

# St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

MARCH 15, 2026

4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT

Mailing Address PO Box 70 Harvard, NE 68944	Street Address 611 N. Kearney Ave. Harvard, NE 68944	Rectory Phone 402-772-3511
Parish Website: <a href="https://www.st-joseph-harvard.com/">https://www.st-joseph-harvard.com/</a>		
Parish email address: <a href="mailto:st.joseph.cc.hrverd.ne@gmail.com">st.joseph.cc.hrverd.ne@gmail.com</a>		

## This Weeks' Masses and Liturgies

DATE	DAY	TIME	INTENTION	SAINT / FEAST
Mar 16	Mon			
Mar 17	Tues			
		7:00 pm	Stations of the Cross	
Mar 18	Wed			
Mar 19	Thur			St. Joseph
Mar 20	Fri			
Mar 21	Sat			
Mar 22	Sun	9:00 am	+Carolyn Rehtus	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b>
		11:30 am	Parishioners of St. Joseph	

Confessions: one half hour before Sunday Masses

<b>Our Offering to God last week</b>	<b>\$636.00</b>
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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	Kim Kneuvan	Fr. Allan Phan	Landon Van Boening
Greg Almond	Shirley Koenig	Sharon Reasland	Garry Veik
Pete Bartels	Erica Lauinger	Dennis Reddick	The Verde family
Shawna Back	Rita Mach	Nancy Sapp	Teresa Volesky
Randy Chloupek	Cecilia Martel	Randy Schulte	Diane Walz & family
Kelem Fabrice	Shirley McCabe	Jody Schulte	Edith Weber
Cesaria Gabriel		Juan Slazar	

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

- ◆ **Stations of the Cross:** There will be Stations of the Cross this week on Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. Please come and join in this Lenten devotion.
- ◆ **Food Pantry thanks:** Thanks to everyone who helped out with our parish's turn at running the distribution of food to those in need this weekend. Your time and sacrifice are greatly appreciated.
- ◆ **Sons of the American Legion Fish Fries last remaining Fish Fry:** The last Legion Fish Fry will take place this Friday, March 20, at Glenvil. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- ◆ **KC Fish Fries in Hastings:** The St. Cecilia Knights of Columbus Fish Fries will take place every Friday in Lent (except for Good Friday) at Centennial Hall at St. Cecilia's in Hastings. They will serve from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm. Cost is \$16.00 for adults with a maximum family cost of \$65.00.



◆ **Is anyone going to Lincoln?** Some altar wine was ordered this week and is ready for pick-up at Gloria Deo in Lincoln. If you are heading there this week and can pick it up, it would be greatly appreciated.

◆ **Seminarian of the Week:** The seminarian of the week is Joseph Whitney. He is a parishioner of St. Mary's parish in Nebraska City. He entered the seminary in 2024. His parents are Joseph and Carolyn Whitney. He attends St. Gregory the Great Seminary in Seward. Please pray for him and all our seminarians.

◆ **Holy Father Prayer Intention for March:** For Migrants and Refugees – That displaced persons may find welcome, protection, and opportunities to rebuild their lives with dignity.

◆ **Deanery Penance Services in Sutton and Hastings on Palm Sunday:** There will be penance services for everyone to attend on Palm Sunday, March 29. One penance service will take place at St. Mary's in Sutton at 4:00 p.m. Fr. Jirovsky and Fr. Hoelsing will be hearing confessions there. The other will take place at St. Cecilia's in Hastings, also at 4:00 pm. There will be four or five priests hearing confessions there. If you want to go to another priest other than your own parish priest, these penance services are an opportunity to do that. You

Lenten  
Penance  
Service

can go to confession that Sunday and then have supper – what a great way to kick off Holy Week!

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## Grace from the ordinary

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As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth...he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" —which means Sent—. So he went and washed, and came back able to see. (John 9:1, 6–7)

Who was this man? Interestingly, he does not have a name. He is only referred to as the "man blind from birth." This is significant in the Gospel of John because the lack of a name is also seen, for example, in the story of "the woman at the well." The fact that there is no name indicates that we should see ourselves in this story.

"Blindness" is our inability to see the hand of God at work all around us. We struggle to see the daily miracles of God's grace alive in our lives and alive in the lives of others. So the first thing we should do with this Scripture is strive to see our lack of sight. We should strive to realize that we so often do not see God at work. This realization will inspire us to desire a spiritual healing. It will invite us to want to see God at work.



The good news is obviously that Jesus cured this man, as He willingly cures us. To restore sight is easy for Jesus. So the first prayer we should pray as a result of this story is simply, "Lord, I want to see!" The humble realization of our blindness will invite God's grace to work. And if we do not humbly acknowledge our blindness, we will not be in a position to seek healing.

How He heals this man is also significant. He uses His own spit to make mud and smear it on this man's eyes, which is not immediately that appealing. But it does reveal something quite significant to us. Namely, it reveals the fact that Jesus can use something exceptionally ordinary as a source of His divine grace!

If we look at this in a symbolic way we can come to some profound conclusions. Too often we look for God's action in the extraordinary. But He so often is present to us in that which is ordinary. Perhaps we will be tempted to think that God only works His grace through heroic acts of love or sacrifice. Perhaps we are tempted to think that God is not able to use our daily ordinary activities to perform His miracles. But this is not true. It is precisely those ordinary actions of life where God is present. He is present while washing the dishes, doing chores, driving a child to school, playing a game with a family member, carrying on a casual conversation or offering a helping hand. In fact, the more ordinary the activity, the more we should strive to see God at work. And when we do "see" Him at work in the ordinary activities of life, we will be healed of our spiritual blindness.

Reflect, today, upon this act of Jesus and allow our Lord to smear His spit and dirt on your eyes. Allow Him to give you the gift of spiritual sight. And as you begin to see His presence in your life, you will be amazed at the beauty you behold.

*My miraculous Lord, I want to see. Help me to be healed of my blindness. Help me to see You at work in every ordinary activity of my life. Help me to see Your divine grace in the smallest events of my day. And as I see You alive and active, fill my heart with gratitude for this vision. Jesus, I trust in You.*