

St. Joseph Catholic Church



APRIL 19, 2026

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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This Weeks' Masses and Liturgies

DATE	DAY	TIME	INTENTION	SAINT / FEAST
April 20	Mon			
April 21	Tues			
April 22	Wed	7:30 am	+Amy Rasmussen	
April 23	Thur	7:30 am	+Joe Parr	
April 24	Fri	7:30 am	Sr. Martin Reynolds	
April 25	Sat			4 th Sunday in Easter
April 26	Sun	9:00 am	+Bertha Yonker	
		11:30 am	Parishioners of St. Joseph	

Confessions: one half hour before Sunday Masses

Our Offering to God last week	\$1,497.00
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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	Cecilia Martel	Randy Schulte	Diane Walz & family
Kelem Fabrice	Shirley McCabe	Jody Schulte	Edith Weber
Cesaria Gabriel		Juan Slazar	

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

◆ **This is the Hour Mission:** Join us for "This is the Hour", a one-evening mission this Thursday, April 23, from 6:00–8:00 PM at Saint Michael Catholic Church, Hastings, NE (715 Creighton Avenue). Catholic Radio Personalities Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers and Dr. Marcus Peter will share reflections to inspire and renew your faith. All are welcome! Dr. Peter hosts Ave Maria in the Afternoon from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Spirit Catholic Radio. Deacon Harold hosts Beacon of Truth at 7:00 p.m. on Spirit Catholic Radio. More information about both speakers can be found on their websites: www.marcusbpeter.com and deaconharold.com

◆ **Easter Flowers donations:** If you would like to donate towards the cost of the Easter Flowers, please use the envelopes at the back of the church. The envelopes can be given to Shelly Chloupek, Chris Cooney or placed in the collection basket.

◆ **Carry-in brunch on May 3:** It's time for another carry-in brunch! This one will take place on Sunday, May 3, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Everyone is welcome!

◆ **May Crowing:** May is the month of Mary. Part of our observance of the month of Mary is the May Crowing of the statue of Mary in our church. This crowing will take place on Sunday, May 3.

◆ **Fr Hoelsing visiting family through Tuesday:** I will be gone for a post-Easter trip to visit my family. I'll leave Sunday after the last Mass and return on Tuesday evening. Please pray for my safe travels.

◆ **Harvard Baccalaureate at St. Joseph's this year:** The annual pre-graduation Baccalaureate in Harvard will take place at our church this year. It will take place on Tuesday, May 5, at 6:30 p.m.

◆ **Thanks for Easter help:** Thanks to everyone who helped with Holy Week and Easter this year. There's a lot of preparation that goes into the special liturgies we have during that week. Thanks for everyone who helped decorate, who read at the Mass, who helped with the reading of the Passion on Palm Sunday and Good Friday, who helped with music, who did extra acolyte duty, who helped clean and set up (and take down), and to those who helped decorate the church. The efforts of so many people helped to make the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter run smoothly. Thanks for everyone for their extra efforts during this time.

◆ **Harvard Church Women May Salad Luncheon:** The annual Harvard Church Women May Salad Luncheon will take place on May 1 at 12:00 noon at the Community Room. Our Altar Society is asked to provide 6 salads and 1 bread or crackers for the luncheon. Please text or call Shelly if you can donate a salad. The speaker is Megan Cook from "I Have a Name." She is a very good speaker and has a worthwhile story to tell. There is a sign on the church door with more details. Tickets are available from Shelly or Chris.



EASTER

◆ CSS job opening – Client and Volunteer Relations Specialist: Catholic Social Services in Hastings seeks a positive, organized, and mission-motivated communicator for the position of Client and Volunteer Relations Specialist. They will serve as the welcoming face of CSS, managing essential front-office administration and answering calls, while also recruiting volunteers to support our mission and serve our clients. To access the full job description or apply, scan the QR code or visit this webpage: csshope.org/careers



◆ Holy Father Prayer Intention for April: For priests in crisis – Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding & prayer.

◆ Seminarian of the Week: The seminarian of the week is Dylan Beck. He is a parishioner of St. Joseph's in Lincoln. He entered the seminary in 2024. His parents are Jeremy & Rachel Beck. He attends St. Gregory the Great Seminary in Seward. Please pray for him and all our seminarians.

The gift of understanding

With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" Luke 24:31-32

This passage above produced a unique blessing. Jesus opened the minds of the Apostles to the Scriptures in a new way. These were ordinary men who were given an extraordinary gift of understanding. It didn't come to them as a result of long study and hard work. Rather, it came to them as a result of their openness to Christ's powerful action in their lives. Jesus unlocked the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven to them. As a result, they suddenly understood truths that could never be learned on their own.

So it is with us. The mysteries of God are vast and wide. They are deep and transforming. But so often we fail to understand. We often even fail to want to understand.

Think about those things in your life now, or in your past, that have left you confused. You need a special gift of the Holy Spirit to make sense of them. And you need this gift to make sense of the many good things of God found in the Scriptures also. This is the Gift of Understanding. It's a spiritual gift that unlocks the many mysteries of life for us.

Without the Gift of Understanding, we are left on our own to try to make sense of life. This is especially true when we are faced with hardship and suffering. How is it, for example, that an all-powerful and all-loving God can allow the good and the innocent to suffer? How is it that God can seem absent at times from human tragedy?

The truth is that He is not absent. He is centrally involved in all things. What we need to receive is an understanding of the profound and mysterious ways of God. We need to understand the Scriptures, human suffering, human relationships, and divine action in our lives. But this will never happen unless we allow Jesus to open our minds.

Allowing Jesus to open our minds takes faith and surrender. It means we believe first and understand later. It means we trust Him even though we do not see. St. Augustine once said, "Faith is to believe what you do not see. The reward of faith is to see what you believe." Are you willing to believe without seeing? Are you willing to believe in the goodness and love of God even though life, or a particular situation in life, does not make sense?

Reflect, today, upon the Gift of Understanding. Believing in God means we believe in a person. We believe in Him even though we find ourselves confused about particular circumstances. But this gift of believing, the gift of faith, opens the door to a depth of understanding that we could never arrive at on our own.

God of all Truth, give me the Gift of Understanding. Help me to know You and to understand Your actions in my life. Help me to especially turn to You in the most troubling moments of life. Jesus, I trust in You.