

The Lakes Catholic Community

St. Joseph Parish

1305 Okoboji Ave.

Milford, IA 51351 712-338-2274

FAX: 712-338-2191

www.stjosephmilford.org

St. Mary's Parish

1005 Hill Ave.

P.O. Box 354
Spirit Lake, IA 51360 712-336-1742

www.stmarysspiritlake.org

Rest *for the* Weary

Come to me, all you who
are weary and burdened, and

I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, July 26, 2026

News From St. Joseph Parish



WELCOME TO SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

We hope your visit here will be a prayerful time as you enjoy the lakes region. Please consider St. Joseph's as your church away from home.

Contact us at the Parish Office if we may serve you in any way.

We are committed to proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ and invite you to join us!

May the Holy Spirit lead us in living as a welcoming Catholic community.

SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

1305 Okoboji Ave.

Milford, IA 51351

OFFICE: 712-338-2274

FAX: 712-338-2191

stjosephmilford.org

Parish Office Hours:

Mon.- Thurs.: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fri.: 8 a.m. - 12 noon

Reconciliation:

3:15 pm Sat.

8:15 am Sun.

Bulletin Deadline:

Tuesday 12 noon

Mass Schedule:

Winter

Saturday at 4 p.m.

Sunday at 9 a.m.

Summer

Saturday at 4 p.m.

Sunday at 7 and 9 a.m.

Are you new to the community? Would you like to join St. Joseph Parish? Just fill out the coupon below and return to the office, in the collection basket or online.

NAME: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____



PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY from the St. Joseph Parish Family to:

✓ Greg Forney and family on the death of his mother, +Gracia Forney, 90, of Spirit Lake and formerly of Rodney, IA., who died Monday, July 13, 2026. Services were held Friday, July 17 at Rodney; and to

✓ Chris Bjornstad and family on the death of his brother, +John Bjornstad, of Okoboji, who died Tues., July 14, 2026. Services were held Thursday, July 23 at Warner Funeral Home, in Spencer; and to

✓ Jean Schmidt and family on the death of her husband, +Ervin, who died Saturday, July 18. His Mass of Christian Burial will be Monday, Aug. 3, 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph.



St. Joseph Arts Council presents "Karess and Ryan in Concert", Sunday, August 9, 2026, 2 p.m. at St. Joseph, in Milford. Free Will Offering. Reception follows.



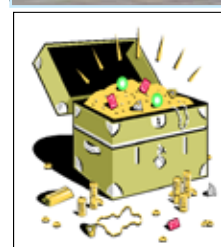
THANK YOU to Funeral Group 6 for serving our dad's funeral luncheon. We appreciate your work on our behalf.

The Family of +Jack Yore

THANK YOU for your recent gift of \$1,000 to Making Waves at Historic Arnolds Park, Inc. Your investment in the future of our program enables us to fulfill our commitment to future generations.

Chris Steinbach, Dir. of Development

Clothing Room Update - Please remember that clothing donations to the Clothing Room must be on hangers. No bags or boxes are being accepted. Thanks to all who have stopped to volunteer their help.



Treasure Chest Update

Unfortunately, the Treasure Chest Garage Sale is overrun with items and asking that no

additional items be contributed at this point. The next sale is Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Aug. 27-29. Thursday's hours are 4 to 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday hours are 7 to 11 a.m. We have plenty of new items stored in the school, that were contributed earlier, that we can easily stock this sale.



IT'S PIE TIME...the Knights of Columbus will make their mouth-watering pies Aug. 22, 29 and Sept. 12. Pies will be available for sale on Aug. 22-23, Aug. 29-30 and Sept. 12-13. Only three baking days so respond quickly. Pies will also be available at the parish office during regular business hours. Cost is \$15 each. Once they are gone, they are gone!

Sign Up for Notifications

If you would like to be notified by email or text message when Adoration and/or Mass is cancelled or rescheduled, please contact Susan in the parish office at sjoffice@thelakescatholic.church. Please include your first and last name, email address, and phone number in the request, and indicate whether you would like to be notified of schedule changes for Adoration, Mass, or both and/or church updates.

News From St. Joseph Parish



Take a moment now to mark your calendar with these events.

Sat., Aug. 8: 8 a.m. to noon, private meeting in Parish Center.

Sun., Aug. 9, 2 p.m.: Karess and Ryan in concert. Free will offering.

Mon., Aug. 10: 3 p.m., 4th Degree Knights of Columbus meeting in kitchen and parish hall.

Mon., Aug. 10: 6 to 9 .m. Religious Education meeting, overflow.

Mon., Aug. 10: 6:30 p.m. St. Monica Holy Hour

Fri., Aug. 14: 5:30 p.m. Assumption of Mary Mass

Fri., Aug. 14: Rehearsal dinner in Parish Center for Huss/Bork wedding

Sun., Aug. 16: Fr. Hemann's 67th birthday. Card shower. Cards can be sent to him at 1305 Okoboji Ave., Milford, IA 51351.

Sat., Aug. 22: 7 a.m. KC pie making and sales.

Sat./Sun. Aug. 22-23; Aug. 29-30 & Sept. 12-13: KC pies on sale at Mass. \$15 each. Limited number available this year.

Capital Campaign

St. Joseph is seeking contributions to our building fund for the Capital Campaign to pay for the new roof and parking lot. Specially marked envelopes are in the pews. Donations can be made online at stjosephmilford.org, in person at the office, or in an envelope in the weekly collection at church.

Ministry Schedule

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, August 1st @ 4 p.m.

EMHC: Larry Arndt, Patrick Carr, Irene McCoy

LECTOR: Lois Eckard

SERVERS: John Garcia, Brian Oyler

HOSPITALITY: Jim Baumgard, Anne Donovan, Doug Heller, Eldon Kraninger

Sunday, August 2nd @ 7 a.m.

EMHC: Bev Kruger, Terri & Tom Rierson

LECTOR: Cheryl Houseman

SERVERS: Eli Cable, Ceceila Johnson

HOSPITALITY: Joel & Karen Naber, Michael & Sharon Sjoblom

Sunday, August 2nd @ 9 a.m.

EMHC: Bill & Cheryl Aumer, Pete & Sara Laven, Jim & Laurie Murray

LECTOR: Karen Schwaller

SERVERS: Dulce Diaz, Sherlyn Santos

HOSPITALITY: Jennifer Prentice, Lorna Kruger, Curt & Susan Willette

LIVESTREAM: Scott and Joni Neppel



PRAY for these members: Mike Laake, Kenneth Koeppen, Mark Foss, Jolene Rubis, JoAnn Chaffin, Ervin Schmidt, Linda DeMuth, Rick Barry, Jan Nau and Terry Abbas.

Non-Members: Lyle Calvert, Keli King, Janaan McGinness, Ryan Naatjes, Rhonda Wittrock Repinski, Christine Petersen, JoAnn Baxter, Chris Swartz, Bennett Jones and Kate Jensen. Please call to place your loved one on the list. Requests must be made by family members.

Scam Emails and Texts

At times you may get an email or text message stating that the pastor or a parish staff member needs you to send them gift cards or some other form of exchange of money. Those messages are scams. Please do not reply to those emails or texts.

Homebound Ministry

If you or someone you know is Catholic and homebound and would like to receive communion at home, please contact the parish office at 338-2274 to be added to our homebound ministry list.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 25

4 p.m.: +Charles Reckard

Sunday, July 26

7 a.m.: For The People

9 a.m.: +Tutti Willison

11 a.m.: +Kay Gengler

Monday, July 27

No Mass Today

Tuesday, July 28

5:30 p.m.: +Charles McCabe

Wednesday, July 29

7:30 a.m.: Liv/Dec CDA members

Thursday, July 30

7:30 a.m.: +Irma Reiser

Friday, July 31

7:30 a.m.: +Verlyn Kramer

Saturday, August 1

4 p.m.: +Nancy Meinen

Sunday, August 2

7 a.m.: For The People

9 a.m.: +Thomas Muhlbauer

JUST A NOTE....We will return to our regular summer schedule next weekend, Aug. 1-2. Masses will be at 4 p.m. Saturday and 7 and 9 a.m. on Sundays.



Monday, July 27

No Mass Today

7:30 p.m.: AA meets in Nazaeth Hall

Tuesday, July 28

2 p.m.: Eucharistic Adoration

5:15 p.m.: Benediction

5:30 p.m.: Mass

Wednesday, July 29

7:30 a.m.: Mass

Thursday, July 30

8 a.m.: Bible Study

8 a.m.: Soup Kitchen, Sioux City.

7:30 a.m.: Mass

Friday, July 31

7:30 a.m.: Mass

Saturday, August 1

4 p.m.: Mass

Sunday, August 2

7 a.m.: Mass

9 a.m.: Mass



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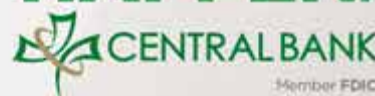
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DURA LIFT
MARINE



The Milford Council meets the 4th
Thursday of each month at
6 p.m. Contact: Joel Naber,
712-330-6868.

The Spirit Lake Council meets the
1st Monday of each month at
6 p.m. Contact: Jed Skogerboe,
712-330-8892.

For insurance questions, contact
Rob Waterhouse, 712-320-0269

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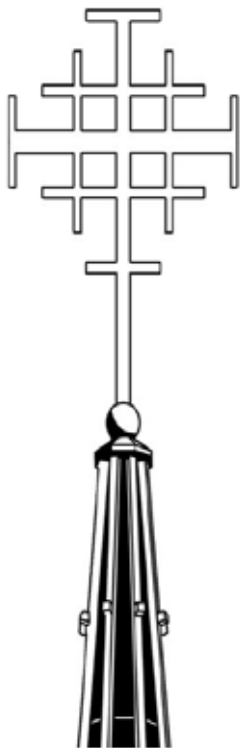
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News From St. Mary's Parish



Congratulations

Congratulations to Palmer Bernard Sonstegard, child of Shepard and Alycia Sonstegard, who was baptized here at St. Mary's on July 17, 2026. Blessings to the Sonstegard family, and welcome Palmer!



COR Men's Prayer and Faith Discussion

The next COR Men's Prayer & Faith Discussion session will take place on Monday, August 3rd, 17th, and 31st at 6:30 a.m. at St. Mary's. All men of the parish are invited to attend! Bring your coffee and join in lively and heart warming discussion!

Sunday Breakfast

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a breakfast on August 16. Please join us for a fantastic breakfast and fellowship.

Summer Mass Schedule

Our summer Mass schedule at St. Mary's is 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on Sunday.



WELCOME TO SAINT MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

We hope your visit here will be a prayerful time as you enjoy the lakes region. Please consider St. Mary's as your church away from home. Contact us at the Parish Office if we may serve you in any way.

We are committed to proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ and invite you to join us! May the Holy Spirit lead us in living as a welcoming Catholic community.

SAINT MARY'S
1005 Hill Avenue
P.O. Box 354
Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360
OFFICE: 712-336-1742
stmarysspiritlake.org

Parish Office Hours:

Open 8 a.m. to Noon

Monday-Friday

Reconciliation:

4:45 p.m. Sat;

9:45 a.m. Sun; 11:30 a.m. Wed

Bulletin Deadline

Monday at 8 a.m.

Mass Schedule:

Summer:

Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

St. Mary Parish
In Search of a
Meal Provider

Role Description

- Provide Meals for Religious Education on Wednesday evenings
 - meal planning
 - shopping
 - cooking
 - organizing volunteers to help serve and clean up after meals

Contact
Fr. Hemann for more information

Meals to be served on Wednesdays at 6:15pm on:

- 2026 Meals:
 - 9/9, 10/14, 11/11, 12/9,
- 2027 Meals
 - 1/20, 2/24, 3/17, and 4/14

How to Get the Diocesan News

Be sure you are signed up to receive the free LumeNotes e-newsletter in your email inbox. Receive links to news articles, briefs, photos, videos and the Illuminating Catholics podcast. Email news@scdiocese.org to sign up. Find the news anytime at lumenmedia.org.

Prayer Chain

All Confidential Prayer Chain requests may be directed to Jean Mohr, our Prayer Chain Coordinator, at 712-320-0748. Prayer intentions may be entered in the prayer request book, which can be found in the narthex of the church.

New Parishioner Registration

If you are a new parishioner at St. Mary's, we welcome you to register with our parish. Simply go to our parish website (stmarysspiritlake.org), and click on "Parish Registration" at the top of the page. Then complete the form, and click "Submit". We look forward to serving you here at St. Mary's!

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News From St. Mary's Parish

This Week's Mass schedule

Monday, July 27

12:00 p.m.: +Ron Resch

Tuesday, July 28

No Mass Today

Wednesday, July 29

12 noon: +Mona Matuska

Thursday, July 30

5:30 p.m.: +Norma & +Dean Seehusen

Friday, July 31

12 noon: +Pat Townsend

Saturday, August 1

5:30 p.m.: +Delphine Demers

Sunday, August 2

8:30 a.m.: +Jane Schmidt

10:30 a.m.: L & D of St. Mary's



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE



Monday, July 27

10:30 a.m.: St. Monica's Ministry
Holy Hour (church)

12:00 p.m.: Mass

Tuesday, July 28

No Events Today

Wednesday, July 29

11:30 a.m.: Confession

12:00 p.m.: Mass

Thursday, July 30

2 p.m.: Adoration

5:30 p.m.: Mass

Friday, July 31

12:00 p.m.: Mass

Saturday, August 1

4:45 p.m.: Confession

5:30 p.m.: Mass

Sunday, August 2

8:30 a.m.: Mass

9 a.m.: Lectio Divina Group, clsmr

9:45 a.m.: Confession

10:30 a.m.: Mass

Save the Date!

Gus Lloyd is coming to our parishes for a Day of Lenten Renewal on Saturday March 6, 2027! Who is Gus Lloyd? Gus was the host of the daily morning show on the Catholic Channel on Sirius XM (Channel 129) for 19 years. He retired in December. Gus lives in Tampa, Florida and travels the country to speak about Catholicism, motivating people to become all that God desires them to be. To find more about Gus, you can go to his Facebook page, website (<https://guslloyd.com/>), or YouTube page (@RealGusLloyd). Gus posts a daily reflection on the readings from the daily Mass. Please stay tuned for more information on this Day of Lenten Renewal featuring Gus Lloyd.

IRA Required Minimum Distribution

Over 73? Use your IRA Required Minimum Distribution for good, benefitting St. Mary's Church. To learn more, contact the Diocese of Sioux City Office of Stewardship & Development at 712-233-7523 or e-mail michelles@scdio-cese.org.

Build a New Life Workshop

The Diocese of Sioux City has partnered with Abounding Joy Ministries and their upcoming Build a New Life Workshop! Build a New Life is a Christ-centered, online support and healing Intensive created especially for Catholics experiencing the pain of marital stress, separation, divorce, or annulment. Led by certified Catholic Divorce Healing Coach Carolyn Klika Catino, this 12-week journey provides tools for emotional healing, spiritual renewal, and practical rebuilding — grounded in the truth and love of the Church. The next workshop begins on September 3! Use coupon code SIOU-100F26 for a discounted rate. Unsure if this is for you? Join an informational webinar on August 4. Visit www.aboundingjoyministry.com/events for more information.

Ministry Schedule

The Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, August 1st @ 5:30 .m.

EMHC: Mary Brevik, Linda Hansen, Jean Mohr

LECTOR: Dave Hansen

SERVERS: Noah Dahm, Jack Delaney

HOSPITALITY: Jim Carney, Kevin Delaney, Kim & Mark Ingwersen
Sunday, August 2nd @ 8:30a

EMHC: Ron Crowley, Kellie Ferguson, Cyndy Powers

LECTOR: Sharon Crowley

SERVERS: JR Sandy, Tommy Sandy

HOSPITALITY: Dale Vortherms, Jim Wiese, Doug Zemler

Sunday, August 2nd @ 10:30 a.m.

EMHC: Shawna Ditsworth, Kim Kirschbaum, Teres Townsend, Pam Wingert

LECTOR: Sylvia Jennings

SERVERS: Layne Jacobsma, Hayes Steichen

HOSPITALITY: Mike Davis, Alan Ditsworth, Kerri & Korey Robinson

ONLINE: Greg Rolling

Following is general information that may be helpful to you.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

Thursday from 2 to 5:15 p.m.

BAPTISMS:

Complete the Baptism In-Take form on the parish website. Contact Cynthia at smoffice@thelakescatholic.church or 712-339-4554 to schedule a pre-baptism class.

MARRIAGE:

Contact Ali Oyler at 712-320-8527 or lurgy@thelakescatholic.church at least six months before the date of the wedding.

CONFESSIONS:

Wednesday at 11:30 a.m., Saturday at 4:45 p.m. and Sunday at 9:45 a.m.



A Note From Fr. Hemann

This weekend's readings remind us of a truth that our world desperately needs to hear: heaven must be our number one priority. Solomon asks God not for wealth, power, or a long life, but for wisdom. In the Gospel, Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a treasure hidden in a field and a pearl of great price—something so valuable that a person gladly gives up everything else to possess it.

We spend much of our lives pursuing good things: success, security, possessions, recognition, and comfort. Yet Jesus asks us a simple question: What is your greatest treasure? If we gain the whole world but lose God, what have we really gained? The riches, pleasures, and achievements of this life cannot satisfy the deepest longing of the human heart. Without God, we eventually discover that even having everything leaves us with nothing.

On the other hand, if we have God, then even when life seems difficult, uncertain, or lacking in worldly success, we possess the one thing that truly matters. In Christ we have forgiveness, hope, purpose, and the promise of eternal life. More than that, we discover who we truly are. We are not merely workers, consumers, or citizens of this world. Through baptism we have become sons and daughters of God. Our dignity does not come from what we own, accomplish, or achieve. It comes from belonging to Him.

The saints understood this well. They were willing to sacrifice comfort, wealth, and even their lives because they had found the Pearl of Great Price. They knew that God is not simply one priority among many. He is the foundation of every priority.

As we gather for Mass this weekend, let us ask ourselves: What am I seeking first? What treasure am I pursuing? May the Lord give us the wisdom of Solomon and the faith to recognize that the Kingdom of Heaven is worth more than anything this world can offer. For if we have the whole world and do not have God, we have nothing. But if we have God—even when we seem to have little—we have everything, and we become who we were created to be: His beloved sons and daughters.

- Common Ground -

Ministry Support Specialist Needed

Are you organized, friendly, and looking to serve our parish community? St. Mary's Church is hiring a full-time Ministry Support Specialist to help manage our busy parish office and activities. Duties include answering phones, greeting visitors, coordinating parish activities and communications, coordinating calendars and facility bookings, and supporting our ministry leaders. An ability to learn and use electronic systems is required. If you are interested in applying for this position, please submit an application and resume to Fr. Hemann or the parish office. Applications are available on the counter in the narthex.

Stewardship REPORT

"The law of your mouth is to me more precious than thousands of gold and silver pieces," says the Psalmist today. Does the amount of my offering suggest that I could honestly say the same?

ST. JOSEPH FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP July 11-12, 2026 Att: 1,476

Adult: \$5,039.00
Online Offertory: \$2,585.00
Loose: \$3,931.86
Quilt: \$25.00
Candles: \$95.00
Bldg. 2nd Coll.: \$2,726.00
Endowment: \$5.00
WOMO: \$77.00

ST. MARY'S FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP July 18-19, 2026 Att: 1,145

Adult: \$4,180.00
Loose: \$2,827.00
Online Offertory: \$840.00
Votive: \$41.25
Dollar Collection: \$506.00

**YOUR GIVING
MATTERS!**

The Lakes Catholic Community Staff

Fr. David Hemann, Pastor

pastor@thelakescatholic.church 712-320-8526 (direct) or 712-338-2274 (office)

The St. Mary Staff

Cynthia Gniadek.....Office Manager
smoffice@thelakescatholic.church .. 712-339-4554

The St. Joseph Staff

Susan Reiser.....Business Manager
sjoffice@thelakescatholic.church 712-338-2274

Joint Staff

Deacon Darwin Messerly
Deacon Ken Lindquist

Teresa Goehring.....Director of Youth Ministry
Steph Jacobsma.....Youth Ministry Assistant
Erin Lorch.....Director of Faith Formation
Ali Oyler.....Director of Liturgy/Music

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