

Second Sunday of

Advent

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Isaiah 40:3

December 10, 2023



HOWARD COUNTY CATHOLICS

WWW.HOWARDCOUNTYCATHOLICS.COM

† STS. PETER & PAUL

713 ELM STREET
ST. PAUL, NE 68873
SATURDAY MASS 5:00PM
SUNDAY MASS 8:00AM & 10:00AM

† ST. ANTHONY

103 KEARNS AVE
FARWELL, NE 68838
MASS 1ST SATURDAY OF
EACH MONTH 7:00PM

† ST. JOSEPH

1803 HIGHWAY 11
ELBA, NE 68835
MASS 3RD SATURDAY OF
EACH MONTH 6:30PM

CLERGY

Rev. Vincent L. Parsons, J.C.L., Pastor
pastor@howardcountycatholics.com
Rev. Mr. Neil Baquet, Deacon
deacon@howardcountycatholics.com
Julie Dush, Homebound Pastoral Minister
Phone (308) 968-3421

PARISH OFFICE

Monday-Friday 8AM- 4PM (308)754-4002

STAFF

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SOCIAL MEDIA

media@howardcountycatholics.com

Facebook:

Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church
St. Joseph Catholic Church
St. Anthony Catholic Church of Padua/Farwell

My Parish App:

Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church

Christmas Mass Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE:

+ 4:00PM (ST. PAUL) + 5:30PM (ELBA)
+ 7:00PM (ST. PAUL)
+ 9:00PM (FARWELL)

CHRISTMAS DAY

+ 9:00AM (ST. PAUL)

Restoring
OUR FATHER'S
House



Our Church Restoration project
has been set into motion!

The contractor is ready to go to work
& some materials have been ordered.

January - Church bathrooms remodel
(one at time, so to have continuous access)

February & March - start Phase I:
Paint interior, Attach Crucifix
& Statuary, & new Church flooring.

Mass to be celebrated at Parish Life
Center in February & March.

NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

Second Sunday of Advent December 10, 2023

A procrastinator is a person who always puts things off, like work, chores, even a date. There are many Christmas procrastinators, putting Christmas chores off until the last minute.

Procrastinators will say: "I'm just not ready for Christmas." For many centuries the Church has been aware of procrastinators. There are so many people who wait until the last moment to get things done. In order to get ready for Christmas, the church introduced the Advent Season. Advent comes from the Latin, meaning 'coming to.' We are coming to the birth of Christ. In our culture we celebrate four weeks of preparation for the coming of the Lord. Some cultures spend six weeks, or forty days in preparation. Today, we begin the second week of Advent.

During the next three weeks the Church invites us to prepare ourselves for the birth of Christ in a spiritual way. Sure, we will be caught up with Christmas decorations, gift buying and holiday parties. But Christ is the reason for the season. Receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation is a wonderful way to prepare for Christmas.

As we light the second candle in our Advent wreath we are reminded that Christmas is only three weeks away.

The Advent wreath originated with the Lutherans of eastern Germany a few hundred years ago. The custom of the lighting of the wreath during the four weeks preceding Christmas took place only in the homes of believers. Catholics honored the custom from the Lutherans and introduced it into our churches. Each week a candle is lit. These candles remind us that Christ is coming to dispel the darkness of sin.

Many of us send Christmas greetings to loved ones and friends. For many of us it is a way to connect with one another once a year. It seems that the years fly by and we never get a chance to visit these people. So, a Christmas card is a way to say, "I'm thinking of you." Or "I love you."

The late Mike Royko of the Chicago Tribune tells of a salesman who detested receiving Christmas cards with just a short note or no note at all. He decided to send out prank cards to his friends. If the guy was in service he wrote, 'Hi, Joe, old buddy. Got your address from Jim Scallion (you remember, the old barracks moocher). Me and the wife and kids are going to be passing through Chicago during the Christmas holidays. Thought we'd stop by and spend a night or two with you. We can sip a few brews and rehash our days in the old outfit.' Then, he signed the card with a phony name 'Your old pal, Wilbur Crull.' Since he was driving down South on a sales trip he mailed the cards from small Southern towns. When the people received these cards, they were dumbfounded. Wives were yelling, 'Who is this guy? No way will they move in with us during Christmas?!' Husbands were saying, 'I knew a hundred yokels in the Army. He could be any one of them!' Many couples panicked. One couple almost got a divorce. Some wouldn't answer the door bell around Christmas. Well, so much for those prank cards...but remember in these stressful days... "where charity and love prevail...there God is ever found. " Happy Advent!

J. Vincent L. Parsons

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	12/11	No Daily Mass
Tuesday	12/12	8:30 am Daily Mass (SPP) † John McIntyre By Dan & Janet Reilly
Wednesday	12/13	8:30 am Daily Mass (SPP) † Elaine Rozmiarek By Carolyn Just
Thursday	12/14	8:30 am Daily Mass (SPP) † Leo Stenka By Mel & Linda Schmaderer
Friday	12/15	9:00 am Daily Mass (Matelyn) † Betty Greenwalt By Dorothy Koperski, Souls of the Faithful Departed
Saturday	12/16	4:30 pm Reconciliation (SPP) 5:00 pm Mass (SPP) † Ed Koperski By Dorothy Koperski & Family 6:30 pm Mass (SJ) † Esther Ambrose By Kathy Carson
Sunday	12/17	8:00 am Mass (SPP) † Ken Svoboda By Beth Svoboda & Family, People of the Parishes 10:00 am Mass (SPP) † Russ Sack By Bill Sack Family

Advent Prayers: Week Two



MINISTRY SCHEDULE DECEMBER 16TH & 17TH

SACRISTANS

Saturday - 5pm: Michael Happ/ Julie Baquet

Sunday - 8am: Ken Vincik

Sunday - 10am: Russ Kosmicki / Deacon Neil Baquet

GREETERS

Sat - 5pm: Janelle Morgan/ Don & Bev Sack / Jack Steffes

Sun - 8am: Al & Janet Wemhoff/ Matt & Rebecca Mottl Family

Sun - 10am: Pre/K Class/ Jim & Charlene Potter/ Dan & Carie Vech Family

LECTOR

Sat - 5pm: Glen Killion

Sun - 8am: Lane Mottl

Sun - 10am: Monte Brouillette

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat - 5pm: Laura Pedersen & Becky Knox

Sun - 8am: Rick Gorecki & Carol Vincik

Sun - 10am: Carrie Vech/Monte Brouillette/MaryJo Serbousek/ Mary Gappa

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat - 5pm: Emily Schenck

Sun - 8am: Ella & Hayes Mottl

Sun - 10am: Connor & Kaia Douthit

TRI-PARISH YOUTH Religious Education

Preschool - 4th Grades: **Sundays 9-10am**
 5th - 11th Grades: **Wednesdays 7-8pm**
Sts. Peter & Paul Parish Life Center Classrooms
 DREs ~ Becky Knox 308-571-0430 & Judi Baker 308-750-8418

Please plan to have students to Parish hall at 6:30pm.

Christmas Program - December 13
7:00 PM Sts. Peter & Paul Church

Cookies & Hot Cocoa to follow at PLC
 Please note - We do have class **Wed. Dec. 20th!**

Congratulations
 on your Baptism
BRECKEN MICHAEL HEUSINKVELT
 Son of Jordan & Sara
 December 3, 2023
 Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church



CONGRATULATIONS
Tyler & Kara Hohenstein
 UNITED IN
Christian Marriage
 DECEMBER 2, 2023
 STS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH



Young at Heart POTLUCK LUNCHEON
Tuesday, December 12th, 12-1pm SPP Parish Hall
 Main dish provided, please bring a side dish to share.

Inviting all ladies 18 and older to consider a CCW officer position. Contact Shelly Johns if interested 308-571-0515. New officer installation will be at the January 8th meeting.

St. Anthony & St. Joseph reminder...
 Please pick up your box of collection envelopes in the back of your Church.
 Thank You! *Kathy*

Get your dishes before the holiday meals...
 ... thank you for bringing salads & desserts, please grab your dishes at the Parish Life Center Kitchen!

KNIGHTS COUNCIL 1918 OF COLUMBUS Christmas Cards
"Keep Christ in Christmas"
 for Sale in back of Church



St. Paul
FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES
 Presents:
THE NIGHT OF THE NATIVITY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH TOURS BEGIN AT 6:00, 6:30, & 7:00PM KAVAN PROPERTY 820 KIMBALL RD.
 Come experience the Christmas story on a guided tour through the woods to reveal the true meaning of Christmas- the Birth of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ. All are Welcome! Dress warm & bring a flash light if can. Free will donation event.



"THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST"
 Wednesday, December 13th, 7:00pm
 Sts. Peter & Paul Church
All are WELCOME!
 Presented by: Tri-Parish Preschool ~ 6th Grade R.E. Students



Celebrating Christmas at Mass
 Please help fill in the sign up sheet in the Church gathering area for the various ministries for the Christmas Masses!



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church at Paplin
Commemorating 140th Birthday
 Father Richard Pionkowski will be celebrating Mass on Monday, December 25, at 11AM



Thank you to all that ordered shirts and supported our Religious Ed. fundraiser... we made \$486.00! All proceeds to go toward "Restoring Our Father's House".



BLESSED & GRATEFUL
 TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH!
 As the year comes to an end, consider the ways you have been blessed in your faith. Offer a prayer of gratitude for each blessing that comes to mind. Also, prayerfully consider helping others be blessed in their faith by giving a donation to the Diocesan Appeal. <https://www.gidiocese.org/giving>



Advent with Spirit Catholic Radio
 The four weeks of Advent are meant to give us hope & reassurance that the Lord is coming, and also the opportunity to give hope to those around us. Spirit Catholic Radio is focusing on a theme for every week: Hope, Joyful Expectations, Prayer, & Peace. You can also tune in on weekday mornings 7-9AM, during the Spirit Mornings show, to hear inspirational guests discuss what Advent mean in in our lives. More info at <https://spiritcatholicradio.com/>

STPETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH
Vegas Night
 WITH PRIME RIB DINNER
SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2024
 FEATURING: BLACK JACK, TEXAS HOLD'EM, ROULETTE, & MUCH MORE
 RESERVE NOW, SPACE LIMITED FOR TICKETS/INFO.
 CALL/TEXT CHAD 970-571-1996

Are you a young adult age 21-39:
 * Who is being called into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ?
 * Who wants to experience truth, beauty, and goodness.
 * Who is interested in connecting with peers who journey together.
 More information @ <https://www.gidiocese.org/young-adults>

Peters

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Parishioners: Todd, Cindy, Riley & Katlynn Peters

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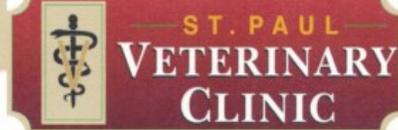
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LORD'S PORTION

Sts. Peter and Paul

General Fund - \$5,230.00

Parish Life Center - \$105.00 | Maint. \$25.00

Restoring Our Father's House - \$2,345.00

Immaculate Conception of Mary - \$10.00

St. Anthony

General Fund - \$1,465.00

St. Joseph

General Fund - \$200.00

Please pick up your contribution envelopes.

Prayer Chain

St. Paul - Dianne Rice: 308-571-0039

St. Paul - Ann Rief: 308-380-0619

Farwell-Michelle Woitalewicz: 308-336-3241

Farwell - Thereasa Nealon: 308-336-3349

Elba - Betty Poss: 308-750-0512

Pray without ceasing 1 Thessalonian 5:17