



SAINT JOSEPH

CATHOLIC CHURCH

~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.

Grounded in our
FAITH,
Rooted in the
EUCCHARIST.

Mass Schedule

SATURDAY.....5PM
SUNDAY.....7AM & 9AM
MONDAY.....8AM
TUES.-FRI..... 6:45AM
FIRST FRIDAY ANOINTING MASS.....2PM
FIRST SATURDAY MASS.....8AM

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Dec. 24 @ 4PM
Dec. 25 @ 7AM & 9AM

CONFESSIONS:

30 minutes before daily Masses and 45 minutes before weekend Masses



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John answered them all saying, “I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

- Luke 3:16

Excerpts from the lectionary for Mass copyright 2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear St. Joseph Parishioners,

Next Sunday after Mass, the 9AM Mass, we will decorate the church for Christmas. If you are able to help with that, it's always a fun time. As always, many hands make for light work!

Please also see the signups for liturgical ministers for Christmas in the gathering space.

Have a great week!
Best,
Fr. Scott

Christmas Open House at the rectory

Join us for the 2nd Annual Christmas Open House at the rectory on Sunday, December 15th, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Celebrate the holiday season with an afternoon filled with adult festive drinks, delicious food, and delightful company. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather with fellow parishioners from St. Joseph's and share holiday cheer. We hope to see you there!

Children's Christmas Play and Holiday Festivities



We would love for you to join us **on Wednesday, December 18th, at 6:15 p.m.** for a delightful performance of the Christmas Story by our Religious Education students! It's sure to warm your heart and get you in the holiday spirit. After the show, stick around for some fun holiday crafts and games in the parish hall.

Don't forget to dress in your craziest holiday sweater to compete in our Ugly Sweater Contest! We'd also love for you to bring your favorite holiday cookies and share them with everyone!

Bring your family and friends, and let's celebrate this joyful season together! We can't wait to see you there!



Remember in our Prayers

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



Confession Times During Advent

On the four Sundays of Advent, in addition to regular confession times, I will be at home from 2:00-4:00 and available for confessions in the rectory office. Please feel free to stop by.

Weekly Collections

Weekend of December 1st

Offertory.....	\$17,040.30
Building Fund.....	\$230.00
Christmas.....	\$25.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$530.00
Religious Retirement.....	\$265.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	\$5.00



St. Joseph's pledge:
\$28,090.26

Your gift to the annual Appeal fosters priestly vocations and forms deacons, equips leaders in our parishes and schools, places chaplains in nursing homes and hospitals, helps incarcerated encounter our Redeemer, serves the homeless and working poor and so much more.

We have 68.8% of our goal met!

Mass Intentions

SUN 12/15	7:00 a.m.	+	Pam Ostransky
	9:00 a.m.		People of St. Joseph
MON 12/16	8:00 a.m.		Loren Griffin
TUE 12/17	6:45 a.m.		Brenda Walter
WED 12/18	6:45 a.m.		Ellen Griffin
TH 12/19	6:45 a.m.	+	Steven Kotlarz
FRI 12/20	6:45 a.m.	+	Marlene Molacek
SAT 12/21	5:00 p.m.	+	Harold Starks
SUN 12/22	7:00 a.m.	+	Marlene Molacek
	9:00 a.m.		People of St. Joseph

Liturgy Ministers

Saturday, 12/21 @ 5:00 p.m.
Greeters: Deb Hoskins/Danette Thibault
Lectors: Mike Fowler/John Cronican
EMHC: Julie Masters
Singers: Emerson/Candy
Altar Server:

Sunday, 12/22 @ 7:00 a.m.
Bob Green
Mike Kalen
JoAnn Swanson
No music

Sunday, 12/22 @ 9:00 a.m.
Iro & Mary Johnson
Bob Zielinski/Larry Vacek
Sophie Davey
Ralph & Co./ Mary Iverson
Lauren & Mason Reed

If you are interested in serving St. Joseph parish as a greeter, EMHC, or lector, please contact Sharon VanTassell in the parish office at 402-253-2949 or secretary68059@gmail.com.

Parish Events and Formation

- **Monday, December 16th** | Surviving the Holidays @ 6:30p.m. - 8:30p.m.
-Women's Baselight group @ 7:30p.m.
- **Tuesday, December 17th** | Advent WRAP @ 5:30 in the parish hall
-Finance Committee Meeting
- **Wednesday, December 18th** | Christmas Play and Holiday Festivities @ 6:15p.m. **EVERYONE is Welcomed!**
- **Thursday, December 19th** | Family Formation @ 5:30p.m.
- **Saturday, December 21st** | Baselight Men's Group @ 7a.m.
- NO Intro to learning Spanish class during Christmas break
- **Sunday, December 22nd** | Church decorating after 9a.m. Mass (help needed)

GRIEF SHARE[®] Surviving the Holidays

We understand that navigating the holiday season while grieving can often feel overwhelming, as if you're taking one step forward and two steps back. We invite you to a two-hour event on **Monday, Dec. 16th @ 6:30pm** in the St. Bernadette Rm located in the RE Building. This event is designed to provide you with support and guidance during this challenging time. You can sign up by stopping by church or reaching out to Deb Hoskins at 402-699-0049, Bob Green at 402-990-9944, or Ann Kavanaugh at 402-679-0659.

Guiding Grace

Guiding Grace Motherhood Support Network is a life affirming program that serves mothers and families experiencing an unexpected pregnancy. Every family deserves to thrive, and Guiding Grace offers the support needed to attain this goal through case management, education, fellowship and material support. Don't forget to join us on **Donut Sunday – December 15th** – to learn more about Guiding Grace Motherhood Support Network and their pro-life service to our community!



Works of Mercy Ministry: Service Opportunity Walthill/Macy Day Trip with Catholic Charities

The first Tuesday of every month, Catholic Charities organizes a group of volunteers to help package and distribute food boxes to the residents of Walthill and Macy in northeastern Nebraska. **Our next day of service will be January 7th.** Kindly contact Sue Knott at 402-810-2033 if you would like to come along for this full day of service and community.

Stephen Center Meals: VOLUNTEERS Needed

We are looking for a group of people to prepare and serve the meal at Stephen Center on Monday, January 20th. The parish will reimburse up to \$300 for food expenses. It's a very rewarding experience! If you are interested, please contact Angie Iverson 402-203-0723 or Ann Kavanaugh 402-679-0659.

A Heartfelt Thank You!

It is with a joyful heart that we express our deepest gratitude to everyone who participated in and helped organize the Giving Tree this holiday season. Your selfless generosity has been a beautiful reflection of Christ's love, allowing St. Joseph to bring hope and light to individuals and families who might have faced a more difficult season without it.

What a blessing it is to witness the love and compassion of our church family in action. Through your kindness, you have not only met practical needs but also shared the spirit of faith and care that defines our community.

Saint of the Week

Blessed Alexandrina Maria de Costa (1904-1955) became paralyzed after jumping from a window to escape an attack. She suffered the passion of Jesus each Friday for several year and would survive on the Holy Eucharist alone for 13 years until her death.



Questions of the Week

Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

(Zep 3:14-18a)

The prophet Zephaniah speaks of a future joyful time of God's forgiveness and return to his people. What excites you most as you think about the future?

Second Reading

(Phil 4:4-7)

Paul encourages the Christians in Philippi to be a community that rejoices and finds peace with God. What could you celebrate this Advent season with family or friends?

Gospel Reading

(Luke 3:10-18)

John the Baptist encouraged the crowds, tax collectors, and soldiers to live ethically in very practical ways. How could this apply to your life this week?



Third Advent Candle/Sunday: *Joy*

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’” (Luke 2:10-12)

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. This Advent, light the third candle on Sunday, December 15, 2024.

Von Dohlen, Cate. Advent Calendars and Advent Wreaths. *Hallow*. 2024

ADVENT ACTIVITIES:

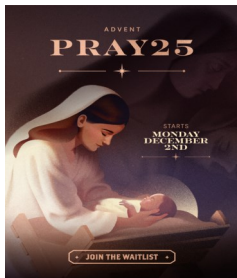
There are various Advent activities at St. Joseph to help prepare you and your family for the joy of Jesus’s birth. Join one of our Advent studies (more information below) or pick up an Advent calendar in the narthex.

Advent WRAP Scripture Study

During the season of Advent, join us in a scripture study as we focus on the events surrounding Jesus’ birth. Everyone is invited to attend all or part of the four nights. We will be meeting on **Tuesday evenings November 26, December 3, December 10, and December 17**. Each week we will share a potluck dinner from 5:30-6:00pm and then work in WRAP small groups from 6:00-7:00pm.

If you are interested in attending, or have questions, please call/text Julie Richards at 402-881-2407. This is a great way to focus on Christmas scripture as well as share your faith (and food) with your parish! Hope to see you there!

Advent PRAY25 on Hallow



Prepare your heart for Jesus this Advent with daily prayer on Hallow, a Catholic prayer and meditation app that helps us encounter Christ through daily prayer.

Download the Hallow app at any AppStore on your phone or iPad and join the Advent Pray25 challenge for FREE.

Pick up a flyer in the narthex and share it with a friend.



Sign up for updates from St. Joseph Church!

HOLIDAY MASS TIMES, WEATHER CANCELLATIONS, MINISTRY UPDATES, & MORE DELIVERED TO YOUR PHONE/EMAIL

- TO SIGN UP, TEXT:
- SPRINGFIELD TO 84576
- OR SIGN UP ONLINE AT:
- stjosf.flocknote.com

There is no charge for this service but your carrier message and data rate may still apply.



Join us this Christmas as we celebrate the joyous birth of our Savior at St. Joseph's. Come and share in the hope, peace, and love of the season!



MERRY CHRISTMAS

4PM | DEC. 24
7AM & 9AM | DEC. 25

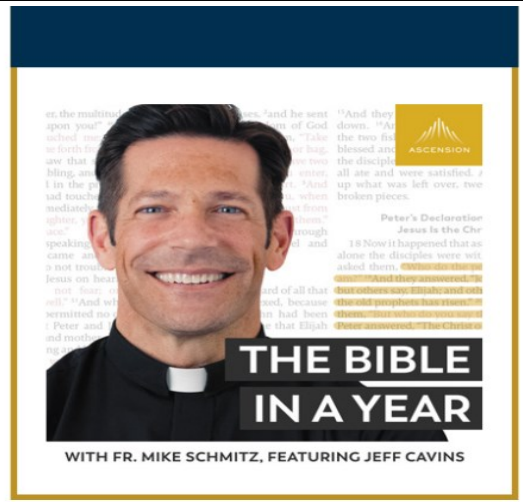
BIBLE IN A YEAR Podcast and Small Group

The Bible in a Year is a daily podcast, produced by Ascension and hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz, where we read the whole Bible, following The Great Adventure Bible-study program created by Jeff Cavins.

Each 20-25 minute episode includes:

- two to three scripture readings
- a reflection from Fr. Mike Schmitz
- and guided prayer to help you hear God's voice in his Word.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to finally understand how all the pieces of the Bible fit together to tell an amazing story that continues in your life today!

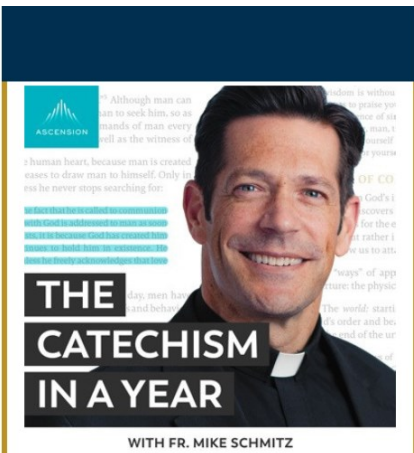


Listen free on the Ascension App!
Scan this QR code with your phone to download the Ascension App – the best place to listen to *The Bible in a Year*.

St. Joseph is here to support you on your “Bible in a Year” journey! Tim and Kelly Johnson will lead a monthly gathering where we can come together to check in, share reflections, and encourage one another as we journey through the Bible in a Year. We will meet in the parish hall from **7:45am to 8:30am** on the first Sundays of every month. Our first gathering will be on **January 5th**. No need to sign up, just show up! Email Tim and Kelly if you have any questions at tkjohnson2223@gmail.com.

Join us in a great New Year's resolution that will change your life – let's read the entire Bible in a year! To learn more and join us on this journey through the Bible scan the QR code or go to the website: www.ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration-parish

Discover the beauty and depth of your faith by joining us in opportunities to learn and grow together as a parish community. Through study, reflection, and conversation, we can deepen our understanding of God's Word and His call in our lives. Let this be the year to reignite your faith and draw closer to Christ through learning and fellowship!



CATECHISM IN A YEAR

The Catechism of the Catholic Church is a profound and essential guide that explains the fundamental teachings of our faith. We warmly invite you to join Fr. Mike Schmitz on a transformative journey through the Catechism in 365 days with his Catholic podcast, *The Catechism in a Year*. Whether you choose to participate individually or in a small group, this journey offers a unique opportunity to deepen your understanding of our faith and grow closer to God.

By listening to this podcast, we will:

- Read the entire Catechism in 365 days
- Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter
- Transform our relationship with the Church that Christ founded

Don't miss out on this opportunity to finally understand what it means to be Catholic and allow those truths to shape your life!

You can find it on any podcast app, on YouTube. To learn more and join us on this journey through the Catechism, scan the QR code or go to the website: www.ascensionpress.com/pages/ciy-registration-parish

Listen free on the Ascension App!
Scan this QR code with your phone to download the Ascension App – the best place to listen to *The Catechism in a Year*.

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

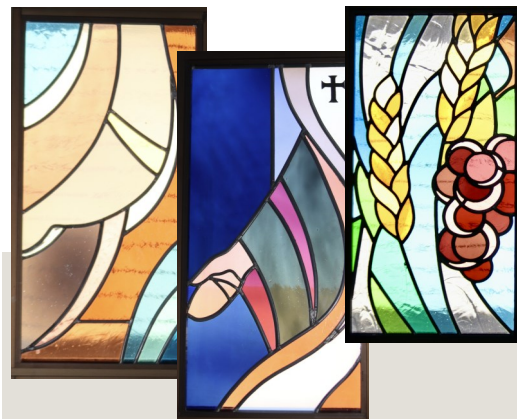
PARISH SECRETARY.....**Sharon VanTassell**
 sharon@stjosephspringfield.org
 402.203.4708 - Home

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR & SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR.....**Sherry Huntwork**
 sherry@stjosephspringfield.org
 402.253.2949 ext. 4 - Office

COMMUNICATIONS, EVENTS & EVANGALIZATION COORDINATOR.....**Amanda Staroscik**
 amanda@stjosephspringfield.org
 402.659.3138

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

DEACONS.....**Deacon David (retired) & Linda Christensen**
Deacon Terry & Karen Ficene
Deacon David & VanNessa Krueger



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.

Parish Groups & Ministry Leaders

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT.....**Jim Amerine**
 FINANCE COMMITTEE PRESIDENT.....**Mike Fowler**
 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**

Parish Office

OFFICE HOURS.....M,W,TH 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
 PHONE.....402.253.2949
 EMAIL.....info@stjosephspringfield.org
 FLOCKNOTE TEXT-TO-JOIN.....SPRINGFIELD to 84576
 FACEBOOK.....facebook.com/stjosf

Bulletin Submissions

If you would like to submit an announcement for the weekly bulletin, please send it to bulletin@stjosephspringfield.org by Monday at 8:00 a.m. Weekly bulletins can be found on our website www.stjosephspringfield.org or by joining our weekly Parish Notes group on Flocknote. Text **SPRINGFIELD to 84576** and sign up to receive Flocknote messages from St. Joseph Catholic Church in Springfield, NE.

Parish Directory

The parish directory is now available to download. Kindly contact Sharon VanTassell in the parish office at secretary68059@gmail.com or 402-253-2949. If there are updates or corrections, please let us know.

Monthly Charity Drive

~Sponsored by St. Joseph Ladies' Guild~

Our Annual Giving Tree is up with gift ornaments filling it. If you would like to pick a ornament and donate a gift, please follow the instructions below. Thanks you for helping make the Christmas season brighter for local families and their kids.

If have taken an ornament and have not brought the gift back to church, please reach out to Angie Carlson (402)669-5378 or Lois Dalton (402)679-2189 as soon as possible.

