

# Second Sunday of Advent December 10, 2023

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

**SUNDAY SCRIPTURES**  
December 17: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11  
Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

## Fill our Valley and Level our Mountain

Friends of Families in Faith,

In this Sunday's first reading, we hear Isaiah saying, "In the desert prepare the way of the Lord. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low" (Is. 40:3-5). Similarly in the Gospel, John the Baptist saw his mission as the one who prepared the people for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Beloved, you and I also have to prepare the roads of our lives to meet the Lord. The preparation involves filling the valleys in our lives and leveling our mountains. But what are the **valleys** and **mountains** in our lives? The Bible helps us to understand the valleys and mountains in our lives.

### The valley is:

- 1. Fertile ground:** The river that runs through the valley makes it fertile for growing crops. The valley, therefore, signifies material prosperity. Material riches can sometimes obscure our vision of God or dull our devotion to him. Is the quest for prosperity, consciously or unconsciously, taking us away from God? If yes, then prosperity has become our valley.
- 2. Point of invasion/defeat:** A valley could be the point at which a city is invaded to conquer it. For instance, to defeat the city of Ai, Joshua went through the Jordan valley (Joshua 8) and it was in the Valley of Rephaim that David repeatedly defeated the Philistines (2 Sam 5:17-25). Therefore, the valley could signify our weakness. Do we have some weaknesses? If yes, then these are some of the valleys which need to be filled.
- 3. Abode of wild beasts:** In the Jordan valley, there were bushy places infested with wild beasts like lions, tigers and wolves. Such places were **no-go** areas for human beings. Are there places that Christians should not go that we go? Do we have anger, hatred and forgiveness? These may be our valleys that need to be filled up.

### The mountain is:

- 1. Heathen sacrifice:** The bible likewise condemned heathen or pagan sacrifices offered on mountains (Deut. 12:2), or the worship of idols which took place there (1 Kings 14:23; Jer. 2:20). Once again, is idol worship that which we have to deal with in our life, as we prepare to celebrate the birthday of the Lord?
- 2. Illusion of earthly glory:** Satan took Jesus to the mountain top to show him the illusive glory of earth (Matt. 4:8). Thus, a mountain could symbolize illusive earthly glory, fame, wealth or power. Have we been seduced by any of these?
- 3. Obstacle to our goal:** As a mountain could prevent one from reaching a goal or prevent one from seeing what is beyond it, so it could signify those things in our life that prevent us from reaching our spiritual goals or obscure our vision of the glory of God. What are some of these things that we have to begin to clear from our life?

Friends, in this season of Advent, may the Lord grant us abundant grace to fill every valley and to level every mountain in our lives. God bless us all,  
Fr. Lawrence

## MASS INTENTIONS

SAT	12/09	5:00 p.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S	† Budge & Marie Naughtin
SUN	12/10	7:00 a.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S	† Jean, Clinton & Steve Asche
		9:00 a.m.	SACRED HEART	PEOPLE OF PARISH
		11:00 a.m.	ST THERESA'S	† Clara Smith
TUE	12/12	5:30 p.m.	SACRED HEART	† Olive Gay Stauffer Beck
WED	12/13	10:00 a.m.	ASSISTED LIVING	† Lorraine Kelly family
THU	12/14	5:00 p.m.	ST. CATHARINE'S	† Nancy McGowen
FRI	12/15	8:15 a.m.	ST. CATHARINE'S	† Shane Thome
SAT	12/16	5:00 p.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S	Rich & Aggie Hinkle
SUN	12/17	7:00 a.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S	PEOPLE OF PARISH
		9:00 a.m.	SACRED HEART	† Orren Wood Jr Family
		11:00 a.m.	ST THERESA'S	† Bill Molt

## COMMUNION SERVICES

**SM** at 8:00 a.m.

**SH** at 9:00 a.m.

**Holy Father's Prayer Intention of the Month: For persons with disabilities.** We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

## RECONCILIATION:

**ST:** Sunday, December 10, 12pm  
**SH:** Wednesday, December 13, 7pm  
**SM:** Thursday, December 21, 7pm

## BULLETIN DEADLINE


**Tuesdays, 12:00 noon.**



**Please email information to both SM and SH. Email addresses on front of bulletin.**

## PARISH MEETINGS

**ST Altar Society:** Sunday, Dec 10, after Mass  
**School Board:** Monday, Dec 11, 7pm  
**ST Pastoral:** Tuesday, Dec. 12, 7pm



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION	WEEKLY	MONTHLY
St. Michael's (Dominican Center)	Thursdays, 6 p.m.--9 p.m.	First Friday, 24 hr, 9:00 a.m. All other Fridays 9 a.m.—3 p.m.
Sacred Heart Chapel		First Tuesday, after 9:00 a.m. Mass
St. Theresa's		Last Sunday of month for Vocations, 10 a.m.

ST. MICHAEL'S	SACRED HEART	ST. THERESA'S																																																			
<b>LECTOR</b> Dec 16: Youth Dec 17: Philip Hanigan  <b>EMHC</b> Dec 16: Ed & Mandy McCarthy, Jeanie Seier, Jerry Glaser Dec 17: Jeff & Janelle Pritchard  <b>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS</b> Dec 16: Youth Dec 17: Bob Koenig, Bill Spelic, Jeremiah Seamann, Volunteer  <b>ALTAR SERVERS</b> Dec 16: Landyn & Khyer Carraher, Larry Diessner Dec 17: Drew & Brady Carraher; Adam Glaser  <b>MUSIC MINISTRY</b> Dec 16: Matt & Linda Dec 17: Theresa & Denise  <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <b>SM CDA Rosary</b>, Thursdays, before Mass, 4:30 in the chapel. </div> 	<b>LECTOR</b> Dec 17: Youth  <b>EMHC</b> Dec 17: Jackie Nekoliczak, Patty Harris  <b>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS</b> Dec 17: Youth  <b>ALTAR SERVERS</b> Dec 17: Youth  <b>MUSIC MINISTRY</b> Dec 17: Youth Choir  <b>ROSARY</b> Dec 17: Youth  <b>SACRISTAN</b> Dec 17: Jeanette Walsh  <b>COLLECTION COUNTERS</b> Dec 17: Pat & Shelly  <b>ASSISTED LIVING</b> Dec 17: Annette Ackman	<b>LECTOR</b> Dec 17: Lori King  <b>EMHC</b> Dec 17: Jean Nordhues, Shelby Kasselder  <b>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS</b> Dec 17: Mark & Angela Smith  <b>CHURCH CLEANING</b> December: All women of St. Theresa's  <b>PRAYER CHAIN</b> Call: Helen Plugge, Sue Patrick  <b>ROSARY</b> For Vocations—Sundays 10:00 a.m. prior to Mass.  Thursday morning Communion Service 9:00 a.m. followed by Rosary and Adoration.  Religious Education Sundays, 10:00 a.m. before Mass																																																			
THE LORD'S PORTION	THE LORD'S PORTION	THE LORD'S PORTION																																																			
<b>December 3</b> <table> <tr><td>Envelopes</td><td>\$</td><td>5,722</td></tr> <tr><td>ACH/online</td><td>\$</td><td>2,155</td></tr> <tr><td>Plate</td><td>\$</td><td>322</td></tr> <tr><td>Children's</td><td>\$</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Weekly total</td><td>\$</td><td>8,206</td></tr> <tr><td>July 1st to date</td><td>\$</td><td>111,121</td></tr> </table> <b>Total</b>	Envelopes	\$	5,722	ACH/online	\$	2,155	Plate	\$	322	Children's	\$	7	Weekly total	\$	8,206	July 1st to date	\$	111,121	<b>December 3</b> <table> <tr><td>Envelopes</td><td>\$</td><td>1,590</td></tr> <tr><td>ACH/online</td><td>\$</td><td>150</td></tr> <tr><td>Plate</td><td>\$</td><td>419</td></tr> <tr><td>Children</td><td>\$</td><td>39</td></tr> <tr><td>Weekly total</td><td>\$</td><td>2,223</td></tr> <tr><td>July 1st to date</td><td>\$</td><td>58,558</td></tr> </table> <b>Total</b>	Envelopes	\$	1,590	ACH/online	\$	150	Plate	\$	419	Children	\$	39	Weekly total	\$	2,223	July 1st to date	\$	58,558	<b>December 3</b> <table> <tr><td>Envelopes</td><td>\$</td><td>1,225</td></tr> <tr><td>Plate</td><td>\$</td><td>1,121</td></tr> <tr><td>Children's</td><td>\$</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>Weekly Total</td><td>\$</td><td>2,362</td></tr> <tr><td>July 1st to date</td><td>\$</td><td>21,429</td></tr> </table>	Envelopes	\$	1,225	Plate	\$	1,121	Children's	\$	16	Weekly Total	\$	2,362	July 1st to date	\$	21,429
Envelopes	\$	5,722																																																			
ACH/online	\$	2,155																																																			
Plate	\$	322																																																			
Children's	\$	7																																																			
Weekly total	\$	8,206																																																			
July 1st to date	\$	111,121																																																			
Envelopes	\$	1,590																																																			
ACH/online	\$	150																																																			
Plate	\$	419																																																			
Children	\$	39																																																			
Weekly total	\$	2,223																																																			
July 1st to date	\$	58,558																																																			
Envelopes	\$	1,225																																																			
Plate	\$	1,121																																																			
Children's	\$	16																																																			
Weekly Total	\$	2,362																																																			
July 1st to date	\$	21,429																																																			

**"Prepare the way of the Lord..." - MARK 1:3**



**SM Fall Drive** to date:  
\$60,067.37  
**SH First Fruits:**  
\$8,346.29

### SAVE THE DATE!

Bishop Hanefeldt will conduct a Eucharistic Holy Hour at Sacred Heart Church on Wednesday, January 10th, 6:30-7:30pm. All Families in Faith welcome to attend. Please join us.

### You are Invited to Celebrate Shootzie Kelly turning 95.

When: December 16th  
Time: 2:00 to 4:30  
Where: Greeley Assisted Living  
Cards can be sent to 201 E O'Connor Ave, Greeley, NE 68842



**SAVE THE DATE:**  
Families in Faith  
Development Dinner  
Saturday,  
February 10, 2024

	SA HAPPENINGS
Mon Dec 11	4:00 Shamrock Bowling Triangular at North Bend; 7:00 pm School Board Meeting
Tues Dec 12	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe; JV TBA, 6:00, 7:30 Charger BB at Fullerton; Seniors sell yearbooks (out of town).
Wed Dec 13	Feast of St. Lucy; Preschool and Kindergarten Classes go caroling around Spalding; 3:30-5:30 Lego League Practice; FFA District LDE at Aurora
Thur Dec 14	6:00 Shamrock Bowling at Norfolk Catholic (Kings Lanes); JV TBA 6:00, 7:30 Charger BB vs CWC at Spalding
Fri Dec 15	8:15 Grades 1-4 Mass (3); 7:00 Grades PK-12 Christmas Concert at Parish Center
Sat Dec 16	5pm Mass at St. Michael's

### SM-Advent Peace Tree

As in previous years, we will once again have the Advent Peace Tree. There is a basket with blank prayer cards at the entrances of the church. Pens will be in the pews. Please join us and place your own prayer in the collection basket at the FRONT of the altar. If you cannot pick a prayer card up, please have a family member/friend do so. Your "prayers" will be placed on the tree. HOPE. Be Watchful!! Be Alert!



### St. Anne's Altar Society

We are looking for a Vice President for next year. Prefects should be looking for their replacements also. Thanks for all you do for our Church and Parish.

**SM -SCRIP** cards make great Christmas gifts!! Stop in the parish office!!



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



### SM/St. Anne

**December: Church Cleaning:** Circle of Hope  
**Side B:** Jeanie Seier & Mandy McCarthy-Prefect  
**Rotation:** Faith, Hope, Joy  
**December: Men's Club Team #4:** Jeff Carraher, Boots Seamann

### LUCKY DAY CALENDAR LOTTERY WINNER

Our Sunday, December 10th winner of \$250 is Jay Wlaschin of Spalding, NE. Congratulations!!

