

# Dickinson County Catholic Community

## St. Joseph Parish

1305 Okoboji Ave.

Milford, IA 51351

712-338-2274

FAX: 712-338-2191

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

## St. Mary's Parish

1005 Hill Ave.

Spirit Lake, IA

FAX: 712-336-1013

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

P.O. Box 354

712-336-1742

*Second Sunday of Advent*

*Dec. 5, 2021*



# 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 JOSEPH 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 7:30, 9 and 10:30 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.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Plan to make these activities a part of your Advent Season this year.

✓ **Communal Penance** this Sun., Dec. 5: 1 p.m. St. Patrick's in Estherville; 2:30 p.m. St. Mary's in Spirit Lake and 4 p.m. St. Joseph in Milford,

✓ **Immaculate Conception**, a Holy Day of Obligation, will be celebrated at Mass Wednesday morning, Dec. 8 at 7:30 a.m. and Wednesday evening at 6 p.m.

✓ **Anointing of the Sick** (Healing Mass) at St. Mary's Spirit Lake, Thursday, Dec. 9, 5:30 p.m. Light supper to follow.

✓ **Christmas Open House** Sun., Dec. 12, 2-4 p.m. in the overflow room. This event will offer a time of fellowship to visit with staff and Fr. Hughes along with some delicious goodies to eat!

✓ **Get into** the holiday spirit by attending Home for the Holidays - A Holiday Concert. John Moore, Jessica Schable, and Drew Duncan reunite in their hometown to spread holiday cheer through songs of the season with Jennifer Johnson at the piano. Sunday, Dec. 12 at 4 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Milford, IA. Free will offering with all proceeds going towards a new performing arts initiative coming to the lakes area, set to launch in 2022. Celebrate the season with this special musical reunion.

✓ **The Mitten Tree** is up in the hallway leading into the church. This project welcomes new hats, gloves, snowpants and winter-wear for children and adults. The items left on the tree will be distributed to those in need utilizing the St. Joseph Clothing Room.

✓ **New socks** are being accepted in the office for the less fortunate patrons of the Sioux City Soup Kitchen.



### Monday, Dec. 6

8 p.m.: Ala-non meets by zoom.

8 p.m.: AA meets in Nazareth Hall

### Tuesday, Dec. 7

2 to 5:15 p.m.: Eucharist Adoration

5:30 p.m.: Mass

### Wednesday, Dec. 8

7:30 a.m.: Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation Mass

3:45-5 p.m.: Rel. Ed for K-4

6 p.m.: Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation

7-8 p.m.: Rel Ed for 5-12

7:15 p.m.: High School youth group meets in the Zoom Room for the winter months

### Thursday, Dec. 9

8 a.m.: Bible Study meets in overflow room.

11 a.m.: Ones meet at Minerva's

5:30 p.m.: Healing Mass at St. Mary's, Spirit Lake.

### Sunday, Dec. 12

2 to 4 p.m.: Christmas Open House, overflow, hosted by Altar/Rosary Society.

4 p.m.: "Home for the Holidays - A Holiday Concert," St. Joseph Church.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS** to St. Joseph Parishioners and guests from an anonymous parishioner who purchased 300 copies of Matthew Kelly's book, "I Heard God Laugh." Please pick up your free copy in the church lobby before leaving today and enjoy some reading prior to and during the upcoming holidays. Thanks to the parishioner who covered the cost of the books.



# News From St. Joseph Parish

## Faith Notes

By Sharon Mayer

### Warmed by the fires of Advent, Part 2

We sit quietly and take in the stories of Advent as they begin to warm us. We never tire of this warmth from God. The flames grow.

Mary was so excited about her news that she needed to share it. Mary goes to her cousin Elizabeth who is quite a bit older than her. God has also shown favor on Elizabeth and Zechariah with a child. Gabriel also appeared to Zechariah to say they would have a son who would be named John. He would make the way clear for the Savior. John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, would be a great prophet; a man who would work hand in hand toward the course of salvation.

Two flames now dance: One for Elizabeth and one for Mary. Elizabeth upon hearing Mary's news, knows, either by intuition or power of God or both that Mary's child is to be the long-awaited Savior. We celebrate Mary this week as the Immaculate Conception, fulfilling God's plan for a sinless woman to be the Mother of the Son of God. Joy is filling the air and the candle of peace is burning strongly. Mary and Elizabeth share a family bond of love as they prepare to give birth to two very special boys.



**PRAYERS and sympathy from the St. Joseph Parish Family** to the family of +Merlin Wuebker, 95, who died Monday, Nov. 29, 2021. His Mass of Christian Burial was held Friday, Dec. 3 at St. Joseph.

### THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Sincere thanks to Loretta Halbur and crew and all who assisted, donated food and attended our annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Thurs., Nov. 25. About 60 persons enjoyed the meal and fellowship. Your spirit of volunteerism is greatly appreciated!



### Christmas Shopping Made Easy

St. Joseph Centennial items on sale in the parish office. Stop in.

**ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS:** We are in need of 2 Eucharistic Ministers for the 12 midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. If you can serve in this capacity, please call the parish office.

**There will be** a Middle School Youth Group scripture study event December 12th after mass at St. Joseph in the basement. All students 5th-8th grade are welcome. A light breakfast will be served.



**PRAY for these members:** Andrew Gross, James Higgins, Mary Mittag, Jerry Finch, Dirk Hansen, June Reiman, Ann Stein, Nancy Crepeau, Mary Langel, Geneva Knudtson, Rick DeMuth, Linda Higgins, Mary Ann Sigler, Dennis and Alma Klute, Jerry Clark, Robert Rowland, Bill James, Marie Van Hofwegen, Ethel Wilson, Steve Painter, Ginny Yore, LaDonna Jansen, Dale Langel, Finley Brunsvold, Dee Bryant, Phyllis Hintz, Terry Abbas.

**PLEASE pray for these special persons:** Virginia Bensman, Craig Tingwald, Cooper Hatfield, Corey Langner, Claire Yaw, Cheryl Kallis, Sammy Schumann, Ellie Wiemers, Mary Gerdes Smith, Mary W., Mary Bolan, Dick Vogel, Charles Graves, Zoe Lorenzen, Heather Hamann, Esther Morris, Harvey Baxter, Jr., Wayne Bellinghausen, Maxine Thompson, Lois Doran, Dale Gentry, Susan Barnes, Mike Cooper, Denny Daberkow, Louise DeWitt, Ray Langel, Kristin Meyer, Kevin Wittrock, Charlotte Tiesler, Tailen Sturtz, Aimee Wallrich, Jan Wolf, Peggy Price, Joan Mertz, John Bruening, Ashlyn Clark, Jerry Wolford, Kami Svoboda, Darrel Wedeking, Dan Mulder, Colleen Mulder, Jamie O'Neill.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, Dec. 4

**4 p:** For The People

### Sunday, Dec. 5

**9 a:** +Lynn Knudtson

+Ken Knudtson

### Monday, Dec. 6

**No Mass Today**

### Tuesday, Dec. 7

**5:30 p:** +Phyllis Obermeyer

### Wednesday, Dec. 8

**7:30 a:** +Jerry Westcott

**6 p.m.:** +Mary Negus

### Thursday, Dec. 9

**7:30 a:** +Patricia Louise Wilber

### Friday, Dec. 10

**7:30 a:** +Ron and +Charree Sweeten

### Saturday, Dec. 11

**4 p:** For The People

### Sunday, Dec. 12

**9 a:** +Earl and +Joan Langel

### Together As One Update

**Goal:** \$38,759.00

**Payments:** \$1,540.00

**Total:** \$22,837.00

**% of Goal:** 58.9

**Remaining:** \$15,922.00

**# Parishioners:** 735

**# Participants:** 144

**% of Participants:** 19.5

Please return your card  
as soon as possible.

## Ministry Schedule

### 3rd Sunday of Advent

**Saturday, Dec. 11th @ 4 p.m.**

**EMHC:** Dennis Loebig, Irene McCoy, Jim McCoy

**LECTOR:** Deb Bode

**SERVERS:** Faith Garcia, John Garcia

**HOSPITALITY:** Jim Baumgard, Anne Donovan, Doug Heller, Monica Koppen

**Sunday, Dec. 12th @ 9 a.m.**

**EMHC:** Cory Knudtson, Bev Kruger, Shelley Matuska

**LECTOR:** Susan Willette

**SERVERS:** Aubry Knudtson, Liam Knudtson

**HOSPITALITY:** Teresa Fairchild, Marshall Matuska, Barb Woodley, Wayne Woodley



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Attorney At Law

708 Lake Street  
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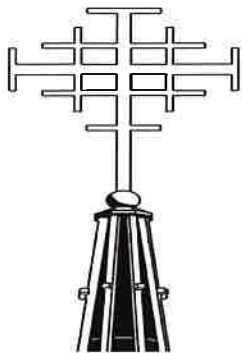
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## News From St. Mary's Parish

### Holy Day

December 8th is a Holy Day of Obligation, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mass times at St. Mary's will be 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 7th and 6 p.m. Wednesday evening. There will NOT be a Noon Mass on Wednesday.



### No Religious Education Classes on December 8th

On December 8th, there will be no religious education classes due to the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Being as it is a holy day of obligation, we expect all of our students to attend either the 5:30 p.m. vigil Mass on Tuesday, December 7th or the 6 p.m. Mass on Wednesday, December 8th. We encourage attendance at the 6 p.m. on Wednesday as fellow students will be assisting with various portions of the Mass!

### Anointing Mass

On December 9th at 5:30 p.m., St. Mary's will be having an Anointing Mass. Following the Mass there will be a light supper provided in the parish hall. All are welcome.

### Religious Education Christmas Pageant

Buckle up for the best children's theatrical performance of the year! Coming up on December 15th, we will once again be having our annual RE Christmas pageant! Starting at 5:45 p.m., in the parish hall, our PK-4th grade religious education students will perform a rendition of the Christmas story. Afterwards, there will be Christmas snacks and drinks available. All are invited to attend this fun and fantastic event to remind us all of the reason for the season!

### Christmas Church Decorating

Holiday decorating is in the air and we are looking for helpers to decorate our church. On Saturday, December 18th in the morning we will be setting up trees, hanging swags and preparing for Sunday decorating. Sunday, December 19th at 11:45AM we will decorate the trees, set up the crib, place figures and do the window décor. You can come one day or both days and stay as long as you like. If you are interested, please call the office and let Donna know when you would like to help.



### Liturgical Schedule

With Christmas fast approaching there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for liturgical ministries for our Christmas Masses. Please take the time to consider helping wherever you can.

### Christmas Masses

We would like to let you know the schedule for Christmas. The Christmas schedule is as follows: Christmas Eve, 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's. Christmas Eve, 4 p.m. and 12 Midnight at St. Joseph's. Christmas Day, 9 a.m. St. Joseph's and 10:30 a.m. St. Mary's.



### 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 CATHOLIC CHURCH

1005 Hill Avenue  
Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360  
OFFICE: 712-336-1742  
FAX: 712-336-1013  
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

### Bulletin Deadline

Wednesday 12 noon

### Mass Schedule:

#### Winter

Saturday at 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

#### Summer

Saturday at 5:30

Are you new to the community? Would you like to join St. Mary's Parish? Just fill out the coupon below and return to the office or in the collection basket.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

## News From St. Mary's Parish

### **Penance Service**

Sunday, December 5th there will be the opportunity to go to confession for Christmas. The schedule is as follows: 1 p.m. St. Patrick's in Estherville, 2:30 p.m. St. Mary's in Spirit Lake and 4 p.m. at St. Joseph's in Milford.

### **Adoration**

Our Adoration at St. Mary's is on Thursdays from 2 p.m. until 5:15 p.m. If you would like to come and spend some time before the Blessed Sacrament there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. You can sign up to cover every week or once a month, a full hour or 30 minutes, whatever works with your schedule. What a beautiful way to exalt the greatness of God and acknowledge our dependence on Him in all things.



### **Please Keep in Your Prayers**

All Confidential Prayer Chain requests may be directed to Jean Mohr, our Prayer Chain Coordinator at 712-336-2559 or 712-320-5433. Prayer intentions may be entered in the prayer Request book, which can be found in the narthex of the church.

### **Steubenville of the Rockies 2022**

It is with great excitement that we announce plans to return to Colorado this coming summer for the Steubenville of the Rockies conference. The trip is planned for June 28th – July 3rd. The first three days of the trip will be spent enjoying the YMCA's Snow Mountain Ranch! This stay includes white-water rafting, hiking, and other activities. Then we will travel to Denver for the conference and return late July 3rd. The cost of the trip has yet to be determined. Students should not avoid registering due to funding. We will have multiple fundraising events beginning in December up until the trip. The strict deadline to sign up is December 22nd. Due to the cost and extended days included in this trip, it is important that students sign up early! Registration forms are available in the narthex of both St. Mary's and St. Joseph's churches. Please contact Mary Brandt with questions regarding the trip. 712-260-8065.

### **MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, Dec. 6**

**No Mass Today**

**Tuesday, Dec. 7**

**5:30 p.m.:** +Henry and +Mildred Bibow

**Wednesday, Dec. 8**

**6 p.m.:** +Orville and +Mary Ann Schlicte

**Thursday, Dec. 9**

**5:30 p.m.:** Andy and +Pat Shell

**Friday, Dec. 10**

**12 noon:** +Dean Wieland

**Saturday, Dec. 11**

**5:30 p.m.:** +Jean Rusch

**Sunday, Dec. 12**

**10:30 a.m.:** +Sam Steele

Living and Deceased Members of St. Mary's

### **Ministry Schedule**

#### **Second Sunday of Advent**

**Saturday, Dec. 11 @ 5:30 p.m.**

**EMHC:** Susan Sundlin, Sharon Johnson, Sharon Crowley

**LECTOR:** Ron Crowley

**SERVERS:** Zac Steffens

**HOSPITALITY MINISTERS:** Dave Hansen, Linda Hansen, Dale Vortherms, Gayle Eral

**MUSIC MINISTERS:** Barbara Staver, Laura Hanna

**Sunday, Dec. 12 @ 10:30 a.m.**

**EMHC:** Shawna Ditsworth, Susan Lynn, Chris Quance

**LECTOR:** Karen Fergen

**SERVERS:** Max Ditsworth, Marie Mueting

**HOSPITALITY MINISTERS:** Alan Ditsworth, Andrew Wortherms, Larry Bortscheller, Jim Kirschbaum

**MUSIC MINISTERS:** Donna Davis

## **NEWS** **&** *Notes*

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



# Pastor's COLUMN

## Thanks to the Knights

We would like to thank the Milford Knights for setting up the beautiful nativity scene in front of our religious education building. It is a great way to remind all passersby of the beauty of the season.

## Sharon Mayer

Our Religious Education Director at Milford, Sharon Mayer, had hip replacement surgery this week at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. Please say a prayer for a quick recovery for Sharon.

## Penance Service

Our annual Advent Penance Services will be held this Sunday afternoon. A group of priests will be traveling to three sites for Confessions and you are all welcome at any of the sites. We will begin the afternoon a 1 p.m. service at St. Patrick's in Estherville followed by 2:30 p.m. in Spirit Lake. We will finish the services with Confessions at St. Joseph's at 4:30 p.m. These Sunday afternoon Penance Services are a wonderful way to create a prayerful preparation for the Great Feast of Christmas.



SECOND SUNDAY  
OF  
*Advent*

## In the Hospital

If you are hospitalized and would like a visit from our clergy, please make sure that you notify the parish offices. It is often difficult to obtain the names of individuals who are hospitalized. A quick phone call would be greatly appreciated.



Good stewards believe that God, who has begun this good work in them, will carry it through to completion. In words and deeds, they can sing with the Psalmist, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!"

### ST. MARY'S FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Nov. 27-28, 2021 Attendance: 508

Adults: \$4,702.00  
Dollar: \$311.00

Online: \$1,686.00  
Votive: \$28.00

### ST. JOSEPH FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Nov. 27-28, 2021 Attendance: 603

Adults: \$4,312.00 Loose: \$996.00  
Candles: \$45.01 Cookbook: \$10.00 Poor Box: \$97.00  
Harvest Dinner: \$68.00 Online Ministry: \$100.00

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### The St. Joseph Staff

Shane Akin.....Custodian  
Teresa Goehring.....Director of Youth Ministry  
teresa@stjosephmilford.org  
Sharon Mayer.....Director of Faith Formation  
sharon@stjosephmilford.org  
Ali Oyler.....Director of Music/Technology  
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Susan Reiser.....Business Manager  
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### The St. Mary Staff

Mary Brandt.....9-12 Rel. Ed. Director  
youth@stmarysspiritlake.org  
Derek Probst.....Dir. K-8 Rel. Education  
dprobst@smsj Catholics.org  
Greg Rolling.....Custodian  
Donna Williams.....Parish Secretary  
secretary@stmarysspiritlake.org