

ST. JOHN'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

ePistle at www.creighton.edu/stjohns

Omaha's Jesuit Parish located at Creighton University, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178
Cornerstone laid 1887—Established as a Parish 1897—Designated a City Landmark 1981

December 25, 2016 - The Nativity of the Lord



Christmas Memorials 2016

Acamo & Godek Families

Janet Aggen

Joe Bartek

Gene & Marilyn Berg

Ruth Blecha

George and Clara Bluvás

Borghoff & Howick Families

Rich Borowick

John & Lorraine Car

Mary Curley

Barb Denne

Anne Dittrick

Eberle Family

Fay Epping

Marion & Vloyce Feldhausen

Francis Johnson Grant

Martin Grant

Gary Hansen

Hermanek and Daly Families

Blanch & Edgar Kuhlmann

Bob & Jo Luke

Bob Martin

Theresa & Don McBride

John McDonald

McDonald & Jackson Families

Dode & Art O'Dell

Pedersen Family

Dave Rossiter

Francis Rueb

Anne C. Russell

Dale Schaaf

Schmidz and Paben families

Bryce Sparks

Henry Stender

Ray Yost

Kathleen Zelenski

Edward & Katherine Zielinski

Edward Theodore Zielinski

Liturgical Ministry Schedule— December 31—January 1, 2017

This schedule can also be accessed at St. John's website—<http://stjohns.creighton.edu>

	Saturday 5:00 p.m.	Sunday 8:00 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	Sunday 4:30 p.m.
PRESIDER	Fr. Snow, S.J.	Fr. Amidon, S.J.	Fr. Snow, S.J.	
LITURGICAL ASSISTANT	Linda Hayek	Dick Cleary	Pam Yenko	
ALTAR SERVER			Julia Nubel	No Mass
LECTORS	Larry Brennan	Dick Cleary	Kathy O'Keefe	
	Eileen Burke- Sullivan	Bob Austria	Richard Super	
PRAYERS	Sean Joyce Whipp	Bob Austria	Tom Berg	
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	T. Bartek D. Keane	D. Cleary	K. Blecha T. Berg	
	G. Selk	B. Austria	R. Super	
	M. A. McDonald		A. Haddad	
	L. & M. Brennan		A. Nubel	
	T. Joyce Whipp		J. & F. Berg	
	C. & T. Finney		J. & S. Scherr	

Readings for the week

12/25	Sunday (Vigil) <i>Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) (Day)</i>	Is Acts Mt Is Heb Jn	62:1-5 13:16-17, 22-25 1:1-25 52:7-10 1:1-6 1:1-18
12/26	Monday	Acts Mt	6:8-10, 7:54-59 10:17-22
12/27	Tuesday	1 Jn Jn	1:1-4 20:1a, 2-8
12/28	Wednesday	1 Jn Mt	1:5—2:2 2:13-18
12/29	Thursday	1 Jn Lk	2:3-11 2:22-35
12/30	Friday <i>Holy Family</i>	Sir Mt	3:2-6, 12-14 2:13-15, 19-23
12/31	Saturday	1 Jn Jn	2:18-21 1:1-18
1/01	Sunday <i>Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God</i>	Nm Gal Lk	6:22-27 4:4-7 2:16-21

Mass Intentions December 26-31, 2016

7:00 AM (Main Church)	
Monday	No Mass
Tuesday	No Mass
Wednesday	No Mass
Thursday	No Mass
Friday	No Mass
Saturday	No Mass
12:00 Noon (Main Church)	
Monday	Dr. Richard & Beverly Crotte- deceased
Tuesday	Morris Burnett - 1st Anniversary of death
Wednesday	Special Intention
Thursday	Al & Rita Burke—deceased
Friday	Steve Roth—deceased
Saturday (LSJ's)	
5:00 PM (Fr. Halley Chapel, LSJ's)	
Monday	Richard & Mary Cleary—deceased
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	Deceased Members of Ignatian Associates
Friday	Colleen Davis & Family—prayers

Weekly Offering Report

Weekly Budget Goal	7,067.31	Annual Budget Goal	367,500.12
Weekend 12/10-11/2016	10,737.32	Fiscal Year-to-Date Goal	176682.75
Above (below) weekly goal	3,670.01	Amount Collected YTD	182,395.31
		Above (Below) YTD Goal	5,712.56



We prayerfully remember Michael Sullivan, husband of Eileen Burke-Sullivan who passed away this week. May Jesus Christ console his family and friends, especially during this difficult time.

Thank you for your generous support for:
St. John's Building Fund
The special collection raised \$665.00

A Christmas Message

We wish you and your family a joyful and holy Christmas season. Christ's birth is the sacred promise that God is not far away, but grounded in our humanity. Christ's presence assures us that life is not forsaken. Our world is now filled with great hope, expectation and promise. Celebrate the wonder of Christ's Peace and Joy.

Merry Christmas,

Fr. Lorn Snow, S.J. and the Parish Staff of St. Johns.

We Are Updating the Parish Directory

Wouldn't it be nice to be able to match a name with a face, and have something that shows all the beautiful people here at St. John's? Let's take some new photos to show where we are now in our parish.

Where: Lower St. John's

When: **Friday, January 20**, 1:00—8:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 21: 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. and 6:00—8:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 22: Noon—3:00 p.m.

Monday, January 23: 10:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.

Go to St. John's webpage, click on the link to schedule a portrait session, select the number of people who would be in the photo, select a day and time, and you will receive a confirmation email in return. If you would like assistance scheduling a time, please call Vivian at 402.280.2786 or email



Michael Hoover at hooverdds6@gmail.com

We can't wait to see all the great photos!!



Prayer Requests



Barb Durant

Mary O'Riley

Renee Kalkowski

Jack Walsh

Colleen Davis & Family

Richard Grimit

Please Join Us

December 31 Vigil of the Feast of
the Mother of God

5:00 p.m.

January 1: Solemnity of the
Mother of God

8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



Parking on the East side of the Church will be unavailable until approximately Jan 5th due to construction.

Contribution envelopes for 2017 can be picked up at the main entrance of the church for pick up. Thank you for your continued support of St. John's, it is greatly appreciated. Any questions about envelopes please contact Kathleen Denne 402-280-2975 or email kdenne@creighton.edu.

Administration Commission minutes from November meeting:

Eileen Wirth, chair of the Communication Committee, reported on the excellent work that her group is contributing to three areas central to the public face of St. John's Parish.

1. A revised, dynamic website
2. A new, expanded format and publisher for the weekly newsletter
3. A streamlined, artistic logo for use on all Parish communications

Considering the importance of all three of these projects, the Committee and Commission will devise a method to better keep in touch.

Volunteers Needed—Sick and Homebound

Our parish is in need of volunteers to accompany the sick and homebound. Training for this ministry will be **January 22, 2017 at 11:45 a.m.** Some of the topics that will be covered will include the distribution of communion, how to interact with people who may be unable to communicate, have disabilities or who are in hospice. Or, if you are simply interested in learning more, please stop by to ask questions or gather information. Thank you!



Food For Thought

The Nativity of the Lord

Is 62:11-12

Ti 3:4-7

Lk 2: 15-20

The ones who wait for the One who waits

Just the thought of *Christmas* can bring visions of joy, excitement, family, friends, shopping and gifts. Or, it can bring visions of endless waiting and loneliness, overwhelming pain, sorrow and ongoing fear and darkness.

One of my favorite children's Christmas story books* about Mary and Joseph's very long and arduous journey to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus begins "*walk, walk, walk.*" The prominent characters are Mary, Joseph and their donkey. Together they travel, together they stay. They "*knock, knock, knock,*" but are "*sad*" when there is "*no more room in my house*". They end up in a barn – Mary and Joseph with their donkey and the resident cows and cats and their kittens. Joseph covers Mary with "*his coat so that she would be nice and warm.*" They peacefully "*sleep, sleep, sleep*" in the hay lulled by the heavy breathing of the cow and the peaceful suckling of the kittens. "*During the night... an exciting thing happened... a little baby.*" "*Hush, hush, hush.*" Mary knew "*little babies liked to be loved.*" She cradled and swaddled her newborn son. Joseph knew that new mothers and their babies needed to be warm and lovingly cared for.

Have you ever stayed up all night just to experience the dawn – the gradual dimming of the stars as colorless light gently pushes back the darkness revealing the now? Somehow all is refreshed, brilliant – light has come. A new day has dawned.

Christmas is just this – Light blessing the now. Christmas is not the end of the Advent wait and journey. It is the dawn of Advent. It is Light blessing and sanctifying the journey, the waiting itself.

Who waits for whom? Who blesses whom? Parents, siblings, buddies and lovers wait pensively for the loved one to return. Parents wait in eager anticipation for the infant soon to be born. Parents, friends and strangers sit and wait in compassion with the lost and lonely. Many wait in longing for the estranged. The outcast wait in yearning for the welcome. The hungry wait in anticipation for the cook. The homeless wait in hope for the host. The jobless wait in faith for the employer. The imprisoned wait in uncertainty for the visitor. And children wait in joy for the anticipated delight.

And so I *walk*, and I *knock*, and I *wait*. At times I *sleep*. At times I am *cold*. At times I am *warmed*. At times I am *hungry*. At times I am *nourished* and *nurtured*. But in the *hush* of Christmas I am invited to witness the gift of the Light that shines in the now. I am invited to notice and to receive the sanctifying presence within my journey, my waiting. I am invited to be that light to others who wait. To sing Alleluias to the Christ in my life. To the Christ who dwells in others. To Jesus who *walks* with me in the now – wherever and however that is. To Jesus who *walks* with the other.

And the goodnews: The joy of Christmas, of God with us, is for all of God's children. Alleluia, Alleluia! We no longer have to live in darkness. The wait is over. Emmanuel!

God bless us every one!

**The Very Special Baby* by Carol Woodard

Joan Blandin Howard
December 25, 2016