

Saint Mary Catholic Church

"The Old Cathedral"

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

DECEMBER 26, 2021



Carlo Maratti, *The Holy Night (The Nativity)*, 1650s.

Oil on canvas.

Gemäldegalerie, Dresden, Germany.

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.

Celebrating Christmas

Merry Christmas! Peace on earth and good will to all. God has become one of us so that we can become one with Him. May this miracle continue to unfold in us until He brings it to completion in glory.

I suspect that most of us are like the characters in Hallmark movies who seek to “find Christmas” in the memories of the past. And what are those memories? They are the experiences of innocence, of wonder, of beauty, of love. We ritualize them into traditions, and hope that we can touch them once again.

One of my memories is Christmas in Gretna as a child of about 7 or 8. Do you remember the side altars in old churches, one on the left for the Blessed Mother, one on the right for St. Joseph or the Sacred Heart? Usually statues crowned the altars, thus giving them their name. These side altars were miniatures of the great high altar in the sanctuary, and could be used to offer Mass, if necessary. We also had a communion rail that ran across the entire length of the sanctuary. Fr. Hitch, my childhood pastor at Gretna, would place the Christmas creche on the Marian side altar. It would be displayed on a few sheets of plywood, placed on saw horses, and extended from the altar to the communion rail. (Now that I think about it, he probably used two sheets of 4x8 plywood. Very nice).

All the figures would be displayed which told the story of that holy night, shepherds, animals, the angel, and of course, Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Evergreen boughs would cover the top of the stable. Straw was scattered across the floor. I remember kneeling in front of this scene at the communion rail,

my elbows resting on the top of the rail, and being brought into the Christmas story. And I remember the smell, of the evergreen and the straw. It wasn't a mystical experience, just an ordinary experience of the Silent Night, and I'm resting with my arms on the altar rail, watching it—at eye level, believing. I was alone in the church too, but unafraid.



*The Christmas creche at St. Cecilia,
2018*

I'm climbing toward 60 years since that experience occurred, and I'm treasuring it now more than ever. It was a moment of belief, a moment that grounded in my heart the story of Christmas, of a small child watching the newborn baby who was the Savior of the world. I feel gratitude for His coming, gratitude for the parish and Fr. Hitch who displayed that scene every year and taught us that lesson. Mary was there too, in the figure of the manger scene, but also in the

statue above that crowned the side altar. She was looking down, on the story displayed below her, on the people who visited this scene, on me. I have no knowledge of what she thought or what she secured for me at that moment, but I believe she blessed me in some way. I am grateful to her as well.

I've tried to recreate this scene in the different parishes I have served as a priest. It's tough. Communion rails are gone, and often side altars as well. It's hard to find quiet time alone in an unlocked church. Creches today are often placed on the floor and don't allow the eye-level experience of the scene and the smells of hay and evergreen. We make the best of what we can do, and our memories supply the rest. The Christmas creche in Gretna remains one of my fondest memories and an annual longing for the power of that holy moment long ago.

I know you have special memories of important moments in your Christmas story. My hope is that you will spend a few moments with those memories again this year, and treasure how the Savior of the world who became one of us is helping you become one with Him. Merry Christmas.

Fr. Walsh



Saturday & Sunday, December 25/26

Midnight Fr. Ramon Decaent
 7:00 am Gil Trevizo†
 10:00 am People of The Parish
 4:00 pm Karen Welch
 8:00 am People of The Parish
 10:00 am Wayne Rowet
 12:30 pm Rachel Miller
 5:00 pm Holly Fickelt

Monday, December 27

12:10 pm L. Dee Miller
 7:00 pm Richard Morroni

Tuesday, December 28

12:10 pm Dain Miller
 7:00 pm Gene Garrett†

Wednesday, December 29

12:10 pm Mary Dang†
 7:00 pm Blaine Fosst†

Thursday, December 30

12:10 pm Jonathan Tepe
 7:00 pm Trong Nguyent

Friday, December 31

12:10 pm Dan Kadavy
 4:00 pm Audrey Carpentert

***January 1, 2022 is NOT obligatory, due to it falling on a Saturday this year.**



Church Calendar of Events

Monday, December 27

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

**Ministry Schedule
 January 1/2**

4:00 pm
 Acolyte John Franssen
 Reader Pat Walbrecht

8:00 am
 Acolyte Richard Brunner
 Reader Steve Daly

10:00 am
 Acolyte Luis Fernandez
 Acolyte Ron Grose
 Reader Margaret Scheideler

12:30 pm
 Acolyte Marv Ward
 Reader Kathy Johnson

5:00 pm
 Acolyte Tim King
 Reader Mike Kluck
 EME Al Allen



December 12

Weekly Envelopes	\$4,922.00
Loose Plate	\$2,461.04
<u>Faith Direct</u>	<u>\$5,703.11</u>
Collection Total	\$13,086.15



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



Town Hall about the Future of St Mary's

Don't Forget: You are invited to attend our Town Hall meeting to begin discussing our future. Come and...

Hear a progress report from the Planning Team
Provide input for the parish's future
Ask questions and share your opinion

We hope you can attend one of the Town Halls:

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.

Here's why we want you to attend: YOU are an important member of our church family! We've made some initial progress but now we need your input. We want to explain the process of discerning our further path, and invite you to participate in the opportunities to share your insights about the future of St. Mary's. Our future needs all of us to define it.



Thank You to everyone that helped with the demolition and re-installation of the kitchen ceiling. The deterioration of the old ceiling had been causing a safety hazard, which has now been resolved.



Thank You to the Oborny's for organizing the cleaning of our church downspouts. Years of clogged debris had caused them to not work properly. We are now running smoothly.



Envelope Contributions: New this year, all gifts will be credited on the date they are received. No holds. If you have any questions, please call Teresa at the rectory at 402-435-2125.

Giving Tree: Thank you for your time and effort to share Christmas joy with others. Under the leadership of member Rachel Trevizio and special thanks to Teresa, Saint Mary's was able to deliver packages last week. We were also able to sponsor two families in need.

End of Year Contributions: Contribution records will officially switch at Noon on December 31st; all donations received before then will be credited to 2021 (unless checks are dated, or contributions are in envelopes clearly marked as donations for the coming year); all donations and contributions received after Noon on December 31st will be credited to 2022.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- 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
- Monday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Tuesday:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
- Friday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
- Saturday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
- Next Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



COMING BACK TO CHURCH

Question:

I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

Answer:

If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back. This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday:** The Holy Family
- Monday:** St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
- Tuesday:** The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
- Wednesday:** St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr
- Thursday:** NA
- Friday:** St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve
- Saturday:** New Year's Day; Mary, The Holy Mother of God; World Day of Peace
- Next Sunday:** The Epiphany of the Lord; Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

St. Stephen | Feast Day December 26

The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God's abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death.

CHURCH BELL SCHEDULE

December 27-31

- 09:00 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
12:00 Joy To The World
15:00 The First Noel
18:00 Away In A Manger

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

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



Community News

Cathedral of the Risen Christ is seeking a full-time Office Administrator. This role is responsible for financial matters of the parish and school, including maintenance of all bookkeeping records, preparation of financial reports, payroll and compensation management, and other administrative duties. Experience preferred. To apply, send cover letter and resume to jkobza@crchrist-parish.org by January 7.



DATE NIGHT Make time for your vocation! The Family Life Office invites you to a date night out on **January 11th, 6-9 pm** at UNL Newman Center Rosary Hall with the Emmaus Institute. The topic is "How to Pray with Scripture in Your Family". \$45 for dinner/drinks/apps for two, \$15 for drinks/apps, or come for free to the talk and go out to eat on your own (will also be streamed). More info/registration at <https://lincolndiocese.regfox.com/jandatenight>

Join thousands of pro-life Nebraskans for the **48th Annual Nebraska Walk for Life** held on Saturday, January 29th, beginning at 10:00 a.m. on the north steps of the State Capitol. Keynote speaker, Ashley Bratcher, the actress that played Abby Johnson in the movie "Unplanned," will share her own pro-life story at the Nebraska Student Union. Pro-life information tables, food and drink will be available. Bake Sale donations are needed; volunteers will be available curbside to collect baked goods from 8-9 a.m. in front of the Student Union the morning of the walk, or call 402-438-4802 to make arrangements. Mass at St. Mary's at 9a.m.



Find the **Spring 2022 Schedule of Retreats** for Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House, Waverly published in this weekend's Southern Nebraska Register. Upcoming retreats include: Dec. 27-29 **Encounter Ministries** Conference Virtual Watch Party, and Dec. 30-Jan. 2 4-Day **Ignatian Retreat**. See goodcounselretreat.org