



**Parish Calendar**

- December 10-11** Altar Society Holiday Bake Sale
- December 11** Knights Christmas Party 5:00 pm
- December 13** Altar Society meeting 6:30 pm
- December 13** Prayer & Praise meeting 7:00 pm
- December 14** St. Vincent de Paul Society 6:00 pm
- December 15** RCIA 7:00 pm
- December 17** Church Cleaning 7 am—led by the Charles Garnier Group (Novosads)
- December 17** Women of Grace meeting 9:30 am
- December 18** Coffee & Rolls after all morning Masses
- December 18** New Parishioner Welcome after 9:30 am
- December 22** RCIA 7:00 pm
- December 28** St. Vincent de Paul Society 6:00 pm

**School News**

- December 19-20** Christmas Programs 7:00 pm
- December 21** Christmas Vacation Begins—1:30 pm Dismissal
- January 4** School Resumes

**CCD News**

- December 14** Class—Confessions grades 4, 6, 7, 8
- December 21** Class—Confessions grades 3, 5
- December 28** No Class—Christmas Break
- January 4** No Class—Christmas Break



Our Holiday Bake Sale is Dec. 10-11 after all Masses. You are invited to bring your favorite holiday treats to support this Altar Society fundraiser! (no creamed items, please). Please drop off your items in the Narthex before any weekend Mass. Funds will be used for Christmas decorating and to help with the purchases of altar linens.

**Advent Confession Schedule**

- Saturday, Dec. 17:** 4:30 - 5:45 pm (2 priests)
- Sunday, Dec. 18:** 3:00 - 4:00 pm (3 priests)
- Monday, Dec. 19:** 8:00 - 9:00 pm (2 priests)
- Tuesday, Dec. 20:** 8:00 - 9:00 pm (2 priests)
- Wednesday Dec. 21:** CCD Confessions 6:00 - 7:00 pm;  
Parish Confessions 7:00 - 8:00 pm (4 priests)
- Thursday, Dec. 22:** 7:00-8:00 pm (3 priests)
- Saturday, Dec. 24:** 11:00 am - Noon (2 priests)

**The Nativity of the Lord Mass Schedule**

- Christmas Eve, Saturday December 24:**  
4:00 pm Mass & 6:00 pm Mass  
Midnight Mass (traditional choir will begin at 11:30)
- Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25:**  
8:00 am Mass and 11:00 am Mass  
(please note: **no** 7 am &  
9:30 am Mass on 12/25)



**Budget Report to Date:** Fiscal Year Jul 1, 2011 - Jun 30, 2012  
 Received to date: July 1 - Nov. 27..... \$ 402,507  
 Needed to date for annual budget ..... \$ 430,500  
**Annual budget shortage to date..... (\$ 27,993)**

**Building Fund Campaign November Report**  
 (To finance our new Church and Parish Hall)  
 BOS Envelopes and plate.....\$ 13,227  
 BOS E-Tithe.....\$ 10,162  
 Recycling.....\$ 19  
**Total..... \$ 23,408**  
**Amount Applied to Debt.....\$ 23,500**  
**Debt as of November 30, 2011..... \$134,000**

**Charitable Contributions for 2011:** When completing your income tax and other financial planning for the year, please remember that charitable contributions to the parish must be given by **Saturday, December 31st** to be included on your 2011 Stewardship of Treasure statement.

**Christmas Decorating** will be on **Friday, December 23rd** from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. Men, women & children are invited to come and help prepare our beautiful Church for Christmas!

**Nativity CHOCOLATE Advent Calendars**, advent wreaths, candles, Christmas cards, and other "Keep Christ In Christmas" products are available after all weekend Masses and anytime at the Knights self serve display in the Narthex.

**Knights Annual Christmas Party** will be **Sunday, December 11th** beginning at 5:00 pm in the Parish Hall. All brother Knights, their families, and any new perspective members are welcome! There will be candy for the kids! Please bring a main dish and side dish or dessert.

The **Knights of Columbus Annual Free Throw Contest** will be held **Sat., January 14<sup>th</sup>** from 11:00am to 12:00pm. The gym will open at 10:30am. Registration forms will be available at the school office. Eligible contestants are boys and girls ages 9-14.

**The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God**

Holy Day Mass Schedule  
 (not a holy day of obligation this year)

**Vigil Mass: Saturday, December 31, 6:00 pm**

**Sunday, January 1, 7:00 am, 8:00 am, 9:30 am & 11:00 am**  
 This is also a day of prayer for world peace. Let us begin the New Year by praying for our families and our world to be open to the peace Jesus offers.

**POINSETTIAS** to be placed around the altar at Christmas can be ordered in memory of a loved one. The cost is \$ 9 per plant. Please drop your donation and this filled out form in the collection basket or at the Parish Office. Deadline is **Monday, December 12th.**

Donated in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Donated by \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parishioners,

Every year the Catholic Church gives us a beautiful four week season to prepare for the Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at Christmas. These four weeks are meant to be a penitential time of waiting and preparation as we “get our house” in order for the coming of the Messiah. We hear from Isaiah the Prophet in the Old Testament and John the Baptist, the last of the prophets in the New Testament. They have central roles in helping us prepare the way, make straight the path, and reform our lives.



The best one to help us prepare for the Birth of Christ is the Blessed Virgin Mary. In December, when we celebrate her Immaculate Conception and the Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe, we are mindful of several aspects of her life that are blessings for us. The Immaculate Virgin Mary spent the full nine months preparing her Immaculate Heart for Christ’s birth. She went traveling over hills to visit her relatives and to bring them Christ in the womb. Then she and Joseph went for the census to City of David to the town of Bethlehem. It was on that trip that she gave birth in the manger because there was no room in the inn.

As we are busy and traveling around during Advent, like Mary, we should take Christ with us. We should not forget the Light of the World who came to save us.

Thanks to the Knights of Columbus for the large Advent candles on the side of our church. They are a sign and reminder that we are waiting and preparing for a very special birthday. The purple reminds us this is a penitential season. The rose reminds us of the joy we feel as it comes near. The lights on the candles remind us of Christ.

North American Martyrs has purchased the 10 DVD set of *Catholicism* to be shown here starting on **Sunday, January 15th** from 2-3:30 p.m. and **Wednesday, January 18th** from 6-7:30 p.m. For your convenience, each week the sessions will be offered on Sundays and Wednesdays, with the choice of viewing the video either day. With creator and host Father Robert Barron, you will learn what Catholics believe and why, while being immersed in the art, architecture, literature, beliefs and practices of the Catholic tradition.

Fr. Zimmer and I have watched some of the videos and have been impressed with them. Moreover, Fr. Barron came to speak to the priests of the Diocese of Lincoln about a year ago and did an outstanding job, without notes! The DVDs are filmed in 50 locations throughout 15 countries. It is a way of expanding your horizons and knowledge of the Faith without leaving town.

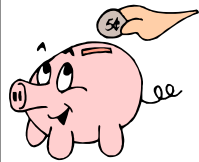
We plan to show the DVDs in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms on the SMARTboards. The class is free with the option of purchasing a study book for \$35.00. Barb Brandenburg will host the Wednesday night sessions and we are currently looking for someone to host the Sunday afternoon sessions. The showings will conclude before Holy Week, unless weather requires that we have a makeup session or two. Please register by calling the Parish Office at 402-476-8088 or email Julie at [julie-crawford@cdolinc.net](mailto:julie-crawford@cdolinc.net).

God’s continued blessings,  
*Father Brian Connor*

**SCRIP News:** The Holiday Scrip Challenge will continue through December 11th. Orders can be sent to school or dropped off during weekend Masses.

Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> will be the last day to order “Special Orders” and have it guaranteed to be here before Christmas.

SCRIP **will not be sold** on Christmas and New Years weekends.



**Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House** offers a serene and peaceful atmosphere for prayer and recollection. Please look for the 2011-12 Retreat Schedule at the Parish Information Center.

**Sign up** for the **Women’s Retreat with Msgr. John Perkinson** on **December 16-18** or the **Women’s Retreat with Fr. James Meysenburg** on **January 13-15** by calling 402-786-2705. Please note when you register that Martyrs Parish will pay for half of the cost of your retreat.

**KINDERGARTEN PREVIEW 2012** will be held on **Wednesday, February 8, 2012**. Parents planning to send their children to Kindergarten next year should plan to attend either the morning or afternoon session (9:30 am or 1:30 pm) with their child. Please call the school office **by Monday, January 16th**, to register for the preview or send an email to [carol-ruskamp@cdolinc.net](mailto:carol-ruskamp@cdolinc.net) including child’s name and date of birth, parent’s name and phone number. **Note:** The new law in Nebraska requires that children starting Kindergarten have to be **5 on or before July 31, 2012**, to start school in the fall.

**Pro Life Mass and Walk for Life:** The annual Walk for Life, sponsored by Nebraska Right to Life, will be held at 10:00 am on **Saturday, January 28th** at the State Capitol in Lincoln. As in past years, a Pro Life Vigil Mass will be held at 9:00 am at St. Mary’s Church (across the street from the Capitol at 14th & K Streets). Please watch the bulletin for additional information.

**WELCOME** to our new parishioners who registered in the month of November: **Josh Rezac, Shane & Lindsay Van Pelt, Brett Meves & Crystal Odell**. New Parishioner Welcome is **December 18th** after the 9:30 am Mass. *Please meet by the Parish Office in the Narthex* where you will be welcomed and given information about Martyrs Parish. *We hope that you feel at home in our parish!*

