

December 14, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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 Phone (402) 944-3554

Emergencies-Fr. Matya's Mobile (402) 730-7914
Father Matya's email: rmatya2@gmail.com

Church Office eMail: stmaryashland@windstream.net

Web site: stmaryashland.org Facebook: facebook.com/stmaryandstjoseph

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

Diocese of Lincoln: www.lincolndiocese.org



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

My sacrificial Lord,

You invite me to take no offense at Your suffering and death;
to see beyond the pain, blood, and physical death;
and to discover the unfathomable riches of Your Sacrifice.

Please give me the eyes of faith to see the value
of not only accepting Your Cross,

but also to see

the value of living Your Passion in my own life
by laying down my life with You.

Jesus, I trust in You.



MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

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

| | | | | |
|-----|----|-------|-----------|---------------------------|
| SAT | 13 | STM | 5:00PM | +BETTY NOVOTNY |
| SUN | 14 | STJ | 8:30AM | +FERD ORTIZ |
| | 14 | STM | 10:30AM | FOR THE PEOPLE |
| MON | 15 | ----- | | DAILY MASS NOT SCHEDULED |
| TUE | 16 | STM | 12:00NOON | ALL SOULS' DAY INTENTIONS |
| WED | 17 | CC | 10:00AM | PASTOR'S INTENTIONS |
| THU | 18 | STM | 12:00NOON | +DAN GORDON |
| FRI | 19 | OxB | 10:30AM | PASTOR'S INTENTIONS |
| | 19 | STM | 12:00NOON | +GIOVANNI KETTELER |
| SAT | 20 | STM | 5:00PM | +EDWARD & +PEARL KUHL |
| SUN | 21 | STJ | 8:30AM | FOR THE PEOPLE |
| | 21 | STM | 10:30AM | +PATSY MANDERY |

READINGS AND CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

| | |
|-----|--|
| Mon | Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27 |
| Tue | Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32 |
| Wed | Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17 |
| Thu | Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25 |
| Fri | Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25 |
| Sat | Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38 |
| SUN | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24 |

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

BEFORE WEEKEND MASSES OR CALL THE RECTORY

SAT ST MARY CHURCH 4:15-4:50PM
SUN ST JOSEPH CHURCH 8:00-8:20AM
SUN ST MARY CHURCH 10:00-10:20AM



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Sunday, December 21 2:00-3:00PM St. Mary Church, Ashland
with Father Wahlmeier and Father Matya




NEW PARISHIONERS
 Registration forms for St. Mary & St. Joseph parishes available for print at stmaryashland.org or in the wall pockets in the back of St. Mary Church. Registrations may be mailed to St. Mary Church or placed in the weekly collection basket. Welcome home!



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 go online at: stmarycatholicchurch23.flocknote.com



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK TOO!
facebook.com/stmaryandstjoseph




Find Catholic Answers @ catholic.com

MINISTRIES FOR NEXT WEEKEND

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sat Dec 20 | 5:00pm St. Mary Church |
| Acolyte | Patrick Prince |
| Reader | Paul Rohrs |
| Servers | Volunteers Appreciated! |
| Greeter | Volunteers Appreciated! |
| <hr/> | |
| Sun Dec 21 | 8:30am St. Joseph Church |
| Reader | Joshua Keithley |
| Offertory | Keithley |
| <hr/> | |
| Sun Dec 21 | 10:30am St. Mary Church |
| Acolyte | Greg Logsdon |
| Reader | Mary Logsdon |
| Servers | Volunteers Appreciated! |
| Greeter | Lemkau |


OUR RETURN TO THE LORD DEC 3– DEC 9
St Mary and St Joseph parishes are sustained by the generosity of our parishioners.
Thank you for your continued dedication & support!

| | <u>St Mary</u> | <u>St Joseph</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Adult Envelopes | \$4,575.00 | \$485.00 |
| Plate | 392.00 | 85.00 |
| Votive Candles | 87.49 | |
| Christmas Altar Flowers | 375.00 | 10.00 |
| New Monstrance | 100.00 | |
| Contemplative Sisters | 40.00 | |
| CCD Contribution | 50.00 | |
| Holy Day | 536.00 | 35.00 |
| TOTAL | \$6,155.49 | \$530.00 |
| <i>Weekly Budget</i> | <i>\$2,704.00</i> | <i>\$550.00</i> |

St Mary and St Joseph Churches offer automated clearing house (ACH) giving as a way to automate your weekly offering. ACH is convenient and consistent for our parishioners and planning 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: stmaryashland.org


AROUND THE DIOCESE

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL RETREAT HOUSE
 7303 N 112th St, Waverly
A Light Shining in the Darkness — Advent Retreat
December 19–21, 2025 | With Fr. Gary Coulter



Prepare your heart for Christmas by joining Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House for a peaceful Advent weekend. Through Scripture, prayer, and quiet reflection, Fr. Coulter will guide retreatants to encounter Christ as the true Light shining in the darkness. The retreat begins Friday with an 8 p.m. Rosary and Mass and concludes Sunday with Mass and noon lunch. Attend in person or register for the virtual option. Register at goodcounselretreat.org or call 402-786-2705

Marriage Encounter Experience At North American Martyrs Church in Lincoln, February 20-22. "Communication Enhancing Your Marriage" Register right-away. Call/Text 402-370-5839




VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR NEEDED
 The Catholic Diocese of Lincoln is seeking a **Victim Assistance Coordinator** to provide outreach, advocacy, and pastoral care to individuals and families affected by sexual abuse by Church personnel. This as-needed position requires a background in psychology, social work, or counseling and a commitment to the mission of the Catholic Church. To apply, please send a cover letter and résumé to Marsha Bartek at marshabartek@lincolndiocese.org or 3400 Sheridan Boulevard, Lincoln, NE 68506


Catholic Social Services' St. Louise Gift & Thrift is seeking volunteers to help with running the register, hanging clothes, cleaning, pricing items, and other small tasks. The CSS Donation Center also needs volunteers to assist with receiving donations. Volunteer shifts are available Monday–Friday from 9–5 and Saturdays from 10–1. Contact Will at wstokebrand@csshope.org




Now Hiring: Cemetery Counselor
 Calvary Catholic Cemetery is seeking a compassionate and organized **Cemetery Counselor** to serve families with dignity and care. This professional role includes managing burial and memorial marker arrangements and guiding families through Catholic cemetery traditions.
To Apply: Email jerry-ficke@lincolndiocese.org for an application, then send completed application, resume and cover letter back to him



SEMINARIAN PRAYER CALENDAR This week please pray for Caleb Hansen from St. Joseph Parish in Lincoln, currently Theology 3 at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.



SISTERS VOCATION PRAYER CALENDAR
 This week please pray for Sr. Benedicta Hawkins, originally from Runel, IA. She is currently a Jr. Sister with the Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln.



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



We are delighted & blessed to welcome Martin & Rebecca Pelster and the family of Jordan & Lindsay Wallman to our St. Mary & St. Joseph family!

ALL PARISHIONERS OF ST. MARY & ST. JOSEPH

Please attend a meeting Monday, December 15 at 7:00PM down in St. Mary Church Hall to see developing plans for the new church. Both architects will be present to explain the initial design and to answer questions. And we definitely welcome any and all feedback.



BELL RINGING AT FAMILY FARE Saturday, December 20, 10am-5pm. A few more volunteers still needed. All donations stay local to assist those in our community most in need. Sign up at the back of St Mary Church.



CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATING

We will decorate for Christmas following Masses next Sunday, December 21. Many hands make light & joyful work! Please join for as little or as long as you are able.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM THANK YOUS!

Thank you to all the teachers, directors, musicians, parents, and children who did a wonderful job with this year's Christmas programs. It's wonderful to see so many students!!! A special thank you to the Youth Group for baking and serving refreshments, and cleaning up after the CCD program! And a very special thank you to Jared & Tahler Novotny for sharing their infant son Brixton as this year's baby Jesus!



CHRISTMAS BASKETS Please help the Ministerial Association fund the Annual Food Basket program for those in need. Place an envelope in the weekly collection marked "AMA Food Baskets" (checks payable to AMA), or you send a to: The Ashland Ministerial Association c/o Wilson Metz 1441 Bills Drive Ashland, NE 68003



A BIG CONGRATULATIONS to Harper Ruhlman (1st grade) whose artwork was voted favorite for this year's theme: "O Come, Let Us Adore Him." We also celebrate Chloe W. (2nd grade), who received the Pastor's Choice Honorable Mention Award. Great job to all of our talented artists! You can view all the beautiful artwork now displayed in the stairwell at the back of St. Mary's.



ALTAR SOCIETY IS LOOKING FOR A SECRETARY



Ashland, Nebraska

for the 2026 term. This commitment includes attending the meetings, taking and reading minutes, sharing correspondence, and assisting the other officers. Please contact new president, Karen Kasuske if interested 402-889-7569. We promise it won't be the worst decision you've ever made!

2026 COLLECTION ENVELOPES Please pick up your box at the back church. If you don't see your name, call the rectory or talk to father. Thanks for your continued generosity!



PLEASE CONTINUE PRAYERS for our parishioner, Jaden Wilsey, who is half way through his first year in Seminary! Please keep his family in your prayers too!



END OF YEAR DONATIONS for 2025 must be put in the collection basket or brought to the rectory by Dec 31. Checks must be dated 2025 to be counted as 2025 giving statement.



MEXICO CITY TRIP INFORMATION MEETING

Thinking about joining our parish mission trip & pilgrimage to Mexico City in October 2026? Don't miss our info meeting on January 13 at 6:30pm in St. Mary's Parish Hall! We'll connect with a rep. of Hope of the Poor via video call, who will share more about the mission, what to expect, and answer all your questions. It's a perfect chance to learn how this powerful experience could deepen your faith and change lives. If you can't make the meeting, reach out to Mollie at agme.outreach@gmail.com, and she'll get you everything you need.



RECONCILIATION

SUNDAY, DEC 21
2:00-3:00PM
ST. MARY CHURCH

WEDNESDAY, DEC 24
3:30-4:30
ST. MARY CHURCH

A HALF HOUR
BEFORE BOTH
MASSES
CHRISTMAS MORNING

ST. MARY & ST. JOSEPH PARISHES THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS VIGIL...WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24
ST MARY CHURCH...5:00PM

MASS AT NIGHT...WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24
ST MARY CHURCH... 10:00PM

CHRISTMAS MORNING...THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25
ST JOSEPH CHURCH...8:30AM ST MARY CHURCH... 10:30AM

CHRISTMAS IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION



DIOCESAN YOUTH EVENTS!

TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST 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, and leave them yearning for more. Retreats usually begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday morning and conclude Monday afternoon around 4 p.m. \$120.



February 14-16 @ Wahoo Neumann
 March 21-23 @ David City Aquinas
 April 18-20 @ Camp Kateri, McCool Junction

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

St. Mary Parishioners, Nate & Lisa Isaacson help with the April TEC Weekend.
 Don't hesitate to reach out to them with any questions: mrs.nate.isaacson@gmail.com or 402-314-4340

UPCOMING EVENTS-SAVE THE DATE

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Dec 15 | New Church Progress Meeting |
| Dec 20 | Bell Ringing at Family Fare |
| Dec 21 | Christmas Decorating Following Mass Advent Penance Service |
| Dec 24 | Christmas Vigil 5:00PM St. Mary Church Mass at Night 10:00PM St. Mary Church |
| Dec 25 | Christmas Morning Masses 8:30AM St. Joseph & 10:30AM St. Mary |
| Jan 13 | Mexico City Trip Information Meeting |



PARISH GROUPS AND CONTACTS

Weekly Bible Studies Open to all adults form both parishes and non-members too. Contact Mollie (402-450-5903) or visit our parish website for more information.

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

St. Mary Altar Society This group includes all women of the parish and currently meets on a quarterly basis. Contact Julie Rosenbaum 402-440-5392 or Marge Buescher 402-984-1761 for more information.

St. Mary & St. Joseph CCD Grades K-8. Meets Wednesday evenings in the CCD Education Center. Contact Joanna 402-850-5607 or Tanya 402-658-7322 for more information.

St. Mary & St. Joseph Youth Group Grades 9-12. Meets Sunday evenings in the CCD Educaiton Center. Contact Tanya Keith for more information, 402-658-7322.

Parish Pro-Life Coordinator Paula Spears, 402-250-0996.

St. Joseph Volunteers If you are interested in reading or taking up the offertory at St. Joseph (Sundays, 8:30AM) please contact Teresa Hayes at thayes55@hotmail.com

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!

Thursday Morning Men's Group This group meets every Thursday from 6-7am in St. Mary church basement, coffee & breakfast served. Contact Anthony Weaver for more information, 402-699-0582. Men of both parishes welcome.

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

Hall Rental St. Mary Call or text Lisa Isaacson 402-314-4340. There is no set price to rent the hall, but a donation of \$25 is suggested, and please follow the posted clean up list.

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, 3-day AM M-W-Th, or 4-day PM, M-T-W-Th. Call 402-944-7509 for information. Leave a message if prompted and we will call you back.

Bulletin Entries- Send bulletin announcements to Lisa Isaacson at mrs.nate.isaacson@gmail.com by 2:00pm Wednesday. All announcements will be reviewed and approved by Father.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

December Donation Requests

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

Ashland Food Pantry—Shampoo, Conditioner, Canned Fruit, Canned Tuna/Chicken, Oatmeal, Cereal, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Laundry Detergent. *The Ashland Pantry is open every Wednesday from 4:30-6:00PM at the American Lutheran Church, 1941 Silver Street.*

Ashland Kids' Cupboard— Cans or Pouches of Tuna

St. Mary Preschool— Regular Bleach



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 needed. Simply place cash or check (made out to "AMA") in the weekly collection basket.



ROC Meals for Ashland-Greenwood Youth

Our parishes provide a meal for local young people & leaders at this youth center on the first Tuesday of the month during the school year. Sign up in the back of St. Mary Church. *Currently 10 servings needed, dropped off at the ROC Center, 124 N 14th Street, by 5:00pm. The Center provides dinnerware & serving utensils.*

