

# 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 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 2, 2022

### Parish Staff

**Pastor,** Rev. Michael J. Erpelding  
(712) 423-2656  
erpelding1962@netscape.net

**Director of Faith Formation,** Michelle Rethman  
(712) 202-6641  
stjoseph6712@gmail.com

**Secretary – St. John & St. Bernard,** Colleen Maule  
(712) 423-1004  
stjohnparishhall@msn.com  
**Office Hours:** Monday – Thursday  
7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Secretary – St. Joseph,** Mary Lynn Nelson  
(712) 946-5635  
stjoseph@longlines.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:** When have you been jealous or fearful of another person? When are such feelings harmful?

**Children:** When have you been jealous because something good happened to another person instead of you? What is the problem with feeling that way?

### The Pastor's Toolbox



The term epiphany means "to show" or "to make known" or even "to reveal." In Western churches, it remembers the coming of the wise men bringing gifts to visit the Christ child, who by so doing "reveal" Jesus to the world as Lord and King. In some Central and South American countries influenced by Catholic tradition, Three Kings' Day, or the night before, is the time for opening Christmas presents. In some eastern churches, Epiphany or the Theophany commemorates Jesus' baptism, with the visit of the Magi linked to Christmas. In some churches the day is celebrated as Christmas, with Epiphany or Theophany occurring on January 19th.

– Fr. Michael

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

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Mass Intentions</u>	<u>Parish</u>
Monday	January 3		No Mass	
Tuesday	January 4	9:00 AM	For the Parishioners of St. Bernard, St. John & St. Joseph	St. Joseph
Wednesday	January 5	9:00 AM	Dwayne & Mavis Ryan	St. John
Thursday	January 6	9:00 AM	Dayle & Darlene Ellis	St. Joseph
Friday	January 7	9:00 AM	Joe Fouts	St. John
Saturday	January 8	4:00 PM	Maurice & Gloria Welte	St. Joseph
Sunday	January 9	9:00 AM	Charles Zobel Jr	St. John
		11:00 AM	Dayle & Darlene Ellis	St. Joseph

**A belated congratulations** to Hunter Hanner and Sid-ney Brodie whose son, Walker, was baptized at St. Joseph Church on December 5, 2021. Welcome, Walker, to the St. Joseph community!

**An overdue thank you** to **Don Mohning** and **Jim Doyle** for their beautiful work on the mural over the altar at St. Joseph Church. And thank you to Brand-Safway for donating the scaffolding to the project.

**Adult Bible Study:** Thank you to everyone who participated in this past Advent's study on the Eucharist. We had a fantastic turnout of participants! Moreover, we prayed, grew in our understanding of the Eucharist, enjoyed fellowship, and laughed a lot! We will begin another study for Lent, so stay tuned for more information! We'd love for our group to *grow!*

**Religious Education:** We hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you for classes on Wednesday, January 5, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

**First Reconciliation Parent Meeting – St. John:** We will have a Parent Meeting on **Wednesday, January 5, 2022, 6:00 p.m.** in the **Parish Hall**. Please contact Michelle Rethman for more information.

**First Reconciliation Parent Meeting – St. Joseph:** We will have a Parent Meeting on **Wednesday, January 5, 2022, 7:00 p.m.** in the **Parish Hall**. Please contact Michelle Rethman for more information.



Welcome, Walker!



Don and Jim, hard at work on the project

### St. John & St. Bernard Weekly Offering

December 19, 2021  
Registered Families: 185

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$1181.25
E-Offering	
Building Fund	\$100.00
Catholic Charities	50.00
Needy Fund	
Grain	
Flowers	\$100.00
Candles	
St. Bernard	\$225.00
Camp. For Human Dev.	
Religious Ed — Campaign	
<b>Total for December 19, 2021</b>	<b>\$1656.25</b>

**Please pray for the sick of our parishes:** Father Patrick O’Kane, Midge Stanley, Margaret Hansen, Pam Turner, Loretta Simoff, Pete Mortensen, John Heisterkamp, Charlotte Zortman, Florence Ibsgaard, Gina Mortensen, Chris Metzger, Judson Bramow, Anita Gerum, and Eddie & Ann Womack. 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, contact Colleen at the parish office, 423-1004.

**A special Thank You** to all who helped to decorate our beautiful Church for the Christmas Season, especially Vance and Annette Linden. Your efforts and talents are truly appreciated.

**Together As One:** So far, we have raised \$7090.00 towards our goal of \$14462.00. That is not quite half way. Please, if you have not given, please do so as soon as you can. If you have given on line, please send me an e-mail so that I can credit you and update our totals. It is important that we all try to come together as one and make this goal...Thank you for your generosity.

### “God Laughs”

It was the day after Christmas and Father Michael was looking at the nativity scene in the church when he noticed the baby Jesus was missing from the figures. Immediately, he turned towards the rectory to call the police. But as he was about to do so, he saw little Jimmy with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus. Father Michael walked up to Jimmy and said, "Well, Jimmy, where did you get the little infant?" Jimmy replied, "I got him from the church." "And why did you take him?" With a sheepish smile, Jimmy said, "Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to little Lord Jesus. I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give him a ride around the block in it."

### St. Joseph Weekly Offering

December 19, 2021  
Registered Families: 209

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$3486.46
E-Offering	210.00
Boiler Fund	
Christmas Offering	285.00
Catholic Charities	205.00
Emergency	
Flowers	50.00
Candles	52.00
Food Pantry	50.00
Mow & Snow	
Cemetery	375.00
<b>Total for December 19, 2021</b>	<b>\$4713.46</b>

**Remember to pray for the sick of our parish:** Father O’Kane, Fran Mitchell, Nainna Gnat, Jeri Greiner, Mike Franken, David Bogenrief, Linda Donnelly, Sue LaCroix, Bryson Harder, Justin Lamoureux, Sophie Helvey, Doreen Becker, Roger Huot, Tristan Parks, Colleen Ebner, Bailey Cleveland, Christian Case, Brady Worrell, Cal Worrell, Connie Wagner, Kathy Clayton, Helen Martin, Gerrie Lamoureux, Darrell Lux, Richard Hentges, Paula Wagner, Mary Lue Schnieders, Brian Mareau, Mark Rinaldi, David Menard, Kathy Stahmer, Nick & Ally Spohr, and Vincent Choquette. For all who travel, grieve, those in the military, veterans and their families, and our nation’s leaders. The candles burning on the Blessed Mother’s altar are for the military serving in foreign lands.

**Food Pantry:** The Food Pantry is open daily from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you know someone who needs help, please let them know. The west door is always open at that time.

**Together As One:** Our parish goal for 2021 is \$22,079. As of today, we have reached \$14,255. We still have \$7,824 dollars to reach our goal. Let’s get this done! If everyone pitches in, we can reach our goal. We haven’t received any donations lately, and every little bit helps. Please prayerfully consider giving. We reached our goal last year, and we can reach it this year!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS DONATED IN MEMORY OF  
Glenda Ullrich, Bert & Ella Ullrich, Betty & John Emge, Sister Dolores Ullrich.

**Thank you** to all of the children and parent volunteers who donated their time and talent to the Jesse Tree throughout the four Sundays of Advent. The Jesse Tree was successful because of you!

**January** - Respect for the Dignity of persons is a Principle of Catholic Social Teaching and one ignored by traffickers who treat persons as commodities. Join us in abolishing this horrific crime.

**U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking** is a 501 c (3) organization, 2039 N Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131

([sistersagainstrafficking.org](http://sistersagainstrafficking.org))

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There are many traditions associated with the Epiphany. Here are two:

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**The Blessing of Chalk and Doorways**

One tradition on Epiphany involves blessing chalk, that, then is used to mark the doorways of homes with the year (2022) and the initials of the traditional names of the Three Kings:

- Caspar (C)
- Melchior (M)
- Balthasar (B)

The chalk is blessed by a priest. Families can take the blessed chalk home and the “head of the house,” ideally the Dad, marks the frame with the date and initials:

**20 + C + M + B + 22**

The practice invokes a blessing on those who live in the house, and – in remembrance of the Magi - all visitors to the home.

**Epiphany Water**

In the older traditional Latin Missal was a very lengthy prayer for the blessing of holy water on the Eve of Epiphany. The bishop, or with the Bishop’s delegation, a priest, would use the extensive litanies and prayers to set aside this water for use throughout the year. The elements of salt (to be added to the water), and the water itself, were first exorcised. Any taint of the devil was cast from them, and then they were blessed.

The Rite, still used in the Byzantine Catholic Church, was carried out on the night before Epiphany, because of its association with the revelation of Jesus Christ at His baptism in the Jordan River.

This rite of blessing the Epiphany Water is not used widely any more.



# ENCOUNTER GOD'S LOVE

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THE EPIPHANY OF THE

*Lord*

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