

# 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

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 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, 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:** 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 adorator and would like to be or would like more information, please call Pam Gress, 402-969-0556. Thank you to all of our scheduled adorers. **HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:** Eucharistic Adoration resumes on Tuesday, January 2 following the 6:20 a.m. Mass.

**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. **SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD** Mass schedule is Sunday, December 31 - 5:30 p.m. and Monday, January 1 - 9:00 a.m.

**CHRISTIAN MOTHERS/ALTAR SOCIETY** dues of **\$20.00** are now due. A special envelope is available in your set of contribution envelopes for your convenience or you may use Online Giving. Dues may be placed in the collection basket or given to Mary Mills. The Christian Mothers/Altar Society includes all ladies of the parish. Your dues and proceeds from the rummage sale go to support the parish in purchasing the altar bread, candles, missals, music issues, altar flowers, server's cassocks and much more. For more information, please call Shelli Stuhr, 402-873-7535 or Rachelle Ragland, 402-713-5099.

**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 on 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. Kids 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.

**YEAR END PLANNING:** One week remaining and 2017 is history. Have you included your church in your year end gift planning? If you need an additional tax break, please remember your parish. **THANK YOU** to all those that have given generously to our parish throughout the year. May God bless you for your generosity.

**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.

**A LECTOR TRAINING** will be held in January at St. Mary's Church for those that would like to serve their parish by reading during Mass. Dates of the training are five Sundays beginning January 14 and ending on February 11 with a Day of Recollection. The time will be from 1-3 p.m. On Saturday, February 17 at 10:30 a.m. lectors will be installed at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ by Bishop Conley. If you are in good standing with the Church and have considered being a lector, please call the parish office. We have a great need for lectors at the 6:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday evenings.

**UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDAR:** January 14-February 11 - Lector Training - 1-3 p.m.; January 26 - Pitch Party - 6:30 p.m.; March 4 - First Confession - 3:00 p.m. & St. Mary's Soup Supper - 4-7 p.m.; April 15 - First Communion - 12:00 p.m.; April 21-22 - Ministry Fair.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING:** The convenient way to return a portion of your gifts back to our Lord. It's easy to set up, safe, secure and you can check as often as you like to see what you have given to the church and special collections throughout the year. Go to our website at [www.stmarysnebraskacity.com](http://www.stmarysnebraskacity.com). If you have any questions, please call the parish office. Thank you to all those that are already using online giving.

**LOOKING FOR A LAST MINUTE 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.

**THANK YOU** to the members of the Laurine Volkmer Foundation for the grant of \$12,000.00 to St. Mary's Church. Your gift to our parish is greatly appreciated.

**MANY THANKS!** Thank you to all those who remembered us with cards, cookies, candies, fresh fruits, monetary gifts and various other gifts for the holidays. Thank you also for all the delicious meals throughout the year. Your spirit of generosity is greatly appreciated. May the Good Lord be with you all and bless you throughout the Christmas season and the coming New Year. *Fr. McCabe & Fr. Morin*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS:** We wish you a Blessed and Joy-filled Christmas with your loved ones. All of you are in our hearts and prayers this weekend and will be remembered at all Christmas Masses. *Fr. McCabe & Fr. Morin*

**STEWARDSHIP MOMENT:** In today's Gospel reading we hear proclaimed the story of the Annunciation, when the angel of the Lord announced to Mary that she would give birth to Christ through the intercession of the Holy Spirit. Mary allowed God's messenger to speak to her. She was attentive, not afraid to enter into a dialogue, then unconditionally obedient. Mary's acceptance of this mystery is a stewardship model for us. Good stewards remain open to the incursions of divine life into the normal course of their daily lives. How open are we to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in our own lives? What might we do this last week of Advent to be more attentive to the Lord?

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

Dec. 17: Adult Env.: \$7657.50; Loose: \$354.306; Children's Env.: \$2.75; Online: \$2209.00; Building Fund: \$20.00; Christmas: \$20.00; Solemnity of Mary: \$2500.00; Total: **\$12763.55** Laurine Volkmer Foundation: \$12,000.00  
Needed Weekly: \$13,322.48; Short: \$558.93; Dec. 17: Needed: \$333,062.02; Received: \$320,182.24; Short: **\$-12,879.78** (\$-47.70 per family)  
Franciscan Sisters: Need: \$8400.00; Rec'd \$5090.00; Cookie Walk & Donations: \$60.00; Memorial: \$50.00 Poinsettias & Trees: \$100.00;  
Guardian Angel Fund: \$10.00; Cloistered Sisters: \$10.00; Retired Priests: Need: \$7487.00; Rec'd: \$2531.16;  
Thank you for your generosity.

**THOUGHTS TO PONDER:** *Christmas is joy, religious joy, God's joy, an inner joy of light and peace.* Pope Francis

## MASS SCHEDULE/INTENTIONS

	6:20 a.m. (Hospital Chapel)	8:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
<b>Monday</b>	NO MASS	Robert M. Lechner+ (9:00 a.m.)	
<b>Tuesday</b>	Leonard Harris+	Fr. Steve Mills	
<b>Wednesday</b>	Special Intention	Charles Moore+ (Anniv.)	
<b>Thursday</b>	Poor Souls+	Clara Plumer+	
<b>Friday</b>	Special Intention	Jakeb Myers+	
<b>Saturday</b>		Mary Morin+	6:30 p.m. Lois Harris+
<b>Sunday</b>		Linda Schreiner+ (Anniv.)	10:00 a.m. People of the Parish 5:30 p.m. Charles & Lorraine Gude+
	6:30 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
<b>USHERS/ GREETERS</b>	Arnie Kreifels, Carline Moles Frank & Dana Medeiros	Jim & Bonnie Lowe Charles Moyer, Gail Walford	Mike Heng Bill & Mary Jo Olmer
<b>SERVERS</b>	Rylan Esser, Andrew Bakula Trevor Bennett	Aidan & Tyler Kleineweber	Steven Walters, Sam Ebmeier Reed Hamling
<b>LECTORS</b>	Tyler Mason	Jennifer Howard	Tanya Lee
<b>ACOLYTES</b>	Ted Bernard	Paul Madison	Larry Lance
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	Jason & Molly McNeely	Tom & Cindy Gude Family, Patty Gude	Tommy & Amanda Rayhel Family

**WEEKDAY SERVERS:** - Dec. 26-30 – Sam Ebmeier, Reed Hamling, Jaxson Reese; **6:20 a.m. Mass at Hospital** – Server: Marv Penning; Reader: Terry Smith

**READINGS:** Dec. 25, Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18; Dec. 26, Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22; Dec. 27, 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8; Dec. 28, 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Mt 2:13-18; Dec. 29, 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35; Dec. 30, 1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40; Dec. 31, Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21/Lk 2:22-40.

**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.

**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://go.to/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. 27: Vonna Grooman, Dec. 30: Heather Bakula, January 3: Chris Bando, Jan. 6: Brenda Baumann, Jan. 8: Katie Bebout, Jan. 10: Kelly Bequette, Jan. 13: Beth Box, Jan. 15: Suzanne Cooksey, Jan. 17: Kay DeFreece, Jan. 20: Sally DuBois, Jan. 22: Janie Ebmeier, Jan. 24: Jeanette Eilers, Jan. 27: Mary Farris, Jan. 29: Marlene Fey, Jan. 31: Janet and Marlene Frana. 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. 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:** Cooksey, Logan & Jessica Crunk, Mike & Sharon Crunk, Jeffrey & Meredith Cumro, Will & Sue Daniel, Craig & Joni Davis, Denise Davis, Dan & Kay DeFreece, Jesse & Kimberly Dorman, John & Debra Dubas, Briana Dubas. **Jan. 6:** Laurence & Sally DuBois, Barbara DuBois, Nina Durr, Kasey DuVal, Mark Easter, Ryan & Janie Ebmeier, Charles & Sue Eickhoff, Mark & Jeanette Eilers, Stephanie Eppert, Mike & Sheila Essary. **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.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS & TREES:** Thank you to all who donated for the beautiful Christmas poinsettias and trees in memory or honor of friends or loved ones. The following is a list of those that will be remembered at the Masses during the Christmas Season:

Thomas Neyens, Fred Allen, Sr. Janet Brown, Jeffrey Brown Bill Carroll Dennis & Brian Heng LaVern & Lorene Clark, Kevin Aksamit Bill & Betty Davis, Sr. Carolyn Marie Raymond & June Yost, Edmond Davis, Jr. Mary Pudenz, Pudenz, DeFreece & Masching Families, Dion Higgins Herbert & Mark Detloff, Mary Detloff Cooper, Carter Lolax, Kenny Cooper, Clara Pickering Ralph & Lenore Schreiter Merle & Monica Schneider, Julie Schneider Hale, Mark Schneider, Jr. Clement Kreifels Leonard & Clara Heng Jakeb Myers Clement Kreifels Robert Lechner Tim Curtis, Robert Lechner Mark & Rosetta Wirth, Ray & Edith Madison Ed Mills Leonard Navrkal Oelke & Volkmer Families Olmer & Weigle Families James & Jackie Ryan, Bob O'Neil Leo & Kevin Pfeiffer Michael Rakes Joseph Sarrailon Tom Sawyer, Francis, Louise, Jerome Ullsperger, Ullsperger, Henner & Francois Families Dianne Schmitz, Nick, Wilhelmina, Mary Schmitz, Jaxson Popish Linda Schreiner, Harry & Ramona Schreiner, John & Linda Schneider, Delores Schneider Schreiner & Schneider Families Eugene & Rose Schreiner Beilman & Smith Families Ray & Marie Schreiter Bob & Jody Weddle Family Mike Wenzl Doug & Sally Wigington Donald & Patricia Perkins, Susan Perkins, Ron & Germaine Wulf	Fred & Sheryl Allen Florian Brown Marjorie Carroll & Family Kris Chaney Beth Clark Denise Davis Craig & Joni Davis Dan & Kay DeFreece Family Elizabeth Detloff Wilber & Marlene Fey Maggie Griepenstroh Mary Lynn Hall Roger Heng George & Mary Kay Hengen Lois Kreifels Carolyn & Juli Lechner Ron & Kathy Lechner Family Paul & Angie Madison Mary Mills Eunice Navrkal & Family Orville & Jacki Oelke Bill & Mary Jo Olmer Scott & Jan O'Neil Rosemarie Pfeiffer Merle & Murial Rakes Caroline Sarrailon & Family Cathy Sawyer Nick Schmitz Steve Schreiner Steve Schreiner Tom & Joyce Schreiner Jackie Smith Lee & Joyce Turner Bob & Jody Weddle Walt & Rita Wenzl John & Ronda Wigington Bob & Patrice Wulf
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Loving God, creator of all, thank you for the gift of your son, Jesus Christ. This Advent and Christmas, may we rejoice in him and imitate him so that others may see the Light of Christ in us. Give us your grace that we might always be your faithful and holy people. Amen.