

Dear Parishioners,

Our Advent season is well underway! Special thanks to Mrs. Hensel and Fr. Kevin for hosting our Advent day of reflection for our teachers and staff. Special thanks also to all who attended our parish mission on communication and to those who provided hospitality throughout the three days. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. Our Open House raised over \$700 for the Sienna Francis House. Thanks to all who dropped by and all who donated to this worthy cause!

Please remember in your prayers, our second graders, who will be preparing to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on December 13.

As we continue to prepare for the Feast of Christmas, let us also keep one another in prayer, that this time will truly be a time of listening to His voice as he continues to guide and direct us in the ways of His love!

**Blessings,
Fr. John**

**God speaks to us in many ways,
including through this Sunday's Scripture readings.**

God's kingdom is close – it is Jesus.

Reading 1 Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

Reading 2 James 5:7-10

Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

Question of the Week – Why is the candle “rose” for the Third Sunday of Advent?

Advent is a penitential season, so the priest normally wears purple vestments. The Advent colors are purple & rose like the advent wreath – (not red and green like Christmas). Gaudete Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent. The name “Gaudete Sunday” is taken from the words of the introit, *Gaudete in Domino semper* ("Rejoice in the Lord always"). On Gaudete Sunday, having passed the midpoint of Advent, the Church lightens the mood a little, and the priest may wear rose vestments. The change in color provides us with encouragement to continue our spiritual preparation - especially prayer and [fasting](#) - for [Christmas](#). On Gaudete Sunday, we light the rose candle which reminds us that we are halfway through. Are we prepared? Don't lose heart, the expected guest has almost arrived!

PARISH SUPPORT WEEK OF NOV. 27 – DEC. 3	DID YOU KNOW... it is time to start thinking about your New Year's
WEEKLY REVENUE \$15,233.01	resolutions? Are you thinking about stewardship? Have you considered
WEEKLY EXPENSES \$29,566.43	counting the collection or helping with funeral lunches? Or perhaps
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) (\$14,333.42)	adding your name to the prayer chain? Maybe cleaning the church or
YEAR TO DATE REVENUE \$435,934.17	school, bringing a meal for our Pastor, fixing what is broke, or helping
YEAR TO DATE EXPENSES \$575,486.50	during a sporting event – is more what you want to do. Please call the
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) (\$139,552.33)	Parish Office to see what opportunities are available. Thank you!

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND! Your donation works for aging religious – Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have offered their lives in service to others. “I read that roughly 95 percent of donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious aid senior religious,” a donor writes. “That’s wonderful when we truly want our donations to work.” Your gift works for elderly religious by helping to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please support this week’s special collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, and give to those who have given a lifetime.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for Saturday, December 24th at 8:00 a.m. - if you would like to help decorate the Church for Christmas. Many hands make light work!

<p>LITURGICAL MINISTERS: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 5:00 PM: ALTAR SERVERS: Gracie Murphy, Ryan Pfeiffer CANDLE BEARERS: Kristen Ellett, Dominic Martello LECTOR: Theresa O'Neill EMHCS: Jeanette Pinker, Jim Shepherd, Mary Ann Taylor, Diane Sullivan, Matt Swoboda</p> <p>GIFTBEARERS: Lampe Family MUSICIANS: Kim Becker and Friends</p> <p>NERI DOLLAR SELLER: USHERS: Fred Bonacci, Dave Sedlacek, Jim Coe, Ron Allbright, Rock Cramer</p>	<p>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 7:30 AM:</p> <p>LECTOR: Ilene Sedlacek EMHCS: Regina Cronkhite, George and Marsha Moon, Dorothy Polan, Maria Hackenberg Bev Demkowski</p> <p>GIFTBEARERS: Polan Family</p> <p>NERI DOLLAR SELLER: USHERS: Bill Wilber, Carl Sedlacek, Chuck Holderness, Chuck Livengood</p>	<p>10:30 AM: ALTAR SERVERS: Isabella Ramsgard, Abigail Russell CANDLE BEARERS: Lucas Moreno, Christopher Haman-Macias LECTOR: Dave Parks EMHCS: Trudie Ahlstrom, DeLynne Clausen, Tamatha Buell, Cathy Fluckey, Rich McShane, Nancy Ryckman GIFTBEARERS: Doran Family MUSICIANS: Colleen Monti and the Church Ladies NERI DOLLAR SELLER: USHERS: Rick Krebs, Fred Maycock, Tim Kiuntke, Carl Cramer, Mark Lampe</p>
<p>COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND: Bill Cheese, Norine Hoffman, Mary Todd COLLECTION MONEY COUNTERS: Patty Wiederholt, Joanne Feller IMMANUEL EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15: Mike Holmgren, Kathy Rossitto</p>		

Mass Intentions December 12 - 18

Monday	8:15 AM	Communion Service
Tuesday	8:15 AM	Don Beiber + Marjorie Jones +
Wednesday	8:15 AM	Poor Souls
Thursday	8:15 AM	SPN School Teachers and Staff
Friday	8:15 AM	Vincent & Maxine McMahon +
Saturday	5:00 PM	Fr. Craig Int. Iona Dempsey +
Sunday	7:30 AM	Willis Jones & Granddaughter Marjorie Jones +
	10:30 AM	Our Parish Family

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY OF KAREN THIEM AND GREG HANEY. Karen is the wife of Don Thiem. She was the secretary at Blessed Sacrament School for many years. She was buried from Holy Rosary Church in Glenwood, IA. Greg grew up in the Florence area & attended St. Philip Neri. He was buried from here this past Tuesday.

SPECIAL THANKS TO COLLEEN AND TONY MONTI, MIKE RAMSGARD, CHRISTY MINOR, LILY SPEVEK, AND FR. JOHN for decorating the Church for Advent.

TODAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 IS THE DEADLINE FOR THE RETURN OF THE GIFTS FOR THE FAMILY GIVING CHRISTMAS TREE! 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 – **NEW 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 name tag on the gift.



5.) Bring the gift back to Church **TODAY!**
Thank you for helping us help the less fortunate of our Parish with a Christmas gift.

FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL ADULTS
 Sponsored by That Man is You!

The Bible and the Virgin Mary
Week 12:

- The early witness of the Church to the Assumption
- The celebration of the Assumption in the liturgy
- Mary's role as Queen of Heaven
- Mary as Christ's ultimate co-worker: Co-redemptrix, Mediatrix, and Advocate
- Our honor and veneration of Mary our Mother

Please email or call Tom Carney to sign up or with any questions. 402-578-6879 or carneytom@yahoo.com

KC All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast Sunday, Dec. 18 - 8am till 12:30pm Come & Let the Knights make your breakfast; do the dishes for you also!! Fresh Pancakes, Sausages, Eggs, & Coffee or Juice' Along with Biscuits & Gravy while it lasts. Strawberry Topping for your pancakes, & Fruit Cocktail too! Adults - \$9; Kids (5-12) - \$5 Under 5 Free - or \$25 Family Rate!!

OUR PARISH KNIGHTS ARE RAFFLING OFF A \$100 GROCERY GIFT CARD! Raffles will be sold for \$1/ticket; or 6 chances for \$5 after each Mass until Dec. 18th. The winner will be drawn at the **December 18th KC Pancake Breakfast.**

CHRISTIAN HUMOR
- I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear

loose-fitting clothing. If I HAD any loose-fitting clothing, I wouldn't have signed up in the first place.

- When I was young we used to go 'skinny dipping', Now I just 'chunky dunk'!
- Wouldn't it be nice if whenever we messed up our life, we could simply press "Ctrl Alt Delete" and start all over?
- Why is it that our children can't read a Bible in school, but they can in prison?
- Wouldn't you know it, brain cells come and brain cells go, but FAT cells live forever.
- Bumper sticker of the year: If you can read this, thank a teacher and since it's in English, thank a soldier!

~ NERI DOLLAR NEWS ~

As you plan your holiday meals & purchase your Christmas gifts, be sure to check out the Neri Dollars on hand and pre-order lists. If you don't see what you need, be sure to go online to: www.shopwithscrip.com and check out the retailer list. All orders for "gifts" must be received by **Dec. 18** in order to receive them by Dec. 23!



All preorders are due by 10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays.

ST. PHILIP NERI SCHOOL

"Gifts of the Holy Spirit - Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Counsel, Fortitude, Piety, and Fear of the Lord"

ALL SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, "Angels of Peace", was written by our Music Teacher, Mrs. Anne Miller. It will be held in the Activity Center on Thursday, Dec. 15th with the Dress Rehearsal at 1:45 p.m. & the program at **6:30 p.m.** Everyone is welcome!

TOILETRIES & BABY ITEMS The SPN students, Pre-K – 5th grades will be collecting toiletry items for Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging. The 6th - 8th graders will be collecting baby items for Essential Pregnancy Service. Items will be collected from now until Thursday, Dec. 15th. If you would like to donate, please drop off your items at the school office.

HY-VEE RECEIPTS – THIS YEAR'S CASH FOR STUDENTS PROGRAM continues through Saturday, 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 11 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION – Trailer in Parking Lot

NERI DOLLARS SOLD AFTER MASS

SPECIAL COLLECTION AT ALL MASSES – Religious Retirement

9:00 A.M. **FAMILY FAITH FORMATION 2ND AND 8TH**

GRADES – School

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

6:30 P.M. **CUB SCOUTS**– Parish Center

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

8:15 A.M. **GRADES K – 4 SCHOOL MASS** – Church

9:15 A.M. **WISDOM AND WORKS OF MERCY BIBLE STUDY -** Parish Center Stage

7:00 P.M. **FIRST RECONCILIATION** – Church

7:00 P.M. **BAPTISM CLASS -** Parish Center Library

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

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

9:00 A.M. **MATTHEW BIBLE STUDY -** Activity Center Meeting Room

3:15 P.M. **LITTLE FLOWERS** – Parish Center

PARISH COUNCIL CHRISTMAS PARTY -
Harold's Koffee House

7:00 P.M. **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING -** Parish Center

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

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

1:45 P.M. **SPN SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM –**
Dress Rehearsal - Activity Center

6:30 P.M. SPN SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM –
Activity Center

NO RCIA

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

NO SCHOOL – TEACHER IN SERVICE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

7:00 A.M. **THE BIBLE AND THE VIRGIN MARY BIBLE STUDY -** Parish Center

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION - Trailer in Parking Lot

NERI DOLLARS SOLD AFTER MASS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION – Trailer in Parking Lot

8:00 A.M. **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PANCAKE BREAKFAST –** Parish Center

NERI DOLLARS SOLD AFTER MASS

9:00 A.M. **FAMILY FAITH FORMATION 2ND AND 8TH GRADES –** School

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

PLEASE KEEP OUR MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON.

O Prince of Peace, we humbly ask Your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity, and devotion the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil.

RONCALLI CATHOLIC HAS INSTITUTED THE BENILDE PROGRAM which provides daily academic support for motivated adolescents with mild learning differences. The students involved will receive daily coaching from our Benilde director, learn advanced study skills, test-taking techniques, & other strategies for maximizing academic success. The ultimate goal of the Benilde Program is to teach each student how they best learn so that they are successful in college & beyond. For more info, contact RCHS Benilde Director Leah McGrew at lmcgrew@roncallicatholic.org or log onto www.roncallicatholic.org

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON with the Omaha Men's Barbershop & Women's Sweet Adeline's Choruses & other quartets (over 80 voices on stage!). Free Benefit Concert w/donations contributed to the Salvation Army. Today - Sunday, Dec. 11 at 4 p.m. at Faith Westwood Methodist Church, 4814 Oaks Lane.

MERCY KNOWS NO END You are invited to join the St. Cecilia Cathedral Choir as they give thanks upon their return from Rome, Italy & the closing of the Year of Mercy. Choral Vespers & Concert Sunday, Dec. 11 at 7 pm at St. Cecilia Cathedral.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP If your cancer has come back, or you're living with chronic cancer treatments, this group will focus on ways to help you feel better, cope with cancer, deal with treatment, & lift each other's spirits. The group meets the second & fourth Tuesday of each month, 4-5:30 p.m., at the Servite Center of Compassion, 7400 Military Ave.

"Expand Your Horizons" – "Pope Francis: The Joy of the Gospel." Presented by Roger Bergman, director of Justice & Peace Studies at Creighton University, will "unpack" the JOY OF THE GOSPEL written by Pope Francis. **Dec. 15, 7- 8:30 p.m.** at Seven Oaks, 3439 State St. Use the north entrance by the flag pole. Call 402-982-9933.

4TH ANNUAL NIGHT OF HOPE, Thursday, Dec. 15th, 6:15 p.m. St. Robert's Mainelli Center. Join us to be inspired & renew your faith. Listen to several speakers share their own life

stories of hardships & how their faith renewed their lives. Jimmy Owens, the roller coaster of a toddler with cancer. Dave Carlson, God's grace after suicide. Tammi Winchester, surviving toxic relationships & poverty. Special guest speaker to talk on unexpected life changes. Live music by Hey Brother and the Creighton Prep Chamber Choir. As we all prepare for Christmas, take time to be inspired & feel the true meaning of Christmas.

NEBRASKANS UNITED FOR LIFE invites you to be part of Christmas Caroling on Saturday, Dec. 17th at the Abortion and Contraception Clinic of Nebraska (1002 W. Mission Ave., Bellevue) at 9 a.m. & on Monday, Dec. 19th at Planned Parenthood (3105 N. 93rd St.) at 11 a.m.

THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA INVITES THOSE WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES to join us each Wednesday through Dec. 21 at 6 p.m. in Holy Angels Mausoleum at Resurrection Cemetery. We will pray for your peace & healing as we await the coming of the Christ Child.

MAKE MEMORIES THIS CHRISTMAS!

Frosty Pines is a choose & cut Christmas Tree Farm located just north of Omaha on Hwy 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 & MEMORIAL WREATHS & CHRISTMAS CENTERPIECES

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.

NEBRASKANS UNITED FOR LIFE'S ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF LIFE Dinner & Auction will be held on Saturday, Jan. 14th at the Scott Conference Center (6450 Pine St.). Social hour at 6 p.m. followed by Dinner at 7p.m. The Keynote Speaker will be Kristan Gray. Tickets are \$45 each or \$450 for a table of ten. For reservations, call (402) 399-0299, or visit www.NUFL.org

St. Philip Neri-Blessed Sacrament COUNCIL #5287

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast

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