

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

218 N. 6th St., Nebraska City, NE 68410

Telephone: 402-873-3024

Website: stmarysnebraskacity.com

Pastor: Very Rev. Michael G. McCabe

Associate Pastor: Rev. Michael A. Ventre

Sunday Mass - Schedule: Saturday: 6:30 p.m. & Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Weekday Mass Schedule: St. Mary's Hospital Chapel - Monday-Friday - 6:20 a.m.; St. Mary's Church - Monday-Saturday - 8:00 a.m.

Perpetual Adoration - St. Mary's Hospital Chapel: Monday - 6:00 a.m. thru Saturday - 12:00 a.m. - Pam Gress, 402-969-0556

Confessions: Saturday, 4-5 p.m. or by appointment CCD Coordinator - Diane Denniston, 402-242-2631

Parish Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday-Friday - 9:00-11:00 a.m. & 1:30-4:00 p.m., 873-3024

Prayer Chain: email: Patrice Wulf, 873-6848 (wulfpak@windstream.net) or calling tree: Kathy Duffy, 873-7576

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER - SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017

PRAY FOR THE SICK - Sr. Kathleen Kilp, O.S.F., Shirley Gruber, Mike Crunk, Kim Kelly, Lacie Bruns-Morris, Kathy Gilbert, Kala Griepenstroh, Leonard Kreifels, Albert Burger, Boston Thomasson, Janet McVay, Bill Albert, John Davis, Donna Thoms, Lexis Bruns-Morris, Lois Harris, Juanita Kreifels, Laurence DuBois, Adam Eppert, Mary Jo Ventre, Ann Spalti, Pat Bowman, Kenneth Russell and all parishioners who are homebound, hospitalized, in nursing homes and all the intentions listed in our Book of Intentions. Please feel welcome to add names to our prayer list by calling the parish office. Due to the privacy act, the person must grant their permission for their name to be printed in the bulletin. Thank you for your prayers.

PLEASE PRAY for the happy repose of the soul Gene Osborne.

PLEASE PRAY for our seminarians Trenton Smith, William Vogel, James O'Neil and Brian Wirth and vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Thank you.

PLEASE PRAY for the success of the renovation and expansion campaign "Visions for a Vibrant and Faith-Filled Future" of Lourdes Central Catholic Schools.

WELCOME to all our visitors and guests. If you have recently moved to Nebraska City and would like to register as a member of St. Mary's Church, we invite you to stop by or call the parish office.

BULLETIN NOTICES: Please submit all bulletin notices by **Monday at 11:00 a.m.** in writing either by e-mail to stmbulletin@windstream.net (preferred) or to the parish office.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: ADORERS NEEDED on Mondays and Tuesdays from 3-4 p.m. If you are able to be an adorer during these hours, please call Pam Gress. Eucharistic Adoration is held beginning on Monday following the 6:20 a.m. Mass and ends at 12:00 a.m. Saturday morning at CHI Health-St. Mary's Hospital Chapel. If you are not a regular scheduled adorer and would like to be or would like more information, please call Pam Gress, Coordinator, 402-969-0556. Everyone is always welcome to make a visit. Thank you to all of our scheduled adorers.

WELCOME to the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus who have come together for Corporal Communion today. Members will meet at Valentino's for brunch following Mass.

THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE will meet on Monday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the church hall. If you would like to learn more about the committee, you are welcome to attend or call our co-chairs, Julie Parker, 402-297-0677 or Scott & Jan O'Neil, 402-259-3325 or the parish office.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAS will meet on Tuesday, May 2 at 6:30 p.m. at El Portal Restaurant in Nebraska City for dinner and our monthly meeting. We will be discussing the upcoming salad luncheon scheduled for Wednesday, June 7. Every Catholic woman in a 30 mile radius is welcome to come and learn more about CDA. If you are already a member but haven't been to a meeting for a while we'd love to have you back. If you have any questions call Barb Stukenholtz at 402-209-4976 or Barb Jensen at 402-321-6819. We look forward to seeing you there.

LOURDES MUSICAL - "THE LITTLE MERMAID" will be performed in the Lourdes Theater on May 5-7. More information to follow next week. Show times: May 5 and 6 at 7:00 p.m. and May 7 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased on May 1 & 3 from 4-6 p.m. at the Box Office in the High School Music Room or at Tix.com. Cost is \$10.00. Questions or assistance, call Lesley Gould, 402-713-9319.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Come and support our students that will be attending National History Days in Washington, DC at a pancake breakfast next Sunday, May 7 from 8:30-12 p.m. Serving scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, orange juice and coffee. Students attending are Genna Wigington, Gina McGowen, Jazmin Rodriguez and Ashley Green. Free will donation.

CEMETERY SPRING CLEAN-UP: Volunteers are needed on Saturday, May 13 at 8:45 a.m. for the annual spring clean-up. Bring rakes, chain saws, etc. **FLAGS FOR MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND:** Volunteers are needed to help putting up flag on Friday, May 26 at 5:30 p.m. and to take down on Monday, May 29 at 5:30 p.m.

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT: As today's gospel reveals, the first meal shared with the risen Lord happened in a place called Emmaus. Perhaps there is no better time to reflect on this story than in those prayerful moments at Mass when we return to our place after receiving Holy Communion. Those few moments give us an opportunity to reflect on our stewardship of Christ's presence within us. We have a chance to practice hospitality by inviting Jesus into our hearts to walk and talk with us about our own Emmaus journey. We can relive once again the time when he broke bread for the disciples. And just as they did, we too can recognize Christ in this meal we have just shared with others.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE - MY RETURN TO THE LORD

April 23: Adult Env.: \$6611.00; Loose: \$1572.12; Children's Env.: \$26; Online: \$3615.00; Building Fund: \$20.00;
Easter: \$135.00; Total: **\$11,953.38** Guardian Angel: \$100.00; Combined Collection: \$60.00; Rice Bowl: \$111.20; Franciscan Sisters: \$10.00
Needed Weekly: \$13,215.48; Short: \$1262.10; **April 23: Needed:** \$568,265.68; Received: \$468,716.63; Short: **\$99,549.05** (368.70 per family)
Lourdes Building & Renovation - Match Contributions: Needed: **\$500,000.00**; Received: **\$178,886.09**; **Balance Needed: \$321,113.91**
Thank you for your generosity.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	5:00 p.m. 7-12 CCD, St. Benedict's Rectory	Tuesday	6:30 p.m. CDA Meeting, El Portal
Monday	Stewardship meeting, church hall	Wednesday	8:45 a.m. Legion of Mary, rectory
Tuesday	9:00 a.m. Cup of Grace, church hall		5:30 p.m. Grades K-6 CCD, Lourdes Primary
		Sunday	8:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast, church hall

MASS SCHEDULE/INTENTIONS

	6:20 a.m. (Hospital Chapel)	8:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
Monday	Delrosa Riege+	Special Intention	
Tuesday	Delora Roland+	Francis & Louise Ullsperger+	
Wednesday	Gude & Nystrom Families+	Ed Mills+	
Thursday	Myron & Velma Henner+	Anton & Maria Stratker+	
Friday	Vera Lavigne+	Bill Carroll+	
Saturday		Mary Plumer Fields+	6:30 p.m. Betty Beckman+
Sunday		Mike Vaughn+ (Anniv.)	10:00 a.m. People of the Parish
	6:30 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
USHERS/ GREETERS	Herman & Myla Weber Ed & Barb Stukenholtz	Don & Pat Ramold Tim & Nancy Baragary	Wayne & Brenda Kreifels Duane & Shelli Stuhr
SERVERS	Damon, Garrett, Robert Honeysuckle	James & Joseph Kearney Bobby Moser	Mason, Cade, Beau Lee
LECTORS	Tyler Mason	Gail Walford	Ron Schmitz
ACOLYTES	Ted Bernard	Mike Kearney	Andy Fedoris
OFFERTORY	Dean & Diane Reese	Dan & Jean Lucas	Jay & Jessica Harris Family

WEEKDAY SERVERS: - May 1-6 – Joseph Whitney, Isaac Bruggeman, Joss Neumeister; **6:20 a.m. Mass at Hospital** – Server: Dave Heng; Reader: Joan Beccard

READINGS: May 1, Acts 6:8-15/Jn 6:22-29; May 2, Act 7:51-8:1a/Jn 6:30-35; May 3, 1 Cor 15:1-8/Jn 14:6-14; May 4, Acts 8:26-40/Jn 6:44-51; May 5, Acts 9:1-20/Jn 6:52-59; May 6, Acts 9:31-42/Jn 6:60-69; May 7, Acts 2:14a, 36-41/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10.

STEWARDSHIP A WAY OF LIFE: Simple acts of loving kindness reveal the presence of God in our midst.

PRAY THE ROSARY - THE MONTH OF MAY is the "month which the piety of the faithful has especially dedicated to Our Blessed Lady," and it is the occasion for a "moving tribute of faith and love which Catholics in every part of the world pay to the Queen of Heaven. During this month Christians, both in church and in the privacy of the home, offer up to Mary from their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration. In this month, too, the benefits of God's mercy come down to us from her throne in greater abundance" (Paul VI: Encyclical on the *Month of May*, no. 1). You are encouraged to pray the rosary daily, especially in the month of May. The rosary is recited each day at 7:30 a.m. here at St. Mary's Church and you are invited to come and join other parishioners. Mary, Queen of the Holy Angels – Pray for Us.

FISCAL YEAR END FINANCIAL STATUS – JULY 1, 2016-JUNE 30, 2017

The end of our fiscal year is quickly coming to a close. Currently we are \$99,549.05 short of meeting our budget goal which equals \$368.70 at 270 giving families or an average of \$40.97 per week at nine Sundays including today. The past 16 months, we have withdrawn \$95,000.00 from our Diocesan Savings Account to keep up with our obligations and of that, \$65,000.00 was withdrawn in the last nine months with the possibility of withdrawing additional funds before the end of June. Currently we have a balance of \$90,000.00 in our account. A large portion of our budget has come from our Catholic school and diocesan assessments. Our school is vital in the education of our youth and gives them the opportunity to learn more about their Catholic faith.

At the last meeting, the Parish Council recommended that we enlist the help of a company that assists parishes with stewardship tithing renewal programs, so that will begin this fall.

The portion that is returned to St. Mary's Church from Joy of the Gospel has been set aside for capital improvements. Donations to the Building Fund and Cookie Walk have been used for new windows in the rectory and the roof repair.

Today, each family is asked to pray about the portion of your first fruits that will you return to God. If you are able to give a one-time donation to help with our short-fall or increase your weekly tithing, your help is greatly appreciated. We know that some families may be able to increase their giving or give a one time gift at this time while others are already returning their maximum gift. Whatever your circumstances are, we just ask that you pray as to what God is asking of you.

Ways to save money on your taxes and help your church is by contributing appreciated stock. No paying of capital gains tax when it is transferred directly to the church. If you are 70½ you can donate directly to the church your annual IRA required minimum distribution. You can make contributions up to \$100,000.00 or \$200,000.00 if your spouse is also 70½ to a charitable organization. Direct-from-your-IRA donations are called qualified charitable distributions, or QCDs. They are tax-free and no deductions are allowed for them, so QCDs don't directly affect your tax bill. However, they count as withdrawals for purposes of meeting the required minimum distribution (RMD) rules that apply to your traditional IRAs after age 70½. Check with your tax advisor or the parish office for more information.

Please pray for our parish and its members that they will hear God's call for His Church and return an increase of the gifts they have received from Him. Thank you to all of you that have given an additional contribution. Your generosity and continued support of our parish is greatly appreciated.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE: Fr. Mark Cyza will be leading a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land July 10-23, 2017. Cost is \$2,999.00. Registrations will be accepted until April 30. Visit stbens.org or call 402-873-3047 for more information.

A MAY DAY BREAKFAST will be held on Monday, May 1 from 6-10 a.m. at the Bethel United Church of Christ. Serving biscuits and gravy, egg casseroles, fresh fruit, muffins, sweet rolls, coffee and juice. Free will offering. Proceeds go toward their elevator fund. See flier in entrance of the church for more details.

CINCO DE MAYO FAMILY CELEBRATION will be held on Saturday, May 6 from 12-3 p.m. in the First Lutheran Church parking lot. Authentic Mexican cuisine, entertainment, piñatas and activities for the children. Free will offering. See flier in the entrance of the church for more information.

LOURDES ELEMENTARY PTO'S SPRING FUNDRAISER HAS BEGUN! Thru May 18 our school will earn 20% of Schwan's purchases and 40% of Schwan's eGift Card sales. If you are a current Schwan's customer, please use our Campaign ID #31697 with your next order and support Lourdes Central Catholic elementary. If you are new to Schwan's, you can order by phone or online. Simply call 1-855-870-7208 or visit www.schwans.com and provide campaign ID #31697 at checkout to support our fundraiser. After your initial order, Schwan's will automatically give

our fundraiser credit for any future orders you place. Schwan's will continue to contribute 5% of all orders to our school through August 18. Thank you for your continued support of our students and our school!

STUDENTS – SAVE THE DATE – JUNE 25-30 - TOTUS TUUS (TOTALLY YOURS), for another fun, faith-filled summer catechetical youth program for students entering grades 1-12. More details to come.

NEW INSPIRATIONAL CATHOLIC CDS AND BOOKS: Want to enrich and strengthen your relationship with Jesus Christ and your understanding of the Catholic faith? Stop in the entrance of the church today to see what is new from Lighthouse Catholic Media. CDS and booklets are only \$4 and books are \$5. Your generous donations help continue our ministry and we are able to purchase additional CDs, books and booklets.

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL RETREAT HOUSE: The retreats are silent or preached retreats providing the retreatant guidance in prayer, as well as ample opportunity to be alone with God. Retreat typically begins with Rosary and Mass at 8:00 p.m. on Friday evening and end with Mass on Sunday followed by noon lunch. Each retreat includes: Celebration of the Eucharist, meditations given by a retreat master, adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, Sacrament of Reconciliation, silence, prayer, recollection, and opportunities for meeting/spiritual direction with the retreat master. Upcoming retreats are for women on May 5-6 with Sharon Doran, "Women in Scripture" (2-Day). For more information or to register, go to www.goodcounselretreat.com or call 402-786-2705. Schedules are available in the entrance of the church.

FORMED.ORG? FORMED, the Catholic Faith on Demand with 24/7 access to the best Catholic teaching content on any device, including your computer, tablet or smart phone with internet access. With FORMED you will find video programs that explains the Catholic faith, explore the deepest meaning of marriage, receive Bible studies on a variety of topics and inspiring audio talks. To get FORMED, [go to Formed.org and click on "Register. Sign-up using your parish code."](http://www.formed.org) Enter the code "BHRREJ." [New children's movies and Forgiven – The Transforming Power of Confession have been added.](#)

MAGNIFICAT: Forget to register for the Magnificat Prayer Meal with Ashley Stevens on Saturday, May 6, 9:30 a.m. at Hillcrest Country Club? There's still time if you call Coordinator Rhonda Litt by Tuesday evening, May 2: [402-489-3819](tel:402-489-3819) or [402-525-6396](tel:402-525-6396) (you may text too) and get your check in the mail payable to Magnificat c/o Tina Colgan, 521 N 56th Street, Lincoln, NE 68504 (Adults \$20 and students \$10).

ONLINE GIVING is the best way to take control of your Sunday Stewardship. If you have an Online Account, you can make the changes when you want to and deduct the stewardship payment from your account when you want it to be deducted. You can also review your yearly giving and adjust it at any time. To start your account, go to stmarysnebraskacity.com and click on the Online Giving button. Then follow the directions. All the special collections are available for you to plan your year of giving. If you have changes to your income during the year, take a few moments and review the funds that you have set up and adjust amounts accordingly. Questions or help in setting up your account, please call the parish office, 402-873-3024. **During 2016,** \$125,339.00 was contributed through Online Giving from 1533 transactions from 53 contributors and since the beginning of the year, we have averaged approximately \$10,000.00 per month. Since we began Online Giving, \$523,499.05 has been contributed. Thank you to all those that use Online Giving. "I Give Online Cards" are available in the pews for your convenience for the Offertory Collection.

MATCHING GRANT – LOURDES SCHOOL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: The Paul, John, Anton and Doris Wirth Foundation has pledged a matching grant of \$500,000 for the Lourdes Capital Campaign. For example, if you donate \$1000.00, your contribution will be equal to \$2000.00. Donations can also be given in memory or in honor of a friend or family member – birthday or anniversary. Gifts of grain, appreciated stock or if you are 70½, you could use your IRA minimum distribution for the year. Currently we have received **\$178,886.09. Balance Needed: \$321,113.91.** Currently our loan balance is at **\$852,355.00.** Please consider a gift to help reach our match and complete our loan payments to the diocese. Thank you to all those that have generously given to this campaign.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER: Would you be interested in serving the parish and assisting the pastor in planning and decision making? The Parish Council meets every other month on the fourth Monday. If you would like to volunteer to serve on the Parish Council, please call Linda Hogeland, 402-873-6317 or the parish office.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Jump start your Catholic spirituality with an hour of adoration and prayer in Eucharistic Adoration. Consider spending quality time with our Lord in a quiet and intimate setting. The fruit of spending time in adoration is bountiful. Jesus awaits all to come to Him and richly rewards those who take the time and make the sacrifice of their time. See for yourself. Several options exist for you to get involved: regular adorer, substitute adorer or temporary adorer to cover open hours until they are filled. Please pray about this. Many graces are given to all who spend time with our Eucharistic Lord.

SPIRIT CATHOLIC RADIO'S DIAPER DRIVE, for pro-life pregnancy centers, is May 1-31. Help babies & mothers in need, and put your faith in action through donating to the various drop-off sites: Capital Animal Clinic, Gianna's Java & Gelato, and Spirit Catholic Radio FM- Studios in Lincoln. All sizes of diapers are needed, especially sizes 3, 4 & 5. Thank you for supporting the pro-life mission.

TRAVELING OUR LADY OF FATIMA STATUE: The Legion of Mary is sponsoring a traveling statue of Our Lady of Fatima for families to host in their home for one-two weeks. A special prayer to be said each day will be supplied. It is said that Our Lady has bestowed special graces on the host families. If you would like to host Our Lady of Fatima in your home or would like more information, please call Nora Gottwald, 402-209-0322 or Cathy Sawyer, 402-873-7250.

FOOD PANTRY: Donations of non-perishable foods and personal care products are always needed for our local Food Pantries and especially during the holidays. Items needed each month are laundry soap, toilet tissue, shampoo, soup, macaroni and cheese. A box is available in the entrance of the church. **(Please, no expired items.)** Thank you for your generosity.

STEWARDSHIP OF TALENT – DINNERS FOR FR. MCCABE & FR. VENTRE: May 1: Stephanie Hackett, May 3: Noreen Harris, May 6: Pat Heng, May 8: Sharon Heng, May 10: Elaine Heng, May 13: Mary Kay Hengen, May 15: Alyce Hollesen, May 17: Jennifer Howard, May 20: Anna Mae Kaiser, May 22: Mary Kaiser, May 24: Jean Kreifels, May 27: Jenny Kearney, May 31: Linda Lollmann. The time to bring dinner for your designated day is between 5:30-6:00 p.m. If you do not use disposable dishes, please put your name on the dishes and pick them up in the church hall. It is preferred that meals be taken to the back door of the rectory, and if the priests are not home, please put the meals in the refrigerator. Questions or if you would like to volunteer, please call Maureen Chance, 874-9411. Thank you.

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME – CHURCH CLEANERS (following the Saturday 8:00 a.m. Mass {8:30 a.m}): **May 6:** John & Mary Wenzl, Joshua & Carolyn Whitney, Evert & Lisa Whitten, Doug Wichman, Richard Wichman, Natalie Kelly, Nathan & Mary Wigington, Tom & Kathy Wigington, Larry Williams, Christopher Winscot. **May 13:** Gerry Wirth, James & Cheryl Wirth, Emily Wolken, Mary Wright, Robert & Patrice Wulf, Jamie & Aubrey Wurtele, Jason & Lacey Wurtele, Gayle Wurtele, Randy & Connie Wurtele, Todd Yost, Anna Young. **May 20:** Carl Abbott, Sally Abbott, Colin & Teresa Albers, Mike & Patti Alex, Fred & Sheryl Allen, Bret & Kathy Allgood, Evelyn Alonso, William & Kathy Aultz, William & Roberta Aultz, Mark & Heather Bakula. **If you are unable to clean the week assigned, families or individuals are responsible for finding a replacement or contacting and paying a substitute \$15.00.** **Substitutes:** Kathy Duffy, 873-7576, Linda Smith, 873-7576, Sharon Crunk, 873-4568, Julia Russell, 402-209-2340, Mary Mills, 873-6247, Sharon Heng, 873-5105.

THOUGHTS TO PONDER: *"Let the risen Jesus enter your life, welcome him as a friend, with trust. He is life!" Pope Francis*

THE BISHOP'S CHARITY AND STEWARDSHIP APPEAL (CSA/DDP)

My Dear Parishioners,

Within the next week you should be receiving a letter from Bishop James Conley asking you to participate in the 2017 Charity and Stewardship, (DDP) Appeal. Because I believe that the Charity and Stewardship Appeal is so important for the work of the Church and our parish family, I am writing to ask your generous response to his request.

This year's Charity and Stewardship Appeal will be conducted the weekend of May 6-7. The funds collected support 15 important and essential ministries conducted by the Diocese for the benefit of every parish – whether to support our work directly, or to extend our mission as Catholics throughout southern Nebraska. However the majority of funds collected in this appeal are returned to local parishes.

Some ask, “Why give to the Charity and Stewardship Appeal when we are supporting our own parish?” Our parish is the most immediate place that our families participate in our faith. However, many of the ministries they provide us – religious education, family life activities, campus ministries, Catholic Social Services – could not exist without the support and expertise offered through the entire diocese. The Charity and Stewardship Appeal is not always about what we do as a parish or what we benefit from, instead it is about what we believe in.

Our goal for 2017 is \$55,000.00 with \$7122.40 to be used in the Diocese to sustain the ministries that our parish alone could not provide. In order for us to respond to the Bishop's request of our parish, all families must participate. Now is the time to consider sharing. It is the time to express financially the commitment we have to our faith community given in the second great commandment, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” By answering God's call and giving a financial gift, you can touch the lives of thousands of people in southern Nebraska. Pledges will be taken after all Masses next weekend. I am confident that we will succeed in reaching our goal.

Please join me, along with Bishop Conley, in praying for the success of the Charity and Stewardship Appeal. May God bless you for your prayers and support of our parish.

Sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Rev. Michael G. McCabe
Pastor