

**First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024**

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

SUNDAY SCRIPTURES
December 8: Baruch 5:1-9
Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6
Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
Luke 3:1-6

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK Arise, Awake and Achieve!

Dear people of God,

In our fast-paced modern world, we expect instant communication through smart phones and high-speed Internet and seek immediate gratification of our needs through shopping. Waiting is both a lost art and very low on our values. In Oscar Wilde's most famous play *'the importance of being Earnest'*, Gwendolyn says to her new love, Jack, "If you will not be too long, I'll wait for you here all my life". Think about that... That's how most of us are... we don't like to wait.

Dear friends, this Sunday as we are entering the season of Advent. We are once again encouraged to develop the proper spiritual perspective for the waiting. The period of waiting is one of the most magical parts of life. It characterizes the season of Advent. Active waiting implies being fully present to the moment with the conviction that something is happening where we are and that we want to be present to it. A waiting person is someone, who is present to the moment.

All the readings for this Sunday encourage us to be vigilant, expectant and prepared for Christ's coming into our hearts. They remind us of the necessity of readiness and the need to live with an awareness of life's impermanence. To prepare for Christ's coming, we are called to allow him to be reborn daily in our lives through prayer, repentance, and acts of kindness and mercy. Advent invites us to assess our lives, make necessary changes and look forward to our future glory in heaven.

Jesus says in today's Gospel, "Let not your hearts become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness... Be vigilant at all times". Our Lord tells us to be attentive to the possibilities in every moment. Self-control and self-conquest are important elements of a successful Advent. By cultivating these virtues and maintaining a continuous relationship with God through prayer and discernment, we can prepare our hearts for Christ's coming and experience the victory of faith. So, dear friends, let us **arise**... and **be awake**... and **achieve**, letting Jesus, the prince of peace, in our hearts.

With love and Prayers, Fr. Lawrence

MASS INTENTIONS				
SAT	11/30	5:00 p.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S	† Dennis (Muff) Hitchler
SUN	12/01	7:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S SACRED HEART ST. THERESA'S	PEOPLE OF PARISH † Jim Zauha † Jerry & Aggie Smith
MON	12/02	9:00 a.m.	SACRED HEART	Communion Service
TUE	12/03	9:00 a.m.	SACRED HEART	Anna Diessner
WED	12/04	9:00 a.m.	SACRED HEART	Kinley Gordon
THU	12/05	5:00 p.m.	ST. CATHARINE'S	† Bud Keber
FRI	12/06	8:15 a.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S	† Ed McManaman (All School Mass)
SAT	12/07	5:00 p.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S	† Ambrose Seamann
SUN	12/08	7:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S SACRED HEART ST. THERESA'S	† Bill Molt † Marge & Whistle Thompson 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 PILGRIMS OF HOPE

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

Bulletin Deadline Tuesday 12:00 noon. Please email information to both SM and SH. Email addresses on front of bulletin.

REST IN PEACE Our condolences and prayers to the family of John Kehler who was buried from Sacred Heart in O'Connor Cemetery. May he rest in peace.



The Little Blue Advent books are available now at the church entrance. Please pick up a copy.

Raffle Winners of St Michael's Fall Auction:



JD Lawn Mower—Claire Kaiser, \$200 Scrip gift card—JoAnn Pritchard, Garmin Smartwatch—Sharon Carraher, & Nintendo Switch—Linda Glaser. Congratulations!


PARISH MEETINGS

SM/ST KofC: Mon., Dec. 2, 8 p.m.
ST Altar Society: Sun., Dec. 8 after Mass

SM Fall Drive Total to date:
\$50,885.00
Donors: 33

SH Church Roof project:
Total Amount: \$68,395.63
Donors: 62

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION	WEEKLY	MONTHLY
St. Michael's Church	Thursday 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	First Friday, Dec. 6, 24 hr., 9:00 a.m. All other Fridays 9:00 a.m. —3:00 p.m.
Sacred Heart Chapel		First Tuesday, Dec. 3, 24 hr., 9:00 a.m.
St. Theresa's		Last Sunday of month for Vocations, 10 a.m.

ST. MICHAEL'S	SACRED HEART	ST. THERESA'S
LECTOR Dec 7: Seamann Dec 8: KofC	LECTOR Dec 8: KofC	LECTOR Dec 8: Lori King
EMHC Dec 7: Seamann Dec 8: KofC	EMHC Dec 8: KofC	EMHC Dec 8: Sandy Miller, Julie Landgren
HOSPITALITY MINISTERS Dec 7: Seamann Dec 8: KofC	HOSPITALITY MINISTERS Dec 8: KofC	HOSPITALITY MINISTERS Dec 8: Mark & Angela Smith
ALTAR SERVERS Dec 7: Seamann Dec 8: Brooklyn, Belle, Brynlee Weltruski	ALTAR SERVERS Dec 8: Lincoln Nekoliczak, Turner Freeman, Suttyn Smith	MUSIC MINISTRY Dec 8: Matt & Linda
MUSIC MINISTRY Dec 7 & 8: Dan	MUSIC MINISTRY Dec 8: Jason McIntyre	CHURCH CLEANING December: All women of St. Theresa's
SM CDA Rosary, Thursdays, before Mass, 4:30 in the chapel.	ROSARY Dec 8: Chuck Sweeney	PRAYER CHAIN Call: Helen Plugge, Sue Patrick
	SACRISTAN Dec 8: Rhonni & DW	ROSARY For Vocations—Sundays 10:00 a.m. prior to Mas 
THE LORD'S PORTION	THE LORD'S PORTION	THE LORD'S PORTION
Nov 24 Envelopes \$ 3,380 ACH/online \$ 125 Plate \$ 547 Weekly total \$ 4,052 Total July 1st to date \$ 105,378	Nov 24 Envelopes \$ 1,977 ACH/online \$ 20 Plate \$ 757 Weekly total \$ 2,754 Total July 1st to date \$ 56,208	Nov 24 Envelopes \$ 265 Plate \$ 149 Weekly total \$ 414 Total July 1st to date \$ 16,407

"But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." LUKE 21:28

ENCOURAGE is an apostolate which provides pastoral care for families and friends of people who experience same-sex attractions and/or gender dysphoria. In many cases, their loved ones have adopted the LGBTQ label, and may have moved away from actively practicing their faith.

If you know someone who has same-sex attraction, it can be difficult to accept their choices and accept the Church's teachings without making them feel alienated. **Know that you are not alone.**

For guidance and support, please send us an email. We will put you in touch with someone who can help you. Email encourage@gdiocese.org or call 308-382-6565 ext. 201 to receive help and encouragement to understand the experience of your loved ones more deeply.

You can also go to couragec.org for more information and resources.

BLESSED AND GRATEFUL

Diocesan Annual Appeal 2024-25



Parish	\$ Goal	\$ Received	% \$ Goal	Household Goal	Household Total	% HH Goal
SH	\$15,103	\$10,650	71%	42	24	57%
ST	\$5,228	\$5,535	106%	15	15	100%
SM	\$15,557	\$14,057	90%	55	48	87%

SM/St. Anne
December Church Cleaning: Circle of Joy
Side B: Lori Carraher, Prefect
Rotation: Peace, Faith, Hope
Dec. Men's Club Team #7: Tim Pfeifer, Bill Thome

	SA HAPPENINGS
Mon Dec 2	
Tue Dec 3	Feast of St. Francis Xavier; Giving Tuesday
Wed Dec 4	Math League Competition #2; 3:30-5:30 Lego League
Thu Dec 5	4:00(JV), 6:15(V), 7:45(V) HS Charger BB vs EPPS at CR
Fri Dec 6	Feast of St. Nicholas; 8:15 All School Mass (5&6); 2:00 Shamrock Bowling vs Plainview at Kealys; 6:00(V), 7:30 (V) HS Charger BB vs St Marys at CR
Sat Dec 7	Pearl Harbor Day

SOUP SUPPER:

St. Theresa's will be hosting a soup supper in conjunction with Ericson Lake's Trail of Lights Friday & Saturday, Dec 6 & 7; 5-8 pm at St. Theresa's Parish Hall. Chili and chicken noodle soups, rolls, & dessert will be served. Free will donation. Proceeds will go toward recent cement work and the seminarian fund.



LUCKY DAY CALENDAR LOTTERY WINNER

Our Sunday, December 1st winner of \$200 is Geoff McGill. 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's 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

Deacons

Deacon Paul Nordhues
510 Randolph St
Bartlett, NE 68622

Deacon Ron Glaser
50269 Three Mile Road
Spalding NE 68665

Seminarians

Rev. Mr. Jimmy Beran
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary
1400 Evans Road
Ambler, PA 19002-1202

Noah Huddleston
Pontifical North American Seminary
Via Del Gianicolo, 14
00165 Rome (RM)
Italia

Samuel Ogden
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
527 N 19th St.
Ord, NE 68862

Kaelob Marx
St. John Vianney Theological Seminary
1300 South Steele Street
Denver, CO 80210

Matthew Masker
Kenrick Glennon Seminary
5200 Glennon Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63119

David Hauk & Jacob Masker
Conception Seminary College
37174 State Highway VV
P.O. Box 502
Conception, MO 64433



Advent 2024

Advent is a time for **Holy Listening**.
Advent is **our introverted season**.

The world around us does a lot of chatting, chattering, 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.

- December 1 First Sunday of Advent
- December 8 Second Sunday of Advent
- December 15 Third Sunday of Advent
- December 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent



December 8: Feast of the Immaculate Conception

'Let us run to Mary, and, as her little children, cast ourselves into her arms with a perfect confidence' (St. Francis de Sales)

- Sunday, December 8th (observed Dec. 9th)
- St. Michael's: 8:15 am
- St. Theresa's: 5:00 pm
- Sacred Heart: 7:00 pm



Communal Penance Service

To celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation means to be wrapped in a warm embrace... (Pope Francis)



- December 11th: Sacred Heart 7 pm
- December 15th: St. Theresa's 12 pm
- December 20th: St. Michael's 7 pm

Christmas 2024

Tuesday, 24th Christmas Eve Masses

- 5 pm: St. Michael's
- 5 pm: Sacred Heart
- 7 pm: St. Theresa's
- 10 pm: St. Michael's



Wednesday, 25th Christmas Day Masses



- 9 am: Sacred Heart
- 11 am: St. Michael's



New Year's Eve

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

New Year Day

- Jan. 1st: 7 am: St. Michael's
- Jan. 1st: 9 am: Sacred Heart



Wednesday, January 1st, Solemnity of Mary