

THE CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF



ST BERNARD

201 Main St. Blencoe, IA



ST JOHN

1009 13th St., Onawa, IA



ST JOSEPH

510 Tipton St., Salix, IA

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 23, 2018

FROM FATHER MICHAEL:

ELIZABETH AND MARY

The Hebrew version of Elizabeth is Elisheba, which means "God is fullness". This was also the name of the wife of Aaron, the first Hebrew priest. Appropriately, her husband is also a priest. She is barren and elderly, so the couple have no children. In this regard she is similar to other famous women in the bible, including Sarah, Rachel and Hannah. Each of these bore children after a promise from God. Elizabeth is called the "kinswoman" of Mary. While this is assumed to mean "cousin," the exact relationship is unknown.

When Mary learns that Elizabeth is pregnant, she journeys to Ein Kerem, a suburb west of Jerusalem. Her visit is accompanied by manifestations of the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth's baby stirs in her womb. Mary expresses a prayer of joy.

BETHLEHEM-EPHRATHAH

There are two Bethlehem's in the Holy Land. One is in the north of the country in the territory assigned to the tribe of Zebulun. To distinguish it from the other, more famous town, it was called "Bethlehem-Zebulun". It is mentioned only once--in the Book of Judges.

The other town is called "Bethlehem-Judah". It is about 75 miles south of Zebulun and 6 miles south of Jerusalem. Some believe that the original Canaanite name for the town may have been "Ephrath," which explains the alternate version. Bethlehem means "house of bread" in Hebrew. It was a fertile area known for its wheat fields. Rachel, the wife of Jacob, had died there and was buried outside the town. Both King David and Jesus were born in Bethlehem-Ephrathah.



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Questions of the Week:

Adults: When was it hardest for you to trust in God's plan, as Mary did? What can help you at such times?

Children: When is it hardest for you to obey a parent or teacher? What can help you obey with more trust?

WEEK OF DECEMBER 23, 2018

ST. JOHN / ST. BERNARD

Pastor Father Michael Erpelding 712-423-2656

stjohnparishhall@msn.com www.stjohnonawa.com

Secretary / DRE Colleen Maule 712-423-1004

stjohnparishhall@msn.com

Office hours: 7 am–2pm Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

7am-Noon 4pm-8:30 pm Wednesday 7am-11am Friday

MASS SCHEDULE :

Mon	Breyn Maule.....	4:00pm
Tue	John & Marjorie Zink.....	9:00am
Wed	Helen Ryan.....(St. Bernard).....	7.30am
Thurs	No Mass.....	0:00am
Fri	Harold & Lillian Hausman.....	9:30 am
Sat	No Mass.....	0:00 pm
Sun	Paulette Rice.....	9:00am

CONFESSION: SUNDAY 8:30 AM–8:45 AM

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday– December 26–

No Religious Ed classes...

Monday, December 24 Christmas Eve

Mass @ 4:00 PM

Tuesday, December 25 Christmas Day

Mass @ 9 AM

STEWARDSHIP 12/9/18 ST. JOHN ST. BERNARD

Envelopes/Loose	\$ 1311.05	\$170.00
Building Fund	\$60.00	
Food Pantry	\$140.00	
E-offering	\$20.00	
Flowers	\$220.00	
Total:	<u>\$1921.05</u>	

St. John Registered Families.....185

ST. JOSEPH

Pastor Father Michael Erpelding 712-946-5635

stjoseph@longlines.com WWW.STJOESALIX.COM

Secretary Mary Lynn Nelson 712-946-5635

stjoseph@longlines.com Cell 712-281-0107

DRE Kathy Jo Mitchell 712-212-3867

MASS SCHEDULE:

Mon	Rita & Carl Bode.....	6:00pm
Tue	Doug Bode.....	11:00am
Wed	No Mass.....	0:00 pm
Thurs	Art & Bev Holzerland.....	9:00am
Fri	No Mass.....	0.00 am
Sat	Maurice & Gloria Welte.....	4:00 pm
Sun	Parishioners of Sts. Joseph, John & Bernard...	11:00am

CONFESSION: SAT. 3:30PM–3:45PM / SUN. 10:30 AM– 10:45 AM

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday– December 26

No Religious Ed classes Merry Christmas/ Happy New Year

Monday, December 24 Christmas Eve

Mass @ 6:00 PM

Tuesday, December 25 Christmas Day

Mass @ 11 AM

STEWARDSHIP 12/08–12/09—ST. JOSEPH

Envelopes:	\$5802.00	Loose: \$450.50
Debt reduction	\$80.00	Candles: \$57.00
E-offering	\$355.70	Christ. Flowers \$355.00
Imm Concep	\$420.00	Christmas \$101.00
Cemetery	0.00	Brick Sale \$00.00
TOTAL:	<u>\$7621.20</u>	

St. Joseph Registered Families209



St. Joseph Debt October 2018\$196,440.78

St. Joseph Debt April 2017.....\$324, 880.66

ST. JOHN DECEMBER 30

LECTORS	SERVERS	EMS	GIFT BEARERS	USHERS
Bridget Beck	Jaci Mcminamen	Lesley Hubert– Elmwood	Dave & Gloria Hausman	Chuck Orsini, Daryl
ROSARY	Nathan Mcminamen	Beth Kirby– Homebound	Greeters	Reicks, Darin Crawford
Grace Fouts	Casey Mcminamen	Amy Maule	Randy & Jeanne Bottorff	Jim Niewohner

ST. JOSEPH DECEMBER 29-30

LECTORS	SERVERS	EMS	GIFT BEARERS	USHERS
29-Al Stuhrenberg	29- Lydia Harpeneau	29-Paula Olson	29- Pete & Marge Rinaldi	29-Bert Ullrich
30- Judy Milos	Zach Harpeneau Bryce Harpeneau	Deb Harpeneau Tom Becker	30-Ryan Willis family	Tom & Doreen Becker Lawson Schuetz
29–Rosary Dorothy Putnam	30-Joshua Brady	30–Linda McDonald	29-Greeters Pete & Marge Rinaldi	30-John & Heather Hensley
30–Mary Holzerland	Holly Skinner Kylee McDermott	Brenda Hinrickson Mary Kay Miller	30- Greeters Robert Dandurand Family	Ryan Willis Diane Peterson
Stewards 	Kenny & Mary Kay Miller	Homebound 	Mary Kay Miller Greg Heisterkamp	Liturgy/ Word Jenny Miller

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES:

Father Patrick O'Kane, Shirley Turner, Esther Mac Clure, Darlene Ellis, Cheri Gibler, Loretta Simoff, Doe Walker, Maryann Muller, Pete Mortensen, John Heisterkamp, Charlotte Zortman, Rosemary Kirby, Gina Mortensen, Chris Metzger, Judson Bramow, Sherry Wince, , Susie Brink & Amy Scurlock If you know of someone who is ill and needs our prayers, and would like to be listed, or if you no longer need to be listed, please contact Colleen @ office 423-1004

St. John 2018/2019 Diocesan Annual Appeal :

Thank you for your generous response to the request of Bishop Nickless to make a pledge to the Diocesan Annual Appeal. We have collected \$10440.00 toward our parish goal of \$13815.00. That means we only need \$3375.00 to meet our goal.

Please pick up your 2019 calendar in the back of the Church, courtesy of the Hoffman Agency & The Knights of Columbus. Thank you!

Our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Anne Langenfeld who died on December 9th and whose funeral was at St. John's on the 13th. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

Thank you to all who donated flowers in memory of their loved ones. Our beautiful church reflects your love and devotion this Blessed Christmas Season.

Thank you to all who helped decorate the church for the advent and Christmas seasons. Your help is needed and much appreciated by all.

Congratulations to the newest member of our parish, Evie Ann Sturgill, daughter of Curtis & Elizabeth Sturgill, who was baptized today, Dec. 23, 2018. May God Bless you!

Just for Laughs

A woman was sitting next to a priest on a plane when a terrible storm broke out. "Can't you do something about that awful lightning?" she demanded.

"I'm sorry," the priest answered, "I'm in sales, not management."

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES:

Father O'Kane, Fran Mitchell, Nainna Gnat, Jeri Greiner, Mike Franken, Loretta Prince, David Bogenrief, Linda Donnelly, Sue LaCroix, Pam Dalley, Bev Thorpe, Bryson Harder, Justin Lamoureux, Sophie Helvey, Kim Peterson, Doreen Becker, Kathy Spohr, Glenda Ullrich, Roger Huot, Stanley Johnson, Tristan Parks, Colleen Ebner, Bailey Cleveland, Christian Case, Brady Worrell, Cal Worrell, Connie Wagner, Kathy Clayton, Helen Martin, Carter Lucas, Deb McLarty.. For all who travel, grieve, those in the military, veterans, their families and our nations leaders. The candles burning on the Blessed Mother's altar are for the military serving in foreign lands .

DAA Goal is 17, 581, we have collected \$10,926.00 keep up the good work we can reach our goal Let's get this one done we are a little over half way there let's get it done NEED TO GET THIS ONE DONE, LETS GET THOSE IN !!! THANK YOU

TEAM TRIVIA NIGHT! *St. Joseph's Choir will host Trivia Night in the Parish Hall on Saturday night, January 26th beginning at 5:30 pm with trivia gating and a potluck supper. Questions began at 6:30pm. Cost is \$80 for up to 8 team members. SAVE THE DATE!!!*

We are in need of more Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Communion to the Homebound, Ushers, Greeters, Stewards, Carry up Gifts Please stop by the Office and sign up, Need help both Saturday night or Sunday.

	Christmas Eve
Servers	Volunteers
Communion	Michelle Mareau, Paula Olson, Tom Becker
Greeters	Mike & Sharon Clayton
Lector	Michelle Mareau
Gifts	Pete & Marge Rinaldi
Ushers	Bert Ullrich, Pete & Marge Rinaldi, Lawson Schuetz

***CHRISTMAS DAY IS VOLUNTEERS
PLEASE VOLUNTEER IF YOU ARE AT
CHRISTMAS DAY MASS THANK YOU.***

Our deepest sympathy to Tom Hunter on the death of his Father George Hunter, and to Robert Dandurand on the death of his mother Diane. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

"YOUTH GROUP @ St. Joseph

will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month at 9:30am

February 16- 2nd Annual Valentine's Dinner & Movie

Greg 712-444-4843 or Keri Beth 712-204-2805



*We Wish Everyone
Health and Happiness
and
May the
Miracle of Christmas
Fill Your Hearts and
Homes this
Blessed Christmas Day.*



4th Sunday of Advent-

St. Nicholas & Christmas Stockings!

Christmas Eve, children across the nation will hang empty stockings from mantelpieces and doorknobs, waiting eagerly for Santa Claus to fill them with treats. Is this just a quaint tradition or another way materialism has tainted Christmas? No. The tradition has its roots in the legend of the real "Santa Claus", St. Nicholas. Born of a rich family, St. Nicholas had a compassionate heart for the poor of his city. One family, unable to pay for even food or firewood, was planning to sell its two daughters into slavery. When St Nicholas heard of this tragedy he took a small bag of gold and threw it down the family's chimney, where the bag landed in the girl's stockings hung there to dry. This anonymous gift of gold saved the daughters & the family. So our Christmas stockings stuffed with candy or gifts echo the selfless giving of St Nicholas. We give remembering St Nicholas' example and the greater example of God's gift to us, Jesus.



The Advent wreath, four candles on a wreath of evergreen, is shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God. While the Advent wreath with its four candles did bring light to churches, it was not to illuminate the interior as much as to symbolize the coming of Christ. The Advent wreath began in the time of the Protestant reformer Martin Luther.

During each Sunday of the Advent season, we focus on one of the four virtues Jesus brings us: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace.. The Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day reminding Christians that Jesus is the light of the world.

