

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 BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 9, 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.



The Pastor's Toolbox



As you listen to the gospel of Jesus' baptism, memories may well up like a fountain of living water. One person reflected that during a 30-day retreat he imagined himself standing in the water with Jesus. He listened to God saying, "You are my beloved." We can be reminded that we are the beloved of God.

We can imagine our parents preparing for our baptism. We were totally dependent upon them for everything. We were probably their beloved one. If you have brought your children to the font to be baptized, you surely remember how beloved they were. There have been baptisms in these parishes since the 1880s. Some of you may have great-grandparents who were baptized here. When we enter these buildings we dip our fingers into the saving waters of Jesus' baptism. We are reminded that we are saved from sin and given the opportunity of everlasting life. Every day we should chase away sin and darkness and invite God into our lives anew and seek forgiveness and light.

Sacred memories of family and the church community cause us to be grateful that Jesus has chosen to bring us to life and not allow us to die in sin. Rather, he decided that we will be his beloved and have everlasting life. We are saved in his baptism.

Questions of the Week

Inspiring Us to Live in the Holy Spirit

Adults: In what ways has the Holy Spirit helped me bring peace and justice into the world?

Children: What can I do this week to bring peace into my family?

— 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 10		No Mass	
Tuesday	January 11	9:00 AM	Patricia Welsh Chesher	St. Joseph
Wednesday	January 12	9:00 AM	Doe & Mabel Walker	St. John
Thursday	January 13	9:00 AM	Pat Hout	St. Joseph
Friday	January 14	9:00 AM	Donnie Parks	St. John
Saturday	January 15	4:00 PM	Eileen Topf	St. Joseph
Sunday	January 16	9:00 AM	Joe Fouts	St. John
		11:00 AM	For the Parishioners of St. Bernard, St. John & St. Joseph	St. Joseph

Religious Education News

Here's the schedule for January:

January	
5 th	Classes 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
12 th	Classes 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
19 th	Classes 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
26 th	Classes 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

And now that we are officially in the season of winter, a reminder of our cancellation policy:

Religious Education -- Inclement Weather Policy: If the public schools cancel school due to inclement weather on a Wednesday, then we will cancel Religious Education classes for that evening. If the public schools dismiss from school early on a Wednesday because of inclement weather, then we will cancel Religious Education classes for that evening. And if the public schools have a late-start on a Wednesday, then we will have Religious Education classes that evening.

Celebration of the Sacraments

Baptism Class: The next Baptism Class will be on **Sunday, February 6, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at St. John Church.** Please contact Michelle Rethman, 712-202-6641, for more information.

First Reconciliation: – Did You Know?: Following the First Reconciliation Parent Meeting, one couple approached the parish priest with smirking faces. The wife said in a joking manner, “Well, we told our son that when he’s bad, we will bring him to see you!” And then the couple laughed. The priest tried to chuckle along, but the obvious hurt was in his eyes. After the couple had walked away, the priest muttered sadly, “That child will always be afraid of me.” The Sacrament of Reconciliation (or Penance) is a Sacrament of *Healing*, specifically, *spiritual healing*. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the spiritual effects of the sacrament of Penance are: We are reconciled to God, one another, and the Church; remission of eternal punishment and, in part, temporal sins; peace and serenity of conscience; and “an increase of spiritual strength for the Christian battle”. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 1496*) Our second grade children will receive the Sacrament of First Reconciliation later this month, and the themes of *love, mercy, and restoration* will be the focus of our parishes’ catechesis. In other words, we will focus on God’s infinite love and mercy for each one of us, and God’s desire for us to live in union with him and one another. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Penance for the first time.

St. John & St. Bernard Weekly Offering

December 26, 2021—January 2, 2022
Registered Families: 185

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$1249.25—\$ 8018.00
E-Offering	\$379.58—
Building Fund	\$118.00 —-\$45.00
Catholic Charities	\$592.00—
Needy Fund	\$10.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$343.00
Flowers	\$75.00=====
Candles	
St. Bernard	\$1071.13—\$235.00
CHRISTMAS OFFERING	\$1115.00 —120.00
Religious Ed — Campaign	
Total for 12/26—1/2	\$4599.96—\$8771.00

Please pray for the sick of our parishes: 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.

Together as One: So far, we have raised \$7240.00 towards our goal of \$14462.00. That is slightly over 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,

For those who might not have heard, Father Patrick O’Kane passed from this life into eternal life with Jesus on January 2, 2022.He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

“God Laughs”

A computer once beat me at chess,
but it was no match for me at kick boxing.

St. Joseph Weekly Offering

December 26, 2021—January 2, 2022
Registered Families: 209

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$4059.00	5565.00
E-Offering	\$538.00—	
Boiler Fund (John Hout)	\$1000.00—	
Christmas Offering	\$3685.00—	
Catholic Charities	\$1512.00—	
Emergency	\$20.00—	5.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$300.00—	210.00
Candles	\$45.00 -	—65.00
Food Pantry	\$100.00—	\$170.00
Mow & Snow		\$20.00
Maintenance		105.00
Totals for 12/26 - 1/2	\$11259.00—	\$6145.00

Remember to pray for the sick of our parish: 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 IS OPEN DAILY FROM 9AM TO NOON MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO NEEDS HELP PLEASE LET THEM KNOW. 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,still have \$7824 dollars to go. Try to get this one done if everyone pitches in we can reach our Goal. We have not gotten any donations lately, try to give something every little bit helps. We did it last Year, I know we can do it again!!!!!!

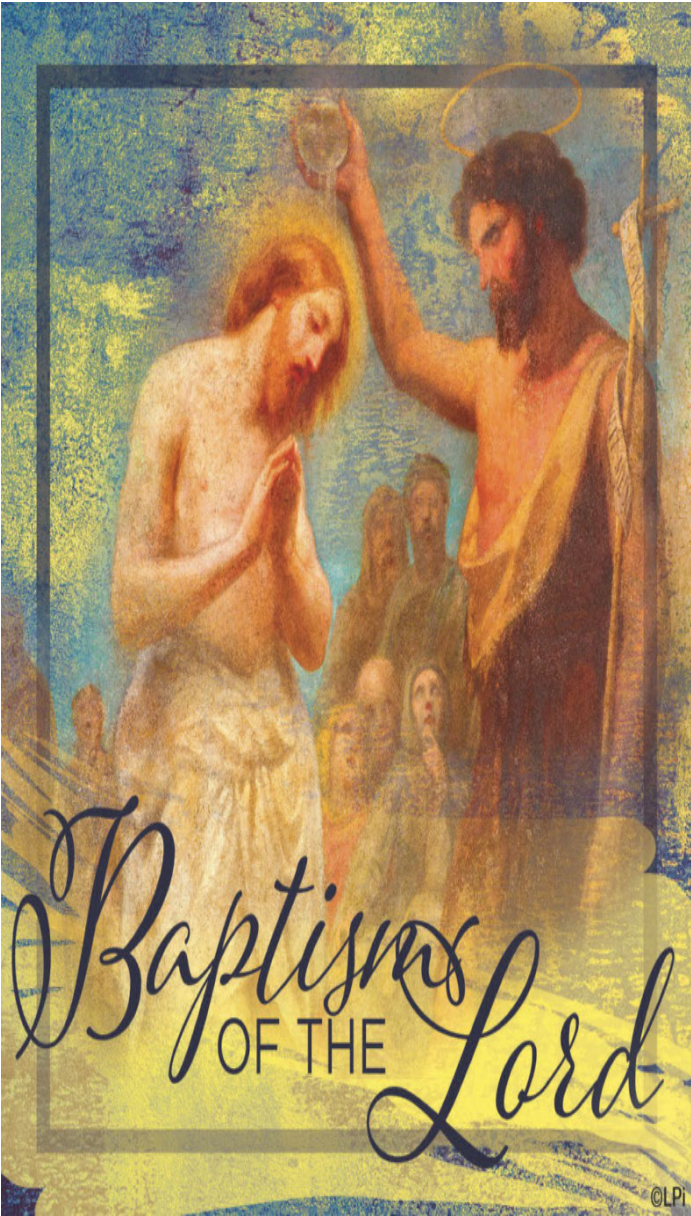
We will be mailing out Time and Talent Sheets with Financial Statements, we are going to try to count money on Monday’s maybe get more help. I have counted money as a volunteer for six years with only 3 Sunday’s off. Would like to have some more help the pandemic didn’t help but feel we should get back to some sense of normalcy going to start listing people in the Bulletin as soon as the sheets come in. Will have Altar server Training in the near future for new altar servers and anyone who wants a Refresher course. Will let you know time and details next week.

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

In the Eastern Church this feast is called Theophany because at the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the Baptism of Christ. It moved men to sentiments of repentance and induced them to confess their sins. Christ did not need the baptism of John. Although He appeared in the "substance of our flesh" and was recognized "outwardly like unto ourselves", He was absolutely sinless and impeccable. He conferred upon the water the power of the true Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world".

Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin.

ONE LORD
ONE FAITH
ONE BAPTISM



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