

Dear Parishioners,

Pope Francis has declared an extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy for the Universal Church beginning on December 8, 2015. On that day, Pope Francis will open the special jubilee door at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The Holy Father has asked that in every diocese, a special door of mercy be opened on Sunday, December 13 and remain open throughout the Year of Jubilee.

All are invited to join the Archbishop for the opening of the door of mercy at the Cathedral on Sunday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m. We will gather, as a parish, in the Cathedral gymnasium and process to the Cathedral for evening prayer. If you would like to join us for vespers, please sign up in the back of Church.

Blessings,
Fr. John

Question of the Week – How do you keep watch for the Lord?

Reading 1 Jeremiah 33:14-16

Reading 2 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Gospel Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Reflection: Today's reading might seem to be a real "downer." Just as we are beginning the new liturgical year, we hear Jesus' reminders to "be vigilant" and "pray." Advent is a time of preparation for Jesus' final coming. Jesus, the just one, who will judge us in the final days of human history, wants us to be able to stand up like true Christians when that time comes.

Decide how you will show that you have heard Jesus' words on this first day of Advent.

PARISH SUPPORT WEEK NOVEMBER 15 – 21		DID YOU KNOW... it is time to start thinking about your New Year's resolutions? Are you thinking about your budget? Have you considered increasing your Sunday giving? Thinking about On-Line Giving? Did you know it is easy as visiting our Parish website, click on Donations, click on On-Line Giving, and then click on the Create New Account link. It's that simple! You can set up – tithing, tuition payments and tuition assistance, cafeteria payments and much more. Thank you for your support!
WEEKLY REVENUE	\$16,422.08	
WEEKLY EXPENSES	\$16,231.88	
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$190.20	
YEAR TO DATE REVENUE	\$510,383.81	
YEAR TO DATE EXPENSES	\$524,773.68	
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(\$14,389.87)	

LITURGICAL MINISTERS:

DECEMBER 5/6

- ALTAR SERVERS:** 5:00 PM: Genesis Mulcahy, Ryan Pfeiffer
10:30 AM: Amir Ring, Craig Taylor
- CANDLE BEARERS:** 5:00 PM: Jayden Mulcahy, Kobe Mulcahy
10:30 AM: Zach Cypress, Jerad Peck
- LECTORS:** 5:00 PM: Jerry Bexten
7:30 AM: Richard Henkenius
10:30 AM: Kelli Brock
- DEACON:** 10:30 AM: Deacon Fred Hendricks
- EMHCs:** 5:00 PM: Angie Bahle Lampe, Jacquie Dahlin, Theresa O'Neill, Diane Sullivan, Mary Ann Taylor, Need 1 volunteer
7:30 AM: Betty and Bob Jones, Bruno Kozimor, George and Marsha Moon, Need 1 volunteer
10:30 AM: Mary Fink, Rich McShane, Ellen and Wayne Russell, Need 2 volunteers
- GIFTBEARERS:** 5:00 PM: O'Neill Family
7:30 AM: Kathy Rossitto
10:30 AM: Brock Family
- MUSICIANS:** 5:00 PM: Bryan Kinghorn and Friends
10:30 AM: Kim Becker
- NERI DOLLAR SELLERS:** 5:00 PM: Lynn Ingraham
7:30 AM: Nancy Core

10:30 AM: Kara Rief

COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND: Bill Cheese, Norine Hoffman, Mary Todd

COLLECTION MONEY COUNTERS: Sharon Olson, April Collamer

IMMANUEL EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Bill Cheese, Dave Parks

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FR. GAMA

Fr. Gama celebrated his 37th birthday on Friday, Nov. 27th. Please help us shower him with birthday wishes!



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILIES OF DONNA COLLINS AND HELEN SHADLE. Donna is the mother, mother-in-law of Phil and Meg Collins, grandmother of Dayton and Nate Collins. She was buried from here this past Wednesday. Helen is the mother, mother-in-law of Marcia and Larry Cusic. Her funeral service was at St. Bonaventure Catholic Church in Columbus, NE this past Saturday.

YOU ARE INCREDIBLE! THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE ALTAR SOCIETY BAKE SALE AND BOUTIQUE! A BIG THANK YOU to all the Bakers & Buyers! The Bake Sale & donations brought in a grand total of \$912.00. *Special Thanks* to Bev Baer & the Holy Rosary Circle for their work in getting vendors, preparing the space, and hosting the event.

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. 13.** 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 nametag on the gift. 5) Bring the gift back to Church **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 13!** Please help the less fortunate of our Parish with a Christmas gift.

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 6th bulletin.



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

OUR STUDENTS COLLECTED 1825 CANNED GOODS for the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry! Way to go!!!

TOILETRIES AND BABY ITEMS The SPN students, Pre-K – 6th grades will be collecting toiletry items for Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging. The 7th & 8th graders will be collecting baby items for Essential Pregnancy Service. Items will be collected from Monday, Dec. 1st - Friday, Dec. 11th. If you would like to donate, please drop off your items at the school office.

SPN CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: “CHILDREN GO WHERE I SEND THEE” This year's K-6 grade Christmas program is a collection of readings & hymns from the Nativity story, based on the children's song "Children Go Where I Send Thee." Thursday, Dec. 10th at 2:15 p.m. (dress rehearsal) & 7 p.m. in the Activity Center. *We hope you can join us!*

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.

During Holiday season, please take some time with your family to discuss making an amazing gift by welcoming a Catholic exchange student into your home. Your entire family will benefit as the experience will give you all perspective & a chance to grow in faith, kindness & global awareness. Invite an exchange student from Eastern Europe to live with you for the coming school term. **WANTED:** Generous families who will host an exchange student from East/Central Europe at Wahoo Bishop Neumann, Skutt, Gross & Roncalli high schools. Students arrive in mid-August & stay until mid-June at the end of the school year. Commitment involves providing room, board, food, transportation, support encouragement & love. The name of the sponsoring program is Global Outreach, a Catholic exchange program which seeks to support the Church in East/Central Europe by forming young Catholic Servant Leaders for the 21st Century. To express interest & for more information contact Msgr. Gilg at 402-618-0607.

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29 – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

NO SCHOOL – TEACHER IN SERVICE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1 - SPN SCHOOL CLASSES RESUME

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

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

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

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

7:00 P.M. **RCIA** – Parish Center

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4 – FIRST FRIDAY

ALL SCHOOL MASS – Church

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

9:00 A.M. **33 DAYS TO MORNING GLORY** – Parish Center Stage

NERI DOLLARS SOLD AFTER MASS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION – in front of School

NERI DOLLARS SOLD AFTER MASS

ROLLS AND COFFEE - After all Masses in the Parish Center

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

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

3:00 P.M. **EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR** - Parish Center

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! MARDI GRAS WILL BE FEBRUARY 6, 2016!

CHRISTIAN HUMOR A man appeared before St. Peter at the pearly gates. "Have you ever done anything of particular merit?" St. Peter asked. "Well, I can think of one thing," the man offered. "On a trip to the Black Hills out in South Dakota, I came upon a gang of high-testosterone bikers, who were threatening a young woman. I directed them to leave her alone, but they wouldn't listen. So, I approached the largest and most heavily tattooed biker and smacked him on the head, kicked his bike over, ripped out his nose ring, and threw it on the ground." I yelled, "Now, back off!! Or you'll answer to me!" St. Peter was impressed: "When did this happen?" "Just a couple of minutes ago."

MASS INTENTIONS NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 6

Monday	8:15 AM	Communion Service
Tuesday	8:15 AM	Memorial Society +
Wednesday	8:15 AM	PJ Int. Betty Dickson +
Thursday	8:15 AM	Mrs. Pape Int. Don Pulte +
Friday	8:15 AM	Our Parish Family Int.
Saturday	5:00 PM	Deacon Al Le Clair + Gerald Todd +
Sunday	7:30 AM	Monica Matthews Int. Maureen Murray Int.
	10:30 AM	Janet Funderberg Int. Tristan Kuti Int.

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 11: Developing a Spiritual Plan of Life

- TMIY: Leading Sinners to Sainthood
- A Completion of the Purgative Stage
- Encountering Christ in Your Life
- Free Oneself from Sin
- Living the Gospel
- The Importance of Community
- The TMIY App: A Tool for Your Spiritual Life

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, 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 13 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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TRISTAN KUTI! A celebration to award his Eagle Scout will take place on Sunday, Dec. 6th in the Parish Center. To earn the Eagle Scout, Tristan had to complete 21 merit badges, take on a leadership role & complete a project. His Eagle Scout project was a Coat & Blanket Drive for Veterans. We are proud of you Tristan!

Additional Prayer Opportunities to End Abortion Join other pro-lifers in peaceful prayer on Mondays & Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 1p.m. in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood at 3105 N. 93rd St. when open appointment times for abortions are available at this location. A priest or other volunteer leads prayers during the 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. prayer hour on Thursdays. 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 also 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.

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 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.



GINGERBREAD FESTIVAL Christmas in the Heartland! Nov. 20 – Dec. 31 10 am – 8 pm Mormon Trail Center 3215 State St. and Kanessville Tabernacle 222 E. Broadway, Council Bluffs.

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH & SCHOOL PEDDLER'S MARKET is Wed., Dec. 2, 5-9 p.m., 4804 Grover St. If you interested in selling your homemade items, unique gifts, or items from home party sales, space is still available. For more info. on the event or reserving a table to sell items, contact [Laurie Tomasek](#), Peddler's Market Coordinator at 402-880-9014.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOW, Nov. 29 - Dec.13 Shop at *St. Benedict Center*, Schuyler. A very large variety of crafts & unique gifts made by over forty different area artists. View a unique display of nativity scenes from the Holy Land, Africa, Asia, South & North America & Europe.

ADVENT RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS Dec. 5 The Advent Season invites us to note & accept God's many gifts to us. A retreat for young adults (ages 18-35). 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. This day of reflection, facilitated by a team of monks, includes talks, sharing, personal prayer time, Mass & a delicious lunch.

"NO ROOM IN THE INN?" Dec. 5 Schuyler Life Teen members' Christmas pageant. Two performances, 5 & 7 p.m. Afterwards, hot chocolate, cider & coffee, & homemade Christmas cookies will be served. Admission: \$3 adults, \$1 children. For more information, call 402-352-8819 or visit www.StBenedictCenter.com

MAKING SPACE FOR THE HOLY – AN ADVENT RETREAT DAY

Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Advent is a time to reflect on how God seeks to be born in the world through us. How open am I to allowing the Spirit to move in me & through me? How do I say "yes" to God as Mary did? How can I make space for God?

ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION Thursday, Dec. 17 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Spend the day with some of the specialness of Christmas by using Scripture. Take the time to reflect, be still & ponder God's invitation to Mary, Joseph, & You. Quiet waiting will be supplemented with input & sharing. Knowles Mercy Spirituality Center, Waterloo, NE Call 402-359-4288 for more info or to make your reservation.

PLEASE JOIN THE CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION for a Christmas Party on Sunday, Dec. 6th from 2-4 p.m. at St. Gerald's Fellowship Hall, Open for all grandparents & grandchildren. Join the fun, & spend time with your grandchildren. Games, prizes & treats. RSVP's are appreciated but not necessary. Questions or to RSVP call Kay Buhrman at the Center for Family Life Formation, 402-551-9003, ext. 1304 or Vici Haggerty at 402-880-6318.

ADVENT MASS AND DESSERT POTLUCK Monday, Dec. 7 at 12 – Noon Archbishop Emeritus Elden F. Curtiss is celebrating an Advent Mass at the Archdiocesan Retreat Center Chapel, 3300 N. 60th St. Bring your own lunch & stay after Mass to enjoy fellowship. Ice water & tea are provided. Bring your favorite snack to share. Please RSVP by Thursday, Dec. 3 to [Laurel](#) at 402-829-9283.

Jesus does not want us to be afraid at the time of judgment. He wants us to "stand . . . and raise our heads." He wants us to greet him as our "ransomer," for it is he who will lead us

from captivity.

Advent is a good time to ask: What holds me captive? Why do I need someone to ransom me or rescue me? And what is my attitude toward this Someone who, when he comes, will set me free?

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA INVITES YOU TO ADVENT AT CATHOLIC CEMETERIES. Each Wednesday of Advent there will be a Prayer Service in the Holy Angels Mausoleum at 5:30 p.m. They understand how difficult this time of year can be for those who have lost a loved one. You are invited to leave a petition with the Christmas tree so that the petition can be remembered at Prayer at Mass & allow the constant love of Jesus Christ continue to offer his gift of healing for you, your family, & friends at the January 4, 2016 Mass. For more info, please contact Deacon Jim Tardy at 402-391-3711 or jtardy@catholiccem.com

THINKING OF OTHERS IS TRULY COMPASSIONATE & THERE IS NO GREATER GIFT THAN LIFE ITSELF. Please consider the gift of organ, eye & tissue donation. Anyone can register as a donor, regardless of age or medical history. For more info, call 1-800-718-LIFE or in Omaha, 402-559-3788, or go to www.DonateLifeNebraska.com. You can register online or at your local DMV.

JOIN THE STAFF OF THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION FOR AN ADVENT MORNING OF REFLECTION on Saturday, Dec. 12, 8:15 a.m - 12 p.m. at Christ the King Church, 654 S. 86th St. The morning begins with Mass, followed by a continental breakfast and presentations by Fr. James Rafferty and Deacon James Keating. No charge, but free-will donations are appreciated. For more information and to register, call Linda at 402-280-3901.

HOLY FAMILY SHRINE CONCERT Dr. Christine Erlander Beard, Professor, Coordinator of Woodwind Studies, Flute & Piccolo, along with her UNO flutists, are performing Saturday, Dec. 12, 4 p.m. at the Holy Family Shrine, 23132 Pflug Rd., Gretna. To get to the shrine, exit I-80 at exit 432, go south 1 mile to Pflug Rd., turn right on Pflug Rd. & go 1 mile. For more information, call the shrine at 402-332-4565.



**Ralston Community
Holiday Blood Drive**

**Sunday, December 6
9:00am-3:00pm**



Please join us in saving lives by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS
or by visiting www.redcrossblood.org.

Sponsor Code: RalstonHoliday

Drive held at Ralston Arena-7300 Q Street

Give a meaningful gift this holiday season. Donate blood.

Sponsored by the Ralston Chamber of Commerce, Ralston Arena & Omaha Lancers



All participating donors will receive two tickets to the hockey game versus Tri-City Storm on Dec. 19, plus be entered to win a Lancers Fan Pack, which includes an official replica jersey! Players will be available throughout the day for pictures and autographs.