



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



First Sunday of Advent—December 3, 2023

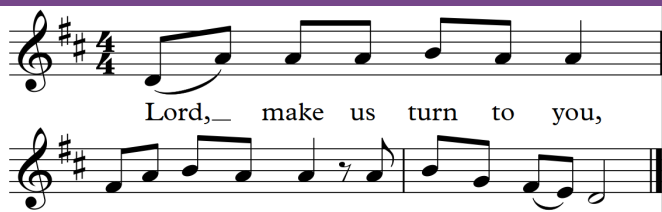


To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted;
let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

—Entrance Antiphon (Psalm 25:1-3)

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its
increase.—Communion Antiphon (psalm 85:13)

Psalm 80



Music © 1978, 1987 by Bernard J. Portz, S.J. Alt. Molly Mattingly © 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: #830 Wait for the Lord
Gathering: #229 Save Us, O Lord
Kyrie: #800 Mass of Charity and Love
Psalm 80: (see below)
Gospel Acc.: #803 Advent Alleluia
Universal Prayer: #804 Advent Response
Offertory: #218 Patience, People
Eucharistic Acc.: #805-809 Mass of Charity and Love
Communion: #217 Creator of the Stars of Night
#215 Christ, Circle Round Us
Sending Forth: #761 Find Us Ready

Sunday 7:00 pm Music

Prelude: #830 Wait for the Lord
Gathering: #228 O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Kyrie: #800 Mass of Charity and Love
Psalm 80: (see below)
Gospel Acc.: #803 Advent Alleluia
Universal Prayer: #10 Byzantine Chant
Offertory: #827 Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning
Eucharistic Acc.: #805-809 Mass of Charity and Love
Communion: #831 Night of Silence
Sending Forth: #216 Ready the Way

Sunday 9:00 pm Music

Gathering: #216 Ready the Way
Kyrie: #800 Mass of Charity and Love
Psalm 80: (see below)
Gospel Acc.: #821 Mass of Restoration
Offertory: sung by a member of Candlelight Choir
Eucharistic Acc.: #805-809 Mass of Charity and Love
The Lord's Prayer: #822 Mass of True Devotion
Communion: #892 Sanctuary
#828 The King Shall Come
#228 O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Sending Forth: #683 Christ Be Our Light

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

**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



We prayerfully remember **Fr. Dennis Hamm, SJ**, longtime Creighton professor and presider at St. Johns. May Jesus Christ console his family and friends, especially during this difficult time.

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 3

9:00 AM—1:00 PM Coffee & Donuts (LSJ)

Thursday—December 7

6:30 PM Advent Communal Reconciliation Service (CH)

Saturday—December 9

9:00 AM 12-step program (CFRM)

9:00 AM Advent Day Retreat (LSJ)

Sunday—December 10

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

December 9-10

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 19th

Weekly Budget Goal	10,284.80	Annual Budget Goal	555,379.20
Weekend Contributions	4,165.01	Fiscal Year-to-Date Goal	215,980.80
Other	686.50		
ONLINE	903.15		
ACH	0		
TOTAL	5,754.66		
Above (Below) weekly goal	-4,530.14	Amount Collected YTD	209,784.85
		Above (Below) YTD Goal	-6,195.95

Thank you for your continued support to
Catholic Charities

We received \$480 in donations.



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









Thursday, Dec. 7th at 3PM for Sunday, Dec. 17th

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

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

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
12/3 Sun	 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	IS 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7 1 COR 1:3-9 MK 13:33-37	8:00 AM—Church 10:30 AM—Church & Livestream 7:00 PM—Church 9:00 PM—Church All Sunday liturgies are offered for the people of the parish
12/4 Mon		Is 2:1-5 Mt 8:5-11	Noon—Church & Livestream † Stephanie Cornette 8–9 PM—Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Church 9:00 PM—Church
12/5 Tues		Is 11:1-10 Lk 10:21-24	Noon—Church & Livestream— † Jim Hughes 9:00 PM—Church
12/6 Wed		Is 25:6-10a Mt 15:29-37	Noon—Church & Livestream — † Araceli Evangelista 8–9 PM—Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Church 9:00 PM—Church
12/7 Thur	 <i>Feast of Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor</i>	Is 26:1-6 Mt 7:21, 24-27	Noon—Church & Livestream— † Lewis Santos 5:00 PM—Church-Vigil 9:00 PM—Church
12/8 Fri	 <i>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	Gn 3:9-15, 20 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38	Noon-Church & Livestream 5:00 PM—Church 9:00 PM—Church
12/9 Sat		Is 30:19-21, 23-26 Mt 9:35–10:1, 5a, 6-8	5:00 PM—Church—Anticipatory for Sunday
12/10 Sun	 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	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

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated:

Mon. — Fri. from 12:30PM to 1PM, Saturdays from 4PM to 5PM, Sundays 8PM to 9PM

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



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.



ADVENT AT ST. JOHN'S Advent Reconciliation Service & Opportunities for Reconciliation

Advent is a Season of preparation as we recall the coming of Christ at Christmas and await the coming of Christ at the end of time. The Sacrament of Reconciliation (or confession) is a great opportunity to prepare for the coming of the Lord.

A special **Advent Communal Reconciliation Service** will be offered on **Thursday, December 7 at 6:30pm**, following the Vigil Mass for the Immaculate Conception. This evening will be marked with communal prayer, reflection, and six priests available to celebrate the sacrament. Please join us!

Two priests will be available to hear confessions during the regularly scheduled times during the week of December 16-23.

COMMUNITY

Thanksgiving Dinner Thank You

We want to thank everybody who helped to make our Creighton Student Thanksgiving dinner a success. It takes a huge effort from the entire parish and once again the parishioners of St. John's volunteered to cook turkeys, bring salads, and make desserts for students who were unable to go home for Thanksgiving. We want to thank Campus Ministry for setting up and transforming Lower St. John's into a beautiful dining hall. To the many volunteers who helped served the meals, cut, and serve the desserts in the dessert room, refill cups and glasses, helped clear the tables and recycle the plates, cups, and silverware thank you. Thank you also to Fr. Matt, Molly, Sara, and Kathleen for helping to announce our dinner and recruiting volunteers. I especially want to thank Pat Gude and Kathy O'Keefe who never cease to amaze me with the selfless giving of their time and treasure. I feel so blessed to be a part of such a wonderful community where we are truly Men and Women for and with Others.

Mary Alice Howick and the Thanksgiving Dinner Committee

thank you

OUTREACH



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.

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.



OMAHA



Saint Benedict Center

BioSpiritual Focusing: Praying with the Whole Self

Zoom Retreat with Debbie Sheehan and Jane King

Friday, January 12 & Saturday, January 13

"God looked at everything he had made and found it very good" (Gen 1:31).

BioSpiritual Focusing is a way of opening the whole of ourselves—mind, body, and spirit—to a deeper connectedness with God, others, and self. Join us to learn more about how gently being with what is present within your embodied self can open the door to a deeper story—and to a greater sense of wholeness. This practice is simple yet profound. It can be helpful for anyone—young child to senior. It requires no more than showing up and a willingness to engage contemplatively with what is going on within. And the potential for transformation and growth unfolds in the process.

For more information and to register visit

ChristTheKingPriory.com

CREIGHTON

Come away to the quiet and be present to what God wants to offer you. Creighton University Retreat Center, located one hour east of Omaha in Griswold, IA is offering 3 Day



Silent Directed Retreats at the times listed below. Retreats begin 6 PM supper the first day and end at 3 PM the last day. The cost is \$375 for room, meals and one-on-one spiritual direction sessions. Register at creighton.edu/retreatcenter/scheduleofretreats or scan code:

Choose one from these available dates:

- Thurs-Sun Jan 18-21, 2024
- Thurs-Sun Mar 21-24, 2024
- Thurs-Sun May 2-5, 2024
- Sun-Wed July 14-17, 2024



Winter Freshman Retreat

Feb. 9 at 4:15pm—Feb. 11 at 3pm

Registration is open.

Where do you find God and a place to belong at Creighton? Creighton freshmen are invited to take a weekend away at the Creighton Retreat Center to reflect on God's presence in your life in this year of transition.



LITURGY

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception



The title of Mary as the “Immaculate Conception” celebrates Our Lady as being free of original sin from the moment of her conception. For us in the United States, it’s a special opportunity for us to celebrate the Patroness of our country. Masses for this holy day of obligation will be celebrated at St. John’s Church on **Thursday, December 7 at 5:00pm and 9:00pm and on Friday, December 8 at 12:00pm, 5:00pm, and**

9:00pm. A communal reconciliation service with the opportunity for confessions will follow the 5:00pm Mass on December 7.

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.

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.

WISDOM ON THE WAY

Welcome to the new Liturgical Year and to the season of Advent. Below are some elements of the Advent season, along with some explanations that can be of help as we enter into the season of patient waiting together. But first, this can also be a moment to offer gratitude to God for the blessings of the past Liturgical Year.

In Year A, we heard mostly from Matthew’s gospel, which includes the Beatitudes, the Lord’s Prayer, the wonderful parables of the Kingdom of God, and the Judgment of the Nations. As you know, I raise up frequently to our awareness that our ancestors in faith, who gifted us this space for worship, inscribed the first portion of each of the eight Beatitudes from Matthew’s gospel in our stained glass above the sanctuary. These continue to guide our Christian lives, as they did for the disciples and Jesus’ own time. I also want to offer gratitude for the music and liturgies of the past year—especially Holy Week!—which have nourished our faith. Special thanks to all our ministers for making St John’s a place of growth in faith, hope and love!

I note three significant changes to the space as we begin Advent. The first is the liturgical color, which shifts to violet—or purple. The Catholic bishops note that Advent and Lent use this color since these seasons are meant to help us prepare for great feast days. Advent includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

Next, the arrangement of the space is simpler than at other times of year. This is done to help us wait patiently for the coming of the Lord. And we can also keep in mind that the Advent theme of waiting is twofold—we wait for the joyful celebration of Christmas, and we wait in joyful hope for the second coming of the Lord.

Finally, the light of the Advent wreath, which begins this weekend with one small light, gradually grows until the arrival of the Christ-light, who comes to scatter the darkness like the rising of the sun. Many Christians use this symbol in the home during Advent and offer a prayer as the candles are lit. Our special companions during Advent are John the Baptist, Mary and Isaiah. John features prominently the Second and Third Sundays of Advent, while certain readings from the Prophet Isaiah are meant to confirm that Jesus is the Messiah prophesied in the Hebrew Scriptures. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe also serve as interludes as we journey with her and Joseph to Bethlehem for the birth of her child, Jesus, Immanuel, God-with-us.

Before I close, I also encourage you to consider planning a spiritual retreat in 2024. There are many options in the spring, summer and fall. Keep in mind our own Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life opportunities that are ongoing. See Fr. Matt or Sara for more information on these opportunities.

Thus, we commence Advent in joyful anticipation of the coming of the Lord!

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