

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016

PRAY FOR THE SICK - Robert Willson, Boston Thomasson, 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 the happy repose of the soul of Donna Walters.

PLEASE PRAY for our seminarians Micah Braunsroth, Rev. Mr. Timothy Danek, 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 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 concluded on Saturday, December 17 and resumes Tuesday, January 3 - following 6:20 a.m. Mass.

RETIRED PRIESTS COLLECTION: Today there will be second collection for the retired priest's collection. Each parish is billed a small monthly amount for the support of our retired priests. Therefore, any donation you make helps the parish and supports the housing and food costs of the retired priests. Our annual assessment for the retirement fund is \$5684.00. Thank you for your continued support of our priests.

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.

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. and Sunday, January 1 - 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PREPARE A MEAL FOR OUR PRIESTS? Are you new to the parish or currently 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 are greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU to everyone that helped in any way to make the 24th Annual Cookie Walk a great success. Thank you to those that baked the beautiful cookies, purchased buckets of cookies, volunteered to help set out the cookies, or made a donation. Your gifts of time, talent and treasure are greatly appreciated. A special thank you to our chairpersons, Mary Mills and Linda Lollmann. Currently proceeds total \$1115.00. **If you were unable to participate, donations are still being accepted.** Thank you for your continued support of this parish project.



NEED A LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS GIFT: We will be receiving a limited number of 10" x 18" gallery-wrapped canvas prints of the Vilnius Image of the Divine Mercy. These prints are handmade at the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy, with top-quality wood, canvas and inks. Also included with each print is the booklet "Divine Mercy Image Explained." Cost is \$25. If you are interested in purchasing one for a gift or for yourself, please call the parish office to reserve your print.

The Image of Divine Mercy, "I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory." Our Lord's words to St. Faustina Kowalska as recorded in her *Diary*, 48.

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"

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 **\$132,549.09** in new donations. **Balance Needed: \$367,450.91.** 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.

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT: In today's Gospel we hear of the coming of Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." We celebrate three Advents: the birth of Christ, his Second Coming, and his presence in the world today. Our daily lives are attended by God's presence. Indeed, "God is with us." The Good News of Christ's Incarnation is that we are the sign, "sacrament," of Christ's presence in the world. People are supposed to see us, see how we love one another, see how we treat the stranger among us, give comfort to the poor and afflicted, share the Good News with joy. They see how good stewards are the light of Christ. And there can be no possible response except to say: "God is here!"

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE - MY RETURN TO THE LORD

Dec. 11: Adult Env.: \$5642.00; Loose: \$445.00; Children's Env.: \$2.35; Online: \$2167.00; Building Fund: \$157.00; Total: **\$10,193.85**

Guardian Angel Fund: \$40.00; Franciscan Sisters: \$10.00

Needed Weekly: \$13,561.64; Short: \$3367.79; Dec 11: Needed: \$325,499.08; Received: \$247,947.85; Short: **\$-77,551.23** (\$-298.28 per family)

Lourdes Building & Renovation - Match Contributions: Needed: **\$500,000.00**; Received: **\$132,549.09**; Balance Needed: **\$367,450.91**

Thank you for your generosity.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday 2:00 p.m. Penance Service

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

MASS SCHEDULE/INTENTIONS

	6:20 a.m. (Hospital Chapel)	8:00 a.m.	
Monday	Leonard Van Liew+	Marie Hotovy+	
Tuesday	Kathleen Stukenholtz+	Dorothy Durr+	
Wednesday	Dennis & Brian Heng+	Karen McQuillan+	4:00 p.m. Christian Mothers/Altar Society, Liv. & Dec'd & Fr. Directors
Thursday	Clara Plumer+	Dovel & Beccard Family+	
Friday	Leslie Wolfe+	Robert Beccard+	
Saturday		Howard Weigle+ (Anniv.)	5:00 p.m. Linda Schreiner+ 10:00 p.m. People of the Parish
Sunday		NO 8:00 a.m. Mass	9:00 a.m. Myron & Velma Hennert+
		10:00 p.m. Saturday	9:00 a.m. Sunday
USHERS/ GREETERS		Jackie Smith, Cathy Thomas George & Mary Kay Hengen	Ric Sevening, Steve Stukenholtz Larry Lance, David Schmitz
SERVERS		Grant & Ben Chance Eli Wigington	Mason, Cade, Beau Lee
LECTORS		Barb Stukenholtz	Jeanette Eilers

WEEKDAY SERVERS: - Dec. 19-23 – Steven Walters, Andrew Bernard, Sam Ebmeier; **6:20 a.m. Mass at Hospital** – Server: Marv Penning
Reader: Sharon Crunk

READINGS: Dec. 19, Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25; Dec. 20, Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38; Dec. 21, Sg 2:8-14/Lk 1:39-45; Dec. 22, 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56; Dec. 23, Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66; Dec. 24, 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79; Dec. 25, Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18.

STEWARDSHIP A WAY OF LIFE: Mary serves as a model of stewardship. She chooses to follow God's will.

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. Thank you to all those that have generously given to the coat drive.

YEAR END TAX PLANNING

Just 14 days and 2016 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. Currently our parish is \$-77,551.23 short of meeting our budget goal which equals \$298.28 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.

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!!

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.

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.

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.

STEWARDSHIP OF TALENT – DINNERS FOR FR. MCCABE & FR. VENTRE: 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. 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. **Jan. 7:** Jeff & Hettie Funke, Tom & Dorothy Funke, David & Pat Garris, Rynn Gawart, Meagan Gerdes, Richard & Lynn Gibson, Tammie Gigstad, Dan & Richarda Giittinger, Pam Giittinger, Mike & Lana Gilson, Mary Gomez. **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: "Waiting is a period of learning. The longer we wait, the more we hear about him for whom we are waiting." Henri Nouwen