

St. Joseph Catholic Church

JANUARY 4, 2026

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

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY

Mailing Address PO Box 70 Harvard, NE 68944	Street Address 611 N. Kearney Ave. Harvard, NE 68944	Rectory Phone 402-772-3511
Parish Website: https://www.st-joseph-harvard.com/		
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This Weeks' Masses and Liturgies

DATE	DAY	TIME	INTENTION	SAINT / FEAST
Jan 5	Mon	7:30 am	Special Intention	St. John Neumann
Jan 6	Tues	7:30 am	+Jon Andre Verde	
Jan 7	Wed			
Jan 8	Thur	7:30 am	World Peace	
Jan 9	Fri	7:30 am		
Jan 10	Sat			The Baptism of the Lord
Jan 11	Sun	9:00 am	+Helen & William Koenig	
		11:30 am	Parishioners of St. Joseph	

Confessions: one half hour before Sunday Masses



Our Offering to God last week	\$3,276.00
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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

- ◆ Holy Father Prayer Intention for January: For prayer with the Word of God – Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.
- ◆ Harvard Senior Community Meal: The Harvard Senior Community Meal will take place on Thursday, January 8, 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, January 4 (today).
- ◆ Food Pantry next Saturday: It's St. Joseph's turn next Saturday, December 10, 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.

◆ Knights of Columbus Christmas Party: The annual KC Christmas party at Gary's in Grafton will take place this Sunday, January 11. Social time starts at 5:30 p.m., buffet dinner follows at 6:00 p.m. All Knights are invited, spouses are welcome.

◆ PCCW Meeting on January 18: There will be a PCCW meeting on Sunday, January 18, after the 9:00 am Mass to review the budget, officers, and parish activities for the year. Please come if you can.

◆ Seminarian of the Week: The seminarian of the week is Jacob Knutson. He is a parishioner of North American Martyrs Church in Lincoln. He entered the seminary in 2020. His parents are Thomas & Patricia Knutson. He attends Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Please pray for him and all our seminarians.

Adoration by the Magi

On entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:11

“Epiphany” means manifestation. And the “Epiphany of the Lord” is Jesus’ manifestation not only to these three Magi from the East, but it’s also a symbolic but real manifestation of the Christ to the whole world. These Magi, traveling from a foreign and non-Jewish nation, reveal that Jesus came for all people and all are called to adore Him.

These Magi were “wise men” who studied the stars and were aware of the Jewish belief that a Messiah was coming. They would have been versed in much of the wisdom of the day and would have been intrigued by the Jewish belief in the Messiah.

God used what they were familiar with to call them to adore the Christ. He used a star. They understood the stars and when they saw this new and unique star over Bethlehem they realized that something special was happening. So the first lesson we take from this for our own lives is that God will use what is familiar to us to call us to Himself. Look for the “star” that God is using to call you. It’s closer than you may think.

A second thing to note is that the Magi fell prostrate before the Christ Child. They laid their lives down before Him in complete surrender and adoration. They set a perfect example for us. If these astrologers from a foreign land could come and adore Christ in such a profound way, we must do the same. Perhaps you could try literally lying down prostrate in prayer this day, in imitation of the Magi, or at least do so in your heart through prayer. Adore Him with a complete surrender of your life.



Lastly, the Magi bring gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These three gifts, presented to our Lord, show that they acknowledged this Child as the Divine King who would die to save us from sin. Gold is for a King, frankincense is a burnt offering to God, and myrrh is used for one who would die. Thus, their adoration is grounded in the truths of who this Child is. If we are to adore Christ properly, we must also honor Him in this threefold way.

Reflect, today, upon these Magi and see them as a symbol of what you are called to do. You are called from the foreign place of this world to seek out the Messiah. What is God using to call you to Himself? When you discover Him, do not hesitate to acknowledge the full truth of who He is, lying prostrate before Him in complete and humble submission.

Lord, I love You and adore You. I lay my life before You and surrender all. You are my Divine King and Savior. My life is Yours. (Pray three times and then prostrate yourself before the Lord) Jesus, I trust in You.