

**Dear Parishioners,**

This weekend, we begin the season of Advent; a time of preparation and a time of prayer to celebrate the coming of Christ into our lives and into our hearts. Please mark your calendars for our Parish Advent Reconciliation service which will be held on December 10 at 7:00 p.m. We will have several priests from the deanery to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation this evening. Also, please note that December 8 is a Holy Day of Obligation, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Our Mass schedule for that day is 8:15 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

My brother, Jesus. It happens every year. I think that this will be the year that I have a reflective Advent.

I look forward to Sunday and this new season, Jesus. But all around me are the signs rushing me to Christmas and some kind of celebration that equates spending with love.

I need your help. I want to slow my world down.

This year, more than ever, I need Advent, these weeks of reflection and longing for hope in the darkness.

Jesus, this year, help me to have that longing. Help me to feel it in my heart and be aware of the hunger and thirst in my own soul. Deep down, I know there is something missing in my life, but I can't quite reach for it.

I can't get what is missing.

I know it is about you, Jesus. You are not missing from my life, but I might be missing the awareness of all of the places you are present there.

Be with me, my dear friend. Guide me in these weeks to what you want to show me this Advent.

Help me to be vulnerable enough to ask you to lead me to the place of my own weakness, the very place where I will find you the most deeply embedded in my heart, loving me without limits.

**Blessings,**

**Fr. John**

### **Question of the Week – How can you be more alert to God's presence this Advent?**

**Reading 1 Isaiah 63:16-17, 19; 64:2-7      Reading 2 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

**Gospel Mark 13:33-37**

**Reflection:** In this reading, Jesus warns us of the need to be awake and watchful for his coming at the end of time and each day of our lives. He compares himself to the master of the house who travels far away. The master places his servants in charge of the estate, each with his or her own work. They are put on alert: "May the master not come suddenly and find you sleeping." Be on guard. Stay awake!

Advent should be a time of watchfulness for us. We must never be asleep to the daily challenge of Jesus in our lives.

PARISH SUPPORT	WEEK OF NOVEMBER 17 - NOVEMBER 23
WEEKLY REVENUE	\$7,346.50
WEEKLY EXPENSES	\$5,385.74
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$1,960.76
YEAR TO DATE REVENUE	\$532,537.12
YEAR TO DATE EXPENSES	\$531,335.15
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$1,201.97

**DID YOU KNOW...** Over 50 gallons of soup was eaten and \$1,231.00 was raised for our Parish at the Soup Supper? Thank you to each of you who supported the Soup Sunday by working, eating, or donating items or money! *Special Thanks* to Mitzi Le Clair & her crew for keeping the Soup Sunday tradition going & for all her work in making it a huge success!

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS:**

**DECEMBER 6/7**

**ALTAR SERVERS:** 5:00 PM: Dillon Dierks, Aaliyah Green

10:30 AM: Alex Brock, Tina Buller

**CANDLE BEARERS:** 5:00 PM: Casey Kubes, Grace Treves

10:30 AM: Emily Crowe, Jacob Rankin

**LECTORS:** 5:00 PM: Hugh Reilly

7:30 AM: Alyce Kozimor

10:30 AM: Bill Cheese

**DEACON:** 5:00 PM: Deacon Alan LeClair

7:30 AM: Deacon Alan LeClair

10:30 AM: Deacon Fred Hendricks

**EMHCs:** 5:00 PM: Juli Bohnenkamp, Sarah Bohnenkamp, Diane Sullivan, Mary Ann Taylor

**7:30 AM:** Maria Hackenberg, Norine Hoffman,  
Bruno Kozimor, Michelle Zuber

**10:30 AM:** Bev Baer, Tamatha Buell, Mary Fink,  
Cathy Fluckey

**GIFT BEARERS: 5:00 PM:** Treves Family

**7:30 AM:** McDonald Family

**10:30 AM:** Wolodkewitsch Family

**MUSICIANS: 5:00 PM:** Drew Neneman

**10:30 AM:** Kim Becker and Family

**COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND:** Kelli Brock, Bob and Betty  
Jones, Joni Locher

**NERI DOLLAR SELLERS: 5:00 PM:** Lynn Ingraham

**7:30 AM:** Nancy Core

**10:30 AM:** Kara Rief

**COLLECTION MONEY COUNTERS:** Sharon Olson, April Collamer

**IMMANUEL EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:** Mary Todd, Bonnie Shea

**USHERS: 5:00 PM:** Fred Bonacci, Dave Sedlacek, Jim Coe,  
Ron Allbright, Rock Cramer

**7:30 AM:** Bill Wilber, Carl Sedlacek,

Chuck Holderness, Chuck Livengood

**10:30 AM:** Rick Krebs, Fred Maycock, Tim Kiuntke,  
Carl Cramer

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILIES OF MICHAEL O'KEEFE,**

**JAMES HAYWORTH, MICHELLE ROHLFING, &**

**ARDIS (EDEN) MOORE.** Mike O'Keefe is the  
husband of Linda. There was a Celebration  
of his Life on November 19<sup>th</sup> in Logan, Iowa.  
James Hayworth is the father, father-in-law  
of Bob & Nancy Hayworth & the grandfather  
of Jasmine & Brody. He was buried from the  
John A. Gentleman 72<sup>nd</sup> St. Chapel this past Monday.

Michelle is the mother of Veronica Rohlfing, a sixth grader in our  
school. There will a Celebration of Life service for Michelle on  
Monday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> at 1 pm at the West Hills Presbyterian Church;  
3015 S. 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave.

Ardis Moore is the mother, mother-in-law of Pam & Jim  
Leonardo. She was buried from Central Church of the Nazarene  
this past Friday.

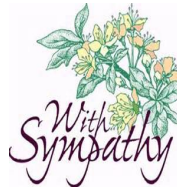
**AS YOU KNOW... BY THE NOTE TO RON IN LAST WEEK'S BULLETIN...**

**THEY ARE CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF MARRIAGE.** Please help us  
shower Ron & Joyce Allbright with congratulations & best wishes  
by sending a note or card to: Mr. & Mrs. Ron Allbright; 5702  
No. 16<sup>th</sup> St.; Omaha, NE 68111.

**YOU ARE INCREDIBLE! THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE ALTAR**

**SOCIETY BAKE SALE AND BOUTIQUE!** Thank you to all the Bakers &  
Buyers! The Bake Sale brought in \$670.75 & the Table Rental  
brought in \$275.00 for a grand total of \$945.75. This is the  
most ever! Projects such as this (& the upcoming Cookie Walk)  
help the Altar Society fund & provide the Altar Breads  
(Communion Hosts) & Missals for our Parish. *Special Thanks* to  
Bev Baer & the Holy Rosary Circle for their work in getting  
vendors, preparing the space, and hosting the event.

**WORKS OF MERCY ARE BEING PERFORMED AT OUR PARISH!** Thanks  
to those who donated items for Operation Christmas Child.  
We filled 7 boxes that were delivered to the collection center  
at the Benson Baptist Church, from there they will be shipped  
off to the missions.



**THANK YOU from the Knights for...**

\* Supporting the Honey Sunday fundraiser for the Ollie Webb  
Center. We raised \$375 and sold 6 cases of Honey.

\* Supporting our Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 16.  
We raised approx. \$700 to help pay for the new gate in  
our handy - dandy elevator.  
... and our lucky winner of the \$100 Home Depot gift card  
is Kathy Boes-Skinner Congratulations Kathy! 286 tickets  
were sold!

Thank you again for all of your support!

**A THANKSGIVING REFLECTION AS WE ENTER THE ADVENT SEASON...**

*THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN*

I'm thankful for the taxes I pay

... because it means that I'm employed.

I'm thankful for the mess to clean up after a party

... because it means I have been surrounded by friends.

I'm thankful for the clothes that fit a little too snug

... because it means I have enough to eat.

I'm thankful for my shadow who watches me work

...because it means I am out in the sunshine.

I'm thankful for a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need  
cleaning, and gutters that need fixing

...because it means I have a home.

I'm thankful for the complaining I hear about our government

...because it means we have freedom of speech.

I'm thankful for the spot I find at the far end of the parking lot

...because it means I am capable of walking.

I'm thankful for my huge heating bill

...because it means I am warm.

I'm thankful for the lady behind me in church who sings off key

...because it means that I can hear.

I'm thankful for the piles of laundry and ironing

...because it means I have clothes to wear.

I'm thankful for weariness and aching muscles at the end of  
the day

...because it means I have been productive.

I'm thankful for the alarm that goes off in the early morning  
hours

...because it means that I'm alive.

I'm thankful for the getting too much email

...because it lets me know I have friends who are thinking of me.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO FR. GAMA!** Fr. Gama celebrated his  
birthday on Thanksgiving Day this year. Please help us wish him  
a very happy birthday!

**THE FAMILY GIVING CHRISTMAS TREE IS UP!**

...and it will be up until all the names are gone.

If you prefer, there will be a can located on the  
railing next to the tree for your monetary donations.

**The deadline for the return of wrapped gifts is  
Sunday, Dec. 14.** The procedure for the Christmas

gifts is as follows: 1) Pick gift tag from the tree.

Please don't lose the tag! 2) Buy gift named on tag

**ITEMS ONLY** (these are gifts). 3) Wrap gift. Sale tags may be  
left on clothing. 4) Reverse the gift tag with child's name showing  
only & use as a nametag on the gift. 5) Bring the gift back to

Church **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 14!** Please help the less  
fortunate of our Parish with a Christmas gift.



**OUR AM AND PM "MARY" BIBLE STUDY WILL BE CULMINATING WITH THE MOVIE, "MARY OF NAZARETH" WHICH CAME OUT LAST YEAR.**

We are inviting all parishioners to watch it with us Monday, Dec. 1 at 9 a.m. at Notre Dame - use the West door, or Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. in Parish Center. The movie is about 2 ½ hours long. If you have ???'s, call Marsha Moon 455-1485 or Diane Sullivan 571-2078.

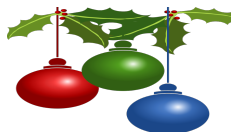
**IF YOU ARE A LECTOR AND/OR EMHC, YOU ARE INVITED TO A "READ AND FEED"** on Tuesday, December 2 at 6:30 pm in the Parish Center. We will have a light supper of soup & bread then renew our commitments to read the words of our Lord & serve our parishioners the Body and Blood of Christ. This is a chance to meet & welcome our newly commissioned. Everyone is asked to bring a dessert to share.



**GET OUT YOUR DUST RAGS & MOP BUCKETS & JOIN IN THE FUN!** We will be cleaning St. Philip Neri Church on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 9 a.m. **ALSO...Plan on staying** after the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Dec. 21 to decorate the church for Christmas. Many hands make light work!

**AS WE GET READY FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON,** we are preparing a list of parishioners who live either in independent or assisted living who would enjoy a card or letter from their friends at St. Philip Neri-Blessed Sacrament. If you know of anyone, please drop a note in the collection basket or call the Rectory with their name & address. Due to confidentiality, we need the permission of the person or a family member to publish their name & address. The list will be in the December 7<sup>th</sup> bulletin.

**DO NOT DECORATE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE** until you check out the Cookie Walk & Christmas Tree raffle in the Parish Center on Dec. 6/7.



**NO NEED TO BAKE CHRISTMAS COOKIES** because you can buy all you need at the Cookie Walk & Christmas Tree raffle in the Parish Center on Dec. 6/7! Altar Society Circle 1 is sponsoring the Annual Cookie Walk & has added something new - **we will raffle off 3 live Christmas trees from Frosty Pines & host an ornament sale.** We have acquired a collection of wonderful ornaments that will be available for sale at the Cookie Walk. So - don't bake or decorate till you check out the Cookie Walk/Christmas tree raffle & ornament sale in the Parish Center on December 6/7 after all Masses. Oh! – Ho – Ho - HO... And there will be Caroling after the 5:00 & the 10:30 Masses!

**LEAVE YOUR PURSE/WALLET AT HOME AND CARRY YOUR NERI DOLLARS/GIFT CARDS TO SHOP AT ALL THE AREA GROCERY STORES & MOST RETAIL STORES:** Bakers, No Frills, Whole Foods, Hy-Vee, Bag & Save and Wal-Mart/Sam's Club. We have many restaurants on hand – including our neighborhood - Tussey's Casual Grill. Check the preorder form for gift ideas. **December 14 will be the last day for preorders if you need them before Christmas!** When you use Neri Dollars, you are giving back to our parish! Any questions, please don't hesitate to stop and ask one of the sellers after Mass or call the Parish Office.

**MASS INTENTIONS DECEMBER 1 – DECEMBER 7**

Monday	8:15 AM	Communion Service
Tuesday	8:15 AM	Memorial Society +
Wednesday	8:15 AM	John & Hazel Sheehan +
Thursday	8:15 AM	Our Parish Family Int.
Friday	8:15 AM	Dona Leininger + Vincent & Maxine McMahon +
Saturday	5:00 PM	Elizabeth Lastovica + Dorothy Rule + Jerry Todd +
Sunday	7:30 AM	Monica Matthews Int. Maureen Murray Int.
	10:30 AM	Janet Funderberg + Bev Culp +

**CHRISTIAN HUMOR** A passenger in a taxi leaned over to ask the driver a question & tapped him on the shoulder. The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb, & stopped just inches from a large plate glass window. For a few moments everything was silent in the cab, & then the still shaking driver said, "I'm sorry but you scared the daylights out of me." The frightened passenger apologized to the driver & said he didn't realize a mere tap on the shoulder could frighten him so much. The driver replied, "No, no, I'm sorry, it's entirely my fault. Today is my first day driving a cab. I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years."



We ask Lord, that You guide the leaders of our great country in all their decisions. The burden that has been placed on their shoulders is overwhelming. We ask that with Your infinite wisdom You guide them gently to the right decision.

Protect and guide our Military, oh Lord; strengthen them in their trials; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**DID YOU KNOW KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** provides funding & people for the Sunday morning T.V. mass for the elderly & shut-ins? Contact Bruno Kozimor for more info 402-455-3994

**ST. PHILIP NERI SCHOOL**  
 "WE ARE CALLED TO ACT WITH JUSTICE; WE ARE CALLED TO LOVE TENDERLY, WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER; TO WALK HUMBLLY WITH GOD."

**TOILETRIES AND BABY ITEMS** The SPN students, Pre-K – 6<sup>th</sup> grades will be collecting toiletry items for Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging. The 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be collecting baby items for Essential Pregnancy Service. These items will be collected from

Monday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> - Friday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to donate, please drop off your items at the school office.

**SPN CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: ARE WE THERE YET?** This year's Christmas program is a collection of readings & hymns from The Christmas story, with a theme of "Going On A Journey." The K-6 grade Christmas program is on Thursday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> in the Activity Center at 2:15 p.m. (Dress Rehearsal) & 7 p.m.  
*We hope you can join us!*

**HY-VEE RECEIPTS – THIS YEAR'S CASH FOR STUDENTS PROGRAM** began Sunday, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> & continues through Tuesday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, & includes all 14 Omaha/Council Bluffs Hy-Vee stores. Here's how it works: ANYONE who shops at any of the Hy-Vee stores can turn in receipts to the school. Hy-Vee records & totals the receipts collected & agrees to donate \$1 for every \$200 spent.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR! MARDI GRAS WILL BE FEBRUARY 14, 2015!**

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**NERI DOLLARS SOLD:** After all Masses

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 1 – PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

7:00 P.M. **BOOK STUDY** – Parish Center

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2**

8:15 A.M. **GRADES 1 – 4 MASS** - Church

9:00 A.M. **LORD, TEACH ME TO PRAY** – Parish Center

6:00 P.M. **ARTS AND ENVIRONMENT MEETING** – Parish Center Library

6:30 P.M. **READ AND FEED** – Parish Center

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3**

8:15 A.M. **GRADES 5 – 8 SCHOOL MASS** - Church

9:00 A.M. **"MOM'S" GROUP** – Parish Center

9:30 A.M. **PRAY, EAT, SHOP** – St. Benedict Center Schuyler

6:30 P.M. **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NATIVITY SET UP AND MEETING** – Parish Center

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4**

6:00 A.M. **"COME AND SEE" MEN'S FAITH FORMATION** – Parish Center

7:00 P.M. **RCIA** – Parish Center

**FIRST FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5**

8:15 A.M. **ALL SCHOOL MASS** - Church

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6**

9:00 A.M. **CLEAN CHURCH**

10:00 A.M. **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CONFIRMATION CLASS** – Open Door Mission

**COOKIE WALK, TREE RAFFLE, ORNAMENT SALE** – Parish Center

**NERI DOLLARS SOLD:** After Mass

7:00 P.M. **YOUTH GROUP GAME NIGHT** - School

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ALUMINUM CAN**

**COLLECTION** – in front of School

**COOKIE WALK, TREE RAFFLE, ORNAMENT SALE** – Parish Center

**ROLLS AND COFFEE** - After all Masses in the Parish Center

9:00 A.M. **FAMILY FAITH FORMATION** - School

**NERI DOLLARS SOLD:** After all Masses

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD** – During 10:30 Mass

**MAKE MEMORIES THIS CHRISTMAS!** Frosty Pines is a choose & cut Christmas Tree Farm located just north of Omaha on Highway 75. Come out to Frosty Pines with your family, roam around our thousands of trees on over 15 acres & pick the perfect one for you! We will cut it for you, haul it down to your car, & help tie it on.

**ADVENT WREATHS, CHRISTMAS CENTERPIECES, & MEMORIAL WREATHS** designed with locally grown evergreens & decorated in your choice of color scheme are available starting at \$35.00. Call parishioner, Jeanne O'Connor at 402-637-8181. Guaranteed to last 3 weeks with daily watering. The Altar Society receives a 10% donation of all purchases.

**WAKE UP THE WORLD!** Free & Open to the Public - Christmas Concert to mark the opening of the "Year of the Consecrated Life". Join the Poor Clare Sisters & Benedictines of Mount Michael Abbey in celebration of the Birth of Christ. Dec. 3 at 7 pm at Christ the King Church or Dec. 4 at 7 pm at St. Patrick Church in Elkhorn. Free Will Offering Appreciated. All proceeds will go to help the Omaha Poor Clare Sisters & the completion of their new monastery.

**Visit Nativity Scenes**, Nov. 30 – Dec. 14; Jan. 2 – 8, 2015, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. at St. Benedict Center. Everyone is invited to make a pilgrimage to St. Benedict Center, at the beginning of the Year of the Family, to view a wonderful display of nativity scenes from the Holy Land, from Africa, Asia, South & North America & Europe & to pray for our families. No admission fee. **God Loves a Cheerful Giver (cf. 2 Corinthians 9:7)** – An Advent getaway for young adults (ages 18-35), December 6, St. Benedict Center, Schuyler. The Advent season invites us to note & accept God's many gifts to us &, in turn, to share with others from the fullness we have received. We will look to Saint Nicholas as an example of a cheerful giver. This day of reflection, facilitated by a team of monks, includes talks, sharing, personal prayer time, Mass and a delicious lunch. Fee: \$ 10. For more information, call St Benedict Center 402-352-8819.

**CHRISTMAS IN THE FOREST** – Friday, Dec. 12 5-8 pm & Saturday, Dec. 13 from 3-8 pm Come join us in the woodlands for this annual tradition! A family oriented event, this is a meaningful opportunity to live the Christmas story. Both the young & the young at heart enjoy this cherished event. From the crisp, fresh winter air to the live animals at the manger, & the warm glow of the peace fire...this is truly a time to make memories as you gather with family & friends. This one hour experience includes Christmas cookies & hot chocolate at the conclusion of your pilgrimage. Reservations are required (call 402-359-4288).

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Pilgrimages take place every 20 minutes. Fee is \$5 per person, children 5 & under are free.



**DO NOT DECORATE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE  
NO NEED TO BAKE CHRISTMAS COOKIES**

Until you check out the

**Cookie Walk,  
Christmas Tree Raffle  
and Ornament Sale  
in the  
Parish Center**

December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>

*Hosted by Altar Society Circle 1*

ps... there will be Caroling after the 5:00 & the 10:30 Masses!