

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2016

PRAY FOR THE SICK - Marcy Thomasson, Donna Walters, Janet McVay, Marcia Mather, 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 Dale Alder, 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.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Jumpstart your Catholic spirituality with an hour of adoration and prayer in Eucharistic Adoration. Consider spending quality time with our Lord in a quiet and intimate setting. The fruit of spending time in adoration is bountiful. Jesus awaits all to come to Him and richly rewards those who take the time and make the sacrifice of their time. See for yourself. Several options exist for you to get involved: regular adorer, substitute adorer or temporary adorer to cover open hours until they are filled. Please pray about this. Many graces are given to all who spend time with our Eucharistic Lord.

ADORERS NEEDED - EUCCHARISTIC 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.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS CARDS: The Knights of Columbus will be selling Christmas cards after Mass.

ADVENT RECITAL - YOUTH CHOIR PRACTICE: Attention to students in grades 2-12! If you would like to participate in the Advent Recital on Sunday, December 4, please come to practice on Wednesday, November 30 from 3:30-4:15 p.m. at St. Mary's Church. This recital brings choirs from the community and different churches together to get our hearts ready for Advent and Christmas. It is a beautiful evening of music and prayer. Mrs. Kate Roberts has graciously offered her time and talent to help us with our choir again this year. Questions, please call, Kay DeFreece, 4042-873-4898.

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 for utility assistance to those in need.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: December 10, 8:30 a.m. 24th Annual Cookie Walk, 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.

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.

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 **\$119,629.09** in new donations. 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: On this first Sunday of Advent Jesus urges his disciples to stay awake and prepare themselves for the Lord's coming. Good stewards prepare themselves and await Christ's judgment in joyous expectation. This kind of attitude requires genuine spiritual maturity, the kind that is cultivated by prayer, participation in the sacraments, loving attention to family and one's communion of faith, and love for one's neighbor. Are we prepared for the Lord's second coming? Are we ready to receive Christ? Are we ready to look joyously for Christ's judgment?

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURER - MY RETURN TO THE LORD

Nov. 20: Adult Env.: \$6946.00; Loose: \$527.00; Children's Env.: \$4.08; Online: \$4609.50; Building Fund: \$45.00; Total: **\$12,131.58**
Needed Weekly: \$13,561.64; Short: \$1430.06; Nov 20: Needed: \$284,814.16; Received: \$205,479.90; Short: **-\$79,334.26** (\$-305.13 per family)

Franciscan Sisters: Needed: \$8400.00; Received: \$8220.00; Balance Needed: \$180.00

Lourdes Building & Renovation - Match Contributions: Needed: **\$500,000.00**; Received: **\$119,629.09**; Balance Needed: **\$380,370.91**

Thank you for your generosity.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday	9:00 a.m. Cup of Grace, church hall	Wednesday	7:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee meeting, church hall
Wednesday	8:45 a.m. Legion of Mary, rectory	Sunday	5:00 p.m. CCD Class, Grades 7-12, St. Benedict's Rectory
	3:30 p.m. Youth Choir practice		6:00 p.m. Advent Recital
	5:30 p.m. Grades 1-6 CCD, Lourdes Primary		

THOUGHTS TO PONDER: "Joy springs from a grateful heart." Pope Francis

MASS SCHEDULE/INTENTIONS

	6:20 a.m. (Hospital Chapel)	8:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
Monday	Grace Lee+	Steve Eickhoff+ (Anniv.)	
Tuesday	Mike Vaughn+	Evelyn Mills+ (Anniv.)	
Wednesday	Joanna Marron+	Dorothy Kramer+	
Thursday	Charles & Lorraine Gude+	Henry & Mary Laur+	
Friday	Special Intention (SH)	Tom Lollmann+ (Anniv.)	
Saturday		Clarence & Anna Mae Kaiser Family	6:30 p.m. Charles Williams+
Sunday		Bill Carroll+	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	Herman & Myla Weber Bob & Debbie Lechner	Don & Pat Ramold Tim & Nancy Baragary	Wayne & Brenda Kreifels Duane & Shelli Stuhr
SERVERS	Damon, Garrett, Robert Honeysuckle	Hayden, Ben, Blake Miller	Kaden Olson, Alex Bebout, Tyler Mucha
LECTORS	Sharon Crunk	Jennifer Howard	Ron Schmitz
ACOLYTES	Matt Nienaber	Sean Chance	Bryan Bequette
OFFERTORY	Ted Bernard Family	Jack & Jeanine Blevins	Bryan & Kelly Bequette

WEEKDAY SERVERS: - Nov. 28-Dec. 3 – Garrett Honeysuckle, Joss Neumeister, Braedon Watkins; **6:20 a.m. Mass at Hospital** – Server: Dave Heng; Reader: Marv Giittinger

READINGS: Nov. 28, Is 4:2-6/Mt 8:5-11; Nov. 29, Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24; Nov. 30, Rom 10:9-18/Mt 4:18-11; Dec. 1, Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27; Dec. 2, Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31; Dec. 3, Is 30:19:21, 23-26/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8; Dec. 4, Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12.

STEWARDSHIP A WAY OF LIFE: "Whatever you possess must not possess you." Pope St. Gregory the Great

LOURDES CENTRAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL – UPCOMING EVENTS: One Act Competes at Districts - November 28; Basketball at home vs Johnson Brock - December 1; No SCHOOL Immaculate Conception - December 8; Holiday Dance - December 10. www.lourdescentralcatholic.org. Like us on Facebook or Follow us on Twitter: @lourdesknights

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: The First United Methodist Church is hosting their annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 3 from 8:30-2 p.m. Auction items, themed baskets, country store, baked goods, homemade soups, sandwiches, pie, cake, rolls and musical entertainment. Proceeds go toward missions and the church.

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.

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"

ONLINE 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 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 58 families that manage their own account and 11 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**, please make sure that you use this routing number: 104000870

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.

INSPIRATIONAL CATHOLIC CDS, BOOKS, AND BOOKLETS: 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 and booklets are only \$3 and books are \$5. Your generous donations help continue our ministry and we are able to purchase additional CDs and books.

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.

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/>.

STEWARDSHIP OF TALENT – DINNERS FOR FR. MCCABE & FR. VENTRE: Nov. 28: Lana Gilson, Nov. 30 Maggie Griepenstroh, Dec. 3: Kathy Grundman, 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. 3: Jack & Jeanine Blevins, Richard Blobaum, Caroline Bolin, Richard & Gail Bond, Marcia Boone, Jennifer Booth, Ronda Booth, Daren & Beth Box, Roger & Ranae Brandt. **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.