



Thanksgiving leftovers and the Advent Season

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. I was blessed to get home for two days with my father, three brothers in KC and their families. The food was delicious but I forgot to grab some leftovers for sandwiches. I did enjoy seeing everyone and getting to play some chess, tennis, soccer and table tennis.

Our parish Special Parishioners and Friends Thanksgiving was postponed due to snow and will be December 9 at 4:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. So, again, you are invited especially if you were not able to be with family or friends, or if you have a special guest, or if you just want another prayerful celebration at your Church of North American Martyrs. All we ask is that you let me or Julie (julie-crawford@cdolinc.net) know you are coming by Friday, December 7th. We will have plenty of turkey and trimmings. We will say prayers of thanksgiving and also say prayers to celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent.

A good, pious way to help us in our Advent preparation has been the use of the [Advent wreath](#). (Interestingly, the use of the Advent wreath was borrowed from the German Lutherans in the early 1500s.) The wreath is a circle, which has no beginning or end: So we call to mind how our lives, here and now, participate in the eternity of Gods plan of salvation and how we hope to share eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven. The wreath is made of fresh plant material, because Christ came to give us new life through His passion, death, and resurrection. Three candles are purple, symbolizing penance, preparation, and sacrifice; the pink candle symbolizes the same but highlights the third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, when we rejoice because our preparation is now half-way finished.

The light represents Christ, who entered this world to scatter the darkness of evil and show us the way of righteousness. The progression of lighting candles shows our increasing readiness to meet our Lord. Each family ought to have an Advent wreath, light it at dinner time, and say the special prayers. This tradition will help each family keep its focus on the true meaning of Christmas. In all, during Advent we strive to fulfil the opening prayer for the Mass of the First Sunday of Advent: Father in Heaven, ... increase our longing for Christ our Saviour and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of His coming may find us rejoicing in His presence and welcoming the light of His truth.

Fr. Brian Connor

2018 Advent Confession Schedule

Saturday, December 15: 11:00 am - Noon 2 priests
and **4:30-5:45 pm** 2 priests

Sunday, December 16: 4 - 5:00 pm 5 priests

Monday, December 17: After Christmas Program, **8 - 9:00 pm** 2 priests

Tuesday, December 18: After Christmas Program, **8 - 9:00 pm** 2 priests

Wednesday, December 19: 7:30—8:30 pm 2 priests

Thursday, December 20: 7:30—8:30 pm 2 priests

Saturday, December 22: 11:00 am - Noon 2 priests and
4:30-5:45 pm 2 priests

Sunday, December 23: 4 - 5:00 pm 3 priests

Monday, December 24: 11:00 am - Noon 2 priests

The Nativity of the Lord Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24:
4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and

Midnight Mass (traditional choir begins at 11:30 pm)

Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25:
8:00 am & 10:00 am

Family, Faith, Future

Building Campaign Update

Campaign Goal	\$4,500,000
Pledged to Date*	\$4,500,714
Percentage of Goal	100%
Cash Received to Date	\$3,439,486
Total Families	1,444
Total Gifts to Date*	713
Average Gift	\$6,312

*Note: We have reduced our "pledged to date" by \$229,098 (65 write-offs & 4 reductions) for those families who have moved out of the parish and/or reduced their original pledge.

Charitable Contributions for 2018: When completing your income tax and other financial planning for the year, please remember that charitable contributions to the parish must be given by **Monday, December 31st** to be included on your 2018 end of year contribution report.



Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Holy Day of Obligation
Mass Schedule
Friday, December 7 - 5:30 pm
Saturday, December 8 - 7:30 am & 9:00 am

In the past several months, a scammer has imitated at least four pastors and lay administrators with fake Gmail accounts in an attempt to steal money from employees and parishioners. The scam begins with a simple request for a favor and those who respond are instructed to provide money or gift cards for alleged charitable purposes. If you receive such an email, please do not respond. If you have been a victim of this scam, please contact the local police department, and the Nebraska Attorney General at 402-471-2682.

We are pleased to announce that North American Martyrs will be starting the Teammates Mentoring Program at our school this fall. Mentors and mentees meet once a week at school to form and build a relationship that will hopefully follow the student through high school graduation and possibly, beyond! Contact Kristin at Kristin-Unger@cdolinc.net or 402-476-7373.

WELCOME to our new parishioners who registered in the month of November: **Bryan Rodenbaugh, Stephanie Sprinkel, John & Edna Lacher, Jason & Jennifer Swerczek, Anne Bernadt, Andy & Delaney Labenz, Steve & Alison Ermisch and Jared & Antonia Longenecker.**
We hope you feel at home in our parish!

December 2018

January.....

North American Martyrs Parish

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			5 6:00 pm Bible Study	6 9:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm RCIA	7 8:30 am First Friday 5:30 pm Vigil Holy Day Mass	8 Immaculate Conception Holy Day Masses 7:30 am 9:00 am
9 4:30 pm Turkey Dinner with Fr. Connor	10 6:15 pm Bedmaking at Retreat House	11	12 6:00 pm -Bible Study -SVDP	13 9:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm RCIA	14 6-10:00 pm Date Night	15 7 am Clean Church 9:30 am Stewardship 11am-Noon & 4:30-5:45pm Confessions
16 HOLIDAY BAKE SALE 3:00 pm Martyrs Moms Christmas 4-5:00 pm Confessions	17 8-9:00 pm Confessions	18 8-9:00 pm Confessions	19 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:30-8:30pm Confessions	20 9:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm RCIA 7:30-8:30pm Confessions	21	22 11am-Noon & 4:30-5:45 pm Confessions
23 4-5:00 pm Confessions 5:00 pm Youth Caroling	24 11am-Noon Confessions 4 pm, 6 pm & Midnight Mass Christmas Eve	25 8:00 am & 10:00 am Christmas Day Masses	26	27 11:30 am - 5:30 pm Blood Drive	28 7-9:00 pm AFlame	29
30	31 5:30 pm Vigil Holy Day Mass	1 (January) 7 am, 9 am & 7 pm Solemnity of Mary Holy Day Masses	2	3 7:00 pm RCIA	4	5



Martyrs School News

December 7 No School
December 14 1:30 pm Dismissal
December 17 Christmas Program A-L
December 18 Christmas Program M-Z
December 21 Noon Dismissal
Dec. 24—Jan. 4 No School
January 7 Classes Resume



CCD News

December 5 Class 6-7:30 pm
Confessions 5, 4, 3
December 12 Class 6-7:30 pm
Confessions 8, 7, 6
December 19 Christmas Celebration
Dec. 26 & Jan. 2 NO CCD