

January 7, 2024

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



St. Mary Church
1625 Adams Street, Ashland
Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00PM
Sunday Mass 10:30AM

Saint Mary & Saint Joseph Catholic Churches Father Robert Matya

1625 Adams Street Ashland, NE 68003
Rectory & Fax (402) 944-3554
Emergency (402) 730-7914
Father Matya's email: rmatya2@unl.edu



St. Joseph Church
7 Oak Street, Greenwood
Sunday Mass 8:30AM

Church Office eMail: stmaryashland@windstream.net

Web site: <https://stmaryashland.org/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stmary.org/>

Preschool: (402) 944-7509 ashlandstmarypreschool@windstream.net

Diocese of Lincoln: www.lincolndiocese.org

God of all heaven and earth,
from the breath of your love came the creation of the world.
We are amazed at the vast beauty of the night sky
and at the intimate nature of the love
you have for us, your children.

Be our daily star,
guiding our lives to search for kingdom love.
May we always follow your light of truth in all that we do,
forever trusting, hoping and believing in your word.
Lift our eyes tonight to see your eternal life shining brightly,
leading us home.

Jesus, I trust in You.



*The Epiphany House Blessing is included in this bulletin.
Please remember to take a piece of blessed chalk home.*

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

(STM-ASHLAND, STJ-GREENWOOD, CC-CARE CENTER, OxB-OX BOW)

Sat	6	STM	5:00PM	+Mark Luetkenhaus
Sun	7	STJ	8:30AM	All Souls' Day Intentions
	7	STM	10:30AM	For the People
Mon	8	—	—	Daily Mass Not Scheduled
Tue	9	STM	8:00AM	+Agnes Kelley
Wed	10	CC	9:00AM	All Souls Day Intentions
Thu	11	STM	6:30PM	Ridder- Pieper Marriage
Fri	12	STM	8:00AM	John & Pat Miller
Sat	13	OxB	9:15AM	Pastor's Intentions
	13	STM	5:00PM	+Pat Stewart
Sun	14	STJ	8:30AM	For the People
	14	STM	10:30AM	+Mark Luetkenhaus

READINGS AND CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

Mon	<i>The Baptism of the Lord</i> Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11 or, in Year B, Is 55:1-11 or 1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11
Tue	1 Sm 1:9-20/Mk 1:21-28 or 1 Sm 1:1-8 and 1:9-20/Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28
Wed	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Mk 1:29-39
Thu	1 Sm 4:1-11/Mk 1:40-45
Fri	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Mk 2:1-12
Sat	<i>St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i> 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Mk 2:13-17
SUN	SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/ Jn 1:35-42

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION BEFORE MASS AT THESE TIMES OR CALL THE RECTORY

SAT ST MARY 4:00-4:50PM

SUN ST JOSEPH 8:10-8:20AM

SUN ST MARY 10:00-10:20AM

NEW PARISHIONERS

Please call the rectory to register, or for information on any of our parish activities/organizations. Registration forms for St. Mary & St. Joseph parishes also available for print at stmaryashland.org or in the wall pockets in the back of St. Mary Church. Completed forms may be mailed to the church office or placed in the weekly collection basket.



KEEP IN TOUCH WITH ST. MARY & ST. JOSEPH PARISHES VIA EMAIL AND TEXT!

Announcements delivered to your phone or computer. To sign up, text **SMJ** to **84576** or online at: stmarycatholicchurch23.flocknote.com



SEMINARIAN PRAYER CALENDAR This week please pray for the Rev. Mr. Jonah Brox from St. Teresa in Lincoln, currently Theology 4 at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.

SISTERS VOCATION PRAYER CALENDAR

This week please pray for Sr. Mary Cecilia, from the Philippines, Professed stage with the Holy Spirit Adoration (Pink) Sisters.



MINISTRIES FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Sun	January 13	5:00pm	St. Mary Church
	Acolyte	James Wilsey	
	Reader	Cindy Hilger	
Sun	January 14	8:30am	St. Joseph Church
	Reader	Brian Chaffin	
	Offertory	Chaffin	
Sun	January 14	10:30am	St. Mary Church
	Acolyte	Craig Buescher	
	Reader	Marge Buescher	

OUR RETURN TO THE LORD DEC 28– JAN 3

St Mary and St Joseph parishes are sustained by the generosity of our parishioners. Thank you for your continued dedication and support!

	St Mary	St Joseph
Adult Envelopes	\$3,215.30	\$2,005.00
Plate	137.00	77.00
Votive Candles	28.00	
Holy Day Collection	223.00	
Mass Stipends	240.00	
On-Line Giving	1,625.00	
First Offering		25.00
Total	\$5,468.30	\$2,107.00
Weekly Budget	\$2,417.00	\$413.00

St Mary and St Joseph Churches offer automated clearing house (ACH) giving as a way to automate your weekly offering. ACH giving offers convenience to parish members and provides donation consistency for our parish budgets. To enroll, please complete an ACH Authorization Form found in the wall pockets at the back of St. Mary church or call the parish office. Parishioners can also donate electronically on the parish web site: <https://stmaryashland.org>

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



CONGRATULATIONS!

We all survived the first Sunday with new Mass times!

8:30AM at St. Joseph in Greenwood
10:30AM at St. Mary in Ashland

(The Saturday Vigil Mass will remain at 5pm in Ashland)

ST. MARY COFFEE & ROLLS will take place today, Sunday, January 7, following the NEW 10:30AM Mass at St. Mary Church. Pancakes and Breakfast Casseroles will also be served!!! We hope to see everyone downstairs!



Altar Society ST. MARY ALTAR SOCIETY MEETING

The next meeting will be in St. Mary Church basement, Thursday, January 11 at 7:00pm (following 6:30pm daily Mass). Please come & get to know other ladies in our parish.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING The next meeting for all men of both parishes will be in the rectory, Thursday, January 11 at 7:00pm (following 6:30pm daily Mass).



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS will be taken down Sunday, January 14, immediately following Mass. Please help for as little or as long as you are able! Many hands make light & joyful work!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW CONTEST The Ashland-Greenwood Knights of Columbus Council 12557 will be sponsoring a Free Throw Contest Sunday, January 14 in the Ashland-Greenwood High School Gym. This is for Girls and Boys ages 9-14. Registration from 1:00-1:30 with the contest to follow from 1:30 to 2:30. For more information contact Tom Lindhorst 402-521-0266.



FREE THROW CONTEST

ANNUAL MEN'S SOCIAL for St. Mary & St. Joseph Parishes

Please join us Saturday, January 20th 6:00pm (following 5:00PM Mass) in St. Mary Church Basement. Bring a side dish or snack to share. All men of both parishes welcome, and bring a friend too!



2024 COLLECTION ENVELOPES are located alphabetically in the back of church and ready for pick up. If you don't see your name, please call the rectory or talk to father.



UPDATE ON CALENDARS The local printer reports that calendars are still coming. It is a supply issue beyond their control. They apologize for the delay and appreciate our patience.





Epiphany Home Blessing

The feast of Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Christ to the world, and is a day to bless one's home (or apartment) for the new year. The traditional date is January 6, but in the United States it is celebrated on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8.

BE SURE TO TAKE SOME BLESSED CHALK HOME!

Blessing of the Threshold (Door) of the Home on the Feast of the Epiphany. The father or head of the house may go through the various rooms of the home sprinkling holy water (if it is available), and then at the main entrance into the home reads this prayer:

"Sacred is this threshold of our home and holy is this door. This is the meeting place of friend, neighbor, and stranger. May it be a bridge for our comings and goings. Whenever we stand in this sacred space, may our eyes be granted new vision, so that we can see in friend or stranger the God of ten thousand disguises.

May this threshold be a sacred space where we come to celebrate the Sacrament of Hospitality. May the spirits of evil never cross this threshold, and may the Name of the All-Holy-One protect our home from harm. May God's angels stand guard at the right and the left of this opening to grace our comings and goings.

May we who live in this home guard the sacredness of this doorway. May our hearts be always alert to the danger of falseness and pretense as we greet those who come to our door. Let our affection be graced with honesty and reverence, and may the oil of truth burn in the lamp of our eyes. Help us to remember that our ancestors were strangers and exiles in Egypt, that Joseph and Mary came knocking at a door like this, weary and in search of kindness. May we receive all at this door as Godly guests.

May the blessing of God, and peace and grace of the All-Holy-One, surround this threshold and rest upon all who shall pass across it. Amen."

Blessing with Chalk.

Using the blessed chalk distributed to parishioners at church, mark the year and the initials of the three Magi on the lintel over the main door of the house (like this):

20 + C + M + B + 24

The digits, which appear at the beginning and end of the line, designate the new year. 'CMB' stands for the traditional names of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar) and also signifies the Latin prayer *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* or 'May Christ bless this dwelling!'

This tradition of blessing the doorway (with blessed chalk) is a beautiful reminder of Christ's love to all who enter and leave through the door, and symbolizes the family's commitment to welcome Christ into their home on a daily basis throughout the year.

You may finish with an "Our Father," "Hail Mary," "Glory Be," and/or an appropriate hymn such as "O Come Let Us Adore Him" or "We Three Kings."

How the chalk is blessed (for your information). The blessing of chalk is only done by a priest, but here is the prayer he uses.

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord. R. Who made heaven and earth.

V. The Lord be with you. R. And with thy spirit.

Bless, O Lord God, this creature chalk to render it helpful to men. Grant that they who use it in faith and with it inscribe upon the entrance of their homes the names of thy saints, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar may through their merits and intercession enjoy health of body and protection of soul. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(The Priest then sprinkles the chalk with holy water)

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our new retreat schedule is out, just for you!

Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House in Waverly invites you to come with us on retreat. See our upcoming retreats: "Laborers in the Vineyard" 24-Hour Retreat for Men and Dads on January 12-13, "Women's Spiritual Exercises" with Regnum Christi on January 18-21, and "unbound: Freedom in Christ" Retreat with Fr. Holoubek on February 2-4. For more information and to register go to www.goodcounselretreat.org or email office@goodcounselretreat.org or call 402-786-2705.



THE EMMAUS INSTITUTE FOR BIBLICAL STUDIES

is accepting registrations for a five-week course "Hearing the Word: Understanding the Bible," offered in person on Monday or Tuesday evenings (6:30-8:30pm) beginning January 8, and available online (typically posted the following day, with class notes). Taught by Emmaus president Dr. Vern Steiner, "Hearing the Word" is a practical course designed to equip students with the tools to read the Bible with understanding. Learn more and register at www.EmmausInstitute.net.



POLKA NIGHT IN PRAGUE! Saturday, January 20, St. John's Prague parish Hall. 6-8pm Burger Bash. 7-10pm Live Music. Enjoy FREE admission and fantastic live music from the Prague Brass Band. Come enjoy Dinner and drinks, a brown bag auction, music, and games for all ages. More details are available on the St. John the Baptist-Prague Facebook page.



WOMEN'S DAY OF REFLECTION Women of all ages, join us for a day of prayer, reflection, and fellowship at St. Joseph Church in Lincoln, with Fr. Jay Buhman from 8:15 am-3:00 pm on Saturday, January 20, 2024. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. To register and view the schedule, visit <https://bit.ly/WomensRetreat-Jan2024>



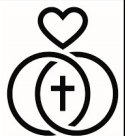
51st Annual Walk for Life January 27, 10:00AM



Meet at the State Capitol Building on K Street. Or attend Mass first at 9:00AM at St. Mary Church, 1420 K Street. Let's stay mobilized to keep Nebraska solidly pro-life! For more information go to www.lincolnrighttolife.org/walkforlife

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER EXPERIENCE

February 9-11, in Lincoln. "Finding a oneness of heart we all desire." Advance registration is required. Call right-away. Contact Gary & Brenda Granger at 303--604--6202.



DIOCESAN YOUTH EVENTS

TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST (TEC) is a weekend retreat for Sophomores and above in High School and college Freshmen and Sophomores. The retreat is designed to draw young people into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The experience of Christ on the weekend will leave you yearning for more in your daily life. The retreat usually begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday morning and concludes Monday afternoon around 4 p.m. on most weekends. Cost is \$120.



February 17-19, 2024 @ Wahoo Neumann High, Wahoo

March 16-18, 2024 @ David City Aquinas

April 13-15, 2024 @ Camp Kateri, McCool Junction

Register at <https://www.lincolndiocese.org/retreats/tec>

(Nate & Lisa Isaacson, members of our parishes, help with the April weekend.

If you have any questions about T.E.C., please don't hesitate to reach out to them: 402.314.4340)

Upcoming Events - Save the Date

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Jan 7 | New Sunday Morning Mass Times
St. Mary Coffee & Rolls |
| Jan 11 | St. Mary Altar Society Meeting
Knights of Columbus Meeting |
| Jan 14 | Christmas Decorations Come Down
Knights Free-Throw Contest |
| Jan 20 | St. Mary & St. Joseph Men's Social |
| Jan 27 | Walk for Life in Lincoln |



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

January Donation Requests

Please place donations in crates in back of St. Mary Church

Ashland Food Pantry - Canned Stew, Cleaning Supplies, and Kleenex. Call or Text 531-240-0186 if you or anyone you know needs assistance from the Ashland Food Pantry.

KIDS' CUPBOARD - Cereal

ST. MARY PRESCHOOL - Unscented Baby Wipes



Greenwood Food Pantry Accepting non-perishable & perishable food items. Drop off at the Greenwood Community Building. Call 402-789-2300 for info and assistance.

The Ashland Ministerial Association,

a collaboration of all area churches, provides year round assistance to community members in need. Donations always appreciated. At any time place cash or check (made out to St. Mary) in an envelope marked "AMA" and simply put in weekly collection basket.



ROC Meals for Ashland-Greenwood Youth

Our parishes provide a meal for local young people and leaders at this youth center on the first Tuesday of each month. Sign up in the back of St. Mary Church. Currently 25 servings of each item needed, dropped off at the ROC Center, 124 N 14th Street, by 5:00pm. The Center provides paper products & serving utensils!



PARISH GROUPS AND CONTACTS

Knights of Columbus Open to all Catholic men, meets the first Thursday of the month at 7pm. Craig Buescher 402-469-8390.

St. Mary Altar Society This group includes all women of the parish and meets the second Thursday of the month at 7pm (excluding the summer months Jun-Aug). On Facebook "Ashland St. Mary's Altar Society". Contact President Teresa Kresak 402-521-0852.

St. Joseph Altar Society This group includes all women of the parish. Contact Ginny Hummel for information ginnyh49@hotmail.com

St. Mary & St. Joseph CCD Grades K-8. Meets Wednesday evenings in Ashland. Contact Joanna 402-850-5607 or Tanya 402-658-7322, or call the rectory for information.

St. Mary & St. Joseph Youth Group Grades 9-12. Meets Sunday evenings in Ashland. Contact Lily Burr 402-480-1412 for more information.

St. Mary Sunday Morning Choir If you would like to get involved in the 10:30am Sunday Mass choir, please contact Lisa 402-314-4340, or come on up and introduce yourself!

Women's Faith-Sharing Group This group meets after 8:00am Mass on Tuesdays in St. Mary church basement. Women of both parishes welcome. Contact the rectory for more information.

Thursday Morning Men's Group This group meets every Thursday from 6-7am in the church basement, coffee & breakfast provided. Contact Anthony Weaver for more information, 402-669-0582.

Eucharistic Adoration Call or text Lisa Isaacson 402-314-4340 if you are interested in a holy hour on First Friday

Hall Rental St. Mary Call or text Lisa Isaacson 402-314-4340. There is no cost to rent the hall, but a donation of \$25 is suggested.

Hall Rental St. Joseph Contact Leslie Krings 402-480-5242.

Suppers for the Soul Call Jackie Fudge at 402-944-7600 if you or someone you know could use some meal assistance due to illness, recovery, new baby, hardship, etc.

Prayer Chain Call Winnie von Rentzell at 402-944-2706, or email her at wv30728@windstream.net, to place a prayer request or to join the prayer chain.

St. Mary Preschool Classes are half days, AM or PM, Mon, Wed, & Thurs. Call 402-944-7509 for information. Leave a message if prompted and we will call you back.

Bulletin Send bulletin announcements to Lisa Isaacson at mrs.nate.isaacson@gmail.com by midday Wednesday. All announcements will be reviewed by Father.