

# St. Joseph Catholic Church

Fr. Kenneth Hoelsing, Priest in Res. / Fr. Craig Clinch, Parish Admin.

DECEMBER 21, 2025

4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Mailing Address <i>PO Box 70 Harvard, NE 68944</i>	Street Address <i>611 N. Kearney Ave. Harvard, NE 68944</i>	Rectory Phone <i>402-772-3511</i>
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## This Weeks' Masses and Liturgies

DATE	DAY	TIME	INTENTION	SAINT / FEAST
Dec 22	Mon	7:30 am	+Barb Friedel	
Dec 23	Tues			
Dec 24	Wed	4:00 pm	Parishioners of St. Joseph	Christmas (English)
		6:00 pm	Parishioners of St. Joseph	Christmas (Spanish)
Dec 25	Thur	9:00 am	+Ray Verbeck	Christmas (English)
Dec 26	Fri	7:30 am		
Dec 27	Sat			
Dec 28	Sun	9:00 am	+Harold & Elizabeth Engel	The Feast of The Holy Family
		11:30 am	Parishioners of St. Joseph	

Confessions: one half hour before Sunday Masses

Our Offering to God last week	\$2,157.00
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## St. Joseph Prayer Chain

A special intention	George Hoffmeister	Cecilia Meeza	Tony Stec
Dan Adler (Sem)	Jim Jackson	Alyssa O.	Shannon Tebo
Andrea Ainsworth	Cathy Kamost	Brad Oschner	Ryan Urbanosky family
Bill Alexander	Bill Kerber	Salvador Palas	Angel Valdivia
Wayne Alley	Shirley Koenig	Fr. Allan Phan	Landon Van Boening
Greg Almond	Erica Lauinger	Sharon Reasland	Garry Veik
Pete Bartels	Rita Mach	Dennis Reddick	The Verde family
Randy Chloupek	Jolene Markland	Nancy Sapp	Teresa Volesky
Kelem Fabrice	Cecilia Martel	Randy Schulte	Diane Walz & family
Cesaria Gabriel	Shirley McCabe	Juan Slazar	Edith Weber

*If you have any intentions you would like to add to the prayer chain, call Elaine Almond (402-224-0732) or Shirley Koenig (402-984-0692).*

## Parish News & Upcoming Events

- ◆ **Penance Service:** There will be a penance service at Sutton *this* Sunday, December 21, at 4:00 p.m. Fr. Jirovsky and Fr. Hoelsing will be hearing confessions there. If you want to go to another priest other than your own parish priest, this is a chance to do that.
- ◆ **Holy Father Prayer Intention for December:** For Christians in areas of conflict – Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.
- ◆ **End-of-year giving:** We are close to the end of the year. If there are donations you wish to give before the end of the year, now is the time since there are only three weeks of the year left. Any giving you want to count for 2025 should be dated or postmarked no later than December 31, 2025.

## Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Masses will take place at the following times:

December 24, 4:00 p.m. (English)  
December 24, 6:00 p.m. (Spanish)  
December 25, 9:00 a.m. (English)

◆ **Thanks for decorating:** Thanks to everyone who helped decorate the church for Christmas last weekend. Celebrating Jesus' birth is a big even that is not to be taken lightly, and our Christmas décor shows that. Thanks to all who helped and thanks, also, to those who donated toward the purchase of the poinsettias.



◆ **Seminarian of the Week:** The seminarian of the week is Daniel Stara. He is a parishioner of the St. Mary's church in David City. He entered the seminary this year. His parents are Kevin & Betsy Start. He attends St. Gregory the Great Seminary in Seward. Please pray for him and all our seminarians.



◆ Use prudence when inclement winter weather is taking place: As we are in the midst of winter now, just a reminder: You should never put yourself or your family at risk to attend Mass; God understands. Don't risk breaking hips or knees. It's always a good idea to pray for safe travel for ourselves and for others during the winter months.

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## Embracing the mysteries of life

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*“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:20–21*

As we begin the Fourth Week of Advent, we focus ever more directly upon the miracle that took place over 2,000 years ago. The passage quoted above presents us with the words of the angel of the Lord who spoke to Joseph in a dream. This was one of four dreams that Joseph had in which an angel spoke to him concerning the Christ Child.

Saint Joseph is described in Matthew's Gospel as “a righteous man” who was unwilling to expose his betrothed wife, Mary, to shame. We know the story well. Mary became pregnant after being betrothed to Joseph but before they lived together, and Joseph didn't understand how this happened. Mary's virtue and goodness would have appeared to contradict the possibility of her becoming pregnant when she did. Joseph was planning on doing what he thought was the honorable thing. He decided to divorce her quietly so that she would not endure public shame.

But God's plan was so much greater than what Joseph could initially comprehend. The Incarnation of the Son of God within the womb of his betrothed required supernatural understanding. And that's what Joseph was given. Though he had a dream in which an angel spoke to him, a dream was not enough. The dream also needed to be accompanied by the gift of supernatural knowledge. Joseph listened in the dream and believed by the interior revelation of faith that this incredible reality was true. This Child was indeed conceived by the Holy Spirit within the virginal womb of his betrothed, and Joseph accepted his God-given responsibility.

Joseph's witness is one to ponder and be inspired by. First, it's essential that we ponder the story as it happened and be inspired by God's singularly unique plan by which He took on our human nature. But Joseph also provides us with inspiration for our own callings in life. Joseph inspires us to face any and every mystery in life that we encounter with the utmost trust in God. God's wisdom and ways are always far beyond ours. Very often in life, God will call us to walk an unknown and mysterious path. Life does not always make perfect sense from a purely rational perspective. Very often, we must allow our human reason to be informed and led by God's supernatural plan. For each of us, this mysterious path will be different. But if we are to walk by the same faith that Saint Joseph had, then we must always be willing to accept the most sublime mysteries in life and allow God's revealing Word to clarify them.

Reflect, today, upon any way that you feel challenged by life's circumstances. What tempts you to doubt, to be confused, or to feel uncertain? What is it that requires supernatural knowledge on your part to embrace? If God the Father chose to bring forth His divine Son in such a mysterious way, then we should not be surprised when God calls us to embrace similar mysteries in life. Walk by faith. Be inspired by Saint Joseph. Say “Yes” to that which God is asking of you. As you do, you will find that you will begin to walk down the most glorious road you can walk.



*Most glorious Saint Joseph, you were a man of true righteousness and integrity. You were open to the inspired gift of faith and chose to walk by that faith as you faced the greatest of mysteries. Please pray for me that I may learn from you and be inspired to imitate the life that you lived. Saint Joseph, pray for us. Jesus, I trust in You.*