



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



Fourth Sunday of Advent—December 24, 2023

FOREVER
I WILL SING YOUR
goodness.

PSALM 89



Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Savior.
—Entrance Antiphon (Isaiah 45:8)

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.
—Communion Antiphon (Isaiah 7:14)

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.

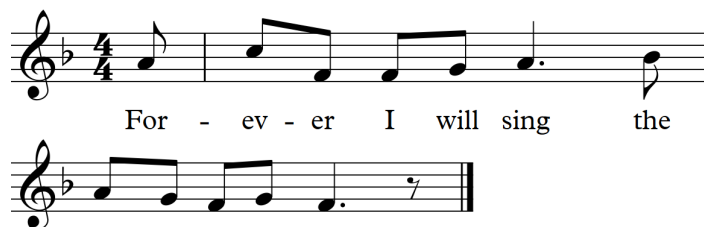
Saturday 5:00 pm & Sunday 10:30 am Music

Prelude: #830 Wait for the Lord

Gathering: #228 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Kyrie: #800 Mass of Charity and Love

Psalm 89: Forever I Will Sing



good-ness of the Lord.

Bernard J. Portz, SJ, © 1979, 1986

Gospel Acc.: #803 Advent Alleluia

Universal Prayer: #804 Advent Response

Offertory: #379 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

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

Communion: #482 Bread of Life

#765 Like a Shepherd

Sending Forth: #750 Soon and Very Soon

Prayer Requests

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

OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed on Christmas Day.

If you have a sacramental emergency, please call 531-263-9247

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.

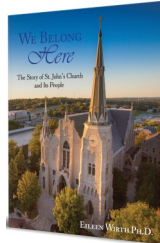
COMMUNITY

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!

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.

Meeting and Events Calendar

Sunday—December 24

9:00 AM—1:00 PM Coffee & Donuts (LSJ)
4:30 PM Caroling Starts for Family Vigil Mass (CH)
10:30 PM Caroling Starts for Night Mass (CH)

Saturday—December 30

9:00 AM 12-step program (CFRM)

Sunday—December 31

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 COLLECTIONS

SEMINARY COLLECTION FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA JANUARY 6-7

The seminary collection, along with other gifts to the seminary fund, enables the archdiocese to cover educational costs and pay stipends for living expenses for its students in major and minor seminaries. Your financial assistance will help support our future priests of the Archdiocese of Omaha.

OUTREACH



Take Heart

On the 28th of December in Bethlehem, religious leaders from various denominations will mourn and pray together in an **ecumenical service for the Feast of the Holy Innocents**. Connecting this two-thousand-year-old tragedy to the innocent children

being killed in Gaza today, we will commemorate the lost lives of the 8,000 and counting children who have lost their lives since October 2023. The service will involve **8,000 olivewood hearts, signifying the 8,000 children's lives**. The hearts will lie next to the manger during the service.

After the service, we are looking to **connect this initiative** to our brothers and sisters in Christ from the United States. We invite you, if you are able, to support Bethlehem craftspeople by pledging funds to support this initiative, and receive your own olivewood heart to pray with.

If you are interested in supporting this ministry, the suggested donation is \$10.00. Forms are available in the church and on our web page. Stjohns-creighton.org

Thank you for supporting this ecumenical project.

Weekly Offering Report for December 10th

Weekly Budget Goal	10,284.80	Annual Budget Goal	555,379.20
Weekend Contributions	11,330.29	Fiscal Year-to-Date Goal	246,835.20
Other	720.00		
ONLINE	2,678.01		
ACH	2,505.00		
Holy Day	649.00		
TOTAL	17,882.30		
Above (Below) weekly goal	7,597.50	Amount Collected YTD	243,499.38
		Above (Below) YTD Goal	-3,335.82

Thank you for your continued support to
The Retirement Fund for Religious
We received \$865.00 in donations.



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
Please note the special early deadline of

Thursday, Dec. 28th at 3PM for

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
12/24 Sun 	4 th Sunday of Advent	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38	8:00 AM—Church 10:30 AM—Church & Livestream All Sunday liturgies are offered for the people of the parish
12/24 Sun 	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	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	5:00 PM — Family oriented Vigil of Christmas 11:00 PM — Christmas Mass during the Night
12/25 Mon 	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	Is 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18	9:00 AM—Church & Livestream
12/26 Tues 	Feast of Saint Stephen, Martyr	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22	Noon—Church & Livestream— † Fr. Robert Preisinger
12/27 Wed 	Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist	1 Jn 1:1-4 Jn 20:1a and 2-8	Noon—Church & Livestream — Benjamin Santiago Rodriguez
12/28 Thur 	Feast of The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	1 Jn 1:5—2:2 Mt 2:13-18	Noon—Church & Livestream— Beatriz Alexandra
12/29 Fri 		1 Jn 2:3-11 Lk 2:22-35	Noon—Church & Livestream— † Maria Cristina Balucanag
12/30 Sat 		1 Jn 2:12-17 Lk 2:36-40	5:00 PM—Church—Anticipatory for Sunday
12/31 Sun 	Feast of the Holy Family	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 LK 2:22-40	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:

- **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.

CHRISTMAS



Christmas Memorials

Dana Berg

Martin Berg

John & Lorraine Car

Borgoff & Howick Families

Phil Durant

Marion & Vloyce Felhausen

Grant Family

Fr. Dennis Hamm, S.J.

Bruce Hansen

Joseph & Virginia Hemenway

Hermanek and Daly Families

Bill & Celeste Jackson

Annette Jerkofsky

Randy Kollasch

Joan & Rudy Lesae

Packy & Dory McDonald

Alex McDonnell

John Francis McDonnell

Mary & Robert O'Connor

Jerry Stender

Sr. Anna Wolfe

Ray Yost

Christmas Honorees

Kevin and Elli Wilhelm, 1st Anniversary

Kristyn & Dan Pilling family



OUTREACH



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



EPS (Styrofoam™) Recycling Drive

EPS: Expandable Polystyrene

It's the hard white packaging foam used to transport goods like televisions, appliances, glass items, and perishables (coolers). EPS material may feature ♻️ and does not bend. Recycled EPS can be made into items such as surfboards, picture frames, construction materials, packaging, and more!

- ▶ Lower St. John's
- ▶ Saturday, January 27th after 5pm Mass
- ▶ Sunday, January 28th after 8am and 10:30am Mass



YES!
NO!



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

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

On the 8th Day of the Octave of Christmas and at the beginning of the new civil year, the Church celebrates Mary as the Mother of God. One of the oldest titles for Our Lady, the Greek title Θεοτόκος (Theotokos), meaning "Bearer of God" was adopted by the First Council of Ephesus (431) as an assertion of the divinity of Christ. While not a holy day of obligation this year, we still celebrate this great solemnity on January 1 with a special Mass at 9:00am.



This will be the only Mass celebrated on January 1 and there are no scheduled confessions this day.

Church Decorators Needed!

Mark your calendar to help decorate our church for Christmas!

- 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.



WISDOM ON THE WAY

Ready or Not

There is nothing like rushing a season of waiting. This 4th Sunday of Advent does not introduce us to a final week, and barely even a full day of Advent. In just a matter of hours after the last Sunday Mass, we will begin gathering for Christmas Eve celebrations. I imagine this somewhat disorienting shift from waiting to movement might be consistent with the experience of some parents anticipating the arrival of a child. Preparation is great, but when the time comes we best be ready to go. This fourth Sunday of Advent then can draw us into Mary and Joseph's moment of crisis—whether we feel we've had enough preparation or not, this is happening, NOW.

Left to my own devices I might try to perpetually inhabit the preparation stages of life. I can get so lost in getting ready for guests that I sometimes fail to switch from cleaning/cooking mode even when the doorbell rings. When training as a spiritual director I remember sitting across from my first directee and thinking "I'm can't possibly be ready for this!" In the call to work for racial justice I am deeply aware of the limitations of my own perspective and the anxious desire to be *fully* formed before I can take action. Preparation is important, but we don't have the luxury of preparing forever.

In this sense a short 4th "week" of Advent can help us learn to let go. The timeline of discipleship is not mine to set. I can't skip preparation and jump straight to action, but neither can I prepare indefinitely. The Jesuit writer Anthony de Mello reflects quite a bit on the illusion of control, which I think is at the heart of this "ready or not" balance. I'd like to manage myself, my relationships with others, and even my connection with God, rather than being *responsive*.

This is a lesson David has to learn in our first reading. He has determined the action and the timeline. He settles in, looks around, and assesses that God needs a house—like David. The impulse of generosity to the Lord is a good one, so Nathan originally gives it the stamp of approval. But then God turns the offer around. David cannot manage or control the Lord, even with well-intended preparation. Mary shows us another path in the Gospel. She has prepared her life as best she can, but when she encounters God's invitation she is ready to forgo her own plans and enter into the real and messy relationship God is inviting her to, ready or not.

As we sprint from Advent into this Christmas season, let's allow the movement of this year's liturgical calendar to draw us out of our need to control and into the freedom of responsiveness. You don't have to be ready, just willing.

Sara Schulte-Bukowinski

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
<http://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