

St. Joseph Catholic Church

NOVEMBER 23, 2025

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

THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

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This Weeks' Masses and Liturgies

DATE	DAY	TIME	INTENTION	SAINT / FEAST
Nov 24	Mon	7:30 am		Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs
Nov 25	Tues	7:30 am	Special Intention	
Nov 26	Wed	8:30 am	Art & Jeanann Verde 70 th Wedding Anniversary	
Nov 27	Thur			
Nov 28	Fri			
Nov 29	Sat			
Nov 30	Sun	9:00 am	+Sara Rondall Abers	1 st Sunday in Advent
		11:30 am	Parishioners of St. Joseph	
Confessions: one half hour before Sunday Masses				

Our Offering to God last week	\$423.00
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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).

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Parish News & Upcoming Events

◆ Harvard People's Project – Christmas Boxes: Harvard People's Project is once again asking for donations for the Christmas boxes which will be picked up on December 9. There is a box under the table in the back of the church marked "People's Project" where donations can be placed. Items needed include hats, gloves, and socks (all sizes), deodorant, and toilet paper. Food items needed are 1lb packages of rice, cooking oil, 100% juice, cereal, saltine crackers, soups, spaghetti, pasta sauce, and other like items. Applications for the Christmas boxes are in the back of the church and must be turned in by November 24th.

◆ Holy Father Prayer Intention for November: For the prevention of suicide – Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.



◆ Coffee & Rolls next Sunday to celebrate Art & Jeananne Verde's 70th Wedding Anniversary! After 9:00 am Mass next Sunday, November 30, we will have coffee and rolls to celebrate Art & Jeananne Verde's 70 wedding anniversary. All are invited.



◆ Decorating the Church for Christmas on December 14: We will decorate the church for Christmas on Sunday, December 14, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass. After decorating is done there will be soup – you are welcome to bring some side dishes to go with the soup if you can. Please come!

◆ November – All Souls' Day Mass Intentions: If you would like to have a Mass offered for your deceased loved ones take any envelope and label it "All Souls Day Mass Intention" and put it in the collection. It's not too late to get them in.

◆ Book Of Remembrance: A book of remembrance is in the vestibule of the church for the names of the faithful departed to be remembered in the month of November and throughout the year. Please feel free to write the names of the deceased and any the dates of their passing.

◆ Seminarian of the Week: The seminarian of the week is Joshua Jeffrey. He is a parishioner of the Cathedral of the Risen Christ parish in Lincoln. He entered the seminary om 2024. His parents are Travis & Kelly Jeffrey. He attends St. Gregory the Great Seminary in Seward. Please pray for him and all our seminarians.

Hastings Catholic Schools Annual Holiday Bazaar

All are invited to a day of fun, food, games and community! The Hastings Catholic Schools annual Holiday Bazaar runs from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the St. Cecilia Gym on Sunday, November 23. This day has, which has become quite the tradition, features our homemade Chicken Noodle Dinner (which includes chicken noodles, coleslaw, and biscuits). Don't miss out on baked goods, ethnic foods, candy booth, carnival games, Beef and Pork Raffle, Super 7 Raffle, Quilt Raffle, Stage Raffle, theme baskets, and MORE!

◆ ADULT MEAL | \$12 | includes 1/2 qt Noodles, 1/4 qt Coleslaw, 2 Biscuits, Dine-In is unlimited while supplies last

◆ KID MEAL (2-12 years) | \$6 | Dine-In Only, Dine-In is unlimited while supplies last

◆ FAMILY MEALS for Carry-Out and Drop Zones ONLY, SERVES 6-8 | \$50 | includes 3 qt Noodles, 1 qt Coleslaw, Biscuits, *Family Meals are not available for Dine-In.*

◆ NOODLES ONLY | \$12 | 1 qt Noodles

Order of Events during the day

8:00 AM: Coffee & Rolls, Book Sale, Purse Sale, Family Booth, Bake Sale, Theme Basket Raffle

9:00 AM: Booths Open

10:30 AM: Stage Raffle, Bingo, Cake Walk

11:00 AM: Food Services/Booths, Kid Games

4:00 PM: Dine-In Concludes

5:00 PM: Carry-Out and Event Concludes, Pick Up Theme Baskets

Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Happy Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe! This is the last Sunday of the Church year which means we focus on the final and glorious things to come! It also means that next Sunday is already the First Sunday of Advent.

When we say Jesus is a king, we mean a few things. First, He is our Shepherd. As our Shepherd He desires to lead us personally as a loving father would. He wants to enter our lives personally, intimately and carefully, never imposing Himself but always offering Himself as our guide. The difficulty with this is that it's very easy for us to reject this kind of kingship. As King, Jesus desires to lead every aspect of our lives and lead us in all things. He desires to become the absolute ruler and monarch of our souls. He wants us to come to Him for everything and to become dependent upon Him always. But He will not impose this sort of kingship upon us. We must accept it freely and without reservation. Jesus will only govern our lives if we freely surrender ourselves over. When that happens, though, His Kingdom begins to become established within us! And through us in the world.

Additionally, Jesus does wish for His Kingdom to begin to be established in our world. First and foremost this takes place when we become His sheep and thus become His instruments to help convert the world. However, as King, He also calls us to establish His Kingship by seeing to it that His truth and law is respected within civil society. It's Christ's authority as King that gives us the authority and duty as Christians to do all we can to fight civil injustices and bring about a respect for every human person. All civil law ultimately gains its authority from Christ alone since He is the one and only Universal King.

But many do not recognize Him as King, so what about them? Should we "impose" God's law upon those who do not believe? The answer is both yes and no. First, there are some things we cannot impose. For example, we cannot force people to go to Mass each Sunday. This would hinder one's freedom to enter into this precious gift. We know Jesus requires it of us for the good of our souls, but it must still be embraced freely. However, there are some things that we must "impose" upon others. The protection of the unborn, poor and vulnerable must be "imposed." The freedom of conscience must be written into our laws. The freedom to practice our faith openly (religious liberty) within any institution must be "imposed" also. And there are many other things we could list here. What's important to point out is that, at the end of all time, Jesus will be returning to Earth in all His glory and He will then establish His permanent and unending Kingdom. At that time, all people will see God as He is. And His law will become one with "civil" law. Every knee will bend before the great King and all will know the truth. At that time, true justice will reign and every evil will be corrected. What a glorious day that will be!

Reflect, today, upon your own embrace of Christ as King. Does He truly govern your life in every way? Do you allow Him to have complete control over your life? When this is done freely and completely, the Kingdom of God is established in your life. Let Him reign so that you can be converted and, through you, others can come to know Him as Lord of all!

Lord, You are the sovereign King of the Universe. You are Lord of all. Come reign in my life and make my soul Your holy dwelling place. Lord, come transform our world and make it a place of true peace and justice. May Your Kingdom come! Jesus, I trust in You.