

# The Lakes 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

P.O. Box 354

712-336-1742

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



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# HOPE

I wait for the Lord,  
my soul doth wait, and  
in his word do I HOPE.

PSALM 130:5

First Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023

# 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, 9 and 11 a.m.

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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.

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## Anointing of the Sick

The next Anointing Mass will be held at St. Mary's at 12 noon on Wed., Dec. 6. Mass will be followed by a light lunch. Open to all.

**THE** next Faith Break for men and women of St. Joseph and St. Mary's will be held Sat., Dec. 9, 8:30 to 10 a.m. at St. Mary's and on Sat., Dec. 16, 8:30 to 10 a.m. at St. Joseph.

Please contact Jacques Bouli with any questions at youth@thelakescatholic.church. "The topic will be "The Nativity," derived from the first to fifth Gospel

## Magnificat Advent Prayer Companion Booklets

This weekend, we will have Magnificat Advent Prayer Companion booklets available on the table near the elevator or near the parish center. This booklet provides scriptural reflections for each day of the Advent season. You will also find a wealth of meditative prayers, essays, and poetry, as well as an examination of conscience and Advent Stations. Please pick up a copy of this booklet as you leave the church today—one copy per family, please.



**THANK YOU** to the Knights of Columbus for putting up the Nativity display on the front lawn. This is a great message for us and passing motorists.

## THE St. Joseph

Mitten Tree is up and we are accepting new mittens, gloves, scarves, hats to be distributed to less fortunate families this holiday season. Deadline for contributing items is Mon., Dec. 11. Thanks in advance.



**MILFORD Community Blood Drive** on the Bloodmobile Bus by LiveServe Fri., Dec. 22, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the St. Joseph parking lot. Appointments are encouraged by text LIFESERVE to 999-777, call 1-800-287-4903 or visit liveservebloodcenter.org.

## Together As One

**Thank you** to those who have already supported diocesan ministries through TAO. As of Nov. 30, we have raised \$19,422 in gifts and pledges toward the goal of \$40,197.00 with gifts from 109 households. Will you help us meet our fundraising goals? Visit [www.scdiocese.org/together-as-one](http://www.scdiocese.org/together-as-one).



## Ministry Schedule

### Second Sunday of Advent

**Saturday, December 9th @ 4 p.m.**

**EMHC:** Irene & Jim McCoy, Marlene Nelson

**LECTOR:** Deb Bode

**SERVERS:** Ben Garcia, John Garcia

**HOSPITALITY:** Jim Baumgard, Anne Donovan, Bonnie Duhn, Terry & Tom Rierson

**Sunday, December 10th @ 9 a.m.**

**EMHC:** Cheryl Houseman, Chris & Connie Jones, Dori Lippon

**LECTOR:** MaryBeth Gehling

**SERVERS:** Simon Walleck, Porter Prentice

**HOSPITALITY:** Julie & Tim Fairchild, Dennis Lippon, Abby Walleck





# News From St. Joseph Parish

## Religious Education News

By Erin Lorch

Director of Faith Formation

Greetings! Happy Advent! It's the beginning on a new liturgical year. I still have memories of Advent as a child. Not only did my home parish have an Advent Wreath with candles off to the side near the ambo, but it also had a massive Advent Wreath with purple and pink ribbons that suspended from the tall, cathedral-like ceiling. It was quite a spectacle then, and I wonder if it would seem just as massive now as an adult. I remember waiting for each candle to be lit, to see our pastor wearing PINK at mass on the 3rd Sunday, for Jesus' birthday, and for the songs we only sing at Christmas. I was excited to see the nativity set complete with porcelain Baby Jesus lying in the manger. The hope and anticipation I felt as a child is how I long to feel again this Advent season. This week, we reflect on HOPE. Hope can be hard for us adults. We calculate the chances of outcomes, we can predict other people's behaviors, we have unresolved hurts and trauma that we think we may never heal from. Life can be so good, but amidst all of the blessings, there are difficulties. Hope is not a false state of mind to have. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit." (CCC 1817). Even in the most difficult of situations, we believe that with God, there is a way. There is a plan. It may, however, never make sense on this side of heaven. Maybe, with time, it will! Even if...God loves each of us more than we can ever fathom. He is with us and wants us to have hope, the same way so many of the saints hoped. Pray the following prayer for a renewal of hope.

### Christmas Poster Contest

The Knights of Columbus are hosting their annual Christmas Poster Contest. All students in grades K-8 are encouraged to enter the poster contest. The Poster must reflect the theme of "Keep Christ in Christmas." Pick up an entry form from the Faith Formation Office. All posters and forms are due by Wednesday, December 13.

**Prayer for Hope in Difficult Times:** "Heavenly Father, in times of darkness and uncertainty, I turn to You for hope. You are the source of all hope and the light that shines in the darkness. Fill my heart with hope, Lord, and help me trust in Your plan, even when I cannot see the way. Renew my faith and grant me the strength to persevere through the challenges I face. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen."

### December Schedule

**Dec. 6-Class;**

**Dec. 13-Christmas Prayer Service and Pizza starting at 6 p.m.-All welcome!**

**Dec. 20-No Class, Catechist Gathering at St. Mary's in Spirit Lake, 6 p.m.**

**Dec. 27-No Class**

*Erin*

**PRAY for these members:** Dean Ulrich, Charles Reckard, Vince Bronson, Linda Cunningham, Mark Kollasch, Tutti Willison, Becky Wittrock, Kiana Svoboda, Andrew Gross, Mary Mittag, Mary Langel, Geneva Knudtson, Rick DeMuth, Mary Ann Sigler, Dennis and Alma Klute, Jerry Clark, Robert Rowland, Bill James, Marie Van Hofwegen, Steve Painter, Ginny Yore, Finley Brunsvold, Phyllis Hintz.

**PLEASE pray for these special persons:** Hudson Grace Koeppen, Kim Higgins, Angel Henkenius, Janet Norgaard, Cozy Nelsen, Ron Heller, Zenrik Young, Dr. Rod Langel, Elizabeth Olson, Mark McGill, Kevin Tracy, Mary Jones, Pat Reckard, Hope Anderson, Christine Fischer, Tom Kallis, Cheryl Kallis, Duane Doran, Jane Baxter, Wanda Randall, Norine Kennedy, Bruce and Sandy, Kaydan, Adam Hall, Kate Jensen, Cooper Hatfield, Corey Langner, Claire Yaw, Sammy Schumann, Ellie Wiemers, Mary W., Mary Bolan, Charles Graves, Zoe Lorenzen, Heather Hamann, Esther Morris, Wayne Bellinghausen, Maxine Thompson, Lois Doran, Dale Gentry, Mike Cooper, Denny Daberkow, Ray Langel, Tailen Sturtz, Aimee Wallrich, Peggy Price, John Bruening, Ashlyn Clark, Jerry Wolford, Kami Svoboda, Darrel We-deking, Dan Mulder, Colleen Mulder.



## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, Dec. 2**

**4 p:** +Roland Taylor

**Sunday, Dec. 3**

**9 a:** For The People

**Monday, Dec. 4**

**No Mass Today**

**Tuesday, Dec. 5**

**5:30 p.m.:** Dolores Mergen

**Wednesday, Dec. 6**

**No Mass Today**

**Thursday, Dec. 7**

**No Mass Today**

**Friday, Dec. 8**

**7:30 a:** For The People

**Saturday, Dec. 9**

**4 p:** +Dave Lambert

**Sunday, Dec. 10**

**9 a:** For The People

### Thank You!

Thank you to "the crew" for serving a delicious hot meal in between classes on Wednesday, Nov. 29. We are thankful to have provided families an opportunity to sit down together at St. Joseph. We hope to provide more fellowship opportunities for our families in the future.



**Monday, Dec. 4**

**7:30 p.m.:** Al-Anon meets by zoom

**8 p.m.:** AA meets in Nazareth Hall

**Tuesday, Dec. 5**

**2 p.m.:** Eucharistic Adoration.

**Mass at 5:30 p.m.**

**Wednesday, Dec. 6**

**12 noon:** Healing Mass at St. Mary's.

**Rel. Ed:** K-4 @ 5-6:15 p.m.; Grades 6-10 @ 6:45 to 8 p.m.

**Thursday, Dec. 7**

**No Mass Today**

**Friday, Dec. 8**

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

**Saturday, Dec. 9**

**4 p.m.:** Mass

**Sunday, Dec. 10**

**9 a.m.:** Mass

**Advent Penance:** 2:30 St. Mary's; 4 p.m. St. Joseph.

**S L F**

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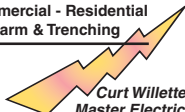
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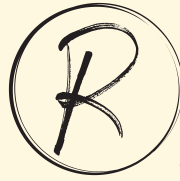
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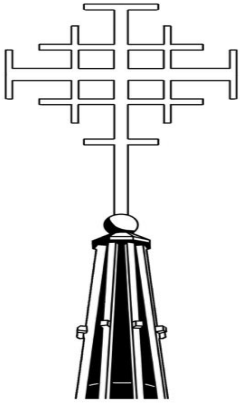
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# News From St. Mary's Parish



## Congratulations and welcome to the St. Mary's Family to:

- ✓ Beckham Andrew Kuker, child of Brayden and Brittney Kuker, who was baptized here at St. Mary's on November 26, 2023; and to
- ✓ Eliana Christa Bouli, child of Jacques and Brigitte Bouli, who was baptized here at St. Mary's on November 26, 2023. Blessings to the Kuker and Bouli families, and welcome Beckham and Eliana!



## 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'S  
1005 Hill Avenue  
P.O. Box 354  
Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360  
OFFICE: 712-336-1742

[stmarysspiritlake.org](http://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; 11:30 am Wed

### Bulletin Deadline

Monday at 8 a.m.

### Mass Schedule:

Winter:

Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

If you are a new parishioner at St. Mary's, we welcome you to register with our parish. Simply go to our parish website ([stmarysspiritlake.org](http://stmarysspiritlake.org)), and click on "Parish Registration" at the top of the page. Then complete the form, and click "Submit." We look forward to serving you here at St. Mary's!



## Eternal Rest

Please remember LeRoy Heideman in your prayers. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

## Holy Day of Obligation

Friday, 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. on Thursday, December 7th and 12:00 p.m. on Friday, December 8th.

## Anointing of the Sick

We will have an Anointing Mass at St. Mary's at the Noon Mass on Wednesday, December 6th. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us. Mass will be followed by a light lunch.

## Jesse Tree

St. Mary's will once again be presenting the Jesse Tree during the 4 Sundays of Advent at the 10:30 Mass. The Jesse Tree tells the story of Salvation History through the use of ornaments and a short text about each story. The Jesse Tree will be in the narthex throughout Advent and Christmas, along with the complete text on each segment of the story and its ornament. Our students will be presenting 5 ornaments each of the Sundays of Advent.

## Knights of Columbus Members of Council #5043

If you have taken only the 1st degree ceremony, you can get your 2nd and 3rd degree by attending our local ceremony here at St. Mary's. We urge you to take advantage of this option. Please contact Brian Nogleby at 712-339-0083 to get on the list for the next ceremony.

## Giving Tree

St. Mary's Parish will continue its Giving Tree tradition, a Christmas opportunity to share the joy of Christmas with others outside of our church walls. This year, in addition to supporting the Cherish Center (which provides expecting mothers and their children with a safe and supportive home), we will have the opportunity to bless our Seminarians and to bless those who have chosen to welcome life and those who assist them. What would be a better way to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the "yes" of Mary than to celebrate those who are welcoming the gift of life today? There will be a tree with paper ornaments in the narthex beginning this weekend. Parishioners can choose an ornament, purchase the item(s) on it, and return the items to the church by Dec. 20th (either by the tree or to Brigitte in the parish office). Items will be distributed December 22-23rd. You can pick from the various options: wish list items we received from the Cherish Center; "Bless a Seminarian" with a Christmas card, a prayer commitment and a Gift card for one of our seminarians; "Bless an OB Provider" at Lakes Regional Healthcare with a Christmas card, a prayer and a gift card or gift basket; or "Bless a Mother" who welcomes life at Lakes Regional between December 23rd -January 23rd with a gift basket. This would be a wonderful family opportunity, so please think about blessing others at this time of year. We are 'richer' than many others in the world, in one way or another.

# News From St. Mary's Parish

## This Week's Mass Schedule

**Monday, Dec. 4**

**No Mass Today**

**Tuesday, Dec. 5**

**No Mass Today**

**Wednesday, Dec. 6**

**12 Noon:** All Souls Novena

**Thursday, Dec. 7**

**2 p.m.:** Adoration

**5:30 p.m.:** All Souls Novena

**Friday, Dec. 8**

**12:00 p.m.:** Liv and Dec of St. Mary's

**Saturday, Dec. 9**

**5:30 p.m.:** +Fr. Albert Grendler

**Sunday, Dec. 10**

**10:30 a.m.:** Liv and Dec of St. Mary's

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

## WEEKLY Calendar

**Monday, Dec. 4**

No events today

**Tuesday, Dec. 5**

**5:30 p.m.:** Fun Night

**6 p.m.** Adult Choir Rehearsal

**Wednesday, Dec. 6**

**12 p.m.:** Anointing Mass

**Thursday, Dec. 7**

**2 p.m.:** Adoration

**5:30 p.m.** Mass

**Friday, Dec. 8**

**12:00 p.m.:** Mass

**Saturday, Dec. 9**

**5:30 p.m.:** Mass

**Sunday, Dec. 10**

**9 a.m.:** Lectio Divina Group, clsrn.

**10:30 a.m.:** Mass

**2:30 p.m.:** Penance Service

**6 p.m.:** Holy Hour

## Religious Education

Lots of exciting things are happening! All of our students had the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation two weeks ago. It was beautiful to see the joy of their faces after a good confession and after receiving God's love and mercy through this powerful gift. THANK YOU to the following sponsors who continue to bless us with Religious Ed meals: The Knights of Columbus, the Bortscheller family, Mike and Heather Kalkhoff, Beverly Sill, Debbie Parks, and the Staver family.

Mark your calendars! Our annual Christmas Play is just around the corner, which will be performed by our Pre-K through 4th Graders in Religious Education. Rehearsal will be December 3rd following the 10:30 a.m. Mass from 11:30-2 p.m.. Lunch will be served for the kids at 11:30! Thank you, parents, for bringing your kids to rehearsal and for supporting this entertaining family event!

Everyone is invited to join us in celebrating Christ's birth through this heart-warming performance. Parishioners, parents, grandparents and friends, come support our Parish children and sing with us on December 6th at 5:30 p.m.!

Thank you for your continued support and prayer for our students, catechists, and for the fruitfulness of this year's faith formation!

--**Brigitte Bouli, Director of Religious Education**

## Together As One

Thank you to those who have already supported diocesan ministries through TAO. As of November 14, we have raised \$19,331.00 in gifts and pledges toward the goal of \$30,923.00 with gifts from 72 households. Will you help us meet our fundraising goals? Visit [www.scdiocese.org/together-as-one](http://www.scdiocese.org/together-as-one).

## Magnificat Advent Prayer Companion Booklets

There are Magnificat Advent Prayer Companion booklets available in the narthex. This booklet provides scriptural reflections for each day of the Advent season, a wealth of meditative prayers, essays, and poetry, as well as an examination of conscience and Advent Stations. Please pick up a copy of this booklet as you leave the church today—one copy per family, please.

## FUN NIGHT

Parishioners are invited to a FUN NIGHT on Tuesday, December 5th at 5:30 p.m. Bring a friend and a snack to share.

## Ministry Schedule

### Second Sunday of Advent

**Saturday, December 9th @ 5:30p**

**EMHC:** Jean Mohr, Annette & Tom Kalkhoff

**LECTOR:** Josh Zigrang

**SERVERS:** Gabe Bennett, Mackenzie Bennet

**HOSPITALITY:** Jim Carney, Kevin Delaney, Brian & Kathy Nokleby, Doug Zemler

**Sunday, December 10th @ 10:30a**

**EMHC:** Mary Brandt, Mary Emgarten, Toni Nicks

**LECTOR:** Jim Staver

**SERVERS:** Wes Walz, Sadee Wheatley

**HOSPITALITY:** Bob Emgarten, Brady Kramer, Kerri & Korey Robinson, Ruth Putnam

**ONLINE:** Liam Fetcher

## 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

With the start of Advent, we are gearing up for a busy month of activities at both St., Mary's and St. Joseph.

Our annual penance service is scheduled

for Sunday, Dec. 10, 2:30 p.m. at Spirit Lake and 4 p.m. at St. Joseph. These Sunday afternoon Penance Services are a wonderful way to create a prayerful preparation for the Great Feast of Christmas.

The students at both parishes continue to practice their parts for their respective Christmas Program.

We want to alert parishioners and visitors to the Christmas schedule for both parishes:

## Christmas Eve Masses

Sunday, Dec. 24

4 p.m. and 6 p.m. at St. Joseph; 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's

## Christmas Day

Monday, Dec. 25 - 9 a.m. at St. Joseph; 10:30 at St. Mary's

## Year-End

As always, the financial books for both parishes will close Sunday, Dec. 31. Any checks received that weekend and dated 2023 will be credited to 2023's stewardship statement. Statements will be sent to parishioners mid-month in January.

As we begin Advent remember that Advent provides us with a prayerful path to renew our wonder at the love that God showed the world by sending Jesus into human history. The spiritual promptings of Advent are the Church's ancient way of helping us chart our spiritual course and aid us to deliberately think about how we can best open our lives to the wonder of God's love for us.

**Reminder:** Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation, Masses Thurs., Dec. 7, 5:30 p.m. at St. Mary's; 7:30 a.m. Friday at St. Joseph and 12 noon Friday at St. Mary's.

**Reminder:** next Sunday, Dec. 10. Advent Penance is at 2:30 p.m. at St. Mary's, in Spirit Lake, and 4 p.m. at St. Joseph in Milford.

## Is Father asking for help?

In the past few weeks, we have received a few calls from parishioners asking if Fr. Hughes is asking for help. Texts and emails that appear to be from pastors of parishes in our diocese have been sent, requesting assistance through the purchase of gift cards. Please note that these messages are a SCAM and that your pastor would not contact you via text and email to ask for gift cards. You should not reply to the message or click on any links. If you are in doubt regarding the message's legitimacy, you can contact your parish office directly.

# Stewardship REPORT

We are the servants of God, each with his or her own task. We will be judged good stewards if, at His coming, He finds us ready and conscientiously pursuing the tasks to which we have been called.

## ST. JOSEPH

### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Nov. 25-26, 2023 Att: 539

Adults: \$3,237.00

Loose: \$796.43

Online: \$880.00

Altar/Rosary Dues: \$40.00

Memorial: \$85.00 Candles: \$106.81

Cans: \$618.00 Misc.: \$140.00

2nd Collection P & J: \$531.55

## ST. MARY'S

### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Nov. 25-26, 2023 Att: 509

Adults: \$2,676.00

Online: \$415.60

Loose: \$798.25

Dollar: \$269.01

Votive: \$47.00



## **Pastor Fr. Brian Hughes**

**Deacon Darwin Messerly and Deacon Ken Linquist**

### The St. Mary Staff

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