

St. Joseph Catholic Church

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

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

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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This Weeks' Masses and Liturgies

DATE	DAY	TIME	INTENTION	SAINT / FEAST
Sept 15	Mon			
Sept 16	Tues	7:30 am	Special Intention	Cornelius & Cyprian
Sept 17	Wed	7:30 am	Jim & Robin Anderson	
Sept 18	Thur	7:30 am	Carl Rasmussen	
Sept 19	Fri	7:30 am		
Sept 20	Sat			25 th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sept 21	Sun	9:00 am	Good and safe harvest season	
		11:30 am	Parishioners of St. Joseph	
Confessions: one half hour before Sunday Masses				

Our Offering to God last week	\$1,562.00
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St. Joseph Prayer Chain

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

◆ CCD started last week: We feed the CCD students some basic breakfast items each Sunday. If you would like to donate some items or bring some prepared food to share, that would be great. Talk to Theresa if you would like some ideas of needed items.

◆ Bishop Bruskewitz' 90th Birthday: Bishop Bruskewitz' 90th birthday took place yesterday on September 6. Please pray for him on this milestone birthday.

◆ Mowing sign-up sheet for September & October: The mowing sign-up sheet for September and October is now in the back of the church. Please take a week if you can.

◆ Holy Father Prayer Intention for September: For our relationship with all of creation – Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

◆ Food Pantry thanks: Thank you to everyone who helped with the Food Pantry on Saturday. The more hands we have, the better it is. Food was distributed to 41 households this time around.

◆ Life Chain in Hastings on October 5: The annual Life Chain in Hastings will take place on Sunday, October 5, in Hastings. Details are posted in the back of the church.



Brief history of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross

The feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross celebrates two historical events: the discovery of the True Cross by Saint Helena, the mother of the Emperor Constantine, in 320 under the temple of Venus in Jerusalem, and the dedication in 335 of the basilica and shrine built on Calvary by Constantine, which mark the site of the Crucifixion.

The basilica, named the Martyrium, and the shrine, named the Calvarium, were destroyed by the Persians in 614. The Church of the Holy sepulcher which now stands on the site was built by the crusaders in 1149.

However the feast, more than anything else, is a celebration and commemoration of God's greatest work: his salvific death on the Cross and His Resurrection, through which death was defeated and the doors to Heaven opened.

The glorious cross of our Lord!

“And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.” [John 3:14-15](#)

What a glorious feast we celebrate today! It's the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross!

Does the Cross truly make sense? If we could separate ourselves from all we have learned about the Cross of Christ and just look at it from a secular and historical perspective, the Cross is a sign of great tragedy. It's connected to the story of a man who became quite popular with many, yet was vehemently hated by others. In the end, those who hated this man arranged for His brutal crucifixion. So, from a purely secular point of view, the Cross is an awful thing.

But Christians do not see the Cross from a secular point of view. We see it from the divine perspective. We see Jesus lifted up on the Cross for all to see. We see Him using horrible suffering to eliminate suffering forever. We see Him using death to destroy death itself. Ultimately, we see Jesus become victorious on that Cross and, therefore, forever we see the Cross as an exalted and glorious throne!

Moses' actions in the desert prefigured the Cross. Many people were dying from snake bites. Therefore, God told Moses to lift up the image of a snake on a pole so that all who looked upon it would be healed. And that's exactly what happened. Ironically, the snake brought life instead of death!

Suffering occurs throughout our lives in various ways. Perhaps for some it's daily aches and pains from ill health, and for others it may be on a much deeper level, such as an emotional, personal, relational or spiritual one. Sin, in fact, is the cause of the greatest suffering, so those who struggle deeply with sin in their lives suffer deeply from that sin.

So what is Jesus' answer? His answer is to turn our gaze to His Cross. We are to look at Him in His misery and suffering and, in that gaze, we are called to see victory with faith. We are called to know that God brings good out of all things, even our suffering. The Father transformed the world eternally through the suffering and death of His only Son. He also wants to transform us in our crosses.

Reflect, today, upon the Cross of Christ. Spend some time gazing upon the crucifix. See in that crucifix the answer to your own daily struggles. Jesus is close to those who suffer, and His strength is available to all those who believe in Him. Lord, help me to gaze upon the Cross. Help me to experience in Your own suffering a taste of Your final victory. May I be strengthened and healed as I look upon You. Jesus, I trust in You.