



3301 Echo Drive
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 rectory-office@seas-np.org
 www.seas-np.org

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Fr. Rand Langhorst
 Parish Coordinator: Ashley
 Perlinger (Bulletin, website, sign,
 choir, miscellaneous)

Mass Times: Saturday 5:00pm,
 Sunday 10:00am, Weekdays & Holy
 Days as posted in bulletin

Confession: Saturdays 4:00pm-
 4:35pm, Sundays 9:00am-9:35am
 Offered any time by appointment.
 Half hour before Friday Masses
 for 15 minutes

Baptism
 Contact priest to set up
 appointment and or instruction
 before any date is set.

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: CCD, Sundays 11:15am-
 12:30pm.
 Interested in becoming Catholic?
 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.*

December 10, 2023: 2nd Sunday of Advent

<i>Mass Intentions</i>		
Monday 12/11	8:00 am	Jacques & Ann Daniel & Family
Tuesday 12/12	8:00 am	Special Intention
Wednesday 12/13	5:30 pm	Max Daniel
Thursday 12/14	8:00 am	Eastmo Family
Friday 12/15	8:00 am	+Allen & Marcene Burr
Saturday 12/16	5:00 pm	Missa Pro Populo
Sunday 12/17	10:00 am	+Dave Bratton

LITURGICAL MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS December 16-17, 2023 (3rd Sunday of Advent)

	Saturday 5:00pm	Sunday 10:00am
Lector	Cindy Swanson	John Bode
Acolyte	Ed Rieker	Greg Vandenberg
Server	James Krondak	Johnathan Birulkin
	Nicholas Krondak	Jacob Birulkin
Music	Volunteer Needed	Matt & Ashley Perlinger
Gifts	Volunteer – Ask Ushers	Volunteer – Ask Ushers
Ushers	Alice Robinson	Spencer Hampton

Stewardship: December 3, 2023: Adult Envelopes- \$3,672,
 Contemplative Sisters- \$30

Theology on Tap will meet Sunday, December 10th at 6:00 pm. Young adults ages 21-40 are invited to listen to Deacon Dixon Powers while enjoying food, drinks, and fellowship. Our event will be hosted at Peg Leg Brewing in North Platte.

Thank you to the St Patrick's Jr-Sr High School students who chose (or are choosing) to help with projects in our Parish to fulfill their service hours.

Advent/Christmas Angels is now underway. Please remember to offer prayers and if so desired, little encouragements for your secret angel until January 7, when names are to be revealed. Thank you to those participating.

Something to prayerfully consider: *Excerpted from the 1966 Pastoral for Penance and Abstinence by the United States Catholic Bishops -- ...* Catholic peoples from time immemorial have set apart Friday for special penitential observance by which they gladly suffer with Christ that they may one day be glorified with Him. This is the heart of the tradition of abstinence from meat on Friday where that tradition has been observed in the holy Catholic Church. Changing circumstances, including economic, dietary, and social elements, have made some of our people feel that the renunciation of the eating of meat is not always and for everyone the most effective means of practicing penance. Meat was once an exceptional form of food; now it is commonplace. Accordingly, since the spirit of penance primarily suggests that we discipline ourselves in that which we enjoy most, to many in our day abstinence from meat no longer implies penance, while renunciation of other things would be more penitential. For these and related reasons, the Catholic bishops of the United States, far from downgrading the traditional penitential observance of Friday, and motivated precisely by the desire to give the spirit of penance greater vitality, especially on Fridays, the day that Jesus died, urge our Catholic people henceforth to be guided by the following norms. Friday itself remains a special day of penitential observance throughout the year, a time when those who seek perfection will be mindful of their personal sins and the sins of mankind which they are called upon to help expiate in union with Christ Crucified. Friday should be in each week something of what Lent is

in the entire year. For this reason we urge all to prepare for that weekly Easter that comes with each Sunday by freely making of every Friday a day of self-denial and mortification in prayerful remembrance of the passion of Jesus Christ. Among the works of voluntary self-denial and personal penance which we especially commend to our people for the future observance of Friday, even though we hereby terminate the traditional law of abstinence binding under pain of sin, as the sole prescribed means of observing Friday, we give first place to abstinence from flesh meat. We do so in the hope that the Catholic community will ordinarily continue to abstain from meat by free choice as formerly we did in obedience to Church law. Our expectation is based on the following considerations: We shall thus freely and out of love for Christ Crucified show our solidarity with the generations of believers to whom this practice frequently became, especially in times of persecution and of great poverty, no mean evidence of fidelity to Christ and His Church. We shall thus also remind ourselves that as Christians, although immersed in the world and sharing its life, we must preserve a saving and necessary difference from the spirit of the world. Our deliberate, personal abstinence from meat, more especially because no longer required by law, will be an outward sign of inward spiritual values that we cherish. Every Catholic Christian understands that the fast and abstinence regulations admit of change, unlike the commandments and precepts of that unchanging divine moral law which the Church must today and always defend as immutable. This said, we emphasize that our people are henceforth free from the obligation traditionally binding under pain of sin in what pertains to Friday abstinence, except as noted above for Lent. We stress this so that "no scrupulosity will enter into examinations of conscience, confessions, or personal decisions on this point. Perhaps we should warn those who decide to keep the Friday abstinence for reasons of personal piety and special love that they must not pass judgment on those who elect to substitute other penitential observances. Friday, please God, will acquire among us other forms of penitential witness which may become as much a part of the devout way of life in the future as Friday abstinence from

meat. In this connection we have foremost in mind the modern need for self-discipline in the use of stimulants and for a renewed emphasis on the virtue of temperance, especially in the use of alcoholic beverages. It would bring great glory to God and good to souls if Fridays found our people doing volunteer work in hospitals, visiting the sick, serving the needs of the aged and the lonely, instructing the young in the Faith, participating as Christians in community affairs, and meeting our obligations to our families, our friends, our neighbors, and our community, including our Parishes, with a special zeal born of the desire to add the merit of penance to the other virtues exercised in good works born of living faith. In summary, let it not be said that by this action, implementing the spirit of renewal coming out of the Council, we have abolished Friday, repudiated the holy traditions of our fathers, or diminished the insistence of the Church on the fact of sin and the need for penance. Rather, let it be proved by the spirit in which we enter upon prayer and penance, not excluding fast and abstinence freely chosen, that these present decisions and recommendations of this conference of bishops will herald a new birth of loving faith and more profound penitential conversion, by both of which we become one with Christ, mature sons of God, and servants of God's people. The effective date of these regulations is the first Sunday of Advent, November 27, 1966. [In short outside of Lent one can choose to eat meat, but with an understanding that they are to choose a truly penitential substitute if they do]

From the Nebraska Catholic Conference: This last legislative session, Nebraska passed historic school choice legislation! After decades of tireless advocacy and sustained prayers by countless school choice champions, the Nebraska Legislature—with the leadership of Senator Lou Ann Linehan—passed LB753, the Opportunity Scholarships Act. We were equally thrilled when Governor Jim Pillen signed the legislation into law after making LB753 a top priority of his first year in office. LB753 is a life-changing win for families and children who need greater freedom in educational choice. Children deserve a K-12 experience that fits their needs, and LB753 provides this hope! As the Opportunity

Scholarships Act goes into effect, we are excited to partner with and announce that **Opportunity Scholarships of Nebraska (OSN)** has officially launched its website. OSN is a state-approved scholarship granting organization and a 501(c)(3) non-profit that will help parents across Nebraska to choose the best educational setting for their children through awarding non-public school tuition scholarships and providing access to school options. OSN has the support of Nebraska's three Bishops and three diocesan superintendents. We need your help to spread the word. If you are a PARENT looking for more educational opportunity for your child, visit www.NebraskaOpportunity.org to see if your child may qualify for an Opportunity Scholarship. Be sure to share information about OSN far and wide with family, friends, and Parishioners. Experience in other states with school choice is clear: there are many families who want a non-public school education, but think it's not within their financial means. OSN can help solve that problem! If you want to financially SUPPORT the work of OSN, contact OSN by visiting NebraskaOpportunity.org/giving. LB753 allows individuals, corporations, and estates and trusts to claim tax credits for contributions to scholarship granting organizations like OSN. These tax credits will become available on January 1, 2024, so you'll want to **contact OSN** to save your place in line to help kids in need of education freedom. Thank you.

In a small Southern town there was a "Nativity Scene" that showed great skill and talent had gone into creating it. One small feature bothered me. The three wise men were wearing firemen's helmets. Totally unable to come up with a reason or explanation, I left. At a "Quick Gas Stop" on the edge of town, I asked the lady behind the counter about the helmets. She exploded into laughter gaining everyone's attention. "You aren't a regular churchgoer are you?" I assured her that I was, but simply couldn't recall anything about firemen in the Bible. She jerked her Bible from behind the counter and ruffled through some pages, and finally jabbed her finger at a passage. Sticking it in my face she said "See, it says right here, 'The three wise man came from afar.'"

End and begin the year in the presence of the Lord by going on a retreat at Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House in Waverly. "Masses and Tears" with Fr. Jay Buhman on Dec. 15-17, 4-Day or 8-Day Ignatian Retreat with Matt Simmons or Fr. Barak on Dec. 29-Jan. 1, Jan. 2-5 or Dec. 29-Jan. 5, 4-Day, or 8-Day Ignatian Retreat with Fr. Barak or Sarina Stokes (on Jan. 8-11) Jan. 8-11, Jan. 11-15, or Jan. 8-15, and "Laborers in the Vineyard" Retreat for Men on January 12-13. Read more and register at www.goodcounselretreat.org, email office@goodcounselretreat.org or call 402-786-2705.

In my neighborhood, there was a couple who had given their twin sons very weird names. One was named Trouble, while the other boy's name was Mind Your Own Business. So, one day they were playing hide and seek. Mind Your Business counted to a hundred and then started looking for his brother. But, somehow he couldn't find him anywhere. He saw a police car passing the neighborhood, so he stopped it to ask for help. When the police officer asked him for his name, he replied, "Mind Your Own Business!" Feeling insulted, the police officer still asked politely who he was looking for. Mind Your Own Business replied, "I am looking for Trouble!"

Our Lady of Guadalupe: There will be a free-will Spaghetti Takeout Meal from 5 pm-6:30 pm on Tuesday, December 12. The meal will include spaghetti, choice of topping, salad, and garlic bread. Stop in and give yourself a break from cooking, and support this gift gathering effort.

The Advent/Christmas Challenge is on! If the Holy Spirit is stirring your heart to participate, please use the envelope provided in the mailed letter to registered households, or use one of your choosing clearly labeled for the Challenge with your name on it (if you want it tracked for tax purposes.) Watch for the blackened out numbers in the narthex to see our expression of generosity.

Hearing the Word-Understanding the Bible. 5 sessions with two opportunities in our Diocese.

Mondays 6:30-8:30 pm January 8-February 5 and
Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 pm January 9-February 6.
Register at www.Emmausinstitute.net

The Knights of Columbus meeting will be at 7:00 pm on Monday, December 11 in the Parish Hall.

In addition to regular scheduled confession opportunities, the following have been added to prepare for a holy Christmas. They will be on Monday, December 18 at 8:30am until the last in line is heard; Wednesday, December 20 at 6:00pm until last in line is heard; Friday, December 22 from 5:00pm-6:00pm; and Saturday, December 23 at 6:00pm until last in line is heard. There will be no confessions on Sunday, December 24.

Grief & the Holidays with Sandy Danek, founder of the Healing Hearts Grief Ministry. Sandy will talk about grief & the holidays, what it can look like, ways of finding healing and comfort, and ways to support friends or family who may be grieving the loss of a loved one. Event will be at the Harbor Coffeehouse, 7:00pm. in the Shoppes at Piedmont and will also be live-streamed. Registration is not required, but helps us to have an accurate estimate of attendance for food and for those attending virtually. <https://lincolnDiocese.regfox.com/grief>

Announcing a Mini Christmas Gift Gathering Raffle with a drawing on Dec 19, 2023. Tickets are \$1 each. Tickets will be available at Masses or by request from the office or Father Rand. The biggest gift, aside from purchasing some tickets for yourself or family, is to offer to take a few to make available to coworkers or neighbors. Prizes have all been donated by fellow Parishioners and include: First-Two Precious Moment Baby Throws; Second Mini-Bundle of Beef; Third \$25.00 Gas Card and Fourth-Two dozen homemade cinnamon rolls.

Marriage Encounter: A weekend for married couples who value their relationship and desire a richer, fuller life together. "Finding a oneness of heart, we all desire." The Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience is Feb. 9-11 in Lincoln. Contact Brenda & Gary Granger to register or to ask questions: 303-604-6202.

With the unrest in the Holy Land, Fr. Rand now invites all to consider a new spiritual pilgrimage to Italy from April 9 for 11 days with roundtrip flights from Omaha. Visit the sites of Eucharistic miracles, Rome and the Vatican, Assisi (St. Francis and St. Clare), Orvieto, Cascia (St. Rita), Lanciano, San Giovanni Rotunda (Padre Pio), Grotto of St Michael the Archangel, Holy Veil of Manoppello and so much more. Check out the website tektionministries.org and look for pilgrimages and scroll down to April 9 Italy out of Omaha and read the online brochure, pricing and/or to register online. This is an opportunity that will enrich anyone's spiritual life and is open to anyone Catholic or not.

The choir will be leading music on Christmas Eve at 5:00pm. We always welcome new voices! Please contact Matt at 308-289-3187 or email Ashley at seasparishcoordinator@gmail.com for information on choir practices.

Parents preparing for their child's First Penance and Communion: Whether you are enrolled in the Catholic school, CCD, or Homeschooling, we want to make sure you are on the contact list for those to receive these two sacraments in 2024. First Penance will be January 21 and First Communion will be April 7. Please email or write a note to Fr. Rand should you want to be included. Thanks!

CCD reminder There will be no class on Dec 17, 24, 31 or Jan 7. Instruction will resume Jan 14.

Christmas Masses will be Sunday, December 24 at 5 pm and Monday, December 25 at 10 am. Solemnity of Mary Masses will be Sunday, December 31 at 4 pm and Monday, January 1 at 9 am.

Reasons to make an Hour of Adoration: Eucharistic Adoration is a very strong antidote specifically to the evil of abortion. If all Catholics in the United States would make adoration of the most Blessed Sacrament a weekly occurrence all abortions in the United States would stop, according to Blessed Mother Teresa. We know that all Catholics will not do this but we can at least do our part, in stopping as many abortions as possible, by sacrificing an hour of our time, each week, in

coming before our beloved Lord in adoration. Our Saints have always emphasized that a Holy Hour is not a personal solitary "Jesus and me" encounter but rather one that involves the entire Church. Our adoration reaches out to our families and our community, they say, and as a result our families are very blessed and brought closer together. There is another aspect of adoration that many people don't realize. People heavily involved in the different Perpetual Adoration Programs throughout the world often report of a loved one, who had left the Church, coming back because of their involvement in Perpetual Adoration. Jesus will use many means to try to bring each of us to Heaven. He may be waiting for you to sign up for a Holy Hour of adoration to bring one of your loved ones back to the Church. [from the writings of Popes & Saints]

St Patrick's School News: Monday, December 11: 4:00PM—JH Girls BB @ NPMS, 5:00PM--Res. B&G BB vs. Gothenburg Tuesday, December 12: 4:30PM—JV & V G&B BB vs. Ogallala Wednesday, December 13: 4:00PM—JH Girls BB vs. NPMS Thursday, December 14: 4:30PM—JV/V G&B BB @ Gothenburg Friday, December 15: 10:00AM—WR @ Sutherland Saturday, December 16: 9:00AM—JH G&B BB vs. Hershey Monday, December 18: 6:30PM--St. Pat's JH/HS Christmas Concert We hope you will add the North Platte Catholic Schools to your Christmas list this year! SCRIP for holiday shopping and gifting! Purchase SCRIP gift cards make excellent gifts, with many retailers available in smaller (stocking-stuffer) denominations. Purchase at the Endowment (601 S .Tabor Ave) office Monday-Friday 8:00-4:00, call 308-534-5939, or visit ww.raiseright.com. Year-End Donation- Be sure to maximize your tax benefits by contributing to the NPCES Endowment before the year's end. Gifts to the Endowment are 100% tax deductible, and are put to immediate use for our students and faculty. To Give online at: apps.npcschoools.org/donate-now or, mail to PO Box 57, North Platte, NE 69103, or stop by the Endowment office at 601 S. Tabor Ave.

Prayer Intentions: Prayer intentions will remain in the bulletin for three weeks. += repose of soul ill-Sylvia Prather, ill- Gene Johnston