

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 THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 23, 2022

Parish Staff

Pastor, Rev. Michael J. Erpelding
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Director of Faith Formation, Michelle Rethman
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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: What do you believe that the anointing you received at Baptism requires you to do?

Children: What could you do this week for someone who has less than you?

The Pastor's Toolbox

Ezra Reads the Law

At the end of the 6th century B.C. the people of Israel returned home from exile in Iraq. They were embittered and despondent when they realized that Jerusalem was in ruins. This malaise affected their faith. After all, God had seemingly abandoned them. Something had to be done to revive the religion. Ezra, a priest at the site of the former Temple, decided to hold a mass public Bible reading. He set up a podium near one of the main gates of the city. Other Temple assistants followed his example. The words of Scripture so moved the people that they began crying. The Word of God inspired them to revitalize their faith.

The Mystical Body of Christ

Paul teaches that there is a spiritual link between all Christians. He illustrates this idea with an analogy to the human body. It is a composite of many different organs. Though each is technically independent they work together for the benefit of the whole person. The source of this unity is the soul. In the same way, the members of the Church are autonomous but harmonize because of the Holy Spirit. Though we do not all play the same role or have the same talents we can work together for the good of the entire Community. Paul mentions some of the ministries that blend for this good: apostles, prophets, teachers, activists, healers, service, administration and preachers. © 2000 by Father Richard Lonsdale

—Father 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 24		No Mass	
Tuesday	January 25	9:00 AM	Bert & Ella Ullrich	St. Joseph
Wednesday	January 26	9:00 AM	Father Patrick O'Kane	St. John
Thursday	January 27	9:00 AM	For the Parishioners of St. Bernard, St. John & St. Joseph	St. Joseph
Friday	January 28	9:00 AM	Donnie Parks	St. John
Saturday	January 29	4:00 PM	Betty Mareau	St. Joseph
Sunday	January 30	9:00 AM	Darrell Hewitt	St. John
		11:00 AM	Bonnie & Wally Parker	St. Joseph

Religious Education News

Here's the schedule through February:

January	
26 th	Classes 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
February	
2 nd	Classes 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
9 th	Classes 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
16 th	Classes 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
23 rd	Classes 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Religious Education -- Cancellation Policy: A reminder, 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.

January and Catholic Education: This month the Church celebrates several saints who dedicated their lives to Catholic education. These saints include St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (Jan. 4), John Neumann (Jan. 5), Thomas Aquinas (Jan. 28), and John Bosco (Jan. 31). Please pray for our catechists and students as we return to learning and growing in our Catholic faith.

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.** A class will also be offered at St. Joseph very soon. Please contact Michelle Rethman, 712-202-6641, for more information.

First Reconciliation:

Retreats: We will offer retreats for parents/guardians and children on the following dates:

St. John: Tuesday, January 25, 2022, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

St. Joseph: Wednesday, January 26, 2022, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. (during Religious Education classes).

This year we will celebrate the Sacrament of First Reconciliation as a prayer service so we may invite family and friends. The prayer services are as follows:

St. Joseph, Saturday, January 29, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

St. John, Sunday, January 30, 2022, 8:00 a.m.

Families, you may attend the retreat and service which best suits your family's schedule. Please watch your email for a Google document to RSVP for the retreat and the sacrament. Please contact Michelle Rethman, 712-202-6641, or more information.

St. John & St. Bernard Weekly Offering

January 16, 2022
Registered Families: 185

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$1358.00
E-Offering	\$374.70
Building Fund	\$175.00
Catholic Charities	
Needy Fund	
Grain	
Flowers	
Candles	
St. Bernard	\$75.00
Camp. For Human Dev.	
Christmas Offering	
Total for January 16, 2022	\$1982.70

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.

Knight of the Month: Fr. Patrick J. O'Kane...to honor his passing on 1-2-22 and to beseech our Lord to bless and hold dear the soul of our former priest and chaplain.

Family of the Month: The O'Kane family...for their love of God and undying love of the Catholic faith; underscored by Kathleen's, Bridget's, Peg's and Michael's love for each other, their family and friends as reflected in the beautiful life lived by their brother, Fr. Pat.

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.

“God Laughs”

What is a tree's favorite drink? *Root beer.*

What kind of ties can't you wear? *Railroad ties.*

What lies on its back, one hundred feet in the air?
A dead centipede.

St. Joseph Weekly Offering

January 16, 2022
Registered Families: 209

Envelopes and Loose Giving	\$1736.00
E-Offering	\$385.00
Boiler Fund	\$1000.00
Maintenance Fund	\$10.00
Windows	
Emergency	
Solemnity of Mary	
Candles	\$40.00
Food Pantry	
Mow & Snow	
Cemetery	
Total for January 16, 2022	\$3171.70

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, 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.

Altar Server Training: We will offer Altar Server Training on Sunday, January 30, 2022 immediately following the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Training will last until 2:00 p.m. This training is for all altar servers, new or seasoned servers who may desire a refresher course. If you can attend, please contact Mary Lynn Nelson. When you RSVP, please advise her which Mass time(s) you are available. We will serve pizza following training. *Thank you!*

TOGETHER AS ONE: Our Parish Goal for 2021 is \$22,079. As of today we have reached \$14,280. We still have \$7799 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!

Tabernacle Society: Ladies, please pay your \$15 annual dues. You may drop your dues into the Collection Box. Tabernacle Society dues help pay for parish funeral dinners, and receptions for First Communion and High School Graduation. Last year we were deficient in the collection dues. We need your help to host these parish events this year. Let's work together to get this done!

Deepest sympathy to the family of Hope Shreve who was buried from St. Joseph's on this past Thursday, may her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

FOOD PANTRY IS OPEN DAILY FROM 9AM TO NOON MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO NEEDS HELP PLEASE LET

THE STORY OF THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL

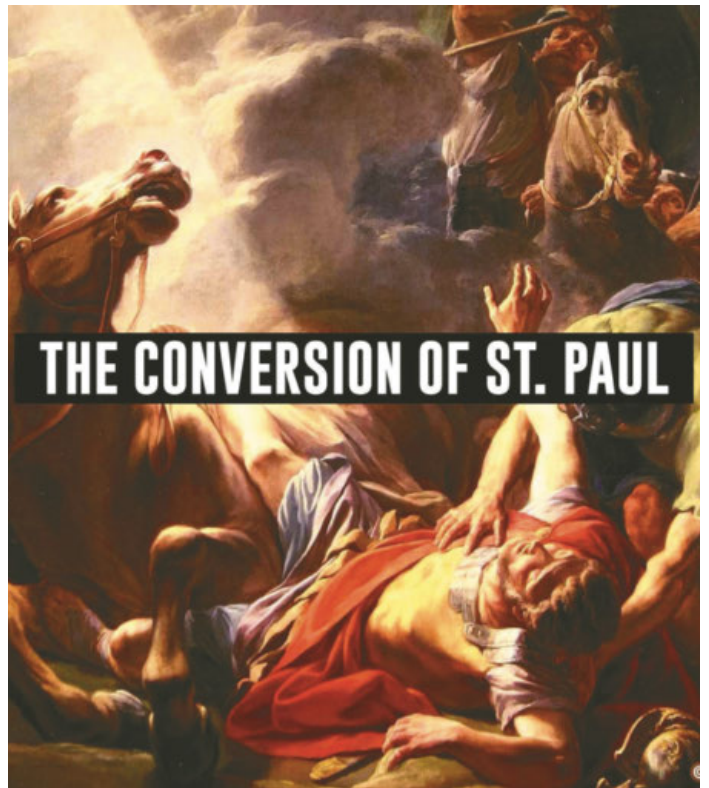
Saint Paul's entire life can be explained in terms of one experience—his meeting with Jesus on the road to Damascus. In an instant, he saw that all the zeal of his dynamic personality was being wasted, like the strength of a boxer swinging wildly. Perhaps he had never seen Jesus, who was only a few years older. But he had acquired a zealot's hatred of all Jesus stood for, as he began to harass the Church: "...entering house after house and dragging out men and women, he handed them over for imprisonment" (Acts 8:3b). Now he himself was "entered," possessed, all his energy harnessed to one goal—being a slave of Christ in the ministry of reconciliation, an instrument to help others experience the one Savior.

One sentence determined his theology: "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9:5b). Jesus was mysteriously identified with people—the loving group of people Saul had been running down like criminals. Jesus, he saw, was the mysterious fulfillment of all he had been blindly pursuing.

From then on, his only work was to "present everyone perfect in Christ. For this I labor and struggle, in accord with the exercise of his power working within me" (Colossians 1:28b-29). "For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and [with] much conviction" (1 Thessalonians 1:5a).

Paul's life became a tireless proclaiming and living out of the message of the cross: Christians die baptismally to sin and are buried with Christ; they are dead to all that is sinful and unredeemed in the world. They are made into a new creation, already sharing Christ's victory and someday to rise from the dead like him. Through this risen Christ the Father pours out the Spirit on them, making them completely new.

So Paul's great message to the world was: You are saved entirely by God, not by anything you can do. Saving faith is the gift of total, free, personal and loving commitment to Christ, a commitment that then bears fruit in more "works" than the Law could ever contemplate.



THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL

3RD SUNDAY *in ordinary time*

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor." - Lk 4:18a

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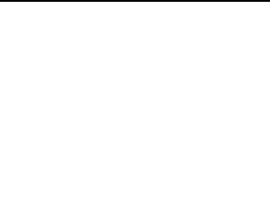


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