

# North AmericaN M A R Y R S Catholic Church

Witnessing to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and living the Sacramental life.

# Priests & Religious Serving Our Parish



Hall

Pasto



Fr Joseph Wahlmeier Parochial Vicar













Theology 1

Pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life

Sr Mary

Maximilian Ruskamp

## MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:00 p.m. Sunday 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.

## WEEKDAYS Monday thru Friday

6:40 a.m. & 8:10 a.m. Saturday 9:00 a.m.

## CONFESSIONS Saturday 4:00-4:50 p.m. and after 5:00 p.m. Mass until finished 15 minutes before each weekday Mass

Schilmoelle

Find us on Facebook 📑 or use our mobile app.

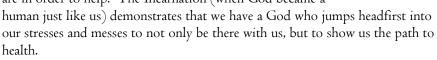
1101 Isaac Drive · Lincoln, NE 68521 · www.namartyrs.org Church Office: 402-476-8088 · School Office: 402-476-7373

# Priests, Religious Sisters and Seminarians from Our Parish

## A Note from our Pastor...

Merry Christmas!

The main message that our Lord gives us at Christmas is this: we don't have a far-off God who looks at us from a distance. Instead, we have a God who enters our lives exactly where we are in order to help. The Incarnation (when God became a



This message has gotten lost to so many. The reality is we all have loved ones who do not know or experience this reality of who God is. Many have heard the "path to health" part, which is essentially Church's Teachings on living a moral life. However, they may have learned this second step without knowing/ experiencing the first! Being told the do's and the do not's may have overshowed the first step: God walked among us, looked at people with complete and perfect love, and then challenged them to something great. When this happens, people receive wounding rather than the guiding.

But this will be the main message at the Christmas masses that I am preaching. I really want to reach out to those who have left the Church and equip you, the reader of this, to do the same. Each one of us are *first* a child of God with all our experiences and questions. From that firm foundation, then build up to the way of life that Jesus gave. This Christmas season, see if there is an opportunity to first affirm your love for someone. Then, gently and simply, ask if they want to share their past experiences with the Church. Not to counter them. Not to correct them. But first receive it. Maybe later, maybe another day. That's when they feel comfortable enough to talk again.

Overall, we are not peoples' saviors ... Jesus is. And our loved ones have complete and total free will to receive or reject. But this Christmas, let's take the direction our loving God gave when He came from heaven. First, we enter into lives wherever they are with total love. Second, see if there can be any healing. Please know of my prayers for you all this Christmas season! May God bless you all!

In Christ. ~Fr. Hall

# CHRISTMAS MASS OBLIGATIONS

With Christmas falling on a Monday this year, this means that there are two Mass obligations, the Sunday obligation and the Christmas obligation. A person cannot fulfill both obligations with one Mass.

In order to fulfill a Mass obligation, we must attend either on the day of the feast or on the evening preceding (Code of Canon Law 1248). Therefore, a Sunday morning Mass could not possibly qualify as satisfying the Mass obligation the following day, since it is in the morning.

In order to satisfy the Sunday obligation, a Catholic could attend the Saturday evening Mass or Mass at some time on Sunday. In order to satisfy the Christmas obligation, a Catholic could attend Mass on a Sunday at 4 p.m. or later or on Christmas Day itself on Monday. No matter how we slice it, two obligations equals two Masses.

Christmas Mass and Confession times for parishes across the Diocese of Lincoln can be found at: lincolndiocese.org/christmas



Monday	December 25
8:00 AM	+Tiffany Belger
10:00 AM	+Marie Amman
Tuesday	December 26
6:40 AM	+Marilyne Bergman
8:10 AM	+Audrey Hansen
Wednesday	December 27
6:40 AM	All Souls
8:10 AM	+Minnie Setlik
Thursday	December 28
6:40 AM	Andrew & Shannon Allgeier
	and Family
8:10 AM	+Audrey Hansen
Friday	December 29
6:40 ÅM	+Roger Maly
8:10 AM	+Roger Maly
Saturday	December 30
9:00 AM	Jay Sveen Family
Weekend Masse	<u>es</u>

# We

Saturday	December 30
5:00 PM	+Esther Brentano
Sunday	December 31
7:00 AM	+Darrell Walla
8:00 AM	Adolph & Emma Codr and
	Family
9:30 AM	Our Parish Family
11:00 AM	+Vince Pella

## EMERGENCY NUMBER

402-540-0398. Please add this number to your contact list. Call in the event of an emergency if a priest is needed.

MAXIMIZING GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR HIS GLORY					
Received Last Week	12-17-23				
Adult Tithe Envelopes					
(173) Families	\$16,807				
Adult Electronic Tithe (294) Families	\$12,669				
Plate	\$1,265				
Youth	\$0				
Total Tithe Received	\$30,741				
Weekly Tithing Goal	\$31,433				
Rec'd to date: 07-01-22	\$741.494				
Needed for Annual Budget	\$785,825				
Annual Budget Overage/Shortage to					
Date	(\$44,331)				

# NAM NEWS

#### **BLOOD DRIVE**

The Red Cross and Knights of Columbus invites you to donate blood on Thursday, December 28th, from Noon-6 p.m. in the Parish hall. Vist RedCrossBlood.org and enter

NorthAmericanMartyrsLincoln to schedule an appointment.

#### SCIENCE FAIR JUDGES NEEDED!

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade science fair is quickly approaching and we are looking for help in judging these creative projects! The science fair will take place Tuesday, January 30th from 9-12. No experience needed! If you are interested, please email Mrs. Beying at

amy-beying@cdolinc.net. More information will be sent to those interested in January.

#### FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

You work way too hard to be this broke! Now is the time to take back control of your money, and that starts by taking Financial Peace University. Visit https://www.fpu.com/A7BB83 to join my class at 1101 Isaac Dr starting on Sunday, January 7, 2024 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. for nine weeks — and start making your money work for you. Scholarship and babysitting available. Contact Joe Brandl with questions. 402-477-1895

#### CHILI COOK-OFF AND G.I.F.T. TEXAS HOLD'EM CHAMPIONSHIP

Mark your calendars! Please join us on January 20<sup>th</sup> after 5 p.m. Mass for our annual Chili Cook-off! Dust off your favorite chili recipe and join the friendly competition! Or, just come to eat chili, vote for your favorite, and enjoy the fellowship! The famous PCCW cinnamon rolls will be there for sale too. The NFL Playoffs will be on in the Parish Hall and the Gym will be open for the kids.

And, once again, the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual GIFT Texas Hold'em Championship will be going on in the Music Room at 6:30 PM. Come cheer on the players! Hope you can join us! \*\*\*PCCW will sell cinnamon rolls after each Mass this weekend, 4 for \$5.00\*\*\*

#### **ROSARY VOLUNTEER**

A volunteer is needed to help pray the Rosary before 5 p.m. Masses every third week. Please call the parish office for details.

#### MEALS FOR THE PRIESTS

We are so grateful for everything that Fr. Hall does for us and North American Martyrs Parish! He is very busy serving us and bringing us closer to Christ. Help him out by signing up to provide a meal for him during his busy weeks! Sign up here:

https://mealtrain.com/od96o4



With RaiseRight, you can always be fundraising for North American Martyrs, just by doing what you do every day. How it works: Earn by purchasing gift cards at face value from more than 750 top brands. Your earnings come directly from the brands you shop, not your pocket, so your gift cards are worth every penny. For the month of November, Martyrs has raised \$200.48.

50% of this school year (2023-24) family rebate earnings will be credited toward next school years NAM school tuition (2024-25). This can be used for Preschool  $-8^{\text{th}}$  grade next school year. It's a brand-new idea, and still in the very early stages of planning, but we wanted to roll this idea out to you before one of the biggest shopping seasons of the year. When logging in, use link: https://www.raiseright.com/

# **PRE-K NATIVITY PLAY**

Last week was an eventful week for the Pre-K kids at North American Martyrs. Diligently, they practiced and perfected their scenes, to provide their parents, family, and friends, with an adorable rendition of the Nativity play. They did an outstanding job!



Mrs. Wemhoff's Pre-Kindergarten class

## PARISH OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Parish office is closed each Monday morning, 8 a.m.– Noon.
- Parish office will be closed on Monday, December  $\Rightarrow$ 25th and Tuesday 26th, and then January 1st-4th. Office hours will resume January 5th.

# **CCD** News

#### December 27 & January 3

No Class (CCD Class resumes Jan. 10

## NAM SCHOOL NEWS

DECEMBER 21-JANUARY 3RD

No School- Christmas Break (School resumes Jan. 4th)

## CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Would you like to sing with a choir for Christmas Mass? We welcome your participation. Youth grades 5 through 12 are encouraged to sing at the 4 pm Christmas Eve Mass. Please come to the practices scheduled:

- Thursday, Dec 21 6:00 pm
- Sunday, Dec 24 2:30 pm

Ouestions, contact Michele Arndt 402-429-4500

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Imagine how Mary felt at the birth of Jesus: excited, awed, frightened. Deep faith was her light in the darkness, for Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest. Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brought light into the darkness surrounding the heart of those living in poverty bringing them the real, lasting, and deep joy of Christmas.

## RITES

#### BAPTISMS

We welcome those who have been newly baptized. Please pray for them as they continue to grow in Christ.

Owen Jacob Sousek Son of Nathan & Laura Sousek



## SISTER OF THE WEEK

Our Sister of the week (December 24-30 is Sr. Maria Bernadette Phuong Nguyen, from Vietnam. She is a Jr. Professed Sister from Sisters of Mary, Queen of Mercy. Please pray for Sr. Maria Bernadette Phuong Nguyen as she continues her vocation to the Sisterhood.

## SEMINARIAN OF THE WEEK

Our Seminarian of the week (December 24-30) is Thomas Rajewski, son of John and Patricia Rajewski, from Sacred Heart, Lincoln, NE. Thomas is studying Pre-Theology 2 at St. Gregory the Great Seminary. Please pray for Thomas as he continues his seminary formation.

## MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Our Marriage Encounter Experience, "Finding a oneness of heart we all desire" takes place February 9-11, in Lincoln. We need advance registration so please call right-away. Contact Gary & Brenda Granger, 303-604-6202.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

1

We pray with special love and concern for all those who are ill. Remember our sick: Jordan Barry, Margie Belger, Lilly Boeselager, Greg Bothe, Art Brase, Jennifer Brase, Roberta Cook, Carleen Crowe, Sue Coupe, Bella Cox. Jacob & Jaxson DaCunha, Britt Douglas, Diane Eankirk, Earl Franklin, Tina Frenzel, Sonja Gates, Marlys Goodwater, Tom Goodwater, Fran Green, Tom Green, Diane Herms, Hayden Higgins, JJ Kalita, Diane Kankirk, Glee Komenda, Bill Kroll, Mary Langenberg, Judy Lindholm, Clint Lochner, Banks Nelson, Brian O'Dea, Dean Oswald, William Parish, Julie Roberts, Chris Royal, Derek Ruth, Connie Skoglund, Tamela Skrdlant-Horn, Rose Stehno, Barb Sypal, Nancy Thompson, Raegan Thompson, Paulette Trouba, and Lisa Trausch.

# SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

#### BAPTISM

The sacrament of Baptism is normally celebrated for our parishioners on Sundays after the 11 a.m. Mass. First time parents must attend a preparation class. The next baptism class is scheduled for Sunday, January 14th at 1 p.m. To inquire, contact Tamra Tran in the parish office.

#### Matrimony

To be married at North American Martyrs, one or both persons of the engaged couple must be a practicing Catholic. To inquire about celebrating a wedding at NAM, call Fr. Nathan Hall at 402-476-8088.

#### FIRST RECONCILIATION, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, &

#### **CONFIRMATION**

To register for preparation for the sacraments or for more information about catechesis for children for ages 3-18, call Carrie Odgaard at 402-782-1428.

#### ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

OCIA is modeled after how people were brought into the Church in the first centuries. The process is designed for those seeking baptism or confirmation as well as anyone simply wanting to learn more. Classes are each Wednesday at 6 p.m. Please contact the parish office for more information.

## **ADORATION NEWS**

<u>Monday</u>: 1 p.m. & 3 p.m. *Tuesday*: 8 a.m., 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.

Wednesday: 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 p.m. & 5 p.m.

Thursday: 8 a.m.

Friday: Noon

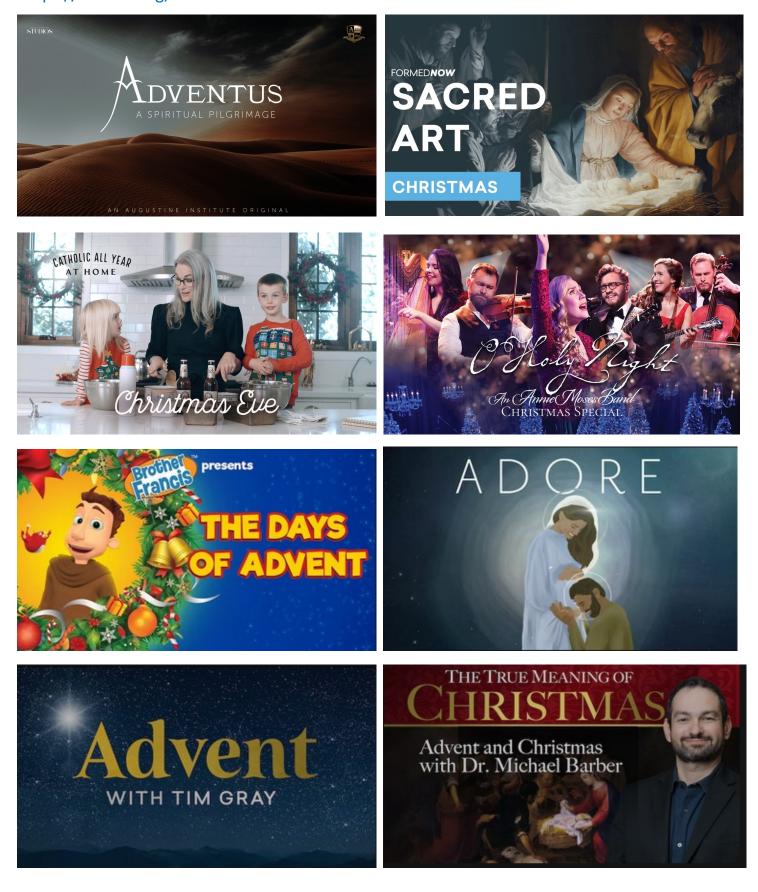
To sign up for a regular Eucharistic Adoration Hour, please use the signup genius link <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0848A9A92B0-perpetual</u> There you will be able to sign up for the available hours. In addition to those who have signed up for a Holy Hour, all are welcome to join us in the Chapel to adore Him.

# LAY MINISTRY FOR DECEMBER 30-31

	Readers	ACOLYTES	Servers	SAFE Sanctu- Ary	GREETERS
5:00 PM	Kuta	Matulka Nagel	Ortiz Parr Hams Tran	Becker Simpson	Ybarra Family
7:00 AM	Sousek	Shonka Bousquet	Nguyen, Thomas Codr Egelhoff	Morrow	
8:00 AM	Lewan- dowski	Schlautman, D Fortik	Shively (2) Schlautman Pfeifer	Krienert	Shively Family
9:30 AM	Rupp	Hartz Bassinger	Elder Schidler (2) Epp	Hannon Miller	Meyer Family
11:00 AM	Volunteer Needed	Drehs Wemhoff	Kocian Nguyen Phuoc, N Turek Nguyen, E	Hannon Seberger	Volunteer Needed



# PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS WITH THESE EPISODES ON FORMED!



## THE MIRACLE OF THE POINSETTIA

The deeper meanings behind the lovely Christmas plant By Marge Fenelon - published on 12/23/14

For years, we've given and received poinsettias in gestures of kindness during the Christmas season. They're just so fittingly festive, with their mix of red and green leaves. What's more, they're relatively inexpensive and thoughtful at the same time. Did you ever wonder where that custom came from? I did, so I went exploring to find out. Here's what I discovered.

Poinsettias are native to Central America, and were used by the Aztecs in a number of ways, to dye clothes, make cosmetics, and create medicine to cure fevers. The plant was discovered in 1828 by John Poinsett, US Ambassador to Mexico. He sent some Poinsettia plants back to South Carolina and began to grow them, thus the name. One of Poinsett's friends, Robert Buist, began growing and selling them commercially. In 2002, Congress named December 12 National Poinsettia Day.

In the years since Poinsett brought the plants to the United States, poinsettias became known for their symbolism as well as their beauty. The shape of the plant's flower and leaves resemble the Star of Bethlehem, which led the Magi to the Christ Child. The red color reminds us of Christ's Blood, shed for our salvation. Some poinsettias have white leaves, which remind us of Christ's purity. Green symbolizes life and hope. Before I did my research, I thought poinsettias were "nice." Now, I think there magnificent! Best of all is the old Mexican legend about how the poinsettia and Christmas became connected in the first place. Here's how it goes. Once, there was a poor Mexican girl named Pepita who had no present to give the Baby Jesus at Christmas Eve Mass. As Pepita walked, sadly, to the chapel, her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up. "Pepita," he said. "I'm sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him, will make Jesus happy."

Still not knowing what she could give, Pepita picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a bouquet. Having only this small present to give Jesus made Pepita embarrassed. As she walked through the chapel to the altar, she remembered what Pedro had told her. Feeling a bit better, she knelt down and laid the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene.

Amazingly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers, and everyone who saw them were sure they had seen a miracle. From that Christmas Eve forward, the bright red poinsettia flowers were known as the "Flores de Noche Buena," or "Flowers of the Holy

Night."

Advent is drawing to a close and I'm still scrambling to give something truly special to the Christ Child on the Holy Night. ike, Pepita, I'm feeling as though I really have nothing to offer – or at least not the something I'd hoped to have. I wanted super-spectacular-high-minded-soul-lifting-wildly-successful striving. Instead, all I've got is a decent try – a handful of roadside weeds.

Legend or not, I know that Pedro's words are true. Even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him, will make Jesus happy. If I surrender my smallness to our Lord and bring him my pathetic bouquet at Christmas, it will miraculously burst into bright red flowers. And Jesus will be happy.

Marge Fenelon is a Catholic author, columnist, and speaker and a regular guest on Catholic radio. She's written several books about Marian devotion and Catholic family life, including Strengthening Your Family: a Catholic Approach to Holiness at Home and Imitating Mary: Ten Marian Virtues for the Modern Mom. Find out more about Marge at www.margefenelon.com.

Ackermann Family, *Gary and Carol Parr* Ackermann Family, *Gip and Cio Ackermann* Bailey, John and Jan, *Leon and Mayme Dostal* Bailey, John and Jan, *Milton and Agnes Bailey* Bartek Family, Paul and Adele, *Joshua James Bartek* 

Bergman, Fred, *Marilyne Bergman* Braun, Rose, *Tom Braun and Marlene, Connie & Ken Buresh* 

Chamberlain, Sherryl, *Larry Chamberlain* Chamberlain, Sherryl, *Leonard and Minnie Setlik* Chamberlain, Sherryl, *Robert and Barbara Chamberlain* 

Claus, David and Laura, *Elizabeth Aoppes* Claus, David and Laura, *Patricia Bourke* Dalton, Tom and Renee, *Alex and Elaine Kulwick*  Dalton, Tom and Renee, **Bob and Helen Dalton** Drehs, Tom and Jackie, **Justine Drehs** Franklin, Jan and Earl, **Peter and Ruby Gurberg and** 

## Joyce Gaden

Fry, Kerry and Diane, *Leland Fry and Ben Rerucka* Garity, Tim and Joan, *Rosemary Royse* Gates, Steve and Sonja, *Saulnier and Gates Families* 

Givens, Kathleen, Jerry Givens

Goodwater Family, Tom and Patti, Art, Helen, and Bob Goodwater

Goodwater Family, Tom and Patti, *Charles, Mary Alice and Mike Donner* 

Goodwater Family, Tom and Patti, *Jeanne Tichota* Goodwater Family, Tom and Patti, Steve Goodwater

Hardin Family, *Keith Childress and Mary Engelke* Hart, Dee, *Mary Hart* 

Hellbusch, Greg and Ranee, **Dennis and Kurt** Hellbusch

Hellbusch, Greg and Ranee, **Ray and Doris Tarnick** Hergott, Richard and Ila, **Betty Streber** Hergott, Richard and Ila, **Joann Ziemann** Hergott, Richard and Ila, **Patricia and Paul Hergot** Hruska, Jan (Podany), **Jerry and Blanche Podany** Hugo, Duane and Mary, **Ambrose Hugo** Hugo, Duane and Mary, **Kenneth Lubischer** Hugo, Duane and Mary, **Ormagene Lubischer** Ketchmark, John, Diana and Kaylynn, **Ryan** 

## Ketchmark

Kollars, Rick and Cindy, *Clint Kollars* Krienert, Gene and Kim, *Jill Kristen Krienert* Krienert, Gene and Kim, *Addyson Eliabeth Schroeder* 

Krienert, Gene and Kim, **Ashlynn Grace Schroede** Krienert, Gene and Kim, **Alec Christopher Schroeder** 

Kubik, Darrell and Kathy, *Joe and Mrie Kadavy* Kubik, Darrell and Kathy, *Emil and Rose Kubik* 

Kubik, Darrell and Kathy, James and Betty Schwab Lindner, Cheryl, Edward and Helena Bohaty Lindner, Cheryl, *Melvin Lindner* Lochner, John, Elizabeth & Clint, *John Lochner* Jr. Marsh, Robert and Janelle, *Gene and Sally* Bartunek Mazza Jeff and Auxi, Mila Natasha Meier, Freda, *John Meier* Morrow, Mike and Carol, *Bill and Steve Clark* Morrow, Mike and Carol, Fran, Jim, and Tim Morrow Nagel, Tim and Monica, Herman Nagel Pearson, Kathy, Alecia Kaiser Pearson, Kathy, Fred Pearson Pearson, Kathy, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Rezac Petrzilka, Doris, Louis E. and Irene Tvrdy Petrzilka, Doris, Dorothy Raiter Raiter, Suzanne E., John and Anna Raiter Family, Living and Deceased Raiter, Suzanne, E., Joseph and Anna Moravec Family, Living and Deceased Rech, Rose and Wisnieski Family, *Evelyn Rech* Rech, Rose and Wisnieski Family, Anne Rech Rector, Abby, Margaret Metz Reisdorff, Dan and Sandy, Ben, Caroline, and Richard Reisdorff Reisdorff, Dan and Sandy, Dolores Lyons Reisdorff, Dan and Sandy, **Glen, Helen and Larr** Augustin Rezac, Joyce, Edward, Leora, Eldon and Larry Rezac Rezac, Louis, *Helen and Donald Maly* Reznicek, Jacci, Dave Reznicek Rink Family, **Arlene Rink** Roscoe, Mickey and Karla, Hank Greff Roscoe, Mickey and Karla, McMahon and Roscoe Families

Runyan, Mark, Joan B. Runyan Runyan, Mark, Michael J. Runyan Ruskamp, Bob and Carol, Jerry Knobbe Ruskamp, Bob and Carol, Ray and Margaret Ruskamp Seidl Family, Tom and Cindy, Glenn and Alice Harlow Seidl Family, Tom and Cindy, Ralph and Bernice Seidl Sloup, Mark and Patti, *Alex Sloup* Sloup, Mark and Patti, Cy Sloup Sloup, Mark and Patti, George Lackovic Sloup, Mark and Patti, Rose Sloup Tagart and Crist Family, John and Marge Morrisev Tagart and Crist Family, Josh Meyer Tagart and Crist Family, Pat and Bob Tagart Wilcox, Mary J., John and Marjorie Kopf Wordekemper, Rick and Lori, Braedon Timm and **Richard Barkmeier** Wolverton, Bob and Jill, Wolverton and Gamatz Family Yeates, Mary and Family, Mary L. Yeates Yeates, Mary and Family, *Merle and Charles* Donahue Yeates, Mary and Family, Ray, Toni and Danie Svodoa Zech, Steve and Mary, Alice and Ernie Volkmer Zech, Steve and Mary, Ed and Katie Nemecek Zech, Steve and Mary, Harold Zech

