



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2019

Pastor: Rev. Michael Houlihan
 Senior Priest in Residence: Rev. Valerian Bartek
 Priest in Residence: Rev. Gary Gross
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 Parish Facebook page: [facebook.com/CHSPlattsmouth](https://www.facebook.com/CHSPlattsmouth)
 School Facebook page: [facebook.com/STJBCatholic](https://www.facebook.com/STJBCatholic)

PARISH WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

ENTER THE MASS! We worship our Lord!

Monday, December 9

8:10 a.m. +Jim Brink
 Health of W.D.

Tuesday, December 10

8:10 a.m. Special Intention for J.G.
 Living & Deceased members of CDA

Wednesday, December 11

8:10 a.m. +Lowell Daisley
 +Robert Gillen

Thursday, December 12

8:10 a.m. Special Intention for R.S.
 Special Intention for G.S. and family

Friday, December 13

8:10 a.m. +Sandy Gentner
 +All Souls Day Intentions

Saturday, December 14

8:00 a.m. +Wendell Fry
 5:00 p.m. 86th Birthday of John Kriskey

Sunday, December 15

8:00 a.m. People of the Parish
 10:30 a.m. +John Holdridge

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: 646

Contributions for Dec 1, 2019 & Thanksgiving

General Collection at Mass	\$	7,449.03
General Online Giving	\$	1,525.00
Debt Reduction	\$	450.00
Debt Reduction Online Giving	\$	15.00
Teachers/Staff	\$	368.00
Teachers/Staff Online Giving	\$	15.00
Flowers	\$	145.00

Church cleaning reminder: For Dec 14 (at 9:00am): Seyfer, Sharman, Sharp, Silvis, Simpson, Sip, Sitzman, Skikus

Christmas Flowers.... Envelopes are in the Commons if you'd like to donate for Christmas flowers in memory of someone. Shortly after Christmas, the bulletin will list the names in whose memory the donations were made.

Penance Service with about 11 priests available for Confession will be at Church of the Holy Spirit on December 23, beginning at 3:30pm. Some extra Confession times will be available the third week of December. That schedule will be in a later bulletin.

A Knight Before Christmas Songs & stories of the Yuletide season presented in Coffee House style by The Old Krusty Minstrels & friends. Friday, Dec 20, 7-9pm. Church of the Holy Spirit Commons Area. All ages invited. Refreshments will be provided. Free-will donations benefit the Knights of Columbus Fr. Shine Council #1966.

Christmas Giving Tree Let's give joy to families in need. Please return your wrapped gift with the tag attached, under the Giving Tree in the church Commons by December 22. May God bless your generosity!

The "Fruit of the Vine" Our Wine Event will be Friday, January 17th from 7-10pm at St. John the Baptist School. Tickets to the event will be on sale soon... watch for more details coming!

The Catholic Daughters' pecan sales continue these next weekends. Order your pies for Christmas, for pickup on the weekend of Dec 21st & 22nd.

FYI: the movie "Faustina" There's been a great response to an earlier special showing of this movie, so Marcus Theatres in Bellevue is scheduling another showing this Tuesday, Dec 10 at 7pm. Word is that it is a very good movie!

SCRIP Dec. 16 at 10:00am, Noni will be putting in the last order for SCRIP cards to arrive in time for Christmas. You can give your order at the SCRIP table in the Commons after weekend Masses, or call Noni at the rectory office, 296-3139.

Congratulations! Dustin & Erin (Vannurden) Smith were married in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony on December 1st in what is called a "convalidation" of a civil marriage. They now have a sacramental marriage in the Church! We also congratulate Dustin & Erin on the baptism of their daughter, Vaeda, which took place on that same day!

Some upcoming dates:

December 9 – Holy Land Pilgrimage meeting, 7pm in the Commons
 December 11 – Pre-K to 3rd grade Christmas Concert, 7pm
 December 16 – Knights' free-will donation breakfast, after 8 & 10:30 Masses
 December 15 – High School Youth Group meets, 7-9pm
 December 18 – 4th to 8th grade Christmas Concert, 7pm
 December 20 – "Knight" Before Christmas, songs & stories, 7-9pm in Commons
 December 22 – Penance Service with about 11 priests here, 3:30pm
 December 24/25 – Mass: Christmas Eve, 5pm & 10pm; Christmas Day, 9am
 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.

Six week Scripture Study: The Bible and the Virgin Mary The Sisters in Nebraska City will present this about the role Our Lady plays on our path to Heaven. Classes will be offered three times weekly at the Franciscan Sisters' Convent (1503 4th Corso, Nebraska City) beginning: Wednesdays, Jan 8, 6:30-8:00pm; Thursdays, Jan 9, 9:00-10:30am; Sundays, Jan 12, 6:30-8:00pm. Register for this class no later than Wednesday, January 1st, 873-3052.

This week's featured Seminarian: Joseph Allen from Nebraska City, who entered seminary in 2013 and is now in Theology 2 at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. 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.

Knights of Columbus – Council 1966 / George Johnson GK 402-235-3518

Knights 2019 Fall Fund Raiser Winner – Thanks for your support this year! Iowa – Keith Weise

General Business Meeting – Thursday, December 12 at 7:00pm in SJR. This month's Good of the Order will be another topic from the *Into the Breach* session.

Christmas Cards – Do you have YOUR Christmas cards? There is still time for your cards to keep Christ in Christmas. See a Knight in the Commons after Mass to purchase your Christmas cards.

December Breakfast – Sunday, December 15th, after the 8:00 and 10:30am Masses. The Knights will be serving cinnamon rolls, egg bake and fruit salad. Rosemary pork loin in a fig sauce will be served after the 10:30 Mass. The proceeds will go to Foreign Ministries.

“Stewardship of Talent” Dinners for Fr. Houlihan, Fr. Bartek, Fr. Gross: *We have a great team!* Dec 9: Rita Vigneri, Dec 11: Deb Warga, Dec 12: Bill Boyle, Dec 16: Megan Hanneman, Dec 18: Sandy Kerns, Dec 19: Liz Rubin, Dec 23: Sandy Fischer, Dec 26: Bonnie Seyfer

PASTOR'S NOTES:

Today we celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent, but it is also the traditional day of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which gets “bumped” to Monday. Although it is the national patronal feast of the United States of America, when it moves to Monday like this year, there is no Mass obligation. You are still invited to join us on Monday morning at 8:10 with the school children for that celebration.

This weekend we celebrate Forty Hours, a traditional Eucharistic devotion that remembers the forty hours or so between the time of the crucifixion of the Lord and His resurrection. It was popularized in the sixteenth century by St. Phillip Neri and St. Charles Borromeo, among others. That tradition only regards the time that is used, for the Lord was hidden from the eyes of His followers on earth during that time, but in this devotion, He is revealed to us as He was to them at His resurrection. We see Him, in the Flesh (although it has the appearance of bread), just as He revealed Himself when He came to earth (the Incarnation). We behold, not just a symbol of Jesus, but Jesus Himself, as He said at the end of St. Matthew's Gospel: “And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age” (Mt. 28:20b). He also promised at the Last Supper: “I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you” (Jn. 14:18). The Eucharist is the fulfillment of that promise to us—He comes as heavenly Food for body and soul. Forty Hours is a chance for us to have a meditation on the Redemption (Holy Week and Easter) and the Incarnation (Christmas and Epiphany). No matter how early it gets dark, no matter how bad things sometimes seem, Jesus is here for His people. Thanks to Fr. McGuire for leading us this weekend. When I came to Plattsmouth, I found that this was already a truly “Eucharistic” parish, being the smallest parish in the diocese to have true Perpetual Adoration (twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, fifty-two weeks of the year), but it is still good to renew our love for the Lord Who gives Himself for us. Just as the exposition on Friday evening opened the weekend, we will conclude with a short procession (much like the one on Holy Thursday evening) at the end of the 10:30 A.M. Mass on Sunday. In one of the original forms of

End of the Year Giving During this time of year many people consider end-of-the year gifts to the Parish and school. We ask that you please remember the **St. John the Baptist Tuition Assistance Fund** as part of your charitable giving.

The St. John the Baptist Tuition Assistance Fund is carefully managed by the Catholic Foundation of Southern Nebraska and is invested within the guidelines of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

To make a one-time gift, or to set-up a reoccurring donation, please complete a donation form (forms are located in the Parish Commons or at the school office). Or, donations can be made online by visiting www.catholicgift.org.

Because of the generous support to this fund, St. John the Baptist was able to provide tuition assistance to 10 families this year. Thank you for your support!

We are grateful for your continued commitment to our school and for helping ensure we can provide an affordable Catholic education to families in our community.

Matching Gifts: If you work for a company that matches employee contributions, you can double the impact of your end of the year gift! Most companies will match your contribution dollar for dollar and some even match the donation of spouses and retirees! Check with your company's Human Resources office to find out if the company you work for has a matching gift program.

this devotion, as practiced in the city of Milan in Italy, the devotion was continuously celebrated, moving from parish to parish. What better way can we show our appreciation and our grateful love than by giving back to Him a small bit of our time. As good stewards, we never forget that He is the One Who gives us all the time that we have in our lives to begin with. Thanks to all who are showing that love for Christ this weekend, and thanks especially to those who do so every week throughout the year in our Perpetual Adoration program. God bless!

Special thanks to Larry Rolfson and the Knights of Columbus for cleaning out the parish storage garage (by the thrift store). Just like attics, basements, and garages of regular families, our “parish family” had accumulated a lot of things that had not been used in a long time and so, late in October, it was cleaned out. Thanks also to all those who worked so hard on the fall festival (also in late October), especially our chaircouple, Beth and Ken Staskiewicz, and many, many more who made the experiment of Saturday night a great success and a new pattern for the event in the future. God gave us good weather and the many who came made the saying from small-town newspaper social sections quite true—“a good time was had by all.” Finally, also in late October, the dedicated members of the PCCW (Parish Council of Catholic Women) made the fall rummage sale another example of refined craftsmanship in its organization and conduct, and this “pillar” organization of our parish will continue to be able to provide outreach to various needs in the parish and in the wider community. This sale was much easier to conduct than the one in the summer, when we were undergoing our sidewalk “facelift” on the east side of the school and church (beautiful result, but somewhat disruptive at the time!). It is a joy to work with so many individuals and organizations in our parish that have such a “can do” and “will do” attitude. That is most certainly why so many great things get done. God bless our good stewards—they are using their talents well for the Kingdom.

Father Houlihan