

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

SECOND DAY OF ADVENT - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2016

PRAY FOR THE SICK - Robert Willson, Marcy 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 the happy repose of the soul of Marcia Mather.

PLEASE PRAY for our seminarians Wade Bakhit, 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 will conclude for Saturday, December 17 at 12:00 a.m. (Midnight) and resumes Tuesday, January 3 - resumes following 6:20 a.m. Mass.

35TH ANNUAL ADVENT RECITAL: You are invited to celebrate the start of the Advent season with beautiful music provided by local church choirs and vocal groups at Nebraska City's annual community-wide Advent Recital on Sunday, December 4 from 6-8 p.m. at St. Mary's Church. Refreshments will be served following the Recital in the church hall. A free will offering will be accepted to benefit the Nebraska City Utility Assistance Program for those in need.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS SCHEDULE a holy day of obligation will be celebrated on Wednesday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m., and Thursday, December 8 at 6:20 & 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. all at the church.

24TH ANNUAL COOKIE WALK

Mark your calendars and plan to participate in the 24th Annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 10 starting at 8:30 a.m. in St. Mary's Church hall. Start looking for those famous, fancy and colorful Christmas cookie recipes!! Get a group together for a cookie bake.

This event is an opportunity to involve the whole family. Each family of the parish is asked to bake 6-10 dozen cookies. Keep the size small—big ones break easily. Bring your cookies to the church hall anytime Friday, December 9 but, **please before 8:00 a.m.** on Saturday. If you need someone to pick up your cookies, please call Mary Mills, 873-6247 or call Linda Lollmann, 873-3986. If you are unable to bake cookies, please consider making a donation of \$20.

On Saturday, come and bring your friends and family to walk around the tables and choose those special cookies for your bucket. If you have not been to our "Cookie Walk" before, you will be amazed at the sight of all the tables full of beautiful and delicious cookies. Buckets are available for \$8.00 or if you bring last year's bucket, the cost is \$7.50. They make great Christmas gifts.

This is a great fundraiser for our parish, so please plan to participate in this annual event. Thank you in advance for sharing your time and talent for your parish. May God Bless you for your gifts. Fr. Michael McCabe, Mary Mills and Linda Lollmann, Co-Chairmen.

Students needing community service are invited to help with the Cookie Walk. Call Mary, 402-873-6247 or Linda 402-873-3986.

A TIME FOR ANGELS: The 18th Annual Service of Remembrance will be held on Sunday, December 4 at 4:00 p.m. at Marshall Funeral Chapel. A program for the entire community dedicated to those who have lost a loved one. Each family attending will be given a beautiful angel in memory of their loved ones, available for use as a Christmas Tree ornament or a decoration for the home. Uplifting Christmas music will also be a part of the service. Words of comfort will be given by Fr. Michael Ventre and Rev. Michael Schmidt. Refreshments will follow. For more information, please call Marshall Funeral Chapel, 873-5331 or visit marshallfuneral.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: December 10, 8:30 a.m. 24th Annual Cookie Walk, December 14, 6:30 p.m. Theology on Tap, Keeping Room, February 3, 7:00 p.m. Pitch Party, March 5, 4-7 p.m. St. Mary's Soup Supper.

POINSETTIAS & CHRISTMAS TREES will be purchased to decorate our church for Christmas. You may donate \$10.00 per flower as a memorial to a deceased loved one or to honor someone living. Donations are also being accepted to purchase the trees. Special envelopes are available in the entrance of the church for your convenience. Please make donations by **Sunday, December 11** either through the collection basket or to the parish office. Thank you.

THEOLOGY ON TAP 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.

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT: In today's Gospel reading John the Baptist warns his listeners: "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" The Church's yearly Advent herald is a call to repentance. The season of Advent urges us to be open to a conversion of heart. Christian stewards heed this call daily, and take the need for conversion in their lives seriously. As a family of faith, do we hear this call to conversion amidst the massive holiday spending? The increase in credit card debt? The urge to buy things that are not necessary? The incivility on the roadways during the holidays? Are there patterns in our own lives that need to be converted?

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURER - MY RETURN TO THE LORD

Nov. 27: Adult Env.: \$6587.00; Loose: \$362.03 Children's Env.: \$2.85; Online: \$1422.00; Building Fund: \$115.00; Stock: \$10078.89;

Total: **\$8488.88** Guardian Angel Fund: \$5.00

Needed Weekly: \$13,561.64; Over: \$5006.13; Nov 27: Needed: \$298,375.80; Received: \$224,047.67; Short: **\$-74,328.13** (\$-285.88 per family)

Franciscan Sisters: Needed: \$8400.00; Received: \$8230.00; Balance Needed: \$170.00

Lourdes Building & Renovation - Match Contributions: Needed: **\$500,000.00**; Received: **\$120,149.09**; Balance Needed: **\$379,850.91**

Thank you for your generosity.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	5:00 p.m. CCD Class, Grades 7-12, St. Benedict's Rectory	Wednesday	8:45 a.m. Legion of Mary, rectory
	6:00 p.m. Advent Recital		5:30 p.m. Grades 1-6 CCD, Lourdes Primary
Tuesday	9:00 a.m. Cup of Grace, church hall	Saturday	8:30 a.m. Cookie Walk
	6:30 p.m. CDA Christmas Party, Keeping Room		

MASS SCHEDULE/INTENTIONS

	6:20 a.m. (Hospital Chapel)	8:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
Monday	Eileen Gunn+	Herbert & Rosa Volkmer+	
Tuesday	Delores Penning+	Matthew Heng+	
Wednesday	Lois Brown+ (Anniv.)	Delrosa Riege+	6:30 p.m. People of the Parish
Thursday	Mary Pudenz+ (AT CHURCH)	Rose Schreiner+ (Anniv.)	5:30 p.m. Delora Roland+
Friday	Richard Pederson+	Delmar Heng+	
Saturday		Kermit Durr+	6:30 p.m. Patricia Heng
Sunday		Harold Plumer+	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	Arnie Kreifels, Bryan Stukenholtz Jason & Kim Esser	Charlene Reese, Jeff Reese Pete & Nancy Lutz	Richard Gibson, Kent & Cindy McGinnis Jeff & Hettie Funke
SERVERS	Derek Riege, Tyler Lechner John Heng	Colby & Caleb Howard	Quinten Vasa, Alex Gress
LECTORS	Frank Volkmer	Mary Kay Hengen	John Dubas
ACOLYTES	Tim Baumann	Paul Madison	Duane Stuhr
OFFERTORY	Daren & Beth Box Family	Lacie & Lexis Bruns-Morris, Phil Hauptman	Dallas & Shelley Beshaler Family

WEEKDAY SERVERS: - Dec. 5-10 – Joseph Whitney, Anthony Onate, Levi Athens; **6:20 a.m. Mass at Hospital** – Server: Jim Lowe; Reader: Terry Smith; **LECTORS:** Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m. Barb Stukenholtz; Dec. 8, 6:20 a.m. Dan DeFreece; 8:00 a.m. Tom Wigington; 5:30 p.m. Lee Turner

READINGS: Dec. 5, Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26; Dec. 6, Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14; Dec. 7, Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30; Dec. 8, Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38; Dec. 9, Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19; Dec. 10, Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13; Dec. 11, Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11.

STEWARDSHIP A WAY OF LIFE: A key element of stewardship is a welcoming environment.

LOURDES CENTRAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL – UPCOMING EVENTS: No SCHOOL Immaculate Conception - December 8; Holiday Dance - December 10. www.lourdescentralcatholic.org, Like us on Facebook or Follow us on Twitter: @lourdesknights

CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE: Thank you to all those that have taken ornaments from the Christmas Angel Tree. The Christmas Angel Tree Project helps families in need by providing gifts for their children. Please place your UNWRAPPED items in the box located near the Angel Tree no later than December 4. **Make sure to attach the ornament to the gift so it gets to the correct family.** If you would like to sponsor a whole family or have any questions, please contact Cindy McGinnis at 402-209-0531. Thank you for helping make their Christmas a little merrier!

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: The middle school youth group will be putting together care packages for the homebound and nursing home parishioners. Things we can use are: small hand lotions, purse size tissues, chap sticks, nail files, oranges, apples, individual packages of nuts, Christmas candy, small prayer books, and rosaries. There will be a box in the back of church for donations, thank you.

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.

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 tjband@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!

PENANCE SERVICES will be held at the following locations on Sunday, December 18 - 12:00 p.m. St. Joseph's, Paul & 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 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.

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 **\$120,149.09** in new donations. **Balance Needed: \$379,850.91.** 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.

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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 2-4 for men and women with Msgr. Timothy Thorburn, "Does Jesus Really Care?" (Catechist Retreat), December 8-11 for men with Fr. Joshua West, LC (Regnum Christi) "Spiritual Exercises: The Kingdom of Christ," 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.

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.

STEWARDSHIP OF TALENT – DINNERS FOR FR. MCCABE & FR. VENTRE: Dec. 5: Stephanie Hackett, Dec. 7: Noreen Harris, Dec. 10: Pat Heng, 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. 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. 10:** Theresa Brown, Jody Honeysuckle, Carolyn Bryant, Ken & Paula Carlstedt, Chris & Kelly Carpenter, Mary Causgrove, Sean & Maureen Chance, Joe & Brooke Chaney, Richard Sevensing, Kris Chaney. **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: *Let us not forget: if we are to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus, our lives must bear witness to what we preach.* Pope Francis