



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA

The Octave Day of Christmas; Solemnity of Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

January 1, 2017

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PARISH WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

ENTER THE MASS! Heaven on Earth!

Monday, January 2

8:00 a.m. +Rich Harter
 +Francisco Barrios

Tuesday, January 3

8:00 a.m. +Fowler Stevens
 +James S. Gochenour

Wednesday, January 4

8:10 a.m. Safety of babies in the womb
 9:30 a.m. (at Woodbridge) +Cecile Hoppe

Thursday, January 5

8:10 a.m. Special Intention for CK
 +George Miller

Friday, January 6

8:10 a.m. +Roland & Patricia Yost
 10:00 a.m. (at Golden Living) +Eloise Classen

Saturday, January 7

8:00 a.m. +Donald E. Reichart
 5:00 p.m. +Bob Gaeta

Sunday, January 8

8:00 a.m. People of the Parish
 10:30 a.m. +Ray Olberding
 5:00 p.m. + All Souls Day Intentions

CONFESSIONS:

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

Contributions for December 25, 2016

General Collection at Mass	\$	15,442.75
General Online Giving	\$	12,537.33
2 nd collection (for teachers)	\$	816.02
Debt Reduction	\$	4,820.00
Debt Reduction <i>Online Giving</i>	\$	155.00
Utilities	\$	145.00
Utilities <i>Online Giving</i>	\$	20.00
Flowers	\$	60.00
So. Neb. Register <i>Online Giving</i>	\$	3.00

This week's featured Seminarians: Luke Fleck from Lincoln, who entered seminary in 2010 and is now in Theology 3 at St. Charles Borromeo. **Also:** Robert Froeschl from Falls City, who entered seminary in 2014 and is now in Theology 1 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.

Soup Supper March for Life students will be hosting a Soup Supper Fundraiser from 4:00-7:00pm on Sunday, January 8th. 100% of proceeds go directly to each student attending the March for Life in Washington DC.

Nebraska Annual Walk for Life in Lincoln is a couple of weeks earlier than normal this year: January 14. Our daily Mass here at CHS will conclude in time for people to meet in the Commons at 8:30, in case anyone will be looking to carpool. The Walk begins at 10:00, on the north side of the State Capitol. This is a great and visible way to show Pro-Life!



Wednesday, January 4 School resumes for St. John the Baptist School. See you then! Parent/Teacher conferences: January 11(4-7pm) & 12 (12-7pm)

Some Upcoming dates:

January 8 – Epiphany of the Lord – blessed chalk and home blessing day
 January 8 – Soup Supper in the gym, fundraiser - March for Life trip
 January 14 – Walk for Life in Lincoln 10:00am
 Jan 29 - Feb 4 – Catholic Schools Week

Knights of Columbus – Council 1966 / Pat Carroll GK (402) 296-4706
Happy New Year from the local Council 1966.

Knights' Christmas Party – Sunday, Jan. 8th 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. Please sign up in the Commons after Mass or respond to Mike Vaughn's emails.

General Business Meeting – Thursday, January 12th, 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

Church cleaning reminder: For January 7 (at 9:00am): Rodis, Rogge, Rohan, Rolfson, Roloff, Rose, Rotter, Rozier, Rubin

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!

Instead of re-gifting, stockpiling or throwing out unwanted items this Christmas season, consider donating them to the Spring Dinner committee to use as auction items! This includes gift cards!

My Neighbor's Closet Thrift Store's free bag 'sale': During January, each family may fill a bag from the store for free! Hours are 10am-2pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

Bishop Conley will celebrate the annual Red Mass, to pray for judges, lawyers, paralegals, law students, and all who work in the legal profession, on Monday, January 16, 2017, 7:00am at St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center, Lincoln. A breakfast will follow Mass, with a talk given by Daniel Ali, a Muslim-Catholic convert and author of "Inside Islam." All are invited.

From the Pastor

My Christmas I am so blessed in this, my 21st Christmas as a priest. One of our “rookie pastors” in the Diocese, Father Tom Schultes, was an example to me as he served the people in my former parishes in Lawrence and Deweese. He was immersed in the grandeur of being a shepherd of his people in his first Christmas since being named a pastor in June of last year. His example dispersed over the miles to me, lifting my heart to heights of blessedness in being with you, with my being a shepherd to you, my people. Thank you for being my people, for otherwise I would have no one to be shepherd to!

Prayers and Cards My rectory walls in the office area are lined with dozens of cards received from parish members, family, and friends. I have not even had a chance to read them all or to recollect myself with all of the prayers and gifts showered upon me. Please know of my gratitude, and that I will indeed soon read and reflect upon each card, each thought and prayer which you have directed my way. I am well-loved, and blessed by your goodness!

Grell Christmas My Mom and Dad, my brother, and I gathered at Mary and Bob’s home in Lincoln, with Will their son helping to host. Rudy the beagle was also a familiar part of our celebration! The great blessing on this angle of our Grell gathering was, of course, Mary’s much-improved health over a year ago. On December 22, she had surgery to remove the port line through which the chemotherapy had been administered to her in 2015. We all felt so remarkably more complete to have Mary, our dear sis and my parents’ daughter, feeling much more herself compared to last year. *** We met on Christmas Monday, the second day of the Octave of Christmas. It was great timing, in hindsight, because the ferocious winds and rain of Christmas Day would have made us a bit nervous to be out and about. *** William at one point was frustrated with handing out gifts from under the Christmas Tree. But Uncle Mark gently reminded him that our custom is the youngest in the family hands out the gifts. So 13-year old Will acceded to our family tradition. I received several books, which I am already starting to read. *** I was Mom and Dad’s chauffeur back to Beatrice, where I was overjoyed to see my home parish decked out in its familiar Christmas décor.

Our Christmas Church of the Holy Spirit celebrated Christmas Day well. I guestimated our attendance at the four parish Masses based upon the number of Holy Communion Hosts which were received by the faithful. I then added smaller children plus those not in communion with our Catholic faith, and I came up with approximately 700 people passing through our doors. I had made the decision to have holy Mass During the Night (i.e. Midnight Mass) at 11:00p.m., and I am happy to report that more people were in attendance than at our past three years’ Midnight Masses at 12:00 midnight. With our Christmas custom of belief that Baby Jesus was born at midnight, having Holy Mass at 11:00 p.m. fulfilled our devout hearts of being in church at the hour He was born. We also rang out the church bells at the conclusion of the 11:00 p.m. Mass, so as to

announce our joy from our beautiful setting here “on the hill” of Plattsmouth town. *** Such a beauty shone forth from our sanctuary, our Commons area, our beautiful grounds. It seemed fitting that the rainy winds came through at about the time when otherwise the 5:00 Mass on Sunday would have been celebrated; everyone had already attended an earlier Mass and could stay at home during the storm. *** I took a number of pictures of the after-Mass people congregating in the Commons area. I hope to place these on facebook or in some other form to share with you.

My Christmas Homily I was inspired to include two basic movements to my homily. One was borrowed from a recent movie, “Arrival”, starring Amy Adams and Jeremy Renner. When alien spaceships hover over planet Earth in 12 different locations, Adams’ character states something like, “Everything changed the day they arrived.” I likened this to how everything has changed since the Lord Jesus arrived at Christmas (I hope no one took me to imply that Jesus was somehow an alien, although the Lord God taking on human flesh is more startling and mind-boggling than any Hollywood blockbuster could ever hope to portray). The second movement of my homily was a conversation that the great Scripture scholar, St. Jerome, had with Jesus on Christmas Eve. Jesus wanted to know what Jerome would give Him for Christmas. Jerome suggested his scholarly translation of the Bible, or his possessions, or many penances. Jesus would have none of these, instead stating, “Jerome, give me your sins.” I proposed that this is what Jesus wants from each of us, that the past of our imperfections and sinful decisions be given over to Him so that our Christmas may become a profound remembrance of Jesus’ entry into the world.

Year-End Donations As you can see on page 1 of this bulletin, my call for year-end donations has received a great response. I thank you. Truly, our financial resources are difficult to entrust over to the use of the Lord. What we give to Him shows that we trust His Providence to provide for our family’s needs.

Hope for 2017 A random “man-on-the-street” was on a video I saw after hearing that Carrie Fisher (Princess Leia of Star Wars fame) had died. He said something like, “Man, 2016 has been so hard, I know that 2017 will be better.” Indeed, I agree, and I would put forth to you, dear reader, that as much as we allow in 2017 to let the Lord increase while we decrease, it will be a beautiful year of grace. Similarly, our motto for the New Year should imitate St. Paul, who says, “It is now not I who live, but Christ Jesus who lives in me.” How can we go wrong with this attitude? Happy New Year, 2017!!!

Walk for Life The Nebraska Walk for Life sneaks up on us this year, scheduled for January 14, as found on page one of this bulletin. With the Presidential Inauguration set for a *Friday*, January 20 (as always), it moves the time frames planned for the Washington DC March for Life, and therefore the Nebraska Walk for Life. Please set your calendars, quickly, to Walk for Life in the State Capitol of Lincoln on January 14!

God Bless You!

Father Grell