

# 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



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.”

-Luke 1:43-45

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

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear St. Joseph Parishioners,

Merry Christmas to each of you! I hope that this week is a joy for all of us, calling to mind the birth of our Savior. Safe travels to all who will be on the road!

Thanks to everyone who has helped and will help to make our celebrations beautiful in music, decoration, welcoming, and all those elements which make these days so special.

Merry Christmas,  
Fr. Scott

### 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.



## Fourth Advent Candle/Sunday: Love

“And in the end, everything else will turn out to be unimportant and inessential, except for this: Father, Child, and Love.” – St. (Pope) John Paul II



The fourth candle of Advent represents Love, the ultimate love of God that He might send His only Son for us. Called the “Angel’s Candle,” the fourth candle of Advent is lit the Sunday before Christmas, and it is the color purple, leading us to eagerly await the new Kingdom of God on earth. This Advent, light the fourth candle on Sunday, December 22, 2024.

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

### 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 22nd

Offertory.....	\$2,665.00
Building Fund.....	\$100.00
Christmas.....	\$50.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$25.00
Religious Retirement.....	\$50.00

**The Seminary Collection will be held on the weekend of Jan. 4-5, 2025.** The Archdiocese of Omaha currently has nineteen men studying for the Priesthood. We humbly ask for your continued prayers, sacrifices and generous financial support. As you know, the cost of room, board, and tuition for our seminarians continues to climb. The seminary bill for our nineteen seminarians during this academic year will be \$1,633,954.00. A successful seminary collection is critical to our effort to form future priest of our Archdiocese. Prayerfully consider what you can do to ensure the success of the seminary collection.

### Mass Intentions

<b>SUN 12/22</b>	7:00 a.m.	+	Marlene Molacek
	9:00 a.m.		People of St. Joseph
<b>MON 12/23</b>	8:00 a.m.		Amy Green
<b>TUE 12/24</b>	6:45 a.m.		Priest Intention
(Christmas Eve)	4:00 p.m.		Rich VanTassell
<b>WED 12/25</b>	7:00 a.m.		Carolyn Faust
(Christmas Day)	9:00 a.m.		People of St. Joseph
<b>TH 12/26</b>	6:45 a.m.	+	Steven Kotlarz
<b>FRI 12/27</b>	6:45 a.m.	+	Harold Starks
<b>SAT 12/28</b>	5:00 p.m.	+	Jerod Bunnell
<b>SUN 12/29</b>	7:00 a.m.	+	Pam Ostransky
	9:00 a.m.		People of St. Joseph

To request a Mass intention for a loved one, please contact the parish office; a \$10 donation is recommended.

### Liturgy Ministers

**Saturday, 12/28 @ 5:00 p.m.**  
**Greeters:** Kathleen Pratt/Sharon VanTassell  
**Lectors:** Jim Amerine/Ken Patry  
**EMHC:** Carrie Cronican  
**Singers:** Majel Connery  
**Altar Server:**

**Sunday, 12/29 @ 7:00 a.m.**  
 Bob Green  
 Mike Kalen  
 Julie Masters  
 No music

**Sunday, 12/29 @ 9:00 a.m.**  
 Donna Devine/Kathy Irvin  
 Corey Osborn/Jeff Needels  
 Donna Devine  
 Majel Connery  
 Thomas & Liam Sciba

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.



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

## 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 *Fill a Bag for Hunger Food Drive* and *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.

## 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.

## Ascension Press Sunday Resources

Our parish is excited to share weekly resources from Ascension Press, including *Bible in a Year*, *Encountering the Word*, and *Catechism in a Year*. These resources are designed to help deepen your faith journey and grow in understanding of Scripture and Church teachings. Stay tuned for regular updates and opportunities to engage!



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

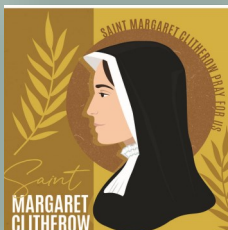
### January Birthdays

Mary Gilmore **3rd**  
Frank Kolar **5th**

Bart Rath	<b>8th</b>	Vickie Hartz	<b>28th</b>
Mary Reineke	<b>8th</b>	Jan Redding	<b>26th</b>
Rita Munnely	<b>12th</b>	Marlene Werner	<b>26th</b>
Frank Novotny	<b>12th</b>	Dave Kulm	<b>27th</b>
Claudia Burchard	<b>12th</b>		
Galen Klenda	<b>14th</b>		
Joan Kraus	<b>14th</b>		
Ce Ce Kastens	<b>14th</b>		
Candy Connery	<b>17th</b>		

## Saint of the Week

St. Margaret Clitherow (1556-1586). The pearl of York hid priests and allowed Mass to be celebrated in her home, a criminal offense at the time. She was pressed to death. Margaret was canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1970 as one of the 40 martyrs of England and Wales.



## Questions of the Week

Reflect and Respond to Scripture

### First Reading

Micah prophesied a "ruler" would come through the line of David ("Bethlehem-Ephrathah") and bring peace to the divided kingdom of Judah and Israel. How might you be able to promote peace this week among your family and co-workers?

### Second Reading

The author of Hebrews reminds us that Christ makes us holy so that above all else, we do God's will. As the season of Advent draws to a close, what could be one practical way to do God's will this week?

### Gospel Reading

Elizabeth calls Mary "blessed" because she believed and trusted in the Lord. Are there people in your life who model such trust and faith in God?

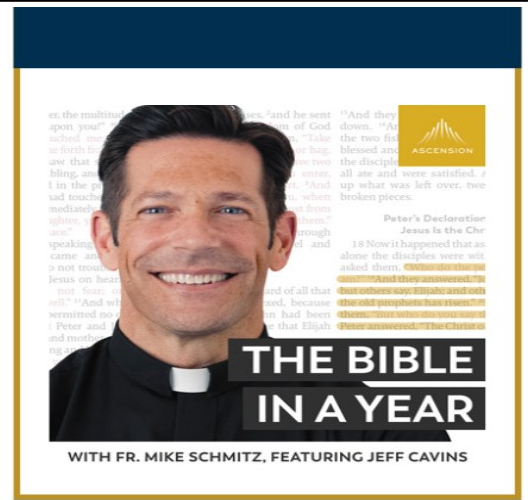
## BIBLE IN A YEAR Podcast and Small Group

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!

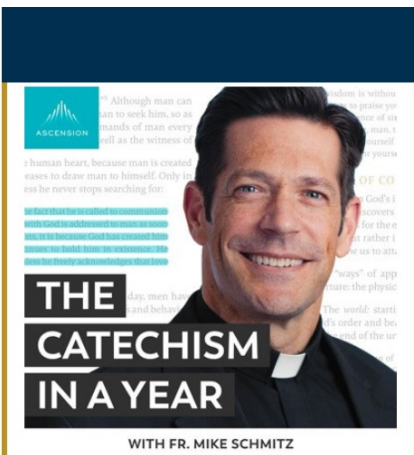


Listen free on the Ascension App!  
Scan this QR code with your phone to download the Ascension App – the best place to listen to *The Bible in a Year*.

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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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*.





# Sunday Q&A

Your Faith in Focus

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C

## THE HAIL MARY: BIBLE BORN

### What can we learn about the “Hail Mary” in the larger context of Sacred Scripture?

The “Hail Mary” is one of the most well-known prayers of our Catholic Faith. What is remarkable about it is that it’s taken directly from Scripture. Its heart originates from the angel’s greeting to Mary: “Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!” (Luke 1:28). The other central part is Elizabeth’s response to Mary in the Visitation: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!” (Luke 1:42). The rest of this prayer is packed with biblical meaning. Dr.

---

***The promises of the Old Testament resonate as we pray the “Hail Mary.”***

---

Andrew Swafford explains how the verses of this prayer reflect important events in the Old Testament. Let’s take a closer look!

#### “The Lord Is With You”

This phrase signals a momentous stage in salvation history. To put that in context, let’s note that this same phrase is used with Moses, Joshua, and Jeremiah as they receive their missions from God. It also indicates that the “yes” of the individual will have great consequences for the unfolding of God’s great plan of salvation. With this in mind, Gabriel’s words to Mary (“the Lord is with you”) should resonate with the reader, making us aware of the pivotal moment.

#### “Blessed Are You Among Women”

Words like these also have biblical precedents, including when a heroic woman defeats an enemy of God’s people by striking a mortal blow to the enemy’s head. In Judges 4:21, Jael drives a tent peg into enemy general Sisera’s temple, for which she is praised: “Most blessed of women be Jael” (Judges 5:24). Likewise, Judith beheads the general Holofernes, with Uzziah saying, “O daughter, you are blessed by the Most High God above all women on earth” (Judith 13:18). The phrase also is tied to the *proto-evangelium*, the promise of redemption:

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel. (Genesis 3:15)

This verse foretells a time when a woman and her seed would crush the head of Satan, ultimately referring to Mary and Jesus. Mary, the New Eve, will join in the work of the New Adam, Jesus.

Mary’s participation in God’s mission begins with her great “yes” at the Annunciation and continues in her faithfulness at the Cross, where she unites her will with God’s will and offers her son to the Father on behalf of all humanity. In the “Hail Mary,” we recognize Mary’s continual maternal love and prayers for each of us as she earnestly seeks to lead us to her son.

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

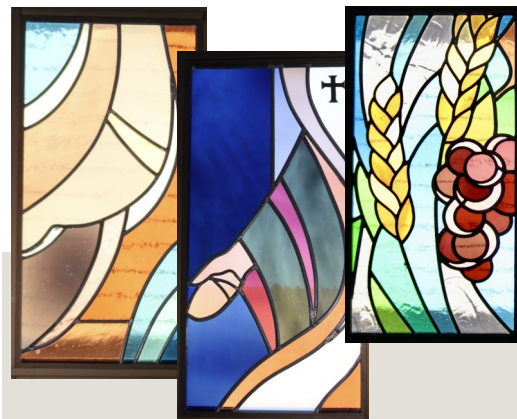
PARISH SECRETARY.....**Sharon VanTassell**  
 sharon@stjosephspringfield.org  
 402.203.4708 - Home

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](http://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~

Guiding Grace Motherhood Support Network is a life affirming program that serves mothers and families experiencing an unexpected pregnancy. This January, we invite our St. Joseph family to lift up this nonprofit through donations of needed material items for the families of Guiding Grace. Please drop off all donations in the narthex. Thank you for your generous support!

**Items of greatest need:** laundry supplies, toiletries (deodorants, toothpaste, soaps, etc), trash bags, paper towels and gift cards for fuel (\$25 increments are great!).

