



Parish Calendar

- January 5** RCIA 7:00 pm
- January 6** First Friday Devotions after the 8:30 am Mass
- January 7** First Saturday Devotions 8:30 am
- January 7** Women of Grace 9:30 am
- January 9** Knights of Columbus 7:00 pm
- January 10** Altar Society 6:30 pm
- January 11** St. Vincent de Paul Society 6:00 pm
- January 12** RCIA 7:00 pm
- January 14** LOTW Board 9:30 am
- January 15** Coffee & Rolls after all morning Masses
- January 15** New Parishioner Welcome after 9:30 am Mass
- January 15** Catholicism DVD series begins 2:00 pm
- January 17** Parish Council 7:00 pm
- January 18** Catholicism DVD series begins 6:00 pm
- January 19** RCIA 7:00 pm
- January 21** Church Cleaning 7am led by the Gabriel Lalemant Group (Irene Rezac)
- January 21** Women of Grace 9:30 am
- January 21** Stewardship Committee 9:30 am
- January 21** New Parishioner Welcome Dinner 7:00 pm
- January 25** St. Vincent de Paul Society 6:00 pm
- January 26** RCIA 7:00 pm

School News

- January 13** Dismissal at 1:30 pm
- January 16** No School
- January 29** Catholic Schools Week Begins
- January 31** PTO General Meeting/Science Fair 7:00 pm

CCD News

- January 11** CCD Rosary 6:10 pm, Class will follow
- January 18** Class, Confirmation meeting for parents 6:30 pm
- January 25** Class, Priests visit classrooms

KINDERGARTEN PREVIEW 2012 will be held on **Wednesday, February 8**. 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 16**, to register for the preview or send an email to 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.


Baby Shower: Martyrs Parish is having a baby shower for mothers in need. A crib will be set up in the Narthex **January 7 through January 22nd**. Needed items: Baby lotion, Vaseline, shampoo, powder, soaps, new bottles & pacifiers, spoons, clothing size 0-2 yrs, hangers & crib sheets. Gifts will all go to Pregnancy-Help Centers & Catholic Social Services. Sponsored by the North American Martyrs Altar Society and the Bishop's Pastoral Plan for Pro Life Activities. Thank you for your generosity!

Budget Report to Date: Fiscal Year Jul 1, 2011 - Jun 30, 2012
 Received to date: July 1 - Dec.25..... \$ **492,704**
 Needed to date for annual budget \$ **512,500**
Annual budget shortage to date..... (\$ 19,796)

Building Fund Campaign December Report
 (To finance our new Church and Parish Hall)
 BOS Envelopes and plate.....\$ **11,949**
 BOS E-Tithe.....\$ **10,037**
 Recycling.....\$ **20**
Total..... \$ 20,006
Amount Applied to Debt.....\$ 20,000
Debt as of December 31, 2011..... \$115,000

Immerse yourself in the art, architecture, literature, beliefs and practices of the Catholic tradition by attending Fr. Robert Barron's *Catholicism* DVD presentations beginning **January 15th or 18th**. Attend ten sessions on either Sunday (2-3:30 pm) or Wednesday (6-7:30 pm). Call Martyrs Parish Office at 402-476-8088 to register.

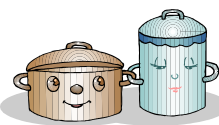


 The **Knights of Columbus Annual Free Throw Contest** will be held **Sat., January 14th** from 11:00am to 12:00pm. The gym will open at 10:30am. Registration forms will be available at the school office. Eligible contestants are boys and girls ages 9-14.

Fish Fry: The Knights of Columbus will have a free-will offering Fish Fry on **Friday, Jan. 27th** from 5-7:00 pm in the Parish Hall. All are welcome. The menu will include deep fried pollack or cod, baked tilapia, French fries, baked potato, coleslaw, spaghetti with marinara sauce, bread, drinks and dessert. The Knights also will host a fish fry each Friday during Lent.

Hockey: Brother Knights, their family and friends can get discounted tickets for the *Knight's Night with the Stars*. The game will be on **Friday, February 3rd** at the Ice Box. Just tell them you are with the Knights of Columbus group. There will be a 4th Degree Honor Guard present.

Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House offers a peaceful atmosphere for prayer. **Sign up** for the Women's Retreats on **January 13-15** with Fr. James Meysenburg or **January 20-22** with Fr. Thomas Lux (LDCCW) by calling 402-786-2705. Please note when you register that Martyrs Parish will pay for half of the cost of your retreat from SCRIP proceeds (\$85 of the \$170).



Food Containers: Thank you for your donations of food items for recent parish events. Please check the Parish Hall kitchenette for your containers.

Is a trip to Italy on your 'Bucket List'? You are invited to join a group of Martyrs parishioners on an eleven day guided tour of Italy on September 18- 28, 2012. Please call Doug Crawford at 402-475-9962 for more information.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Happy New Year to all our parishioners,

I hope you have enjoyed this Holy Season of the Nativity of our Lord's Birth with plenty of prayer and family time. Fr. Zimmer and I have both been able to enjoy our parish families and our birth families over the holidays. With Christmas on Sunday, it made it much easier to get away and so we capitalized on the opportunity. We are very grateful for the many gifts of cards, prayers and treats given to us at Christmas.



We will conclude the Christmas Season this weekend with Epiphany on Sunday and the Baptism of the Lord on Monday. At Epiphany the Wise Men came following the star to adore the Christ Child and present him with gifts symbolic of his priesthood, royalty and divinity. This Sunday, like on Christmas, we will give to those attending Mass Matthew Kelly's book *Rediscover Catholicism* (324 page book), or *The One Thing* (64 page book) or else his tape *Seven Pillars of Catholicism* (79 minutes CD). It is our hope that you enjoy these books and CDs and pass them on to others as a form of evangelization (spreading the faith) and good stewardship. Each one is excellent and has something very different to teach us about the Catholic faith.

Also on Epiphany, you can pick up your new photo directory. Thanks to the hard work Chris Novosad, Shawn Labadie, Greg Nathan and many others, and all who came out to get their pictures taken, the directory is beautiful and will help to us connect with our community for years to come.

On January 21st at 7 p.m. we will have our 3rd Annual Dinner for New Parishioners who joined North American Martyrs in the year 2011. The evening will include a video presentation, a brief history and an overview of many parish programs and organizations. It is meant to be a chance to get familiar with our parish and meet some parish leaders. Last year we had good attendance in spite of a blizzard on the day.

With prayers during this Holy Season of Christmas, *Fr. Connor*

Parish Census: A Parish Census is taken every year in which every man, woman and child is counted in attendance at a weekend Mass. We recently began taking a monthly census and the Parish Council will review those numbers. The results of the census for 2009 through 2011 are listed.

	2009		2010		2011	
MASS	Oct. 3/4	Oct 10/11	Oct 2/3	Oct 9/10	Oct 1/2	Oct 8/9
6:00 PM	364	334	364	331	253	263
7:00 AM	121	137	158	151	154	159
8:00 AM	253	159	288	295	251	272
9:30 AM	543	469	630	701	639	697
11:00 AM	621	615	615	508	420	654
	1,902	1,714	2,055	1,986	1717	2045
# parishioners	3,534	3,534	3713	3713	3,907	3,907
Percentages	51%	48%	55%	53%	44%	52%

WELCOME to our new parishioners who registered in the month of December: **Kyle & Jill Ainsworth, Daniel & Karen Hanon, Aaron Behne, Stephen & Jennifer Long, Jessica Dubas, Kent & Audrey Chelewski, Mike & Cindy Lussier and Nicole Gothier.** New Parishioner Welcome is **January 15th** after the 9:30 am Mass. Please come to the Parish Hall where you will be welcomed and given information about Martyrs Parish. *We hope that you feel at home in our parish!*

Faith and Finances with Phil Lenahan © www.VeritasFinancialMinistries.com

Financial Resolutions for 2012

The beginning of the New Year offers a perfect opportunity to review progress in our spiritual and financial lives and to set goals for the future. Here are seven financial resolutions that will serve you well in 2012:

- ◆ *First* and foremost, remember that all you have ultimately comes from and belongs to the Lord (Dt. 10:14).
- ◆ *Second*, enthusiastically accept your role as a steward of Providence (Catechism 2404). God has entrusted you with talents and resources, and wants you to develop and use them in ways consistent with his will for your life.
- ◆ *Third*, grow in generosity. Living generously helps us keep our priorities straight, and enhances our relationship with the Lord and those around us.
- ◆ *Fourth*, commit to enhancing unity and communication regarding finances in your marriage.
- ◆ *Fifth*, make use of "Reserve funds," which are savings built into your cash flow plan for such items as: a rainy day fund; a replacement car; Catholic formation and education for children; seed money for a business; and children's weddings. Reserve funds will help you reach your goals and avoid surprises.
- ◆ *Sixth*, develop a cash flow plan (budget) for 2012 that moves you toward your long term goals.
- ◆ *Seventh*, recognize that unproductive debt is a major obstacle to reaching your financial goals. If past habits have generated unproductive debt, now is the time to correct those habits, and to create a plan that will eliminate those debts as rapidly as possible.

I wish you a blessed and financially free 2012. God love you!