



St. John's Catholic Church

Omaha's Jesuit Parish Located at Creighton University

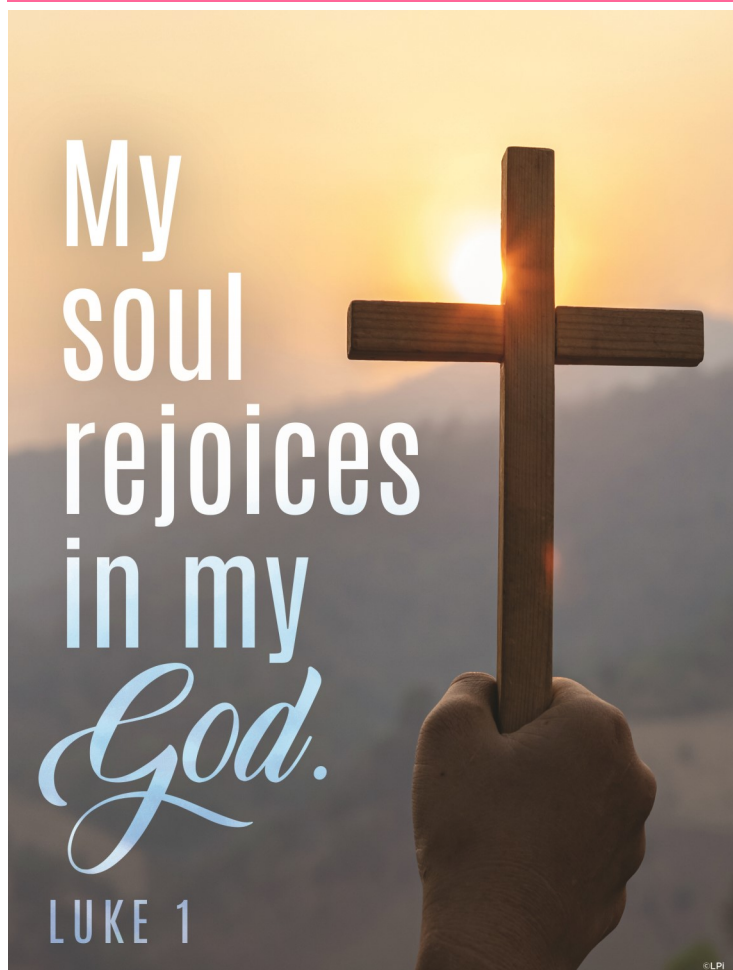
2500 California Plaza Omaha, NE 68178

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



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

Third Sunday of Advent — December 17, 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: #228 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Gathering: #221 Every Valley

Kyrie: #800 Mass of Charity and Love

Canticle: Luke 1



Music © 1978, 1988 by Bernard J. Portz, S.J.

Gospel Acc.: #803 Advent Alleluia

Universal Prayer: #804 Advent Response

Offertory: #862 Light of the World

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

Communion: #226 The King Shall Come

#215 Christ, Circle Round Us

Sending Forth: #219 Emmanuel

Prayer Requests

Terry Moore Julie Crotty-Guile

Ethan Ann

Bruce Dan Dwyer

Ollie & Michelle Mike Blum
Broderon Fuller

Faith Nancy Rohatsch

Jim O'Neill Kathy Savory

Colene Byrd Mathew Felion

Helen McGill Annette



Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

—Entrance Antiphon (Psalm 13:6)

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

—Communion Antiphon (John 11:27)

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

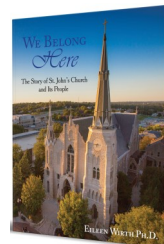
Christmas Memorials

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



Give a Gift from St. John's!

Still searching for a Christmas gift? *We Belong Here*, by Dr. Eileen Wirth, recounts the history of St. John's Church on the Creighton University campus from its founding by Sarah Emily Creighton and the early Jesuits to today's "parish of choice" for people throughout the Omaha area and Creighton students. It includes tours of this Omaha Landmark and its windows.



But St. John's is, above all, a community of extraordinary people. The book highlights the historic contributions of many of them as well as recounting stories from parishioners about their experiences with the parish in everything from education, music and weddings to our relationship with our sister Jesuit parishes on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Wirth, who has written several books on Omaha history, is a professor emeritus of journalism and active at St. John's. Books are available at St. John's after Masses (please ask a parish staff member!) and online at StJohnsChurchBook.com For a signed copy, email Wirth at eileenwirth@creighton.edu and arrange to get a copy from her at her midtown Omaha home.



Celebrating Sacraments this week:

Sacrament of Marriage

Sarah Stephenson & Nate Evans

Sacrament of Baptism

Adecja Johanna Roost-Husk

Congratulations!



Meeting and Events Calendar

Sunday—December 17

9:00 AM—1:00 PM Coffee & Donuts (LSJ)

3:00 PM First Reconciliation (CH)

Monday—December 18

Tuesday—December 19

4:00 PM Bible Study (CFRM)

Wednesday—December 20

Thursday—December 21

5:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal (CH)

6:30 PM Social Justice Committee (RSRM)

Friday—December 22

4:00 PM Wedding (CH)

Saturday—December 23

9:00 AM 12-step program (CFRM)

Sunday—December 24

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

Weekly Offering Report for December 3rd

Weekly Budget Goal	10,284.80	Annual Budget Goal	555,379.20
Weekend Contributions	7,142.89	Fiscal Year-to-Date Goal	236,550.40
Other	2,252.10		
ONLINE	905.00		
ACH	0		
TOTAL	10,299.99		
Above (Below) weekly goal	15.19	Amount Collected YTD	225,617.08
		Above (Below) YTD Goal	-10,933.32



Online Giving is available with the use of this QR code to the left.

Thank you for supporting the ministry and mission of St. John's Parish.

DEADLINES FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Below are the deadline dates for upcoming Parish Newsletters









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

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

Thursday, Dec. 28th at 3PM for Sunday, Jan. 14th & Jan. 21st

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
12/17 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
12/18 Mon		Jer 23:5-8 Mt 1:18-25	Noon—Church & Livestream † Dick & Helen Maher
12/19 Tues		Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Lk 1:5-25	Noon—Church & Livestream— Healing Mass
12/20 Wed		Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38	Noon—Church & Livestream — † Jim Hughes
12/21 Thur		Sg 2:8-14 Lk 1:39-45	Noon—Church & Livestream— Joseph B. Conahan
12/22 Fri		1 Sm 1:24-28 1:46-56	Noon-Church & Livestream— † Clara P. Wurtzel
12/23 Sat		Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Lk 1:57-66	5:00 PM—Church—Anticipatory for Sunday
12/24 Sun	 4th Sunday of Advent	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38 Is 62:1-5 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Mt 1:1-25 Is 9:1-6 Ti 2:11-14 Lk 2:1-14	8:00 AM—Church 10:30 AM—Church & Livestream 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Vigil 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Night 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.



Academic Year Mass Schedule During Creighton's Christmas Break

During Creighton University's Christmas Break (December 9 – January 8), only the regular parish Masses are celebrated:

- Sunday Anticipatory Mass: Saturday, 5:00pm
- Sunday Masses: 8:00am and 10:30am
- Weekday Masses: Monday-Friday at 12:00pm
- Confessions: Monday-Friday from 12:30pm to 1:00pm and Saturday from 4:00pm to 5:00pm.

Academic year Masses will resume on Tuesday, January 9 with the beginning of the new semester.

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/).



St. John's Creation Care Team and Creighton's Office of Sustainability Programs will sponsor a Styrofoam collection*.



Hold on to your Styrofoam™

EPS Drive

Lower St. John's
Saturday Jan. 27, 2024
After 5:00pm Mass
Sunday Jan. 28, 2024
After 8:00am & 10:30am
Masses



* No cups, plates, packing peanuts or food containers

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.

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



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 rage, 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.



Participate in the Christmas Eve Children's Procession

Children of all ages (and their parents!) are warmly invited to participate in the entrance procession at the 5:00pm Christmas Eve Mass! During this Mass, we will welcome the Bethlehem Peace Light, which will burn near the Nativity Scene. Children will carry candles (both electric and flame, depending on age and comfort) as we welcome this light and welcome Christ as the light of the world. Simply come to the sacristy by 4:45pm to be a part of this beautiful procession!

WISDOM ON THE WAY

"Rejoice...rejoice,...The Lord is near" (Philippians 4:4)

Advent is the Season of Waiting. This year Advent officially began on December 3, the first day and the first of 4 Sundays in Advent, the time before Christmas. Not such a long time to wait – all things being equal.

In the Christian tradition, our Catholic tradition, Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus, the Christ, our redeemer. A personal, loving, caring redeemer. Advent readings remind us of the waiting the Hebrews experienced in their longing for a powerful king who would save and protect them. Hebrew Scripture, the Old Testament, relates their history of waiting, wandering, longing and expecting.

This year, for many, Advent began months ago and probably won't end Christmas morning. In our country and the world over untold numbers of children and adults are waiting for help, for food & water, shelter, freedom, medical assistance and much more. Times are bleak and many are weary. Some verge on collapsing into hopelessness. Relatively few children are waiting for new toys, clothes and shiny things.

The readings of Advent offer hope. The Hebrew Prophet Isaiah speaks of a future of hope, peace and justice for all. Food aplenty. Enemies coming together. Lions and lambs lying down together. The poor and needy overcoming the powerful. Women being respected and included. Water flowing and parched lands blossoming, the weak made strong, the brokenhearted healed and prisoners released. Isaiah says there will be singing, joy and gladness! A time of rejoicing – rejoicing in the Lord! Isaiah's writings are poetic, encouraging, hopeful.

"The Lord is the eternal God, creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint nor grow weary..." (Isaiah 40:28)
"I am the Lord your God....Fear not, I will help you." Isaiah 41:13. "Rejoice in the Lord always..." (Philippians 4:4)

Can all of this be true? When? Isaiah speaks of things contrary to the human condition that sound almost impossible. It is a mystery. Yes, we are invited to live in the mystery of God armored with faith, trust, mercy, hope and love. We wait for, yet we witness the *goodness of the Lord*. It may seem we live in a perpetual season of Advent. Waiting and hoping hand in hand.

"My soul rejoices in my God." (Isaiah 61:10b)

Joan B. Howard, MA, Spiritual Director

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