

Dear Parishioners,

Please be sure to mark your calendars for January 10! The Home and School and Fr. Gama will be hosting "Tanzania Night". We will be having a special Mass at 5:00 p.m. followed by an evening of food in the Parish Center. All are invited to attend and learn more about Fr. Gama's culture and customs!

Please be sure also to mark your calendars for February 14, our Annual Mardi Gras Dinner. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase soon! Our raffle items this year include the Grand Prize of a brand new 2015 Chrysler 200 Limited, \$5000 in Neri Dollars Grocery Cards, \$2,000 in Neri Dollars Gas Cards, 4 tickets to the October 9th Taylor Swift concert, Necklace and earrings purchased from Borsheims, Spring Cleaning Package, Dinner for 8 with Fr. John at Avoli Osteria, Case of Wine, \$500 of Neri Dollars, and a trip to a mystery destination. You will be receiving information in the mail very soon on how to make your reservations for dinner and purchase raffle tickets for the fabulous prizes. New this year – the person who sells the winning ticket for the car will receive a \$100 Neri Dollar card of your choice!

Let us continue to pray for one another during this Advent season, that our hearts will be ready to welcome our Savior!

**Blessings,
Fr. John**

**Question of the Week – When have you found your voice
and stood up for the truth?**

Reading 1 Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

Reading 2 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 24

Gospel John 1:6-8, 19-28

Reflection: Today's gospel reading is about the importance of giving witness. The role of John the Baptist was to testify to the light that is Christ. John the Baptist said he was not the Messiah. His baptism and his preaching were to prepare for the Messiah, one far greater than John. It is the coming of the Messiah that the entire world awaits, and we learn about who the Messiah is from all of today's readings. Waiting requires patience on our part, and becoming prepared for the one who is coming. How are we preparing to celebrate Jesus' coming this Christmas as the Messiah? What kindness can we give to others this week to show that we are ready?

Pray to the Spirit to know what your work in the world is.

PARISH SUPPORT	WEEK OF NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 6
WEEKLY REVENUE	\$46,730.57
WEEKLY EXPENSES	\$21,026.93
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$25,703.64
YEAR TO DATE REVENUE	\$601,864.43
YEAR TO DATE EXPENSES	\$569,166.05
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$32,698.38

DID YOU KNOW... our parish budget includes a Christmas collection of \$35,000? This is a significant collection that we rely upon to balance the budget. Before you make your Christmas donation, please pray about what is right for you and for St. Philip Neri-Blessed Sacrament Parish. If you are traveling for the holidays, you can drop your Christmas envelope in any Sunday collection, send it to the Parish Office, or go to our parish website and use the simple online donation feature.

Thank you and have a very Merry Christmas!!!!

LITURGICAL MINISTERS:**DECEMBER 20/21**

ALTAR SERVERS: 5:00 PM: Wyatt Brungardt, Genesis Mulcahy

10:30 AM: Cady Bencker, Nick Meier

CANDLE BEARERS: 5:00 PM: Jayden Mulcahy, Kobe Mulcahy

10:30 AM: Tanner Muhlecke, David Taylor

LECTORS: 5:00 PM: Jerry Bexten

7:30 AM: Hank Henkenius

10:30 AM: Kelly Brock

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, Theresa O'Neill, Mary Ann Taylor

7:30 AM: Regina Cronkhite, Betty and Bob Jones, Mary Todd

10:30 AM: Ellen and Wayne Russell, Bob and Marj Ryckman

GIFT BEARERS: 5:00 PM: O'Neill Family
 7:30 AM: McDonald Family
 10:30 AM: Brock Family

MUSICIANS: 5:00 PM: Joan and Todd von Kampen
 and Kevin Throne
 10:30 AM: Colleen Monti and the Church Ladies

COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND: DeLynne Clausen,
 Bruno Kozimor, Laurel Hamilton, Dorie Mittlieder, Dorothy Polan

NERI DOLLAR SELLERS: 5:00 PM: joni Locher
 7:30 AM: Judy Bahle
 10:30 AM: Penny Nelsen

COLLECTION MONEY COUNTERS: Liz Maycock, Patty Wiederholt

IMMANUEL EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Rita Livengood,
 Lois Waltermeyer

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

NOVEMBER 500 CLUB WINNERS (THE CLUB THAT GIVES BACK)
 \$140.00 - Evelyn Duckworth, \$72.00 - Reuben McFarland,
 \$32.00 - Larry Cusic, \$24.00 - Bill Wilbur, Bill Keitges,
 \$24.00 - Fr. Dan Kampschneider
 \$20.00 - Diane Sullivan, Jim Huber
 \$15.00 - Theresa O'Neill, Kathleen Smith, Dorothy Polan

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE COOKIE WALK, CHRISTMAS TREE RAFFLE, ORNAMENT SALE! Special thanks to Kathy Rossitto and her Elves! Circle 1 brought in almost \$900 in profit! The Christmas Trees were won by Jan Sammons, Bob Marshall & Norine Hoffman. The beautiful centerpieces are warming the homes of Patty Wiederholt & Lynn Ingraham. The "nature" tree ornaments were won by Ana Huber. Gayle Haman won the "music" tree ornaments. The "blue" tree ornaments were won by Michelle Roult. Everyone who purchased cookies were winners too!

THANK YOU TO EACH OF YOU WHO TOOK A TAG FROM OUR FAMILY GIVING TREE. The deadline for the return of wrapped gifts is TODAY!



LET THE KNIGHTS COOK BREAKFAST FOR YOU TODAY! KC All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast in the Parish Center 8am till 12:30pm! Come & Let the Knights make your breakfast; do the dishes, & help our seminarian as well! Fresh Pancakes with strawberry topping, Sausages, Eggs, Fruit Cocktail & Coffee or Juice - Along with Biscuits & Gravy (while it lasts) Adults - \$7; Kids (5-12) - \$5 Under 5 Free - or \$20 Family Rate!! All Proceeds to support SPN Seminarian Pat Nields!

TODAY, SUNDAY, DEC. 14 IS THE LAST DAY FOR PREORDERS IF YOU NEED THEM BEFORE CHRISTMAS! Neri Dollars "on hand" cards will be sold next weekend. Please be sure to plan ahead! Neri Dollars will **not** be sold the weekend following Christmas - Dec. 27th & 28th.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR PRACTICE will be Saturday, Dec. 20 at 3:30 p.m. in the Parish Center. Please be sure & come! We will be practicing for the 4 p.m. Children's Mass on Christmas Eve.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE MONEY TO HELP DEFRAY SOME OF THE COSTS OF DECORATING CHURCH AND THE POINSETTIA'S FOR THE ALTAR THIS CHRISTMAS, please put your donation in an envelope & mark it "Christmas Flowers" & place it in the collection basket. If you would like to donate "in honor of..." or "in memory of..." a special loved one, please note that also. Minimum suggested donation per poinsettia is \$8.

ANNUAL ADVENT BABY SHOWER - Now - Dec. 24th
 Please bring your new or gently used baby items to Church & place them in the baby crib near the statue of Mary. All items will be donated to the Bethlehem House.



MAKE A NOTE! THE CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE IS:

CHRISTMAS EVE: 4 PM - CHILDREN'S MASS, 7 PM, MIDNIGHT
CHRISTMAS DAY: 7:30 AM, 9 AM, 10:30 AM

There will be a Communion Service on Friday, Dec. 26 at 8:15 AM.

MASS INTENTIONS DECEMBER 15 - DECEMBER 21

Monday	8:15 AM	Communion Service
Tuesday	8:15 AM	Don Pulte + Kevin Pfeiffer +
Wednesday	8:15 AM	Our Parish Family
Thursday	8:15 AM	Dona Leininger +
Friday	8:15 AM	Betty Stackhouse +
Saturday	5:00 PM	Carol Anderson + Dorothy Rule +
Sunday	7:30 AM	Bertha McCants + Kathleen Stubbs +
	10:30 AM	John Kirchofer + Sandra McGonigal Maresh +

IN LAST WEEK'S BULLETIN THERE WAS A LIST OF PARISHIONERS THAT YOU ARE WELCOME TO WRITE, CALL OR VISIT... Please add: Joan Lastovica; % An Angels Touch; 1113 N. 85 St.; Omaha, NE 68114 to your list. It is not too late to add your loved one, just call the Parish Center & we will note it in next week's bulletin.

CHRISTIAN HUMOR a little boy knocks at the door & tells the owner that something of his had found its way into her garage & he wanted it back. The homeowner opened the garage & noticed two additions; a baseball & broken window sporting a baseball-sized hole. "How do you suppose this ball got in here?" she asked the child. Taking one look at the ball, one look at the window, & one look at the homeowner, the little boy exclaimed, "Wow lady! I must have thrown it right through that hole!"

DID YOU KNOW KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS sponsors numerous youth programs including free throw contests, pro-life essay and poster contests, CCD and CYO programs and teen dances just to name a few... Contact Doug Rose for more info. at 402-699-4352.

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."

HY-VEE RECEIPTS - THIS YEAR'S CASH FOR STUDENTS PROGRAM began Sunday, Sept. 1st & continues through Tuesday, Dec. 31st, & 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.



THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**WRAPPED GIFTS FOR FAMILY GIVING
CHRISTMAS TREE MUST BE RETURNED TODAY!**

**SPECIAL COLLECTION – RETIREMENT FUND FOR
RELIGIOUS** - At all Masses

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PANCAKE BREAKFAST
– Parish Center

NERI DOLLARS SOLD: After all Masses

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

6:00 P.M. **YOUTH GROUP** - School

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

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

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

7:00 P.M. **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** – Activity
Center Meeting Room

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

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

9:00 A.M. **“MOM’S” GROUP** – Parish Center

3:15 P.M. **LITTLE FLOWERS MEETING** – Parish Center
FAMILY FAITH FORMATION - School

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

END OF 2ND QUARTER - School

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

7:00 P.M. **RCIA** - Parish Center

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

NO SCHOOL – TEACHERS IN-SERVICE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ALUMINUM CAN
COLLECTION** – in front of School

3:30 P.M. **CHILDREN'S CHOIR PRACTICE** – Parish Center

NERI DOLLARS SOLD: After Mass

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

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.

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH THE OMAHA'S MEN'S BARBERSHOP & WOMEN'S SWEET ADELINE'S CHORUSES – Today, Sunday, Dec. 14 at 4 p.m. at Faith Westwood Methodist Church; 4814 Oaks Lane. This is a free concert with donations that are collected contributed to the Salvation Army.

AN EVENING OF PRAYER AND MEDITATION: THE GIFT OF HOLINESS AT CHRISTMAS, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at St. Margaret Mary Church. The evening will include two 20-minute reflections, by Deacon Keating & by Fr. Mauritius in the midst of Eucharistic Exposition, a time of silence & conclude with Benediction.

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE CORNER A free Christmas concert with the Safranek sisters performing on Sunday, Dec. 21, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 2110 S. 32 Ave. Reception will follow.

ST. GERALD PARISH BRINGS THE BIRTH OF CHRIST TO LIFE, Sunday, Dec. 21, 5:30-7:30 p.m., with its Living Nativity. Come see live animals, have some drinks & desserts, & most importantly, see Jesus exposed in Perpetual Adoration in the chapel. This event is free, & sponsored in loving memory of Theresa Lynn Anderson. For more info, contact [Amanda Forman](mailto:Amanda.Forman@stgeraldparish.org) at 402-331-1955.



OMAHA LANCERS FAITH & FAMILY Sunday, Dec. 28th 5:05 pm Game Time! Special includes one ticket to the game, a hot dog & soda, & a post-game skate party with the Lancers players for ONLY \$15! To redeem the offer - simply take a flyer by the doors of Church to the Ralston Arena Box anytime Mon.-Fri. from 10am-6pm. Subject to availability if game is sold out.

THINKING ABOUT GOING BACK TO COLLEGE? Join College of Saint Mary for Walking Woman Transfer Day, Wednesday, Jan. 7, from 2–7 p.m. Visit CSM.edu/Transfer or call 402-399-2355 to reserve your personal, one-on-one appointment. Time set aside just for you to talk to faculty, enrollment counselors & financial aid experts. Learn about our degree programs in the health professions, business, education, & more.