

**First Sunday of Advent  
November 29, 2020**

**St. Michael's, Spalding—St. Theresa's, Ericson—Sacred Heart, Greeley**

**Second Sunday of Advent  
December 6: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11  
Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14  
2 Peter 3:8-14  
Mark 1:1-8**

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

**First Sunday of Advent - November 29, 2020**


Today we begin the beautiful and holy season of Advent. With all that we have going on this time of year, it's no wonder Advent that does not always seem to get the attention it deserves. But if we will commit to living this season well, we will experience a deeper conversion to Christ and find real transformation in our lives as Disciples of Christ.

Why? Advent calls us not only to look back in grateful contemplation of Christ's first coming, but it also calls us to look forward in preparation for His Second Coming. Advent is a time to reset and regroup, to repent over any misplaced priorities, to turn our minds and hearts back to God while we still have time. We do so not out of fear or guilt, but rather, out of gratitude for Love Incarnate lying in the manger. Whatever we feel God calling us to do this Advent - committing to a daily Gospel reflection, visiting a lonely neighbor, or donating money to those in dire need - there is no time to waste.

Jesus makes this clear in our Gospel passage from Matthew. He tells the parable of a man going off on a journey. Before he leaves, he "places his servants in charge, each with his own work." We, of course, are the servants in this parable, each with a mission to accomplish in building the Kingdom of God. Jesus warns us over and over in this passage to remain vigilant to the work He has given us to do because we do not know when we will be called to give an account for it. Our lives are a gift. This holy season is a gift. Love came down to us as a Baby. And He is coming again. Be watchful!

This advent we have a unique opportunity to understand the marriage between Joseph and Mary. St. John Paul II teaches that marriage is the "primordial sacrament ... understand as a sign that transmits effectively in the visible world the invisible mystery hidden in God from time immemorial." What does this mean? Here, the Holy Father is trying to say that marriage is the lens for understanding God. If we understand marriage, we understand God. Therefore, to understand the fullness of Mary's identity, we have to understand her marriage to Joseph. Likewise, to understand the fullness of Joseph's identity, we have to understand his marriage to Mary. That's what we are trying to do through Rejoice by Fr. Mark Toups. *Fr Antony*

**MASS INTENTIONS**

TUE	12/01	9:00 a.m.	SACRED HEART	+ Patti Fullen Gehres
WED	12/02	9:00 a.m.	SACRED HEART	+ Deceased CDA Members
THU	12/03	5:00 p.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S	+ Nancy McGowen
FRI	12/04	8:15 a.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S	+ John Molczyk All School Mass
SAT	12/05	5:00 p.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S	+ Loretta M. McGowen
SUN		7:00 a.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S	PEOPLE OF PARISH
		9:00 a.m.	SACRED HEART	+ Marg & Whistle Thompson
		11:00a.m.	ST. THERESA'S	+ Herman Serres

**COMMUNION SERVICES**

**SM** at 8:00 a.m.  
**SH** at 9:00 a.m. weekdays when a Mass is not scheduled.  
**ST** at 8:00 a.m. Thursdays with Rosary to follow.

**Catholic Dictionary**

**Advent:** a period of preparation extending over the four Sundays before Christmas. The word Advent comes from the Latin *advenio*, "to come to," and refers to the coming of Christ.

**WE WELCOME INTO THE CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN FAITH**

, Colette Brennan Smith, daughter of Michael & Anna Smith, baptized November 15 at St. Michael's.



**ADVENT PRAYER**

**Dear Jesus**, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. Amen


**SM FALL AUCTION UPDATE:** Due to Covid this year, plans changed to have an **online** auction. Please go to: [bigirongives.com](http://bigirongives.com) to view auction items. The website will be available on Nov. 30. Please be patient if site not available-- work in progress :) This virtual auction will run 2 weeks and close Dec. 13 @ 2pm. Raffle tickets will be accepted/sold until Dec. 13th. **OPEN HOUSE** to view auction items will be held during the K of C soup supper on Dec. 6th. No access to a computer? Please stop in and give us your *maximum* bid on an item. Students will be available to assist you and guide you through the process (ex: homemade cherry pie bid is currently \$25, increment bid is \$5.00, your maximum bid was \$40, next bid would be \$30, you get the pie for \$30 if no other bids). All items can be picked up after the 3pm Music Christmas Program Dec. 13 at the Parish Center. Thanks for your support and cooperation as we continue to work through this new process.

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\* **THE LITTLE BLUE ADVENT BOOKS &** \*  
\* **THE WORD AMONG US** with daily reflections are \*  
\* available at back of the church. \*  
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**PARISH MEETINGS**

**SM/ST KofC:** Dec. 1 @ 8:00 pm, Church Basement  
**SH Parish Council:** Dec. 8 @ 8:00pm following Mass

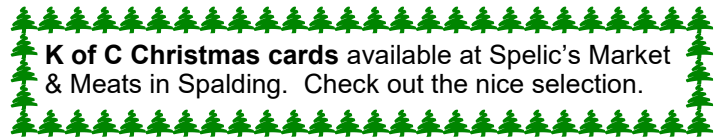
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION	WEEKLY	MONTHLY
St. Michael's	Wed. 12:30 p.m. to Thurs. 4:45 p.m.	First Friday 24-hr, Dec. 4 beginning at 9:00 a.m.
Sacred Heart		
St. Theresa's	<b>Due to COVID-19 Adoration is suspended until further notice.</b>	

ST. MICHAEL'S	SACRED HEART	ST. THERESA'S																																										
<p><b>LECTOR</b> Dec. 5 : Duane Seamann Dec. 6 : Sarah Seamann</p> <p><b>EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS</b></p> <p><b>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS</b></p> <p><b>ALTAR SERVERS</b></p> <p><b>MUSIC MINISTRY</b></p> <p><b>COLLECTION COUNTERS</b> Dec. 6: Elva Mahony</p> <p>CDA Rosary Second Sunday of the month at 10:00 a.m.</p> 	<p><b>LECTOR</b></p> <p><b>EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS</b> <b>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS</b> <b>ALTAR SERVERS</b> <b>MUSIC MINISTRY</b> <b>ROSARY</b> <b>ELEVETTE</b></p> <p><b>SACRISTAN</b> Dec. 6: Cathy Hansen</p> <p><b>DISINFECTING TEAM</b> Dec. 6: Ken &amp; Diane Ryan</p> <p><b>COLLECTION COUNTERS</b></p> <p><b>CARE HOME /HOMEBOUND COMMUNION</b></p>	<p><b>LECTOR</b></p> <p><b>EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS</b></p> <p><b>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS</b></p> <p><b>ALTAR SERVERS</b></p> <p><b>CHURCH CLEANING</b> Dec. : All the Women of St. Theresa's</p> <p><b>PRAYER CHAIN</b> Call: Helen Plugge, Sue Patrick</p> <p>Rosary for Vocations—Sundays 10:30 a.m. prior to Mass.</p>																																										
<p><b>THE LORD'S PORTION</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>November 22</td> <td>Envelopes</td> <td>\$ 2,330</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>ACH/online</td> <td>\$ 1,230</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Plate</td> <td>\$ 80</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Children's</td> <td>\$ 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td>July 1st to date</td> <td><u>\$ 68,887</u></td> </tr> </table>	November 22	Envelopes	\$ 2,330		ACH/online	\$ 1,230		Plate	\$ 80		Children's	\$ 0	<b>Total</b>	July 1st to date	<u>\$ 68,887</u>	<p><b>THE LORD'S PORTION</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>November 22</td> <td>Envelopes</td> <td>\$ 955</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>ACH/online</td> <td>\$ 15</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Plate</td> <td>\$ 485</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Children's</td> <td>\$ 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td>July 1st to date</td> <td><u>\$ 38,740</u></td> </tr> </table>	November 22	Envelopes	\$ 955		ACH/online	\$ 15		Plate	\$ 485		Children's	\$ 0	<b>Total</b>	July 1st to date	<u>\$ 38,740</u>	<p><b>THE LORD'S PORTION</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>November 22</td> <td>Envelopes</td> <td>\$ 610</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Plate</td> <td>\$ 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Children's</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td>July 1st to date</td> <td><u>\$ 21,938</u></td> </tr> </table>	November 22	Envelopes	\$ 610		Plate	\$ 0		Children's	\$	<b>Total</b>	July 1st to date	<u>\$ 21,938</u>
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**SM ADVENT PEACE TREE:** Due to the COVID virus, some parishioners view Mass at home. We want everyone to join in & place your own prayer on the Advent "PEACE TREE". So, after the weekend Masses, there will be a basket with **BLANK** prayer cards at the Main and West entrances of church. If you cannot pick a prayer card up, have a family member/friend do so. *Fill it out and return it by placing it in the Collection basket* in FRONT of the ALTAR. Your "prayers" will be placed on the tree.  
**H O P E. Be Watchfull Be Alert!**

**HAITI UPDATE:** Once again, we will be sponsoring children for school meals. If you would like to update your sponsorship, it is \$200 per child, per school year. Thank you.

**SH PASTORAL COUNCIL**—Please pray for the following individuals who are nominees for SH Pastoral Council: Rhonni Benson, Mary Ann McQuillan, Paige Wood, DW Holley, Jason McIntyre, Mike Wood.

  
**K of C Christmas cards** available at Spelic's Market & Meats in Spalding. Check out the nice selection.

**FLOWER MEMORIALS FOR LOVED ONES**  
We encourage you to make a donation towards the Christmas Poinsettias for the churches in memory of a deceased loved one. The large plant costs \$25-\$30. If you cannot give that amount, please give what you can. Place your donation in an envelope with the names of the loved ones to be remembered and put it in the collection basket. You may also use the designated flower donation offering envelope.

**SM/St. Anne's**  
Dec. Church Cleaning: Circle of Trust  
Side B : prefect Arlene Molczyk  
Rotation: Peace, Faith, Hope  
Dec. MEN'S CLUB: Team 8 : Tim Pfeifer, Bill Thome

SA HAPPENINGS	
Mon. Nov 30	
Tues. Dec 1	Activity Day, no classes; Natl. Giving Tuesday
Wed. Dec 2	District One-Act Play Contest at Leigh
Thur. Dec 3	Memorial of St. Francis Xavier; JV TBA, 6pm GV, 7:30 BV BB @ Heartland Lutheran
Fri. Dec 4	8:15 All School Mass; 2:30-3:30 JH Boys BB @ home vs. Elba

**ST MICHAEL'S FALL DRIVE:**  
Our total to date: \$36,244.60 # of Donors: 33

**SM Religious Education:** No classes until December 2nd due to Covid.



**FR. MURPHY ADDRESS**  
Good Samaritan Society (GSS),  
1222 S. 7th St., Room #110,  
PO Box 271, Albion NE 68620

**Knights of Columbus SOUP SUPPER:** Sunday, December 6th, 4-6:00pm at the Parish Center. Carry out or Spalding delivery only. Proceeds to St. Michael's Church.



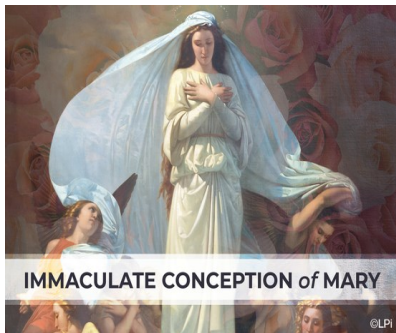
**CHURCH ENVELOPE CONTRIBUTIONS:**  
Due to COVID-19, you may send in your church contributions to the office weekly or monthly.  
St. Michael's & St. Theresa's may be sent to **PO Box 310**, Spalding. Sacred Heart may be sent to **PO Box 99**, Greeley. Automatic withdrawal (ACH) from your bank account can be set up for St. Michael's, St. Theresa's or Sacred Heart. Contact the parish for details.  
**NEW:** Give online with WeShare. Go to our parish website: [www.families-infaith.com](http://www.families-infaith.com). Go to the home page and click on the link.





*We pray during Advent that we may open our hearts in love and hope as we await the celebration of Jesus' birth.*

November 29— First Sunday of Advent  
 December 6— Second Sunday of Advent  
 December 13—Third Sunday of Advent  
 December 20—Fourth Sunday of Advent



*'Behold the handmaid of the Lord, Be it done to me according to thy word'*

Dec. 7: St. Theresa's 5 pm  
 St. Michael's 7 pm  
 Dec. 8: St. Michael's 8:15 am  
 Sacred Heart 7:00 pm



*God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy... Pope Francis*

Dec. 15: St. Michael's 6-8 pm or by appt  
 Dec. 17: Sacred Heart 6-8 pm or by appt  
 Dec. 20: St. Theresa's Following 11 am  
 Mass until complete

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

Dec. 24: St. Michael's 5 pm and 10 pm  
 Sacred Heart 5 pm  
 St. Theresa 7 pm

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

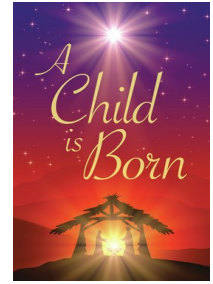
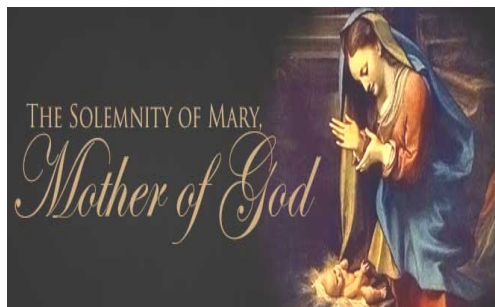
Dec. 25: Sacred Heart 9 am  
 St. Michael's 11 am

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**

Dec. 31: St. Michael's 5 pm  
 St. Theresa 7 pm

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**

Jan. 1: St. Michael's 8:15 am  
 Sacred Heart 7 pm



**Ministries**

**Sacred Heart:**

12/8/20  
 Sacristan: Cathy Hansen  
 Disinfecting Team:  
 Louie Bauer/ Tom Donovan

12/24/20  
 Sacristan: Mary Ann McQuillan  
 Disinfecting Team:  
 Chuck/Kathy Sweeney

12/25/20  
 Sacristan: Patty Harris  
 Disinfecting Team:  
 Pat/Shelly Donovan

1-1-21  
 Sacristan: Jeanette Walsh  
 Disinfecting Team:  
 Ken/Diane Ryan

**St. Michael's-Lector:**

12-7-20: Sarah Seamann  
 12-8-20: SA/TBD

12/24/20:  
 5 pm—Therese Cockerill  
 10 pm— Ed McCarthy

12/25/20: Dan Mailander

12/31/20: Robert Ballweg

1/1/21: Duane Seamann

**St. Theresa's-Lector:**

12/7/20: Mark Smith

12/24/20: Paul Nordhues

12/31/20: Julie Landgren

## OPENING PRAYER

God our Father, grant your faithful servants  
the resolve to run forth to meet your Son, Jesus,  
with righteous deeds at his coming,  
so that we may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Lighting of the Candle:** Light the first violet candle.

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 1:26-31

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel  
was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,  
to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph,  
of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.  
And he came to her and said,  
"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!"  
But she was greatly troubled at the saying,  
and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be.  
And the angel said to her,  
"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.  
And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,  
and you shall call his name Jesus."

## CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father,  
you promised your Chosen People a Savior  
who would restore all things and recreate the world anew.  
We give you thanks and praise for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ.  
Be with us on this Advent journey  
as we joyfully prepare our hearts for the celebration  
of that wondrous day when the Word was made man,  
and patiently await the coming of your Son at the end of time.  
We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you forever and ever. Amen.

**Song:** Sing the first two verses of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."