



# Howard County Catholics

Sts. Peter & Paul | St. Anthony | St. Joseph  
January 5, 2025

**Rev. Vincent L. Parsons**  
J.C.L., Pastor

[pastor@howardcountycatholics.com](mailto:pastor@howardcountycatholics.com)

**Rev. Mr. Neil Baquet**  
Deacon

[deacon@howardcountycatholics.com](mailto:deacon@howardcountycatholics.com)

**Julie Dush**  
Homebound Pastoral Minister  
308-968-3421

**Judi Baker**  
SPP Office Manager  
Monday-Friday 8am-4pm  
308-754-4002  
[office@howardcountycatholics.com](mailto:office@howardcountycatholics.com)

**Kathy Gorecki**  
SA & SJ Office Manager  
308-336-3351

**Tri-Parish Website:**  
[www.howardcountycatholics.com](http://www.howardcountycatholics.com)

### Daily Mass Schedule:

Tuesday-Thursday 8:30am SPP  
Friday 9:00am -  
at Matelyn/Brookfield

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays at 4:30pm or  
by appointment

### Sacrament of Baptism

Please call the Parish Office  
(308) 754-4002



## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



# BEHOLD, MAGI FROM THE EAST ARRIVED

MATTHEW 2:1

**Sts. Peter & Paul**  
713 Elm Street  
St. Paul, NE 68873  
(308)754-4002  
Saturday Mass 5:00PM  
Sunday Mass 8AM & 10AM

**St. Anthony**  
103 Kerns Avenue  
Farwell, NE 68838  
(308)336-3351  
MASS 1ST SATURDAY OF  
EACH MONTH 7:00PM

**St. Joseph**  
1803 Highway 11  
Elba, NE 68835  
(308)336-3351  
MASS 3RD SATURDAY OF  
EACH MONTH 6:30PM

## Liturgical Ministry Directors

Deacon Neil & Julie Baquet  
 deacon@howardcountycatholics.com  
 308-571-0291

## Tri-Parish Media

### Facebook:

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

### My Parish App:

Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church

## Prayer Chain Contacts

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



## Directors of Religious Education

Mrs. Becky Knox - Preschool to 4th  
 rebecca.knox@spwildcat.org

Mrs. Judi Baker - 5th to 11th grade  
 office@howardcountycatholics.com

## Youth Religious Ed. Classes

Preschool - 4th Grades:  
 Sundays 9:00am - 10:00am  
 (Preschool/K also offered at alt. times)

5th - 11th Grades:  
 Wednesdays 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Classes held at  
 Sts. Peter & Paul Parish Life Center

# The Epiphany of the Lord

## NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the Magi visiting Jesus. This is more than a story about wise men bringing gifts. It shows that Jesus is the Messiah for all people. The star guiding the Magi symbolizes God's light leading all nations to Jesus. This light is different from the power of King Herod. Herod is powerful and fearful. Jesus, though a baby, shows a different kind of kingship. He is humble and vulnerable, yet He changes the world.

Matthew's account highlights that Jesus' mission is for everyone, not just for the Jews. Some think Matthew added details to show this point. But even without proof against it, this story is important in our faith. It shows that from the start, Jesus' life was marked by signs for all people, beyond Israel.

The contrast between Jesus and Herod is clear. Herod hears of a new king and reacts with violence. He orders the killing of male children to protect his power. Jesus, as a baby, is innocent and helpless. Yet, He represents a new kind of authority. This story sets the stage for Jesus' ministry, which challenges traditional views of power.

Jesus' kingship is marked by humility and love. He does not come with force but with gentleness. The Magi, wise and powerful in their own right, bow down to this humble king. This act shows that true wisdom recognizes the value of humility and love.

The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates this revelation. It shows us that God's kingdom is different from earthly kingdoms. In God's kingdom, the humble are lifted up, and true power is found in love and service. Jesus came for all people, and His light shines on everyone.

As we reflect on the Epiphany, we are reminded to follow the example of the Magi. We are called to seek Jesus, recognize His light, and honor Him as our king. Let us embrace the humility and love that Jesus shows us and share His light with the world.

*Jr. Vincent L. Parsons*

# Ministry Schedule

## JANUARY 11TH & 12TH

### SATURDAY 5:00PM MASS

**S:** Michael Happ / Sestaks / Julie Baquet

**GREET:** Braden & Sarah Townsend

**LECTOR:** Terri Townsend

**EM:** Chris & Terri Townsend /  
 Nancy Psota

**S:** Sophia Hoppes / Claire Dubas

### SUNDAY 8:00AM MASS

**SACRISTAN:** Ken Vincik

**GREET:** Al & Janet Wemhoff /  
 Bob Dvorak

**LECTOR:** Tim Scheer

**EM:** Kathy Hahn / Jeanne Happ

**SERVE:** Layla & Boston Bowder /  
 Peyton Reilly

### SUNDAY 10:00AM MASS

**SACRISTAN:** Russ Kosmicki/Deacon Neil

**GREET:** Tenth Grade RE Class

**LECTOR:** Tenth Grade RE Class

**EM:** Kerry Townsend / Ann Rief / Joe  
 Hansen / Marlene Kosmicki / Tara Sjuts

**SERVE:** Jace Valasek / Ike Gawrych

# This Week's Schedule

## Monday, January 6

No Daily Mass

OCIA Class 6:30pm (PLC Conference Room)

## Tuesday, January 7

Daily Mass 8:30am (SPP)

Intention: †Colleen Killinger

By Robert & Victoria Wittry

## Wednesday, January 8

Daily Mass 8:30am (SPP)

Intention: †Anna Dedic

By Ted & Pat Lukasiewicz

CCW Meeting 6pm (Parish Life Center)

Religious Ed. 5th-11th 7pm (PLC Classrooms)

## Thursday, January 9

Daily Mass 8:30am (SPP)

Intention: †Dale Nowak & †Kevin Nowak

By Elaine Nowak & Family

## Friday, January 10

Daily Mass 9:00am (Brookfield)

Intention: †Phyllis Stepanek

By Jerry & Barb Sack

## Saturday, January 11

Reconciliation 4:30pm (SPP)

Weekend Mass 5:00pm (SPP)

Intention: People of the Parishes

## Sunday, January 12

Weekend Mass 8:00am (SPP)

Intention: †Leonard Dush

Religious Ed. Pre-4th 9am (PLC Classrooms)

Weekend Mass 10:00am (SPP)

Intention: †Colleen Brouillette

By Monte Brouillette & Family

Tri-Parish Baptism Class 11am (PLC)



Requesting a Mass to be said for a loved one is a special way to honor either someone living, or one who has gone before us to the next stage of life in Christ. Contact the parish office for more information. (Ten dollars is the suggested donation for a Mass.)



The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, or RCIA, as it has been more commonly referred to, has been renamed the **Order of Christian Initiation for Adults, or OCIA**, by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops.

**What is the OCIA?** The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is a gradual process of conversion and initiation into the Catholic Christian community providing individuals the space to encounter God and respond to His invitation to a new way of life in the Catholic faith. Grounded in a respect for the personal faith journey of each individual, the OCIA provides an extended period of prayer, study, and fellowship in which each individual has the opportunity to grow in relationship with God and the parish community. *(If you would like more information please contact our Parish office.)*



*Congratulations on your Baptism*  
**Ryli Sarye Ross**  
 Parents: Stephanie & Patrick Ross  
**December 28, 2024**  
 Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

### Tri-Parish Events & News

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BREAK**

Welcome back! Classes resume this Sunday, January 5th & this Wednesday, January 8th, 2025.

**PRE-BAPTISMAL CLASS**

For Parents wishing to get their child Baptized (may attend before baby is born) - the class will be Sunday, January 12, 11am-12pm SPP Parish Life Center; Contact the Parish Office to register. *(next class April 13, 2025)*

**ST. JOSEPH OUTREACH**

Thank you for your generous contributions to the St. Joseph Parish Outreach fund, \$986.00 was collected on December 21st in Elba.

**DIOCESE SUMMER YOUTH EVENTS**

We will talk about these events the next few weeks during class!

**Upcoming Dates:**

- Young at Heart Luncheon** - Jan. 14, Noon at PLC *(Weather Permitting)*
- Knights of Columbus** - January 14th, 7pm SPP PLC NW Classroom
- Catholic Daughters** - January 21st, at Noon, SPP Parish Life Center

**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS**

January 21, Noon Meeting PLC - Hostesses are Annette Ogard, Virginia Lauritsen, Carolyn Just, Dorothy Koperski and Geri Wardyn. Please remember to take 2 dozen cookies to Matelyn on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

**SEEK RETREAT**

Please pray for the college age youth from our Parish communities & many other areas that are attending the SEEK Retreat January 1-5 in Salt Lake City, UT. The format includes Prayer, Fellowship, Inspiration *(including Fr. Mike Schmitz)*, & Entertainment. To learn more about this retreat and FOCUS, the Catholic outreach organization that shares the hope & joy of the Gospel with the world, visit <https://seek.focus.org>

**Eternal Life**

*In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Bill Sack, of St. Paul, who passed away December 30, 2024. Mass of Christian Burial was January 3, 2025 at Sts. Peter & Paul. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.*

**DIOCESAN APPEAL**  
 OCTOBER 2024 - SEPTEMBER 2025  
**Together on Mission:**  
 Thank you for your 2024 Diocesan Appeal contributions!  
 You can check parish progress across our diocese at <https://gidiocese.org/diocesan-appeal>

**Finance Corner**

**Sunday Collections & OSV Online Giving**  
**December 23 - 29, 2024 (w/ Christmas)**

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>The Lord's Portion Farwell &amp; Elba</b>    |            |
| St. Anthony Church                              | \$1092.45  |
| St. Joseph                                      | \$3618.00  |
| <b>The Lord's Portion Sts. Peter &amp; Paul</b> |            |
| Actual General Fund                             | \$15113.39 |
| OSV On-Line General Fund                        | \$1770.00  |
| Parish Life Center                              | \$505.00   |
| Maintenance                                     | \$5.00     |
| Restoring Our Father's House                    | \$175.00   |

**December 2024 Totals**

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Monthly Budget            | \$20000.00 |
| Actual General Fund       | \$33419.76 |
| Online General Fund       | \$7020.00  |
| Monthly Surplus (Deficit) | \$20439.76 |

*Thank you for your continued support!*

### Area Events & News

**NEBRASKA RETROUVAILLE**

Is your marriage on the right road... or is it a little off track? Does the distance between you seem wide? Looking for a better way? Retrouvaille can help offer hope for a better relationship and get your marriage back on track. **Feb. 14-16, 2025**; Call 308-370-3214 or Email [NebraskaRetrouvaille@gmail.com](mailto:NebraskaRetrouvaille@gmail.com)

**STAND UP FOR MENTAL HEALTH**  
**Creating Recovery - One Laugh At a Time!**

January 26, 2025 at 7:00pm  
 St. Paul Civic Center  
 Award winning counselor & stand-up comic, David Granirer, busts the stigma around mental health issues. CARE Team free will donation event [www.standupformentalhealth.com](http://www.standupformentalhealth.com)

Todd & Cindy Peters  
Riley & Katlynn Peters

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Tracy Hadenfeldt, DVM  
Barrett Huneke, DVM

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St. Paul, NE 68873  
Phone: 308-754-4222  
spvetclinic3@gmail.com



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Jared Lukasiewicz



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