



3301 Echo Drive
 North Platte, NE 69101
 rectory-office@seas-np.org
www.seas-np.org
 308-534-5461

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Fr. John Birkel
Parish Coordinator:
 Ashley Perlinger (Ministries,
 website, sign, choir, miscellaneous)
Parish Council Members: Mikala
 Miller, Don Kuchta, Cindy Swanson,
 & Ron Tejral
Trustees: Duane Johnsen & Spencer
 Hampton
Mass Times: Saturday 5:00pm,
 Sunday 10:00am, Weekdays & Holy
 Days as posted in bulletin
Confession: Saturdays 4:00pm-
 4:30pm, Sundays 9:00am-9:30am
 Offered any time by appointment.
 Half hour before Friday Masses for
 15 minutes

Baptism
 Contact priest to set up
 appointment.

Matrimony
 Contact priest first before date is
 set and at least 6 months prior.
 Classes and retreat required.

Anointing of the Sick
 Contact priest or parish office.

Education: Family Home Study or
 Catholic School; Adult Entry into
 Catholic Faith (O.C.I.A), contact
 office or pastor for more
 information.

*All bulletin news due at noon the
 Wednesday before the Sunday it is to
 appear. Email rectory-office@seas-np.org.*

May 3, 2026: 5th Sunday of Easter

<i>Mass Intentions</i>		
Monday 5/4	8:00am	Intentions of Ron Tejral
Tuesday 5/5	No Mass	
Wednesday 5/6	5:30pm	Denise Birkel Johnk
Thursday 5/7	8:00am	Derek Klote & Family
Friday 5/8	8:00am	NP Alumni & Book of Memories
Saturday 5/9	5:00pm	+Christopher Paul Beckius
Sunday 5/10	10:00am	Missa Pro Populo

LITURGICAL MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS May 9 – 10, 2026 (6th Sunday of Easter)

	Saturday 5:00pm	Sunday 10:00am
Lector/Reader	Volunteer Needed	Cindy Swanson
Acolyte	Phil Heimann	Spencer Hampton
Server	Elijah Heimann	Eidren Hampton
	Volunteer Needed	Keaton Hampton
Music	Monica Mordja	Peggy Orr
Gifts	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Ushers	Galen Warburton	Dave Beran

Stewardship: April 26, 2026: Adult- \$1,835, Loose- \$476.70, Total: \$2,311.70

All or Nothing: Living every Moment for and with Christ | May 8-9 Join Janette Howe of the Seven Sisters Apostolate for a 24-hour retreat for women exploring how Christ is truly present in every moment of our lives. Through prayer, reflection, and the wisdom of scripture and the saints, discover how to trust God more deeply and live each moment in loving surrender to His will. The retreat begins Friday at 7:00 p.m. and concludes Saturday with Mass and a 6:00 p.m. supper. Hosted by Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House near Waverly! Visit goodcounselretreat.org for more information or to register!

NP Catholic Community Food Pantry:

Garden volunteers needed! Call 308-532-8800.

Please join us at the next meeting of the Catholic Daughters Court #1549 Monday 5/4 at 6pm, St Patrick's Spiritual Life Center. For more information, contact Regent Lea Anne Ottis.

Back to the Garden Women's Retreat

June 19–21 | Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House: Young adult women are invited to a beautiful weekend retreat, Back to the Garden: Healing the Feminine Heart through Jesus, the Bridegroom, with Sarina Stokes and Fr. Cole Kennett. Rooted in St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body and the Song of Songs, this retreat offers an opportunity to encounter the love of Christ and discover the truth of your identity as a beloved daughter. The weekend begins Friday evening and concludes Sunday afternoon, including talks, prayer, and a special Sunday brunch celebration. For more information or to register, visit goodcounselretreat.org or call 402-786-2705.

North Platte Giving Day is May 6. Please consider donating to the North Platte Catholic Food Pantry. Behind every meal we provide is someone like YOU. On this Giving Day, help us continue serving hundreds of local families each month. Let's fill plates and hearts today.

How often have we heard – or said ourself- “Everyone talks about the weather but no one does anything about it.”? Why not do something about it? What? Keep the Ember

Days. EMBER DAYS: Prayers offered in thanksgiving, for crops, for safety, for priests People often complain about the weather, very few do anything about it. My Mom mentioned the Church tradition of “Ember Days” and I did some research on their history.

Ember days are three days set apart in each of the four seasons, for a total of 12 days. They are special days of prayer and thanksgiving. Ember Days are the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday of four weeks, and are traditionally days of prayer, of fasting and of abstaining from meat. In the spring, they are Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of the first full week of Lent. In the early summer... the week following Pentecost. In the fall they are the days just after the Feast of the Holy Cross (September 14). In the winter they are just after the Feast of St. Lucy (December 13).

The name is a corruption of the Latin for “four times,” Quatuor Tempora. The tradition of four sets of Ember Days goes back to Pope Gregory VII (1073-1085), and three sets of Ember days dates as early as the year 222. Leo the Great even considered that they were of apostolic origin.

It stands to reason, since we all depend on farmers for survival, that we should ask the Lord of the Harvest to bless the harvest so that we can be well fed and safe. We also pray for our priests so that after others have raised the grain, and others process it, and others make it bread, the Priests can give us the bread of life. “Ember Days gives us a time to focus in on what we do for a living,” said Bob VanWesten. “Being a farmer, we always are asking God for good weather and these days make for a good time to praise God for what he has done for us.” “As farmers and living in a farming community, we appreciate having the Ember Masses throughout the year,” said parishioner Rhonda Burkhart. “These Masses remind us of God’s role in our lives and our farms. We ask God for the right kind of weather to plant, grow, and

harvest our crops. And because farming can be dangerous, we are also reminded to ask God to keep us and our neighbors safe.”

The goal is two-fold: for people to pray harder, and to join one another in praying. For good weather (Yes, for rain), safety, in thanksgiving for crops, and for Priests. Saint John Vianney said, “If you light a single piece of straw on fire it’s no big deal... but if you light a haystack on fire now you have a fire that can melt glass. That’s what it’s like when we pray together.” Instead of complaining about the weather, take that energy and use it to ask Our Heavenly Father to bless us with good weather, safety in our labors, and with good and holy Priests.

The upcoming Ember days are: May 27, 29, 30 & September 23, 25 & 26, 2026.

What are the “Prayers” of Ember Days? There are, per se, no prayers of Ember days, i.e., there is no Ember days prayer, like the Prayer to Saint Michael, or an Ember rosary. There are, however, prayers we can pray and things we are called to do on Ember days:

Fast & abstain

Come to Mass

Pray a Rosary for the Ember days intentions (Moisture, safety, thanksgiving, for good & holy Priests)

Make the stations of the Cross

Et cetera

Politics and Religion Do Mix: The

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, in its doctrinal note “On some questions regarding the participation of Catholics in political life” (2002) said about St. Thomas More: “[He] gave witness by his martyrdom to the inalienable dignity of the human conscience. Though subjected to various forms of psychological pressure, Saint Thomas More refused to compromise, never forsaking the constant fidelity to legitimate authority and institutions which distinguished him; he taught by his life and his death that ‘man cannot be separated from God, nor politics from morality.’”

"Why do you look among the dead for one who is alive?" He is not here. He has been raised." (Luke 24:5-6)

Reflection: How easy it is for people to seek the living one among the dead. Despair causes them to look to death as a solution. But death is never a solution. When we look to Jesus, we find the Living One, and he strengthens us to choose life.

Prayer: Lord, we do not seek you, among the dead. Grant that your people may never turn to death for comfort or hope, but only to you, the Living Lord. Amen!

Thursday Evening Faith Study is done... for now.

Please pray for all young men discerning a vocation to the priesthood in the Diocese of Lincoln.

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

Prayers Requests: Bill Ryland, Pat Benson, Gemma Felton, +Sharon Beckius +John Zak +Daniel Gruber +Kara Heideman +Daniel Nisley +Bob Gifford, +Monica Kramer +Bob Bringewatt