



# ONE CHURCH: ENCOUNTERING JESUS, EQUIPPING DISCIPLES, LIVING MERCY.

**St. Francis** Humphrey

PO Box 116,  
Humphrey, NE 68642  
402-923-0913  
[www.humphreystfrancis.com](http://www.humphreystfrancis.com)

**Holy Family** Lindsay

103 E 3rd St.  
Lindsay, NE 68644  
402-428-2455  
[lhparish.wordpress.com](http://lhparish.wordpress.com)

**St. Michael** Tarnov

309 3rd St.  
Tarnov, NE 68642  
402-923-0913  
Mailing Address: PO Box 162

**St. Mary** Leigh

319 N Oak St.  
Leigh, NE 68643  
402-487-2666  
<http://bit.ly/stmaryleigh>

Friends,

The word “Christmas” is no accident. It comes from an Old English expression meaning Christ’s Mass. The reason why may be obvious. Christmas and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass have so much in common. At Christmas, God the Son was born into the world veiled in human flesh. At Mass, God the Son is born into the world veiled by the appearance of bread and wine. At Christmas, angels announced His birth singing “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will”. At Mass, these same angels join us in echoing this same refrain. At Christmas, God the Son set aside the dignity of His divinity to take on the limitations of our humanity. At Mass, God the Son again sets aside His dignity to become nourishment for our human soul and does so over and over. Notice what is at the core of these similarities...Sacrifice! For just as the sacrifice of God the Son at Christmas brought joy to the world, so, too, can the sacrifice of God the Son be re-presented at each Mass and can bring joy to our lives.

Imagine this. If an alien from another galaxy came to this planet in a spaceship and wanted to announce his arrival to the human race, he would undoubtedly use every single media outlet and interrupt every single event everywhere in the world to broadcast his message. Yet, the announcement of the birth of God made man is made to an insignificant group of shepherds in an isolated region of one of the smallest provinces on the furthest outskirts of the Roman Empire. God is born into human flesh and most of the world has no idea.

This is only the beginning of Jesus’ sacrifices. After His birth, God the Son sacrificed His dignity for things like potty-training. Even worse, God so emptied Himself of His dignity that He even endured an unjust sentence of death. Think about this for a minute. The child whose birth we celebrate at Christmas will be crucified unjustly and mercilessly at the very hands of the people He came to save – specifically all of us.

Jesus continues to empty Himself in our day, each and every day, to be “born” each and every time Mass is celebrated. You see, Jesus loved us so much that He didn’t simply do His thing on earth, retreat to heaven and say ‘that’s how you do it.’ No. Our God continues to empty Himself every day in the Eucharist.

Each Mass is like a “mini Christmas”. At each Mass, Jesus, the second Person of the Blessed Trinity, takes on an appearance that is even more demeaning to Him than our humanity was – the appearance of bread and wine. It is only when we detach ourselves from our stuff, and make space in our hearts to receive this gift, that God can not only fill us with joy, but pour His love into us so super-abundantly that our joy infects those close to us.

But, do we let this happen? Or have we filled our hearts with so much “stuff” that there’s no room for God’s love. And perhaps this might give us pause as we celebrate Christmas. You see, we often forget how blessed we are. After all, many in the world may not be blessed to be able to enjoy Christmas like we do. In fact, how many families in our world will celebrate Christmas without toys, without gifts of any kind, without friends, without family, without food or without homes? When you stop to think about it, we sure have a lot to be grateful for! Has the “stuff” in our lives made us unaware of this reality?

Of course, there is an even more important reason for us to be grateful. As important as these temporal joys truly are, they are still just pale imitations of eternal ones. In fact, I would suspect that at least some of those lacking the kinds of temporal blessings we take for granted might have more joyful Christmases than many of us who do. Whenever someone understands that it is Jesus Christ who brings joy to the world, and not temporal stuff, it has two effects. First, we are now free to enjoy even the most meager of temporal gifts with an even greater gratitude. Second, we can rejoice even without them, which is why those in true poverty are not those without food, shelter, clothing or toys this Christmas. It is those without Christ’s Mass!

In Christ,

*Fr. EJA*

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## SACRAMENT PREP

### CONFESSIONS:

DAILY: 7:30 AM-7:50 AM (Before All Daily Masses)

SATURDAYS: **Lindsay**: 4:00 PM-4:45 PM

**Humphrey**: 4:30 PM-5:15 PM

SUNDAYS: **Lindsay**: 7:00 AM-7:45 AM

**Leigh**: 8:00 AM-8:20 AM

**Tarnov**: After 10:30 AM Mass

**BAPTISMS**: To schedule, please contact Rev. Eric Olsen.

**MARRIAGE**: Please contact the priest six months before wedding in order to fulfill required wedding prep classes.

## CONTACTS

### Pastor:

Rev. Eric Olsen ..... 402-923-0913

.....esolsen@archomaha.org

Rev. Wayne Pavela..... 402-923-0913

### To Submit Bulletin Information:

St. Francis Parishioners ..... kmorfeld@hsfschool.org

Holy Family Parishioners..... lhfp@lhf.esu7.org

St. Mary Parishioners..... dbrabec@frontiernet.net

St. Michael Parishioners ..... stmichaelstarnov@gmail.com

(For other parish contacts, please see the following pages.)

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

### PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Keith & Julie (Werner) Frauendorfer,

Shirley Pfeifer, Gavin Hottovy

### KEEP IN PRAYER AS THEY SERVE OUR COUNTRY:

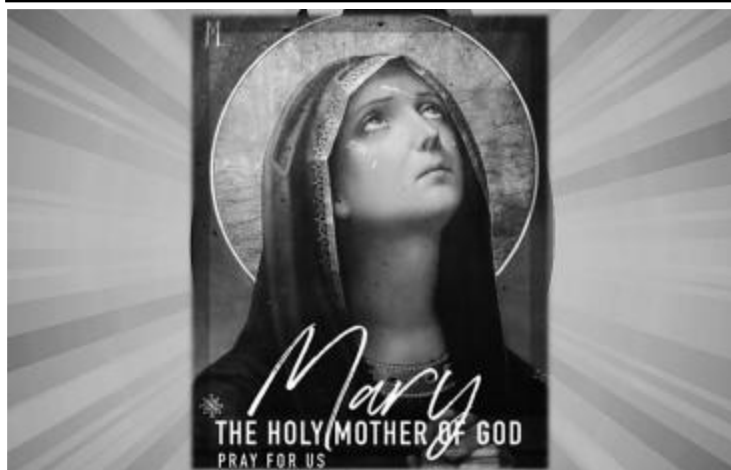
Bryce Bartholomew, Calvin Wiese, Doc Schumacher, Dylan

Preister, John Babl, Craig Prather, Jedd Taff, Cody

Ramaekers, Ben Borer, Nicole Thompson, Steve Bender,

Jacob Williams, Codi Rose Fehringer, Fr. Curt Dwyer

(Please call your parish office to add a name.)



# MASS SCHEDULES & INTENTIONS

## ST. FRANCIS CHURCH, HUMPHREY:

### Sat, 12/26:

5:30 PM--+Eugene Zimmerer

### Sun, 12/27:

10:00 AM--+Jim McDermott

### Mon, 12/28:

8:00 AM-L/D +Ed & +Anna Mae Pfeifer Family

### Tues, 12/29:

8:00 AM-L/D +Aloys & +Ceil Beiermann Family

### Wed, 12/30:

8:00 AM--+Vic Labenz & +Austin Steven Classen

### Thurs, 12/31 - Solemnity of Mary Eve:

5:30 PM--+Jim McDermott

### Fri, 01/01 - Feast of the Solemnity of Mary:

10:00 AM-For the People of Our Cluster Parishes

### Sat, 01/02:

5:30 PM-L/D +Ludwig & +Viola Wemhoff Family

### Sun, 01/03:

10:00 AM-For the People of Our Cluster Parishes

(WA): Wedding  
Anniversary

(A): Anniversary  
of Death

(B): Birthday

## HOLY FAMILY CHURCH, LINDSAY:

**Sat, 12/26:** 5:00 PM-L/D Bud & Lori Bender Family,  
L/D Jane King Family

**Sun, 12/27:** 8:00 AM-L/D Ted & Isabelle Fehringer Family,  
L/D Jim Hegemann Family

### Mon, 12/28:

8:00 AM-L/D Swede & Arlene Kurtenbach Family

### Tues, 12/29:

8:00 AM-Alvin Bender

### Wed, 12/30:

8:00 AM-L/D Dave Schnitzler Family

### Thurs, 12/31 - Solemnity of Mary Eve:

5:00 PM-L/D Diane Fjell Family, L/D Bob & Lois Pfeifer Family

### Fri, 01/01 - Feast of the Solemnity of Mary:

8:00 AM-Kevin Hamlin

### Sat, 01/02:

5:00 PM-L/D Pat Pfeifer Family

### Sun, 01/03:

8:00 AM-Lance Pfeifer

## ST. MARY, LEIGH:

**Thurs, 12/31:** 8:30 AM-For Peace

**Sun, 01/03:** 8:30 AM-Mary Ann Doernamann

## ST. MICHAEL, TARNOV:

**Fri, 01/01:** 10:30 AM-Donald Shemek

**Sun, 01/03:** 10:30 AM-Louis & Doris Dohmen

# ST. FRANCIS CHURCH

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday - 8:00 AM-3:30 PM

## CONTACTS

### PARISH MINISTERS:

Deacon Dennis Anderson .....(402) 920-1380  
Deacon Kent Sachau.....(402) 369-1750  
Deacon Tim Howard.....(402) 841-3434  
**Parish Council:** Duane Kosch .....(402) 910-3303  
Ken Classen .....(402) 923-0313  
**Finance Board:** Bryan Reichmuth .....(402) 340-6429  
**School Board:** Todd Preister .....(402) 454-1302  
Lindsey Kosch .....(402) 910-3303  
**Home & School Association:** Crystal Ott .....(402) 920-0756  
Jenna Olmer .....(402) 920-3176  
**Religious Ed Director:** Lori Classen .....(402) 923-0987  
**Daycare Director:** Brandi Eisenmenger .....(402) 923-0585  
**Server Coordinator:** Deb Herchenbach .....(402) 923-0320  
**Bulletin Submissions:** Katie Morfeld .....(402) 923-0913  
.....kморfeld@hsfschool.org  
**Finance Office:** Lisa Krings .....(402) 923-0913  
**Parish Office Secretary:** Karen Wieser.....(402) 923-0913  
**Alumni Relations Coordinator:** Missy Braun.....(402) 923-0818  
**Prayer Line:** During Office Hours - Parish Office..(402) 923-0913  
After Office Hours - Connie Foltz .....(402) 920-3222  
**Pastoral Minister:** Diane Zach.....(402) 920-0617  
**Gift Shop:** Julie Krings .....(402) 992-4151

### ST. FRANCIS SCHOOLS:

**Principal:** Jennifer Dunn.....jdunn@hsfschool.org  
**Jr./Sr. High School:** .....(402) 923-0818  
**Elementary School:** .....(402) 923-0611

## PARISH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sun, 12/27: \*7 PM-"Rosary for Peace" in Church  
Tues, 12/29: \*12 PM-Parish Office Closes  
Wed, 12/30: \*12 PM-Parish Office Closes  
\*NO PRE  
Thurs, 12/31: \*Parish Office Closed  
\*NO Adoration  
\*5:30 PM-Solemnity of Mary Eve Mass  
Fri, 01/01: \*Feast of the Solemnity of Mary  
\*10 AM-Mass  
\*NO First Friday Adoration  
\*Parish Office Closed  
Sat, 01/02: \*2 PM-Michael McPhillips & Lauryn Muller  
Wedding  
Sun, 01/03: \*7 PM-"Rosary for Peace" in Church



## LITURGICAL MINISTERS 12/31-01/03

### Thurs, 5:30 PM - Solemnity of Mary Eve:

Lector-Paul Eisenmenger  
Servers-Jayda & Emerson Krings  
EMHCs-Deacon Kent Sachau, Jodie Eisenmenger  
Greeters-Tim & Anita Brandl  
Gift Bearers-Bryan & Lori Reichmuth

### Fri, 10:00 AM - Feast of the Solemnity of Mary:

Lector-Ron Denkinger  
Servers-Gavin & Mason Geilenkirchen  
EMHCs-Deacon Dennis Anderson, Sally Classen  
Greeters-Betty Brockhaus, Mary Helen Fuchs  
Gift Bearers-Tim & Sheila Hassenstab

### Sat, 5:30 PM

Lector-Jodie Eisenmenger  
Servers-Jacob Keller, Kellan Mundil  
EMHCs-Deacon Tim Howard, Paul Ramaekers  
Greeters-Jim & Lisa Classen  
Gift Bearers-Dave & Elaine Gilsdorf

### Sun, 10:00 AM

Lector-Gina Eisenmenger  
Servers-Ethan & Phillip Keller  
EMHCs-Deacon Kent Sachau, Doug Eisenmenger  
Greeters-Dean & Ann Preister  
Gift Bearers-Lee & Janet Osten

## WEEKLY COLLECTION REPORT

Sunday Giving .....  
Loose.....  
Youth.....  
Immaculate Conception.....



## CHURCH CLEANING

### WEEKLY CHURCH CLEANING CHAIRMEN:

**Dave & Diane Noonan - 402-923-0138**

James & Emily Droescher - 302-219-0452

Erik & Dawn Baumgart - 308-214-0083

Brandon & Jenny Weidner - 402-920-0610

Cole & Lauren Classen - 402-920-3770

Randy & Michelle Preister - 402-923-0241

### SACRISTY & FLOWERS CHAIRMEN:

**Glenn & Joyce Ternus - 402-454-3831**

Betty Labenz - 402-923-0647

Jordan & Crystal Foltz - 402-920-2339

Josh & Erica Wessel - 402-270-3016

Marv & Norma Jane Classen - 402-923-1090

Pat & Melissa Duesman - 402-750-1957

**VACUUMERS:** Lyle & Sue Babel, Dale & Gina Eisenmenger

# ST. FRANCIS continued

**\*WELCOME PARISHIONER:** Let us extend a warm welcome to the newest member of our parish family: Bailey Bender, wife of Kendal Bender.

**\*VACUUMING CHURCH LIST:** If you would like to be added **OR** removed from the list of vacuumers for church please call Monica Veik at 402-920-3273. *Please call before the new list comes out in January. **ALSO, please be sure there is a bag in the vacuum before using it.***

**\*THANK YOU** to everyone who brings in aluminum to the school to be recycled. St. Francis School received a check in the amount of \$1,863.04 for aluminum cans we brought in to CMI!

**\*ATTENTION 500 CLUB MEMBERS:** The 500 Club celebration is tentatively set for March 20, 2021. Due to Covid circumstances and restriction, we are uncertain that an actual celebration in the gym will be possible during that time. We want everyone to know that we have no intentions to cancel the event as of now, but that may be the case as the date approaches. With that said, we plan to do, at the very least, a pick-up, to-go meal the night of the event, along with drawings for the cash prizes as usual. We are also looking into virtual entertainment-type games to make the evening fun from the safety of our homes. You will be getting invites in the mail to choose your meal preference. If you can, please wait to send in your payment until you receive the invitation. Invitations and payments can be mailed back to the parish office, Pinnacle Bank in Humphrey or Taylor Werner (PO Box 643, Humphrey, NE 68642). The cost of tickets is \$65 per person. Thank you for the continued support throughout the years! ~500 Club Committee & St. Francis Parish

**\*DON'T FORGET TO CHECK THE KIOSK ON YOUR WAY OUT OF CHURCH!:** There are new books and CDs to choose from, along with a number of other materials to help you and your loved ones stay firm in the faith!

**\*PRAY FOR OUR NATION SUNDAY EVENINGS!:** Our "Rosary for Peace, Within Our Families & Our Communities" will be at 7:00 PM in church. We will continue to meet every Sunday at the same time, and we encourage all parishioners to join us in prayer during this tumultuous time in our nation.



## HSF SCHOOL NEWS & SPORTS

### School News

Mon, 12/28: \*NO SCHOOL-Christmas Break (thru Jan. 4)

### Sports News

Tues, 12/29: \*GBB w/ West Point Holiday Tournament

Wed, 12/30: \*GBB w/ West Point Holiday Tournament

## LUNCH MENU & VOLUNTEERS

Mon, 12/28: NO SCHOOL

Tues, 12/29: NO SCHOOL

Wed, 12/30: NO SCHOOL

Thurs, 12/31: NO SCHOOL

Fri, 01/01: NO SCHOOL

*Served with milk. Lettuce & carrots served daily.*

### CAFETERIA VOLUNTEERS

Mon, 12/28: NO SCHOOL-NO Volunteers Needed

Tues, 12/29: NO SCHOOL-NO Volunteers Needed

Wed, 12/30: NO SCHOOL-NO Volunteers Needed

Thurs, 12/31: NO SCHOOL-NO Volunteers Needed

Fri, 01/01: NO SCHOOL-NO Volunteers Needed

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

\*Please park in the reserved space by multi-purpose room.

\*Due to state health & safety regulations, please **do not** bring your preschool age children with you when volunteering.



# HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday & Wednesday - 8:30 AM-4:00 PM  
Friday - 8:30 AM-12:00 PM

## CONTACTS

### PARISH MINISTERS:

Rev. Jim Novotny (retired) ..... (402) 281-5610  
**Holy Family Parish Office:** ..... (402) 428-2455  
**Holy Family Parish Office (FAX):** ..... (402) 428-5205  
**Parish Project Center:** ..... (402) 428-2204  
**Holy Family School:** ..... (402) 428-3215  
..... (402) 428-3455  
**Holy Family School (FAX):** ..... (402) 428-3231  
**Holy Family Daycare:** ..... (402) 428-9070  
**Parish Bulletin Submissions:** Ann Weeder ..... (402) 428-2455  
..... lhfp@lhf.esu7.org

### ONLINE:

**Holy Family Parish Website:** ..... lhfp parish.com  
**Holy Family Daycare Website:** ..... lhfd daycare.wordpress.com  
**Holy Family School Website:** ..... lhfbulldogs.wordpress.com

### PARISH STAFF:

**School Principal:** Andy Bishop  
**Parish Council/Finance President:** Bob Kurtenbach  
**School Board President:** Leon Wiese  
**Knights of Columbus, Grand Knight:** Roy Zach  
**Catholic Order of Foresters, Chief Ranger:** Virgil Preister  
**Ladies Guild President:** Angie Reardon  
**PRE Coordinator:** Tami Wiese  
**Youth Ministry Director:** Norma Preister  
**Daycare Director:** Michelle Shemek

## PARISH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tues, 12/29: \*8:30 AM-Midnight-Eucharistic Adoration  
\*North Bend Holiday Tournament  
Wed, 12/30: \*North Bend Holiday Tournament  
Thurs, 12/31: \*5 PM-Feast of Solemnity of Mary Eve Mass  
Fri, 01/01: \*8 AM-Feast of the Solemnity of Mary Mass

### FUTURE EVENTS:

Jan. 16, 2021: \*Fun Night  
Feb. 28, 2021: \*KC Pancake & Sausage Feed



**EWTN Viewing:** *Called to Communion with Dr. David Anders*, Saturdays at 3:00 PM. Dr. Anders was born into a devout Protestant family, attended a Protestant college and seminary earning a Ph.D. in Reformation history. Eventually he was persuaded by the truth of the Catholic faith and converted to Catholicism. On his EWTN program, he answers challenging viewer questions on matters of faith and the Church's teaching.

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS 12/31-01/03

### Sat, 5:00 PM

Lector-Tori Wiese  
Servers-Haydan Beller, Marley Hall  
EMHCs-Deb Sueper  
Gift Bearers-Bob & Jane Kurtenbach

### Sun, 8:00 AM

Lector-Kristin Weeder  
Servers-Chance Lindhorst, Camron Reichmuth  
EMHCs-Lori Beller  
Gift Bearers-Larry & Linda Formanek

## WEEKLY COLLECTION

Sunday Giving .....



## REFLECT ON THE READINGS

### FIRST READING

The story of Abram and Sarah and their struggle to have a family centers on Abram's faith in the Lord. When have you needed to rely on faith when it comes to your family?

### SECOND READING

The author of Hebrews holds up Abraham as a model for the faith. When have you had to unconditionally trust in the Lord?

### GOSPEL READING

Only Luke records the presentation in the Temple of the baby Jesus. Simeon reveals to Mary and Joseph insights into Jesus and his destiny. How do you imagine Mary and Joseph understood Simeon's words?

## JANUARY PRAYER CROSS

Jeff & Erica Kurtenbach  
Bruce & Coni Mastellar

Please take home one of the crosses with prayer cards and return to the back of church at the end of the month.

## CHURCH CLEANING

Feel free to clean any time **except when Mass is being offered and during Eucharistic Adoration**. If you are unable to come, **please** get a substitute.

Vernice Schumacher	Carolynne Stenger
Phyllis Shanle	Kris Stock
Suzette Shanle	Joan Stone
Cassandra Squire	Paula Stone

# ST. MICHAEL CHURCH

## CONTACTS

### PARISH MINISTERS:

Deacon Louis Dohmen ..... (402) 270-2032  
 ..... deaconlouisd@hotmail.com

St. Michael Parish Office: ..... (402) 923-0913

St. Michael Email: ..... stmichaelstarnov@gmail.com

Mail Address: ..... P.O. Box 162, Humphrey, NE 68642

### Finance, Records and Bulletin Submissions:

Mindy Stock ..... (Home) (402) 923-0677

..... (Cell) (402) 367-2231

..... stmichaelstarnov@gmail.com

PRE Director: Michelle Brandl ..... (402) 923-1308

..... rbrandl@megavision.com

Parish Hall: ..... (402) 246-4821

Parish Hall Schedule: Ruth Mausbach ..... (402) 246-2421

### FINANCE COMMITTEE:

President: Mitch Dohmen	Joy Hemmer
Vice President: Robert Brandl	Mike Johnson
Secretary: Mindy Stock	Adam Korth
Deacon Louis Dohmen	Scott Rosenthal

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS 12/31-01/03

### Fri, 10:30 AM

Lector-Richard  
 Servers-Faith, Claire  
 EMHCs-Mitch, Barb  
 Gift Bearers/Greeters-Volunteer

### Sun, 10:30 AM

Lector-Mark  
 Servers-Jacob, Alex  
 EMHCs-Paul, Kristie  
 Greeters/Gift Bearers-Volunteer

**Money Counters for Jan:** Tom Sliva & Doug Macken

**Church Cleaning:** Kristin Cedar & Mindy Stock

**Helpers:** Connie Labenz, Angie Kudron,  
 Carolyn Stock

## PARISH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wed, 12/30: \*6:30 PM-Rosary  
 Fri, 01/01: \*10:30 AM-Solemnity of Mary Mass  
 Wed, 01/06: \*PRE Classes Resume

*Happy New Year!*

# ST. MARY CHURCH

## CONTACTS

### PARISH MINISTERS:

St. Mary Parish Office: ..... (402) 487-2666

Bulletin Submissions: Melissa Brabec ..... (402) 992-0287  
 ..... dbrabec@frontiernet.net

## PARISH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Fri, 01/01: \*8:30 AM-Solemnity of Mary Mass

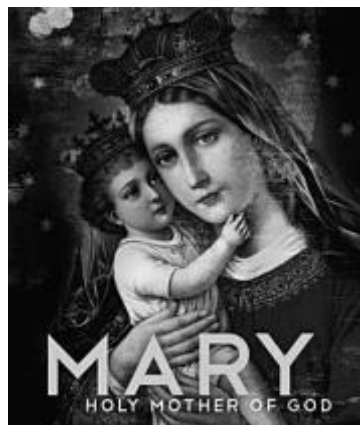
## LITURGICAL MINISTERS JAN. 3

### Sun, 8:30 AM

Lector-Emma Labenz  
 Servers-Simon Wemhoff, Riley Van Dyke  
 EMHC-Trevor Zulkoski  
 Gift Bearers-Willie Hollatz  
 Rosary-Hogendorns  
 Collection Counters-Tasha Jedlicka

## WEEKLY COLLECTION

Adults ..... **NOT AVAILABLE**



**\*TUESDAYS - "DAY OF PRAYER":** Everyone is welcome to come to church on Tuesdays, any time from 7:30 AM to 7:30 PM. Come in and spend some quiet time in prayer. *Please continue to keep a distance of at least six feet between yourself and others.*

**\*CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE** at <http://bit.ly/stmaryleigh> for general information and a link to our bulletins.

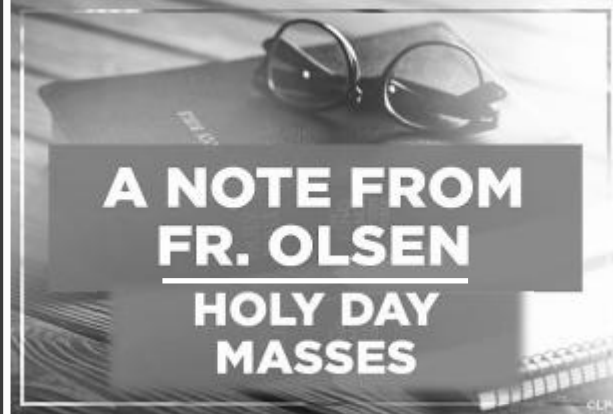
**\*LIKE AND FOLLOW** St. Mary's on Facebook! Search "St. Mary's Catholic Church-Leigh, NE".

**\*THANK YOU TO OUR PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS:** John Dietrich, Emily Wietfeld, Tasha Jedlicka, Rita Reichmuth, Dustin Brabec and Marcus Urban. Please contact them with any concerns or thoughts to share!



# CLUSTER PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHECK OUT THIS PAGE EVERY WEEK TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR PARISHES, THE SURROUNDING PARISHES, SNIPITS FROM FR. OLSEN, FR. WAYNE & MORE!



**Except for New Year's Day,** All Holy Days celebrated during the week will have Masses as follows:

- 7:00 PM Vigils in Leigh & Lindsay;
- 8:00 AM on Day of Holy Day in Humphrey & Lindsay;
- 7:00 PM on Day of Holy Day in Humphrey & Tarnov.

There may be exceptions if the Holy Day is on a Saturday or Monday.



**Thurs, Dec. 31, Solemnity of Mary Eve:**

5:00 PM-Holy Family, Lindsay

5:30 PM-St. Francis, Humphrey



**Fri, Jan. 1, Solemnity of Mary:**

8:00 AM-Holy Family, Lindsay

8:30 AM-St. Mary, Leigh

10:00 AM-St. Francis, Humphrey

10:30 AM-St. Michael, Tarnov

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Tragedy and disappointment are inevitable. What sees you through this? There will be challenges, changes, unexpected circumstances, interrupted plans, hurts, and injustices experienced by every human being at some point in their lives. We will be asked to adjust our plans, change course, and even encounter suffering and death. Where do we learn all of the lessons we need to live life well? Some of them we learn along the way but much of what we bring to life, positive and negative, comes from our early beginnings, our families. This is our early world and provides the blueprint for how we see the bigger, more inclusive world, which unfolds before us.

Our families of origin can be sources of grace, heartache or a combination of both. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication, and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. They can also determine whether we have an accessible and healthy relationship with God. Many of life's challenges can literally bring us to our knees and require that we possess a strength of character that resides well beyond the superficialities of our world. At some point we will all need three coping gifts that can be given to us only by God: faith, hope, and love. Our families help us learn that we are not the ones responsible for their creation, but God!

Our experience of early family life colors all of our relationships and what we expect to achieve from life in general. Resolving conflicts, dealing with difficulty and suffering, celebrating accomplishments, prioritizing our needs, listening to God's call, understanding relationships, understanding disappointment, learning about the virtues and living a centered focused life are all lessons our families either succeed in teaching or do not. To succeed, as God has designed and ordered our world, is to discover his presence and then trust that Presence. The Holy Family can teach even the most dysfunctional family how to best use God's gifts of faith, hope, and love to find him and do his will. Their simple humble example is always before us, showing us the way. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!



## SUNDAY READINGS

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

**1st Reading:** Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3

**Resp. Psalm:** Ps 105:1-6, 8-9

**2nd Reading:** Col 3:12-21

**Gospel:** Lk 2:22-40

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

**1st Reading:** Is 60:1-6

**Resp. Psalm:** Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

**2nd Reading:** Eph 3:2-3, 5-6

**Gospel:** Mt 2:1-12

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 www.jacklynwiese.com

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 106 Pine St. • Lindsay, NE  
**PURINA**

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**SALON**  
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