

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 - 4:00-5:00 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 ADVENT - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016

PRAY FOR THE SICK - Robert Willson, Boston Thomasson, Donna Walters, Janet McVay, Bill Albert, John Davis, Dean & Cheryl Hauptman, Donna Thoms, Lexis Bruns-Morris, Jerry Thede, 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 our seminarians Lane Barnhill, Rev. Mr. Samuel Beardslee, 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.

ADORERS NEEDED - EUCHARISTIC ADORATION - !!!GREAT NEED!!! WEDNESDAYS FROM 1-2 A.M. Also, Mondays from 3-4 p.m., Wednesdays from 10-11 p.m. (second adorer), and Fridays from and 5-6 p.m. (second adorer). 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. **PLEASE NOTE - INCLIMENT WEATHER:** The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed, if school has been cancelled because of weather, until the next day following the 6:20 a.m. Mass. If you have questions, please contact your "Day Captain" or Pam Gress. **PLEASE NOTE- HOLIDAY HOURS:** Adoration will conclude for Saturday, December 17 at 12:00 a.m. (Midnight) and resumes Tuesday, January 3 - resumes following 6:20 a.m. Mass.

RETIRED PRIESTS COLLECTION: Next weekend 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 \$5684.00. This is your opportunity to show your support of our parish priests. An envelope is attached to the bulletin today for your convenience. Thank you.

THEOLOGY ON TAP: Come join us on Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Keeping Room. Fr. Michael Ventre and Fr. Michael McCabe will be the guest speakers. Come and let Christ touch your heart in preparation of the celebration of His birth. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

2017 CALENDARS are available in the entrance of the church. Many thanks to Gude Mortuary for providing these calendars each year.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PREPARE A MEAL FOR OUR PRIESTS? A you new to the parish or currently are not on the schedule to prepare a meal for our priests? Meals are prepared by volunteers of our parish on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. The calendar is prepared for the year and the dates are listed in the bulletin for the month. If you would like to volunteer, please call Maureen Chance, 402-874-9411. Thank you to all those that currently feed our priests those delicious meals and to Maureen for chairing this ministry. Your gifts of time and talent is greatly appreciated.

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. Code "BHRREJ"

THANK YOU to the family and friends of Charles and Lorraine Gude for the memorials to St. Mary's Church. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT: From the loneliness of his prison cell John the Baptist asks of Jesus: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" The weeks before Christmas offer much to be joyous about, celebrating with family and friends, the glitter of seasonal decorations, the excitement of gift giving and receiving. But in our midst there are the lonely and neglected, the poor, the hospitalized, the wayward, the shut-ins. There are those seemingly without hope. To whom should they look? Discipleship in the Lord includes being good stewards of others. Are there those in our family, our neighborhood, our community to whom we can reach out to show them a sign of Christ's presence in their midst?

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURER - MY RETURN TO THE LORD

Dec. 4: Adult Env.: \$10541.00; **Loose:** \$408.43; **Children's Env.:** \$2.40; **Online:** \$2684.50; **Building Fund:** \$70.00; **Total:** **\$12889.47**
Guardian Angel Fund: \$145.00

Needed Weekly: \$13,561.64; **Over:** \$144.69; **Dec 4: Needed:** \$311,937.44; **Received:** \$237,754.00; **Short:** **\$-74,183.44** (\$-285.32 per family)
Franciscan Sisters: **Needed:** \$8400.00; **Received:** \$8230.00; **Balance Needed:** \$170.00

Lourdes Building & Renovation - Match Contributions: **Needed: \$500,000.00; Received: \$130,449.09; Balance Needed: \$369,550.91**

Thank you for your generosity.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	5:00 p.m. CCD Class, Grades 7-12, St. Benedict's Rectory	Wednesday	5:30 p.m. Grades 1-6 CCD, Lourdes Primary
Tuesday	9:00 a.m. Cup of Grace, church hall		6:30 p.m. Theology on Tap, Keeping Room
Wednesday	8:45 a.m. Legion of Mary, rectory		7:30 p.m. K of C Meeting, church hall
		Sunday	2:00 p.m. Penance Service

MASS SCHEDULE/INTENTIONS

	6:20 a.m. (Hospital Chapel)	8:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
Monday	Nellie Wolfe+	Leonard & Clara (Anniv.) Heng+	
Tuesday	Joanna Marron+	Steve Eickhoff+	
Wednesday	Pfeiffer & Wenzl Families+	Special Intention	
Thursday	John Fischer+	Ed Mills+	
Friday	Velda Kreifels+	Boyd Hayden+	
Saturday		Charles & Lorraine Gude+	6:30 p.m. Betty Beckman+
Sunday		Leonard Harris+	10:00 a.m. People of the Parish
	6:30 p.m. Saturday	8:00 a.m. Sunday	10:00 a.m. Sunday
USHERS/ GREETERS	Danny & Robin Heng Family	Tim & Jill Travis Mary Mills, Linda Lollmann	Mike Heng, Joe Miller Bill & Mary Jo Olmer
SERVERS	Tristian & Alex Peter Trevor Bennett	Colton Davis, Brock Hogeland Mark Loseke	Aaron & James Mason Thomas Ragland
LECTORS	Sharon Crunk	Jerry Martin	Ryan Ebmeier
ACOLYTES	Daren Box	Danny Heng	Jeff Funke
OFFERTORY	Logan & Jessica Crunk Family	Sean & Maureen Chance Family	Roger & Renee Brandt

WEEKDAY SERVERS: - Dec. 12-17 – Robert Honeysuckle, Nick Fedoris, Oscar Krog; **6:20 a.m. Mass at Hospital** – Server: Ron Osovski; Reader: Joan Beccard

READINGS: Dec. 12, Zec 2:14-17/Lk 1:26-38; Dec. 13, Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32; Dec. 14, Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Lk 7:18b-23; Dec. 15, Is 54:1-10/Lk 7:24-30; Dec. 16, Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Jn 5:33-36; Dec. 27, Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17; Dec. 18, Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24.

STEWARDSHIP A WAY OF LIFE: God works through us when we accept the challenge.

PENANCE SERVICES will be held at the following locations on Sunday, December 18 - 12:00 p.m. St. Joseph's, Paul, 12:15 p.m. St. Paulinus, Syracuse; 2:00 p.m. St. Mary's, Nebraska City; 3:30 p.m. Church of the Holy Spirit, Plattsmouth. Additional times: December 23 - 7:15-7:55 a.m.; December 24 - 7:15-7:55 a.m. & 4-4:50 p.m.; December 25 – 8:15-8:55 a.m. or by appointment.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA COAT DRIVE: The Catholic Daughters of America are having a coat, gloves, scarves and hat drive from now until December 25. Please bring any gently used or new items, any size, to St. Mary's, St. Benedict's or St. Joseph's church. If you have any questions call Barb Stukenholtz, 402-209-4976, Barb Jensen 402-321-6819. Items donated will be distributed locally. **SAVE THE DATE:** CDA will have their December meeting/party on December 6, more details to come.

YEAR END TAX PLANNING

It won't be long until 2016 is just a memory. Have you included your church on your Christmas List? If you need an additional tax break, please remember your parish. Currently our parish is \$-74,183.44 short of meeting our budget goal which equals \$285.32 per family of 260 givers. Each family is asked to prayerfully consider an additional gift or an increase in your weekly, monthly or yearly gifts. 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 more information. Thank you to those that generously give to our parish. Please continue to pray for our parish and our parish family.

CHRISTMAS & SOLEMNITY OF MARY MASS SCHEDULE: Saturday, December 24 - 5:00 p.m. – Children's Mass & 10:00 p.m. – Traditional Mass; Sunday, December 25 - 9:00 a.m. Mass. **SOLEMNITY OF MARY:** Saturday, December 31 - 6:30 p.m. – Mass Sunday, January 1 - 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

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 **\$130,449.09** in new donations. **Balance Needed: \$369,550.91.** 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.

LOURDES SCRIP FUNDRAISING is a no-selling program that enables families to raise money for Lourdes School year round, not just at Christmas! Scrip is just another way to pay for everyday purchases using gift cards in place of cash, checks, and credit cards. You purchase gift cards from your organization at face value, and your coordinator orders those cards from Great Lakes Scrip Center at a reduced price. The difference is an instant rebate for your organization. It's really that simple! Great Lakes Scrip Center offers over 300 of the country's biggest brands, including grocery, department stores, gas stations, restaurants, hotels, home improvement, and more. Contact Tammy Bando at 402-209-1683 or tjbando@gmail.com to place an order or if you have any questions about how Scrip works!! This is a great way for grandparents or friends of Lourdes to help contribute to the school without spending additional money!! Tammy will be selling cards after mass the next several weeks!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE MASS: If you would like your child to participate in the Children's Christmas Eve Mass, please contact Beth Box at 402-209-1640 by Friday, December 16. We will have practice following the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 18 from 11-12 p.m. **Attention all 3rd grade,** preschool, and kindergarten parishioners: We are in need of 3rd grade students to act out the Posada before the Children's Mass on Christmas Eve. We also need preschool and kindergarten angels to process around the church with them. Please contact Joan Fedoris by Friday, December 16 at 402-209-0093 if you would like your child to participate. We will have practice on Sunday, December 18 from 11:00-11:30 a.m. at the church. **Christmas Eve Children's Choir** will sing at the 5:00 p.m. Children's Mass. We will have practice on Sunday, December 18 from 11-12 p.m. right after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Call Kay DeFreece with any questions. 402-209-0321.

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 according. Questions or help in setting up your account, please call the parish office, 402-873-3024. Thank you to all those that use Online Giving.

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 December 16-18 for men and women with Bishop James Conley and Fr. Gary Coulter, "Advent Retreat." 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.

PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR PARISH RECORDS UP-TO-DATE - CHANGED ADDRESSES, PLANNING TO MOVE? DROPPED YOUR LAND LINE, ADDED A CELL, CHANGED PHONE NUMBERS OR EMAIL ADDRESS? Please call the parish office with your new information. If you are planning to move out of our community, please also, let us know. Thank you.

REDISCOVER YOUR MARRIAGE – Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) simply means 'rediscovery. The program offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. Tens of thousands headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending. Retrouvaille is a not spiritual retreat, not a sensitivity group, not a seminar, not a social gathering. For confidential information about or to register for the program on **February 24-26**, call 1-888-317-5654 or www.HelpOurMarriage.com on the web.

ONE BOOK + ONE DIOCESE: This winter the Diocese of Lincoln Evangelization Office is recommending Discernment of Spirits: An Ignatian Guide for Everyday Living by Fr. Timothy Gallagher. This book provides amazing insights on how to "be aware, understand, and take action" when experiencing various movements in prayer and daily life. Written in an easy-to-understand style, with relevant examples from the lives of ordinary people, Fr. Gallagher shows how to apply the 14 Rules of St. Ignatius to recognize and respond to the workings of the Good Spirit and those of the enemy spirit. This simple knowledge can help "set the captives free" and bring about a greater joy than we may have thought possible. For more information about the book, go to <http://linc-dio.solutionsoftware.com/evangelization-formation/one-book-one-diocese>. For related podcasts and resources check out: <http://www.discerninghearts.com/catholic-podcasts/fr-timothy-gallagher-discernment-of-spirits/>.

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" or will be participating in the do-it-yourself retreat, "Consoling the Heart of Jesus," 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 3, the Presentation of the Lord.

RELIGIOUS AWARDS FOR GIRLS & BOYS! Scout Leaders obtain your religious awards books for **girls** from the Office of Family Life and for **Boys** from the Local Cornhusker Council. The award ceremony is scheduled for **February 26, 2017**. Applications for the medals are due by **January 23**. Visit "Scouting & Awards" under the Youth Ministry tab of the diocesan website at lincolndiocese.org or call the Office of Family Life if you have questions, 402-473-0620.

THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY COUNSELING CENTER OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES is excited to announce that Joseph Molitor, M.A., will provide the Nebraska City area with counseling services from a Catholic perspective. His areas of interest include child and family therapy, relationships, anxiety, and depression. To inquire about services or to schedule an appointment, please contact the Immaculate Heart of Mary Counseling Center toll-free at (800) 961-6277.

FOOD PANTRY: Donations of non-perishable foods and personal care products are always needed for our local Food Pantry 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: Dec. 12: Sharon Heng, Dec. 14: Elaine Heng, Dec. 17: Mary Kay Hengen, Dec. 19: Alyce Hollesen, Dec. 21: Jennifer Howard, Dec. 26: Anna Mae Kaiser, Dec. 28: Mary Kaiser, Dec. 31: Jean Kreifels, Jan. 2: Jenny Kearney, Jan. 4: Linda Lollmann, Jan. 7: Jackie Loseke, Jan. 9: Amy Lucas, Jan. 11: Rosie Marcotte, Jan. 14: Susie Martin, Jan. 16: Cindy McGinnis, Jan. 18: Mary Mills, Jan. 21: Kilee Olson, Jan. 23: Mary Penning, Jan. 25: Mary Pargett, Jan. 28: Rachelle Ragland, Jan. 30: Margaret Rumery. 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}): **Dec. 17:** Suzann Cooksey, Logan & Jessica Crunk, Mike & Sharon Crunk, Will & Sue Daniel, Craig & Joni Davis, Denise Davis, Dan & Kay DeFreece, David & Melanie Dines, Jesse & Kimberly Dorman, John & Debra Dubas. **Dec. 24:** Laurence & Sally DuBois, Barbara DuBois, Robert & Mary Lee Duncan, Kasey DuVal, Ryan & Janie Ebmeier, Charles & Sue Eickhoff, Mark & Jeanette Eilers, Stephanie Eppert, Mike & Sheila Essary. **Dec. 31:** Jason & Kim Esser, David & Lori Everett, Nile & Mary Farris, Charles & Joan Fedoris, Wilber & Marlene Fey, Marcia Fox, David Frana, Janet Frana, Marlene Frana, Mark & Judy Francois. **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, 873-9160, Mary Mills, 873-6247, Sharon Heng, 873-5105.

THOUGHTS TO PONDER: "Christmas is fast approaching. And now that Christ has aroused our seasonal expectations, he'll soon fulfill them all!" St. Augustine