

St. Joseph Catholic Church

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

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

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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/		
Parish email address: st.joseph.cc.hrvrd.ne@gmail.com		

This Weeks' Masses and Liturgies

DATE	DAY	TIME	INTENTION	SAINT / FEAST
Sept 21	Mon			
Sept 22	Tues	7:30 am	All Souls	
Sept 23	Wed	7:30 am		Padre Pio
Sept 24	Thur	7:30 am	+Tom Doll	
Sept 25	Fri	7:30 am	Special Intenion (RJV)	
Sept 26	Sat			26 th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sept 27	Sun	9:00 am	+Carolyn Rehtus	
		11:30 am	Parishioners of St. Joseph	
Confessions: one half hour before Sunday Masses				

Our Offering to God last week	\$989.00
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St. Joseph Prayer Chain

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

◆ Life Chain in Hastings on October 4: The annual Life Chain in Hastings will take place on Sunday, October 4, in Hastings, from 2:00pm to 3:00pm. We will be at the same street/area we have been assigned in years past.

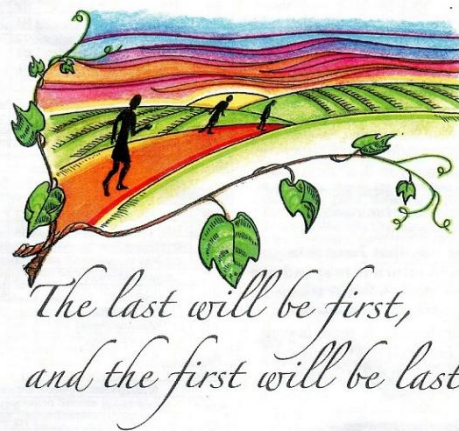
◆ CSS Bountiful Harvest Banquet: Catholic Social Services invites you to the Bountiful Harvest Gala & Silent Auction on October 4 at the Hastings City Auditorium. This year's theme, "A New Harvest and Bountiful Future," celebrates all that God has provided and the exciting future ahead as we continue serving our neighbors across South Central Nebraska. We would love to have you join us for an evening of fellowship, celebration, and support of the mission of Catholic Social Services! To donate or register, scan the QR code of visit csshope.org/bh2026.



◆ PCCW (Altar Society) meeting: An Altar Society meeting will be held this Sunday, September 20, after the 9:00 am Mass. We will be planning for the soup supper and discussing plans for the year. We'll have the coffee on.

◆ Annual seminarian appeal (BAV): The annual Bishop's Appeal for Vocations (BAV) is underway in the Diocese. We will begin our participation in it soon. The money pledged to this appeal helps to defray the cost of educating our seminarians. The seminaries they attend are private institutions which do not receive public funding which makes the tuition more costly. Pledge cards for each family will be in the church hall. Please pray for all our seminarians who will be the future priests of the diocese.

◆ Seminarian of the Week: The seminarian of the week is Thomas Rajewski. He is a parishioner of Sacred Heart parish in Lincoln. He entered the seminary in 2022. His parents are John and Patricia Rajewski. He attends Mount Saint Mary Seminary in Emmetsburg, Pennsylvania. Please pray for him and all our seminarians.



◆ Pope Leo Prayer Intention for September: For the care of water – Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

◆ Religious Sister of the week: This week we are asked to pray ———, a junior novice in the Sisters of the Carmel of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in Agnew, Nebraska. Please keep her and all our diocesan religious in your prayers.

◆ Be Transformed study at St. Michael's: A seven-week study on Dr. Bob Schucht's book *Be Transformed* will begin on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in Saint Michael Catholic Church's Theisen Hall in Hastings (715 Creighton Avenue). Everyone is welcome. Each session will include a short presentation on the healing power of the Sacraments, some discussion, and then time to encounter our Divine Physician, Jesus, in prayer with Scripture and Eucharistic adoration. There will be a total of seven sessions

ending November 3. See the flyer or contact Saint Michael's for more information: 402-463-1023. This study is a fitting follow up for the Unbound Retreat taking place at Saint Michael's.

Desiring the Fulness of Grace for All

"When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.' When those who had started about five o'clock came, each received the usual daily wage. So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage." Matthew 20:8-10

Is life always fair? It would seem not. We have all experienced situations in life when we felt as though we were cheated. Children are especially sensitive to this and will often complain to a parent when they feel as though they have been treated unjustly. From an earthly perspective, it is true that life is not always fair. But we ought not live by an earthly perspective. We are called to live according to the divine perspective. From that perspective, everything is fair in the end, and true justice is meted out to everyone.

When we consider the question of whether or not life is fair, we should always begin with the Son of God. Jesus was certainly not treated fairly. In fact, it is hard to conclude that anyone who has ever lived received a more unjust treatment than Jesus, at least from an earthly perspective. He was perfect in every way. He treated everyone throughout His life with perfect virtue. He never lied, cheated, stole, etc. Yet he was falsely accused, dishonestly judged, brutally abused, and murdered on a cross. From an earthly perspective, it is clear that this was not fair.

Jesus' life, along with ours, must not be evaluated from the perspective of earthly justice. It's not that treating others unjustly is permissible by the will of God. Each of us has a moral responsibility to act in justice as a minimum requirement. But we are also called to exceed earthly justice and live by the new standard of supernatural grace. From that perspective, Jesus' suffering and death was not tragic; it was glorious. His Cross was not an instrument of injustice, it was His throne upon which He established His new Kingdom. Once grace enters the picture, all apparent injustice is turned upside down and must be looked at from a different perspective.

The parable we read today presents to us the scenario in which God has chosen to bestow His grace and mercy in abundance to all who turn to Him. We can never earn the right to His mercy. Nothing we can do will ever give us the right to the gift of eternal salvation. Therefore, this parable especially challenges us to look at Heaven and the life of grace on earth from the perspective of "gift." All is a gift from God. Whether we convert at the end of our lives, after living sinful lives, or whether we have spent our whole lives serving the will of God, all is a gift in the end, all is grace.

Only when we comprehend God's goodness and infinite generosity will we be able to overcome our temptations toward jealousy and selfishness. Those who have dedicated their entire lives to the love of God, if it is a genuine love and service of God, will, as a result, take on the perspective of the mind and heart of God. Part of that perspective is the burning desire to generously bestow God's infinite grace and mercy upon everyone who turns to Him. Even the most hardened sinner who has been the source of much hurt in life is a candidate for the fullness of God's grace if they repent. This must be our desire. We must be like the landowner in this parable who rejoices when laborers show up in the last hour and then lavishes a full day's wages upon them. Not only is this fair from the divine perspective, it must become our personal desire as we labor through life.

Reflect, today, upon how deeply you desire to see those who have not yet given their lives to God to come to Him and receive the fullness of grace. Look at them within the context of this parable. Examine how you feel about those laborers who have not yet begun their service of God. Examine, also, your feelings toward those who seem undeserving of the fullness of God's grace. If you find that you have jealousy, or judge others from the perspective of earthly justice, work to eliminate that perspective so that your heart's deepest desire is to see God bestow the fullness of mercy upon everyone in this world when they turn to Him with a contrite heart.

Most merciful Lord, You are generous beyond comprehension. You bestow mercy upon those who turn to You from their sin and seek to serve Your holy will. May I be among those who labor in Your vineyard, and may I also be among those who desire to see everyone accept the invitation to receive the fullness of Your grace. Jesus, I trust in You.

