

St. Joseph Catholic Church

AUGUST 17, 2025

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

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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This Weeks' Masses and Liturgies

DATE	DAY	TIME	INTENTION	SAINT / FEAST
Aug 18	Mon			
Aug 19	Tues	7:30 am	Good school year for area schools	
Aug 20	Wed	7:30 am	Special Intention	
Aug 21	Thur			Bernard
Aug 22	Fri	7:30 am	Pam Frank	Pope Pius X
Aug 23	Sat			21 st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Aug 24	Sun	9:00 am		
		11:30 am	Parishioners of St. Joseph	
Confessions: one half hour before Sunday Masses				

Our Offering to God last week	\$756.00
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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

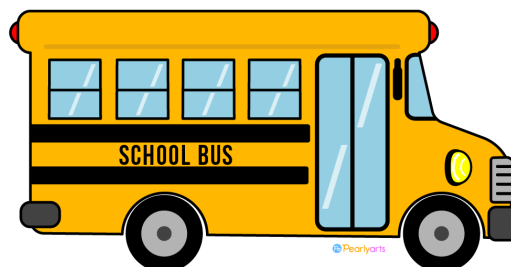
If you have any intentions you would like to add to the prayer chain, call Elaine Almond (402-224-0732) or Shirley Koenig (402-984-0692).

Parish News & Upcoming Events

◆ Mowing sign-up sheet for August: The mowing sign-up sheet for August is on the table in the back of the sacristy. Thanks to everyone who has helped with the mowing so far. Please sign up for a slot if you can.

◆ New school year has started: Look out for stopped buses on highways when kids are being picked up and brought home from school. Here's to a good and safe school year!

◆ Harvard Alumni Banquet next May: If anyone can chair/organize this meal, please let Shelly Chloupek know. It would be helpful if we know soon.



◆ CCD: School has started, and so CCD is starting soon. We are in need of a new teacher or two before we get started (we will start on Sunday, September 7). If you would be willing to assist with this, please contact Fr. Hoelsing or Theresa Sapp. Thank you very much!

◆ Thank you, Lord, for the rain you keep sending: Last week was another good week for rain in the area. We keep asking and God keeps sending. Keep asking and don't forget to thank Him!!

◆ Pray for vocations: Please pray for young women to discern a vocation to the Sisterhood in our Diocese of Lincoln Motherhouses. Please pray for young men to discern a vocation to the priesthood.

◆ Mass with prayers for healing: September 14, 2025, John XXIII Diocesan Center, 37th & Sheridan Blvd., Lincoln, NE. Please join together to pray for healing for yourself, your family, friends, for our Church, our Nation and for peace in our world. Sacrament of Reconciliation, begins 1:15. Praise and Worship 1:40 pm. Mass begins at 2:00 pm.

◆ Masses and Tears - The feast of St. Monica on August 27. The Masses and Tears devotion was written to hopefully help encourage parents who are praying for their children to return to the practice of the Catholic Faith. The devotion is based on the life and prayer of St. Monica. It was created by Fr. Jay Buhman, current pastor of All Saints Parish in Holdrege and St. John Parish in Smithfield, more than a decade ago. If you would like more information, including a list of available materials that might assist you or your loved ones and friends, please visit massesandtears.org. If you would like materials sent to you, please email massesandtears@gmail.com

◆ Holy Father Prayer Intention for August: For mutual coexistence – Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

The blazing fire of faith

Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!" Luke 12:49

This passage reveals two things to us. First, it reveals Jesus' intention to "set the earth on fire." Second, it reveals that He desires "it were already blazing."

What does it mean when Jesus says that He came to set the world on fire? Fire is a powerful image that offers much insight into the Christian life. First, fire consumes. So it is with Christ. He came to consume us. He came to transform our little lives into blazing fires. This reveals that there is much potential in each one of our lives. We have potential to become something totally new if we allow the spark of grace to ignite our souls.

Fire also has the potential to make a difference. Its heat keeps us warm, its light allows us to see in darkness and its energy produces power in various ways to help us in our daily lives. So it is with grace. God's grace transforms our cold hearts, leads us through the darkness of life and provides us with all we need to live productive lives.

It's interesting to note that Jesus did not only say that He came to set the world on fire; rather, He said that He wished it were already blazing. This desire of our Lord is an invitation to move out of a mediocre and lukewarm existence into a life of radical Christian living. We are not called to be partly transformed, or even mostly transformed. No, we are called to become blazing fires of faith, transformed by God to make a true difference in the world!

Reflect, today, upon the fire within your own soul. How brightly is that fire burning? You need to feed that fire on a daily basis, fanning it into flame with complete commitment. Seek to become that blazing fire that the Lord desires of you and you will be amazed at how fully you can become transformed by grace.

Lord, set my heart on fire with the brightness of Your love and mercy. Help me to be open to the complete transformation of life that You desire of me. I give myself to You without reserve, dear Lord. Use me as You will. Jesus, I trust in You.

