



Dear Parishioners,

As we celebrate the feast day of the Holy Family this Sunday, we look to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in their love and respect for one another as the model for our family life. Whether in the family of the home or the family of the Church, we find in their example of holiness and their care for one another the challenge to always treat one another with reverence and to recognize the gift of each person's life. At the end of last year, on December 28, 2011, at his Wednesday audience, Pope Benedict XVI spoke of the life of the Holy Family as reminding us of the importance of prayer in the family:

*"The house of Nazareth is a school of prayer where we learn to listen, to meditate, to penetrate the deepest meaning of the manifestation of the Son of God, drawing our example from Mary, Joseph and Jesus."*

*"The Holy Family is an icon of the domestic Church, which is called to pray together. The family is the first school of prayer where, from their infancy, children learn to perceive God thanks to the teaching and example of their parents. An authentically Christian education cannot neglect the experience of prayer. If we do not learn to pray in the family, it will be difficult to fill this gap later. I would, then, like to invite people to rediscover the beauty of praying together as a family, following the school of the Holy Family of Nazareth."*

Speaking of the Holy Family, I encourage you to visit the Holy Family Shrine here in Sarpy County. It is a beautiful place to go as

a family or as an individual to pray for our families, asking Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, during a visit there, to watch over and guide all of our family members. I expect Archbishop Lucas to designate the Shrine as one of the pilgrimage sites for obtaining the Year of Faith indulgence. I will provide further information on this once I have obtained it.

In my last column, when I spoke of recent gifts to our parish, I forgot to mention the statue of Our Lady of Fatima that is now in the chapel. It was donated in memory of Ray Heimes by Chuck and Diane Bruning, friends of Ray and his family. It has been placed in the area where Ray would sit for daily Mass and could be found praying beforehand. It is a beautiful reminder of Ray who gave so generously to our parish and Springfield community in various ways.

Thank you to all who helped to make our Christmas liturgies so beautiful, especially Candy Connery, our musicians, and our choir members, as well as Lisa and Cassie Kesler, Kathy Long, Theresa Starks, and members of our youth group who put up the Christmas decorations. Thank you to Carl Weiss who resized our Advent wreath and got it set up in church for Advent and then in the entry area for Christmas.

Also, I want to wish all of you a happy new year. I pray that it will be a grace-filled one for all of us.

God bless, Fr. Gutowski





## MASS INTENTIONS

### DECEMBER 31 THRU JAN. 6

Monday	8 a.m.	Kenneth Munsinger
Monday	6 p.m.	Rolf Foged
Tuesday	9 a.m.,	People of St. Joseph
Wednesday		Ann Boro
Thursday		Robert Masters, Jr.
Friday		Priest's Intention
Saturday		Joe Dwork
Sunday		People of St. Joseph

### HOLY FAMILY SHRINE EVENTS

The Holy Family Shrine is honored to have Archbishop Lucas celebrate Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family on December 30th at 2pm. Please come early to get the best parking and seating.

Later the same day at 4 p.m. Jim Nailon will be in concert, at the Shrine, with the St. Thomas More Youth Choir and Soprano Carmen Schweiger. This concert promises to delight all who attend. A reception will follow the concert. All free will donations go to support the Shrine.

### YEAR END TAX BENEFIT

Just a reminder to consider making year end contributions to the St Joseph building fund by 12/31/12 to assure a tax write-off in 2012. Since we don't know yet what the tax rules will be for charitable donations in 2013, you may have an opportunity to receive a tax benefit yet in 2012 and donate to a worthy cause – the future of our St Joseph youth. To further maximize the tax benefit, you could consider donating appreciated stock. That way, you could get a charitable contribution deduction for the full value of the stock and avoid paying capital gains tax on the appreciation. Of course, we

appreciate contributions to the building fund at any time but by making them yet in 2012, you may be able to maximize the tax benefit.

### SEMINARY COLLECTION

#### APPEAL

National Vocations Awareness Week is planned for January 13 - 19, 2013. Please pray for and support vocations to the priesthood and religious life during this week. In conjunction with this observance, the annual Seminary Collection Appeal will be taken up at Masses on the weekend of January 13 (not on January 6 as dated on collection envelopes). Please watch your mailboxes for more information about this important appeal and support your archdiocesan seminarians who are currently studying for the priesthood. Thank you in advance for your support.

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COMMITTEE

We are planning to organize a St. Vincent de Paul committee. The committee would be responsible for defining how to address charitable requests. A "to be determined" amount of money would be earmarked to help people out when they are in a temporary financial bind. Although there are guidelines for a St. Vincent de Paul Society, the specific organization of ours would be determined by Father and the committee members. Please contact Father if you would like to be a part of this worthwhile endeavor.



It's not what you gather, but what you scatter, that tells what kind of life you have lived.