

The First Week of Advent



*Be
Watchful!
Be
Alert!*

MARK 13:35

DECEMBER 3, 2023



HOWARD COUNTY CATHOLICS

WWW.HOWARDCOUNTYCATHOLICS.COM

† STS. PETER & PAUL

713 ELM STREET
ST. PAUL, NE 68873
SATURDAY MASS 5:00PM
SUNDAY MASS 8:00AM & 10:00AM

† ST. ANTHONY

103 KEARNS AVE
FARWELL, NE 68838
MASS 1ST SATURDAY OF
EACH MONTH 7:00PM

† ST. JOSEPH

1803 HIGHWAY 11
ELBA, NE 68835
MASS 3RD SATURDAY OF
EACH MONTH 6:30PM

CLERGY

Rev. Vincent L. Parsons, J.C.L., Pastor
pastor@howardcountycatholics.com
Rev. Mr. Neil Baquet, Deacon
deacon@howardcountycatholics.com
Julie Dush, Homebound Pastoral Minister
Phone (308) 968-3421

PARISH OFFICE

Monday-Friday 8AM- 4PM (308)754-4002

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SOCIAL MEDIA

media@howardcountycatholics.com

Facebook:

Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church
St. Joseph Catholic Church
St. Anthony Catholic Church of Padua/Farwell

My Parish App:

Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD...

Advent Parish Reconciliation Service



Wednesday, December 6th
7:00pm - 8:30pm
Sts. Peter & Paul Church



IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION

HOLY DAY OF
OBLIGATION

Vigil Mass December 7 - 5:30pm
Mass December 8 - 7:00am & 12:05pm
Saints Peter & Paul Church

NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

First Sunday of Advent – YEAR B December 3, 2023

In a small Russian shtetl, the community decides to pay a poor Jew a ruble a week to sit at the town's entrance and be the first to greet the Messiah when he arrives. The man's brother comes to see him, and is puzzled why he took such a low-paying job. "It's true, the poor man responds, the pay is low. But it's a steady job."

This weekend we begin the season of Advent. It is a time for waiting, waiting for the messiah. But we as Christians, unlike the Jews, believe that the messiah has already come two thousand years ago. We also believe that the messiah will come again at the end of time.

When we read the Old Testament we meet many people who are anxiously awaiting the messiah. During this time of Advent we want to experience the spirit of expectancy just like the Old Testament people did. After waiting for four weeks we celebrate the birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Our church has given us this season of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting and preparing. During Mass the priest wears purple vestments. We do not sing the Gloria. We have special Penance services.

When I was in graduate school in Southern Indiana there were many Amish people who lived nearby. I befriended a couple of Amish families. The Amish religion is based on the New Testament, with an emphasis on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The Amish do not have a church. Their home is their church. All worship services take place in the home. The pastor is chosen by lot from among the men. On the day of worship a big black wagon full of benches is driven to the designated home. All the worshipers gather in that home. No one knows in advance who will preach the morning sermon. The leader is chosen by lot or by last minute consensus.

One wonders how a person, chosen by lot at the last minute would be prepared to lead the worshipers in prayer and with a sermon. The Amish have a very simple answer to that concern. Everyone comes prepared.

So it is with Advent in our church. We constantly prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord. When Christmas comes we hopefully will be able to say, "We are prepared."

We encourage everyone to prepare themselves by receiving the sacrament of reconciliation. Many call it confession. or penance. We use the term penance service to identify the service in which we pray, listen to scripture readings, and then go to confession. We also call it the sacrament of reconciliation. Each neighboring church has an Advent Penance Service. Our Penance Service at Sts. Peter and Paul will be on December 6th.

We often hear people say, "I don't need to go to confession." Hearing that, we assume that the person is perfect. To the best of my knowledge, only Jesus Christ and his mother Mary were perfect. Others say "I confess straight to God." If that is the case then that person belongs to some other church because the Catholic Church teaches auricular confession which means speaking to the ear of the priest.

So, plan to receive the special graces of the sacrament on Wednesday, December 6th. We all need to refuel our lives with those graces so that we can live the faithful life.

J. Vincent L. Parsons

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	12/4	No Daily Mass
Tuesday	12/5	8:30 am Daily Mass (SPP) End to Abortion
Wednesday	12/6	8:30 am Daily Mass (SPP) † Colleen Killinger By Darren Wichmann 7:00pm Advent Reconciliation Service (SPP)
Thursday	12/7	5:30pm Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Vigil (SPP) † Colleen Brouillette By Monte Brouillette & Family
Friday	12/8	7:00am Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass (SPP) † Matthew Parsons By Todd & Cindy Peters 12:05pm Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass (SPP) † John McIntyre By Ann & Cathy Wieck
Saturday	12/9	4:30 pm Reconciliation (SPP) 5:00 pm Mass (SPP) Bob & Patty Krzycki By Pat Geiger
Sunday	12/10	8:00 am Mass (SPP) † Henry Kuszak By Nancy Psota 10:00 am Mass (SPP) People of the Parishes

MINISTRY SCHEDULE DECEMBER 9TH & 10TH

SACRISTANS

Saturday - 5pm: Michael Happ/ Julie Baquet

Sunday - 8am: Ken Vincik

Sunday - 10am: Russ Kosmicki / Deacon Neil Baquet

GREETERS

Sat - 5pm: Troy & Hunter Johnson/ Curt & Meagan Dubas Family

Sun - 8am: Cheyanne & Kennedy Copen/ Clint & Wanda Nilson

Sun - 10am: Pre/K Class/Liana Wroblewski/Greg & Traci Wroblewski Family

LECTOR

Sat - 5pm: Neal Hahn

Sun - 8am: Al Wemhoff

Sun - 10am: Glen Killion

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat - 5pm: Neal Hahn & Kathy Hahn

Sun - 8am: Connie Becker / Deanna Hirschman

Sun - 10am: Chris, Gina, & Emma Elstermeier

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat - 5pm: Claire Dubas / Deloras Koperski

Sun - 8am: Eli & Avery Svoboda

Sun - 10am: Blake Reilly / Laityn Poss

 **TRI-PARISH YOUTH** Religious Education

Preschool - 4th Grades: **Sundays 9-10am**
5th - 11th Grades: **Wednesdays 7-8pm**
Sts. Peter & Paul Parish Life Center Classrooms
DREs ~ Becky Knox 308-571-0430 & Judi Baker 308-750-8418
2nd Grade First Reconciliation - Dec. 9th 10:30am SPP

Program Practice 1st-6th gr > Dec. 10, 11am
Christmas Program - December 13
7:00 PM Sts. Peter & Paul Church
Cookies & Hot Cocoa to follow at PLC

GOD Bless THIS Child

BAPTISM ANNOUNCEMENT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023
Following 10:00am Mass SPP

Brecken Michael
Son of
Jordan & Sara Huesinkvelt

Children's Rosary ~ Dec. 6th SPP 6:30pm
Parents & Grandparents bring your children & all your petitions to our Mother Mary (First Wednesday of each Month during Religious Ed.)

BEST CHOICE LABELS

Religious Ed. families, PLEASE bring all the BEST CHOICE labels (need bar code with numbers) to class or the Church office by December 6. Be sure to mark with child's Grade #. The Class with the most gets treated with a Pizza Party by Rebecca Knox!

CCW Meeting - Monday, December 4

7:00PM Sts. Peter & Paul Parish Life Center
All women of the Parish are welcome to attend!


Young at Heart POTLUCK LUNCHEON

Tuesday, December 12th, 12-1pm SPP Parish Hall
Main dish provided, please bring a side dish to share.

Women's Holy Hour

MONDAYS AT 7PM ALL ARE WELCOME
STS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Thank you for providing salads & desserts
... please remember to grab your dishes at the Parish Life Center Kitchen!

 **KNIGHTS COUNCIL 1918 OF COLUMBUS** Christmas Cards
"Keep Christ in Christmas"
for Sale in back of Church



Celebration of Christian Marriage

December 2, 2023

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church
Congratulations Tyler & Kara Hohenstein

Catholic Daughters

Meeting & Christmas Party will be Tuesday, December 5th, at 4:30pm, in the Parish Life Center. Please bring a finger food. Hostesses are Denise Rathman, Ann Rief, Amy Christensen, Elaine Nowak, Karen Bonczynski, Rita Wichmann, Marilyn Placke, and Vicki Brooks.

Celebrating Christmas at Mass

Please help fill in the sign up sheet in the Church gathering area for the various ministries for the Christmas Masses!



The 80 acre parish farm lease bids will be evaluated at the December Parish Council meeting. All applicants will then be notified.

National Night of Prayer for Life

All are invited to Eucharistic Adoration at the Cathedral on **December 8th** from 8:00 to 9:00pm. It was on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in 1531, that Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas and the Unborn, first appeared to St. Juan Diego. All nations of the world are invited to participate, as we ask Our Blessed Mother to protect Life and the Family and to renew the Church.

BLESSED & GRATEFUL

TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH!



Giving online to the Diocesan Appeal is easy at: <https://gidiocese.org/give-now>, choose to pay by credit card or via your bank account. You may create an account with the new donor portal and manage your account, & see past giving. We are incredibly Blessed & Grateful for your generosity!

Advent with Spirit Catholic Radio

The four weeks of Advent are meant to give us hope & reassurance that the Lord is coming, and also the opportunity to give hope to those around us. Spirit Catholic Radio is focusing on a theme for every week: Hope, Joyful Expectations, Prayer, & Peace. Follow on social media, subscribe to e-newsletter, The Halo, and visit <https://spiritcatholicradio.com/advent/> to get ideas for bringing these themes to life in your own special way either with your family, coworkers, or community.

Nebraska Catholic Conference notice:

Pro-abortion groups will be circulating petitions & gathering signatures to inject a right to abortion up to birth in the Nebraska Constitution. When you see petitioners, politely take up their time to keep others from signing and decline to sign. Join the network at NECatholic.org/TakeAction to learn about volunteer opportunities.

Are you a young adult age 21-39:

- *Who is being called into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ?
- *Who wants to experience truth, beauty, and goodness.
- *Who is interested in connecting with peers who journey together.

Check out the opportunity to take part in the 2024 SEEK Conference @ <https://www.gidiocese.org/young-adults>

Peters

FUNERAL HOME

Parishioners: Todd, Cindy, Riley & Katlynn Peters

Jim's Truckstop



Skyline Cafe

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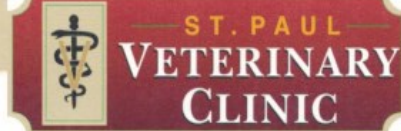
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LORD'S PORTION

Sts. Peter and Paul

General Fund - \$2,358.00
 Parish Life Center - \$140.00
 Restoring Our Father's House - \$55.00
 Diocesan Mental Health Ministries - \$10.00

St. Anthony

General Fund - \$400.50
 Maintenance - \$300.00 | Food Pantry - \$300.00

St. Joseph

General Fund - \$205.00

Prayer Chain

St. Paul - Dianne Rice: 308-571-0039
 St. Paul - Ann Rief: 308-380-0619
 Farwell-Michelle Woitalewicz: 308-336-3241
 Farwell - Thereasa Nealon: 308-336-3349
 Elba - Betty Poss: 308-750-0512

Pray without ceasing 1 Thessalonian 5:17