

Saint Mary Catholic Church

"The Old Cathedral"

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 19, 2021



Juan del Castillo, *Visitation*, 1630s. Oil on canvas.
The Hermitage, St. Petersburg, Russia

Saint Mary Catholic Church

"The Old Cathedral"

14th & K Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

Rectory: 1420 K Street

Telephone: 402-435-2125

website: www.stmarylincoln.org

e-mail: stmarylincoln@gmail.com

Parish Office Hours:

Monday-Friday | 8:30am-5:00pm

Saturday & Sunday | by appointment only

Church Hours:

Monday-Friday | Church doors are locked , except during Mass and Confession times.

Saturday | doors unlocked 11am-8pm.

Sunday | doors unlocked 7am-8pm.

Parish Staff & Committees:

Pastor Fr. Joseph Walsh

In Residence..... Fr. Joseph Finn,

..... Fr. Andrew Heaslip,

..... Fr. Stephen Cooney

Parish Secretary..... Teresa Macias

Music Director..... Jane Plettner

Director of Religious Ed..... Margaret Koperski

Knights of Columbus John Franssen

Altar Society Anne Schmidt

Funeral Dinners Sally Williamsen

Legion of Mary..... Calvin Kroon

Seven Sisters Apostolate..... Rachel Trevizo

Restoration Chair Ted Czerniak

Finance Council..... Bernice Polivka

Rectory Cook..... David Nguyen

Food Net Coordinator..... Kathy Johnson

Housekeeper..... Barb Janssen

Pro-Life Coordinators Marv Ward,

..... Sue Kouma Johnson

Sunday Obligation Masses:

Saturday 4:00 pm

Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:30 pm, 5:00 pm

Daily Masses:

Monday - Saturday 12:10 pm,

Monday - Friday 7:00 pm

(See bulletin for changes)

Holy Day Masses:

4:00 pm Vigil (day before Holy Day)

7:00 am, 12:10 pm, 7:00 pm (day of Holy Day)

(See bulletin for Christmas, New Years, & Holy Week)

Confessions:

Saturday 11:00 am, 3:00 - 4:00 pm, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Monday - Friday 11:30 - 12:00 Noon*

(See bulletin for Christmas, New Years, & Holy Week)

Baptism & Marriage:

Please contact the Pastor six weeks before the baptism date and six months before the wedding date.

All parish/diocesan requirements must be met before the ceremonies take place.

Adoration:

Our church doors remain locked during the weekdays, but parishioners may get a passcode for the keypad of the church for adoration daily between the hours of 9:00am – 4:00pm. Please visit or call the rectory for more information.

The Mission of St. Mary's Catholic Church is to worship, serve, and proclaim Jesus Christ, with the help of our Blessed Mother.

From The Pastor's Desk...

Decorating the Church.

Following the 5pm Mass this weekend, we will gather to decorate the church. Calling all hands! I have heard from many that the church is beautiful at Christmas time. My goal, at this point, is to decorate in the fashion of the past and experience the church with you this Christmas.

Christmas Mass Obligation.

Christmas is one of the Holy Days of the Church year that is always a day of obligation. This year, Christmas lands on Saturday. We have a 4pm Mass (on Friday, Christmas Eve), Midnight Mass in the first hour of Christmas, followed later in the morning with Masses at 7am and 10am. Because it is also Saturday, we will offer the vigil Mass for the weekend (celebration of the Holy Family) on Saturday at 4pm, and our typical Sunday Masses on the 26th at 8am, 10am, 12:30pm and 5pm. The Church requires us to go to Mass on Christmas (either the eve or the day) and on the weekend of December 25/26. This must be two distinct Masses. You may go to Mass on Christmas Day in the morning and later in the afternoon for the weekend. You may also go to Mass in the afternoon of Christmas for your Christmas obligation, but you must also attend Mass the following day for your Sunday obligation. If you go to Mass on Christmas Day and then later attend the afternoon Mass on Christmas for your weekend obligation, you may receive communion at both Masses.

New Year's Mass—the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

This year, because the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God falls on a Saturday, Catholics are not obliged to attend Mass. We will offer Mass on Friday, December 31 at 4pm for those who wish to celebrate this important feast. There will be no 7pm Mass on New Year's Eve. On Saturday, January 1st, we will celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God at the 12:10pm Mass. The 4pm Mass later that day will be the celebration for the weekend, which is Epiphany.

Confessions.

St. Mary's has a city-wide reputation for confessions, especially in preparation for Christmas. I hope everyone in our parish takes the opportunity in the coming days to seek this beautiful sacrament of mercy so as to be as spiritually prepared as possible to celebrate the Lord's birthday. You can tell when a parish has prepared in this manner for Christmas. You feel the peace in people, and the joy of the celebration is real. The priests may be tired and even a bit hoarse from hours of whispering, but it's the best gift we can give you for Christmas. Please come to confession and give Christ, His mother Mary, your family and all of us the gift of your heart this Christmas.

Some other thoughts.

On December 5th, our choir was able to gather, for the first time since COVID, and support the celebration of the 10am Mass with their singing talent. After the Mass, a man caught me in the back of the church and in-

troduced himself. He said he was from Chicago and happened to be passing near Lincoln on the interstate and wondered if there was a 10am Mass somewhere convenient. He checked his phone, saw we had a Mass at 10, and drove off the interstate to be with us. He told me that the Mass was the most spirit-filled experience of prayer he had encountered in a very long time and thanked me. I think the music had a lot to do with his experience. I am so grateful for the choir.

The conversation has been with me since that time, and I think the man was on to something very important. Mass is supposed to be different. It is supposed to transport us to something mystical, something beyond our everydayness. Yes it is familiar, structured, very predictable. Those are its strengths which allow us to enter into the prayer and quietly allow it to carry us into an encounter with God. Sometimes it will be the words of scripture that touch us, or the Our Father that we sing together, or the Lamb of God. Sometimes, it is the incense, the music, the beautiful vestments, even the "extravagance" of 10 candles burning in the sanctuary, not counting the candles of the Advent wreath. The man in the story above felt us entering into these things, felt the spirit working in our hearts and was able to share in this with us. Thank you.

Fr. Walsh



**Ministry Schedule
December 25/26**

Saturday & Sunday, December 18/19

4:00 pm Doris Rowet
 8:00 am Ken Merboth†
 10:00 am William & MaryJane Schnase
 12:30 pm Souls in Purgatory
 5:00 pm People of The Parish

Monday, December 20

12:10 pm Lash Drell†
 7:00 pm Blake & Brian Winter

Tuesday, December 21

12:10 pm Justine Gaul
 7:00 pm Jeff Long†

Wednesday, December 22

12:10 pm Josiah Miller
 7:00 pm Margaret & Andrew Winter

Thursday, December 23

12:10 pm Glenn Gaul
 7:00 pm Seth Taylor

Friday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

12:10 pm Dorothy Kowenber & Helen Long†
 4:00 pm Gina Dunning†



Church Calendar of Events

Monday, December 20

6:00 pm Legion of Mary Meeting
 6:30 pm Pro-Life Rosary

Wednesday, December 22

4:15 pm CCD

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 25

Christmas Day

Saturday, 4:00 pm

Acolyte Ryan Regnier
 Reader Melinda Pearson

Sunday, 8:00 am

Acolyte Bill Green
 Reader Steve Daly

Sunday, 10:00 am

Acolyte Chris Hanzl
 Acolyte Luis Fernandez
 Reader Ron Grose

Sunday, 12:30 pm

Acolyte Marv Ward
 Reader Kathy Johnson

Sunday 5:00 pm

Acolyte Tim King
 Reader Bev Thompson
 EME Marv Ward



Weekly Envelopes	\$.00
Loose Plate	\$.00
<u>Faith Direct</u>	<u>\$.00</u>
Collection Total	\$.00

*TBA at a later date



Parish eGiving— Sign up Today!

Enroll online at faith.direct/NE1128

or

Text "Enroll" to 402-226-1026

or

Use the QR code for easy donating!



Saint Mary's Parish News



We are Discerning a Vision for Our Future

In last week's bulletin the Planning Team explained the purpose of the Mission statement, and shared the draft Mission, which is *to worship, serve, and proclaim Jesus Christ, with the help of our Blessed Mother*. Hopefully you've thought and prayed about it, and perhaps discussed it with others. We look forward to sharing more about the Mission at the Town Hall meetings (see the dates and times below, and we hope you plan to attend one of them).

After the Mission is finalized, we need to discern a Vision. Sometimes these two words get confused with one another. The way we like to think of their relationship is this: **The Mission is the statement of our core identity and purpose, and the Vision is the characterization of the future if we fulfill that purpose.** A Vision without a Mission is just something you're trying to achieve. A Vision based on a Mission, however, becomes something you are trying to live and fulfill.

We don't know what our Vision is, yet. But we plan to figure that out, and we want to do that together as a parish. Since it's not feasible to have Committee meetings with 100's of parishioners present. Instead, we will instead create a process to allow parishioners to engage and share their input in a constructive manner. More about that in future bulletins.

For now, think about the following questions and let them percolate in your mind as you pray about what God is calling our parish to do.

Who is our community? Do we have more than one community? If so, who are they?

What role should we play in our community(ies)?

What does it look like for us as a parish to worship, serve, and proclaim Jesus Christ?

How does our parish invite and support us and others to worship, serve, and proclaim Jesus Christ?

How will we show that we are inviting the help of our Blessed Mother?

In 5 years, what will our parishioners be pleased with about our parish, and what will visitors and community members say about our parish?

Our process over the next several months will allow us to discuss these questions (and many others), discern answers for which we have consensus as a parish, and articulate a Vision that is aligned with our Mission. Once we have our Vision, we will set about pursuing it. **Stay tuned for further updates.** After Christmas and New Year's, we'll explain more of what to expect at the Town Hall meeting. Again, please plan to attend one of the following meeting times:

Sunday, January 23rd following 10am Mass, in Flynn Hall. Refreshments provided. On-site babysitting in the Legion Room available with advanced notice.

Thursday, January 27th noon brown-bag lunch session, in Flynn Hall. Bring your own lunch; beverages and dessert provided.

Thursday, January 27th, 7 p.m., in Flynn Hall. Refreshments provided. On-site baby-sitting in the Legion Room available with advanced notice.

To request babysitting, please email the rectory at stmarylincoln@gmail.com by Sunday, January 16.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:	4th Sunday of Advent
Monday:	NA
Tuesday:	St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Wednesday:	NA
Thursday:	St. John of Kanty, Priest
Friday:	Christmas Eve
Saturday:	The Nativity of The Lord



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday:	Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
Monday:	Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
Wednesday:	1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56
Thursday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66
Friday:	<i>Morning:</i> 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79
Saturday:	
<i>Vigil:</i>	Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
<i>Night:</i>	Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
<i>Dawn:</i>	Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
<i>Day:</i>	Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-11/8 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Next Sunday:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Ernie Polivka, Alice Gyhra, Zerita Hendricks, Ray Navratil, Ida Gomes, Richard Fischer



St. Peter Canisius | Feast Day December 21

Born in Holland, St. Peter Canisius (May 8, 1521 – December 21, 1597) was a preacher, teacher, and writer throughout his whole life. At the age of 19, he received a master's degree from the university at Cologne. Soon afterwards, St. Peter met Peter Faber, the first disciple of Ignatius of Loyola, who influenced him so much that he eventually joined the Society of Jesus.

St. Peter Canisius founded colleges and seminaries, served as a missionary, cared for the sick or imprisoned, and wrote close to eight volumes of letters — many about St. Cyril of Alexandria and St. Leo the Great.

A man blessed with many talents, St. Peter Canisius is a wonderful example of a man who developed his talents to further God's work here on earth.



CHURCH BELL SCHEDULE

December 20-24

09:00	Rejoice, Rejoice Believers
12:00	O Come All Ye Faithful
15:00	Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
18:00	Silent Night

December 24 (In addition)

19:00	O Little Town of Bethlehem
20:00	Angels We Have Heard On High
21:00	It Came Upon A Midnight Clear
23:59	Bells

December 25

06:59	Bells
09:00	O Come, All Ye Faithful
09:59	Bells
12:00	Joy To The World
13:00	Of The Father's Love Begotten
14:00	O Come, Little Children
15:00	God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen
15:59	Bells
17:00	Unto Us A Child Is Born
18:00	Away In A Manger
19:00	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
20:00	What Child is This
21:00	The First Noel

Christmas Schedule

Confession Times:

December 17th: 11:00am – 12:00pm, 7:30 – 8:00pm

December 18th: 11:00am – 12:00, 3:00pm – 4:00pm, 6:00pm – 7:00pm

December 20th: 11:00am – 12:00pm, 7:30pm – 8:00pm

December 21st: 11:00am – 12:00pm, 7:30pm – 8:00pm

December 22nd: 11:00am – 12:00pm, 7:30pm – 8:00pm

December 23rd: 11:00am – 12:00pm, 7:30pm – 8:00pm

December 24th: 9:00am – 12:00pm, 6:00pm – 7:00pm

There will be no 11am or 3pm Confessions on December 25. Confessions will be offered at 6pm on December 25.

Christmas Mass Times:

December 24th: 4:00pm (Vigil Mass)

December 25th: Midnight, (*Choir music starts at 11:30pm*)
7:00am, 10:00am

Weekend Mass Schedule:

December 25th: 4:00pm

December 26th: 8:00am, 10:00am, 12:30pm, 5:00pm

