



# CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA

24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 12, 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@cdoline.net](mailto:plattsmouthHSC@cdoline.net)  
 Website: [www.holyspiritplattsmouth.com](http://www.holyspiritplattsmouth.com)  
 School website: [www.stjbcatholic.com](http://www.stjbcatholic.com)  
 Parish Facebook page: [facebook.com/CHSPlattsmouth](https://facebook.com/CHSPlattsmouth)  
 School Facebook page: [facebook.com/STJBCatholic](https://facebook.com/STJBCatholic)  
 Prayer requests: [CHSPrayerChain@gmail.com](mailto:CHSPrayerChain@gmail.com) or 402-943-9959

## PARISH WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

**ENTER THE MASS! Our Lord is there!**

### Monday, September 13

8:10 a.m. +All Souls Day Intentions  
 +Dru T. Clough

### Tuesday, September 14

8:10 a.m. Special Intention for T.S.  
 +Lloyd Morehead

### Wednesday, September 15

8:10 a.m. +Andy Reichart  
 +Zachary Narmi

### Thursday, September 16

8:10 a.m. +LaVerne Boudreau  
 Health of Fr. Matt Gutowski

### Friday, September 17

8:10 a.m. +Steve Zweibahmer  
 Special Intention for E.B.

### Saturday, September 18

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

### Sunday, September 19

8:00 a.m. +Mary Kolesik  
 10:30 a.m. +Walter Pope

## CONFESSIONS:

Saturdays, 3:30 - 4:30 PM

Head Count last weekend: 492

### Contributions for September 5, 2021

General Collection	\$	11,759.00
General Online Giving	\$	2,292.00
Debt Reduction	\$	900.00
Debt Reduction Online Giving	\$	15.00
Teachers/Staff	\$	354.00
Teachers/Staff Online Giving	\$	25.00
Propagation of the Faith	\$	150.00
Utilities	\$	25.00

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

**If someone you know wants to become Catholic**, or to just learn more about the Catholic Church... RCIA classes will be starting September 21<sup>st</sup> on Tuesday evenings, 7:00-8:30pm, in the Commons. If you have questions ahead of time, please Call Earl or Laura, 235-3510. These classes are also good if you'd like to brush up on your own knowledge of Catholicism! If you'd like to help bring someone into the Catholic Church, we invite you to attend, also. Being a sponsor is easy and very rewarding.



## Fall Festival: Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>

Fall is such a beautiful time of year. Let's join in high spirits to celebrate it. The Festival is from 11:30am to 3:30pm (dinner served until 2:30pm). Our roast beef dinner is back! (Or enjoy the other foods offered.) Games, cake walk, basket raffles and more – for the fun of it all! Enjoy the dinner, and it would also be greatly appreciated if you could: 1) give an hour or two of your time to volunteer work at the event. (There will soon be a sign-up genius for working the outside games. For other volunteer areas, please see the sign-up sheet in the Commons after the Masses.), or 2) help with the prep work, or 3) donate an item or group of items for the basket raffles. (Please attach a note "for Fall Festival" on any basket raffle donations, and take it to the Commons or school office.) Call Pat for more info at 980-9086. Happy Fall!



**The front door** Starting this week, we plan to lock the front doors of the church at the beginning of the morning Mass, and unlock afterwards. We plan to do this for all school day Masses. If you happen to come for Mass and are late, you can use either the after-hours door or go around to the school doors to be buzzed in.

**PCCW Meeting:** Thursday, Sept. 16 at 6:00pm in the Commons. We have had a nice summer break and would like to invite you to join us once again for our monthly meetings. All ladies of the Parish are members of PCCW (Parish Council of Catholic Women).



## CCD... religion classes for 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who do not attend a Catholic school **begin THIS Sunday!**

We look forward to the start of the year. Classes will be held in St. John's school, from 9:00am-10:20am on Sundays. (Quite convenient to attend Mass either before or after class!!!) If you have not registered your student yet, please do so in the school gym on this first day of classes. If you have questions, please email Pam at [ccd.chsplattsmouth@gmail.com](mailto:ccd.chsplattsmouth@gmail.com). All are welcome at CCD. Please feel free to invite and share this information with others. We are happy to have new families/students sit in on some sessions. If you are interested in being an assistant in the classroom or helping in another way, we always appreciate extra help.

## Dinners for Fr. Houlihan & Fr. Bartek, "Stewardship of Talent":

Sep 8: Sandy DiSomma, Sep 15: Megan Hanneman, Sep 23: Pam Reinsch, Sep 27: Bill Boyle, Sep 29: Kacey Groshans, Sep 30: Steph Ball *Thank you!*

**Church cleaning reminder:** For Sept 18 (9:00am): Brink, Brink, Brink, Brink, Borer-Weaver, Bourret, Bowman, Boyle

**Smile.amazon** Church of the Holy Spirit has recently been issued a \$194.96 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of activity in this year's second quarter. Thank you for designating us to be your charity of choice (first time, search: Church of the Holy Spirit, Plattsmouth), and for doing any Amazon.com shopping by first putting a smile. in front of it! Smile.amazon is the same in all ways as the original Amazon, except that under the smile title, they give a percentage back to the designated charity! Sign up once, then log in to "smile" after that! ☺ Maybe ask family and friends to do the same, if they are Amazon shoppers!

**Knights of Columbus** – Council 1966 / Steve Riese GK (402)298-8264

**Annual Fall Fundraiser** – NE vs Fordham winner – ticket #98, John Meisinger. Thanks for your support, John!

**September Free-Will Donation Breakfast** – Next Sunday, Sept 19, after the 8:00 & 10:30am Masses. The Knights will be serving pancakes, French toast, apple sauce and scrambled eggs. Proceeds will go for bus maintenance.

**Officers Meeting** – Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00pm in SJR.

**Harvest Festival** – Thanks to all those that supported our Chuck Wagon this year at the Harvest Festival.

**Cruzin' Main** – The Knights will have their Chuck Wagon at the Cruzin' Main event this coming Friday. We'll have more of the same great food!

**Marriages outside the Church:** If your marriage vows were not through the Catholic Church, and you would like to be married canonically, please call Fr. Houlihan, 296-3139.

## **PASTOR'S NOTES**

Thanks to all who helped with items for our community's harvest festival this weekend—I am thinking of the Knights of Columbus who provide delicious food from their trailer, and the eighth-grade families who helped prepare the school float. And we are counting on seeing Fr. Bartek's 1950 Studebaker in the lineup on Friday. Real Americana!

The priests are scheduled to be in Seward on Tuesday for their study day with the Bishop. It is almost as far from one end of our Plattsmouth Deanery to the other (Plattsmouth, Manley, Elmwood, Syracuse, Avoca, Palmyra, Douglas, Julian, Paul, and the two parishes in Nebraska City) as it is from parts of it to Seward, so if there is no "designated" priest, Fr. Bartek and I and the other priests will try to respond to our own parishioners' emergencies.

Continuing with the idea of the Holy Eucharist that I was developing during the Sundays when we were reading from the sixth chapter of St. John's Gospel, I would like to address the issue of who should be "admitted" to Holy Communion. I know that it is a burning question to address certain political figures and their relationship to the Blessed Sacrament, and when prominent people are involved, public figures, there is definitely the element of "scandal" to others that is a factor. But before that is addressed, I want to give you my perspective as a priest of over forty years on the level of the average parish, which I have learned much from during that time. Especially as a younger priest, I tried to be zealous for the Lord in this matter (and, hopefully, I still am). For example, when people would come up in the line for Holy Communion at Christmas or Easter or a funeral or wedding and act like they did not know what to do, I would quietly ask them if they were Catholic. If they said "no," then I would give them a little blessing instead of the Sacred Host. They probably got in the line because it seemed like the thing to do. If there were people that were not living in accord with the marriage laws of the Church (based on the Lord's teaching in the Gospels), I would try to instruct them not to approach the Blessed Sacrament until things had been taken care of—people married outside the Church, or living together without even civil marriage and so on. That was not to be "mean" or

"unchristian" (how could one be "unchristian" if one was trying to use the teachings of Christ?), but to try to encourage the person to do what was needed to be done so that he or she could approach the table of the Lord better prepared. I do not presume to know the spiritual state of such a person—there is such a thing as ignorance, which affects the moral "culpability" or responsibility of a person, but one of the spiritual works of mercy is to instruct the ignorant, and that is my job and the job of every Christian. I sometimes learned that there were some things that were not as I expected them to be, because I did not know all the facts. Nothing would make me happier than to have persons who had not been to the sacraments for some time or forever than to help them to prepare to receive them as worthily as possible. Even these days, though, I suspect that there are many receiving the sacraments without proper preparation and disposition, and, even worse, with the wrong attitude. What I have learned over the years is that I do not have a lot of control over whoever present themselves for Holy Communion, especially when they are people that I do not know. If there was a known problem, it would be my duty to address it, but the Church does not want us to disrupt the Mass in any way. Instead of being the "watchdog" of every possible incident (which is impossible), I would try to help all before they go to Holy Communion. I am fairly certain that many people who approach the Sacrament are not well prepared spiritually, and do not understand that receiving the Eucharist means that we are one with the Lord and His Church, not in opposition to or in ignorance of what that means. You and I cannot "judge" the heart of a person, which we cannot see, but we certainly can and should judge a person's actions, which is something we can see. Receiving Holy Communion means we are in "communion" with Christ and with His holy Church, and not just "doing our own thing." We are not just individuals asserting ourselves, but members of a living Body, the Body of Christ, the Church, admitting that we are not independent of everyone else. We are part of a greater thing because we recognize the need for a greater thing. God bless!

**Father Houlihan**