

**Third Sunday of Advent  
December 17, 2023**

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

**SUNDAY SCRIPTURES**  
Dec. 24: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16  
Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29  
Romans 16:25-27  
**Luke 1:26-38**

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

Dear People of God,

We are told that there is **One**, who has the power to heal our personal brokenness, to heal our fractured families, to heal our troubled church, and to heal our bleeding world. Paul tells us that **He** is coming; John the Baptist tells us that **He** is already in our midst. **His presence** among us should make us rejoice; the saving power that He brings should give us confidence.

Third Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete Sunday." The Latin word *Gaudete* means "Rejoice!" On this Sunday, we take a short hiatus from the mostly somber nature of Advent and rejoice in the nearness of the celebration of Christmas. To signal this, rose vestments may be worn by the celebrant, instead of the typical violet for Advent. One may also note that the third candle on the Advent wreath is rose colored. Rose signifies joy.

**Joy is a gift of God:** It is, according to Scripture, a fruit of the Spirit. Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, was filled with joy. The child, John, was miraculously filled with joy. Mary rejoiced at what God was doing and said, "**My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**" The joy is something that God brings about in the lives of those who are open, available and obedient to God.

**Joy is usually accompanied by challenges:** Joy never reaches us completely unadulterated. It is always mixed with adversity, struggle, and difficulty. To truly understand joy, one has to understand sorrow. We should be willing to sacrifice, and submit ourselves to God's will. In the words of St. Augustine: "**Without God, human cannot and without human, God will not.**"

Pope Francis's example of humility and compassion for the poor and suffering has proved a precious sign to the church. It's challenging all of us to grow in Christ, accept our own missionary identity and make our lives models of "**the joy of the Gospel**". As we come closer to Christmas, my prayer for all of us is that we may all come to know the saving power of God and rejoice always in God's presence.

God bless us all,  
Fr. Lawrence

**MASS INTENTIONS**

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
TUE	12/19	5:30 p.m.	SACRED HEART †	Tom Harrahill
WED	12/20	10:00 a.m.	ASSISTED LIVING	Mary Bauer
THU	12/21	7:00 p.m.	ST. CATHARINE'S †	Robert Leslie
FRI	12/22	8:15 a.m.	ST. CATHARINE'S †	Jim & Sally Walsh
SAT	12/23	5:00 p.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S †	Rose Koenig
SUN Fourth Sunday of Advent	12/24	7:00 a.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S	<u>NO MASS</u>
		9:00 a.m.	SACRED HEART	PEOPLE OF PARISH
		11:00 a.m.	ST. THERESA'S †	Barb Anderson
SUN Christmas Vigil	12/24	5:00 p.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S †	Mark Reilly
		5:00 p.m.	SACRED HEART †	Keith Callahan, Mike McGuire, Sean McGuire
		7:00 p.m.	ST. THERESA'S	PEOPLE OF PARISH
		10:00 p.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S †	Larry Diessner
MON Christmas	12/25	9:00 a.m.	SACRED HEART †	Tom Harvey
		11:00 a.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S †	John Scheef, Prudie & John Bernt



**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.

**BULLETIN DEADLINE**  
Tuesdays, 12:00 noon.  
Please email information to both SM and SH. Email addresses on front of bulletin.

**RECONCILIATION:**  
**SM:** Thursday, December 21, 7pm


**WE WELCOME INTO THE CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN FAITH,**  
Skyler Kristine Eastman, daughter of Landon & Alyssa (Dozler) Eastman, baptized December 9th, at St. Michael's.



**SM Pastoral Council:** May the Holy Spirit guide Kimberly Webb and Bill Spelic as we begin a new year in 2024 with Pastoral Council leadership. Thanks to Carol Seamann for your service on the Council and thank you to all nominees.

**Flower Memorials for Loved Ones ~** There is still time for Christmas poinsettia donations. Place your donation in an envelope and put in the collection. Thanks.


EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION	WEEKLY	MONTHLY
St. Michael's (Dominican Center)	<b>Thursday, Dec. 21</b> <b>2 p.m.—5 p.m.</b>	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																																																			
<p><b>LECTOR</b>  Dec 23: Jean Herrera  Dec 24 5pm: Ed McCarthy  Dec 24 10pm: Duane Seamann  Dec 25: Troy Kleffner</p> <p><b>EMHC</b>  Dec 23: Joe Seamann, Rich Rist, Shelly Houtby, Joan Hooker  Dec 24 5pm: Jean Herrera, Dan Bauer, Carol &amp; Dean Seamann  Dec 24 10pm: Lee &amp; Tammy Diessner, Maureen Seamann, Sarah Seamann  Dec 25: Bill Spelic, Jerry Glaser</p> <p><b>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS</b>  Dec 23: Aprill Murphy, Sarah Seamann, Ed &amp; Mandy McCarthy  Dec 24 5pm: Maureen Thome, Bill Spelic, Kurt &amp; Holly Carraher  Dec 24 10pm: Joe &amp; Sharon Seamann, Jeremiah Seamann, Kara Reimers  Dec 25: Sharon Bauer, Dan Mailander, Tom Asche, Cheryl Ray</p> <p><b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>  Dec 23: Brooklyn, Belle, Brynlee Weltruski  Dec 24 5pm: Mike Mahony family  Dec 24 10pm: Addyson &amp; Brynn Seamann, Avery Molt  Dec 25: Colton &amp; Haden Bernt, Preston Glesinger</p> <p><b>MUSIC MINISTRY</b>  Dec 23: Denise, Kelly, Therese  Dec 24 5pm: Denise, Kelly, Therese  Dec 24 10pm: Dan Walsh  Dec 25: Matt &amp; Linda</p> <p>.....  <b>SM CDA Rosary</b>, Thursdays,  before Mass, 4:30 in the chapel.  .....</p>	<p><b>LECTOR</b>  Dec 24 9am: Ted Nekoliczak  Dec 24 5pm: Paige Wood  Dec 25: Chuck Sweeney</p> <p><b>EMHC</b>  Dec 24 9am: Matt Pfeifer, Susie Lammers, Patty Harris  Dec 24 5pm: Mia Butcher, Teresa Kehler  Dec 25: Mike &amp; Janet Wood</p> <p><b>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS</b>  Dec 24 9am: Trent Nekoliczak family  Dec 24 5pm: Jason McIntyre family  Dec 25: Shawn O'Connor family</p> <p><b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>  Dec 24 9am: Cordel Wagner, Zevan Wolf, Caden Straka  Dec 24 5pm: Lincoln Nekoliczak, Addie &amp; Charlie Ryan  Dec 25: Hadlee Buettner, Volunteers</p> <p><b>MUSIC MINISTRY</b>  Dec 24 5pm: Youth Choir  Dec 25: Adult Choir</p> <p><b>ROSARY</b>  Dec 24 9am: Jeanette Walsh  Dec 24 5pm: Mary Bauer  Dec 25: Mick Foster</p> <p><b>SACRISTAN</b>  Dec 24 9am: Patty Harris  Dec 24 5pm: Mary Ann McQuillan  Dec 25: Jeanette Walsh</p> <p><b>COLLECTION COUNTERS</b>  Dec 24: Tom &amp; Jackie</p> <p><b>ASSISTED LIVING</b>  Dec 24: Tom Donovan</p>	<p><b>LECTOR</b>  Dec 24 11am: Leslie Scott  Dec 24 7pm: Joyce Bos</p> <p><b>EMHC</b>  Dec 24 11am: Helen Plugge, Judy Ita  Dec 24 7pm: Julie Landgren, Lori King</p> <p><b>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS</b>  Dec 24 11am: Jake &amp; Shelby Kasselder  Dec 24 7pm: John &amp; Judy Schmit</p> <p><b>CHURCH CLEANING</b>  December: All women of St. Theresa's</p> <p><b>PRAYER CHAIN</b>  Call: Helen Plugge, Sue Patrick</p> <p><b>ROSARY</b>  For Vocations—Sundays 10:00 a.m. prior to Mass.</p> <p>Thursday morning Communion Service 9:00 a.m. followed by Rosary and Adoration.</p> <p>Religious Education  Sundays, 10:00 a.m. before Mass</p> 																																																			
<p><b>THE LORD'S PORTION</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>December 8/10</td> <td>Envelopes</td> <td>\$ 3,464</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>ACH/online</td> <td>\$ 125</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Plate</td> <td>\$ 547</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Children's</td> <td>\$ 31</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Weekly total</td> <td>4,167</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td>July 1st to date</td> <td><u>\$115,288</u></td> </tr> </table>	December 8/10	Envelopes	\$ 3,464		ACH/online	\$ 125		Plate	\$ 547		Children's	\$ 31		Weekly total	4,167	<b>Total</b>	July 1st to date	<u>\$115,288</u>	<p><b>THE LORD'S PORTION</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>December 8/10</td> <td>Envelopes</td> <td>\$ 2,293</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>ACH/online</td> <td>\$ 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Plate</td> <td>\$ 365</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Children</td> <td>\$ 28</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Weekly total</td> <td>\$ 2,686</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td>July 1st to date</td> <td><u>\$ 61,244</u></td> </tr> </table>	December 8/10	Envelopes	\$ 2,293		ACH/online	\$ 0		Plate	\$ 365		Children	\$ 28		Weekly total	\$ 2,686	<b>Total</b>	July 1st to date	<u>\$ 61,244</u>	<p><b>THE LORD'S PORTION</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>December 8/10</td> <td>Envelopes</td> <td>\$ N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Plate</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Children's</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Weekly Total</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>July 1st to date</td> <td><u>\$ 21,429</u></td> </tr> </table>	December 8/10	Envelopes	\$ N/A		Plate	\$		Children's	\$		Weekly Total	\$		July 1st to date	<u>\$ 21,429</u>
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**"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." – 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18**

**SM Pastoral Council Summary—December 7th, 2023:**  
\$10,000 was sent to St. Raphael's in Haiti for school lunches. The south entrance door has been fixed. Cement pads have been poured for the future monuments. The west ramp sidewalk has been reconstructed. The Diocesan Appeal has been met in number of households and dollar amount. For the profit & loss reports, the net incomes for the month of November and year to date, July through November, were in the black.

**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

	SA HAPPENINGS
Mon Dec 18	
Tues Dec 19	1:00 Liturgy of the Hours followed by All School Dismissal; JV TBA 6:00, 7:30 Charger BB vs Twin Loup at Spalding
Wed Dec 20	Christmas Vacation
Thur Dec 21	Feast of St Thomas; Christmas Vacation; 7pm Communal Penance Service at St Michael's Church
Fri Dec 22	Christmas Vacation
Sat Dec 23	NSAA Moratorium Begins

**LUCKY DAY CALENDAR LOTTERY WINNER**  
Our Sunday, December 17th winner of \$250 is C.J. Glesinger of Spalding, NE. Congratulations!!

