



# CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA

The Nativity of the Lord

December 25, 2016

Pastor: Rev. Loras Grell  
 Associate Pastor: Rev. David Azambawu  
 520 South 18<sup>th</sup> Street Plattsmouth, NE 68048  
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 Pastor's email: fathergrell@gmail.com

## PARISH WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

*ENTER THE MASS! You'll see Jesus!*

### Monday, December 26

8:00 a.m. +Beulah Kildare  
+Darwin Gammell

### Tuesday, December 27

8:00 a.m. +Stuart Meisinger  
+Michael & Margaret Traxinger

### Wednesday, December 28

8:00 a.m. +Ray Olberding  
9:30 a.m. (at Woodbridge) +Cecile Hoppe

### Thursday, December 29

8:00 a.m. +Shirley Miller Morehead  
+Richard Grell

### Friday, December 30

8:00 a.m. +Mary Olberding  
10:00 a.m. (at Golden Living) +George Miller

### Saturday, December 31

8:00 a.m. +Virgil Johnson  
5:00 p.m. +All Souls Day Intentions

**11:00 p.m.** People of the Parish

### Sunday, January 1

8:00 a.m. Special Intention for Shirley Hildebrand  
10:30 a.m. +Charles Schrieber  
**NO 5:00 p.m. MASS**

## CONFESSIONS:

Weekdays: 7:30 – 8:00AM  
Saturdays, 4 - 4:45PM  
Sundays, 45 - 15 min. before Mass

## Contributions for December 18, 2016

<b>General Collection at Mass</b>	<b>\$ 7,288.70</b>
<b>General Online Giving</b>	<b>\$ 2,062.00</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> collection (for teachers)	\$ 286.56
Debt Reduction	\$ 775.00
Debt Reduction Online Giving	\$ 125.00
Utilities	\$ 25.00
Flowers	\$ 225.00
Flowers Online Giving	\$ 50.00

**Prayer requests?** Please call 296-4404, or 296-3039, or email chsprayerchain@gmail.com

**Are you new to the parish?** ...Parish Registration Forms are in the Commons; bring or mail it in, or put it in the collection basket at Mass!

**To be on the Holy Hour of Adoration schedule, please leave a message for Sue at 296-5047.**

**Do you have a new address or phone number?** ...Please let us know at 296-3139.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

*May this Mass's blessing of God's Grace  
go home with you  
and long remain in your heart!*

**CDA sends a BIG "Thank you"** to all the families who donated to their "Hats, Gloves, and Scarves" drive. They collected 5 large 30-gal bags of items for the less fortunate!

### Next weekend's Mass schedule:

Dec31/Jan1 – "The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God" Masses:  
Dec.31: 5:00pm & 11:00pm; Jan 1: 8:00am & 10:30am, NO 5pm Mass

**This week's featured Seminarians:** Douglas Daro from David City, who entered seminary in 2011 and is now in Theology 3 at Mount St. Mary. **Also:** Rev. Mr. Jason Doherty from Lincoln, who entered seminary in 2008 and is now in Theology 4 at Mount St. Mary. We pray, too, for Adam Bohan from Plattsmouth, who entered seminary for the Society of Jesus in 2015. Please keep all our seminarians and sisters in formation in your prayers.

**Contributions** received next weekend (Dec.31/Jan1) will not be included on 2016's year-end statements, unless they are by check and dated 2016 or by cash in an envelope clearly marked 2016. Any checks dated 2017 and all other cash will be included on NEXT year's (2017's) year-end statements.

**Knights of Columbus** – Council 1966 / Pat Carroll GK (402) 296-4706

The Knights wish you a very, **Merry Christmas.**

**Knight's Christmas Party** – Sunday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> at the Beaver Lake clubhouse. The Knights will be serving beef, chicken and providing various drink options. This will be a potluck with side dishes, salads and desserts. We will be asking our Knights to sign up so we have an idea on the amounts to purchase.

**General Business Meeting** – Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM in SJR.

## Holy Spirit Catering Parish service events; great camaraderie!

### Upcoming Events:

Thursday, January 24, Wiles Brothers Dinner

Saturday, March 11, P.A.C.K. fundraiser

Saturday, March 18, C.A.S.A. Dinner

Saturday, March 25, Fire & Rescue / EMS

Thursday, March 30, Community Foundation

•Look for all Holy Spirit Catering events at SignupGenius.com,

•Click on 'Find a Sign Up' in the upper right.

•Search by email holyspiritcatering@gmail.com or you may call or text to volunteer: Laurie Hajek-Jones, 402-679-2457

**For Father David** Through the spring, My Neighbor's Closet is conducting a fundraiser for a solar fresh water well for Father David in Ghana. Any tax deductible donations to My Neighbor's Closet thrift store will be matched up to \$2,000. Any questions can be directed to Nadine Carlson, 402-570-8534.

**Church cleaning reminder:** For December 31 (at 9:00am): Reinsch, Retelsdorf, Rice, Rice, Rice, Rhoades, Richmeier, Riese, Roby, Roby

**HyVee & No Frills receipts** Please send in to the school, or put in the container in the Commons, any HyVee receipts dated September – December 2016; and No Frills receipts from any date 2016 onward. Our school will receive a percentage of the sales. That sounds easy! Thank you for your support!

## From the Pastor

**Our Year** 2016 was a year to remember, for me and for our parish and school. I celebrated my 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being ordained a priest. I continue to thank God for this sublime gift of serving Him. For me, 2016 started off with my sister being declared “cancer-free” by the UNMC medical staff. Our family was so grateful! The year also started off with the seemingly sudden death of my spiritual father, Msgr. Myron Pleskac. He had advised me on all things spiritual since 2000. \*\*\* The year was full, chock-full, of activities and blessings here at Church of the Holy Spirit and St. John the Baptist School. We ran successful spring and fall events in our goal of bringing to the community opportunities to raise funds, and have fun ☺, all together. We expanded our school extended care program, and it evolves still, promising success here at the end of the year. We educated a spectacle of precious children to greater knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and many secular subjects. We sent a group from our parish to a great pilgrimage of faith with Pope Francis in Krakow, Poland. We saw a large number of cherished parish and school staff retire; we interviewed and filled those positions with eager and qualified candidates. We held many a gathering devoted to strategic planning, and formed a better picture of who exactly we are as a parish and school and where we hope to go in the years to come. New web sites were launched. People served on committees who I had never asked to serve on committees, showing a step-up in faith for our community. We hosted Bishop Conley for Confirmation Mass in May, and showed him our tornado shelter in the basement of the school as a twister was way too close for comfort. We baptized children, brought adults into full communion with the Church, and held funerals for beloved departed members of our community. We mourned with Father David as he lost his mother in his native Ghana, and then lost a dear priest-friend from Ghana who was serving in Tucson, Arizona. We literally laughed and cried together. Finally, our great country held a general election, and we pray for those elected to serve us in these United States of America.

**Strategic Planning** I want to speak more to our Strategic Planning. This is truly fascinating work, and a whole crew of parish members and school families have devoted a lot of time to it. I am supremely grateful. We held an Open Forum on December 15, representing an ending to part of the process and a great beginning to months and years of continued efforts. I want to share with you here a brief synopsis of the Open Forum.

Minutes from the December 15, 2016 Open Forum meeting

This Strategic Planning Open Forum meeting was held on December 15, 2016, inside the church with the Blessed Sacrament removed from the tabernacle, as explained by Father Grell. The meeting started at 6:00pm with a prayer by Father Grell. About 40 parishioners, school families, and St. John the Baptist faculty staff were present. There was representation of Parish Council, Finance Council and School Advisory Council (School Board).

Eva Fujan, our Francis Fund consultant, introduced the evening with a short synopsis of the Strategic Planning thus far. She then moved on to discussing each of the five pillars, with the projects that the Implementation Teams of each has come up with. Eva asked for a

volunteer for each Implementation Team to present their projects, and each team had a member who, with confidence, presented his/her team’s projects. Those presenters were:

Sacred Catholic Foundation & Stewardship: Scott Koelzer  
Academic Excellence: Teresa Lewandowski  
Community & Communications: Jennifer Moss  
Student Enrichment: Sean Gillen  
Financial Sustainability: Travis Bourret

Questions were received, with answers given by Eva, Father Grell and Mrs. Monahan (school principal) throughout the presentation of projects. Examples were:

Are we comparative to basic standardized test scores?  
Can we have a database for church/school/alumni?  
What are the property costs?  
Could the Marketing person be full time?  
Does the listed per-student cost average in Pre-K?

Eva went over the most recent draft of the 5-year, break-even budget, which was handed out.

Much more could be said about the Open Forum. But let me lead into a glimpse of my thoughts by sharing...

**...what Pope Francis says about reform** As if to read my mind and heart, Pope Francis gave a talk on December 22 to the cardinals, monsignors, fathers, and lay faithful who work in the Vatican’s many congregations and offices. The leaders of these groups are collectively called the Roman Curia. What the Holy Father told this group seems to apply to the parish, particularly to us who are striving to plan strategically for our future. The Roman Curia is in constant need of reform; this is not a headline-grabber. It was the way Pope Francis phrased things that really struck a chord with me. As I print a portion of his words below, think not of Rome and the Church universal but of our parish and school.

*“All this is to say that the reform of the Curia [think “our parish and school”] is a delicate process that has to take place in fidelity to essentials, with constant discernment, evangelical courage and ecclesial wisdom, careful listening, persevering action, positive silence and firm decisions. It requires much prayer, profound humility, farsightedness, concrete steps forward and – whenever necessary – even with steps backward, with determination, vitality, responsible exercise of power, unconditioned obedience, but above all by abandonment to the sure guidance of the Holy Spirit and trust in his necessary support.”*

**Christmas Prayer** Finally, from the talk by Pope Francis on December 22, I want to quote Father Matta el Meskin, a monk of our time. Addressing the Lord Jesus born in Bethlehem, he said: *“Our world is weary and exhausted, because everyone is vying to see who is the greatest. There is a ruthless competition between governments, churches, peoples, within families, from one parish to another: Who of us is the greatest? But today we have found in you, O Son of God, our one medicine. We, and the whole world, will not find salvation or peace unless we go back to encounter you anew in the manger of Bethlehem. Amen.”*

**God Bless You!**

**Father Grell**