

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

December 31, 2023

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

SUNDAY SCRIPTURES

January 7: Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The Family: Cradle of Society

Dear People of God,

The feast of the Holy Family challenges us to look at ourselves and our family life anew.

The pressures of secularism and modern wokeism (the cult of Progressive Ideology) have reduced the significance of family life in the lives of most people. "The long simmering crisis that grips our culture has exploded in recent years, leaving us divided and intransigent. Discourse seems futile when we are no longer a people with shared principles or even a shared understanding of reality", says Noelle Mering in her book, "Awake! not woke". Busy schedules, increased alienation from each other and the inability on the part of some to keep up with the fast pace of life, have considerably reduced the number of times being together, as family. For many, family life is restricted to socially required ceremonies.

The result has been that God has receded from the awareness and experience of everyday family life. The family life, on the other hand, moves in a secular realm, devoid of the presence of God. They have no meaning beyond themselves, no opening to transcendence. Little room for mystery remains in the everyday life as it becomes increasingly subject to technology and wokeism. **Lee Atwater**, an American political consultant, in an act of repentance expressed, "I know that I have acquired more wealth, power, and prestige than most. But you can acquire all you want and still feel empty. What power wouldn't I trade for a little more time with my family?"

Dear friends, the feast of Holy Family calls us to rediscover the simple joys of being together, by simply spending time with each other. Family life will be renewed only if it is centered in Jesus Christ with the Holy Family as its model.

Each member of the family has an important and unique place:

Fathers must be like Joseph - strong, upright, good providers, and protectors of the family. They must be patient and understanding with their children, and loving and caring for their wives.

Mothers must be the heart and spirit of the home. Like Mary, they must reflect on all things in their heart. Their response must always be Mary's: Whatever God wants, they want. They must be the tender, gentle, healers in the family.

Children must respect and obey their parents. They must be grateful for the sacrifices of their parents. We need to learn that even as individuals we are not islands, but relational beings. We have come into this world because of family and it is through family that we can continue to sustain ourselves in the world. Let us pray that our families may follow example of the **Holy Family**, Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Fr. Lawrence



MASS INTENTIONS

SAT	12/30	5:00 p.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S	† Deceased Valasek Families
SUN	12/31	7:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S SACRED HEART ST THERESA'S	PEOPLE OF PARISH † Marvin Goodrich † Lois Swett
TUE	01/02	9:00 a.m.	SACRED HEART	Communion Service
WED	01/03	10:00 a.m.	ASSISTED LIVING	No Mass
THU	01/04	5:00 p.m.	ST. CATHARINE'S	† Cecelia Fox
FRI	01/05	8:15 a.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S	† Mary Koenig All School Mass
SAT	01/06	5:00 p.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S	† Caroline Glaser
SUN	01/07	7:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S SACRED HEART ST THERESA'S	† Dick Zwiener † Arvid & Margaret Sorensen PEOPLE OF PARISH

COMMUNION SERVICES

SM at 8:00 a.m.
SH at 9:00 a.m.

Holy Father's Prayer Intention of the Month: FOR THE GIFT OF DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

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

Monday, January 1, Solemnity of Mary is not a day of obligation this year. No Mass will be held.




Blessings to Fr. Lawrence



We thank God for the faithful ministry of Fr. Lawrence and for His blessings on the 33rd Anniversary of his Ordination. May he be filled with joy and peace as he continues to serve You and Your people. May his ministry continue to provide hope, healing, and spiritual rejuvenation. Amen.

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

PARISH MEETINGS

SM/ST KofC: Tuesday, January 2, 8pm
SH KofC: Sunday, January 7 after Mass
SH Pastoral Council: Wed, January 10, 8pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION	WEEKLY	MONTHLY
St. Michael's (Dominican Center)	Thursdays, 6 p.m.--9 p.m.	First Friday, Jan 5 , 24 hr, 9:00 a.m. All other Fridays 9 a.m.—3 p.m.
Sacred Heart Chapel		First Tuesday, Jan 2 , 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
LECTOR Jan 6: Robert Ballweg Jan 7: Therese Cockerill EMHC Jan 6: Shelly Houtby, Bill Spelic, Jerry & Marlynn Scheef Jan 7: Dan Bauer, Jean Herrera HOSPITALITY MINISTERS Jan 6: Kurt & Holly Carraher, Aprill Murphy, Roberta Haggerty Jan 7: Joe, Jeremiah, Sarah Seamann, Kara Reimers ALTAR SERVERS Jan 6: Landyn & Khyler Carraher, Autumn Murphy Jan 7: Nolan Carraher, Haylee Peregrine-Ray MUSIC MINISTRY Jan 6 & 7: Matt & Linda <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> SM CDA Rosary, Thursdays, before Mass, 4:30 in the chapel. </div> 	LECTOR Jan 7: Jerry Smyth EMHC Jan 7: Tom Donovan, Janet Wood HOSPITALITY MINISTERS Jan 7: Briggs & Lawson Nekoliczak family ALTAR SERVERS Jan 7: Canon Holley, Payton Kniss, Krestyn Cargill MUSIC MINISTRY Jan 7: Mary Bauer, Paula Thompson ROSARY Jan 7: Jeanette Walsh SACRISTAN Jan 7: Jason McIntyre COLLECTION COUNTERS Jan 7: Donna & Denny ASSISTED LIVING Jan 7: Susie Lammers	LECTOR Jan 7: Joyce Bos EMHC Jan 7: Jenna Landgren, Lori King HOSPITALITY MINISTERS Jan 7: John & Judy Schmit CHURCH CLEANING January: Judy Ita, Chelsea Hartley Jean Keber, Ellie Ita PRAYER CHAIN Call: Helen Plugge, Sue Patrick ROSARY 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 December 24, 25 Envelopes \$ 11,895 ACH/online \$ 125 Plate \$ 1,810 Children's \$ 97 Weekly total \$ 13,927 Total July 1st to date <u>\$133,285</u>	THE LORD'S PORTION December 24, 25 Envelopes \$ 12,153 ACH/online \$ 0 Plate \$ 1,893 Children \$ 39 Weekly total \$ 14,085 Total July 1st to date <u>\$ 74,962</u>	THE LORD'S PORTION December 17 Envelopes \$ 255 Plate \$ 250 Children's \$ 21 Weekly Total \$ 526 July 1st to date <u>\$ 23,705</u>

"...as the Lord has forgiven you, so
you must forgive." *Colossians 3:13*




I hope this past week of Christmas has been life-giving and holy for all of us! My heartfelt THANKS to all our musicians, the lectors, servers, sacristans, liturgy committee and the beautiful decorations, the greeters, the parish staff and all members on the various committees and councils – all of us make this parish work, as we live out our Stewardship.

This Sunday, after all the Masses, I'll be taking a short break, to be with my siblings and priest brothers in India. I'll be back in your company, by the end of January 2024. Just keep me in your prayers as usual. My personal note of "THANKS" to all, who expressed your prayerful wishes, appreciation and generous gifts through Christmas Greeting cards. I am humbled by your generosity and appreciation.

LOVING GOD, YOU ARE ALWAYS NEAR TO US, ESPECIALLY WHEN WE ARE WEAK, SUFFERING AND VULNERABLE. Reach out to those who experience mental illness. Lift their burdens, calm their anxiety, and quiet their fears. Surround them with your healing presence that they may know that they are not alone. We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes and in the name of your Son, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **AMEN.**

SM/St. Anne
January Church Cleaning: Circle of Joy
Side A: Trish Glaser-Prefect
Rotation: Faith, Hope, Joy
January Men's Club Team #5: Dennis Bauer, Leon Seier

	SA HAPPENINGS
Mon Jan 1	Solemnity of Mary; New Years Day
Tue Jan 2	Random Acts of Kindness day
Wed Jan 3	10:00 School Resumes; Start of 3rd Quarter; 3:30-5:30 Lego League Practice
Thur Jan 4	Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton; JV TBA 6:00, 7:30 Charger BB at Heartland Lutheran
Fri. Jan 5	National Bird Day; 8:15 All School Epiphany Mass (5); 1:00 Shamrock Bowling vs. Boone Central at Newman Grove
Sat. Jan 6	Feast of Epiphany

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

- ♦ Christ gave us a great gift of Himself on Christmas. He calls us to give of ourselves to everyone, especially our spouse.
 - ♦ Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and learn how to be the best gift you can be for your spouse.
 - ♦ Sign up for an upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on: February 9-11, Lincoln, NE
 - ♦ Early registration is highly recommended.
- For more information visit our website at: www.wwme.org

LUCKY DAY CALENDAR LOTTERY WINNER

Our Sunday, December 31st winner of \$250 is
Maureen Haggerty of Spalding. Congratulations!!

