



**A Note from our Pastor:**

Dear NAM Parishioners,

Happy New Year in 2019. Read below the alarming news in our country about the small numbers of people practicing their Catholic Faith. We have seen a drop at NAM, especially in 2018. We are blessed to have many ways to grown in faith at NAM and to experience an encounter with the living God. Please pray that our parishioners come back Home and experience the loving God in our celebrations and many Christ-centered classes. FBC



The latest data shows that 50% of young Americans who were raised Catholic no longer call themselves Catholic today... Although just half of the young people raised in the Church still identify as Catholic, that doesn't mean they attend Mass or have a personal and dynamic faith. Researchers at the University of Norte Dame found that when we gauge young people by that more stringent criteria, the number sinks to shocking lows: just 7% of young people raised in the Church still actively practice their faith today, meaning they still attend Mass weekly, pray a few times a week, and say their faith is "extremely" or "very" important to them... The most recent Pew religious landscape survey found that for every person who becomes Catholic, roughly 6.5 leave the Church. (Return: How to Draw Your Child Back to the Church, Vogt, 2) The ultimate reason people leave the Catholic Church is because they're not rooted in *a living encounter with Jesus* in the Church...Most of them have been funneled through institutional and sacramental programs, but they have not truly *encountered the Lord Jesus*. (Vogt, 12)

Our parishes need to become places where it is normal for adult Catholics to ask, "What is God calling me to?" Over the years we have discovered that a powerful way to foster a parish culture of discernment is by beginning with the discernment of personal charisms. Anointed and sent by Christ to build up the Church and to witness Christ to the world in word and deed. Focus on making intentional disciples and equipping them first, the rest will follow. (Forming Intentional Disciples, Weddell,92-93)

Make it clear that the purpose of RCIA is to help people become conscious, intentional followers of Jesus. (Forming Intentional Disciples, Weddell,168)

Following Christ has personal implications: it will make real demands on their priorities, time, money, relationships, and all other areas of life... discipleship is not just "fire insurance", nor is it mere "mental assent" to a few religious ideas or values. (Forming Intentional Disciples, Weddell,173-174)

**9 Days for Life** - The U.S. bishops' annual novena 9 Days for Life takes place **Monday, January 14 – Tuesday, January 22**. Pray for the respect and protection of all human life with new intentions, brief reflections, and more each day. Download the novena online, or participate through Facebook, email, text message, or an app. Join at [www.9daysforlife.com](http://www.9daysforlife.com)!

**Family, Faith, Future**

*Building Campaign Update*

<b>Campaign Goal</b>	\$4,500,000
<b>Pledged to Date*</b>	\$4,507,034
<b>Percentage of Goal</b>	100%
<b>Cash Received to Date</b>	\$3,504,315
<b>Total Families</b>	1,448
<b>Total Gifts to Date*</b>	715
<b>Average Gift</b>	\$6,304

\*Note: We have reduced our "pledged to date" by \$228,948 (65 write-offs & 4 reductions) for those families who have moved out of the parish and/or reduced their original pledge.

Your **2018 End of Year Contributions Report** is included **in this mailing**. Please retain this for your records. Thank you for your support of North American Martyrs Parish. Questions, please call Connie at 402-476-8088 ext. 6.

The Martyrs Altar Society coordinates events throughout the year to raise funds for the altar supplies, vestments, hosts, flowers, etc. All women are invited and are welcome to join us! We need your help on the weekend of January 12th & 13th with baking cinnamon rolls and selling them at the Chili Cookoff and after the weekend Masses. Visit <https://sugeni.us/3rSG> for a list of dates and times or call Trisha at 402-768-1798 for more information.



The **Knights of Columbus** will be sponsoring a **pancake, egg, and sausage breakfast** in the Parish Hall on **Sunday, January 27th** following each Mass. Free will donations will be accepted and will be used to support seminarians and to support pro-life activities.



**Marriage Encounter Weekend** at the Lied Center in Nebraska City, **Feb. 15-17**. Contact Pat 308-940-0670 or Janelle 308-940-1105 or [pjbbsen@yahoo.com](mailto:pjbbsen@yahoo.com) with questions or to register. Please **register now** so that we can reserve the facility. This is a Dynamic Catholic opportunity for NAM School parents.

**WELCOME** to our new parishioners who registered in the month of December: **Nelson & Lizzette Marroquin, Nixon & Yeldy Marroquin, Genevieve Kusek and Joel & Patricia Bartels.**



# January 2019

February.....

## North American Martyrs Parish

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Good Counsel Retreats: Discipleship at the Foot of the Cross, Fr. Eric Clark, for Men. Jan. 18-20.</b> <i>Unbound: Breaking Free from Spiritual Wounds, Fr. William Holoubek, for Men &amp; Women, Feb. 1-3.</i>			9 6:00 pm -Bible Study -SVDP	10 9:00 am Bible Study  7:00 pm RCIA	11	12 7:00 pm Chili Cook-off
13 Cinnamon Roll Bake Sale  Noon Un-decorate the Church	14 7:00 pm K of C	15 6:30 pm -Partners -Financial Peace  7:00 pm Parish Council	16 6:00 pm Bible Study	17 9:00 am Bible Study  7:00 pm RCIA	18	19 7:00 am Clean Church  9:30 am Stewardship
20 One Rose One Life  3:00 pm LOTW plan	21	22 6:30 pm -Partners -Financial Peace	23 6:00 pm -Bible Study -SVDP	24 9:00 am Bible Study  7:00 pm RCIA	25	26 10:00 am Walk for Life
27 Knights of Columbus Breakfast  Catholic Schools Week	28 12:30 pm Grief Support  6:30 pm Martyrs Moms	29	30 6:00 pm Bible Study	31 9:00 am Bible Study  7:00 pm RCIA	1 February	2  7:00 pm New Parishioner Welcome
3	4  6:15 pm Bedmaking at Retreat House	5 6:30 pm -Partners -Financial Peace	6 6:00 pm Bible Study	7 9:00 am Bible Study  7:00 pm RCIA	8  6-10:00 pm Date Night	9  Sweetheart Bake Sale after Mass



### Martyrs School News

**January 11** 1:30 pm Dismissal  
**January 21** No School  
**January 27** Catholic Schools Week  
**January 29** Learning Fair 6:30 pm  
**February 1** Dance 6-8:00 pm  
**February 5** Kindergarten Preview 6:00 pm  
**February 7** Noon Dismissal  
**February 8** No School



### CCD News

**January 9** Class 6-7:30 pm  
**January 16** Class 6-7:30 pm  
 First Communion meeting 6:30 pm  
**January 23** Class 6-7:30 pm  
**January 30** Class 6-7:30 pm, Priest visits  
**February 6** Class 6-7:30 pm