



St. John's Catholic Church

Omaha's Jesuit Parish Located at Creighton University

2500 California Plaza Omaha, NE 68178

402-280-3031 www.stjohns-creighton.org

Cornerstone laid 1887—Established as a Parish 1897—Designated a City Landmark 1981



Second Sunday of Advent—December 10, 2023

Sunday 8:00 am Music

At this Mass, St. John's chants the responsorial psalm antiphon on this page and the congregational responses at **#800** and **#804-809**. A cantor chants the proper antiphons.

Saturday 5:00 pm & Sunday 10:30 am Music

Prelude: #222 Waiting in Silence

Gathering: #223 People, Look East

Kyrie: #800 Mass of Charity and Love

Psalm 85:



Bernard J. Portz, SJ, © 1978.

Fr. Portz was a professor of mathematics and directed choirs at St. John's for 28 years.

Gospel Acc.: #803 Advent Alleluia

Universal Prayer: #804 Advent Response

Offertory: #218 Patience, People

Eucharistic Acc.: #805-809 Mass of Charity and Love

Communion: #829 Rise Up, Jerusalem

#765 Like a Shepherd

Sending Forth: #221 Every Valley

The Sunday 7:00pm and 9:00pm Masses are on hiatus during Creighton University's winter break. They will resume on January 21.

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

—Entrance Antiphon (Isaiah 30:19, 30)

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

—Communion Antiphon (Baruch 5:5; 4:36)



St. John's parish is a Catholic Ignatian community committed to welcoming all, celebrating Eucharist, and empowering all to serve for the greater honor and glory of God.

COMMUNITY

Christmas Memorials

Donations for Christmas Memorials are used for our Christmas Environment. All memorials will be remembered in our Christmas Newsletters.

Envelopes can be found at the entrances of the church, and submitted in the Sunday collection baskets or the parish office.

For more information please contact Kathleen Denne
402-280-2975 kdenne@creighton.edu



Prayer Requests

Terry Moore	Julie Crotty-Guile	Jim O'Neill
Ethan	Ann	Kathy Savory
Bruce	Dan Dwyer	Colene Byrd
Ollie & Michelle Broderson	Mathew Felion Annette	Mike Blum
Faith	Nancy Rohatsch	Helen McGill

Meeting and Events Calendar

Sunday—December 10

9:00 AM—1:00 PM Coffee & Donuts (LSJ)

Monday—December 11

Tuesday—December 12

4:00 PM Bible Study (CFRM)

6:00 PM Leadership Meeting (LSJ)

Wednesday—December 13

Thursday—December 14

6:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal (CH)

Friday—December 15

4:30 PM Wedding Rehearsal (CH)

6:30 PM Wedding (CH)

Saturday—December 16

9:00 AM 12-step program (CFRM)

2:00 PM Wedding (CH)

6:00 PM Pilgrimage Story Telling (LSJ)

Sunday—December 17

9:00 AM—1:00 pm Coffee & Donuts (LSJ)

LEGEND

LSJ—Lower St. Johns

CH—Church

RSRM—Resource Room

CFRM—Conference Room

EMERGENCY SERVICES

All incidents which require emergency assistance on the campus of Creighton University call

Public Safety at 402-280-2911.

Public Safety will meet and direct all emergency services to the exact location needed.

Non emergent needs call 402-280-2104

Second Collection this Weekend Religious Retirement



In 1988, the bishops of the United States established the Retirement Fund for Religious collection to address this serious retirement funding need among U.S. religious orders. In 2022, the NRRO's annual collection raised \$27.6 million. Per the 2023 statistics collected by the NRRO, a mere 6% of religious communities that shared data with the NRRO reported having sufficient retirement funding. Since the fund's inception, U.S. Catholics have graciously contributed more than \$975 million, with almost \$842 million distributed to support the day-to-day care of thousands of elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. From 2009 onwards, the annual expenses of supporting senior women and men religious surpassed \$1 billion.

For more about the initiatives of the National Religious Retirement Office and opportunities to support retired sisters, brothers and religious order priests, please visit retiredreligious.org.

Weekly Offering Report for November 26th

Weekly Budget Goal	10,284.80	Annual Budget Goal	555,379.20
Weekend Contributions	1,904.00	Fiscal Year-to-Date Goal	226,265.60
Other	100.00		
ONLINE	589.50		
ACH	2,903.50		
TOTAL	5,497.00		
Above (Below) weekly goal	(-4,787.80)	Amount Collected YTD	215,281.85
		Above (Below) YTD Goal	(-10,983.75)

Thank you for your continued support to

The Building Fund

We received \$1,261.00 in donations for the month of November.



Online Giving opportunities are available on our website stjohns-creighton.org.

For further questions please email; stjohns@creighton.edu

DEADLINES FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Below are the deadline dates for upcoming Parish Newsletters








Wednesday, Dec. 13th at 3PM for Sunday, Dec. 24th

Wednesday, Dec. 20th at 3PM for Sunday, Dec. 31st

Thursday, Dec. 28th at 3PM for Sunday, January 7th

Please submit all requests to LourdesEsquivel@creighton.edu AND stjohns@creighton.edu with the subject line: NEWSLETTER.

Masses at St. John's This Week

Date	Feast	Readings	Mass Time—Location—Intention
12/10 Sun	 2nd Sunday of Advent	IS 40:1-5, 9-11 2 PT 3:8-14 MK 1:1-8	8:00 AM—Church 10:30 AM—Church & Livestream All Sunday liturgies are offered for the people of the parish
12/11 Mon		Is 35:1-10 Lk 5:17-26	Noon—Church & Livestream † Michael Kelley
12/12 Tues	 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe	ZEC 2:14-17 LK 1:26-38	Noon—Church & Livestream— † Daniel J. Dagerman
12/13 Wed	 Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin & Martyr	Is 40:25-31 Mt 11:28-30	Noon—Church & Livestream — Brzica Family
12/14 Thur	 Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church	Is 41:13-20 Mt 11:11-15	Noon—Church & Livestream— † Fr. Robert Preisinger
12/15 Fri		Is 48:17-19 Mt 11:16-19	Noon—Church & Livestream— † Gerald C. Brundo
12/16 Sat		Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Mt 17:9a, 10-13	5:00 PM—Church—Anticipatory for Sunday
12/17 Sun	 3rd Sunday of Advent	IS 61:1-2A, 10-11 1 THES 5:16-24 JN 1:6-8, 19-28	8:00 AM—Church 10:30 AM—Church & Livestream All Sunday liturgies are offered for the people of the parish

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated:
Mon. — Fri. from 12:30PM to 1PM, Saturdays from 4PM to 5PM, Sundays 8PM to 9PM

Christmas Mass Times at St. John's

Celebrate the birth of Christ with the St. John's Parish community this year! The music, liturgical environment, and familiar faces make this your home during the Christmas season. The Masses of the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas are immediately adjacent to each other this year, and the full schedule for both is listed below:

- **4th Sunday of Advent**
 - Saturday, December 23 at 5:00pm
 - Sunday, December 24 at 8:00am and 10:30am
- **Christmas Eve** – Sunday, December 24
 - **5:00pm** – Family oriented Vigil of Christmas. Christmas carols begin at 4:30pm.
 - **11:00pm** – Our Christmas Mass during the Night. Christmas carols begin at 10:30pm.
- **Christmas Day** – Monday, December 25
 - **9:00am** – The Mass of Christmas Day.

Healing Mass

Please join us Tuesday December 19th at NOON

The Sacrament of Anointing within the Mass is available to all those who are chronically ill, advanced in age, overly burdened with the struggles of life and even children who suffer from illness. The entire community is invited and encouraged to pray and support the sick of our parish.



Join the Christmas Mass ensembles!

Singers and instrumentalists of all ages are invited to join the music ensembles for our Christmas liturgies! Attendance at rehearsals during Advent is required. For the schedule, please contact MollyMattingly@creighton.edu.



OUTREACH

Catholic Social Teaching on Migration and Refugees A Reflection from St. John's Social Justice Committee

Advent and Christmas is a time that turns our attention to the Holy Family's journey to Bethlehem and later flight to Egypt. In His life, Christ showed and taught that part of journeying with others includes welcoming the stranger.

Local parishes like ours are called to welcome the stranger and "not view the new arrivals as a threat to its cultural identity and well-being, but as an incentive to walk together with these new brothers and sisters who are themselves rich in particular gifts, in an ever-new process of forming a people capable of celebrating unity in diversity" (Refugees: A Challenge to Solidarity, 1992). You can join in this Catholic project of welcome by learning more through the resources below, or getting involved locally.

A special opportunity will include the Posadas with the local Mayan Catholic Community and St. John's Parish on Sunday, December 17, at 7pm in lower St. John's. Posadas ("shelter") remembers the journey of the Holy Family leading up to the Nativity as Mary and Joseph sought shelter. This event will share Mayan culture, Q'anjob'al language, and fellowship as we seek to journey in solidarity as a parish community. Please join us!

You can also:

- Follow Mothers & Others: Justice and Mercy for Immigrants on Facebook, or email mothers.and.others@gmail.com to learn more about their work
- Contact Omaha Welcomes the Stranger at tom-margaret@cox.net to learn more about assisting asylum seekers in our community.
- Donate furniture or other items for use by refugee families in Omaha through the Furniture Project (www.thefurnitureproject.org/contact/), and Restoring Dignity (rdomaha.org/donate-furniture/).



Special Opportunity to Be a Blessing

Could you reach out to a St. John's member who is no longer able to attend Mass in person? The simple act of sending a handwritten note, a home-made card, or a greeting card, can make the warmth of a caring faith community tangible to someone who is no longer able to participate in person. Volunteers would be paired with just one person at a time. Contacts via U.S. mail could be made once or twice a month, as you wish. There would be no meetings to attend. What a simple way to touch a life and let a member of St. John's know that she/he is not forgotten. What a simple way to be a blessing! Please contact Lorry Feldhausen at 402-658-2935 if you have questions about volunteering for this special ministry.

2023 Christmas Giving Tree

This year, the giving tree will represent one of the universal apostolic preferences, journeying with youth. This preference is to accompany young people in the creation of a hope-filled future. With that in mind, the Boys and Girls Club of the Midlands - North Unit will partner with St. John's to provide Christmas gifts to **110** children in Omaha. Each ornament will have the name of a child and the gift request on their wish list.



The giving tree will be up from **Wednesday, December 6th to December 20th**.

Forget Me Not

Has Dementia touched your life? Please join us on second Sundays for our St. John's Dementia Support Group after Mass from 12:00-12:45 in Lower St. John's. Hosted by Jonie Sturek and Heidi Dunning with Family Ties. If you have any questions, please call Heidi 402.201.6633 Dementia Practitioner.



CREIGHTON

"The Spiritual Path" Date Night for Couples

SAT. JAN. 13TH 5:45 TO 9 PM

Registrations Due by Mon. Jan. 8th.

Location: Lower St John's Church on Creighton's Campus



Treat your relationship to a romantic Italian Dinner for two with stimulating spiritual talks and discussion prompts for personal reflection and discussion for you and your significant other.

This date night will guide couples through the first three questions of the spiritual path retreat adapted from the internationally acclaimed *Best Year Yet* coaching tool by Lisa Kelly. You will identify wisdom within and for your relationship through an Ignatian lens of collaborating with God as you reflect on your last year together and look forward to a 2024 as a year of growth.

Child-Care Provided Age 3 and up. Free- will donation. Drop off at 5:45 at Campus Ministry in Lower Swanson Dorm.

Registration for child care required by Wed. January 3rd.

To register for child care email KathyMartin@creighton.edu. For questions call 402-280-2205.



Presenters: Lisa Kelly and Steve Titus

Lisa and Steve are Directors of *The La Storta Center*, a nonprofit founded to be a practical place of pause, inspiration, vision, and action for the People of God.

To register use QR Code or email KathyMartin@creighton.edu



LITURGY

Church Decorators Needed!

Mark your calendar to help decorate our church for Christmas!

- Sunday, December 17 at 11:30am
– setup of trees and greenery
- Sunday, December 24 at 11:30am
– setup of nativity and remaining decor
- Sunday, January 7 at 11:30am –
take down Christmas decorations.



Over that past several years, we have had a wonderful crew assist with decorating the church for Christmas. These many hands have indeed helped to make light work and a very reflective environment for the Christmas season. We'd be thrilled to have anyone with interest as a part of this team! It's a great way to meet your fellow parishioners and to offer your service to our community. There will also be refreshments and snacks available! To help, simply show up in the sacristy on the dates listed above. Please contact Chase Becker with questions at chasebecker@creighton.edu or 402-280-1128.

Bethlehem Peace Light at St. John's

For thousands of years, a vigil lamp has burned above the place of Jesus' birth in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. Each year, the flame from this lamp is spread throughout the world as a symbol of peace. As the conflicts in Gaza continue to range, the peace that this flame represents is needed more than ever.



St. John's will welcome this flame during the 5:00pm Christmas Eve Mass. After this, the flame will burn near the Nativity scene throughout the entirety of the Christmas season. Please bring a wind-proof candle or lantern with you to church if you would like to take this flame home with you and use in your family's celebrations of Christmas.

Advent Candle Bearers Needed!

We will begin each weekend Mass during the Advent Season with a procession of the Advent Candles to the Wreath. If you or your family would like to help carry candles, please contact Chase Becker. chasebecker@creighton.edu



Pickup Photos from All Souls Display

Throughout the month of November St. John's Parish and the Universal Church has remembered and prayed for all our beloved departed ones. We especially held in prayer those listed in our parish Book of the Dead. Now that the month of November has drawn to a close, please pick up any photos of loved ones that you brought to St. Joseph's Shrine. Photos are available for pickup in the sacristy.

WISDOM ON THE WAY

The Second Sunday of Advent

This is a great week indeed, on December 12th we celebrate our lady of Guadalupe and on December 16th we commemorate the beginning of Mary and Joseph's journey to find that special place to give birth to her son, Jesus.

When I was growing up this was a much anticipated week filled with excitement. Oh what a joy it was to help my grandma decorate a shrine for our Lady, waiting until midnight to sing *Las Mañanitas*. Listening to the story every year of how Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego and understanding more fascinating details of the apparition every year.

Then on December 16th, my brother and I would try to behave all day so we could attend the *Posadas*, which consisted of recitation of the Holy Rosary, enacting the journey alongside Mary and Joseph, singing and begging for an inn, getting a favor bag filled with candy and fruit. And then doing it all over for the following eight days until December 24th when Joseph and Mary finally found a place.

When I arrived in the US, neither of these traditions were observed; our hurried lives didn't leave time for it. It was a big adjustment to make; I guess growing up helped too. All of that excitement that I felt as a kid is now caused by lighting the second candle on the Advent Wreath. And now that I'm an adult, I try to share all of that joy that with my kids and make them aware that no matter where we are, Advent gives us the opportunity to prepare our hearts and faithfully wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Whatever your tradition is for this week, let us take a break from our busy schedules to see God at work in our lives and in our world. May God's spirit transform the days leading up to Christmas into a time of holy anticipation; preparing our hearts, as we faithfully await the chance to celebrate the arrival of our king.

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Lulu Castro Esquivel



Las Posadas

St. John's Church is a member of the "Historic 24th Street Family of Parishes"

Sacred Heart Church
www.sacredheartchurchomaha.org
2218 Binney Street

St. Benedict the Moor
<https://stbenedictomaha.com>
2423 Grant Street

St. John's Church
www.stjohns-creighton.org
2500 California Plz.

Stay tuned to learn about events for the Historic 24th Street Family of Parishes