

# ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

218 N. 6<sup>th</sup> St., Nebraska City, NE 68410

Telephone: 402-873-3024

Website: [stmarysnebraskacity.com](http://stmarysnebraskacity.com)

Pastor: Very Rev. Michael G. McCabe

Associate Pastor: Rev. James J. Morin

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, 402-209-2498

Parish Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday-Friday - 9:00-11:00 a.m. & 1:30-4:00 p.m., 873-3024 - [stmarysnebcity@windstream.net](mailto:stmarysnebcity@windstream.net)

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

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017

**PRAY FOR THE SICK** - Shirley Hackett, Trini Lipp, Dean Hauptman, Emmett Christiansen, Sr. Kathleen Kilp, O.S.F., Mike Crunk, Kim Kelly, Lacie & Lexis Bruns-Morris, Kathy Gilbert, Kala Griepenstroh, Leonard Kreifels, Albert Burger, Janet McVay, Bill Albert, John Davis, Donna Thoms, Juanita Kreifels, Laurence DuBois, Adam Eppert, Mary Jo Ventre, Pat Bowman 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 our seminarians James O'Neil, Brian Wirth and Joseph Allen and vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Thank you.

**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](mailto:stmbulletin@windstream.net) (preferred) or to the parish office.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: ADORERS NEEDED** on Mondays from 3-4 p.m. If you are able to be an adorer during these hours, please call Pam Gress, Coordinator, 402-969-0556. 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. Everyone is always welcome to make a visit. If you are not a regular scheduled adorer and would like to be or would like more information, please call Pam Gress. Thank you to all of our scheduled adorers. **HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:** The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed on Wednesday, December 20 at 12:00 a.m. and resumes on Tuesday, January 2 following the 6:20 a.m. Mass.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to all of our students that are receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation today. Please continue to pray for all of our students.

**RETIRED PRIESTS COLLECTION:** Today there will be second collection for the retired priest's collection. Each year you are invited to help with the support of those who serve and that have served at our parish. Our annual assessment for the retirement fund is \$7487.00. This is your opportunity to show your support of our parish priests and those that have served at St. Mary's. Thank you.

**LOURDES SCHOOL K-12 CHRISTMAS CONCERT** will be held on Wednesday, December 13 beginning with grades K-3 at 6:00 p.m.; 4-5 at 7:00 p.m. and 6-12 at 8:00 p.m. in the Wirth Theater. Everyone is invited to come and share in this joyous season with music.

**THE MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP** will meet on Saturday, December 16 beginning with Mass at 8:00 a.m. and a trip to a Christmas tree farm to select, cut down, and set up Christmas Trees to decorate the church for Christmas! Please coordinate transportation with parents/friends for the tree farm trip.

**POINSETTIAS & CHRISTMAS TREES** will be purchased to decorate our church for Christmas. We are purchasing two large permanent pre-lite trees at a cost of \$650. Donations are being accepted to purchase the trees and poinsettias (suggested donation \$10.00 per flower) as a memorial to a deceased loved one or to honor someone living. Special envelopes are available in the entrance of the church for your convenience. Please make donations by **Sunday, December 17** either through the collection basket or to the parish office. Thank you.

**CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S MASS:** We are in need of participants for the Christmas Eve Children's Mass on December 24 at 5:00 p.m. to do the readings, serve, and do the petitions. If you plan to attend that Mass with your family and you would like your child to have a part, please call Beth Box at 402-209-1640 to let her know. This is open to students K-12.

**CHRISTMAS POSADA:** If your 3<sup>rd</sup> grader, kindergartener, or preschooler would like a part in our Posada before the Christmas Eve Children's Mass on December 24 at 5:00 p.m., please call Beth Box at 402-209-1640. We are in need of the young kids for angels and the older kids for Posada parts. We also need a couple of parents to run the Posada.

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR & POSADA PRACTICE:** The children's choir and the students participating in the Posada will practice on Tuesday, December 19 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The children and teens that plan to be singing at the Christmas Eve Children's Mass on December 24 at 5:00 p.m. are asked to come to practice. If you have any questions, contact Beth Box 402-209-1640 or Kay DeFreece, 402-209-0321.

**GREETERS/USHERS NEEDED:** One person is needed for the 3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Sunday at the 10:00 a.m. Mass. If you would be willing to serve as a greeter/usher, please call Wayne and Brenda Kreifels, 402-873-6001.

**PENANCE SERVICES** will be held at the following locations on Sunday, December 17 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Mary's, Nebraska City and 3:30 p.m. Church of the Holy Spirit, Plattsmouth. Additional times: December 21 & 22 - 7:15-7:55 a.m. and 12:00-1:00 p.m.; December 23 - 7:15-7:55 a.m. & 4-5 p.m.; December 24 - 4:45-5 p.m.; December 25 - 8:15-8:55 a.m. or by appointment.

**UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDAR:** December 17 - Communal Penance Service - 2:00 p.m.; January 26 - Pitch Party - 6:30 p.m.; March 4 - First Confession & St. Mary's Soup Supper - 4-7 p.m.; April 15 - First Communion - 12:00 p.m.; April 21-22 - Ministry Fair.

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! JOYFUL LIVING, GRATEFUL GIVING PROGRAM:** Each family should have received a Summary Report detailing the results of our Increased Offertory Program - Joyful Living, Grateful Giving. Several weeks ago we began this program and we are beginning to see signs that our Sunday offertory collections are growing through the generosity of many, many parishioners. Your generosity shows your willingness as faithful stewards to be a part of the ongoing missions of St. Mary's Catholic Church. If you did not complete a commitment card and would still like to be a part of our program, please return your card to the parish office or through the collection basket. Again, thank you to all those that faithfully support our church and her mission. May God bless you abundantly for your generosity. Please continue to pray for our parish.

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!** On behalf of Brian Wirth, Joe Allen, and myself, I would like to express our gratitude for your generosity in the Annual Bishop's Appeal for Vocations, as well as for all that you do to support us in our seminary formation. It is a difficult task for the diocese to provide us with the education and training required to prepare for the priesthood, but it is made possible with your help! Please know that you are in our prayers always, especially as we approach the great celebration of faith and family at Thanksgiving. Once again, thank you for your generosity! May God bless you all! —James O'Neil If you have not completed a gift to the Bishop's Appeal for Vocations and would still like to do so, please stop by the parish office of place your check in an envelope marked "Vocations" and place in the collection. Thank you.

**STEWARDSHIP MOMENT:** Today's second reading is about Christ's coming again, "The day of the Lord," Peter calls it, but that day isn't December 25th. It's that other day, that second-coming-day about which Peter is concerned. He waits with great hope and anticipation for God to remake the earth into a place of perfect justice and peace. And he sets some demanding goals for the Christian community as it awaits that final day of accounting and reconciliation: strive to be at peace, without spot or blemish. Christian stewards work for peace. As we await the coming of Christmas, what can we do to promote peace in our homes, workplaces, community and world?

### STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE - MY RETURN TO THE LORD

Dec. 3: Adult Env.: \$17,021.50; Loose: \$335.00; Children's Env.: \$2.00; Online: \$2939.00; Building Fund: \$20.00; Total: **\$20317.50**  
Needed Weekly: \$13,322.48; Over: \$6995.02; Nov. 26: Needed: \$306,417.06; Received: \$294,060.83; Short: **\$-12,356.25** (\$-45.76 per family)  
Franciscan Sisters: Need: \$8400.00; Rec'd \$5070.00; Bishop's Appeal for Vocations: \$202.00;  
Guardian Angel: \$10.00; Cloistered Sisters: \$100.00; Cookie Walk Donations: \$60.00  
Thank you for your generosity.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. Cup of Grace, church hall

Wednesday 5:30 p.m. CCD - Grades 1-6, Lourdes Primary

Wednesday 8:45 a.m. Legion of Mary, rectory

7:00 p.m. R.C.I.A. Class, Lourdes School

## MASS SCHEDULE/INTENTIONS

	6:20 a.m. (Hospital Chapel)	8:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
<b>Monday</b>	Richard Oelke, Sr.+	Harold Plumer+	
<b>Tuesday</b>	Myron & Velma Henner+	Susan & Matthew Heng+	
<b>Wednesday</b>	Francis & Vera Lavigne+	Dino Gori+	
<b>Thursday</b>	Robin Harding+	Claude Thorne+	
<b>Friday</b>	Chris Stukenholtz+	Special Intention	
<b>Saturday</b>		Mike Vaughn+	6:30 p.m. Robin Heng
<b>Sunday</b>		Steve Eickhoff+	10:00 a.m. People of the Parish 12:00 p.m. Confirmation Students
	6:30 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
<b>USHERS/ GREETERS</b>	Danny & Robin Heng Family	Tim & Jill Travis Mary Mills, Linda Lollmann	Mike Heng Bill & Mary Jo Olmer
<b>SERVERS</b>	Zachary Whitten, Eli McNeely	Tanner Kochanowicz, Caleb Stukenholtz Sam Williams	Jack & Will Funke
<b>LECTORS</b>	Frank Volkmer	Gerry Wirth	Ryan Ebmeier
<b>ACOLYTES</b>	Tim Baumann	Kevin Rettig	Jeff Funke
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	Ron & Kathy Lechner Family	David & Pat Garris	Carissa Phillips Family

**WEEKDAY SERVERS:** - Dec. 11-16 – Brayden Tift, Dane Lyons, Braedon Watkins; **6:20 a.m. Mass at Hospital** – Server: Dave Heng; Reader: Denise Davis

**READINGS:** Dec. 11, Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26; Dec. 12, Zec 2:14-17/Lk 1:26-38; Dec. 13, Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30; Dec. 14, Is 41:13-20/ Mt 11:11-15; Dec. 15, Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19/ Mt 17:9a, 10-13; Dec. 16, Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Dec. 17, Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8/19-28.

**STEWARDSHIP A WAY OF LIFE:** Truly prepare the way of the Lord.

**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS ADVENT DRIVE:** The Catholic Daughters would like your help collecting slightly used or new sleeping bags and blankets for the Catholic Social Services to distribute to the homeless. Please bring items to the entrance of the church by December 31. Call Barb Stukenholtz with any questions, 402-209-4976.

**DO YOU NEED SOME EXTRA HANDS?** Do you need your Christmas presents wrapped? Do you need someone to watch your kids so you can get extra things done or go shopping? Do you need extra set of hands to get some work done around the house? Some high school students from Lourdes Central Catholic are looking for some jobs to earn extra cash to defray the cost of their trip to Washington D.C. to attend the March for Life. If you would have opportunities for them to earn some extra cash, contact Kay DeFreece at 402-209-0321. She will set you up with a student.

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:** Sunday, December 24 - 5:00 p.m. – Children's Mass & 10:00 p.m. – Traditional Mass; Monday, December 25 - 9:00 a.m. Mass.

**FOOD PANTRY - HARVEST/HOLIDAY OFFERING SHOPPING LIST:** The Nebraska City Food Pantry is preparing holiday gift boxes to be given to those in need for the holidays. A shopping list has been prepared of items needed for the baskets. Items are to be taken and left on the stage at the First United Methodist Church prior to December 18. Value of all items needed is approximately \$20. Shopping lists are available in the entrance of the church.

**LIVE NATIVITY:** Experience the true meaning of Christmas! Bethel United Church of Christ is pleased to present this live nativity as a Christmas gift to our community of Sunday, December 10 & 17 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 24 at 6:00 p.m. Drive through, stay warm in your car and come to witness the story of Christ's birth by seeing the manger scene with costumed characters and live animals. Kid's will love the live animals. Admission is a food item to be donated to the Nebraska City Food Pantry. There will also be a free will offering to help support an annual live nativity.

**LOOKING FOR A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT?** Give a gift that keeps on giving. Lighthouse Catholic Media CDs, books and booklets can be listened to and read over and over. Give your friend or family member a gift that will help enrich and strengthen their relationship with Jesus Christ and their understanding of their Catholic faith. Stop in the entrance of the church today to see what is new. Your generous donations will help to continue our ministry and purchase additional CDs, books and booklets. If you have participated in the do-it-yourself retreat, "33 Days to Morning Glory" consider a gift to a friend or family member. The next dates to begin the Marian Consecration is December 31 with the consecration on February 2, the Presentation of the Lord.

### YEAR END TAX PLANNING

Just 21 days and 2017 is just a memory. Have you included your church on your Christmas List or year end planning? If you need an additional tax break, please remember your parish. Several ways to save on your taxes are the following:

**APPRECIATED STOCK:** Gifts of appreciated stock is a great way to save on your taxes and give to your parish. No paying of capital gains tax when it is transferred directly to the church.

**IRA REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION AT 70 1/2:** Did you know that you could save money on your taxes by donating your annual required minimum distribution directly to St. Mary's Church or Lourdes Capital Campaign? You can make up to \$100,000.00 or \$200,000.00 if your spouse is also 70 1/2 in donations 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 70 1/2.

**GIFTS OF GRAIN:** Are you looking for a way to minimize your tax liability? There are tax advantages for farmers who make charitable gifts of grain to St. Mary's Church. When an agricultural producer transfers legal ownership of the commodity to a charity before it is sold, the producer will not have taxable income from a sale, thus minimizing taxes. Tax savings may be realized on federal income tax, state income tax and self-employment tax, depending on the producer's specific circumstances.

Check with your tax advisor, or the parish office for more information. Thank you to those that generously give to our parish. Please continue to pray for our parish and our parish family.

**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](http://Formed.org) and click on "Register. Sign-up using your parish code,"BHRREJ." Get the FREE FORMED APP.

**STEWARDSHIP OF TALENT – DINNER FOR FR. MCCABE & FR. MORIN:** Dec. 11: Hope Weninger, Dec. 13: Kathy Wigington, Dec. 16: Cheryl Wirth Dec. 18: Emily Wolken, Dec. 20: Teresa Albers, Dec. 23: Maureen Chance, Dec.27: Vonna Grooman, Dec. 30: Heather Bakula. 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 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):** **Dec. 16:** Aaron & Mary Bennett, Adam & Anne Bennett, Aric & Tara Bennett, Larry & Nan Benscoter, Bryan & Kelly Bequette, Ted Bernard, Dallas & Shelley Beshaler, Jack & Jeanine Blevins, Richard Blobaum, Caroline Bolin, Richard & Gail Bond, Marcia Boone. **Dec. 23:** Jennifer Booth, Ronda Booth, Daren & Beth Box, Roger & Ranae Brandt, Theresa Brown, Jody Honeysuckle, Carolyn Bryant, Ken & Paula Carlstedt, Mary Causgrove, Sean & Maureen Chance, Joe & Brooke Chaney, Richard Sevensing, Kris Chaney, Marianne Chesterman. **Dec. 30: Jan. 8: 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:** "Come to the foot of the altar. Graces will be shed on all, great and little, especially upon those who seek for them." St. Catherine Labouré