

St. Joseph Catholic Church

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

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

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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This Weeks' Masses and Liturgies

DATE	DAY	TIME	INTENTION	SAINT / FEAST
Feb 9	Mon			
Feb 10	Tues	7:30 am	+Marie Borino	Scholastica
Feb 11	Wed	7:30 am	+Jean Erthum	
Feb 12	Thur	7:30 am	Special Intention (jhz)	
Feb 13	Fri	7:30 am		
Feb 14	Sat			6 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Feb 15	Sun	9:00 am	+Sylvester Verde	
		11:30 am	Parishioners of St. Joseph	

Confessions: one half hour before Sunday Masses

Our Offering to God last week	\$818.00
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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	Kim Kneuvan	Fr. Allan Phan	Landon Van Boening
Greg Almond	Shirley Koenig	Sharon Reasland	Garry Veik
Pete Bartels	Erica Lauinger	Dennis Reddick	The Verde family
Shawna Back	Rita Mach	Nancy Sapp	Teresa Volesky
Randy Chloupek	Jolene Markland	Randy Schulte	Diane Walz & family
Kelem Fabrice	Cecilia Martel	Juan Slazar	Edith Weber
Cesaria Gabriel	Shirley McCabe		

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

- ◆ **Harvard Senior Community Meal:** The Harvard Senior Community Meal will take place on Thursday, January 12, from 11:30 pm to 2:00 pm at the Harvard United Methodist Church basement. The cost is \$6. Please R.S.V.P. to Elaine Almond (402) 224-0732 by 7:00pm Sunday, February 8 (today).
- ◆ **Food Pantry next Saturday:** It's St. Joseph's turn next Saturday, February 14, to help with distribution of food to those we need assistance from 9:00am to 10:30am. (as we always run the distribution on the second Saturday of the month). Volunteers are needed for various tasks outside of those times to receive orders and build boxes as well as other tasks. If you can volunteer, please contact Elaine Almond or Shelly Chloupek.
- ◆ **Hastings Deanery Council of Catholic Women Meeting this Sunday:** There will be a Hastings DCCW meeting this Sunday, February 8, at 2:00 pm in Sutton. All women are invited. They will be talking about plans for the Spring LDCCW convention to be held in Hastings on April 17 & 18. All Hastings Deanery parishes are asked to assist with this event in April.



- ◆ **St. Blaise Blessing of the throats this weekend:** February 3 was the feast day of St. Blasé in whose honor throats are blessed this time of year. Throats of all people at Masses this weekend will be blessed. This blessing is something that may be received by *everyone*, whether they are Catholic or not.
- ◆ **Lent coming soon:** Lent will start soon. Ash Wednesday will take place on February 18 (one week from this Wednesday). It's time to start thinking about how you want to observe Lent this year. Perhaps this is a good thing to take to prayer, especially if you haven't given it much thought yet (that's OK – Lent has a way of sneaking up on all of us). God is so good we can even offer him our lack of plans to help us come up with good ones. We still have 10 days before Lent starts; let's start preparing now!
- ◆ **February is Catholic Press Month in the Diocese of Lincoln:** February is Catholic Press month. Part of Catholic Press month is paying for our subscriptions to the Southern Nebraska Register. The Southern Nebraska Register subscription is \$15.00 a year. There are envelopes in the back of the church for this.

◆ One Rose, One Life: The Knights of Columbus One Rose, One Life Campaign was begun here last weekend.. One Rose, One Life supports culture of life activities in the state of Nebraska. Refer to the information sheet and there are donation envelopes. Donation envelopes can be placed in the offertory. Thank you.

◆ Seminarian of the Week: The seminarian of the week is Colter Fulton. He is a parishioner of St. Mary's parish in Nebraska City. He entered the seminary in 2022. His parents are Terry & Melissa Fulton. He attends Mount St. Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Please pray for him and all our seminarians.

◆ Holy Father Prayer Intention for February: For children with incurable diseases – Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

The light of the world

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.” Matthew 5:14–16

We've all experienced a time when the lights went out and we were in darkness. In this case, if you were to light a candle and place it in the center of the room, its light would make quite a difference. One candle in a darkened room transforms that room, making it a more comfortable dwelling place.

Using that image, consider the first line in Jesus' metaphor above. "You are the light of the world." Try to see yourself as that single candle in the darkness. That is your mission. Just as a single candle can give light to an entire room, so you are capable of being a source of light for many others.

One of the primary missions we have all received in life is to allow the light of God's grace to "shine before others." The result of fulfilling this mission is that others will see our good deeds that were inspired by God, and they will, in turn, glorify the Father in Heaven. Thus, your mission of radiating the light of Christ for others results in God being praised and glorified.

This full statement of Jesus is especially helpful to consider when we struggle with pride. Pride is a way of pointing to ourselves. It's an act of selfishness by which we place ourselves in the spotlight as a way of trying to become the object of others' praise. But what Jesus tells us is that when we properly fulfill our role of being the light of the world, when we radiate the Light of Christ, others will be inspired not to praise us but rather to glorify God as He acts through us. This is quite a difference.

With that being said, the beautiful thing about God being glorified is that God often wants us to share in that glory. That means that if you were to do an act of charity for another, and they were deeply grateful to you and thanked you, their "thank you" is an act of glorifying God when it is understood that you acted out of a love of God. God is praised when we, His children, give and receive love and honor between each other on account of our faith.

Reflect, today, upon two things. First, think about those upon whom God has called you to shine His light. Who is it in your life who needs an act of love, charity, mercy, forgiveness or compassion? Commit yourself to becoming God's light for them in their darkness. Second, think about those who have shone the Light of Christ upon you. When this has happened, how did you respond? Hopefully your response was one of a gratitude that not only returns love to the other but also glorifies God through your gratitude. Be the light of the world to a world in need and seek out that light as it shines brightly through others. This is the only way to step out of the darkness that constantly tries to pervade us.

Lord, You are the true Light Who dispels every darkness in life. You are the Light of my life and shine brightly for all to see. Help me to see Your light as it shines on others and to glorify You for that gift. And help me to be an instrument of Your light to those who need it the most. Jesus, I trust in You.



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MATTHEW 5:14