

# 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

## THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2017

**PRAY FOR THE SICK** - 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. **PLEASE NOTE - THANKSGIVING SCHEDULE:** Adoration concludes on Thursday, November 23 at 12:00 a.m. and resumes Monday, November 27 following the 6:20 a.m. Mass.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST:** Come join the high school students that will be going to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. in January for a pancake feed on Sunday, November 19 in St. Mary's Church hall from 8:30-11:45 a.m. The students will be serving pancakes and all the fixings. Free will offering. Proceeds will go to help offset the costs. We appreciate your support

**TURKEY BINGO** at St. Joseph's Church, Paul will be held on Sunday, November 19. Lunch will be served beginning at 12:00 p.m. noon. First game of Bingo called at 1:00 p.m. Each game only 25 cents per card to win a turkey for Thanksgiving. Remember, kids love Bingo! Come join us for this family-friendly event. Come early to pick your cards and get a good spot. This year we are back in St. Joseph's Parish Hall!

**"LOVE MADE VISIBLE" - ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL FOR VOCATIONS:** Now is the time provided for us to be generous to our future priests thru this annual appeal. We have been very blessed with three seminarians from our parish studying for the priesthood, Joseph Allen, James O'Neil and Brian Wirth, along with 36 others in the Diocese of Lincoln. As Catholics, we have an obligation to support and pray for these young men who will be instruments of our salvations for years to come. Each family will have the opportunity to assist these young men with their formation of the priesthood. If you have not completed your card, please stop in the entrance of the church today. Our parish goal is \$11,780.00. If each of our families would be able to give a minimum of \$52.00 we would reach our goal. This averages \$.15 per day/\$1.00 per week/\$4.34 per month. Some families are able to give larger gifts and some less. Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood and for all of our seminarians. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

**THANKSGIVING DAY MASS** will be at 8:00 a.m. There will not be Mass at the hospital chapel. On this day we give thanks to almighty God for the freedom we have in our country. Around every Thanksgiving table our American families will feel closer to their loved ones and to our blessed Lord. We encourage you to attend this Thanksgiving Day Mass to worship not only as a family, but also as a parish family and give thanks for all the blessings that our Lord has bestowed upon our country and us. All are cordially invited to join in this celebration. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his love is everlasting. Give thanks to the Lord of Lords, for his love is everlasting. Cf. *Psalm 136:1*.

**CLOISTERED SISTERS - A SPECIAL COLLECTION** will be taken up during Mass on Thanksgiving Day to support the diocesan cloistered sisters, Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters (Pink Sisters) in Lincoln and the Carmelite Sisters in Agnew. The contemplative community of sisters supports our Diocese by their prayers before the Blessed Sacrament. Envelopes are attached to the bulletin today for this collection. Please make checks payable to St. Mary's. Thank you.

**THANKSGIVING DAY AT THE DEPOT:** The Depot, Kimmel Orchard and Fareway are teaming up to provide a free will Thanksgiving Day Lunch from 12-3 p.m. A donation is not required, but may be appreciated. Everyone is welcome.

**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.

**THANK YOU** to Marv & Mary Penning for all you do in the care of our parish grounds and our cemetery. Thank you to Tom Schreiner and Bill Olmer for all the things you repair or restore for the rectory and church. Thank you to all those that give of their time and talent for our parish. Your sharing of your gifts is greatly appreciated.

**THANK YOU!** The Catholic Daughters would like to thank everyone that donated to the St. Gianna's drive. We collected many useful items that will be greatly appreciated.

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

Nov. 12: Adult Env.: \$7584.50; Loose: \$525.72; Children's Env.: \$2.46; Online: \$1625.00; Building Fund: \$20.00; Total: \$9,757.68  
Needed Weekly: \$13,322.48; Short: \$3564.80; Nov. 12: Needed: \$266,449.64; Received: \$249,562.36 Short: **-\$16,887.28** (\$-62.55 per family)  
Franciscan Sisters: Need: \$8400.00; Rec'd \$5000.00 Bishop's Appeal for Vocations: \$8552.00 Thank you for your generosity.

## MASS SCHEDULE/INTENTIONS

	6:20 a.m. (Hospital Chapel)	8:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
<b>Monday</b>	Leonard Van Liew+	Ed Mills+	
<b>Tuesday</b>	Jan Penning+	Carl & Nora Kreifels+	
<b>Wednesday</b>	Steve Eickhoff+	Sr. Mary Cecilia Mills	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>	Robert Reese+	
<b>Friday</b>	Gude & Nystrom Families+	Ann Spalti+	
<b>Saturday</b>		Heidi Tempelmeyer+	<b>6:30 p.m.</b> Myron & Velma Henner+
<b>Sunday</b>		Delbert Larson+	<b>10:00 a.m.</b> People of the Parish
	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>USHERS/ GREETERS</b>	Rosemarie Pfeiffer, Mary Lee Duncan Maggie Griepenstroh, Juli Lechner	Jackie Smith, Cathy Thomas George & Mary Kay Hengen	Ric Sevening, Steve Stukenholtz Larry Lance, David Schmitz
<b>SERVERS</b>	Tyler Lechner, Johnny Heng	Nick & Andrew Bernard Adam Howard	Joseph & Seth Whitney Jaxson Reese
<b>LECTORS</b>	Sharon Crunk	Jerry Martin	Kelly Madden
<b>ACOLYTES</b>	Fred Allen	Mike Gilson	Andy Fedoris
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	Jody Honeysuckle Family	Mark & Jeanette Eilers	Ken & Mary Pargett

**WEEKDAY SERVERS:** - Nov. 20-25 – Nick Fedoris, Gage Schmitz, Oscar Krog; **6:20 a.m. Mass at Hospital** – Server: Jim Lowe; Reader: Terry Smith

**READINGS:** Nov. 19, 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63/Lk 18:35-43; Nov. 21, 2 Mc 6:18-31/Lk 19:1-10; Nov. 22, 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Lk 19:11-28; Nov. 23, 1 Mc 2:15-29/Lk 19:41-44; Nov. 24, 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/Lk 19:45-48; Nov. 25, 1 Mc 6:1-13/Lk 20:27-40; Nov. 26, Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-46.

**STEWARDSHIP A WAY OF LIFE:** Use your gifts in service to God and neighbor.

**FALL DINNER:** St. Leo's Church, Palmyra, is hosting their fall dinner on Sunday, November 19 from 11-1 p.m. in the church hall. Serving: Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, green beans, rolls, pie, and drinks. Cost is adults: \$10.00; kids: 12 and under \$5.00; family: \$30.00. Takeout available.

**A BETTER PLAN WORKSHOP:** Lourdes Central Catholic School and our area parishes are hosting A Better Plan on Monday, November 27 from 6-7:30 p.m. at Table Creek Restaurant. A Better Plan is a FREE workshop presented by The Catholic Foundation of Southern Nebraska. Whether you have a plan or haven't yet begun, A Better Plan, workshop shares valuable information about: Using your assets for retirement income; Using assets instead of cash for charity; Moral medical decision making; Keeping more money for you, your family, and the community. If you're interested in attending A Better Plan workshop, please register by November 20 to Brooke Chaney, [brooke-chaney@cdolinc.net](mailto:brooke-chaney@cdolinc.net) or 402-873-6154.

**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 November 20, December 4 and December 18. Value of all items needed is approximately \$20. Shopping lists are available in the entrance of the church.

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR:** All children in grades 2-12 are invited to sing in the Children's Choir. We are getting ready for the Advent Recital. We will practice on Wednesday, November 29 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and sing on Sunday, December 3 at the 10:00 a.m. Mass. We will have practice after the 10:00 Mass. The Advent Recital is at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 3 at St. Mary's Church. Students are asked to arrive at 5:45 p.m. If you have any questions, please call Kay DeFreece at 402-209-0321. Thank you.

**WANTED!! ADULTS & TEENS:** Looking for adults and teens to sing in the adult choir. We are preparing for the Advent Recital and there will be practice on Wednesday, November 29 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. The Advent Recital is Sunday, December 3 at 6:00 p.m.

**WHITE MASS** for those in the medical field will be celebrated with Bishop James Conley on Saturday, December 2 at 8:00 a.m. in the John XXIII Chapel, 3700 Sheridan Blvd. Following Mass there will be light breakfast and presentation entitled, "Suffering: Theological and Practical Approaches" by Fr. Steven Thomlison.

**CATHEDRAL CRAFT FAIR AND BAKE SALE:** December 2 from 9-4 p.m. at Cathedral of the Risen Christ School – 3245 S 37th St, Lincoln. Shop for the holidays with over 45 craft vendors. A wide variety for every interest such as hand-made accessories, kid's items, Christmas ornaments and decor, and easy-prep dips and sides. Stock up on baked goodies such as cookies, breads and pies for your holiday events. Lunch available from 11-1 p.m. and Santa will visit from 11-1 p.m. Proceeds benefit the work of Cathedral of the Risen Christ's Parish Council of Catholic Women.

**THE PINK LADIES** share their gift of song on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:45 a.m.

**MASS WITH PRAYERS FOR HEALING:** Sunday, December 3 at John XXIII Center, 37<sup>th</sup> & Sheridan Blvd., Lincoln. Sacrament of Reconciliation, 1:15 p.m. until Mass begins, Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 1:30 p.m., Praise and Worship until Mass begins at 2:00 p.m., Anointing of the Sick after the homily, Eucharistic Exposition and Healing Prayer after Mass. Dates for 2018: March 11, June 10, Sept. 9, Dec. 9. Please join us! Sponsored by St. Benedict Prayer Team.

**STEWARDSHP MOMENT:** In today's Gospel, Jesus delivers the parable of the talents; using the example of money rather than abilities or skills. It's a story about investments, risks and returns. Stewards understand that God has given them an abundance of spiritual gifts. They know God doesn't want them to simply receive these blessings and bury them in fear, but to multiply them; to use these gifts to serve Him and others; to spread Christ's Good News; to go and make disciples of others. Good stewards invest what God has given them in the service of others and are prepared to render an account when the Lord returns. Reflect this week on how you are returning your own God-given gifts back to God with increase.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	8:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast, church hall	Wednesday	8:45 a.m. Legion of Mary, rectory
	5:00 p.m. CCD Class, Grades 7-12, St. Benedict's Rectory		5:30 p.m. NO CCD - Grades 1-6
Tuesday	9:00 a.m. Cup of Grace, church hall		7:00 p.m. R.C.I.A. Class, Lourdes School

**THOUGHTS TO PONDER:** *The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive.* St. Faustina

**CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE:** St. Mary's Church, along with the Nebraska City Ministerial Association is participating in the Christmas Angel Tree Project again this year. The Angel Tree Project helps families in need by providing gifts for their children. The tree in the entrance has paper ornaments with items listed on them. Please consider taking an ornament(s) and purchasing the item listed. Place UNWRAPPED items in the box located near the Angel Tree no later than December 10. MAKE SURE TO ATTACH THE ORNAMENT TO THE GIFT SO IT GETS TO THE CORRECT FAMILY. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy McGinnis at 402-209-0531. Thank you for helping make their Christmas a little merrier!

**36TH 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 3 from 6-8 p.m. at St. Mary's Church. Refreshments will be served following the Recital in the church hall.

**KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS CARDS:** The Knights of Columbus will be selling Christmas cards after Mass in the entrance of the church, so be sure to shop early for the best selection

**CONFIRMATION PRACTICE** will be held on Wednesday, December 6 at 5:30 p.m. All students being confirmed are to attend and wear your confirmation attire. Please bring your sponsor if they are able to attend. Individual and group pictures will be taken.

**UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDAR:** December 3 – Advent Recital; December 6 – Confirmation Practice; December 9 – Cookie Walk; December 10 – Confirmation; December 17 – Communal Penance Service; January 26 – Pitch Party; March 4 – First Confession & St. Mary's Soup Supper; April 15 – First Communion; April 21-22 – Ministry Fair.

### **25th ANNIVERSARY - ANNUAL COOKIE WALK**

Mark your calendars and plan to participate in the 25th Annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 9 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 8 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.

**ABORTION TUESDAYS:** PLEASE! We need people praying for the abortion mothers to choose life for their babies on Tuesday. One half of all abortion mothers going in on Tuesdays are married mothers. From Helpers of god's Precious Infants and Mothers Sidewalk Counselors/Prayer People.

**PRAYMORENOVENAS.COM** Get Novena prayers delivered to your inbox! Feel the power of praying together with 282,262 people! Never forget to finish a Novena again!

**MARRIAGE HELP:** Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has helped tens of thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. This program can help you too. For confidential information about or to register for the program being offered February 16-18, 2018, in Schuyler, Nebraska call 1-888-317-5654 or check the web site [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org).

**NEW INSPIRATIONAL CATHOLIC CDS AND BOOKS:** Want to enrich and strengthen your relationship with Jesus Christ and your understanding of the Catholic faith? Stop in the entrance of the church today to see what is new from Lighthouse Catholic Media. CDS are only \$4 and books are \$6. Your generous donations help continue our ministry and we are able to purchase additional CDs, books and booklets.

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

**YOUR DISHES ARE WAITING FOR YOU:** There is a large number of dishes waiting for their owners in the church hall. If you have brought a dish for a parish function or for dinner for the priests recently and have not picked it up, please do so at your earliest convenience. All dishes remaining at rummage sale time will be donated. Stop and pick yours up today. Thank you.

**STEWARDSHIP OF TALENT – DINNER FOR FR. MCCABE & FR. MORIN:** Nov 20: Margaret Rumery, Nov. 22: Julia Russell, Nov. 25: Jacqueline Smith, Nov. 27: Pat Stoner, Nov. 29: Shelli Stuhr, Dec. 2 Shawn Stukenholtz, Dec. 4: Marcia Talmon, Dec. 6: Julie Volkmer, Dec. 9: Allison Weddle, Dec. 11: Hope Weninger, Dec. 13: Kathy Wigington, Dec. 16: Cheryl Wirth Dec. 18: Emily Wolken, Dec. 20: Teresa Albers, Dec. 23: Bobbi Aultz, 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}):** **Nov. 25:** Evert & Lisa Whitten, Doug Wichman, Richard Wichman, Kevin & Natalie Kelly, Nathan & Mary Wigington, Tom & Kathy Wigington, Larry Williams, Gerry Wirth, James & Cheryl Wirth, Emily Wolken. **Dec. 2:** Mary Wright, Robert & Patrice Wulf, Jamie & Aubrey Wurtele, Jason & Lacey Wurtele, Gayle Wurtele, Randy & Connie Wurtele, Todd Yost, Anna Young, Carl Abbott, Sally Abbott, Colin & Teresa Albers. **Dec. 9:** Mike & Patti Alex, Fred & Sheryl Allen, Bret & Kathy Allgood, Evelyn Alonso, William & Kathy Aultz, William & Roberta Aultz, John Baker, Lisa Baker, Mark & Heather Bakula, Chris & Tammy Bando. **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.

**Be thankful for all our blessings of life. We thank you Lord for all the good things of our lives, our faith and our country. Keep us safe and protected in your loving arms. HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!**

**JOYFUL LIVING, GRATEFUL GIVING PROGRAM:** Have you returned your commitment card? If you have not returned your card, do so as soon as possible. Thank you to all those that have returned your commitment card and have committed your offertory support to continue to advance our parish mission. Please return your card even if you are unable to make a change in your current level of giving. Please pray for our parish and the success of this program. Thank you.

**GREETERS/USHERS NEEDED:** Two people or a couple is needed for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday at the 6:30 p.m. Mass and 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.

**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.

**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS CHRISTMAS PARTY!** Come join us on December 5 at the Keeping Room at 6:30 p.m. for dinner and fun. We will play Cardo! So bring a \$5 wrapped gift. We will also be collecting small games for the Tutwiler Education Center in Mississippi, these do not need to be wrapped. See you the 5<sup>th</sup>! If you have any questions contact Barb Stukenholtz at 402-209-4976.

**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.

**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.

**ALL CATHOLICS ARE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE AN ANNUAL RETREAT:** Upcoming retreats at Good Counsel Retreat House in Waverly: December 1-3 for men and women with Bishop Robert Finn "Baptize, Teach and Know I am With You" (Catechists), December 7-10 for men with Fr. Michael Mitchell, LC and Fr. Peter Krezalek, LC "Regnum Christi: Spiritual Exercises and December 15-17 for men and women with Bishop James Conley and Fr. Gary Coulter – Advent Retreat. Register at [www.goodcounselretreat.com](http://www.goodcounselretreat.com)

**ELECTRONIC GIVING:** Do you use online banking? Do you use online bill pay? If so, try St. Mary's Church Online Giving. With our online giving program, you have the choice of when and how often you give to the church. All the special collections are available for you to plan your year of giving. Your gifts are directly deposited into the church's bank account and your contribution is directly downloaded to your contribution record. So there is no depositing of checks, no recording of envelopes, no errors in posting and a savings in mailing envelopes. You save time, checks, and also have access to your contribution record at any time. So, if you haven't set up your Online Giving account, please give it a try. To start your account, go to [stmarysnebraskacity.com](http://stmarysnebraskacity.com) and click on the Online Giving button. Then follow the directions. If you don't use a computer or you need help in setting up an account, please call the parish office and Linda will be glad to assist you. Currently we have 74 families that manage their own account and 8 that are managed thru the parish office. Thank you to all those that use Online Giving. **TRY IT TODAY!!! PLEASE NOTE:** If you bank at **Premier Bank**, and are still using Farmers Bank checks, please make sure that you use this routing number: 104000870

**WITHOUT CHANGING YOUR WILL, YOU CAN LEAVE A GIFT TO OUR PARISH:** Designate St. Mary's Church as the beneficiary of all or a portion of your IRA or 401K. Your funds have grown tax free in your IRA or 401K, and your heirs could be taxed at a high rate when the funds are distributed. If you donate these funds, the money passes directly to our parish, tax-free. Contact your IRA or 401K plan administrator for a change of beneficiary designation form. Leave your Savings Account or Certificate of Deposit (CD) to our parish. Simply change the beneficiary to make the Savings Account or CD payable upon death to the parish. The parish will receive the funds when you are deceased. For more information contact your financial institution. Contact Les Mach, Planned Giving Officer Diocese of Lincoln, [les-mach@cdolinc.net](mailto:les-mach@cdolinc.net) or 402-443-3866 for help and additional options for planned gifts.

**HOLY WATER BOTTLES** are available for use for taking holy water home. If you take a bottle, please bring it back for a refill. If you have extras at home, please return them for others to use. Thank you.

**YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!!! CHURCH CLEANING – JUST A REMINDER TO ALL FAMILIES OF THE PARISH:** All families of the parish are asked to help with cleaning of our church. Sometimes there are a number of volunteers that come to work together to clean our church. Sometimes there are two or three or sometimes just one. **Please be considerate** of those that you are scheduled to serve with to clean the church. If you are not able to come, **please find a substitute** from the list below or call Kathy Duffy for assistance. All families are only asked to help clean the church two or three times each year. Be kind, do your part as a member of our parish. If you forget, please come the next week. Please also sign the notebook in the entrance of the church so that we know that you have come to serve your parish. If you have traded or substituted for someone, please also, notate that. Thank you to all those that faithfully clean our Lord's home.

**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.

#### **TEN STEPS TO A JOYFUL MASS:**

1. Make your genuflection upon entering the church a real act of adoration.
2. Sing the songs even if you think you do not have a good singing voice; God will love you for your effort.
3. Say the people's prayers firmly and out loud.
4. Try to find one thing in the readings from Scripture that will apply to you – here and now.
5. Try to get at least one good thought from the homily by listening.
6. Make your donation to your parish this Sunday as a conscious act of sacrifice of yourself and your work to God.
7. Look for the beauty in the Eucharistic prayer – it's there.
8. Make Holy Communion a real "happening," a real meeting with our Lord and a real joining with others in His love.
9. Mass is not over until the final hymn is completed; stay and join in.
10. Smile and say, "Hello," to someone as you leave the church.