



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA

Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2018

Pastor: Rev. Michael Houlihan
Associate Pastor: Rev. Timothy Danek
520 South 18th Street Plattsmouth, NE 68048
Rectory Phone: (402) 296-3139
Parish office email: plattsmouthHSC@cdolinc.net
Website: www.holyspiritplattsmouth.com
School website: www.stjbcatholic.com
Parish Facebook page: facebook.com/CHSPlattsmouth

PARISH WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

ENTER THE MASS! Give honor to God!

Monday, December 10

8:10 a.m. +Laoretta Sarraillon
+Mary Jane Scott

Tuesday, December 11

8:10 a.m. +Shirley Morehead Miller
+Monika Michaels

Wednesday, December 12

8:10 a.m. +Robert Gillen
+John & Marcia Holdridge

Thursday, December 13

8:10 a.m. +John & Betty Schanbacher
+Jean Tata

Friday, December 14

8:10 a.m. +Dennis Petereit
John Kriskey's 85th birthday

Saturday, December 15

8:00 a.m. Living & Deceased members of PCCW
5:00 p.m. People of the Parish

Sunday, December 16

8:00 a.m. +All Souls Day Intentions
10:30 a.m. Special Intention for D.C.

CONFESSIONS:

Weekdays: Before Mass
Saturdays, 3:30-4:45 PM
Sundays, 7:30-7:45 AM and 9:30-10:15 AM

Head Count at Mass last weekend: 539

Contributions for December 2, 2018

General Collection at Mass	\$	9,604.77
General Online Giving	\$	2,193.00
Debt Reduction	\$	590.00
Debt Reduction Online Giving	\$	190.00
Teachers/Staff	\$	450.00
Teachers/Staff Online Giving	\$	15.00
Propagation of the Faith	\$	20.00
Cloistered Nuns	\$	65.00
Flowers	\$	75.00

Best Advent Ever offers daily short videos sent to your phone, with inspiration for a good and fruitful Advent! Sign up at www.DynamicCatholic.com/daily-reflections

Acolytes and Lectors are invited to a Men's retreat at Good Counsel Retreat House Jan. 18-20, 2019 with Fr. Eric Clark entitled "Discipleship at the Foot of the Cross". The retreat will also include Acolyte/Lector refresher training with the Knights of the Holy Eucharist. Registration and information at 402-786-2705 or www.goodcounselretreat.com.

Bishop James Conley and Father Gary Coulter will lead a retreat December 14-16 at Good Counsel Retreat House for men and women of all ages, entitled, "The Mysteries of Christmas."

Several of the Joyful Mysteries of the rosary are typically associated with Christmas, such as the Annunciation, Nativity, and Presentation in the Temple, but what not everyone knows is that Epiphany is traditionally associated not only with the wise men but also two other mysteries: the Baptism of Jesus and the Miracle at the Wedding in Cana, which are also 'Epiphanies' that make Jesus known.

Fr. Coulter points out, "Although Mary plays a key role in the Christmas story, and occupies a central focus in the Rosary, she always leads us to know and love her son, Jesus. As Mary's last recorded words in the gospels say, 'Do whatever he tells you.'"

As both great books for Advent reading and as source for the retreat, Bishop Conley recommends Jesus of Nazareth: the Infancy Narratives by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. Fr. Coulter recommends Joy to the World: How Christ's Coming Changed Everything (and Still Does) by Dr. Scott Hahn.

The retreats begin 8 p.m. Friday with a Rosary and Mass, and end at noon Sunday with Mass and lunch, for a suggested donation of \$170. *Note: Bishop Conley will present 3 talks, Father Coulter, 4 talks.*

See the full schedule of retreats, or register at goodcounselretreat.com. Also listen to free recordings of past retreats, sign-up for a monthly email newsletter, leave a prayer request, make a donation, and more. One can also email goodcounsel@cdolinc.net or call 402-786-2705.

Penance Service with about 9 priests available for Confession will be at Church of the Holy Spirit on December 23, beginning at 3:30pm. Father Houlihan will also have some extra Confession times available the third week of December. The schedule for that will be in next week's bulletin.



Christmas Giving Tree Give joy to families in need. Please place your wrapped gift with the tag attached under the tree by Dec 18. Thank you for your generosity!

Christmas flowers: If you'd like to contribute toward these flowers, in memory of loved ones, envelopes are available in the Commons.

Christmas Eve Children's Choir



Mrs. Lewandowski and Mrs. Owens invite all children in grade 3 and above to sing in the Children's Choir at the 5:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals will take place Mondays after school in December. (December 3, 10, and 17) Practice will begin immediately after school and end at 4:00. On Christmas Eve, children will need to arrive at church by 4:25. It is important that students attend as many of the rehearsals as possible, as we will learn music that is in addition to traditional carols.

Adult Choir – Christmas practices If you would like to join the choir for singing at the Christmas Mass, please come for the Monday rehearsals, 7:00pm. Glorious music!

Christmas gift bags will be delivered to the known homebound of our parish by PCCW on Wed., Dec 12. If you would like to donate items or help pack and deliver the bags, please sign up in the Commons after Mass this weekend.

“Stewardship of Talent” Dinners for Fr. Houlihan and Fr. Danek: We have a great team set up – thank you! Dec 10: Katie Bourret, Dec 12: Kacey Groshans, Dec 13: Nicole Ernest, Dec 17: Bonnie Seyfur, Dec 19: Deb Warga, Dec 20: Glennia Sand, Dec 24: Kacey Groshans, Dec 26: Sandy DiSomma, Dec 27: Gay Lepert, Dec 31: Sandy DiSomma, Jan 2: Bill Boyle, Jan 3: Carla Wehling

Church cleaning reminder: For Dec 15 (at 9:00am): Schultz, Schultze, Schutz, Sedlacek, Sedlak, Sedlak, Seyfer, Sharman

Knights of Columbus – Council 1966 / George Johnson GK 235-3518

December Breakfast – On December 16th, the Knights will be serving breakfast after the 8:00 and 10:30am Masses. The Knights will be serving cinnamon rolls, egg bake and fruit salad. December's breakfast proceeds will go to the Foreign Ministry.

Officer's Meeting – in the St. John's gym between meals, Sunday, Dec 16.

This week's featured Seminarian: Santiago Izquierdo from Lincoln, who entered seminary in 2016 and is now in College 4 at St. Gregory the Great. We pray, too, for Adam Bohan from Plattsmouth, who entered seminary for the Society of Jesus in 2015. Please keep all our seminarians and sisters in formation in your prayers.

CDA's Pecan or Pumpkin pies Through the weekend before Christmas, you can order your holiday pie! See their table in the Commons.

Do you have a new address or phone number?...
...Please let us know at the parish office. 296-3139

Are you new to the parish? Welcome! Come in to the rectory office to register, or...Registration Forms are in the Commons. Bring or mail it in, or put it in the collection basket at Mass!

Do you know of anyone who is no longer healthy enough to be able to come to Sunday Mass, and would like to be on the Sunday Communion Call ?....
...Please let us know at the parish office. 296-3139

Prayer requests? Please call or text 943-9959, or call 296-3039, or email chsprayerchain@gmail.com

To be on the Holy Hour of Adoration schedule, please leave a message for Sue at 296-5047.

Wee Worship, Children's Liturgy, during Sunday 10:30am Mass, 4yrs thru 1st grade. Daycare for 1-3yr olds for all of Mass is also offered at this Mass, in St. Joseph's Room.

St. John the Baptist School families are invited to a Chili Feed and basketball games on Saturday, December 15th at Lourdes Central Catholic School, 412 Second Avenue, Nebraska City. St. John's families can enjoy free admission to the games on this day, and our Lourdes Activities Association is hosting a Chili Feed from 2:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

Lourdes Central Catholic vs Johnson-Brock games schedule:

- 2:00 p.m. Girls JV game
- 3:00 p.m. Boys JV game
- 4:30 p.m. Girls Varsity game
- 6:00 p.m. Boys Varsity game

Some upcoming dates:

- December 12 – Christmas concert, grades 4-8, 7:00pm in gym
- December 16 – Knights' free-will donation breakfast, after 8 & 10:30 Masses
- December 23 – Penance Service, about 9 priests for Confession 3:30pm
- December 24/25 – Mass: Christmas Eve, 5pm & 10pm; Christmas Day, 9am
- December 26 – Parish Council mtg cancelled, next one is January 23
- December 31 – Holy Mother of God Vigil Mass: 5:00pm
- January 1 – Holy Mother of God. Mass: 9:00 am

For a more detailed list of upcoming church events and meetings, please visit www.holyspiritplattsmouth.com and/or check the front table in the Commons.

**Interesting specials
on EWTN this week:**

**THE STORY OF OUR LADY OF
GUADALUPE**

A look at the history of the appearance of the Blessed Mother to Juan Diego and her devotion at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.
Monday, Dec 10 at 4:30 PM

**MATTHEW 5: THE BEATITUDES JESUS
GAVE TO US**

In the fifth chapter of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus introduces the foundation of the Kingdom of Heaven, as Scripture Scholar France Hogan relates how the Beatitudes are guides to get there.
Wednesday, Dec 12 at 5:30 AM

FATHER SPITZER'S UNIVERSE

Always a great show to watch. Fr. Robert Spitzer and Doug Keck provide answers for questions on faith and reason. This week, they explore the relationship between the sacrifice of Our Lord in the Mass with Christ's sacrifice on Calvary.

Wednesday, Dec 12 at 1:00 PM

Wednesday, Dec 12 at 9:00 PM

Friday, Dec 14 at 11:00 PM

**GUADALUPE – MOTHER OF THE
AMERICAS**

A detailed look at the appearance of Mary to the humble peasant Juan Diego, which ushered in one of the largest mass conversions in the history of the Church.

Wednesday, Dec 12 at 4:30 PM

Thursday, Dec 13 at 12:30 PM

**KOSOVO: EUROPE'S HIDDEN
CATHOLICS**

A look into the lives of Kosovo's Crypto-Catholics, a small minority who still hope for the day they may publically attend Church in predominantly Muslim Kosovo.

Thursday, Dec 13 at 4:30 PM

**GUADALUPE: THE MIRACLE AND THE
MESSAGE**

Jim Caviezel narrates the history of Our Lady of Guadalupe, from the miraculous apparition to the relevance her message still holds for Catholics today.

Friday, Dec 14 at 7:00 PM

will be celebrated in Loma, NE at St. Luke's Czech Catholic Shrine on Sunday, December 16, at 4:00. The Ostry family will sing Czech Christmas carols at 3:30.

A variety of Religious goods for you to choose from, for a free-will donation! They are displayed in the Rectory Office, Mon-Fri, 9:00am – 5:00pm. Many rosaries – some are brand new, some slightly used, some so old that they are a treasure! Also, Bibles, some Advent items, Baptism cards, First Communion cards, ornate Holy Cards, and other objects. Additional items will be rotated in at different times. Check it out!

Scheduled Automatic Bank Withdrawals reminder: Anyone not yet using ACH for automatic scheduled donations, and would like to, can find instructions and a planning guide in the Commons, outside St. Joseph's Room. Look for it on the goldenrod paper. The whole year of what would be mailed in your envelope packets, including "specials" such as Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Utilities, Southern Nebraska Register, Debt Reduction, Teacher/Staff Appreciation, etc., is able to be scheduled online!



Christmas Giving Tree Give joy to families in need. Please place your wrapped gift with the tag attached under the tree by Dec 18. Thank you for your generosity!

SCRIP Dec. 17 at 10:00am will be the last order day for SCRIP cards in time for Christmas.

Fruit of the Vine
a tasting of wines from around the world
FRIDAY, JANUARY 18
\$30 UNTIL 12/31 | 7PM TO 10PM
500 SOUTH 18TH STREET, PLATTSMOUTH

"Fruit of the Vine" Tickets now on sale St. John the Baptist's second annual "Fruit of the Vine" wine tasting event is just around the corner — Friday, January 18th from 7-10 p.m. Presented by Slattery Vintage Estates, the amazing community event will feature wines, paired with light appetizers, inspired by the country and region.

Tickets are on sale now! Tickets are only \$30 each, if you purchase them before December 31st. After December 31st, tickets are \$35 each. Stop by the "Fruit of the Vine" table located in the church Commons after all Masses, to purchase tickets. Or, you can contact deb-walton@cdolinc.netto to purchase tickets as well.

PASTOR'S NOTES:

Maranatha—Come, Lord Jesus! This is the prayer of Advent. We know that God is with us, and yet we long for His coming. He came to us in history (in Bethlehem); He comes to us in mystery (in the sacraments); He will come in majesty (on the Last Day). We easily remember the First Coming told in the Annunciation and Christmas stories, but we can forget the wonder of God's coming to us in the sacraments now and the awe-inspiring knowledge that He will come again in glory. Advent is all of these things. Like St. John the Baptist, we are anxious for Him to come. Like the Blessed Virgin Mary, we learn to await Him in patience and hope. Certainly we should enjoy the many good things of the secular "holiday season," but do not pitch out your celebration with the trash on Christmas Day afternoon. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are the beginning of the real "Christmas season," not the end.

Thanks to Fr. Jirovsky and all who attended any part of the Forty Hours adoration—special thanks to our loyal and faithful perpetual adorers, who are always ready to serve the Lord. Thanks also to all who took part in the Eucharistic procession and rally in Lincoln at the State Capitol a few weeks ago. God bless!

A belated note—we had only about 40 children at the door on Halloween, not to mention the adults, but the leftover candy is being used by St. Nicholas (the "real" Santa!) to help the boys and girls prepare for the coming of the Lord at Christmas. St. Nicholas has his feast on December 6. He was the bishop of Myra in what is now Turkey (then, it was part of the Roman Empire, and this was the time—the fourth century--that Christianity became legal and even became the state religion). He was said to have been one of the bishops at the first ecumenical council, at Nicaea, which affirmed our belief that Jesus is indeed divine as well as human, and it is said that he pulled the beard of Arius, the priest who created the heresy that was the reason for the council. Arius (incorrectly) taught that Jesus was the

greatest of God's creatures, but a creature nevertheless. We, however, believe as orthodox Christians (as in the Nicene Creed) that He is: "God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through Him all things were made." The boys and girls in the Netherlands put out shoes or stockings with a coin or two on the eve of St. Nicholas, and Nicholas takes these things and uses them for the poor children who have nothing. This great saint of charity and children teaches us to prepare for the coming of the Christ Child by such acts of kindness, with a spirit of giving in thankful response to the ultimate Gift that we received in the manger. If the boys and girls are bad, they receive a lump of coal, a rock, a stick, or (in Nebraska) a corn cob with no corn on it—and field corn, to boot! If they are good, they may receive apples, oranges, nuts, or candy. Many have this custom, or something similar, in their homes on Christmas Eve. Prepare the way of the Lord!

This week we also celebrate St. Lucy (on Thursday). She was an early Christian martyr. Her name means "light" and her feast comes close to the day of least daylight in the whole year. One legend says that she had her eyes removed as part of her martyrdom. In Sweden, the oldest daughter brings breakfast to the other family members, wearing a crown of lit candles (sounds rather dangerous!). She, of course, witnessed to the real Light of the world (as did St. John the Baptist). Another great Advent saint—Come, Lord Jesus!

The United States joins Mexico and all the other nations of the Americas in honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe on Wednesday. Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego as the pregnant Mother of God and precipitated the heartfelt conversion of millions to Jesus Christ. The New Eve paves the way for the New Adam, Who will redeem us on the Cross!

Father Houlihan