ST. MARY CHURCH & ST. JOSEPH CHURCH



St. Mary Church 1420 9th St. P.O. Box 291 Aurora, NE 68818

Rev. Mark Seiker

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Secretary: Navy Milligan

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https://stmarysaurora.org/



St. Joseph Church 209 Derby Giltner, NE 68841

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe November 20, 2022

Religious Services

Mass Schedule: For Sunday Obligation

Saturday: 5:00 p.m. Sunday: 8:15 a.m. Sunday (St. Joseph): 10:45 a.m.

Weekdays & Holy Days

as Published in the bulletin

Confessions

45 minutes before Saturday and Sunday morning Masses 35 minutes before daily Mass; or by appointment

Rosary

20 Minutes before Sunday Masses at both parishes; volunteers needed for 5:00pm Saturday Masses at St. Mary.

Parish Information

New or Moving Parishioners

Please call the Rectory to arrange an appointment with the Pastor to register in the Parish. Please call or email the Secretary if there is an address change. There are New Member Registration forms outside of the Secretary's office.

Bulletin Deadline

All material is to be submitted by noon on the Thursday prior to the Sunday it is to appear. Email to the Secretary at stmarysaurora@gmail.com.

Request Forms

Mass Intention, Baptism, & Hall Reservation forms are outside of the Secretary office or can be printed from - https://stmarysaurora.org/request-forms

Education / Prep

Baptism- Parents are asked to attend a baptism preparation class and must be done prior to Baptism.

Marriage- Marriage preparation is required prior to Wedding. Includes FOCCUS & Engaged Encounter Programs. 4-6 months.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A)- For those interested in possibly joining Catholic Church.

Monday nights from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. (September-May)

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (C.C.D)- Catholic education for our youth, Kindergarten through Eighth Grade. Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

Website Resource Links

Online Giving- https://stmarysaurora.org/online-giving RCIA- https://stmarysaurora.org/rcia-adult CCD Calendar- https://stmarysaurora.org/ccd-k-8

Ministry Schedule- https://stmarysaurora.org/ministry-schedule
Bulletins- https://stmarysaurora.org/bulletins
From The Pastor- https://stmarysaurora.org/bulletinftp

Mass Times and Intentions

Date			Time	Parish	Mass offered for	Mass offered by
Monday	Nov.	21	7:30 a.m.	St. Mary	†Tom & Deanie Wanek	Julie Tucker
Tuesday	Nov.	22	7:30 a.m.	St. Mary	†Theresa Seiker	
Wednesday	Nov.	23	<u>9:00 a.m.</u>	St. Joseph	- NO Scheduled Parish AM Mass	S -
Wednesday	Nov.	23	7:00 p.m.	St. Joseph	†Jeff Happold	Family
Thursday	Nov.	24	9:00 a.m.	St. Mary	†Lauren Gibilisco	Don Schmit Family
Friday	Nov.	25	7:30 a.m.	St. Mary	†Darrell Niles	Lee & Angie Juenemann
Saturday	Nov.	26	8:00 a.m.	St. Mary	For the Completing Our Legacy Pr	roject
Saturday	Nov.	26	5:00 p.m.	St. Mary	Intention of Owen Laessig	The Morrow Family
Sunday	Nov.	27	8:15 a.m.	St. Mary	People of St. Mary & St. Joseph Pa	arishes
Sunday	Nov.	27	10:45 a.m.	St. Joseph	†Sheree Ott	Dan Ott

Prayer Chain

Contact Diann Clay (402) 694-3832 or Jan Messman (402) 694-2360 janmessman@gmail.com

Names of your loved ones will be removed from the prayer chain and the departed souls after one month. If you would like your loved one to remain on the list for an extended time, please let Diann or Jan know. Thank you.

<u>Please pray for the following:</u> Joan Gowen; Shane Dose; Russ Sigler; Larry Masur; Murlene Mickey; Braxton Quinn; please pray for our STATE who are affected by the Nebraska fires. Firefighters, Homeowners, and All who are in harms way, and world peace.

<u>Please pray for the following departed souls:</u> †Theresa Hirschman, †Valerian Kucera, †Linda Fangman, †Darrell Walla, †Marion Crenshaw, †Patricia Allaire, †Ann Sukup.

Stewardship: November 13, 2022

St. Mary C	<u>Church</u>	St. Josep	<u>h Church</u>
Adult	\$3,126.00	Adult	\$472.00
Plate	\$106.50	Plate	\$21.00
Total:	\$3,232.50	Total:	\$493.00

St. Mary Church Calendar of Events

Sunday, November 20	Father Seiker's Birthday Celebration 5:00pm in St. Mary Hall.
Monday, November 21	RCIA 7:00pm
Wednesday, November 23	NO CCD
Wednesday, November 16	NO Godteens
Tuesday, December 6	Altar Society Advent Celebration with Evening Meal in the Hall

St. Joseph Church Calendar of Events

Monday, November 21	CCD 3:45pm	

Ministry Schedule

	Saturday, November 26	Sunday, November 27	Sunday, November 27
	5:00 p.m. (St. Mary)	8:15 a.m. (St. Mary)	10:45 a.m. (St. Joseph)
Reader:	Keli Margritz	Kelly Grossnicklaus	
Acolyte	Kurt Johnson	Keith Wasem	
Altar Server:	Calan Darbro	Colton Sigler	
Altar Server:	Volunteer	Caleb Hoff	
Greeters/Giftbearers:	Greg & Jill Myers	Stephen & Michelle Hoff	Nate & Stasia Most Family

Father Seiker's Birthday Celebration on 11-20-22, 5:00pm-7:00pm ... Wow! Thanks to all who signed up to bring items for our Taco Bar for Father's fiesta! All slots are filled. If you signed up to bring 2 pounds of browned hamburger meat, please bring that to Church no later than Noon on Sunday, Nov. 20. You can leave it in the fridge. I will add the taco seasoning at that time, and put everything in a roaster. We would love to have salads or other side dishes that evening if you would like to bring something. Katie at Aurora Mall will be making his cake but if you would like to bring a different dessert, that would also be welcomed. Looking forward to our Fiesta and celebrating Father's big birthday! Questions? Call Carey McCoy at 402-604-0987.

Behold: A Guided Advent Journal for Prayer & Meditation ... Let the Holy Family be your light through Advent as you receive the healing power of Christ. In this beautiful guided journal for prayer and meditation, Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT will walk with you as you explore familial wounds with the help of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Free weekly companion videos, a downloadable discussion guide, make this book perfect for parish-wide, individual, & book club use. Each week of Behold will focus on a different theme that you can connect to your life in a practical way:

- Week one: Motherhood—Receive Mary as your mother and let her tender love soften your heart toward your earthly mother;
- Week two: Fatherhood—Adopt Joseph as your father & embrace his loving strength as you seek healing in your relationship with your own father;
- Week three: Childhood—Become childlike with Jesus and remember the core of who you are as you release your inner joy and playfulness; and
- Week four: Stable—Restore peace and unity in your family and regain hope.
- Each day you will journey deeper into the meaning of Advent with a meditation, reflection questions, a prayer, and journaling space.

Announcements

From the Book "The Holy Souls" ... "... it is our duty to pray for those who are in Purgatory owing to error on our part. We often think that a sin we commit in a hidden way, unknown to anybody else, has no effect on others. But this is not true. Every sin affects our character, our attitude to others, and life in general. So no sin is personal. What a responsibility this is! And yet who among us can say that he has never committed any act or pronounced any words which have led to the downfall of our brothers, spiritually speaking? You will probably say that it is not always easy to know these souls. This is of no importance! God knows who they are, and it is our duty to remember them in a special way every day, for it is perhaps partly owing to our errors that they find themselves in their present position.

Let us never forget, either, the priests who have taken care of our souls - popes, bishops, priests who have administered the sacraments to us. They, perhaps, in addition to our parents, brothers, sisters, wife or husband and children, were instruments of our conversion. And remember all those who have had a special place in our lives here on earth. We must also remember those friends who have done us good in any way. And finally, we must pray for everybody in Purgatory. We are obliged to do this.

Because of the existence of the Communion of Saints, the Holy Souls in Purgatory form part of our large family. Therefore, our sufferings are theirs and vice versa. Their need of us is immense, given the extent and duration of their sufferings. They continually appeal to our charity. The means we have at our disposal to do this are enormous, so we must not forget them.

When we see somebody suffering here on earth, we always feel so sorry for them, and we would probably do anything we could to help them. The sufferings of the souls in Purgatory are much greater than any suffering here on earth. Even the severest pain we can think of is nothing compared to the pains of Purgatory. It would seem that the duration of their pain is greater than anything we can imagine. The souls suffer in an incredible way. If we could only see them for one moment, our hearts would burst with pity. Knowing this, can we fail to help them? To remember them in our daily prayers? I don't think so. The Poor Souls are incapable of helping themselves. God's justice decrees that their errors must be paid for, but at the same time He turns to us to ask our help in releasing them from their pains. Our Lord once said to Saint Gertrude that "He is greatly satisfied when, through our prayers, a soul is released from Purgatory. It is as if we had released the Lord Himself from prison." What more do we need to know in order to arouse our interest? The saints, having taken to heart the words of Jesus, did all in their power to assist the Poor Souls. Perhaps one day we too will be in need of their help, and we can rest assured that they will forget nothing once they have reached their eternal reward." (p.92-94)

In Honor of Jesus Christ, the Eternal King ...

Of every pond and stream that flows, Of every rock and pebble small, Of every river and ocean wide, Out every mountain vast and tall, Of every moon and star above, Of every storm and rain and hail, Of sleet and fog, of ice and smog, Of summer breeze and winter gale, Of every island in the sea, Of every animal that walks, Or crawls or swims or flies or rests, Or chirps or barks or howls or squawks, Of every place by men unknown, Not yet discovered or explored, Of every height and every depth, Of sites beloved and abhorred, Of every kingdom, empire, state, Dominion, country, monarchy Of village small and city great Of men of power and majesty, Of house and home and property, Of kitchen and of living room, Of bedroom, hallway, stairway long, Of playground and of Of every act, desire, and wish, Longing, passion, working room, weakness, strength, Of every heart that longs and laughs, And cries and tries and waits at length, Of all who suffer and who wait For justice or for daily bread, Of all who triumph and are glad, Of all who middle paths do tread, Of every woman, man and child, Of every creature large and small, Of every sinner, saint and angel, Jesus Christ is King of all! Yes He is King; yes, Christ is King! No start or end and never failing, His reign engulfs infinity O'er all existing things prevailing. Yet men are weak and often question When many evil things they see. Christ waits for them to realize That He is wiser than are we. He is aware of all that is, He

knows our problems, needs and fears, His Providence is now at work And Jesus' final triumph nears. Then let us rise in greater faith To tell the world of His great name, That when the King returns, we may For lack of faith not blush with shame. Amen! -- Fr. Frank Pavone

Freshman Godparents will be Patrick &

Alexis Linehan! ... Thank you very much to Patrick & Alexis Linehan for accepting the invitation to serve as Godparents for our Freshman class. We learn more when we teach someone else!

St. Mary Altar Society Information ... On Tue., Dec. 6, St. Mary Altar Society will host their Annual Altar Society Advent Celebration with an Evening Meal in the Parish Hall.

Good Counsel Retreat House Retreats Register for Online & in person Retreats sponsored by Good Counsel Retreat House www.goodcounselretreat.com, 402-786-2705, or goodcounsel@cdolinc.net. Upcoming in-person and online retreats including:

December 2022 – January 2023 Schedule:

Dec. 2-4Fr.	Joseph Wahlmeier	Men / Women
		" of Advent (2022)"
Dec. 16-18 Fr.	Steve Mills	
		rnational Intimacy"
Dec. 29 – Jan. 1. Fr.	Barak & Fr. Gary Coul	IterMen / Women
		tian Retreat – 4 day"
Dec. 29 – Jan. 5. Fr.	Barak	
	"Igna	tian Retreat –8 day"
Jan. 2-5 Ma	att Simmons	Men / Women
	"Ignat	tian Retreat – 4 day"

PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD ... "It is a holy & pious thought to pray for the dead." (2 Macc 12:45). One of the corporal works of mercy is to pray for the dead. Those persons whom we have loved during their life here on earth, we should still remember to pray for after they have died. **The best prayer of all is the Mass.** Forms are available outside Classroom D to request Masses to be offered for the repose of the soul of any of your loved ones. The usual Mass stipend is \$10.00. Simply write the name of the deceased person on the Form & your name and attach \$10.00. If you write a check, please make the check payable to St. Mary Church and write "Mass Stipend" in the memo. The Mass intentions are listed in the Bulletin. Pray for the dead!

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS ...

NOVEMBER: For children who suffer: We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

<u>organizations</u>: We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

Pray for our Seminarians:

Jon Neumann Kadlec, the son of Michael & Barbara Kadlec from Assumption Parish (Appleton).

He entered the Seminary in 2022; & is in College 1 at St. Gregory the Great Seminary

Pray for our Religious Sisters:

Pray for young women to discern a vocation to the Sisterhood in our Diocese of Lincoln Motherhouses.

EUCHARISTIC THOUGHTS ... O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine. Holy Communion increases our union with Christ. The principal fruit of receiving the Eucharist in Holy Communion is an intimate union with Christ Jesus. Communion with the flesh of the risen Christ, a flesh "given life and giving life through the Holy Spirit, preserves, increases, and renews the life of Grace received at Baptism." (CCC 1391-1392) As the saying goes, "we are what we eat!" "Be holy as the Father is Holy."

EUCHARISTIC THOUGHTS ... The Church venerates and honors the Heart of Jesus. We adore the Incarnate Word and His Heart which, out of love for us, He allowed to be pierced by our sins. (CCC 2669) If we proclaim the Lord's death, we proclaim the forgiveness of sins. As often as His blood is poured out, it is poured out for the forgiveness of sins. We should always receive the Body and Blood of Christ, so that it may always absolve us from our sins. Because we always sin, we always need a remedy. (CCC 1393) Jesus promised St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in the devotion to His Sacred Heart, that whoever attends Mass and receives the Holy Eucharist on nine consecutive First Fridays, will have the grace of final perseverance and a safe refuge in the last moment.

Confirmation will be Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022 ... Bishop Conley will be coming to St. Mary Church, Aurora on Saturday, December 17, 2022 for a 10:00am Mass to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on the 5th, 6th, & 7th students from both St. Mary Church and St. Joseph Church. Continue to pray and work with our students to prepare them for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit! Sometimes schedules are difficult to juggle!

Looking for a New Janitor/Custodian ... both St. Mary Parish and St. Joseph Parish are looking for a part time Janitor / Custodian. This is a part time position (up to 20 hours per week), with duties including: Dust, sweep and/or vacuum Church and Parish Hall, clean Bathrooms, clean Kitchen (counters, sinks, stove & fridge outside), disinfect water fountain, clean doors & windows, empty trash. Orders any supplies as need or approved by the pastor or parish administrator. Please email your resume and cover letter to Father Mark Seiker (frmseiker@gmail.com) or Andrew Ostdiek (andrew.ostdiek@gmail.com), or mail them to PO Box 291, Aurora, NE 68818. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of serving our parishes with your talents.

Bishop's Appeal for Vocations (BAV) ... "Each day He comes down from the bosom of the Father upon the Altar in the hands of a Priest ... "—St. Francis of Assisi.

Parish Goals: St. Mary = \$6,160.00; St. Joseph = \$900.00. The totals thus far, are: St. Mary = \$16,870.00 from 40 families; St. Joseph = \$1,030.00 from 10 families. If you do not have your BAV card, or if you have questions, please contact Fr. Seiker (email or phone). Your gifts and prayers for our seminarians are much appreciated! No gift is too small. Please support the Bishop's Appeal for Vocations.

FROM FR. MARK SEIKER ...

RCIA Classes ... Fr. Mark Seiker is leading an RCIA process (Inquiry class in the Faith). The classes are **Mondays in the Parish Hall**, 7:00pm – 9:00pm. It is not too late to join! Classes for Catholics & non-Catholics. Come, learn more about your faith.

It is always better to participate in the RCIA classes in person. However, it is possible to participate in RCIA through ZOOM. The **ZOOM** information is: Meeting ID: 629 734 5912; Passcode: RCIA2022.

Fr. Seiker's Schedule ...

Thursday, Nov. 24 ... after the 9:00am Mass at St. Mary Church, I will be going to Lincoln to spend time with my family. I will return on Thursday evening.

Monday, Nov. 28 – Wednesday, Dec. 7 ... I will be participating in the VIII World Encounter of the Cursillo Movement at Mar del Plata, Argentina, which is Southeast of Buenos Aires, Argentina. I will be leaving the Parish on Sunday afternoon to have Supper with my Dad and family. After spending the night at Dad's, I will drive to Kansas City to fly to Buenos Aires, and then a short flight to Mar del Plata. The meeting (World Encounter) is Thursday, December 1 – Sunday, December 4. I will spend Sunday & Monday in Argentina with some Cursillistas from the United States, and then on Tuesday, I will fly from Buenos Aires to Kansas City, and will drive to Aurora on Wednesday afternoon, arriving a few hours before the 7:00pm Vigil Mass for the Immaculate Conception on Wed., Dec. 7. Fr. Doug Dietrich (a Lincoln Diocese Priest) will be here for Saturday/Sunday Confessions & Masses on December 3-4. Please welcome him.

Thanksgiving ... Please come to Mass on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving at St. Joseph Church and/or the Mass on Thanksgiving Day at St. Mary Church. Also, you are invited to bring some canned goods or non-perishable grocery items for the Hamilton County Food Pantry to either of the Thanksgiving Masses! You may set them in front of the Altar. If you would like to make a contribution (cash / check to the Parish Church) to the Hamilton County Food Pantry, please put it in a separate envelope in the collection basket. The Parish will write one check (from Parish) to the Pantry with the canned goods. Thank the Lord with your fellow parishioners.

CONTEMPLATIVE SISTERS (Pink Sisters &

Carmelite Sisters) COLLECTION ... For over forty-nine years now, our Diocese has been blessed to have a Religious Community of Sisters who spend the greatest part of their day before the Blessed Sacrament in their Chapel, praying for us. This community is affectionately known as the Pink Sisters, since the color of their religious habit is pink! It has been a custom in our Diocese to express our thanks to the Pink Sisters by taking up a **special collection on Thanksgiving Day** for the Pink Sisters. In the last twenty-two years, our Diocese has been blessed with another contemplative community of religious Sisters, the Carmelites, (Convent is near Valparaiso). Please help financially support these communities who spiritually support us with their prayers!

THANKSGIVING ... One act of thanksgiving, when things go wrong with us, is worth a thousand thanks when things are agreeable to our inclinations. — Anonymous

START WITH GRATITUDE ... Gratitude is the inward feeling of kindness received. Thankfulness is the natural impulse to express that feeling. Thanksgiving is the following of that impulse. —Anonymous

COMPLETING OUR LEGACY

Historical Information

Over the last 3 – 4 weeks you have been reading and hearing about possible work on the interior of St. Mary Church. This project has recently been named "Completing Our Legacy". A number of Parishioners thought it would be good to do a quick summary of where we have been and where we are going.

St. Mary Parish has been in Aurora for over 134 years. This Church building is the 4th Catholic Church building in Aurora. (You can find a brief history of St. Mary Parish in our new 2021 Picture Directory.) This present building was dedicated November 19, 1972. (That would be 50 years ago today / yesterday!). The Church was built with the front door on the West side of the building along 9th Street, and only a 16' wide Hall on the East side of the building with a South entrance to the Hall. In 1982, our Parish added on to the Hall and extended it 24' to the East, which more than doubled the size of the Hall.

In 2009 the Altar Society began discussing the addition of a new dishwasher for the kitchen plus the addition of actual classrooms. At that time, sliding dividers throughout the hall were pulled to divide classrooms.

Our parish conducted a capital campaign in October 2011 which was called <u>Building Our Legacy</u>. This campaign raised in excess of \$700,000.00. These funds plus Parish savings in the DIAL and contributions from parishioners to pay of the DIAL Loan is what was used to fund the \$1.5 million project.

In September 2012, we had a groundbreaking for the new addition to the Hall and the renovation of the Church. On February 14, 2014, Bishop James Conley rededicated our current Church Nave and Sanctuary, which had been re-oriented. The Altar and Sanctuary was moved to the West end and the main entry was from the Hall! Two other side entrances were added from expanded Narthex entries to the Church. Seven (7) new classrooms were added to the expansion of the building, plus a beautiful new and functional kitchen. St. Mary Parish was able to pay off our Loan from the Diocese of Lincoln in September 2020.

Due to budget and financial limitations, our parish was unable to complete the vision and beauty of what our Lord deserves in His house. In other words, our parishioners knew that our Church was not finished. The Altar of Sacrifice, Ambo, and Altar of Repose were newly built, however the rest of the Sanctuary furniture was not replaced. Some painting was completed, but just to give the Sanctuary some interest. However, more was expected and desired to be done in the future. It was decided by the Committee and Parish Council to focus on paying off the building construction loan first. However, the Building Committee kept a list of what was still needed to finished in order to complete the original project.

This list of needs was shared with each of the next three new priests since 2014 to make sure it was understood that more needed to be done to complete the interior beauty of our Church. This list was sent to Father Jamie Hottovy in 2019. When Father Mark Seiker received the list in 2021, he again forwarded it to Father Hottovy and also Jean and Char Kriz. These individuals are well known in our Diocese, as they have been involved in over 30 Church improvement projects. On January 27, 2022 the trio made their first visit to St. Mary Church to start thinking about options for completing the look that was never finished.

In addition to working on other Churches this past year, Fr. Hottovy, Jean & Char Kriz were praying about and discussing how to add the finishing touches that would enhance our Sanctuary and give our Church the complete beauty that our Lord deserves. Due to their busy schedule, they were not able to get back to us until October 8, 2022. At that time, they said they had a "window of opportunity" to work with us as this was considered a small project. Though this is a small project, our Diocese has procedures and policies which must be followed and approved for any Church improvements. We will be meeting with the Diocesan Building Commission on Monday, November 21, 2022.

Fr. Hottovy, Jean & Char Kriz have made two presentation to parishioners. There have been many discussions over the last month about how detailed the project should be in order to Complete Our Legacy Project.

This has been and continues to be a "Work in Progress"! There is an insert in the bulletin this week, which give some of the historical details. There is still much to be decided. The consensus of Parish Council and our Parish Trustees was to have Jean & Char Kriz begin working Monday, November 28, 2022. Jean will remove the wall behind the existing Altar of Repose and move it forward seven feet. The area behind the new wall will become storage.

On Monday, December 5, 2022, painters from Kucera Painting will be here to add color and to our Church interior. They will be finished by December 15, allowing us time to do last minute preparations for Bishop Conley to be here on Saturday December 17 to administer Confirmation to our students.

While we understand that this may seem to be a project that is moving pretty fast. It is important to observe that many parishioners have been discussing this since 2014.