

Dear Parishioners,

By now you should have received a parish survey that our Parish Council has put together to gather ideas and input as we prepare our five year plan. Please take a few minutes to complete it and return to the Parish Office. We would like to have as many surveys as possible by January 3, 2016.

A reminder that our Mass schedule for Christmas is as follows: Christmas Eve: 4:00, 7:00 and Midnight. Christmas Day 7:30 and 10:30. Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all who have supported the Archbishop's Annual Appeal! We are currently at 96.7% of our parish goal. We only need \$1,013.24 to meet our goal for the year. Please consider donating to this worthy cause. We all benefit in some way from the services provided by the archdiocese. If you need a pledge card, please stop by the parish office or let me know and I will be happy to bring one to you.

Blessings to you as we enter the Jubilee Year of Mercy and these last days of Advent!

Fr. John

Question of the Week – When you ask "What should we do?" how does Jesus respond?

Reading 1 Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Reading 2 Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel Luke 3:10-18

Reflection: Imagine that you are there, listening to John the Baptist in today's gospel. You hear him advising the people who have already expressed their sorrow for their sins. They are about to be baptized as a sign of their repentance. But they realize that they must also change their lives and avoid sin in the future.

Then the people wonder whether John might be the promised Messiah of God. John tells them that they must look for someone greater than he. We know that he was directing them to Jesus.

We can be like John the Baptist when we help others to find Jesus Christ in their lives. Pray today that your joy in knowing Christ will help lead others to him.

PARISH SUPPORT WEEK NOVEMBER 29 – DECEMBER 5

WEEKLY REVENUE	\$12,043.11
WEEKLY EXPENSES	\$21,522.21
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(\$9,479.10)
YEAR TO DATE REVENUE	\$536,593.10
YEAR TO DATE EXPENSES	\$554,287.96
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(\$17,694.86)

DID YOU KNOW... Our Christmas collection budget is \$45,000? This is our biggest and most important collection of the year. It ensures we will meet payroll, cover utility bills, and make up for any shortfall during the first 6 months of our fiscal year. Thank you to all those that have already given! As you prayerfully consider your Christmas donation, please know that your sacrifice is deeply appreciated and has an enormous impact on our parish community. Thank you!

LITURGICAL MINISTERS:

DECEMBER 19/20

ALTAR SERVERS: 5:00 PM: Marianna Stevenson, Grace Treves
10:30 AM: David Taylor, Caden Tussey

CANDLE BEARERS: 5:00 PM: Autumn-Rose Barnes, Zach Cypress
10:30 AM: Sam Parys, Isaac Parys

LECTORS: 5:00 PM: Rob Barrett
7:30 AM: Bruno Kozimor
10:30 AM: Bill Cheese

DEACON: 10:30 AM: Deacon Fred Hendricks

EMHCs: 5:00 PM: Kim Hill, Ellen Russell, Jim Shepherd, Matt Swoboda, Mary Ann Taylor, Need 2 volunteers
7:30 AM: Maria Hackenberg, Dorothy Polan, Mary Todd, Larry Ziska, Need 2 volunteers
10:30 AM: Bev Baer, Cathy Fluckey, Mary Fink, Fannie Parker, Need 2 volunteers

GIFTBEARERS: 5:00 PM: Treves Family
7:30 AM: Huber Family
10:30 AM: Cheese Family

MUSICIANS: 5:00 PM: Fr. John, Deanna Reilly, Deb VanErdwyck
10:30 AM: Joan von Kampen and Friends

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

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

COLLECTION MONEY COUNTERS: Liz Maycock, Patty Wiederholt

IMMANUEL EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Rich McShane, Roy Edwards

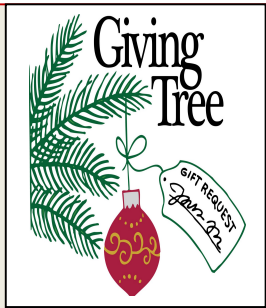
USHERS: 5:00 PM: Fred Bonacci, Dave Sedlacek, Jim Coe, Ron Allbright, Rock Cramer
7:30 AM: Bill Wilber, Carl Sedlacek, Chuck Holderness, Chuck Livengood

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

IN LAST WEEK'S BULLETIN THERE WAS A LIST OF PARISHIONERS THAT YOU ARE WELCOME TO WRITE, CALL OR VISIT... Please add: Deacon Chuck Weskirchen; % Kathy Frank; 3521 Quail Rd; Pinon Hills, CA 92372
Sharon Giitter; 3535 Piney Creek Dr. Elkhorn, NE 68022
It is not too late to add your loved one, just call the Parish Office & we will note it in next week's bulletin.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE MONEY TO HELP DEFRAY SOME OF THE COSTS OF DECORATING CHURCH AND THE POINSETTIAS 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.

FAMILY GIVING CHRISTMAS TREE
Today is the deadline for the return of wrapped gifts is Sunday, Dec. 13. We are also accepting monetary donations in the can located on the railing next to the tree. Thank you for your kindness & generosity in helping make this Christmas merrier for those less fortunate.



LEAVE YOUR PURSE/WALLET AT HOME AND CARRY YOUR NERI DOLLARS/GIFT CARDS TO SHOP AT MOST OF THE AREA GROCERY & RETAIL STORES: No Frills, Whole Foods, Hy-Vee, Bag & Save & 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. **Today, Dec. 13 is the last day for preorders if you need them before Christmas!** Any questions, please don't hesitate to stop & ask one of the sellers after Mass or call the Parish Office.

MASS INTENTIONS DECEMBER 14 – 20

Monday	8:15 AM	Communion Service
Tuesday	8:15 AM	Julie Wilcox Int. PJ Int.
Wednesday	8:15 AM	Betty Dickson + Kevin Pfeiffer +
Thursday	8:15 AM	Willis Jones + and Grand- daughter Marjorie Jones+
Friday	8:15 AM	Living and Deceased Members of the Winkelman Family
Saturday	5:00 PM	Our Parish Family Int.
Sunday	7:30 AM	Helen Shadle + Living and Deceased Members of the LeClair Family
	10:30 AM	Bobby Paz Int. George and Angela Paz +

AGAIN THIS YEAR, DURING THIS ADVENT SEASON, we are hosting our Annual Advent Baby Shower. Please bring your new or gently used baby items to Church & place them in the baby crib on the floor near the statue of Mary. All items will be donated to the Bethlehem House.

ST. PHILIP NERI SCHOOL

"Show me the path where I should walk, O Lord; point out the right road for me to follow." Psalm 25.4

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT DATES:
Dec. 17th - End of the 2nd quarter
Dec. 18th - NO SCHOOL - Teacher in-service day
Dec. 21st – Jan. 3rd - Christmas break
Jan. 4, 2016 - Classes resume

HY-VEE RECEIPTS – THIS YEAR'S CASH FOR STUDENTS PROGRAM 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 13 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- SPECIAL COLLECTION AT ALL MASSES – RETIREMENT FOR THE RELIGIOUS**
- NERI DOLLARS SOLD AFTER ALL MASSES**
- 9:00 A.M. **FAMILY FAITH FORMATION - School**
- CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD – During 10:30 Mass**
- 3:00 P.M. **SCOUTS - Parish Center**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

- 6:00 A.M. **THAT MAN IS YOU - Parish Center**
- 8:15 A.M. **GRADES K – 4 SCHOOL MASS – Church**
- 9:00 A.M. **33 DAYS TO MORNING GLORY – Parish Center**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

- 8:15 A.M. **GRADES 5 – 8 SCHOOL MASS – Church**
- 3:00 P.M. **LITTLE FLOWERS – Parish Center**
- 6:30 P.M. **CONFESSIONS – Church**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

- 8:15 A.M. **ALL SCHOOL MASS – Church**
- 7:00 P.M. **RCIA – Parish Center**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

NO SCHOOL – CHRISTMAS BREAK BEGINS – TEACHER IN SERVICE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION – in front of School
NERI DOLLARS SOLD AFTER MASS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- NERI DOLLARS SOLD AFTER MASS**
- 8:00 A.M. **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PANCAKE BREAKFAST – Parish Center**
- NO FAMILY FAITH FORMATION**

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

3:00 P.M. **SCOUTS** - Parish Center

MAKE A NOTE! THE CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE IS:

CHRISTMAS EVE: 4 PM – CHILDREN'S MASS, 7 PM, MIDNIGHT

CHRISTMAS DAY: 7:30 AM, 10:30 AM

There will be the regular Mass schedule for the weekend of Dec. 26 and 27th.

CHRISTIAN HUMOR Pilot: Have you ever flown in a small plane before? Passenger: No, I have not. Pilot: Well, here is some chewing gum. It will help to keep your ears from popping. Pilot (after the plane landed): Did the gum help? Passenger: Yep. It worked fine. The only trouble is I can't get the gum out of my ears.

MEN'S FAITH FORMATION That Man is You! – Dedicated to "walking the talk" & providing men the opportunity & frame work to build out their very own spiritual plan of life. The Spirit of Nazareth -"Come & See" (John 1:46) the latest from That Man is You! A thoroughly & solidly Catholic men's faith formation program ultimately designed around a personal encounter with Jesus Christ, so that He can take us further. Join us **TUESDAY** mornings from 6- 7:30 a.m. in the Parish Center.

Have questions? Call Tom Carney at 402-578-6879.

Session 13: To Hear the Voice of God

- The Conscience: Hearing God's Voice
- The Call: To Be Holy and One with Christ
- A Call within a Call: Mother Teresa's Story
- The Call to Sainthood
- Learning to Hear and Respond to God's Voice
- How God Speaks to Us

New Abortion Prayer Time Information

Join other pro-lifers in peaceful prayer on **Mondays** from 8 a.m. to 1p.m. in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood at 3105 N. 93rd St. A priest or other volunteer leads prayers during the 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. prayer hour on **Mondays**. You are also invited to pray on Fridays (7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.) & Saturdays (7:30 – 10 a.m.) at the Abortion and Contraception Clinic of Nebraska at 1002 W. Mission Ave. in Bellevue. Priests lead group prayer from 11 a.m. to noon on Fridays in Bellevue. Prayer volunteers are especially needed on Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Bellevue. Prayers are offered at the Omaha Planned Parenthood on Saturday mornings from 10 – 11 a.m. as well. For more information visit www.RespectLifeOmaha.com, or contact Whitney Bradley at wabradley@archomaha.org or 402-551-9003 x1306.

ADVENT WREATHS, CHRISTMAS CENTERPIECES, & MEMORIAL

WREATHS designed with locally grown evergreens & decorated in your choice of color scheme are available starting at \$35. 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.

THE MEDIA CENTER is a free service offered by the Archdiocese of Omaha. The collection has been developed with the interests of individuals and families in mind, as well as those who are directly involved in parish formation, catechesis and ministry to families across the lifespan. The collection includes books, periodicals, DVD's, VHS tapes, and CD's in English and Spanish on a variety of topics related to living and sharing the Catholic faith with people of all ages. Contact us at: mediaspecialist@archomaha.org or call 402-551-9003 or 888-800-8352 Visit us at: Sheehan Center Campus Nazareth Hall, 2nd Floor 3330 N 60th St. or access the Media Center collection online at: www.archomaha.org/family-life/media-center/

OPENING THE HOLY DOOR AT ST. CECILIA'S CATHEDRAL AND SOLEMN VESPERS TODAY December 13, Gaudete Sunday, at 7:30 PM, Archbishop Lucas will open the Holy Door of St. Cecilia Cathedral, 701 N. 40th St., thus inaugurating the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. All the faithful of the archdiocese are invited to participate in this event, to cross the threshold of mercy and to celebrate solemn Vespers. Everyone is welcome!

SINGERS & MUSICIANS ARE INVITED to participate in the 40th Annual Omaha Christmas Caroling Festivities, Sunday, Dec. 13, 2 p.m. at the Nebraska Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, 7410 Mercy Road and 3:15 p.m. at CHI Health Bergan Mercy, 7500 Mercy Road. There will be a post-caroling party at 4 p.m. at Godfather's Pizza, 2117 S. 67th St.

"EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS" – "Welcome the Stranger" Migration: Refugees and Asylees. Presented by Lacey Studnicka will describe the work of Refugee Services at Lutheran Family Services of NE & Notre Dame Sister Cynthia Hruby will summarize July experiences with documented asylum seekers at La Posada Providencia in Texas. Dec. 17, 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Seven Oaks at Notre Dame dining room, 3439 State St. Use the north entrance by the flag pole. For more info call 402-982-9933.

COMPREHENSIVE SEX EDUCATION IN OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – UPDATED BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE Your help is needed to stop comprehensive sex education (CSE) in the Omaha Public Schools (OPS). As noted by the [Catholic Education Resource Center](#), "...today's typical programs are not designed to warn the kids away from permissive and harmful sex experiences at all. Rather, what they really aim at is breaking down traditional morality and sexual inhibitions...." Catholics, particularly those who live within the OPS district, are strongly encouraged to show up at one (or more) of the upcoming School Board meetings in opposition to the implementation of CSE. There is no need to address the Board, however, patrons who also desire to do so should plan to arrive by 6 p.m. and complete a pink request sheet which is turned into the Board secretary by 6:20 p.m. OPS Board meetings, held in the TAC building at 3215 Cuming Street, are scheduled as follows: January 4, 2016 and January 20, 2016.