



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

ST. ELIZABETH

ANN SETON

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Fr. Rand Langhorst
 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 29, 2024: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

<i>Mass Intentions</i>		
Monday 12/30	8:00 am	Bishop Scott Bullock
Tuesday Solemnity of Mary Vigil 12/31	7:00 am 5:00 pm	+William & Francis Whistler Missa pro Populo
Wednesday Solemnity of Mary 1/1	10:00 am	+Tyler Behm
Thursday 1/2	No Mass	
Friday 1/3	5:30 pm	Jacques Daniel Family
Saturday 1/4	8:00 am 5:00 pm	+Albert & Lucille Malsbury Missa Pro populo
Sunday 1/5	10:00 am	Liv/Dec KC Members

LITURGICAL MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS January 4-5, 2025 (The Epiphany of the Lord)

	Saturday 5:00pm	Sunday 10:00am
Lector/Reader	Jim Nisley	Cindy Swanson
Acolyte	Derek Miller	Ron Tejral
Server	Luke Miller	Johnathan Birulkin
	Nathan Miller	Jacob Birulkin
Music	Monica Mordja	Choir
Gifts	Volunteer – Ask Ushers	Volunteer
Ushers	David Gross	Volunteer

**Stewardship: December 22, 2024 Adult \$5582.00 Maintenance \$20.00
 Christmas Flowers \$20.00 Contemplative Sisters \$20.00 Advent Challenge \$780.00
 Christmas \$3914.00**

The 3rd Annual Walk for Life Gala, a fundraiser for Nebraska Right to Life, will be held the night before the annual Walk for Life. Come join your fellow pro-lifers for either or both. Speaking at the Gala will be Jim Caviezel, the actor who portrayed Jesus in “Passion of the Christ” and most recently starred in the movie “Sound of Freedom.” Tickets for the Gala, which will be at the Embassy Suites Convention Center, LaVista on Friday, January 31, 2025, are \$75, and can be purchased online at nebraskarighttolife.ticketspice.com/2025, or send a check made out to Nebraska Right to Life (noting it is for Gala), PO Box 80410, Lincoln, NE 68501-0410. Registration deadline is January 17 (no ticket sales after this date). The Nebraska Walk for Life is on February 1 with a Pro-Life Mass (sponsored by Nebraska Catholic Conference) at 9 AM Mass at Lincoln Saint Mary’s Church (Downtown), and then the Walk begins on the North steps of the State Capitol at 10:00 a.m. A new route this year will be taking us to the Cornhusker Hotel where you can browse informational booths and hear speaker Elizabeth Gillette’s keynote speech at 11:30 a.m. For questions, contact Nebraska Right to Life, 402-438-4802, nebraskartl@gmail.com.

“Once there was a boy who wanted to meet God’s mother. He thought it would be a long trip to where she lived; so he packed his suitcase with plenty of Twinkies snack cakes and a six-pack of root beer, and he began his journey. After he had gone just three blocks, he met an elderly woman. She was sitting on a bench in the park just staring at some pigeons. The boy decided to sit next to her for a while. He noticed that she looked hungry; so he took out one of the snack cakes from his suitcase and offered her one. The woman gratefully accepted it and then gave him a big smile. The boy liked her smile so much that he wanted to see it again; so then he reached into his suitcase and offered her a can of root beer. Once again she smiled at him. They ended up sitting together in the park all afternoon. As it grew dark, the boy decided that it was time to leave. He stood up and began to walk away; but, after just a few steps, he stopped, turned around, and ran back to the woman and gave her a hug. She then gave him her biggest smile yet. When the boy returned to his house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. It was an expression of joy that she had not seen in a long time. She asked him, ‘What did you do today that made you so happy?’ He replied, ‘I had lunch with God’s mother. . . You know what? She has the most beautiful smile I have ever seen!’ Meanwhile, the woman also

returned to her home. Her son was stunned by the look of joy and peace on her face when she came through the door; so he asked her, ‘Mother, what did you do today that made you so happy?’ She replied, ‘I had lunch in the park with God . . . You know, he’s much younger than I expected!’” (adapted from “I Had Lunch With God,” I Had Lunch With God, p. 9).

A Card collection box for a Catholic Daughters Project is in the narthex. It is to collect Christmas card fronts. The box will be picked up at the end of January.

A reminder there will be no Adoration on Wednesday, January 1. Please note also that church doors will be locked on Jan 1 after Mass.

MARIAN CAMP 2025: June 24-27 at Camp Kateri Tekakwitha in McCool Junction. Counselors: girls entering grades 11th and up. Campers: girls entering grades 6th-9th. Registration fills up fast! Financial Aid Applications through December 23rd. Registration at www.mariansisters.org/marian-camp.html

Starting Jan. 8 (Wednesdays), the Emmaus Institute is teaching a five-week course on our Blessed Mother, titled The Mother of the Word: A Biblical Study of Mary. Discover how the Old and New Testaments reveal the person and mission of Mary. Register at www.EmmausInstitute.net.

Marriage Encounter Weekends: Learn how to love your spouse by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on: Feb. 14-16, 2025, Lincoln, NE; Aug. 8-10, 2025, Littleton, CO. For questions, feel free to contact: Brenda & Gary Granger: 402-370-5839. For more info about Worldwide Marriage Encounter, visit www.wwme.org

All Parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend our Parish celebration on St. Elizabeth Ann Seton’s Feast Day, Saturday, January 4. Immediately after the 5:00pm Mass, we will have a potluck meal in the Parish Hall with fried chicken, drinks, and table service provided by the Daughters of Charity. The remainder of the meal will be pot luck, with those attending being asking to bring a side dish, dessert, or both. This is a time to deepen our ties as a spiritual family and for fellowship. Please mark your calendars to attend.

The Epiphany blessing is a Christian tradition that involves writing a special marking on the doors of a home to bless it: The marking: The letters C, M, and

B are written above the entrance to the home, along with the current year. For example, in 2025, the marking would be "20+C+M+B+25". The letters: The letters stand for the names of the three Magi, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, who visited Jesus after his birth. They also represent the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means "May Christ bless this house". The numbers at the beginning and end of the marking represent the year. The plus signs: The plus signs represent the cross. The traditional date of Epiphany is January 6, but in the United States it is celebrated on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8. For use at home: *When all have gathered, a suitable song may be sung. The leader makes the sign of the cross, and all reply, "Amen."* *The leader greets those present in the following words:* Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and homes with peace. Blessed be God forever. R/. Blessed be God forever. *In the following or similar words, the leader prepares those present for the blessing:* The Word became flesh and made his dwelling place among us. It is Christ who enlightens our hearts and homes with his love. May all who enter this home find Christ's light and love. *One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, Luke 19:1-9:* Listen to the words of the holy Gospel according to Luke: Jesus came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way.> When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." And he came down quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner." But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over." And Jesus said to him, "Today

salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham." *The intercessions are then said:* Leader: The Son of God made his home among us. With thanks and praise let us call upon him. R/. Stay with us, Lord. Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, with Mary and Joseph you formed the Holy Family: remain in our home, that we may know you as our guest and honor you as our Head. We pray: R/. Stay with us, Lord. Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, you had no place to lay your head, but in the spirit of poverty accepted the hospitality of your friends: grant that through our help the homeless may obtain proper housing. We pray: R/. Stay with us, Lord. Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, the three kings presented their gifts to you in praise and Adoration: grant that those living in this house may use their talents and abilities to your greater glory. We pray: R/. Stay with us, Lord. *After the intercessions the leader invites all present to say the Lord's Prayer. The leader says the prayer of blessing with hands joined:* Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill them (us) with the light of Christ, that their (our) concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. R/. Amen. *The leader concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross and saying:* May Christ Jesus dwell with us, keep us from all harm, and make us one in mind and heart, now and forever. R/. Amen. *It is preferable to end the celebration with a suitable song, for example, "O Come, All Ye Faithful" or "We Three Kings."*

KC sponsored 5th Sunday Rosary will be December 29 at 6 pm. All parishioners are invited. Refreshments afterwards.

All parish donations must be received before December 31 to be included on the year end statement for tax purposes.

FOR THOSE 70 ½ OR OLDER: A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) can come directly from an IRA or from a traditional or Roth IRA. A QCD may satisfy the required minimum distribution, and up to \$105,000 of QCDs may be excluded annually from an individual's taxable income. Consider talking to your financial advisor about donating your IRA distributions to a charity, such as St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church.

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is a liturgical celebration observed on January 1st. It is a Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics, meaning that Mass attendance is required. The use of the word "Solemnity" here is a designation used for certain days within the liturgical (church-based) calendar of the Church. Solemnities are the highest rank of liturgical celebration, higher than feast days or memorials. By celebrating a solemnity dedicated to Mary's motherhood, the Church highlights the significance of her part in the life of Jesus, and emphasizes that He is both human and divine. Jesus' nature as both and equally human and divine is something we may take for granted today. But back in the early days of the church, this dogma of our faith was hotly debated. In 431 A.D. during the Council of Ephesus, the title of "Mary Mother of God," in Greek "Theotokus," was defended and defined against the heresy of Nestorius. Nestorius, Bishop of Constantinople, refuted the title of "Theotokus" claiming that Christ had two loosely united natures, and therefore, Mary was only the mother of the human part of Him. Catholic theologians rejected this claim, and defined that Christ indeed has two natures, a divine nature and a human nature definitely united in one divine person, and since Christ's two natures form one single person, Mary is the mother of the whole Person of Christ. Therefore, Mary can be properly called "Mother of God," not in the sense that she came before God or is the source of God, but in the sense that the Person that she bore in her womb is indeed true God and true man. The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God falls exactly one week after Christmas, the end of the octave of Christmas. It is

fitting to honor Mary as Mother of Jesus, following the birth of Christ. When Catholics celebrate the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God we are not only honoring Mary, who was chosen among all women throughout history to bear God incarnate, but we are also honoring our Lord, who is fully God and fully human. Calling Mary "mother of God" is the highest honor we can give Mary. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the "Prince of Peace," the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God honors Mary as the "Queen of Peace." Pope Paul VI, in his apostolic exhortation *Marialis Cultus* (1974), called the Solemnity of Mary "a fitting occasion for renewing Adoration of the newborn Prince of Peace, for listening once more to the glad tidings of the angels (cf. Lk 2:14), and for imploring from God, through the Queen of Peace, the supreme gift of peace."-- from Divine Mercy parish, Kennar LA

Thank you to all who sent cards and kindnesses to me for Christmas and the New Year—all will be kept in prayer for your own needs. —Fr. Rand

Thank you to all who supplied talents and times for our Christmas Masses—God will never be outdone in generosity to those who offered their gifts and prayers to the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Those participating in the Advent Angel Exchange of Prayers are reminded to reveal yourselves at the Fest Day party after Mass January 4 (or by a card mailed if you are unable to be present).

To those who supplied anonymously gift cards and certificates to those in need—please know that the recipients all expressed gratitude and appreciation and are praying for their benefactors.

Prayer Requests: Bob Snider (ill) Linda Maly (ill)
+Matthew Roehrs +Lorraine Jirovsky +Don Sluka