

## Events this Week

**Monday, Dec 22**  
7:00 pm (SH) Advent Study

**Tuesday, Dec 23**  
8:00 am Mass (SH) + L&D Caffrey family; Brian Robiski  
10:00 am (SH) Eastern Star  
5:30 pm Mass (SM) L&D Ortmann & Wade families

**Wednesday, Dec 24**  
No Religious Ed (SH, SM, SJ)  
4:00 pm Mass (SM) L&D Madison Polich; +Frances & Albert Meiners  
5:30 pm Mass (SH)  
+Myron Elsberry; Dr. John Caffrey  
10:00 pm Mass (SH) L&D Ray Ristoffer family; Leo & Marge Fitzgerald

**Thursday, Dec 25**  
8:30 am Mass (SM)+Loretta Heinen and for the families who have lost loved ones in the past year  
10:00 am Mass (SH) L&D Flynn family; L&D Caffrey family  
12:00 pm Mass (SJ) For the families who have lost loved ones in the past year.

**Friday, Dec 26**  
No Masses

**Saturday, Dec 27**  
5:30 pm Mass (SH) SI for 60<sup>th</sup> wedding of Jim & Pat Henkle; +Ed Cline; +John Weichman

**Sunday, Dec 28**  
8:30 am Mass (SM) + Loretta Heinen  
10:00 am Mass (SH) +  
1:00 pm (SH) Al-Anon

**Monday, Dec 29**  
7:00 pm (SH) Advent Study

**Tuesday, Dec 30**  
8:00 am Mass (SH) + L&D Caffrey family; Brian Robiski  
10:00 am (SH) Eastern Star  
5:30 pm (SM) No Mass

**Wednesday, Dec 31**  
No Religious Ed (SH, SM, SJ)  
5:30 pm Mass (SM)  
+Kris Geneser

## 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

### Baptised

Bauer Thomas Venner was baptised on Dec 6<sup>th</sup> at Sacred Heart.  
He is the son of Jacob & Stephanie (Bretey) Venner

**Thursday, Jan 1**

**Holy Day & Anointing Masses**  
8:00 am Mass (SH) +L&D Ray Restioffer family; + Kevin Miles  
9:15 am Mass (SJ) + Harry Sechrest

**Friday, Jan 2**  
No Masses

**Saturday, Jan 3**  
5:30 pm Mass (SH) For the People of Ascension Parish  
Christmas Flowers..\$50.00 Christmas offering..\$325.00  
Catholic Charities..\$230.00  
Total..\$15,010.84

Scan the QR code to give online to Ascension Parish



## Our Churches

**Sacred Heart**  
915 12<sup>th</sup> St.  
Boone IA 50036  
515-432-1971  
Email:  
secretary@ascensionboonecounty.org

**St. Malachy**  
405 Gerald St.  
Madrid IA 50156

**St. John**  
801 W Division St.  
Ogden IA 50212

## Parish Office

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

## Parish Website

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

## Sacred Heart School

1111 Marshall St.  
Boone IA 50036  
515-432-4124  
[www.shboone.org](http://www.shboone.org)

## New to Our Parish?

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



SCAN ME

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.



# Ascension Parish Sunday December 21 & 28, 2025

## A Message from Our Pastor - Fr. Tim Johnson

"So the shepherds went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant Jesus lying in a manger." (Christmas morning reading) As we approach the celebration of the birth of our Savior, Christmas, may we find moments of pause, to recognize our Savior's presence—remarkably, miraculously, mercifully—at our side no less than what the shepherds saw and felt when they glimpsed at the infant in the manger. Regardless of our respective faith journeys we are blessed, each of us, to have a certain faith passed on, to believe in a Presence that is intimately involved in all creation, and at the same time, within our personal lives. As we approach these Holy Days, I extend my gratitude to you, parishioners and visitors alike, who share your presence and faith within our Sunday Eucharist, the Sacraments, and prayers of our Church. Thank you for sharing your time and resources that allow our mission as Ascension Parish of St. John, St. Malachy, and Sacred Heart to bring forth the real presence of our Savior, and God our Father, into our lives, and hopefully, within the lives of others who are searching. For the many volunteers who share their time and abilities within the ministries and activities of our parish, thank you. And to our staff and teachers who so willingly share their faith and hope with individuals and families alike—a sacrifice of caring—we are so blessed. For your kindness and prayers, thank you.

May I leave you with one story of a family's Christmas celebration, as told by Howard LaFranchi. Like many families, we LaFranchis have our unshakable Christmas traditions, the activities and artifacts without which the holiday would not be ours. There's the review of the Nativity sets we've collected from around the world....

*There's the baking and decorating of the buche de Noel (using a Texas recipe). And then there is what is referred to as Dad's Story. That's when we all stop whatever we're doing as Dad (that would be me) reads a seasonal story on Christmas Eve. The repertoire is limited, with works by an exclusive group of writers who have earned their way into our festive hearts. . . . To understand how Dad's story became a family tradition, let's go back to Christmas Eve 1974, to my childhood home in Northern California. I was a college student questioning our Western culture of mass consumption, and as Christmas approached, I thought of our family's previous Christmas Eve—which I recalled as a whirlwind of untied ribbons and bows, torn wrapping paper, and collapsed gift boxes.*

*Then as now, I like opening a gift as much as anyone. But I also thought there had to be a way to remember what the day and the season are about. Something like grace. So I announced to our family—my parents, my siblings, their spouses and children—that this Christmas, we would begin with something different. I opened our old black-leather-bound LaFranchi family Bible, and read from Matthew the story of the first Christmas.*

*Now many decades later, I often think back to that Christmas Eve, and the transformation I sensed in the reading of a story produced, as I hunt for my copy of "The Gift of the Magi," "A Christmas Memory," or "Zlateh the Goat." I know my family will be expecting a story that is an indelible part of our Christmas.*

## 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

Well, possibly, just one more story as told by Caroline Lubbers. *My childhood Christmases were idyllic. We sat on Santa's lap, sang Christmas carols at church, gathered with extended family on Christmas Eve, and raced down the stairs on Christmas morning. . . . Almost a decade ago, my brother passed away. In the years since, I have lost friends. Grief has a way of reshaping the holidays. . . . The absence of loved ones during the holidays is especially sharp. With a more grounded understanding of life's complexities, I have altered how I approach the season—and how I reach out to others. For those coping with grief and loss I write cards of support, remembrance, and understanding. . . . I realized that small gestures matter more than the perfect gift or festive decoration. As I continue through middle age. . . . I lean into my faith as I reflect the meaning of Christmas. . . . And, I still embrace the joy as I watch my own children race to their stockings on Christmas morning.*

Blessings to you this Christmas Season,  
Fr. Tim

FYI: 'Loving God, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.' (Robert Louis Stevenson)

# Parish News

## Christmas & New Year's Masses

Dec 24 ~ Christmas Eve

4:00 pm ~ St. Malachy

5:30 pm ~ Sacred Heart

10:00 pm ~ Sacred Heart

Dec 25 ~ Christmas Day

8:30 pm ~ St. Malachy

10:00 am ~ Sacred Heart

12:00 pm ~ St. John's

Dec 31 ~ New Year's Eve

5:30 pm ~ St. Malachy

Jan 1 ~ New Year's Day

8:00 am ~ Sacred Heart

9:15 am ~ St. Johns

## Parish Offices Closed

The Parish offices will be closed:

Wednesday, Dec. 24th

Thursday, Dec. 25th

Friday, Dec. 26th

Wednesday, Dec. 31st

Thursday, Jan. 1st

Have a blessed & Merry Christmas!



## Giving Tree Generosity

Thank you to our generous parishioners who donated to each of our Giving Trees!

Your kindness and thoughtfulness brought joy and support to many families this Christmas season.

## Bible Study Opportunities starting the week of January 11th

### Walking With Purpose: Living in the Father's Love.

A six-week women's study.

Small groups start the week of Jan 11th Monday 7pm at Sacred Heart (Facilitator needed) Tuesday 12pm Online Tuesday 7pm St. Malachy Thursday 7:30pm St. John Friday 8:30am Sacred Heart

Coffee Connect kick-off on Saturday, January 10th at 9am. All women welcome!

Sign-up here for the 6-week study:



### Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible:

Many people want to read the Bible because they know it is God's Word, but they give up because it seems so complicated.

This eight-week study, helps you to get the "big picture" of the Bible by showing how fourteen narrative books of the Bible tell the complete story from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church.

**Men, women & young adults all welcome!**

Sundays at St. Malachy: 9:30am

Tuesdays at Sacred Heart: Noon

(Or let us know if you are interested in leading a group on another day/time!)

Sign-up here:



More information contact:  
marsha@ascensionboonecounty.org

## 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 (111% of our goal - thank you), many Catholic schools across our diocese are still in need of tuition assistance for their students.

Contribute by Dec. 31 to receive your **75% state of Iowa tax credit.** Your gift will help provide scholarship funds for local families trying to bridge the gap between tuition costs & ESAs. Contact Deb or go to [www.scdiocese.org/mltf](http://www.scdiocese.org/mltf) and participate online.

## Continued Prayers for Nigeria

Please keep Fr. Paul Miapkwap and his students in the Shendam Diocese in your prayers.

We pray for all Christians around the world who suffer persecution, that the Lord may grant them peace, courage, and hope.

## Turn Conference 2026

Join 7-12th graders across the Diocese of Sioux City at the 2026 Turn youth conference on February 28th at St.

Joseph church in Jefferson. Bishop Keehner will be delivering the keynote presentation. We'll have games, breakouts, mass, time in prayer and all participants get a t-shirt! Cost is \$20, contact the parish office to learn how to register!



## Unto Us a Child is Born

Christmas reminds us that God chose to come into the world not with power or wealth, but in humility and love. In the quiet of the manger, we are invited to slow down, open our hearts, and make room for Christ in our daily lives. May we carry the light of Christmas beyond the season—showing kindness, offering forgiveness, and sharing God's love with all we meet.

# Sacred Heart School News



## Live Nativity

Annual Live Nativity presented by Sacred Heart School students will be held on Tuesday, December 23rd at 12:30 pm at the Church of the Sacred Heart.

All are encouraged to join us as we remember the Holy Family's blessed beginning in a humble stable in Bethlehem.



## Christmas Blessings

As we move into the week of Christmas and 2026, I'd like to thank our Ascension Parish Family for what you bring to Sacred Heart School. Your time, talent, treasure and prayers are a blessing to our school. I often have people tell me that the best thing about

SHS is that it is more like a family than a school community. Having all ages in one building allows for so much interaction and opportunities to help each other. May God send you all the blessings you need for the New Year and thank you for letting all of us be a part of your family.

\*The Staff & Faculty of Sacred Heart School

## Preschool Registration Now Open

Enrollment is open for our 3- and 4-year-old preschool program! Give your child the gift of a faith-filled, nurturing, early learning experience.



Scan the QR code to register today and secure your spot for the upcoming school year!

## Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

Congratulations to our poster contest winners: Alex H, Bonnie P, Emelia A, Larkin G, Harper Z, Charlotte B, Brooklyn E, Elliott B, Faith J, Kayla N, Dorothy L, Amelia M, Nikki P, Grayson P, Henry N, Amira S, Maggie L, and Gracen I.