

# 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

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**NOVEMBER 27, 2022**

## Parish Staff

**Pastor,** Rev. Michael J. Erpelding  
(712) 423-2656  
father@stjohnparishonawa.com  
father@stjoeparish.com

**Director of Faith Formation,** Michelle Rethman  
(712) 202-6641  
michelle@stjohnparishonawa.com  
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**Secretary – St. John & St. Bernard,** Colleen Maule  
(712) 423-1004  
secretary@stjohnparishonawa.com  
**Office Hours:** Monday – Thursday  
7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Secretary – St. Joseph,**  
(712) 946-5635  
secretary@stjoeparishsalix.com

## Sacraments

**Reconciliation:** 30 min. before Mass or by appointment

**Baptism:** **St. John** – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.  
**St. Joseph** – Sunday, 11:00 a.m.

**Baptism Class:** Contact the Director of Faith Formation

**Marriage:** Arrangements at least six (6) months prior to marriage. Interview with the pastor is required before date for marriage can be given.

## **Questions of the Week**

*Inspiring Us to Live in the Holy Spirit*

**Adults:** If the Lord were to come today, would he find me watching, prepared, and full of hope?

**Children:** When Jesus comes back to us in glory, how do I think he will make this world different?

## **The Pastor's Toolbox**

### **Swords Into Plowshares**

Metal was rare and expensive in ancient times. Consequently, it had to be reused rather than be scrapped. In times of war, the metal was shaped into swords and spears. When peace seemed evident, a blacksmith would heat and reform it into tools for farming. Plows were made of wood, but had metal tips called “shares” or “shears” because they cut or sheared into the ground. Isaiah predicts that the Messiah would usher in a time of peace and abundance.

### **The Armor of Light**

Like Jesus, Paul often used examples drawn from daily life to illustrate his teachings. Soldiers in armor would be a common sight in the lands occupied by Rome. They were necessary to maintain order and prevent revolutions. The Roman soldiers may have lived in excess during off-duty moments. The “orgies and drunkenness” would be a witness to the power and degradation of Rome. By non-Romans, the Roman Soldiers might have been seen as armies of darkness. Paul suggests that the Christians should don virtues that would be the armor of the forces of light.



## WEEK OF NOVEMBER 27, 2022

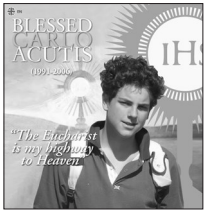
### Mass Schedule for St. John and St. Joseph Churches

Day	Date	Time	Mass Intentions	Parish
Monday	November 28		No Mass	
Tuesday	November 29	9:00 AM	Sue Lamoureux	St. Joseph
Wednesday	November 30	8:45 AM	Dayle & Darlene Ellis	St. John
Thursday	December 1	9:00 AM	Dave Harpenau	St. Joseph
Friday	December 2	8:45 AM	Fr. Ed Tiedeman	St. John
Saturday	December 3	4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Bernard, St. John & St. Joseph	St. Joseph
Sunday	December 4	9:00 AM	A. J. Benjamin	St. John
		11:00 AM	Alyssa Lux	St. Joseph

## GROWING IN OUR FAITH

### Formation News

#### *Carlo's Corner*



"Do not be afraid because with the Incarnation of Jesus, death becomes life, and there's no need to escape: in eternal life, something extraordinary awaits us."

*Blessed Carlo Acutis*

What	When	Time
Classes	Wednesday, November 30, 2022	6:30—7:45 PM
Holy Day (Vigil)	Wednesday, December 7, 2022	See bulletin
Classes	Wednesday, December 14, 2022	6:30—7:45 PM
Classes	Wednesday, December 21, 2022	6:30—7:45 PM
No Classes	Wednesday, December 28, 2022	Closed

**Religious Education:** We won't have classes on Wednesday, December 7, 2022 so that families may celebrate the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary together. Please refer to the Mass schedule (right) for Mass times at our parishes. Classes resume on Wednesday, December 14, 2022.

**November is National Adoption Month:** God calls on all of us to love and care for one another. Right now, hundreds of Iowa children are in need. Please consider becoming a foster and/or adoptive family. There are training classes starting in Denison on December 27, 2022, and in Sioux City on January 23, 2023. Please contact [LSIowa.org/foster](http://LSIowa.org/foster) for more information.

***Miracles of Grace — They Happen All the Time!*** This retreat will be offered at the Saint Benedict Center in Schuyler, NE on December 9th and 10th. Fr. Joseph A. Miksch, from Columbus, NE, will lead the retreat. In his book, *Fantastic Vocation*, Fr. Joe writes that his numerous "near death" experiences don't compare to the joy and excitement he experiences in his priestly ministry where he has the privilege of witnessing "miracles of grace" time and again while administering the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick. The retreat begins on Friday, December 9th at 7:30 PM and runs through Saturday, December 10th, 4:00 PM, concluding with Mass. Register at [www.StBenedictCenter.com](http://www.StBenedictCenter.com) or call (402) 352-8819.



**The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** is a holy day of obligation. Our parishes will celebrate Masses for this solemnity on:

Wednesday, December 7	St. John Church	6:30 PM
Thursday, December 8	St. Joseph Church	5:30 PM

Please note we won't celebrate Masses at St. John on Wednesday, December 7th, 8:45 AM, or St. Joseph on Thursday, December 8th, 9:00 AM.

## ST. JOHN & ST. BERNARD NEWS

St. John & St. Bernard Weekly Offering	
November 13, 2022 Registered Families: 185	
Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$1296.00
E-Offering	
Misc. Funds	\$500.00
Tile repair/Tuck Pointing	100.00
St. Bernard	\$260.00
<b>Total for Nov. 13, 2022</b>	<b>\$2156.00</b>

Christmas Flower Memorials for St. John. It is wonderful at Christmas time to make a contribution for Christmas flowers in Memory of Our Loved Ones. We are asking for a contribution of \$30.00. If you wish to participate, we ask that you write the name of your loved ones on a paper, clearly mark your envelope "Christmas Flowers", or use the Christmas Flower envelope in your packet and place in the collection basket. In the bulletin of December 25, we will publish the names of the contributor and their loved ones. Please do not donate a flower, we would like all our plants to be uniform in size and color.

The Onawa-Blencoe Knights of Columbus once again are sponsoring their annual Christmas Toy Drive to benefit children and families in Monona County. Donation boxes are at Bomgaars, Dollar General, Stangel Pharmacy & St. John Church. Cash donations can be dropped off at Farm Bureau Ins. (Brent McCall), Zima Insurance & Investments (Doug Zima) or St. John's, (Colleen Maule). Thank you for helping the families of Monona County.

**Together As One: we are just about \$3000.00 dollars short of our goal. Please help us meet our obligation. Thank you!**

**Parish Vital Statistics:** Annually, parishes report vital statistical information to the Diocese. Below are the numbers which we reported to the Diocese of Sioux City for the Chancery Year 2022:

Vital Statistics Chancery Year 2022	St. John	St. Joseph
Sacrament of Baptism	2	5
Sacrament of First Holy Communion	9	11
Sacrament of Confirmation	0	0
Sacrament of Holy Matrimony	0	1
Funerals	4	13
Religious Education Students	92	75

## ST. JOSEPH NEWS

St. Joseph Weekly Offering	
November 12-13, 2022 Registered Families: 209	
Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$1,167.00
E-Offering	
All Saints' Day	\$110.00
All Souls' Day	\$30.00
Miscellaneous Funds	\$528.00
<b>Total for Nov. 12-13, 2022</b>	<b>\$1,835.00</b>



**David Menard** passed from this life into the next on November 7, 2022. His funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Joseph Church on November 15, 2022. Our parish family extends its sincere condolences to his beloved wife, Shirley; their children, Brad, Cindy, Julie, and Joel; grandchildren; and numerous family members and friends. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light

## THIS & THAT

shine upon him.

**Important Parish Office Announcement:** Due to a staffing shortage, the parish office hours will temporarily change. Until further notice, the office will be open **Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 AM–1:00 PM**. Staffing will be inconsistent on Wednesdays and Fridays. We recommend you call before coming to the office. Please call 712-202-6641.

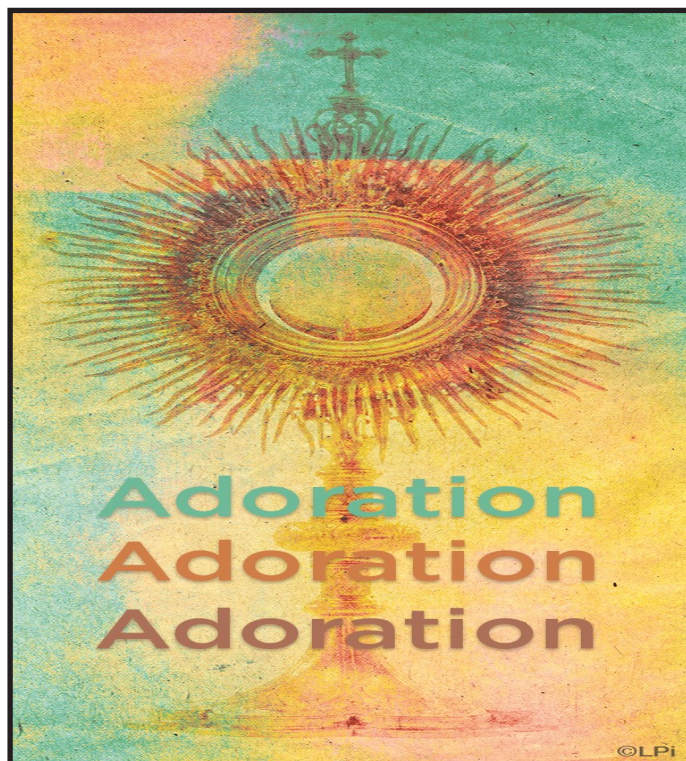
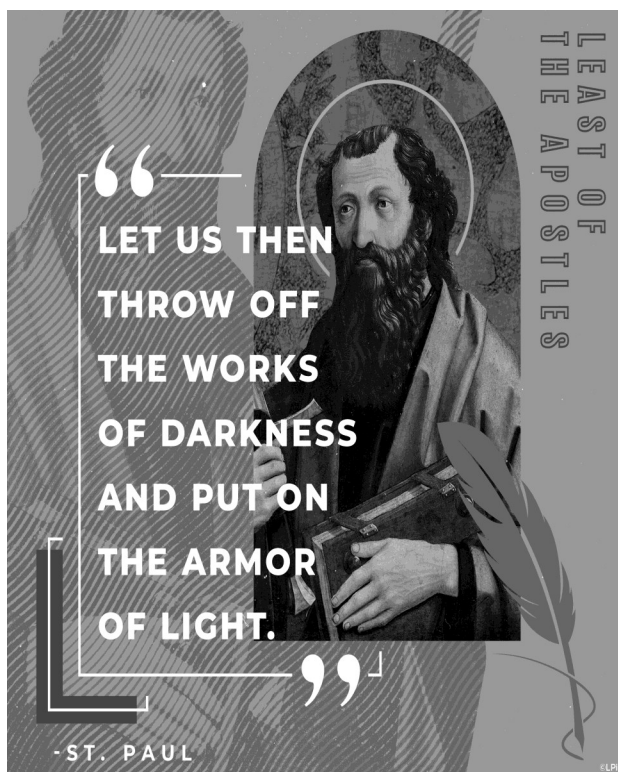
**Together As One:** This year, our parish goal is \$11,583.00. We can achieve our goal with everyone's participation. No contribution is too large or too small. Thank you to everyone who has sent in a donation thus far. We are over half way to our goal! Please consider giving to this diocesan fund.

**Christmas Flowers Memorials for St. Joseph:** Traditionally, families purchase the poinsettias which adorn the altar during the Christmas Season. These beautiful plants honor the memory of loved ones. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia for your loved one(s), please contact the



# ++++++ God Laughs ++++++

- 1-Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
- 2-Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
- 3-Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
- 4-Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'



The bishops of the United States have called upon all the faithful to renew their belief and worship of the Eucharist. Each month the members of the three local churches will have the opportunity to pray during the exposition of the Eucharist.

**Sunday, December 4:** St. John, Onawa, 10 AM to 2:00 PM in the main Church.

**Sunday, January 22:** St. Joseph, Salix, Noon to 2:00 pm, in the daily Mass chapel

St. Joseph Minister Schedule for December 3-4		
Ministry	Saturday, Dec. 3	Sunday, Dec. 4
Altar Servers	Lawson Schuetz	Luke & Levi Willis
	Madelyn & Grady Olson	Addison Goodin
EMHC	Mike Donnelly	Judy Milos
Lector	Michelle Mareau	Joni Greder
Greeters	Aaron Skatges Family	Tom & Doreen Becker
Gifts	Aaron Skatges Family	Tom & Doreen Becker
Ushers	Bert Ullrich, Paula Olson,	Kyle & Eric Eliason
	Landon & Hudson Schuetz	Ron & Margaret Wood
Communion to the Homebound: Fred & Deb Craig		
Stewards, Monday, Dec. 5 @ 10 AM: Don & Sue Mohning		

