

St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

DECEMBER 7, 2025

2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Mailing Address <i>PO Box 70 Harvard, NE 68944</i>	Street Address <i>611 N. Kearney Ave. Harvard, NE 68944</i>	Rectory Phone <i>402-772-3511</i>
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This Weeks' Masses and Liturgies

DATE	DAY	TIME	INTENTION	SAINT / FEAST
Dec 8	Mon	7:30 am	Special Intention	Immaculate Conception
		7:00 pm	Parishioners of St. Joseph	
Dec 9	Tues	7:30 am		
Dec 10	Wed	7:30 am	Pope Leo	
Dec 11	Thur	7:30 am	+Matt Mick	
Dec 12	Fri			Our Lady of Guadalupe
Dec 13	Sat			3 rd Sunday in Advent
Dec 14	Sun	9:00 am	+Clayton Rath	
		11:30 am	Parishioners of St. Joseph	

Confessions: one half hour before Sunday Masses

Our Offering to God last week	\$1,144.00
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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

◆ Holy Father Prayer Intention for December: For Christians in areas of conflict – Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

◆ Decorating the Church for Christmas on December 14: We will decorate the church for Christmas next 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!

◆ Harvard Senior Community Meal: The Harvard Senior Community Meal will take place this Thursday, December 11, 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, December 7 (today).

◆ Immaculate Conception Holy Day This week! The Immaculate Conception Holy Day takes place this Monday, December 8. This is a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be Masses *Monday morning @ 7:30 a.m. and Monday evening @ 7:00 p.m.* Please join us!

◆ Knights of Columbus: The Knights of Columbus monthly meeting will be this Sunday, December 7, in Sutton at St. Mary's. The rosary will be prayed at 5:40 pm and the meeting will take place at 6:00 pm with food served afterward.

◆ Food Pantry next Saturday: It's St. Joseph's turn next Saturday, December 13, 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.

◆ Is anyone going to Lincoln? We need to have candles picked up at Gloria Deo. If anyone is heading to Lincoln any time soon, please let Fr. Hoelsing know – I can call Gloria Deo and tell them who will be there to pick them up (they won't be open on December 8 because of the Holy Day).

◆ Triumph of the Heart (Maximilian Kolbe movie that was in theaters this fall) is on Formed.org for a limited time: This movie about Maximilian Kolbe was in theaters this fall. It's now available for a limited time for free on Formed.org. All parishioners have a free subscription to Formed.org, so please feel free to take advantage of this offer.

◆ End-of-year giving: We are close to the end of the year. If there are donations you wish to give before the end of the year, now is the time since there are only three weeks of the year left.

Any giving you want to count for 2025 should be dated or postmarked no later than December 31, 2025.



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Masses will take place at the following times:

December 24, 4:00 p.m. (English)

December 24, 6:00 p.m. (Spanish)

December 25, 9:00 a.m. (English)

◆ Seminarian of the Week: The seminarian of the week is Eli Reiter. He is a parishioner of the St. Peter's church in Bellwood. He entered the seminary in 2024. His parents are Steve & Julie Reiter. He attends St. Gregory the Great Seminary in Seward. Please pray for him and all our seminarians.

Public repentance

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance." Matthew 3:7-8

This was both a very intense and yet very holy encounter. It was intense in that Saint John the Baptist, who had become quite popular and respected and was considered a great prophet, spoke harshly toward the Pharisees and Sadducees. "You brood of vipers!" he says. This was not the way the Pharisees and Sadducees were normally spoken to.

John speaks this way because it was the truth. These religious leaders were not leading anyone closer to God. One only needs to ponder all that Jesus would eventually say to the Pharisees and Sadducees to understand what kind of people these religious leaders had become.

So this passage is certainly intense. But it is also very holy. It is holy because this "brood of vipers" needed to be chastised. They needed to be condemned and challenged. They needed to be humbled. And there is nothing more humbling than sincerely repenting of one's sins in a public way.

Notice that John does not dismiss the leaders outright. Rather, he requires of them "evidence" of their repentance. Why? Because of the spiritual damage these men did to the people of Israel on account of their pride, self-righteousness, hypocrisy, love of public honors, condemnation of others, etc. They had so distorted the faith that the good of their souls required public repentance. It required that everyone see sincere good fruits flowing from their lives as a sign that they had changed. Though this is a tall order for the Pharisees and Sadducees, it's the way to holiness for them.

The same is true for us. If you have allowed yourself to fall into some of the same traps as the Pharisees and Sadducees, then you, too, will greatly benefit from clear and humble public change. If you have struggled with self-righteousness, a critical tongue, a "holier than thou" attitude or a judgmental attitude toward others, then you might have great need for a humble and public repentance.

Reflect, today, upon the Pharisees and Sadducees. Try to understand their sin and the reason John called them a "brood of vipers." If you see any of their pride and self-righteousness within your own soul, then listen to this exhortation from John the Baptist as if it were spoken to you directly. "Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance." Do this, and God will free you through the gift of true humility.

*My humble Lord, You call all people to repentance with great humility and sincerity. Please help me to see my sin and to never shy away from facing it, so that You can free me from that filth and set me more firmly on the path to holiness.
Jesus, I trust in You.*