

**First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023**

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

SUNDAY SCRIPTURES
Dec 10: 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

Shine through the Darkness!

Dear people of God,

This Sunday, we begin the season of Advent. In our culture, this season has become busy, frenetic, and exhausting. However, **Advent is our introverted season.** The world around us does a lot of chatting and contesting; Advent gives us a space for holy listening. The world does a lot of debating, deciding, and declaring; Advent calls us to reflect on the profound reality of who we are and whose we are.

Advent is an expectant season. Advent waiting is not a worrisome, dreary, or grim time. It reminds us that, even in the midst of challenges, our God is a **God of Hope.** The theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and look forward to something greater to come."

As I drove along the streets, I see many Christmas decorations. My favorite ones are lighted window candles that shine through the dark street. Isaiah reminds us that throughout our individual lives, as well as throughout history, we have travelled through darkness, led by light: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who lived in a land of gloom a light has shone" (Isaiah 9:1).

At times, we might feel immersed through darkness of illness, worry, grief, disappointment, and rejection, or surrounded by the destructive consequences of disrespect, hatred, violence, and inequality. But Advent comes as a vivid reminder that there is always more than darkness. During this season, we physically surround ourselves with many types of lights. The Advent message is that a greater light encircles us: the protective light of our faithful God and the sparks of that light that God gives us through the people and happenings of our everyday lives. We aren't just like the people of the Old Testament, waiting in darkness for a savior. We are people waiting for the fulfillment of God's kingdom.

So, dear friends, may the Scripture Readings, we will read at Mass during this Advent Season, the reflections we hear, root us in gratitude for the light of God. **"May we be in this world a ray of that light which shone forth in Bethlehem."** (Pope Francis).

Blessings on our Advent quiet, a time of waiting and patience.

With love and Prayers, *Fr. Lawrence*

MASS INTENTIONS

SAT	12/02	5:00 p.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S	† Frank & Mary Ballweg
SUN	12/03	7:00 a.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S	Anna Diessner
		9:00 a.m.	SACRED HEART	† Whistle & Marge Thompson
		11:00 a.m.	ST THERESA'S	PEOPLE OF PARISH
TUE	12/05	9:00 a.m.	SACRED HEART	† Becky Kelly
WED	12/06	10:00 a.m.	ASSISTED LIVING	Robert J Wood
THU	12/07	7:00 p.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S	† Dott Koenig
FRI	12/08	8:15 a.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S	† Darrel Carr
		5:00 p.m.	ST. THERESA'S	† Janet Klein
		7:00 p.m.	SACRED HEART	PEOPLE OF PARISH
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

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.

WE WELCOME INTO THE CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN FAITH,

Tuffton Troy Nordhues, son of David Nordhues and Brooke Behnk, baptized November 25th; Elliott Ann Boston daughter of Jeb and Kaitlin Boston, Jayden Wren Ondracek daughter of Jared & Jacki Ondracek and Scarlett Rose Glaser daughter of Scott & Katrina Glaser baptized November 26 at Sacred Heart.



RECONCILIATION:

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



REST IN PEACE Our condolences and prayers to the family of Jim Zauha, buried at Sacred Heart. May he rest in peace.




PARISH MEETINGS

SH KofC: Sunday, Dec 3 after Mass
SM/ST KofC: Tuesday, Dec 5, 8 pm
SH Pastoral Council: Wed. Dec 6, 8pm
School Board: Monday, Dec. 11, 7pm

The Little Blue Advent and The Word Among Us books are available now at the church entrances. Please pick up a copy.

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, Dec 6, 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>LECTOR Dec 7: 7pm, Therese Cockerill Dec 8: 8:15 am, SA Dec 9: Don Pritchard Dec 10: Dalton Rankin</p> <p>EMHC Dec 7: 7pm, Holly Carraher, Sarah Seamann Dec 8: 8:15 am, SA Dec 9: Jerry & Marlynn Scheef, Lee & Tammy Dec 10: Stacey Bauer, Jeremiah Seamann</p> <p>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS Dec 7: 7pm, Jerry & Marlynn Scheef, Tom & Vickie Connelly Dec 8: 8:15 am, SA Dec 9: Dean Seamann, Cheryl Ray, Sharon Seamann, Maureen Seamann Dec 10: Sharon Bauer, Dan & Vicky Bauer Dan Mailander</p> <p>ALTAR SERVERS Dec 7: 7pm, Brooklyn, Belle, Brynlee Weltruski Dec 8: 8:15 am, SA Dec 9: Alexa & Brielle Hall, Lauren Webb Dec 10: Bronson Meyer, Destin Keber, Alex Carlin</p> <p>MUSIC MINISTRY Dec 7: 7pm, Therese & Denise Dec 8: 8:15am, SA Dec 9: Kelly & Leslie Dec 10: Philip & Dan</p> <p>..... SM CDA Rosary, Thursdays, before Mass, 4:30 in the chapel. </p>	<p>LECTOR Dec 8: DW Holley Dec 10: Tom Nekoliczak</p> <p>EMHC Dec 8: Teresa Kehler, Tom Nekoliczak Dec 10: Mia Butcher, Matt Pfeifer</p> <p>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS Dec 8: Scott & Paige Wood Dec 10: Scott Dugan family</p> <p>ALTAR SERVERS Dec 8: Lincoln Nekoliczak, Turner and Max Freeman Dec 10: Treyvan Straka, Max Foltz, Grady Kelly</p> <p>MUSIC MINISTRY Dec 10: Mike & Vicki Goodrich</p> <p>ROSARY Dec 8 & 10: Mick Costello</p> <p>SACRISTAN Dec 8 & 10: Mary Ann McQuillan</p> <p>COLLECTION COUNTERS Dec 10: Donna & Denny</p> <p>ASSISTED LIVING Dec 10: Jeanette Walsh</p>	<p>LECTOR Dec 8: Julie Landgren Dec 10: Audrey Miller</p> <p>EMHC Dec 8: Jenna Landgren, Lori King Dec 10: Sandy Miller, Julie Landgren</p> <p>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS Dec 8: Travis & Jessica Reich Dec 10: Youth</p> <p>CHURCH CLEANING December: All women of St. Theresa's</p> <p>PRAYER CHAIN Call: Helen Plugge, Sue Patrick</p> <p>ROSARY 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> 

THE LORD'S PORTION	THE LORD'S PORTION	THE LORD'S PORTION
<p>November 26 Envelopes \$ 7,327 ACH/online \$ 2,125 Plate \$ 496 Children's \$ 31 Weekly total \$ 9,979 Total July 1st to date \$ 102,915</p>	<p>November 26 Envelopes \$ 1,463 ACH/online \$ 400 Plate \$ 523 Children \$ 39 Weekly total \$ 2,425 Total July 1st to date \$ 56,335</p>	<p>November 26 Envelopes \$ 695 Plate \$ 186 Children's \$ 6 Weekly Total \$ 887 July 1st to date \$ 19,067</p>

"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." - Mark 13:33

SM Fall Drive to date:
\$58,867.37
SH First Fruits:
\$8,346.29

Pastoral Council Nominees
As Fr. Lawrence had mentioned, we ask you to kindly pray for the following individuals who have been nominated to serve on our pastoral council.
Sacred Heart: Paige Wood, Lindsay Beck, Maria Shepard, Tom Foster, Devin Beck, Matt Pfeifer.
St. Michael's: Kimberly Webb, Aprill Murphy, Sara Mahony; Bill Spelic.
Names will be drawn Dec. 10th weekend.

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



	SA HAPPENINGS
Mon Dec 4	Feast of St Barbara; Butter Braids are delivered.
Tues Dec 5	4:00 GJV, 5:00 BJV, 6:15VG, 7:30 VB Charger BB vs Summerland at CR
Wed Dec 6	Feast of St Nicholas; Activity Day-No Classes; State One-Act Play Contest at Norfolk
Thur Dec 7	Pearl Harbor Day; 12:00 Shamrock Bowling at Omaha Christian Academy; JV TBA, 6:00, 7:30 BB at HSF
Fri Dec 8	Immaculate Conception; 8:15 All School Mass (11), Math League Test #2, Santa Claus Day, 1:30 Movie at Parish Center
Sat Dec 9	Feast of St Juan Diego; 2:00 JV, 3:30, 5:00 Charger BB at Heartland (Henderson); 5PM Mass at St. Michael's Church

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 3rd winner of \$250 is Annette Pritchard of Laurel, NE. Congratulations!!





Please help us extend a note of love and gratitude this Advent season to our local seminarians, Religious Sisters, and our Deacons. It could be a word of encouragement, prayers for continued discernment as they pursue their studies, or just a “thinking of you” note. Thank them for their example of true witnesses of faith.

Religious Sisters

Sr Bernadette Rose Spelic
% LSP St. Mary Home
2325 N Lakewood Ave
Chicago, IL 60614-3112

Sr John Marion
Christ the King
Villa Regina Motherhouse
4100 SW 56th Street
Lincoln, NE 68522-9261

Sr Mary Citlali Glaser
She is unable to receive mail, please
keep her in your prayers, or give to
Deacon Ron & Cindy.

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Deacon Paul Nordhues  
510 Randolph St  
Bartlett, NE 68622

Deacon Ron Glaser  
50269 Three Mile Road  
Spalding, NE 68665



### Seminarians

Jimmy Beran  
St Charles Borromeo Seminary  
100 E Wynnewood Rd  
Wynnewood, PA 19096

Noah Huddleston  
Pontifical North American College  
VIA DEL GIANICOLO, 14,  
00165 ROME (RM), ITALIA

Samuel Ogden  
Kenrick-Glennon Seminary  
5200 Glennon Dr  
St Louis, MO 63119

Kaelob Marx  
St John Vianney Theological Seminary  
1300 So Steele Street  
Denver, CO 80201

Trevor Fisher  
Conception Seminary College  
37174 State Hwy VV  
Conception, MO 64433

Juan Pablo Ramirez  
Conception Seminary College  
37174 State Hwy VV  
Conception, MO 64433

David Hauk  
Conception Seminary College  
37174 State Hwy VV  
Conception, MO 64433

*Igniting a Culture  
of Vocations*

IS THIS FOOD EXPIRED?

info@sharefoodprogram.org

UNDERSTANDING DATE LABELS

The date that food companies put on packages are not regulated and do not mean that the food is unsafe to eat except in the case of baby formula. Most foods are still tasty and nutritious after the date has passed. Not sure if the food is spoiled? Check for off odor, flavor, or texture.

"Best by" or "Best if used by" date: This date tells you when the food will have the best flavor. It is still safe to eat past this time.

"Use by" or "Expiration" date: This is the last date that the product will be at its peak quality. It is still safe to eat past this date (except baby formula).

"Packing/manufacturing" date: This is the date used by manufacturers for tracking. It is NOT an expiration date. It is not related to food quality or safety.

"Sell by" date: This tells the store how long to display the product for sale. It is still safe to eat past this date.

GOOD FOR UP TO ONE YEAR AFTER THE DATE: Packaged food like cereal, pasta, dried beans, and baking mixes, frozen foods, canned goods including soup, condiments, meat, fruit and vegetables.

GOOD FOR UP TO 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE: Butter, cheese, eggs

GOOD FOR UP TO 7 DAYS AFTER THE DATE: Milk, yogurt, cream cheese.

John 6:27 Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you.

Joan and Jeanette

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!

Flower Memorials for Loved Ones ~
We appreciate the donations towards the Christmas poinsettias. Place your donation in an envelope and put in collection with the names of the loved ones to be remembered.

St. Michael's 2023 Fall Auction Proceeds
Live Auction/Donations: \$ 39,052.61
Silent Auction/baskets: 1,721.00
Candy Auction 1,525.00
Lawn Mower raffle: 4,100.00
Scrip raffle: 1,270.00
Bean bag chair raffle: 340.00
Rosary Sales: 222.00
St. Anne R.Beef Dinner: 3,057.00
St. Anne Bake Sale: 1,421.00
Pie Sales 90.75
Net Proceeds \$52,799.36
Thank you! Many hands worked together to make this year's auction successful.

Rosary Sales: Did you miss our rosary table at St. Michael's Fall Auction? We still have many rosaries and jewelry items for sale. Please stop in the Dominican Center office if you are interested. These were handmade and anonymously donated. And...Fr. Lawrence will bless your rosary—what a beautiful Christmas gift!

SM Religious Education: December 8th-Nativity in parade on Santa Claus Day, No practice December 13th; December 16th—Youth Mass 5pm.

SM/SH Thermostats: Please refrain from "adjusting the thermostats in the church. Unauthorized adjustments have been costly to the church and in turn, affect the operation of the HVAC system. This also affects the piano, organ, woodwork, murals and painted walls.