

St. Joseph Catholic Church

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

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

1ST 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: 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
Feb 23	Mon			
Feb 24	Tues	7:30 am	+Marie Borino	
Feb 25	Wed	7:30 am		
Feb 26	Thur	7:30 am	All Souls (STM)	
Feb 27	Fri	7:30 am		
Feb 28	Sat			2nd Sunday in Lent
Mar 1	Sun	9:00 am	+Lois Studnicka	
		11:30 am	Parishioners of St. Joseph	

Confessions: one half hour before Sunday Masses

Our Offering to God last week	\$1125.00
--------------------------------------	------------------

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	Juan Slazar	Edith Weber
Cesaria Gabriel			

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

◆ **Lent has begun!** We have 40 days ahead of us to grow closer to Jesus through our increased prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Our acts of self-denial are meant to imitate Jesus' self-denial, though in a much smaller way. Lent is meant to shake us up a little bit; to make us feel uncomfortable with where we are so we can become more like Jesus who partook of the ultimate act of self-denial on the cross. Let's carry our cross with him so we can rise with him at Easter. Rising with Jesus at Easter is ultimately what the Lenten season is geared toward.

◆ **Fr Clinch covering Masses this weekend:** Thanks to Fr. Clinch for celebrating Sunday Masses here in my absence. The last time he celebrated Masses here was last October. Though he's very familiar with how things go here, please check and see if he needs any help getting ready (as I know you always do!). Thanks for being here!

◆ **Fat Tuesday pancake supper thanks:** Thanks to everyone who helped set up and tear down for this event! The weather that day was perfect. \$150.00 was raised.



◆ **Harvard Lenten Ecumenical Service at St. Joseph's this year!** The annual Harvard Lenten Ecumenical Service will be hosted by our parish this year. This will take place next Sunday, March 1, at 6:00 p.m. Please come and spread the word.

◆ **February is Catholic Press Month in the Diocese of Lincoln:** February is Catholic Press month. Part of Catholic Press month is paying for our subscriptions to the Southern Nebraska Register. The Southern Nebraska Register subscription is \$15.00 a year. There are envelopes in the back of the church for this.

◆ **KC Fish Fries in Hastings:** The St. Cecilia Knights of Columbus Fish Fries are about to begin. They 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.

◆ **Seminarian of the Week:** The seminarian of the week is Jaden Wilsey. He is a parishioner of St. Mary parish in Ashland. He entered the seminary in 2025. His parents are James & Kristin Wilsey. He attends St. Gregory the Great Seminary in Seward. Please pray for him and all our seminarians.

◆ **Special second collection this weekend for the Diocese of Colombo in Sri Lanka:** This weekend there is a second collection for disaster relief for the Archdiocese of Colombo in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka experienced its most severe flooding in decades in late November and early December 2025 after Cyclone Ditwah brought prolonged heavy rainfall, which triggered landslides and widespread damage across the country. This collection will provide financial assistance to the

Archdiocese of Colombo to assist them in making repairs to Church property and to provide material assistance to those who are still struggling to rebuild. Any checks should be made out to "St. Joseph's Parish." If you plan to give to this collection, please do so by March 1. If you give other than during the special second collection, please be sure to label the plain envelope "Disaster Relief for Colombo."

The Diocese of Lincoln has a very close connection to the Diocese of Colombo since we have been hosting priests from that diocese for several years now (one currently resides at St. Michael's in Hastings). This is the reason Bishop Conley has requested all parishes of the diocese to taken up this special collection next weekend.

◆ Holy Father Prayer Intention for February: For children with incurable diseases – Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

Facing temptation

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. Matthew 4:1-2

Is temptation good? Certainly it's not a sin to be tempted. Otherwise our Lord could never have been tempted Himself. But He was. And so are we. As we enter into the first full week of Lent, we are given the opportunity to ponder the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert.

Temptation is never from God. But God does permit us to be tempted. Not so that we fall, but so that we grow in holiness. Temptation forces us to rise up and make a choice either for God or for the temptation. Though mercy and forgiveness are always offered when we fail, the blessings that await those who overcome temptation are numerous.

Jesus' temptation did not increase His holiness, but it did afford Him the opportunity to manifest His perfection within His human nature. It is that perfection we seek and His perfection that we must strive to imitate as we face the temptations of life. Let's look at five clear "blessings" that can come from enduring the temptations of the evil one. Ponder these carefully and slowly:

- First, enduring a temptation and conquering it helps us see the strength of God in our lives.
- Second, temptation humbles us, stripping away our pride and our struggle of thinking we are self-reliant and self-made.
- Third, there is great value in completely rejecting the devil. This not only robs him of his ongoing power to deceive us, but it also clarifies our vision of who he is so that we can continue to reject him and his works.
- Fourth, overcoming temptation clearly and definitively strengthens us in every virtue.
- Fifth, the devil would not tempt us if he were not concerned about our holiness. Thus, we should see temptation as a sign that the evil one is losing hold of our lives.

Overcoming temptation is like acing an exam, winning a contest, completing a difficult project or accomplishing some challenging feat. We should take great joy in overcoming temptation in our lives, realizing that this strengthens us to the core of our being. As we do so, we must also do so in humility, realizing that we have not accomplished this on our own but only by the grace of God in our lives.

The opposite is true also. When we fail a particular temptation over and over again, we get discouraged and tend to lose the little virtue we have. Know that any and every temptation from the evil one can be overcome. Nothing is too great. Nothing is too difficult. Humble yourself in confession, seek the help of a confidant, fall on your knees in prayer, trust in the almighty power of God. Overcoming temptation is not only possible, it is a glorious and transforming experience of grace in your life.

Reflect, today, upon Jesus facing the devil in the desert after spending 40 days of fasting. He faced every temptation of the evil one so as to assure us that if we but unite ourselves completely to Him in His human nature, so we also will have His strength to overcome anything and everything the vile devil throws our way.

My dear Lord, after spending 40 days of fasting and prayer in the dry and hot desert, You allowed Yourself to be tempted by the evil one. The devil attacked You with all he had, and You easily, quickly and definitively defeated him, rejecting his lies and deceptions. Give me the grace I need to overcome every temptation I encounter and to rely completely upon You without reserve. Jesus, I trust in You.

