



3301 Echo Drive
North Platte, NE 69101
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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)
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.*

December 14, 2025: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Mass Intentions		
Monday 12/15	7:00am	Jessica Navin
Tuesday 12/16	No Mass	
Wednesday 12/17	5:30pm	Lauren & Ben Burke
Thursday 12/18	8:00am	Liv/Dec KC members
Friday 12/19	8:00am	Jeff & Shelli Hubka
Saturday 12/20	5:00pm	Missa Pro Populo
Sunday 12/21	10:00 am	Intentions of Alice Robinson

LITURGICAL MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS December 20 – 21, 2025 (4th Sunday of Advent)

	Saturday 5:00pm	Sunday 10:00am
Lector/Reader	Mary Herout	Cindy Swanson
Acolyte	Phil Heimann	Derek Miller
Server	Elijah Heimann	Luke Miller
	Volunteer Needed	Nathan Miller
Music	Monica Mordja	Matt & Ashley Perlinger
Gifts	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Ushers	Steve & Janet Fear	Dave Beran

**Stewardship: December 7, 2025- Adult- \$2,040, Loose Plate- \$387.77, Holy Day-/
Christmas \$5,425.00, Cloistered Sisters- \$20, Thanksgiving- \$20 Total: \$8,007.77**

Johnny and Courtney Peiffer welcomed a sweet baby boy into their family! Please sign up if you are willing and able to take them a meal. Visit www.takethemameal.com, press "Find a Meal Schedule," and search for the last name Peiffer. The password is 1208. Please contact Ashley Perlinger if you are unable to access the schedule.

This coming Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday are Ember Days. They are days of penance & prayer for good weather and for our priests.

Don't throw away your Christmas cards! Please donate them to Catholic Daughters Court #1549 for our holiday project. Collection boxes are in the gathering area until the end of January. Thank you!

Marriage Encounter Experience at North American Martyrs Church: Feb. 20-22 in Lincoln, "Communicating Enhancing Our Marriage." "Register right-away to save a place. Call/Text 402-370-5839

Knights of Columbus CAN turn your aluminum cans into additional funding for our charitable work in the parish and community. Please place them in blue bin at southeast corner of parking lot. Thank you.

A food drive for Women Resource Center will be conducted by Knights of Columbus. We welcome donation of nonperishable items in box(es) in narthex. Suggested items: mac 'n' cheese, crackers, pasta, and pasta sauces, cereal, Knorr Sides, Hamburger Helper.

We will have Christmas choir practice Wednesday, December 17 in the Parish Hall at 6:30pm. All are welcome—please join us!

From Fr. Birkel- A Varied Study: Thursday evenings at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall, I will take questions on Scripture or Theology. Instead of presenting a Bible study on a particular path that I might want to talk about, I will make it available for what you want to know.

Advent Healing Mass: All are welcome to receive physical, spiritual, and mental healing. Sunday, December 14, 2025 St. Patrick Church 409 East F Street, McCook, NE 4:00pm Mass: Celebrant Rev. Christopher Barak of Lincoln, NE. Come early for

the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:30pm. Confession available 3:00 – 4:00.

Christmas Flowers and Poinsettias - If you would like to honor your loved one(s) by donating to have Christmas poinsettias and flowers in our church, please make your donation by putting it in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers" or use the envelope in the Church Offering Envelope. Please write the name(s) of those you are remembering to be put in the bulletin December 21. Deadline for the Christmas bulletin is Wednesday, December 17 at noon. Suggested donation is \$10 per name or couple.

Christmas Decorating - Please join in the decorating of the church on Sunday, December 14th after Mass.

Presidential Message on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception

The White House
December 8, 2025

Today, I recognize every American celebrating December 8 as a Holy Day honoring the faith, humility, and love of Mary, mother of Jesus and one of the greatest figures in the Bible.

On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Catholics celebrate what they believe to be Mary's freedom from original sin as the mother of God. She first entered recorded history as a young woman when, according to Holy Scripture, the Angel Gabriel greeted her in the village of Nazareth with news of a miracle: "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you," announcing that "you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus."

In one of the most profound and consequential acts of history, Mary heroically accepted God's will with trust and humility: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Mary's decision forever altered the course of humanity. Nine months later, God became man when Mary gave birth to a son, Jesus, who would go on to offer his life on the Cross for the redemption of sins and the salvation of the world.

For nearly 250 years, Mary has played a distinct role in our great American story. In 1792, less than a decade after the end of the Revolutionary War,

Bishop John Carroll—the first Catholic bishop in the United States and cousin of signer of the Declaration of Independence Charles Carroll—consecrated our young Nation to the mother of Christ. Less than a quarter-century later, Catholics attributed General Andrew Jackson’s stunning victory over the British in the climactic Battle of New Orleans to Mary. Every year, Catholics celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving in New Orleans on January 8 in memory of Mary’s assistance in saving the city.

Over the ages, American legends like Elizabeth Ann Seton, Frances Xavier Cabrini, and Fulton Sheen, who spent their lives glorifying God in service to others, have held a deep devotion to Mary. The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, located in the heart of our Nation’s Capital, honors Mary as the largest church in North America. The timeless hymn “Ave Maria” remains beloved by countless citizens. She has inspired the establishment of countless churches, hospitals, and schools. Nearly 50 American colleges and universities bear Mary’s name. And, just days from now, on December 12, Catholics in the United States and Mexico will celebrate the steadfast devotion to Mary that originated in the heart of Mexico—a place now home to the beautiful Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe—in 1531. As we approach 250 years of glorious American Independence, we acknowledge and give thanks, with total gratitude, for Mary’s role in advancing peace, hope, and love in America and beyond our shores.

More than a century ago, in the midst of World War I, Pope Benedict XV, the leader of the Roman Catholic Church, commissioned and dedicated a majestic statue of Mary, Queen of Peace, bearing the infant Christ with an olive branch so that the Christian faithful would be encouraged to look to her example of peace by praying for a stop to the horrific slaughter. Just a few months later, World War I ended. Today, we look to Mary once again for inspiration and encouragement as we pray for an end to war and for a new and lasting era of peace, prosperity, and harmony in Europe and throughout the world.

In her honor, and on a day so special to our Catholic citizens, we remember the sacred words that have brought aid, comfort, and support to generations of American believers in times of need:

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House, Waverly, A Light Shining in the Darkness — Advent Retreat

December 19–21, 2025 | With Fr. Gary Coulter
Prepare your heart for Christmas by joining Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House for a peaceful Advent weekend. Through Scripture, prayer, and quiet reflection, Fr. Coulter will guide retreatants to encounter Christ as the true Light shining in the darkness. The retreat begins Friday with an 8 p.m. Rosary and Mass and concludes Sunday with Mass and noon lunch. Attend in person or register for the virtual option.

Register at: www.goodcounselretreat.org

Advent and Pregnancy: As we enter the second half of Advent, the liturgy focuses more specifically on the Incarnation and birth of Jesus at the first Christmas. We think about Mary's initial fear and uncertainty in the face of her unexpected pregnancy. Then, in every Church in the world, believers spiritually rush to her side to eagerly await with her the birth of the Savior. The best way for a parish to celebrate Christmas is to rush physically to the side of those in the community who, like Mary, are uncertain and afraid about their pregnancy. We are to accompany them through their pregnancy with support and encouragement, and help them experience the fact that every birth reflects the joy of the birth of Christ.

Nationwide, pregnancy centers providing alternatives to abortion can be reached through the “Option Line,” 1-800-712-HELP, or at www.pregnancycenters.org.

Please pray for Sr. Benedicta Hawkins of Runel, IA. She is a Junior Sister at the Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln.

Please pray for Caleb Hansen of St. Joseph Parish in Lincoln. He is in Theology 3 at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.

Prayers Requests: Jerry & Sharon Beckius