

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

Pastor: Rev. Sean Timmerman
 Senior Parochial Vicar: Rev. Mark Pfeiffer
 520 South 18th Street Plattsmouth, NE 68048
 Rectory Phone: (402) 296-3139
 St. John the Baptist Catholic School: (402) 296-6230
 Email for Fr. Timmerman: Fr.Sean-Timmerman@cdolinc.net
 Email for Fr. Pfeiffer: fr.markpfeiffer@gmail.com
 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

Marriage: Contact the Rectory at least six months in advance of the expected wedding date.

For Baptisms or Weddings, you must be a Practicing Catholic and a member of the parish. To be a Godparent, you must be a Practicing and Confirmed Catholic and, if married, married in the Church.

PARISH WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

3rd Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 16 3rd week of Advent

7:00 a.m. David Hula+

8:10 a.m. Lisa Nelson+

Tuesday, December 17

7:00 a.m. The All Souls Day intentions+

8:10 a.m. Lillian Kline+

Wednesday, December 18

7:00 a.m. Jerome Brink+

8:10 a.m. Joseph Muhvic+

Thursday, December 19

7:00 a.m. Marty Swensen+

8:10 a.m. Bob Combs+

Friday, December 20

7:00 a.m. The All Souls Day intentions+

8:10 a.m. Janet Pope+

Saturday, December 21

8:00 a.m. Living & deceased members of PCCW

4:00 p.m. Living & deceased members of the Raumaaker family

Sunday, December 22 (4th Sunday of Advent)

8:00 a.m. People of the Parish

10:30a.m. Dane Carlson+

Confessions:

Mondays & Fridays, 7:30 - 7:55am

Saturdays, 3:00 - 3:45pm

Sundays, 9:45 - 10:15am

Head Count Last weekend & Holy Day: 619, 446

Contributions for December 8, and Holy Day

General Collection	\$	15,122.95
General <i>Online Giving</i>	\$	13,710.00
Debt Reduction	\$	3,615.00
Teachers/Staff	\$	355.00
Utilities	\$	215.00
Flowers	\$	586.00
Southern Nebraska Register	\$	40.00

A few extra action items this weekend!

See times listed in other parts of this bulletin.

- Knight before Christmas – Christmas music, stories, food! Starts about 5:30 this Saturday evening, in the Commons.
- Free-will donation breakfast in the gym, cooked by the Knights, after the Sunday Masses this weekend!
- Volunteer Fair after the Masses this weekend! In the school gym.
- Ignatius Book Fair this weekend! In the school library and St. Gabriel's Room after all the Masses.
- Sung Latin High Mass, 12:30 Sunday. Potluck social to follow in the Commons.

Confession times before Christmas:

- Confessions (regular times) are Saturdays at 3:00pm, Sundays at 9:45am, and Mondays and Fridays at 7:30am
- **Penance Service with many priests hearing confessions on Sunday, December 22 at 3:30pm**
- Extra Confession times on Tuesday, December 24 at noon (until finished) and 2:30pm (until finished).

Christmas Mass schedule:

Christmas Eve: 4:00pm and 9:00pm

Christmas Day: 8:00am and 10:00am

*Each Mass will have prelude music – come early!
 (The 9pm Mass's Ensemble Christmas songs begin at 8:20pm)*

Food and Fellowship for Gaudete Sunday - Join us for the 12:30pm Sung Latin High Mass this Sunday, Dec 15th, and then stay afterwards for a potluck social of appetizers and refreshments. You are invited (but not required) to bring light or heavy appetizers to share with everyone. Drinks will be provided.

Holy Land Olive Art will be for sale in the Commons **next weekend**, Dec 21/22. Holy Land Catholics are known worldwide for their olive wood carvings. Generation after generation, families have taught their children to carve religious figures by hand from olive wood. For two centuries, Catholics have been able to support their families by selling these unique carvings to pilgrims who visit. Fewer and fewer pilgrims have come now, all due to the bloody military conflicts. Selling this holy unique art has helped Catholics make a living there.



Ignatius Book Fair is here! Final dates are this weekend, in St. John's Library & St. Gabriel's Room. Ignatius offers a Christian alternative that is unparalleled to any known youth book fair, teaching lessons of Faith, Hope, and Charity to children. Dec 14 & 15 after all Masses.

John the Baptist Friends & Family Night Out Thanks to our friends at Runza, on Tuesday, December 17th, when you dine out or drive through Runza in Plattsmouth between the hours of 4:00-8:00pm, 10% of all sales will be donated to St. John the Baptist. Be sure to mention StJB when you order. Enjoy a meal out with your family awhile supporting our school.

2025 Calendars with Catholic notations are here! Our thanks to Roby Funeral Home for making them available to us.

Pecans! Before and after Mass, Catholic Daughters will be selling our famous Pecans. In addition, we will have our **Prime Rib and Ham raffle** again this year. **Drawing for the Meat Raffle will be December 15th after the 10:30 Mass.** We have added Chocolate Covered Pretzel Sticks, and a Winter Deco Mesh wreath raffle item. Catholic Daughters appreciates the support of our parish for our fundraiser!

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

SCRIP (now RaiseRight) On Monday, December 16 at 10:00am, Noni will be putting in the last order for SCRIP cards to arrive by Dec. 19th. You can give a special order at the SCRIP table in the Commons after the weekend Masses through December 15/16, or call Noni at the rectory office, 296-3139, Monday-Thursday, 9am -3pm, *but no later than December 16 at 10:00am for your Christmas order!*

Knights of Columbus – Council 1966 / Steve Riese GK (402)298-8264 / www.KofC1966.org

December Breakfast -- Sunday, December 15th after the 8:00am and 10:30am Masses. Free-will donations go to support our Foreign Priests.

December Planning Meeting – Sunday, December 15th between Masses in the gym



Christmas Giving Tree

Please return your wrapped gift with the tag attached and place it under the Giving Tree in the Church Commons no later than Thursday, December 19th.

Thank you for your generosity.

♪♪♪ **Christmas Masses** There will be prelude music (caroling) before all the Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Masses by our parish musicians and singers. Plan to come early and enjoy! ♪♪♪ Note: At the 9pm Christmas eve Mass, the Choir will begin particularly early, at 8:20pm. Good prayer readiness for the Holy Mass!

Dinners for Priests, "Stewardship of Talent" Dec 16: Sandy Kerns, Dec 17: Megan Hanneman, Dec 23: Steph Ball, Dec 30: Deb Warga

Church cleaning reminder: For Dec 21 (at 9:00am): Lamkins, Lane, Laney, Lang, LeBlanc, Leffler, Lepert, Lepert

CARDINAL MASQUERADE

Mark your calendars!

The 2025 Spring Dinner and Auction will take place on April 26th, 2025! This year's theme is **CARDINAL MASQUERADE**, in celebration of St. John the Baptist School's 140th anniversary. Check out their table at the Volunteer Fair in the gym this weekend after one of the Masses!

Youth Group

Next meeting: Sunday, January 5. Come and join us for faith-filled conversation, camaraderie, and yummy snacks! Open to all Middle School through High School youth.

All meetings are held from 7pm-8:30pm at the Koelzer Residence, 402 Waverly Rd, Murray. Questions? Contact Donette Koelzer, 297-0786

NCBC The National Catholic Bioethics Center helps navigate ethical issues surrounding health care, end-of-life care, and more. They offer **Free Personal Ethics Consultations**, which help patients and their families understand and apply Church teaching to the difficult medical situations they face. Their ethicists are available 24/7 by phone and email, and this service is free of charge. This could have a significant impact on the lives of family members who do not know if they should withdraw treatment from their loved ones at the end of live, health care workers who are unsure about participating in certain job-related activities, and couples who are seeking guidance on the Church's teaching on reproductive medicine, etc.

Strategies Handout in the bulletin - If parishioners have any general questions regarding the charitable planning strategies handout, they are welcome to reach out to Derek Sutton, a certified public accountant, at 679-1017 or Derek.Sutton@rsmus.com. This information is offered solely for educational purposes, and there is no need to share any personal financial information.

Mugs & Muffins for Mommas The Church of the Holy Spirit will be hosting a Catholic mom's Bible study and fellowship group. We will meet at 9am the 3rd Saturday of the month in St. Gabriel's Room (in the school) starting January 18th. As a group, we will go through Fearless and Free, a Catholic woman's Bible study. Kids are welcome. Bring your mug. Coffee and muffins on us.

Find God in the silence... Weekend retreats

are offered at our diocesan retreat house, Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House, near Waverly, NE. The retreat masters and topics vary. The web site www.goodcounselretreat.com will give a full schedule, topic, name of the retreat master, registration link, and phone numbers. The retreats are silent retreats, which basically means no conversing. For regular retreats with given topics, the retreat master gives conferences; there is liturgy and prayer time; and religious tapes are played during meals. The purpose of silence is to concentrate on listening and speaking with Our Lord in prayer and reflection. Many find it relaxing not having to chat with their neighbor or group for the weekend. Silence gives a person uninterrupted time to be with Our Lord, which is not something easily found in the secular world.

The retreat house also has Ignatian Retreats, based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. These are also known as *directed retreats*. The heart of the Ignatian Retreat involves spending four or five prayer periods each day in meditation on scripture. Thus the real director of an Ignatian Retreat is the Holy Spirit. The retreat is marked by a complete silence, as there are no common prayers or devotions outside of Mass and Exposition. The silence supports the reflective and prayerful atmosphere. Retreatants journal about each of their prayer times and the movements that occurred there, so that when they meet daily with a Spiritual Director, they can be given guidance and appropriate scripture passages for their meditation.

Check the full schedule for topics you like, and/or dates that work for you!

This week's Featured Seminararian: Matthias Clark, who entered seminary in 2024, now in the Propaedeutic Stage at St. Gregory the Great. Please pray for all our sisters in formation and seminararians – especially seminarian Adam Bohan from our parish.

Some upcoming dates:

- Dec 11-15 – Book Fair, see times elsewhere in the bulletin
- Dec 14 – Knight before Christmas – Christmas music, stories, food!
- Dec 14/15 – Volunteer Fair, school gym
- Dec 15 – Knights' free-will donation breakfast in gym after Masses
- Dec 15 – Sung Latin High Mass, 12:30pm, potluck following
- Dec 19 – Deadline for returning the Giving Tree tags & wrapped gifts
- Dec 21/22 – Holy Land Olive Art for sale in the Commons
- Dec 22 – Penance Service, 3:30pm, with many priests from our deanery
- Dec 24/25 – Christmas Masses – songs before each Mass – come early! (*The 9pm Mass's Ensemble Christmas music starts at 8:20pm*)
- December 31 – Mary, Mother of God Vigil Mass: 5:30pm
- January 1 – Mary, Mother of God. Mass: 8:00am & 10:00am

The Eucharist and Eucharistic Adoration



"Each one of us is a co-worker of Christ - we must labor hard to carry Him to the hearts where He has not yet been known and loved...But, unless we have Jesus, we cannot give Him; that is why we need the Eucharist. Spend as much time as possible in front of the Blessed Sacrament and He will fill you with His strength and His power."

"Our lives must be woven around the Eucharist...fix your eyes on Him who is the light; bring your hearts close to His Divine Heart; ask Him to grant you the grace of knowing Him, the love of loving Him, the courage to serve Him. Seek Him fervently."

- St. Teresa of Calcutta

Are you ready to scheduled, regular time of prayer, and in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament!?!?! Do you have questions about our Perpetual Adoration? Call Traci: 297-2295 or stop by the Adoration table at the Volunteer Fair in the gym this weekend after one of the Masses!

Current open Adoration Hours at CHS:

Sundays at 1am, 2am & 3am; Tuesdays at Midnight; Thursdays at Midnight & 2am; Saturdays at 3am, 4am & 11am

Are you new to the parish? Welcome!

Maybe introduce yourself to one or both of our priests after a Mass! Come in to the rectory office to register, or... look for green Registration Forms on the Welcome table in the Commons. (Bring or mail it in, or put it in the collection basket at Mass!)

Communion Calls

Do you know of a parishioner who is no longer healthy enough to be able to come to Sunday Mass and would like to be on the Sunday Communion list? ...Please ask them to call us at the parish office: 296-3139.

Dear Parishioners,

Please plan on attending our Volunteer Fair after Mass this weekend! The many different ministries and groups in our parish will have booths set up in the Gym after each Mass Saturday evening and Sunday morning, where you can learn more about them and sign up to help in those areas where your personal talents are needed. Our parish depends on the good stewardship of time, talent and prayer from our people, so please come by and learn more about what our parish has to offer you, and then what YOU can offer your fellow parishioners by your stewardship!

This weekend we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent (from The Catholic Spirit)

A Joyful Sunday. The Third Sunday of Advent is also known as *Gaudete* Sunday. The word “*gaudete*” is derived from the Latin words “*gaudium*,” joy, and “*gaudeo*,” to rejoice or be glad. *Gaudete* Sunday occurs eight to thirteen days before Christmas, and the nearness of the feast is reason for great joy.

The Term “*Gaudete*.” *Gaudete* is taken from the Entrance Antiphon: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near” (paraphrase, Phil 4:4-5). Advent is a time of joyful expectation and eager preparation for the Solemnity of Christmas.


Multiple Reasons for Joy. There is joy in looking forward to the annual celebration of Christmas, but there is also joy in recalling the birth of Jesus on the first Christmas. The joy is heightened because he was born to save us from our sins (Mt 1:21b). The joy also extends to anticipation of the Second Coming, either at the end of physical life or the end of the world, the time when believers will be given the crown of righteousness (2 Tm 4:8) and a place in the Father’s house (Jn 14:2) to dwell with God and his angels and saints for all eternity.

A Joyful Color. Rose represents joy and may be used as the liturgical color for *Gaudete* Sunday. Violet remains the official color for the Season of Advent, the Third Sunday included, because all of Advent has a penitential tone, a time to be absolved of sin and be in the state of grace for Christmas. *Gaudete* Sunday offers a brief respite to focus on the uplifting, upcoming joyful celebration of the Nativity. The priest may wear a rose chasuble. The third candle of the Advent wreath is rose.

Joyful Prayers. The prayers in the *Roman Missal* on the Third Sunday of Advent convey a joyful message. The immediacy of Christmas is addressed in the Collect, “O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord’s Nativity,” followed by two explicit references to joy: “enable us ... to attain the joys of so great a salvation” and “to celebrate them with ... glad rejoicing.” Preface II of Advent says, “we rejoice at the mystery of his Nativity” and that we are “exultant in his praise.” The Communion Antiphon contains the joyful message, “Behold, our God will come, and he will save us” (cf. Is 35:4). Two invocations in the Solemn Blessing for Advent refer to joy: the second, “may he make you ... joyful in hope,” and the third, “So that, rejoicing now with devotion at the Redeemer’s coming.”

Joyful Scripture Texts. In the first reading Isaiah says that he was sent “to bring glad tidings” (Is 61:1) and that “my God is the joy of my soul” (Is 61:10); in the Responsorial Psalm the Blessed Virgin Mary prays, “My spirit rejoices in God my Savior” (Lk 1:47); and in the second reading St. Paul insists that we should “rejoice always” (1 Thes 5:16). The gospel is John the Baptist’s joyful declaration that he was sent by God to testify to the light, the one who is coming after him, the Christ! (Jn 1:7,27).

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Fr. Sean M. Timmerman

A generous donor has recently established “The Holy Spirit Fund” to support our parish's ongoing operations. This fund is unique in the following ways:

- The Holy Spirit Fund earns a market rate of return like the school endowment, but is liquid like our bank account.
- The Holy Spirit Fund is actively invested to ensure an attractive market rate of return.
- The Holy Spirit Fund investments are screened to ensure adherence to Catholic moral teaching.
- The Holy Spirit Fund is liquid, and our parish has immediate access to the funds.
- The Holy Spirit Fund can accept gifts of cash or more strategic tax-advantaged gifts of non-cash assets such as:


- § QCDs (RMDs) from Traditional IRAs
- § Appreciated Stock
- § Life Insurance Policies (Cash Value or Death Benefit)
- § Real Estate
- § Depreciated Business or Farm Equipment
- § Grain & Other Agricultural Products
- § Remainder Amounts from Investment, Retirement, or Bank Accounts
- § Annuity Payments or Remainder Amounts
- § Royalties
- § Other Marketable Assets

- The Catholic Foundation of Southern Nebraska can arrange to appraise, liquidate, and pass 100% of the proceeds of the gifts mentioned above into The Holy Spirit Fund and will do so at no charge.

The graphic below, “Gifts of Grain”, works not only for farmers and grain, but for any strategic tax-advantaged gifts of non-cash assets that are listed above in the bullet points.

The Catholic Foundation of Southern Nebraska works in the best interest and benefit of the donors and the charities they wish to support. Please remember the ongoing and long-range needs which exist here at our parish. Contact Chris Raun or Scott Yates at 402-488-2142 for free advice to all Catholics in our Diocese.

Gifts of Grain



For God is the One who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, He will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

2 Corinthians 9:10-11

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0% State Income Tax

Total Taxes = 0%
Paid in Taxes = \$0

Gift to Parish = \$3,500





Maximize Your
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Additional Tax Incentive: Donor is able to write off 100% of the cost of raising the crop.
*Always consult your tax advisor for your specific operation

Creative Ways to Give to Church of the Holy Spirit

As the calendar year draws to a close, many parishioners are thinking about the many blessings we have been given and charitable giving. Our Church of the Holy Spirit is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that can accept most contributions. Following are a few practical and creative ways of making contributions to our parish and school.

1. **Pray the Holy Mass every Sunday and go to Confession once a month.** Above and beyond any material/financial contributions you can make to CHS, Mass on Sunday and regular confession speaks to us deeply as a Catholic people, and has spiritual benefits that reach into eternity.
2. **Give to causes that are important to you.** As an outreach of the Church established by our Lord Jesus Christ, CHS is our spiritual home and exists to be His visible presence in the world through humanitarian, educational, religious, and pastoral undertakings. For many of us it is our second home.
3. **Make closet cleaning charitable.** Go through your closet and dressers and if you haven't worn something for a year, wash it, and take it to "My Neighbor's Closet", a charitable outreach of our parish. Or set it aside for a bit to donate to our PCCW's rummage sale.
4. **Double your donation.** Many employers offer matching funds for employee's charitable contributions. Check your workplace human resources department for details.
5. **Itemize.** In order to claim a charitable deduction on your tax return, you must itemize your deductions.
6. **Appreciated Assets.** Consider donating appreciated assets or securities. Donating property held long-term (one year or more) that has appreciated in value, can result in a double benefit, and not for just big donors:
 - A.) You can deduct the fair market value of the asset as of the date of the gift.
 - B.) You can avoid paying capital gains tax.
 - C.) Church of the Holy Spirit can accept virtually any assets of value - bonds, real estate, grain, vehicles, jewelry, stocks, etc.
7. **Grain.** Farmers, in particular, should prayerfully consider donating grain to CHS that the Lord has blessed them with from their recent harvest. This results in a double benefit as farmers are able to exclude the grain income on their tax return and CHS does not pay taxes on the sale.
8. **Cash....** a simple and much appreciated charitable contribution. It goes directly to the mission of CHS.
9. **ACH online giving.** Would you consider setting up an automatic gift to CHS in making your regular contribution? Scheduled automatic withdrawals assures CHS a more consistent cash flow, especially when you are out of town. 209 parish families already do this. Worksheet and instructions to set it up are in the Commons, or please contact us at 296-3139 if you'd like assistance in setting it up.
10. **Scrip.** Would you please consider using Scrip in making your holiday purchases or in giving gifts? **Employers**, would you consider giving your workers Scrip gift cards purchased here at CHS? Participating retail vendors give us a certain percentage of all sales purchased through Scrip.
11. **IRA.** Do you have an IRA? Along with your children, include CHS as an additional beneficiary. Contact your IRA trustee and ask for change of beneficiary forms to include our parish. Donating an IRA to CHS can also be an estate planning strategy to minimize the ordinary income that is passed to heirs. Another common strategy with IRAs for people 73 and older is to send their required minimum distribution (RMD) directly to CHS. This is known as a qualified charitable distribution which allows taxpayers to contribute up to \$100,000 from their IRA directly to a charity and avoid paying income taxes on the distribution.

12. **Life Insurance.** Don't cancel life insurance you no longer need! Name CHS or SJB as owner of the life insurance, or instruct your life insurance agent to include CHS as a primary or secondary beneficiary on your policies– which can provide future financial support and possibly qualify for tax free benefits as well.
13. **Memorial donation.** Make a charitable contribution to CHS in memory of a loved one. More and more Catholic families are making substantial gifts or designated gifts to parish endowment funds and/or other areas in *memory* of parents and other relatives.... Consider starting your own family endowment fund for CHS, where the principal is restricted, and the parish receives the interest as a regular distribution in perpetuity.\)
14. **Our parish has recently (Late November 2024) been blessed with a generous donation to start a brand-new parish Fund!** The new **HOLY SPIRIT FUND** directly supports the ongoing operations of Church of the Holy Spirit parish. The funds are invested and CHS receives regular distributions throughout the year. The Holy Spirit Fund is something that all parishioners can donate towards with cash or ANY ASSET. Stocks, Grain, Depreciated Equipment, Real Estate, etc. This is something that all parishioners can continue to donate to.
15. **Donor Advised Funds** – This can be set up through the Catholic Foundation. When you make a charitable contribution of assets, the funds are invested and grow tax-free. Then at your request, the Foundation distributes the funds to the charity of your choice.
16. **Planned giving.** Bequests to the parish, gifts of real estate and life insurance, stocks, bonds and certificates of deposit can help perpetuate your faith commitment. Please remember the ongoing and long-range needs which exist here at CHS and St. John the Baptist School. Contact Fr. Timmerman or the Catholic Foundation of Southern Nebraska for more information about planning. At the Foundation, contact Chris Raun or Scott Yates at 402-488-2142 for free advice to all Catholics in our Diocese.
17. **Will.** Have you included CHS and/or SJB in your will? Making a will isn't expensive! But not having one may cost your family a great deal. Please be a good steward of your resources by using wisely the Lord's gifts given to you. Make a will or revise the one you have if you haven't done so in the last five years. Including CHS or our Catholic schools as “an extra child” in your will is an easy choice to create a will that can benefit the family *and* CHS.
18. **Residual of your will.** Name CHS last. In your will after all your family and friends have been taken care of, name your parish as recipients of the residuary (the amount that is left).
19. **Gift Annuities.** A charitable gift annuity can be an excellent tool for charitable giving because it combines the benefits of an immediate income tax deduction and a lifetime income stream. With a gift annuity, the donor makes a gift of cash or other property to a charity in exchange for an annual annuity to an individual for the remainder of the individual's life.
20. **Charitable trusts.** A charitable remainder trust provides a unique opportunity for a donor to retain lifetime income from property while obtaining a current income or estate tax deduction for the remainder interest that will eventually pass to charity. If you own an appreciated asset and have thought about donating to CHS consider setting up a charitable trust during your life and to receive income payments back. This is a great way to financially benefit both you and CHS during your life. There are certain complexities that arise with charitable trusts and you should work closely with an estate planning attorney and CPA if you are interested in this type of giving.

These ideas are for your consideration. Always consult your attorney in conjunction with your accountant/tax preparer in preparing a proper will and making of contributions to the Church in estate planning.

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Parish Council of Catholic Women
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As Mary & Martha gave of their time and talents, we too give ours.

Join Us!