

DATE  
DECEMBER 17, 2023

**Bulletin deadline is noon on Wednesdays.**

| <i>Mass Intentions</i> |                 |                            |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Monday 12/18           | 8:00 am         | Jim Safford                |
| Tuesday 12/19          | 8:00 am         | +Gary Ryland               |
| Wednesday 12/20        | 5:30 pm         | +Reiny Burbach             |
| Thursday 12/21         | 8:00 am         | +Wilma Reeves              |
| Friday 12/22           | 8:00 am         | Poor Souls                 |
| Saturday 12/23         | 5:00 pm         | Missa Pro Populo           |
| Sunday 12/24 (weekend) | 10:00am         | All Volunteers at SEAS     |
| <b>Christmas Vigil</b> | <b>5:00 pm</b>  | Missa Pro Populo           |
| Monday Christmas 12/25 | <b>10:00 am</b> | Poor Soul of Mary's choice |

**LITURGICAL MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS**  
**December 23-25,2023 (4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas)**

|         | Saturday Dec 23<br>5:00pm | Sunday Dec 24<br>10:00am |
|---------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Lector  | Jim Nisley                | John Bode                |
| Acolyte | Michael Krondak           | Ron Tejral               |
| Server  | Alex Krondak              | Kieren Tejral            |
|         | Will Krondak              | Volunteer                |
| Music   | Volunteer                 | Volunteer                |
| Gifts   | Volunteer                 | Volunteer                |
| Ushers  | Michael/Mary Herout       | Duane Johnsen            |

|         | Sunday Christmas Vigil<br>Dec 24 Saturday<br>5:00pm | Monday Christmas<br>Day 10:00am |
|---------|---|---------------------------------|
| Lector  | Michael Krondak                                     | Justin Pieper                   |
| Acolyte | Spencer Hampton                                     | Duane Johnsen                   |
| Server  | Eidren Hampton                                      | Liam Pieper                     |
|         | Keaton Hampton                                      | Xavier Pieper                   |
| Music   | Choir   | Greg Vandenberg                 |
| Gifts   | Volunteer   | Volunteer                       |
| Ushers  | Volunteer   | Volunteer                       |

**Thank you to all** who accepted the invitation to help decorate the church for Christmas and those who helped the Daughters of Charity with the Christmas cards and gift boxes for the residents of the North Platte Care facilities, homebound parishioners and former SEAS pastors and Bishops. They brought smiles and warm feelings of the presence of the Christ Child to many! Thank you for sharing your time by writing cards, donating items for the gift boxes and donating Christmas Cards."

**Join us for dinner** and discover unique and meaningful ways you can make an impact through charitable giving now and in the future!  
WHEN: January 25, 2024 • 6:30 - 8:30 PM  
WHERE: Venue304, 304 E. 5th St., North Platte, NE  
WHO: Individuals, couples, and families who want to make a difference in the lives of others and answer the call to live more charitably by supporting the spiritual, educational, and charitable works of our Catholic Community including our parish and the Catholic schools.  
COST: Free For questions or more information contact: Wendy Dodson, (308) 534-5939 or Les Mach, (402) 443-6180

**Make a Qualified Charitable** Distribution (QCD) of Individual Retirement Account (IRA) assets If you are 70½ or older, a QCD charitable distribution is a way you can support the work of the Church. • Benefits of a QCD charitable distribution- Avoid taxes on transfers of any amount up to \$100,000 from your IRA to the parish or any Catholic entity- Make a gift that is not subject to the deduction limits on charitable gift- Help further the work and mission of the Church • How a QCD charitable distribution gift works: Contact your IRA plan administrator to make a gift from your IRA to the Church- Your IRA funds will be directly transferred to the Church to help continue our important work; they must be directly transferred from your IRA to the charitable organization to count as a Qualified Charitable Distribution- Please note that IRA charitable rollover gifts do not qualify for a charitable deduction, but they can count as all or part of your required minimum distribution.

**Stewardship: Adult (includes Immaculate Conception) \$2930.00 Contemplative Sisters \$20.00 Christmas Flowers \$430.00**

**Be aware of “satanic” rosaries.** Many Catholics are devoted to praying the rosary and honoring Our Lady’s request to pray the rosary. Rosaries can be very ornate and custom-made, as well as very simple and inexpensive. However, we need to be aware of the circulation of “satanic” rosaries that may be infested or cursed. These rosaries are typically plastic and have odd symbols on them. For example, “the symbols could be a snake wrapped around the cross, a pentagram, and/or a sun with rays, an insignia of the Illuminati” which is a Satanist’s group. Typically, these rosaries have been infested or cursed by those that make them, “consecrating them to evil so that whoever uses it will be followed by evil spirits.” What should you do if you have a “satanic” rosary at home or find one in your possession? If you discover that you have one or more of these “satanic” rosaries in your possession, please bring them to a priest. He will then properly destroy and dispose of them so that they can no longer pose a spiritual threat to anyone.

(Reference:

<https://cbcnews.net/cbcnews/faithful-warned-about-satanic-rosaries/>)

**Tax-favored Charitable Gifts:** To make a charitable gift in 2023 for Federal Income Tax purposes, you must make your gift on or before December 31, 2023.

**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](http://www.Emmausinstitute.net)

**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>

**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.

**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](mailto: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!

**Christmas Masses will be Sunday, December 24 at 5 pm and Monday, December 25 at 10 am. Please note that you must attend separate Masses for the 4th Sunday of Advent (eve of Dec. 23 – Dec. 24) and the Christmas Solemnity (eve of Dec. 24 – Dec. 25). No two for one specials.**

**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.

**There was a young** boy who was saying a prayer out loud one night and his brother was listening to him. This boy asked God for a fresh milkshake in the morning. His brother said: "just shake a cow and milk it. It will save God the trouble."

**Spirit Catholic Radio**'s annual Spirit Celebration Dinner is going to be extra special in 2024 as it will officially kick off our 25th year of broadcasting! Join the Spirit Catholic Radio team for an evening of faith, food, fellowship, and fun with keynote speaker and listener-favorite, Dr. Ray Guarendi! Dr. Ray is the host of "The Dr. Is In" which is heard weekdays at Noon on your Spirit Catholic Radio Network. Dinner Tickets will go on sale December 27, during our 3 Days of Christmas Music (Dec 27-29). Visit [spiritcatholicradio.com/silver](http://spiritcatholicradio.com/silver) for details on additional events we have planned for you in 2024 as well!

**North Platte Theology on Tap** will be hosting Father Matthew Nash on Sunday January 21st at Occasions. Young adults ages 21-40 are invited to join us for a fun evening of fellowship! The social hour will begin at 6:00, with the speaker to follow. A delicious meal of Dave's Place pizza will be provided!

**A memorial Mass Of the Holy Innocents** will be held for the diocese at the John XXIII Center in Lincoln for those who have lost a child through miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death or abortion will be held. All are invited Thurs. December 28, 2023 at 6:45 p.m. Reading of Names 7:00p.m. Mass New names may be submitted by calling the banner. Call Family Life Office at 402-473-0620 before 5pm on Dec. 21st All names will be permanently placed.

**We Have To Choose:** Many have lost a measure of joy in life. Sometimes it is the weight of life itself—disappointments, regrets for wrong words or choices, grief at the loss of a loved one, unremitting loneliness, unhealed scars, an aging body, or just plain tiredness of living. Gaudeamus Weekend is a good time to renew and reconnect with the source of our hope and joy. There are two kinds of joy. The first is a natural joy that comes and goes according to the situation. It is dependent on externals. Some, out of their own emptiness, insist that others (or society or circumstances) must make them happy. Natural joy is often moody because there is no sure and true anchor. On the other hand, there is another kind of joy. It is a supernatural joyfulness that is pervasive and lasting. In its essence, it is joy in the Lord. It gives an entirely new coloring to life. We begin to perceive everything in a completely new light. This kind of joy does not come and go with our mood, nor is it

dependent on others. Because this supernatural joy is neither self-referential nor self-absorbed, it discovers wonderful sources of joy. We find joy in being grateful to our good and gracious God, and in His bottomless love for us. We find joy in our prayer in whatever form it takes. We find joy for opportunities for repentance, for healing, and for forgiveness. We find joy in the gift of ourselves through service to family or others. We find joy in goodness, truth, and beauty. Most of all, in this Advent season, we find joy in kneeling in prayer awaiting the Child Jesus. The mystery is that we do not need to wait for joy to come in the morning. The secret is that joy must be chosen. Despite circumstances, even amidst struggles, setbacks, disappointments, or sadness, we must trust in God, and then choose joy. It is joy in the Lord, who is our rock, our shepherd, and lover of our soul. It is the saints who found great joy because they knew Jesus. St. Paul suffered greatly in his ministry, but he never lost his joy because he had discovered the source of all joy—that of Christ Jesus Himself. When joy is chosen, it is a gift received but must be passed on to others. Clinging to joy for ourselves alone becomes like sand slipping through our fingers. Choosing joy connects us to hidden aquifers of grace. Wellsprings of the joy of the Holy Spirit begin to overflow from within our souls. Joy in the Lord, mixed with repentant humility and unshakeable peace, will touch countless people around us. As Paul reminds us, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near” (Phil 4:4-5). Indeed, joyfully, He is very near.-- author unknown.

**What should you do** if you encounter a situation which keeps you from fulfilling your Sunday obligation? Every attempt should be made to take part in the Liturgy of the Word through reading or listening to the Mass readings in your home. Spend time in prayer. Pray specifically for all those who are also unable to attend Mass. Make a Spiritual Communion. Observe the day of rest and avoid all unnecessary work.

**Thank you to** all who participated in the Spaghetti Meal Takeout and to Belle Soto and Alice Robinson who helped to make it possible.

**For your Prayers +Clayton Anderson +Vickie Novak +Christopher Beckius ill-Sylvia Prather, ill-Gene Johnston**

## Questions to ask oneself for an Examination of Conscience

Have I sinned against Religion by seriously believing in New Age, Scientology, Astrology, Horoscopes, Fortune-telling, Superstition or engaging in the Occult? Have fame, fortune, money, career, pleasure, etc. replaced God as my highest priority? Have I neglected my daily prayers? Have I committed blasphemy by using the name of God and Jesus Christ to swear rather than to praise? Have I committed sacrilege by showing disrespect to holy objects (crucifix, rosary) or contempt for religious persons (bishop, priests, deacons, women religious) or for sacred places (in Church). Have I committed sacrilege by going to Holy Communion in the state of mortal sin without first going to confession e.g., after missing Mass on Sunday or a Holyday? Did I violate the one-hour fast before Communion? Did I miss Mass on any Sunday or Holyday of Obligation? (Bad weather and being sick do not count) Did I do unnecessary work on Sunday which could have been done the day before? Have I been stingy in my support for the Church? Do I give of my time & talent? Do I witness a desire to be at peace with God and neighbor? Have I set a bad example for my children by casually missing Mass, neglecting prayer, or ignore my responsibility to instruct at home or provide a Catholic education by either sending my children to parochial school or to C.C.D. Do I show little or no interest in my children's faith and practice of it? Have I showed disrespect for those in authority, government or church? Have I become rigid or lax putting my beliefs of more importance than what the Church requires or teaches? Do I judge others by acting like a policeman for the faith? Did I consent, recommend, advise, approve, support or have an abortion? Did I realize that there is an excommunication for anyone who procures an abortion? Did I actively or passively cooperate with an act of euthanasia whereby ordinary means were stopped or means taken to directly end the life of an elderly or sick person? Have I committed an act of violence or abuse (physical, sexual, emotional or

verbal)? Have I endangered the lives of others by reckless driving or by driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol? Do I show contempt for my body by neglecting to take care of my own health? Have I been mean or unjust to anyone? Have I held a grudge or sought revenge against someone who I felt wronged me? Do I complain more than I compliment? Am I ungrateful for what other people do for me? Do I tear people down rather than encourage them? Do I seek to be the center of attention? Did I have any sex before or outside of marriage? Do I view pornographic material (magazines, videos, internet, hot-lines)? Did I commit the sins of masturbation and/or artificial contraception? Have I not avoided the occasions of sin (persons or places) which would tempt me to be unfaithful to my spouse or to my own chastity? Do I encourage and entertain impure thoughts and desires? Do I tell or listen to dirty jokes? Have I committed fornication or adultery? Have I stolen any object, committed any shoplifting or cheated anyone of their money? Did I knowingly deceive someone in business or commit fraud? Have I shown disrespect or even contempt for other people's property? Have I done any acts of vandalism? Am I greedy or envious of another's goods? Do I let financial and material concerns or the desire for comfort override my duty to God, to Church, to my family or my own spiritual well-being? Have I told a lie in order to deceive someone? Have I told the truth with the purpose and intention of ruining someone's reputation (sin of detraction)? Have I told a lie or spread rumors which may ruin someone's reputation (sin of calumny or slander)? Am I a busybody or do I love to spread gossip and secrets about others? Do I love to hear bad news about my enemies?

Act of Contrition: O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of Heaven and fear the pains of hell, but most of all, because they offend Thee, my God, who art all good and worthy of all my love. I firmly intend with the help of Thy grace to confess my sins, to do penance and to amend my life. AMEN

