

Dear Parishioners,

This week we begin the holy season of Lent. The Ash Wednesday Mass schedule will be 6:30 a.m., 8:15 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The next 40 days are a time to turn to the Lord and renew our spiritual lives. We do this through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Please remember that Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting (for those of you ages 18 – 59) and abstinence (for those of you 14 and older). We partake of only one full meal on these days and abstain from meat. All other Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence when we do not eat meat. We will have 2 opportunities for Stations of the Cross every Friday during this Lenten season. On the Fridays school is in session, the students will join us at 2:30 p.m. In the evening, we will begin with stations in the Church at 6:30 followed by a (meat-less) pot-luck in the Parish Center. Please bring a dish and the recipe to share. Let us pray for one another during this holy time.

Archbishop Lucas dispenses Catholics in the archdiocese from the prohibition of eating meat on St. Patrick’s Day this year, so on St. Patrick’s Day, Friday, March 17 we can eat meat this year. Those choosing to eat meat on Friday, March 17 are required to abstain from meat on Saturday, March 18.

Blessings,
Fr. John

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

God is always present in our life.

Reading 1 Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Reading 2 Romans 5:12-19

Gospel Matthew 4:1-11

Question of the Week – Adults: Who really is the master of your life?

Children: What do you worry about? What can you do to stop and serve only God?

<p>PARISH SUPPORT WEEK OF FEBRUARY 12 – 18</p> <p>WEEKLY REVENUE \$8,683.35</p> <p>WEEKLY EXPENSES \$63,094.06</p> <p>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) (\$54,410.71)</p> <p>YEAR TO DATE REVENUE \$722,391.17</p> <p>YEAR TO DATE EXPENSES \$849,182.46</p> <p>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) (\$126,791.29)</p>	<p>DID YOU KNOW... ONE OF THE BEST AND SIMPLEST THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP OUR PARISH, WHEN MONEY IS TIGHT, IS GIVE YOUR TIME, TALENTS, SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE, AND INTERESTS? There is much to do around the school and church and we could always use help! Thank you for your continued support of our school and church!</p>
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<p>LITURGICAL MINISTERS: <u>SATURDAY, MARCH 4</u> 5:00 PM: ALTAR SERVERS: Dillon Dierks, Gus Lampe</p> <p>CANDLE BEARERS: Autumn-Rose Barnes, Clint Dierks</p> <p>LECTOR: Pam Hughes EMHCs: Angie Bahle-Lampe, Mike Holmgren, Jeanette Pinker, Wayne & Ellen Russell, Jennifer Russell</p> <p>GIFTBEARERS: Lampe Family MUSICIANS: NERI DOLLAR SELLER: Susan Matsunami USHERS: Dave Sedlacek, Rock Cramer, Jim Coe, Ron Allbright</p>	<p><u>SUNDAY, MARCH</u> 7:30 AM:</p> <p>LECTOR: Richard Henkenius EMHCs: Bob & Betty Jones, George & Marsha Moon, Bruno Kozimor, Jan Sammons</p> <p>GIFTBEARERS: Huber Family</p> <p>NERI DOLLAR SELLER: Nancy Core USHERS: Bill Wilber, Carl Sedlacek, Chuck Holderness, Chuck Livengood</p>	<p>10:30 AM: ALTAR SERVERS: Sophia Minturn, Ryan Pfeiffer CANDLE BEARERS: Carly Berkey, Tiana Earlywine</p> <p>LECTOR: Rita Ziska EMHCs: Trudie Ahlstrom, Bev Baer, Kelli Brock, Rich McShane, Dave Parks, Nancy Ryckman</p> <p>GIFTBEARERS: Taborsky Family MUSICIANS: NERI DOLLAR SELLER: Kara Rief USHERS: Rick Krebs, Fred Maycock, Tim Kiuntke, Carl Cramer, Mark Lampe</p>
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COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND: Mary Fink, Kathy Rossitto, Mary Ann Taylor
COLLECTION MONEY COUNTERS: Sharon Olson, April Collamer
IMMANUEL EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS – THURSDAY, MARCH 2: Bill Cheese, Dave Parks

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 7 P.M. – WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR ALL MINISTRIES. PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE TO VOLUNTEER.

Mass Intentions February 27 – March 5

Monday	8:15 AM	No Communion Service
Tuesday	8:15 AM	Jerry Goeken + William & Doralyn Huerter +
Wednesday	8:15 AM	Giitter Family March Birthdays Mary Beth Clark +
	7:00 PM	Jim Graves + Robert Kimmel +
Thursday	8:15 AM	Kingsley & Tootie Smith + Bob Pierce +
Friday	8:15 AM	Memorial Society
Saturday	5:00 PM	Don Potmesil + Iona Dempsey +
Sunday	7:30 AM	Merl Core + Alfred Serrano +
	10:30 AM	Our Parish Family

Each session: See a 30 minute video of Fr. Toups' talk, use workbook with reflection questions & Lectio Divina & pray together. (Daily scripture/prayer encouraged.) For more info, call: Judy Smedra 402-457-5622 or 402-670-1368 Or email: msmedra98@gmail.com



HOW TO PRAY THE ROSARY

You will find pocket size pamphlets by the doors of Church which contains easy to read step by step instruction on how to pray the rosary including prayers and the mysteries.

JOIN US FOR AN 11-WEEK JOURNEY THROUGH THE SACRAMENTS each Saturday morning at 7 a.m. in the Parish Center.

The Bible and the Sacraments.

Week 6: *Lamb of God:*

- The role of the ten plagues in the sacrificial history of Israel
- The importance of the Passover sacrifice as a “redemption”
- Why Jesus is called the “Lamb of God”
- The famous Eucharistic passage of John 6 and Christ's real presence
- Parallels between the Passover sacrifice and the crucifixion of Christ
- How the Mass is a re-presentation of the once-and-for-all sacrifice of Christ

SPECIAL THANKS TO EACH OF YOU WHO PREPARE A DELICIOUS SALAD OR HOMEMADE DESSERT FOR A FUNERAL LUNCH. As you can see by the messages we receive from families, this ministry is very much appreciated. Please stop down to the Parish Center & pick up your special pan or bowl! We can assure you – we will call you again & you will need that special pan or bowl.

THE ITEMS FROM THE LOST AND FOUND ARE ALSO ON THE TABLE IN THE PARISH CENTER. Please stop down & you will find that glove, hat, umbrella, lunch box & jacket you have been looking for. It will be Spring Cleaning time soon & these items will be donated to the St. Vincent de Paul within a few weeks.

ELSIE BOHNENKAMP CELEBRATED

90 YEARS OF BLESSINGS on Wed., Feb 22nd. If you would like to join us in showering her with best wishes, please send a card to: Elsie Bohnenkamp c/o Ridgcrest Rehab; 3110 Scott Circle; Omaha, NE 68112.



THANK YOU EVERYONE for all your cards and prayers during my illness. ~ Deacon Fred Hendricks

A PLAN FOR LENTEN ACTIVITIES

As a practice of prayer, fasting & almsgiving, the Parish Pastoral Council has suggested that the rosary be said 1/2 hour before each weekend Mass, in hopes that this practice would continue after Lent. Beginning March 4th & 5th, a Parish Pastoral Council member will lead the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, starting at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, 7 & 10 a.m. on Sunday. Please plan to join us!

DO YOU FIND IT EASY TO PRAY? In our busy lives, prayer is seen as a luxury, when in reality it is at the foundation of a healthy spiritual life. The good news is that you can overcome your difficulties with prayer, & it is easier than you might think. Over the course of 8 weeks, the **Oremus** study program teaches you the essentials of an effective & fruitful prayer life.

Where: St. Philip Neri Activity Center Kids Welcome

When: 3:30 pm - 5 pm March 3 – April 27
(1 week off—Holy Thursday).

Materials: Workbook (\$13 optional)

~ NERI DOLLAR NEWS ~

SINCE LENT IS BEGINNING NEXT WEEK, please think about some of the gift cards we carry that you can use at local restaurants.



Restaurants who serve fish:
 Bonefish Grill Tussey's Red Lobster

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION – Trailer in Parking Lot
NERI DOLLARS SOLD AFTER MASS

9:00 A.M. **FAMILY FAITH FORMATION CLASS** - School
CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD -
 During 10:30 Mass

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

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

7:00 P.M. **SCHOOL BOARD MEETING** – Activity Center Meeting Room

7:00 P.M. **MATTHEW BIBLE STUDY** – Parish Center

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

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

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

7:00 P.M. **MASS** - Church

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

3:30 P.M. **OREMUS – GUIDE TO CATHOLIC PRAYER** – Activity Center Meeting Room

7:00 P.M. **RCIA** – Activity Center Meeting Room

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

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

7:00 P.M. **RCIA** – Activity Center Meeting Room

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION - Trailer in Parking Lot

7:00 A.M. **BIBLE STUDY** – Parish Center

SPECIAL COLLECTION – Black and Indian Missions At Mass

RCIA – RITE OF SENDING at 5 pm Mass

NERI DOLLARS SOLD AFTER MASS

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION – Trailer in Parking Lot

SPECIAL COLLECTION – Black and Indian Missions At All Mass

NERI DOLLARS SOLD AFTER MASS

9:00 A.M. **FAMILY FAITH FORMATION CLASS** – School
CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD –
 During 10:30 Mass

5:00 P.M. **RCIA – RITE OF ELECTION**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Vacation Bible School will be the week of June 26 at Cooper Farm!
 SPN's Week for Hummel Day Camp is July 24-28!
 Registration is March 21st at 8 a.m.

ST. PHILIP NERI SCHOOL

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

PLEASE NOTE! THE SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER HAS OFFICIALLY CHANGED TO 402-315-3500. The old school phone will no longer automatically transfer over to the new number.

OPEN REGISTRATION FOR PRE-SCHOOL is on February 21st. Please tell your neighbors & friends about our great school!

SAVE THE DATE! KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP will be Wed., March 8. Please encourage your friends & neighbors to consider St. Philip Neri School! Please call the school at 402-315-3500 if you have any questions. There will not be Pre-School or Kindergarten classes on Wed., March 8.

PRO-LIFE ESSAY CONTEST Give voice to your pro-life values! The Archdiocese Pro-Life Essay Contest is now taking entries from students in grades 7-11. Prizes range from \$20-\$40, & first place entries will be submitted to the Knights of Columbus statewide contest. For the writing prompt & submission details, contact Whitney Bradley, Respect Life Apostolate Coordinator, at wabradley@archomaha.org or call 402-551-9003 x1306.

MARIAN JR. CRUSADER GIRLS BASKETBALL TRYOUTS are scheduled: 3-4th grade - Sunday, March 5th from 5-6:15pm, 7th grade – Monday, March 6th from 6:15-7:30, 8th grade – Monday, March 6th from 7:30-9pm, 5th grade – Wednesday, March 8th 6:15-7:30pm, 6th grade – Wednesday, March 8th 7:30-9pm.

The makeup date or call back date is Wednesday, March 16th. The Marian Jr. Crusader program is for girls that want to play competitive basketball with other girls that are interested in attending Marian High School. Pre-register Online at www.leaguelineup.com/marianjrcrusaders

MERCY HIGH SCHOOL INVITES 5TH & 6TH GRADE GIRLS to our annual Lock-In on March 18th from 5-10 P.M. For more information go to: <http://bit.ly/2017mhslockin> Space is limited, so sign up today!

CHRISTIAN HUMOR A company offered tours through the historic district, led by guides dressed in Colonial clothing. While leading a group, one of the guides tripped & fell, breaking his wrist. He went to the hospital & as he sat waiting in the emergency room, a policeman walked by. Doing a double take at him in his 18th century garb he asked, “Just how long have you been waiting?”

PLEASE BRING ONE FOOD ITEM for our St. Vincent de Paul Food Barrels in Church next weekend. Any loose change or dollar bills dropped in the Poor Box would also be appreciated.

DON'T GIVE UP CHOCOLATE THIS LENT Have you ever had a memorable Lent? More importantly, have you ever had a life changing Lent? Maybe it's time you try something different. Sign up for Dynamic Catholic's email program Best Lent Ever®. Each day you'll receive an email with a short video featuring Matthew Kelly & a member of the Dynamic Catholic Team. Using Matthew's new bestseller *Rediscover Jesus* as their guide, they will take you on a 40-day spiritual journey to encounter Jesus—and yourself—in a deeply personal way. The program is free! Sign up at DynamicCatholic.com/Lent...

MARY OUR QUEEN PARISH MISSION "LIL BIT OF HEAVEN"
Feb. 27 - March 2 at 7pm in Mary Our Queen Church
Each evening there will be a special parish mass & homily designated to increase our spirituality. A social will follow in the Trinity Rooms to enhance our feeling of parish community. The mission priest, Fr. Robert Gielow, a Vincentian Father, will be available for informal chats & questions & answers. The Mission is for all people, from inactive to very active. It is for all ages & for any stage in life—married, single, divorced, separated, widow, etc. We particularly invite those who want to know more about the church today & how it can take an active role in the everyday experiences of work, leisure, family & politics. Join us for one of the most spiritually satisfying & uplifting events in our parish as we begin our Lenten Journey!

God we are marked with ashes,
Symbols of repentant hearts,
And contrite spirits.
We want to be transformed,
To be made new,
To learn the freedom,
Of serving no other master but you.
Let us heed your call,
And walk with Christ,
Into the wilderness.
Help us to see beneath the surface,
Not denial and sacrifice,
Not sin and death,
But transformation,
New life in Christ.
Let us seek to be changed,
Let us seek to be so transfigured
by your power and glory,
That we desire above all else
To become worthy citizens,
Of your new world of peace and justice.



WITH LENT APPROACHING, YOU MIGHT BE THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU PLAN TO "GIVE UP." What if, instead of a typical "give up," you "take up" instead? Join Spirit Catholic Radio & take up praying for someone you've never met through our brand new *Pray it Forward Project*. Enter by February 28th. Go to spiritcatholicradio.com & **click** on the *Pray it Forward* banner on the homepage. This link will provide you with further information & it will show you how to enter.

FRY-DAY NIGHT LENTEN FISH FRY – March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st, & April 7th from 5–8 p.m. at Schwertley Hall; St. John the Baptist Catholic Church; 215 N. 13 St.; Fort Calhoun

Lenten Fish Fries, March 3 & March 24, 4:30 to 8 p.m., at St. Benedict Center, Schuyler, sponsored by the Benedictine monks of Christ the King Priory. Alaskan Pollock buffet. \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-12; children ages 5 & under are free.
Exploring the Blessings in Your Life, March 18, 1-day retreat at St. Benedict Center, with Margie Walker. St. Patrick's Day weekend, set aside time to explore the richness of blessings in your own life... & how patient waiting can help us with our burdens & our blessings. Come for a slice of sacred space & some Irish soda bread as a bonus! Experience how God's love sensitizes us to the many facets of blessings! Fee: \$30. Lunch is available for \$10.50 (incl. tax).
The Mighty One Has Done Great Things for Me (Luke 1:49), March 25, 1-day retreat at St. Benedict Center, with Sr. Colette Baldwin, RSM. At midpoint of Lent, we meet Mary on this feast of the Annunciation, who has spoken her yes to God & sings her praise for God's greatness & mercy. This day invites us to review the manifold gifts of God to us, who too have been loved into life &, like Mary, don't know what our yes to God will mean. Our lives have been blessed with God's greatness, mercy & wonders. Lent invites us to recall this & to praise God, while we continue the Journey with Jesus through dying to self & rising to greater freedom, consolation & new life. Fee: \$30. Lunch is available for \$10.50 (incl. tax).
For more info. about the above retreats, call 402-352-8819 or visit www.StBenedictCenter.com

POET, PRIEST, REVOLUTIONARY, SCHOLAR, POPE, SAINT
The Soul of John Paul II Inaugural St. John Paul II Lecture presented by George Weigel at the John Paul II Newman Center; 1221 S. 71st St. on March 11 at 7 p.m.
4TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S LENTEN REFLECTION DAY hosted by St. Patrick's Parish, Gretna will be held Sat., March 18 from 9 am-Noon. Keynote Speaker: Sr. Ann Shields, International Speaker & Author of Renewal Ministries of Ann Arbor, MI, & Radio Host of Spirit Catholic Radio's daily program of

Food for the Journey. Free continent breakfast will be served. No registration is required. A free will offering will be accepted. For more info, call Kathleen 402-850-4610.