

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mother Mary Immaculate, our patron, pray for us!

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass: Saturday 6:30 p.m.; Sunday 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

Weekday Mass: Mon-Fri 6:20 a.m.; Mon-Sat 8:00 a.m.

Holy Day Mass: See bulletin, website & Facebook group page

Confession: Saturday: 4-5 p.m.; Sunday: 20 minutes before 8 & 10 a.m. Mass; 1st Saturday 7-8 a.m.; or by appointment with priest

Eucharistic Adoration (in church): Mon thru Fri between 6:20 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. Mass.

Eucharistic Adoration (St. Mary Hospital Chapel): Mon 6:00 a.m. to Thu 11:59 p.m.

(Call/Text Janie Ebmeier, jstukenholtz@hotmail.com, 402-450-1993 or Brooke Chaney, brooke-chaney@cdolinc.net, 402-209-1965)

Devotions: Rosary 30 mins before Mass; *Flame of Love Rosary* Cenacle Thu at 1:30 p.m.

1st Friday devotions at 7:25 a.m.; 1st Saturday devotions at 7:15 a.m. (led by Legion of Mary)

New parents should contact the rectory for **Baptism** – a class may be required before Baptism.

Engaged couples **planning to get married** in our parish need to contact the rectory at least 6 months in advance of your preferred wedding date. Contact a priest for **Confession** and/or especially **Sacrament of the Sick** when you or a loved one are preparing for a medical procedure or are seriously ill.

Sacrament of the Sick is not only for those nearing the end of their life.

Diocesan Retreats (Waverly): **OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL RETREAT HOUSE:** 402-786-2705; www.goodcounselretreat.org; office@olgcretreat.org

Pastor: *Rev. Thomas J. Schultes* **Associate Pastor:** *Rev. Jonah A. Brox*

In Residence (Chief Administrative Officer of Lourdes School): *Rev. Jonathan J. Haschke*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025: FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Weekly Highlight: (1) Holy Christmas greetings from your three resident priests – thanks again this year for your gifts of food, kind words, and other treasures! (2) Thanks to all who purchased poinsettias and other altar flowers – see separate sheet listing memorial names near bulletins. (3) Most importantly, thanks to so many who assisted with our church and liturgy preparation and Masses of the Nativity! Thanks to our decorators, cleaners, lectors/readers, acolytes, altar servers, seminarians, ushers/greeters, choirs/cantors/organists/musicians, maintenance helpers, children's posada leaders/participants, baby Jesus Nativity placement volunteers, angel tree coordinators/participants, and any others who helped tidy up, helped someone find a seat, or greeted them with a Christmas smile! Christmas Season continues until Jan 1 (Christmas octave completion), Jan 4 (Epiphany), Jan 11 (Baptism of Jesus), or Feb 2 (Presentation in the Temple/40 days after Christmas), depending on your customs. Lent begins on Wed Feb 18. *Thanks for your continued attention & devotion! ~ Father Schultes*

1: WE PRAY AND WORSHIP TOGETHER! (Mark 12:30)

NEXT WEEK MASS SCHEDULE/PRIEST INTENTIONS & NEXT WEEKEND LITURGY HELPERS

	6:20 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
Monday	Kermit & Joan Durr+	Charles Moore+ (Anniv.)	
Tuesday	Sr. Veronica+ & Family	Doug Gibson+	
Wednesday	Randy Fox+	Kent & Cindy McGinnis Family	6:30 p.m. People of the Parish
Thursday	NO MASS	NO MASS	9:00 a.m. Louise Weigle+ (Anniv.)
Friday	Oscar & Agnes Heng+	Mary Jo Olmer+	
Saturday		Marv Giittinger+	6:30 p.m. Viola Snyder+
Sunday		Melvin, Rita, Gerald Carlstedt+	10:00 a.m. People of the Parish

	<u>Jan. 3-4, 2026:</u>		
	<u>Sat 6:30 p.m.</u>	<u>Sun 8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>Sun 10:00 a.m.</u>
USHERS/ GREETERS	Volunteers (Sign-up Sheets)	Volunteers (Sign-up Sheets)	Volunteers (Sign-up Sheets)
LECTORS	Volunteers (Sign-up Sheets)	Volunteers (Sign-up Sheets)	Volunteers (Sign-up Sheets)
ACOLYTES	Volunteers (Sign-up Sheets)	Volunteers (Sign-up Sheets)	Volunteers (Sign-up Sheets)
SERVERS	Volunteers (Sign-up Sheets)	Volunteers (Sign-up Sheets)	Volunteers (Sign-up Sheets)

PRAY FOR parish seminarians Colter Fulton & Joseph Whitney; parish missionaries Joe Allen & Libby (Fulton) Callen; parish permanent diaconate candidate Dan DeFreece (and wife Kay); Deacon Bradley Moss; Seminarians Jacob Knutson and Dominic Jasti; Sr. Gabriel Perry, and an increase in vocations to priesthood, religious life, & Jesus-centered marriages! *From our prayer chain*, continue praying for: native son Father John Cooper, Ryan Scharp, Phil Timothy, Renee Stehlik and all the sick, homebound, hospitalized, those in nursing homes and in our Book of Intentions. *To add names to this prayer list, call the parish office.* Due to privacy, the person must grant their permission for their name to be in the bulletin. Thanks for your prayers. **If seriously ill or hospitalized and would like a visit from our priests, contact the parish office.** St. Mary Church Prayer Chain: prayerchainstm@gmail.com

WEEKLY FLAME OF LOVE ROSARY at Franciscan Sisters Convent will be held Tue Dec 30, but not on Tue Jan 6. Back to normal Jan 13.

SIGN-UP SHEETS FOR DEC 31/JAN 1, JAN 3/4 MASSES for lectors, acolytes, greeters/ushers, and altar servers on table in church entryway.

SOLEMNITY OF "MARY, MOTHER OF GOD" JAN 1 HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION MASS TIMES: Wed Dec 31 at 6:30 p.m.; Thu Jan 1 9:00 a.m. – no 6:20 a.m. or 8:00 a.m. Mass, nor morning Exposition Adoration on Thu Jan 1.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL ADORATION resumes Mon Jan 5, 2026 at 6:00 a.m. Adorer Needed for Tue 1:00 p.m. to replace Sr. Ana Maria.

2: WE SERVE EACH OTHER! (Matthew 23:11)

SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS (LECTORS, ACOLYTES, EMHC, ETC): Again this January, starting Jan 1, 2026, ALL clergy, religious, lay employees, and volunteers (whose duties include contact with minors and other vulnerable individuals) will be required to complete the CMG Connect Safe Environment training renewal in January of 2026. Those that are current on background checks are NOT required to complete a new background check in January of 2026 (those are okay for five years). <https://www.lincolndiocese.org/news/diocesan-news/18204-safe-environment-recertification-streamlined> The website for renewing your training: https://lincoln.cmgconnect.org/users/sign_in

CHURCH CLEANERS (immediately after Sat 8:00 a.m. Mass): **Jan. 3:** Larry & Debbie Lance, Doug Wichman, Richard Wichman, John & Brielle Langley, Janelle Lechner, Juli Lechner, Ronald & Katherine Lechner, Tim & Tamara Levins, Jeff Lollmann, Linda Lollmann, Mike & Natasha Lollmann. **Jan. 10:** Don & Jackie Loseke, Mark Loseke, Amy Lucas, Dan & Jean Lucas, Randy & Gail Walford, Jane Lutz, Kelly & Sue Madden, Mark & Jennifer Madison, Paul & Angie Madison, Jennifer Marolf. **Jan. 17:** Lu Marcotte, Clint & Lori Martin, Rita Mathews, Derek & Taylor McGinnis, Kent & Cindy McGinnis, Kylan McGinnis, Jason & Molly McNeely, Shawn & Randi Meade, Brett & Emily Meyer, Tom & Cindy Mick. **If unable to clean when assigned, families/individuals are responsible for finding a replacement or contacting and paying \$20 for a sub.** Substitutes: Mary Mills 873-6247; Sharon Crunk 873-4568; Julia Russell 209-2340; Sharon Heng 873-5105; Kris Chaney 209-1186; Loretta Kubik 984-5646. (Entire current quarterly schedule on bulletin board, in weekly Flocknote bulletin email, and on Facebook page.)

DINNER FOR OUR PRIESTS: Dec. 29: Kelly Bequette, Jan 3: Jacque Borer; Jan 5: Beth Box; Jan 7: Megan Brehm, Jan 10: Maureen Chance; Jan 12: Kris Chaney; Jan 14: Kay DeFreece; Jan 17: Janie Ebmeier; Jan 19: Jeanette Eilers; Jan 21: Carol Elworth; Jan 24: Mary Farris, Jan 26: Judy Francois; Jan 28: Lana Gilson. Please bring dinner between 5:30-6:00 p.m. If you do not use disposable dishes, please put your name on the dishes and pick them up in the church hall. It is preferred that meals be taken to the back door of the rectory. If priests are not home, please put meals in the refrigerator. Questions/to volunteer, call Donna Murphy, 402-639-0397. If you are unable to take a meal on your scheduled day, please find a replacement, donate a gift card, or order a meal to be delivered to the rectory. Thank you.

3: WE ARE IN COMMUNITY TOGETHER! (Matthew 18:20)

WELCOME visitors & guests!

If you have moved to Nebraska City, please stop by, or call the parish office to register.

Parish Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 9:00-11:00 a.m. & 1:30-4:00 p.m.

PARISH OFFICE LIMITED HOURS: Hours will be mornings following daily Mass to 11:30 a.m. on Mon, Wed, and Fri. Emails and phone messages will be monitored and responded to as soon as possible. You may also leave a message for the priests at 402-873-3024.

Telephone: 402-873-3024 **Mailing Address:** 218 N. 6th St., Nebraska City, NE 68410

Website: stmarysnebraskacity.com **Facebook Group Page:** "St. Mary's Catholic Church, Nebraska City, NE"

Cemetery Database included here: <https://www.windyprairie.com>

BULLETIN NOTICES: Submit by **Mon at 11:00 a.m.** in writing either by e-mail to stmbulletin@windstream.net (preferred) or to the parish office.

Parish Corporate Trustees: Colin Albers & Mary Mills

Parish/Finance Council: Loretta Kubik, Emma Rettig, Kent Schreiner (thru 2026); Beth Box, Lynn Heng, Jenny Kearney (thru 2027);

John Langley, Lu Marcotte, Hope Weninger (thru 2028); Jason Esser, Mary Mills, Ed Stukenholtz, Pam Boes (annual organization reps)

Cemetery Board: Tom Gude, Tyler Gude, Jeff Lollmann, Dave Ramold, Kevin Rettig, Mike Riege,

Ed Stukenholtz, Frank Volkmer, Linda Willson.

Knights of Columbus Grand Knight (Council 3152): Matthew Nienaber; **Catholic Daughters of Americas Regent (Court Emmanuel 1122):** Julie Volkmer

PARISH FANTASY FOOTBALL: Super Bowl Halftime score: 4 seed The Wild Boppers lead 3 seed No Chance Lance 218.53 to 168.9.

PRIEST WHEREABOUTS: Father Brox will be at the FOCUS SEEK conference with Lourdes students and chaperones Jan 1 thru Jan 6.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS' MONTHLY GATHERING TUE JAN 6: 6:30 p.m. in church hall – will be judging the CD Education contest entries.

CCD RESUMES WED JAN 7 at 5:30 p.m. for grades 1-8. High school resumes Sun Jan 11 from 7-8 p.m. – all at St. Benedict.

OCIA RESUMES THU JAN 8: It moves from St. Benedict Abbey to St. Mary Church Hall for spring semester from 6:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

"YES, SOUP FOR YOU!" St Mary's Soup supper is **Sun Jan 25, 2026 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm.** We welcome monetary donations for the making of the soup – drop envelope in the offertory marked "Soup Supper Donation." We are still looking for people to donate baskets full of fun items for our raffle that night – contact Sally DuBois 402-209-0789. Volunteer sign-up sheets will be out after the 1st of the year.

4: WE SHARE GOD'S GIFTS TO US! (Prov 3:9)

"STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE" – MY RETURN TO THE LORD *Thanks for your generous support of our parish and its apostolates.*

Dec. 21: Adult Env.: \$21,025.00; **Loose:** \$129.75; **Online:** \$4,640.00; **IRA:** \$8,200.00; **Sol. of Mary:** \$350.00; **Bldg. Fund:** \$25.00; **Christmas:** \$100.00; **Total:** **\$34,469.75** Franciscan Sisters: \$25.00; Retired Priests: \$5784.00; So. NE Register: \$2,000.00

Weekly amount needed for our 2025-2026 budget: \$ 14,500.00; **Amount needed for budget to date (25 weeks):** \$ 362,500.00
Total Contributions July 1, 2025 thru June 30, 2026: \$ 378,392.69

ANNUAL RETIRED PRIEST COLLECTION: All parishes support our retired priests (same salary & health insurance as active pastors). Our assessment this fiscal year is \$11,002. A December/Christmas envelope in your monthly packet and available near our bulletins. Donations can also be placed through our Online Giving program or an envelope marked "Retired Priests." Thank you.

2025 ALMOST OVER: Save on your taxes via gifts of appreciated stock, grain, or IRA distributions. For more info (e.g. our FEIN), contact parish office. If you plan to make a significant gift and use Online Giving, **consider writing a check instead** – to save on processing fees.

5TH ANNUAL "PARISH WISH LIST" ANGEL TREE: Ornaments on tree to support church and rectory maintenance, office supplies, priest meals, etc. Items can be left by the tree or at the parish office. Thanks for supporting our seasonal Angel trees!

ANNUAL ALTAR SOCIETY (PCCW) ENVELOPE in your January packet. An update: every lady of each parish is automatically a member of their parish altar society or parish council of Catholic women (PCCW). For many years, our parish has not had a slate of officers, nor scheduled meetings (we do have an area Catholic Daughters organization that serves as a social and service group for the well-being of six of our area parishes). The traditional tasks of the Altar Society/PCCW – care of the altar (linens, candles, decorating, church cleaning, etc.), votive candles and funeral meals are indeed taken care of by ladies of the parish with much dedication – all ladies are invited to be a part of those activities! The parish office takes care of the organization check book and applicable bill paying. Many ladies are loyal about paying annual dues (suggested amount is \$20 from each lady), of which some of those dues are forwarded to the diocesan level (LDCCW) to support diocesan wide projects. A recap of our Altar Society/PCCW finances so far in 2025: \$1900 dues paid (\$880 sent to LDCCW); \$5270 net from two rummage sales; nearly \$4000 net income for funeral meals; nearly \$8500 paid for missalettes, song books, candles, hosts, wine, etc.

LOURDES ANNUAL APPEAL: This Christmas, join us in sharing the gift of a faith-filled Catholic education! Tuition alone does not cover the full cost of education; it is through the unity of many generous hearts that we provide every student the opportunity to grow in knowledge, faith, and character. Your gift supports every student, every program, and every aspect of school life. Guided by our theme, "In the One Christ We Are One," your generosity strengthens our community and helps shape hearts, minds, and souls for generations to come. **Give today to make a lasting difference.** Visit LourdesCentralCatholic.org or use the donation envelopes at the back of church.

ANNUAL LOURDES TUITION ASSISTANCE ENVELOPE in your January tithing packet. All donations forwarded to Lourdes for their tuition assistance to supplement the diocese Good Shepherd Scholarship program. Your support is appreciated. Envelopes to be near bulletins.