 pm Mass (SH) + *Adam Brekke*; + *Jerome Danner*

Sunday, Dec 21

8:30 am Mass (SM) +*Lorretta Heinen*

10:00 am Mass (SH) + *Brodie Mosman*; *Jim Wetzeler*

1:00 pm (SH) AI-Anon

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

Stewardship

Dec 7 - Adult..\$12,042 Loose..\$186.00
Dollar..\$265.05 Wreaths across America..\$610.00
Christmas Flowers..\$80.00 Winter Warmth..\$640.00
Catholic Charities..\$70.00 SM Improvement..\$40.00
Total..\$13,933.05

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Ascension Parish



Ascension Parish Sunday December 14, 2025

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

A Message from Our Pastor - Fr. Tim Johnson

As you may have heard, our Sacred Heart School Principal, Sue Eldridge, has announced her retirement at the end of this 25/26 school year. For thirteen plus years she has served our school and parish as the administrator, guiding the teachers and staff, students and families, seeking a Catholic-Christian learning environment. Prior to her responsibilities as our principal Sue taught in the classroom, a chosen profession, vocation if you will, that has impacted many, young and old alike. We are grateful for her service through the years, and the faith she and her husband share within our parish. Our search process will begin after the Holy Days. If you have questions or interested in the position (with the expected educational qualifications and Catholic faith) please contact me at the parish office.

Our third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, offers us the theme of ‘joy.’As the Latin word, Gaudete, stands for: rejoice for we are halfway—so to speak—to the culmination and celebration of the Lord’s birth. Not just happiness in what we intend to share this Christmas, what we may have received or the excitement of the approaching holy day. As the late priest and spiritual writer, Henri Nouwen differentiates, happiness is dependent on external conditions but joy is “the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing—sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death can take that love away.”

As one observer of the papacy observed from the moment Pope Leo XIV’s shared his first words as our Shepherd—“Peace be with you”—there was something unmistakable about his presence beyond the solemnity of the moment that he has consistently reflected in his papacy: a smile that reflects a joy that is radiant and hopeful; that which flows from a heart close to Christ.

As the observer remarked: “In a world marked by depression, division and disillusionment, that kind joy is revolutionary.” We light the rose colored candle this Sunday, seeking the spirit of joy in our anticipation of the celebration of our Savior’s birth, unencumbered by the negative distractions in the world around us. Thus, a few thoughts about “joy” as the hallmark of Christ’s presence in our soul.

“Joy bursts in our lives when we go about doing the good at hand and not trying to manipulate things and times to achieve joy.”
([C. S. Lewis](#))

“Joy is prayer. Joy is strength. Joy is love. Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls.

God loves a cheerful giver. She gives most who gives with joy.” ([Mother Teresa](#))

“Confidence brings joy when we let God be God.”
([Charles R. Swindoll](#))

“Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God.” ([Pierre Teilhard de Chardin](#))

“To get the full value of joy you must have someone to divide it with.” ([Mark Twain](#))

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“Joy in looking and comprehending is nature's most beautiful gift.” ([Albert Einstein](#))

“Joy is prayer; joy is strength; joy is love; joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls.”

([Mother Teresa](#))

“The sun does not shine for a few trees and flowers, but for the wide world's joy.”([Henry Ward Beecher](#))

“If we wish to serve God and love our neighbor well, we must manifest our joy in the service we render to Him and them. Let us open wide our hearts. It is joy which invites us. Press forward and fear nothing.” (St. Katharine Drexel)

“My dear brothers and sisters, the joy we feel has little to do with the circumstances of our lives and everything to do with the focus of our lives.” ([Russell M. Nelson](#))

“God made us for joy. God is joy, and the joy of living reflects the original joy that God felt in creating us.” (Pope Saint John Paul II)

“Joy is the serious business of Heaven.” (C.S. Lewis)

“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.” (John 15:11)

God Bless, Fr. Tim

FYI: “Being Irish, he had an Abiding sense of tragedy, which sustained him through a temporary Period of Joy” (W. B Yeats)

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

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

Parish News

Advent Events at St. Malachy

Join the St. Malachy religious education program on **December 17** for an evening of anticipating the birth of Christ at Christmas!

6:30 pm

Advent prayer & reflection
in the Church:

Youth 7-12 grade and adults are welcome to join for Advent prayerful meditation, readings, and song in the church. This event is planned and prepared for by our youth group.

7:15 pm

Nativity program
in Hansen Hall:

Join the PreK-6th graders as they tell the story of the birth of Jesus through sacred scripture and song.

A note from Fr. Jerry with Unbound

I am most grateful to carry home with me fond memories of your beautiful churches and loving communities. Most importantly, I carry back with me 25 sponsorship forms, meaning that there are many more children, youth, and elderly who have a future that has suddenly become brighter, “Unbound” from the constraints of poverty and hope that God won’t disappoint.

Be assured that your parish will be greatly blessed, especially you new sponsors, as you come to experience the mutual benefit of sponsorship. Those we sponsor are gifts, a form of grace, for help unbind us from an overattachment to our own needs and resources: as Proverbs 11:26 says, “Blessings are on the head of one who distributes love: whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.” You can still become a sponsor by using the unbound bulletin insert from last weekend or simply going to “unbound.org” to choose from a large list of people who are looking to be sponsored. Thank you on behalf of the newly sponsored, and thanks for the pleasant stay.

Sincerely in Christ from Unbound,
Fr. Jerry Hackenmuller

Faith on Tap (Rescheduled)

The Executive Director from Martha’s House of Hope will be speaking in Fitzgerald Hall this Tuesday, Dec. 16th, at 7:30 PM. Come learn about this amazing program. Drinks & a light snack provided.

Christmas Break Youth Party – December 30th!

Middle and high school students are invited to a Christmas Break Party on Tuesday,

December 30th from 1–4 PM

in the Sacred Heart parish hall!

Join us for an afternoon of fun

featuring an **escape room challenge, gift exchange, games, food, and a Christmas soda bar.**

The event is hosted by our

Student Leadership Team.

Bring a friend and a gift for the exchange (under \$5) and come celebrate the season!

Support the Monsignor Lafferty Tuition Foundation

While Sacred Heart has filled all of our available MLTF credits, many Catholic schools across our diocese are still in need of tuition assistance for their students. Even with Iowa’s Education Savings Accounts, many families face tuition costs that exceed what ESAs cover.

A gift to the Monsignor Lafferty Tuition Foundation not only helps provide vital tuition assistance—it also offers donors a 75% Iowa state tax credit, making your generosity even more impactful. Thank you for considering a contribution that helps open doors to a Catholic education. Call Deb 515-432-1971 or donate online:

<https://scdiocese.org/mltf>

Bible Study Opportunities starting the week of January 11th

Walking With Purpose:

Living in the Father’s Love.

A six-week women’s study with multiple locations/times available.

Coffee Connect kick-off on Saturday,
January 10th at 9am.

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible:

An eight-week study going through the narrative of the bible.

Everyone is welcome!

Men, women & young adults.

Sundays at St. Malachy: 9:30am or

Tuesdays at Sacred Heart: Noon

More information in next week’s bulletin or
contact: marsha@ascensionboonecounty.org

Continued Prayers for Nigeria

Please pray for the continued safety of Fr. Paul Miapkwap and his students in the Shendam Diocese. Sacred Heart School students have prayed with Fr. Paul and his students on several occasions and Fr. Paul has visited our school on two separate occasions. Sadly, they have had to shut down their schools due to the threat of violence. Three weeks ago, terrorists abducted 300 school children, with 150 still being held by their captors. This incident happened within Fr. Paul’s region of Nigeria. Fr. Paul asks us to pray for these children and their families.

May God protect them, strengthen their families, and bring them safely home.

Let us also pray for all persecuted Christians in Nigeria, asking the Lord to grant peace, courage, and consolation to those who suffer for their faith.

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.

Come this Wednesday!

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!

Sacred Heart School Announcement

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Help Us Stock the SHS Auction – Donate Today

Our Annual SHS Gala is coming up on Saturday, March 7th, and we’re seeking donations for our auction! New this year: Denim & Diamonds theme!!

If you have an Airbnb, season tickets, a special skill, a business, or something that fits our theme, we’d love your support. Sparkling, unique, or western-inspired items and experiences would be a perfect addition to our gala!

For more information or to donate,
please get in touch with Deb at
development@shboone.com

