

St. Joseph Catholic Church

AUGUST 23, 2026

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

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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>
Parish Website: https://www.st-joseph-harvard.com/		
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This Weeks' Masses and Liturgies

DATE	DAY	TIME	INTENTION	SAINT / FEAST
Aug 24	Mon			
Aug 25	Tues	7:30 am	+Dean Schwenka	
Aug 26	Wed	7:30 am	Special Intention (RJV)	
Aug 27	Thur	7:30 am	+Frasier family	Monica
Aug 28	Fri	7:30 am		Augustine
Aug 29	Sat			22 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Aug 30	Sun	9:00 am	+Carolyn Mazour	
		11:30 am	Parishioners of St. Joseph	
Confessions: one half hour before Sunday Masses				

Our Offering to God last week	\$378.25
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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

- ◆ Coffee/rolls/brunch & CCD registration: We will have back-to-school brunch on Sunday, August 23, after the 9:00 am Mass. Everyone is welcome!
- ◆ Pope Leo Prayer Intention for August: For respect for human life – Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.
- ◆ Fr Hoelsing covering at Doniphan and Kenesaw next weekend: I will be at Doniphan and Kenesaw next weekend. Fr. Clinch will have Masses here.
- ◆ Religious Sister of the week: This week we are asked to pray Sr. Rose Josefa, a junior professed 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.
- ◆ Abortion pill information – Bishop wants people to be aware: In the back of the church you will see posted some information about what abortion pills are and what they do. Bishop Conley requested that this information be posted in the parishes of the Diocese. There are some copies available to take home, too, if you wish, and more can always be made.

◆ Job openings at CSS in Hastings: Catholic Social Services (CSS) has several part-time and full-time job openings in Hastings. Open positions include Full-Time Sustainability Associate and Part-Time Thrift Store Associate. Join the CSS team and inspire hope and love in every encounter! See details and apply online: csshope.org/careers.

◆ 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 fitting follow up for the Unbound Retreat taking place at Saint Michael's.

◆ Unbound: Heart of the Father Retreat: Are you sometimes overwhelmed, hurt, and discouraged with burdens of life? Do you want the freedom that comes with experiencing God's love and mercy?

This weekend retreat led by Father Bill Holoubek will teach 5 simple "keys" to break the chains of emotional/spiritual bondage and unlock the doors to freedom. It's a safe, loving, and reproducible model that teaches how to respond to the good news of the gospel and apply its truth to your life. Want to attend the next Heart of the Father Retreat? You are invited!

- When: Friday evening, September 18 until Sunday lunch, September 20.
- Where: In St. Cecilia's Catholic Church (Centennial Hall – 7th Street and Kansas Avenue, Hastings)
- What: Book/Workbook available for sale – call for more details.
- How: To register, contact Mary Koch (402-984-6624), Marg Noecker (402-984-4120), or Saint Cecilia's Parish Office (402-463-1336). Please call or text by Monday, September 14, to reserve your spot.

Jesus' secret

Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Messiah. Matthew 16:20

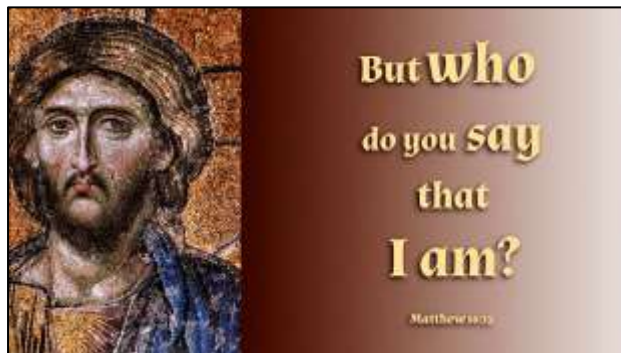
This line in today's Gospel comes immediately after Peter made his profession of faith in Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus, in turn, tells Peter that he is "rock" and on this rock He will build His Church. Jesus goes on to tell Peter that He will give him the "keys to the Kingdom." Then He tells Peter and the other disciples to keep His identity a strict secret.

Why would Jesus say such a thing? What is His motivation? It seems that Jesus would want them to go forth and to tell everyone that He is the Messiah. But this is not what He says.

One reason for this "Messianic Secret" is that Jesus does not want word of who He is to spread in a casual way. Rather, He wants people to come to discover His true identity through the powerful gift of faith. He wants them to encounter Him, prayerfully be open to all He says, and then to receive the gift of faith from the Father in Heaven.

This approach to His true identity highlights the importance of coming to know Christ personally through faith. Eventually, after Jesus' death, Resurrection and Ascension into Heaven, the disciples are called to go forth and to preach openly about the identity of Jesus. But while Jesus was with them, His identity was communicated to people through their own personal encounter with Him.

Though we are all called to proclaim Christ openly and continually in our day and age, His true identity still can only be understood and believed through a personal encounter. When we hear Him proclaimed, we must be open to His divine presence, coming to us and speaking to us in the core of our being. He, and He alone, is able to "convince" us of who He is. He is the one and only Messiah, the Son of the Living God, as Saint Peter professed. We must come to this same realization through our personal encounter with Him in our hearts.



Reflect, today, upon the depth of your faith and knowledge of the Messiah. Do you believe in Him with all your might? Have you allowed Jesus to reveal His divine presence to you? Seek to discover the "secret" of His true identity by listening to the Father speak to you in your heart. It is only there that you will come to have faith in the Son of God.

Lord, I do believe that You are the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the Living God! Help my lack of faith so that I may come to believe in You and love You with my whole being. Invite me, dear Lord, into the secret depths of Your heart, and allow me to rest there in faith with You. Jesus, I trust in You