



SAINT JOSEPH

CATHOLIC CHURCH



3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord.'" -John 1:23

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th, 2023

WELCOME

Welcome to our community! Together we share a deep love and reverence for God, which we express through liturgy, prayer, and service. We invite you to join us in experiencing the joy and fulfillment that come from being part of something greater than ourselves.

OUR MISSION

Our parish is a stable Eucharistic group of disciples of Jesus, under the leadership of our pastor, formed within the community to accept the great commission of Jesus, and equipped by the Holy Spirit to witness the Gospel to our neighbors.

MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY.....	5:00 p.m.
SUNDAY.....	9:00 a.m.
MONDAY.....	8:00 a.m.
TUESDAY-FRIDAY.....	6:45 a.m.
FIRST FRIDAY ANOINTING MASS.....	2:00 p.m.
FIRST SATURDAY MASS.....	8:00a.m.
HOLY DAY MASSES	Check the bulletin for times

Confessions are 30 minutes before daily Masses and 45 minutes before weekend Masses

PARISH OFFICE

OFFICE HOURS.....	M,W,TH 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
PHONE.....	402.253.2949
EMAIL.....	info@stjosephspringfield.org
FLOCKNOTE TEXT-TO-JOIN.....	SPRINGIFLED to 84576
FACEBOOK.....	facebook.com/stjosf

Remember in our Prayers

Let us pray for Margaret Wilson, Eileen Stock, Ricky Becker, and Brenda Jones. Pray also for all our parishioners who are homebound, hospitalized, and in nursing homes.

"Heal me, Lord, and I'll be healed. Save me and I'll be saved, for You are my heart's desire."

—Jeremiah 17:145



Our parish has reached its goal for the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. Parishioners have donated \$28,512.28, which is 101.50% of our goal of \$28,090.26. If you haven't contributed yet and would like to do so, you can still do so by visiting www.archomaha.org/appeal/. Your donation will have a direct impact on the parishes, schools, and ministries throughout northeast Nebraska.

Weekly Stewardship Report WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 12th

Weekly Collection:	\$8257
Building Fund:	\$495
Priests' Retirement:	\$790
Immaculate Conception:	\$265

If you would like to submit an announcement for the weekly bulletin, please send it to bulletin@stjosephspringfield.org by Monday at 8a.m.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear St. Joseph Parishioners,

As you are likely aware, Fr. Michael Gutsell's brother, Fr. Stephen Gutsell, was killed last Sunday at the rectory in Fort Calhoun. It is a tragedy for everyone involved. I invite you to join me in praying for the Gutsell family at this very difficult time. If anyone would like to send condolences to Fr. Michael Gutsell, we can make sure that anything dropped off at the office (or put in my box) gets to him. May the peace of Christ that we await in this season fill these final days before Christmas!

Best,

Fr. Scott

Mass Intentions

SUN 12/17	9:00 a.m.		People of St. Joseph's
MON 12/18	8:00 a.m.	+	Louise Greco
TUE 12/19	6:45 a.m.	+	Steven Kotlarz
WED 12/20	6:45 a.m.		Special intention
TH 12/21	6:45 a.m.	+	Frank Vidmar
FRI 12/22	6:45 a.m.	+	Gerry Patry
SAT 12/23	5:00 p.m.	+	Jerod Bunnell
SUN 12/24	9:00 a.m.		People of St. Joseph's
	4:00 p.m.	+	Rich VanTassell

To request a Mass intention, stop by the Parish Office to schedule. A minimum of \$10 per Mass is requested.

Liturgy Ministers

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23rd	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th (9a.m.)
Lectors: John Cronican Shawn Kavanaugh	Lectors: Teresa Belter Lin Kulm
EMHC: Kari Cronican	EMHC: Shelley Cacka
Greeters: Chuck & Mary Mines Gilmore	Greeters: Justin & Julie Nieveen
Singers: Majel Connery Candy Connery	Singers: Majel Connery Candy Connery
	Altar Servers: Dominic Cacka

If you are interested in serving as a lector, EMHC, greeter or altar server during our Christmas Masses, please sign up in the narthex.

Christmas Mass Times

Join us for Mass to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Sunday, December 24th | 4:00pm
Monday, December 25th | 9:00am



Parish Events and Formation

- **Monday, December 18th** | 4p.m. - 7p.m. | Gift wrapping of donated gifts for the Giving Tree in the RE Building
- **Tuesday, December 19th** | 5:30p.m. - 7p.m. | Advent WRAP
- **Wednesday, December 20th** | 1 p.m. - 3p.m. | Senior Game Day
| 6:15p.m. - 7:30p.m. | K-6th Religious Education
- **Thursday, December 21st** | 6:30p.m. - 8:30p.m. | Christmas Open House @ the Rectory

Advent WRAP

We have one last session for Advent WRAP. We will be meeting on Tuesday, December 19th, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall. We will share a potluck from 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. and then work in small groups from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. You are welcome to join us for our final session this Advent. If you are interested in participating, please text or call Julie Richards at 402-881-2407.

Christmas Open House at the Rectory

You're invited to join Father Scott and your fellow parishioners for a warm and welcoming Christmas Open House at the rectory on **Thursday, December 21st from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** We'll have delicious hors d'oeuvres and refreshing beverages waiting for you. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to bring in the Christmas spirit together!

ENOA Program

On **Saturday, January 20th**, Diane Stanton and Mary Ann Eusebio from the Eastern Nebraska Offices on Aging(ENOA) will be at St. Joseph's to provide a brief program about the available services for older adults in their five-county area. The program will take place from **3:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.** in the parish hall. Additionally, an ENOA resource table will be available to individuals after both weekend masses. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office.

Safe Environment Training

Are you looking for opportunities to lend a helping hand at our Fish Fries or join in the fun at the food booth this summer? Just a quick heads up - if you're an adult, you'll need to be SE certified by the Archdiocese of Omaha to volunteer at any of our parish events. St. Joseph parish will be holding a training session on **Sunday, January 28th from 1:00p.m. to 3:00p.m.** in the parish hall. Pre-registration information will follow in the coming weeks.

A note from a Parishioner

Thank you to all who helped with Amy's passing. She was my sunshine, and I will greatly miss her. Your kind words and actions have greatly helped me at this time and continue to bring comfort to me. The prayers and memories you share bring me joy.

Thank you all, and God bless.

Bob Green



Christmas at Union Station

Thank you to all who joined us in a trip to the Durham Museum last Thursday. It was a wonderful day filled with Christmas spirit, local history, good food and great company.

Advent

The third candle of Advent symbolizes Joy. As we continue to approach Christmas Day, our joy grows more and more. The third candle takes us back to the joyful anticipation of the shepherds who journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem, even before the wise men. On this third Sunday of Advent, which the Church calls "Gaudete Sunday," meaning rejoice or praise, we light the third candle and rejoice like the shepherds. For this reason, the third candle of Advent is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and its color is rose, the liturgical color for joy.



Read and Reflect

- Luke 2:1-20 ; Matthew 1:18-25 ; Luke 1:39-56

PASTOR.....**Father Scott Hastings**
 sahastings@archomaha.org
 402.827.3854 - Office

PARISH SECRETARY.....**Sharon VanTassell**
 secretary68059@gmail.com
 402.203.4708 - Home

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR.....**Sherry Huntwork**
 shuntwork@msn.com
 402.253.8000 - Office

COMM. & EVENTS COORDINATOR.....**Amanda Staroscik**
 staroscikamanda@gmail.com
 402.659.3138

PRAYER CHAIN CONTACT.....**Julie Richards**
 402.881. 2407

DEACONS.....**Deacon David & Linda Christensen**
Deacon Terry & Karen Ficenc
Deacon David & VanNessa Krueger

Parish Groups & Ministry Leaders

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT.....**Jim Amerine**

FINANCE COMMITTEE PRESIDENT.....**Steve Callicutt**

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 10894

GRAND KNIGHT.....**Kevin Schuster**

LADIES GUILD PRESIDENT**Deb Hoskins**

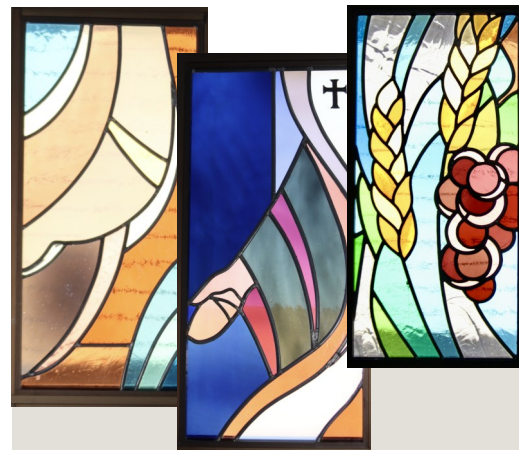
MUSIC MINISTRY & YOUTH CHOIR
 COORDINATOR.....**Candy Connery**

YOUTH GROUP LEADERS.....**Kelly Johnson & Julie Nieveen**

"Giving Tree": Thanks to all who choose an ornament off the Giving Tree. It is by your kindness that we are able to help so many families in need this Christmas season!

DATE & TIME CHANGE: We will be wrapping all presents donated on **Sunday, December 18th from 4p.m. - 7p.m.** If you are willing to help please join us. Any questions, contact Angie Carlson at 402-669-5378.

"Fill a Bag for Hunger" Food Drive: With heartfelt gratitude, the Knights of Columbus members would like to extend their gratitude to all who donated food during the food drive. Twenty baskets were overflowing with items prepared for families enrolled in the OPPD Energy Assistance Program. Along with the baskets of food, the Knights are giving each family \$200 towards their energy bill and a \$50 gift card.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Father will hear confessions 30 minutes before daily masses and 45 minutes before weekend masses.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Registered parishioners will need to contact the parish office to schedule a meeting for their baptism class. After the class is complete, you can schedule a date. Baptisms can take place during a weekend mass or after.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Six months of marriage preparation prior to your wedding is required by the Archdiocese. Contact the parish office to schedule your wedding date and marriage instruction.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK

If you, a relative or friend are hospitalized or shut in, and would like a visit from the Pastor or Deacon, please call the parish office.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed every first Wednesday of the month from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. To sign up for an hour, contact the parish office.