



# CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

March 7, 2021

Pastor: Rev. Michael Houlihan  
 Senior Priest in Residence: Rev. Valerian Bartek  
 520 South 18<sup>th</sup> 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  
 School Facebook page: facebook.com/STJBCatholic  
 Prayer requests: CHSPrayerChain@gmail.com or 402-943-9959

## PARISH WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

**ENTER THE MASS! We worship our Lord!**

### Monday, March 8

8:00 a.m. +Steve Zweibahmer  
 +Andy Reichart

### Tuesday, March 9

8:00 a.m. +Mary Anna Morehead  
 +James S. Gochenour

### Wednesday, March 10

8:00 a.m. +Robert Gillen  
 +Diane Johnson

### Thursday, March 11

8:00 a.m. + George P. Miller  
 +All Souls Day Intentions

### Friday, March 12

8:00 a.m. +Marcia Holdridge  
 +Dorothy Hula

### Saturday, March 13

8:00 a.m. Living & deceased members of PCCW  
 5:00 p.m. +Audrey & Matthew Smith

### Sunday, March 14

8:00 a.m. People of the Parish  
 10:30 a.m. +Elaine Egnoski

## CONFESSIONS:

Saturdays, 3:30 - 4:30 PM

Head Count at Mass last weekend: 116, 125, 111

Communion at church doors: 20

## Contributions for February 28, 2021

General Collection	\$	10,525.55
General Online Giving	\$	8,150.00
Debt Reduction	\$	975.00
Debt Reduction Online Giving	\$	210.00
Teachers/Staff	\$	309.00
Teachers/Staff Online Giving	\$	205.00
Southern Nebraska Register	\$	215.00
So. Neb. Reg. Online Giving	\$	160.00
Combined Relief	\$	70.00
Peter's Pence Online Giving	\$	10.00
Utilities	\$	155.00
Utilities Online Giving	\$	55.00

Online amounts are shown about 2 wks after donation, due to processing time.

**Church cleaning reminder:** For Mar 13 (at 9:00am): Milczski, Miller, Miller, Minahan, Mise, Mixan, Monahan, Morley

*Check your Mailbox!*

*Church of the Holy Spirit and St John the Baptist School*

**PRESENT**

## 2021 Spring Virtual Extravaganza

*April 24 - May 1*

Invitations are in the mail and registration is open online!  
One lucky person has received a "golden ticket" in their invitation  
 which is redeemable for one entry in the Cash-Prize Drawing!

*Register to bid and watch our live events here:*  
<https://qtego.net/qmlink/sjbs>

Cash Prize Raffle \* His/ Hers Raffle \* Charcuterie/ Beverage Packages \* Silent & Super Silent Auction

**The Annual St. Joseph Altar Food Drive** .... for canned and dry goods donations. It will be set up in the Commons March 13, and will continue through the March 28 (Palm Sunday) weekend. (March 19 is the Feast Day of St Joseph.) All donations will go to the Food Bank right here in Cass County, helping families in our community. We will also be accepting packages of disposable diapers & baby formula! These items are in short supply.

PLATTSMOUTH  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

## Kindergarten ROUND UP

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10TH**  
**7:00 PM**

Please join us and learn about how our safe, caring and nurturing kindergarten program benefits you and your child. Meet the teacher and faculty, see the classroom and discuss first-hand what it's like to be a part of our community.

**PLEASE BRING:**

- A COPY OF YOUR CHILD'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE
- CHILD'S IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

**OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS WHO WILL BE 5 YEARS OF AGE ON OR BY JULY 31, 2021.**

If you are unable to attend Kindergarten Round Up, please call the school at 402.296.6230.

**STJB**  
 ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

## Preschool Registration

St. John the Baptist School, Plattsmouth



3 and 4 year old classes available for the 2021-22 school year!

To enroll, visit [cdolinc.net/registration](http://cdolinc.net/registration)

Classes fill quickly!

Questions? Contact the school office (Mon-Fri, 8-4) 402-296-6230.



**The Fish Frys are here!** Serving our traditional fare **TO GO** and with delivery optional. Cost: \$10.00: Choice of entrée: Bake or fried Alaskan Pollock, fried jumbo shrimp or carp (limited number of carp dinners). Meal includes choice of baked potato, mac and cheese or soup. All meals include coleslaw, bread, water or soda, and dessert. Kids meal cost is \$6.00: Grilled cheese, choice of mac and cheese or soup. Meals include water or soda and dessert.

Located at St John the Baptist School Gym, from 5:00 to 7:00pm. Credit cards, checks and cash accepted. CDC guidelines will be followed.

**For delivery**, please call 402-296-3139 (CHS) from **2pm - 4pm on Friday**. *Credit card only for delivery*. Delivery area includes Plattsmouth, Bay Hills, Copper Dollar Cove and Beaver Lake. Food will be delivered between 5:00 and 6:00pm.

**Fish Fry donation change for FRIDAY MARCH 5, 2021!** Desserts are still needed so please bring cookies or bars that are wrapped individually for the take-out process. Water is not needed but please donate a 12 pack of Regular Coke/Pepsi, Diet Coke/Pepsi, A&W Root Beer, Sprite or 7-UP – for this week only. **THANK YOU!** Your stewardship would help the Parish/School a great deal. We hope to see you at the Fish Fry!

### The Gift of Faith

You have been given the gift of Faith. Would you consider for your “legacy” a planned donation spelled out in your will or in another fashion, to give back to Church of the Holy Spirit, for our current and future efforts to spread and intensify others’ Faith? You can learn of various options for giving through an estate planner, possibly one who works with the Catholic Foundation of Southern Nebraska in Lincoln: [catholicgift.org/](http://catholicgift.org/) May God bless you in your consideration!

**This week’s featured Seminarian:** Tony Schukei from Lincoln, who entered seminary in 2016 and is now is in Theology 3 at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. We pray, too, for Adam Bohan from Plattsmouth, who entered seminary for the Society of Jesus in 2015.

**Dinners for Fr. Houlihan & Fr. Bartek, “Stewardship of Talent”:** Mar 8: Glennia Sand, Mar 10: Megan Hanneman, Mar 11: Bonnie Seyfer, Mar 15: Nicolette Kerns, Mar 17: Sandy Kerns, Mar 18: Liz Holstein, Mar 22: Melicca Carpenter, Mar 24: Sandy DiSomma, Mar 25: Gay Lepert

**Church cleaning reminder:** For Mar 13 (at 9:00am): Milczski, Miller, Miller, Minahan, Mise, Mixan, Monahan, Morley

**Knights of Columbus** – Council 1966 / George Johnson GK, 235-3518  
**General Business Meeting** – Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm via Zoom meeting. Steve Riese will be providing the meeting credentials / see Mike Vaughn’s meeting invitation. A new slate of officers has been drawn. There is time for you to make a difference, in a leadership role. Talk to George Johnson, our Grand Knight about our current openings.  
**March Take-Away Breakfast** – This Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, after the 8:00 & 10:30am Masses. The proceeds will go to our parish Debt Fund.

**THE 2020 DIRECTORIES ARE IN.** You may pick your copy up from the church office Mon-Thurs 9am-3pm.

✓ They are free to those who had their photo taken by LifeTouch or submitted a family photo for inclusion.

☺ Pick-up is also available to those who pre-ordered (@10.00 each), and to those who signed up over the last few weekends, that they would like to order one, also.

### Remaining Stations of the Cross dates this Lent

Wednesdays at 5:30pm: Mar 10, 17, 24, 31  
 Fridays at 2:00pm in school gym: Mar 12, 19, 26  
 Good Friday: Apr 2 at Noon

**Holy Communion outside-of-Mass distribution** ...Father will distribute Holy Communion on the weekends to those who feel they shouldn’t attend Mass due to COVID, but yet treasure the Eucharist and would like to receive. The time for this is 10:00am on Sundays. Meet Father at the front doors of the church. Please be ready for him right at 10:00.

### Our Most Precious Treasure



Praying before Jesus each week helps us to pull away and re-focus. It gives us the opportunity to separate ourselves from the worldly rush of activities and to sit in peace with Him for one so-very-special hour a week.

Below are the current open hours. Each week, we need someone to fill each open hour. Please check the tall table in the Commons to see if there is an open hour that you can fill in the upcoming week. And please contact Traci Schuette, 297-2295, if you would like to take an hour permanently, or if you would like to be added to our substitute list so that a regularly scheduled person may call you if they can’t make it on any given week. (If you are on the sub list, we will identify which hours of the day that you *might* be available, and you won’t be called for outside those hours.)

### Open Hours

Sunday: 1:00 am; 12:00 Noon  
 Wednesday: 2:00 am; 6:00 am  
 Thursday: 12:00am (midnight); 2:00 am; 10:00 am  
 Friday: 1:00 am; 2:00 am; 10:00 pm  
 Saturday: 6:00 am; 11:00 am

## Diocesan Statement 3-03-2021 on Johnson & Johnson vaccine

The recent approval of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine by the FDA to combat the COVID-19 pandemic has raised new moral concerns about the use of these vaccines. Unlike the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, Johnson & Johnson uses a line of stem cells procured from abortions performed over 30 years ago in the production of its vaccine. Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines used an abortion-derived cell line in testing them, but not in their production.

The Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith teaches: "when ethically irreproachable COVID-19 vaccines are not available... it is morally acceptable to receive COVID-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted fetuses in their research and production process."

If people have the option, they should choose the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines over the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. However, if that choice is not possible, it is morally permissible to receive the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused great physical, emotional and spiritual suffering throughout the world and has led to more than 2.5 million deaths. Being vaccinated can be an act of charity in service to the common good in stopping the spread of the virus. Nevertheless, abortion is an intrinsic evil that takes innocent life and is never morally permissible. We should continue to insist that pharmaceutical companies produce and test these vaccines without using abortion-derived cell lines. We pray that all people recognize the value of every human life.

**On the Lincoln diocesan website there is a "Vaccine Roundup" that has links** to information regarding the COVID-19 vaccines. Go to [www.lincolndiocese.org](http://www.lincolndiocese.org) and as the top pictures/topics scroll by, click on "Vaccine info resources". There, you will find, *in a simple format, many* sources of great information that can give you deeper insight in the Catholic approach for the situation we are in.

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**On the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent**, we hear three stories from the Gospel of John—the Woman at the Well, the Man Born Blind, and the Raising of Lazarus. These are the weeks for celebrating the Scrutinies of the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. But if you attend a Mass in which those coming into the Church will NOT be doing their special rite, the readings will be different in this year's Liturgical Year B readings. However, they are such great symbolisms of Easter preparation that we are going to give a very brief summary of them here in the bulletin this week!

1. The first Gospel (the Samaritan Woman at the well) tells us that Christ is the Living Water,
2. the second (healing of the man born blind), that he is the Light of the World,
3. and the third, (the raising of Lazarus from the dead), that he is the Resurrection and the Life.

### The First Scrutiny – Third Sunday of Lent – The Woman at the Well

The primary symbol in the reading of this Sunday is water. Water is a symbol of life, and it indicates that God wishes to give us life, as shown in the stories of the Israelites in the desert and the woman from Samaria at the well. The symbol of water also indicates baptism, and looks forward to Easter when this is celebrated.

### The Second Scrutiny – Fourth Sunday of Lent – The Man Born Blind

The key idea is turning from darkness to light, as symbolized in the healing of the man born blind. For example, if we make an examination of conscience, especially in the light of God's Word, it would lead to enlightenment, and thus enables us to do as St. Paul says: "Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness."

### The Third Scrutiny – Fifth Sunday of Lent – The Raising of Lazarus

The raising of Lazarus is an anticipation of what is to take place on the last day. It means that the believer has eternal life; and has passed from death to life. The raising of Lazarus is not a piece of magic, nor even the supreme achievement of a Saint; it is an anticipation of what is to take place on the last day.

## **PASTOR'S NOTES**

This week marks the time of the First Scrutiny on the road to Baptism for adults preparing for this throughout the Catholic world. Once the scrutinies were “tests” of the loyalty and courage of the elect catechumens, but now they are essentially blessings given to them. Often (but not always), the readings at the Mass for this scrutiny include the Gospel from Year A (and this is now Year B) of the three-year lectionary cycle. That is the Gospel of the Samaritan woman at the well. Jesus Christ is the “living water” that quenches our spiritual thirst—He comes to us outwardly for the first time in our lives at Baptism.

The Gospel for Year B is the cleansing of the Temple by Jesus. Interestingly enough, Matthew, Mark, and Luke place this incident after Jesus’s entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, which is probably the best place for true chronological order—it was the incident that triggered His arrest and crucifixion. The Gospel of John, which is our reading for Year B, recounts the incident near the beginning of his Gospel. John is reminding us of a deeper meaning to the historical incident—Jesus came to replace the Temple (which would be destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D.). He is the new Temple, or place of worship. We now worship “in Him,” in the Body of Christ, when we come to Mass. I hope that the past year has been a chance for each and every one of us to allow God to cleanse some of the darkest parts of our hearts, so that we can now worship Him in spirit and in truth.

I hope that some of you are doing well in your preparations for consecration to St. Joseph during this Lenten season. Joseph (who is my own Confirmation namesake) is the quiet presence, the strong and loving one who keeps his family safe and together—and that is one reason why he was named as the patron of the universal Church, which is our larger, worldwide family. St. Joseph was the last and greatest of the patriarchs, and in honoring him, we honor his foster Son. Like the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. John the Baptist, the Forerunner, he points the way to Jesus. St. Joseph, pray for us!

You are welcome to participate in Stations of the Cross in the church on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 P.M. and, with a different set of prayers, with the children at school at 2 P.M. on Fridays in the gym (where you will need to wear a mask). Thanks to the wonderful people who are making our takeout fish fries give us a feeling of returning to “normalcy.” Last

year, we had to end the sit-down meals abruptly, but we know how to do it right now, even during a medical emergency. Even now, we have to eat, and it might as well be something good that enables us to abstain from meat with our brothers and sisters in the Church, and enjoy some companionship with all of our brothers and sisters in the wider community. Thanks to all who are helping!

One of the spots that I remember from our Holy Land trip last year is “Jacob’s well.” That is the well that is mentioned in the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman. It is not one of the most-visited sites, and it was under the care of the Orthodox. I think we had a chance to drink from the well, which was in the basement of a building built over it. The spot in the time of the Lord was probably away from town, but there are buildings around it now. Our local helper at the site was an Orthodox Christian Palestinian, as I recall, and one incident brought to life a custom of Biblical (and modern) times. As we sat in chairs to listen to him, one of our group crossed legs (as we do in the U.S.) and another crossed ankles, but both were admonished by the helper not to do that, since showing the bottom of your foot (even with shoes or sandals) is an insult to another, as is reflected in one of the psalms: “Even my trusted friend, who ate my bread, has raised his heel against me” (Ps. 41:10) and quoted by Jesus as He washed the feet of the disciples at the Last Supper (Jn. 13:18), probably in reference to the betrayal by Judas Iscariot. No insult was meant by anyone in our group, of course, but it was fascinating to see the culture from the time of the Gospel (and even the Old Testament) still alive in our own day. Some of you may recall an incident in Iraq, I believe, a few years ago, where many people threw their shoes at someone. It was the same idea—it was a sign of contempt for the person at whom they were being thrown—you are less than the dirt on the bottom of my shoe. Jesus lived in a world that was very human and very real—and He was also human and real. God bless you!

**Father Houlihan**