Monday December 26 8:00 a.m.–At SJ  
Tuesday December 27 8:00 a.m.–At SJ  
Wednesday December 28 8:00 a.m.–At SJ  
Thursday December 29 8:00 a.m.–At OLMC  
Friday December 30 8:00 a.m.–At SJ  
Saturday December 31 5:30 p.m.–At SJ  
Sunday January 1 8:00 a.m.–At OLMC  
10:00 a.m.–At SB

Eucharistic Ministers:  Deacon Greg  
Ministers:  Tom & Julie Eich  

Ushears/Greeters:  Chris & Brenda Johnson  
Gift Bearers:  Jacob & Colin Johnson  

Servers:  Jacob Blum, Colin Johnson  
Readers:  Mary Jo Berning  

Rosary Leaders:  Bob & Sue Hackfort  
Money Counters:  Mary Jo Berning

Finances for Week of December 17/18
St. John  
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel  
St. Bernard
Church Support-Adult $ 6,058.00  
Church Support-Adult $ 5,459.29  
Church Support-Adult $20,635.00  
Church Support-Child $ 5.00  
Church Support-Child $ 0.00  
Church Support-Child $ 0.00  
Loose Offering $ 280.00  
Loose Offering $ 18.00  
Loose Offering $ 47.00  
Bazaar Fund II $ 2,675.00  
Candle Money $ 5.00  
Catholic Charities $ 200.00  
Catholic Charities $ 0.00  
Catholic Charities $ 25.00  
Budgeted Mo. Giving $15,350.00  
Budgeted Mo. Giving $15,000.00  
Budgeted Mo. Giving $20,000.00  
Expenses for the Week $ 9,620.96  
Expenses for the Week $ 9,709.97  
Expenses for the Week $29,813.37  
Expenses for the Month $23,120.02  
Expenses for the Month $11,935.26  
Expenses for the Month $35,929.07  

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR: Merry Christmas!! Thank to everyone for your Christmas cards and gifts. I am deeply grateful to be with you on our journey to God.

This Christmas EVERYONE [every family, every college student, every visitor] will be given a copy of the new book from Matthew Kelly, Resisting Happiness [unless all are given out] as he addresses why we resist happiness in short chapters designed for busy people. Resistance plays a powerful role in each of our lives every day. In a deeply personal way, Matthew Kelly helps readers discover that only by unmasking resistance and defeating it in their own lives can they really experience the happiness God created them to experience.

Check out our parish website and Facebook pages for more news [which does not fit into this bulletin] regarding the pending announcement in January regarding the Diocesan Pastoral Plan 2025, on Mass Offerings, and from Kuemper.

Please remember your parish in your will......Your bequest is a testimony to your faith in our future. —Fr. Mark

For All Parishes:  
- CATHOLIC CHARITIES ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COLLECTION: Catholic Charities provides counseling services to women who are struggling with an unplanned pregnancy. Because of receiving these services, unborn children have been saved and given up for adoption to families who are able to provide loving homes. Services are provided to these women at no cost to them due to the

Diocesan Annual Appeal – To Date
St. John  
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel  
St. Bernard
Goal: $7,637.00  
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel $6,172.00  
St. Bernard $9,565.00  
Pledged: $8,897.00  
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel $4,680.00  
St. Bernard $5,750.00  
# of Pledges Returned: 76/144  
56/116  
81/189

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: St. Bernard’s – Sunday’s 9:30-9:45am. and by appointment

St. John’s – Saturday’s 5:00-5:15 p.m. and by appointment, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel – Sunday’s 7:30-7:45 a.m. and by appointment

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: St. Bernard’s – Sunday’s 9:30-9:45am. and by appointment

St. John’s – Saturday’s 5:00-5:15 p.m. and by appointment, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel – Sunday’s 7:30-7:45 a.m. and by appointment

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: St. Bernard’s – Sunday’s 9:30-9:45am. and by appointment

St. John’s – Saturday’s 5:00-5:15 p.m. and by appointment, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel – Sunday’s 7:30-7:45 a.m. and by appointment
generosity of donors who give at the annual Christmas collection each year. We will take a SECOND COLLECTION after Holy Communion at the Christmas Eve and Day Masses.

- **THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**, January 1, is a HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION. Masses will be celebrated Saturday, December 31, 5:30 p.m. at St. John the Baptist; and Sunday, January 1, 8:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Mount Carmel and 10:00 a.m. at St. Bernard.

- **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION** updating will be offered by Fr. Mark and Deacon Greg for all current EMOHC (including those who take Holy Communion to the sick and homebound) at the following times and locations: St. Bernard-Wednesday January 4, 7:00 p.m.; Our Lady of Mount Carmel-Wednesday January 11, 7:00 p.m.; St. John-Wednesday January 18, 7:00 p.m. This will not be more than an hour-long session.

- **BAPTISM CLASS** … if you are expecting a child or wishing to baptize a child, please contact the pastor to register for baptism class (if this is your first child or if it has been more than five years since the baptism of your previous child). The Church asks us to baptize as soon as possible after the birth of a child. Baptism is often celebrated outside of Mass. Baptism may also be celebrated during Mass. In fact, it is preferred to celebrate baptisms during Mass especially if both parents are Catholic as we have a larger community present to welcome the new child of God. Celebrating Baptism during Mass adds only a few minutes to the Mass. The date of Baptism is to be arranged with the pastor after completion of a Baptism Class [held quarterly]. The next Baptism Class is Thursday January 12, 7:00 p.m. in the Family Ministry Room at St. Bernard-Breda.

- **CATHOLICISM: THE PIVOTAL PLAYERS** will help us discover the figures who shaped the Church and changed the world. In each session we watch a DVD presentation by Bishop Robert Barron as he discusses one of the six people he believes has left an imprint on the work of the Church over the Centuries. We will continue our series of faith formation sessions on Sunday evening, January 8, 6:30 p.m. with St. Francis of Assisi: The Reformer, Part II in the Family Ministry room in the St. Bernard school building. There is no fee. Please join us even if you missed Part I.

- **COLLECTION ENVELOPES** from any of these three parishes may be placed in any of the three parishes collection baskets and your contribution will be forwarded to your parish.

- **DAA 2016**, the Bishop’s Diocesan Annual Appeal, assists with supporting Catholic ministries, your parish and our diocese, including pastoral, educational, spiritual and human services that benefit thousands of families throughout the 24 counties in the Diocese of Sioux City. Please return your pledge card in the collection basket or make a donation online at http://scdioce.org/daa/. Thank you to everyone who has returned your card.

- **CONTACT INFORMATION** for Fr. Mark and other parish office staff may be found on our website under ABOUT/STAFF and ABOUT/CONTACT US.

- **PERSONS WISHING TO JOIN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**, whether baptized in another faith or unbaptized and over the age of seven [7], may contact the pastor at any time of the year to begin the process known as RCIA [Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults] /RCIC [Rite of Christian Initiation of Children].

- **The Arcadia Blood Drive** will be Thursday, December 29th from 12:30 – 5:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall. For an appointment please call Sue at 689-2318. Walk-ins are also welcome. You can also download the Blood Donor App at redcrossblood.org to set up an appointment. Also you can speed up the process by doing your history at Rapid Pass.

- **The Catholic Daughters** will meet on January 5th at the Orchard View Chapel. Rosary at 9:00 and Mass at 9:30 followed by rolls and coffee.

- **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Pancake Breakfast** will be held on Sunday, January 9th at the Mt. Carmel Parish Hall from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Adults $7; Children (5-10) $5. Serving fresh homemade pancakes, sausages & eggs.

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**St. John: Parish Office, Julie Eich, 712-689-2595, Hours: Mon & Fri. 7:30 a.m.-1:30 a.m.**

- **READER OF GOD’S WORD [LECTORS] TRAINING** will be offered by Fr. Mark and Deacon Greg for all persons [boys, girls, men, and women] who have received their First Eucharist and are in the 5th grade and older at St. John on Wednesday December 28, 7:00 p.m. All current Readers of God’s Word [Lectors] are encouraged to attend hour-long session for some updating so all may help proclaim the Word of God clearly and understandingly so that all who hear may respond. Youth Readers [grades 5-8] will be assigned the First Reading.

- **Weekday Masses** will be at 8 a.m. for the winter. Also, as we enter the winter season, if school is cancelled or having a late start, no weekday Mass that day.

- **The church support envelopes for 2017** are available in the back of Church.

- **Help is needed** and appreciated in taking down the Christmas decorations following 5:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday, January 7th. Thank you in advance.

- **WANTED: Bids are being taken** for someone to do snow removal of the church sidewalks & steps. A snow blower & blower vac are provided. Please contact the parish office (689-2595).

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**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel: Parish Office, Cindy Masching, 712-673-2582, Hours: Mon.- Fri. 9 a.m.—4 p.m.**

- **The Pancake Breakfast Envelopes** will be available in the back of church this weekend for parishioners to pick up.

- **Raffle Items** are needed for the upcoming Parish Breakfast. Please contact Ann Haberl at 830-7748 or Jen Puden at 830-5625.

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**St. Bernard: Parish Office, Cindy Masching, 712-673-2582, Hours: Mon.- Fri. 9 a.m.—4 p.m.**

- **St. Bernard Ministers Ministry Schedules** for January-February-March 2017 are in the back of Church for Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Servers, Greeters, Gift Bearers, Rosary Leaders, Ushers, Money Counters, and Musicians.

- **Get your early bird Valentine dance tickets!** Now is the time to start thinking about getting your early bird tickets for the St. Bernard’s annual Valentine Dance. This year’s event will be held Saturday, February 18, 2016, at the Breda American Legion Hall. The evening will start with a happy hour from 6-7 PM followed by a dinner catered by Lidderdale Country Store. Tickets are $75.00 each. Entertainment will be provided by Brad Morgan. Cash drawings will be held throughout the night. Get your tickets before January 8, 2017 to be entered into an early bird drawing to win one of 2 $50 cash prizes! Semi-formal dress is required. For more information, purchase tickets or donate please contact any of the committee members: Brian and Kayla Tiefenthaler (830-5166), Alex and Erin Koster (210-2244), Aaron and Alyce Nieland (830-1823), Kevin and Stephanie Neumayer (830-4914), Devin and Mimi Puden (790-2553), Aaron and Carrie Schulz (970-9617).

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**Kueumper News:**

- **Preschool Registration:** Preschool registration for the 2017-2018 school year is now open! Visit www.kuemper.org to register. This is a state funded program and tuition free. Students must be 4 years old by September 15, 2017.

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**Merry Christmas**