

January 12, 2020
Baptism of the Lord

St. Leo Catholic Church
330 W. 8th Street
Palmyra, NE 68418
(402) 780-5535
Emergency Calls: (402) 202-7685

St. Martin Catholic Church
125 W. 3rd Street
Douglas, NE
(Please send mail to St. Leo Church)
www.stleoandstmartin.com

Pastor Email: leomartinpastor@gmail.com
Megan Carman (Secretary) Email: leomartinsecretary@gmail.com

Fr. Adam Sparling, Pastor

Mass Intentions

Jan	13	Mon	8:00am	St. Leo	Rebecca Cunningham (Malone)
Jan	14	Tues	No	Mass	
Jan	15	Wed	8:00 am	St. Martin	+Lorraine O'Grady
Jan	16	Thur	8:00 am	St. Leo	+Helen Benes
Jan	17	Fri	8:00am	St. Leo	+Carol Kurilla
Jan	18	Sat	4:00 pm	St. Martin	Unborn (Griswold)
Jan	19	Sun	8:30 am	St. Leo	The people of our parishes
Jan	19	Sun	11:00 am	St. Leo	+Forrest Nisley

Your Response to the Lords Generosity:
January 5, 2020

	Adult	Youth	Plate
St. Leo	\$1,366.50	\$ 0	\$17
St. Martin	\$330	\$ 12.75	\$63

"God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8

Thank you to those who give!

Stay tuned: we are working on a better way to communicate giving goals to stay on track with our budgets.

Weekend Masses:

1st, 3rd & 5th (Odd Sundays) Saturday 4 PM at St. Martin 8:30 AM at St Leo Palmyra 11:00 AM at St Leo Palmyra	2nd & 4th (Even Sundays) Saturday 4 PM at St. Leo 8:30 AM St Martin Douglas 11:00AM St Leo Palmyra
---	--

Confessions:

Saturdays: 3:30 PM-3:45 PM
Sundays: 8:00 AM-8:15 AM
10:30 AM-10:45 AM

*Any time by appointment

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Sundays prior to 11:00 am Mass

CALENDAR ITEMS

- **Personal Testimonies on How an Encounter with God Leads to a Mission** The personal testimonies for January and February will now be at Dawson Hall at John XXIII Building, 3700 Sheridan Blvd, Lincoln, NE from 7-8:30pm. The presenters are: January 19, 2020, Bob Sullivan, Attorney/Apologist; and February 16, 2020, Diane Reiber, Artist/Author. There is no fee or registration. Please call 402-473-0615 for questions
- **Spiritual Warfare series:** A 3-part series will be given by Matt Simmons, Director of Spiritual Formation, on Spiritual Warfare at John XXIII Diocesan Center from 6:30-8:30pm. Series will be January 21, Our Identity in Christ; February 18, Battleground of Our Minds; and March 24, Our Weapons for Spiritual Warfare. The workshop is free and registration is kindly requested. Call 402-473-0615 or email Annette-Wemhoff@cdolinc.net
- **EMMAUS INSTITUTE TO HOST WINTER SEMINAR-** Emmaus Institute for Biblical Studies will host a half-day seminar on Saturday, January 25, entitled, "He Opened to Us the Scriptures' (Luke 24:32): Celebrating the Sunday of the Word of God." The event will take place from 8:30 to noon at 3901 Normal Blvd, Suite 101. The seminar cost of \$30 includes handout materials and light refreshments. For additional information and to register, go to www.emmausinstitute.net.
- **St. Leo's Altar Society meeting-** January 19th after 8:30 Mass. Coffee and rolls will be served. Also, Signup sheets are in the back of Church for 2020 coffee & rolls and Church cleaning please stop by and signup if you have not already.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Epiphany Blessing for Homes** – If you would like to invite me over to bless your home using blessed chalk to mark your front doorway with the Epiphany blessing of 20 + C + M + B + 20 [the initials stand for either the Magi—Caspar, Melchior & Baltazar or Christus Mansionem Benedicat—May Christ bless this house] please let me know and we can arrange a time when I can come by to do so . You can call me at the rectory or email me at leomartinpastor@gmail.com to schedule a time.
- **Acolytes & Lectors Needed** – We are looking for men who would be willing to serve as Acolytes or Lectors. We could especially use men to serve as Acolytes (especially at St. Martin's). Women are welcome to serve as extraordinary readers. Please contact Fr. Sparling if you are interested as soon as possible as training dates are beginning soon.
- **Attention Amazon users!** If you do please consider using AmazonSmile for your purchases! If you do and select St. Leo Catholic Church of Palmyra as your charitable organization a portion of your purchases will be given back to the parish Religious Education Program. Or go to: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-0537439> 
- **Have you checked out the new FORMED.org?** — Programs, eBooks, movies, and talks that will entertain, engage, and inspire them with the beauty and wonder of their faith. FORMED is an on-line Catholic resource treasure trove. The parish pays for an annual subscription for you to use to grow in our beautiful faith. If you have not signed up for it yet, go to www.formed.org -- enter the parish code **KN4A9J** -- enter information required -- create a password -- search through and enjoy the material.

➤ **Mass Intentions** - The tradition of offering Masses for others originates in the early Church. A priest offers Mass with three intentions: 1) to offer the Mass reverently and validly in accord with norms of the Church, 2) to offer the Mass in union with the whole Church and for its good, and 3) to offer the Mass for a particular intention. The suggested donation is \$10 per Mass. Checks should be made payable to: St. Leo Stipend Account.

➤ **E-Tithe!** Parishioners can now contribute to the Church via check, credit or debit card by going to our website and clicking the "Give Now" (or by going to <http://giving.parishsoft.com/stleo>). As always you can still give via cash or check in your envelope anytime.

➤ FYI – Minutes from this past week's Parish Council meeting have been posted online under the 'bulletins' tab.

➤ **THANK YOU!**

- ❖ I want to thank Linda Bennier, our CCD teachers and all the amazing helpers for organizing this year's Epiphany program. I particularly would also like to thank the children for participating as well. It is always such a delight and something I look forward to every year!
- ❖ Thank you to those of you who kindly remembered me in your Christmas charity this year and blessed me with a gift. I am deeply humbled by your generosity. Your love and generosity to me is most definitely a great sign of your love and support of the priesthood of Jesus Christ and for that I am deeply thankful; more than my simple words could ever express. THANK YOU!
- ❖ I want to thank Di Watton, Taren Hoffman, Valerie Donovan and Molly Hall who joined Linda Bennier, Janet Harrison and Cindy Smith as part of the 7 Sisters Apostolate for our parishes. This is a very beautiful apostolate and I am so very thankful to not only these members but the alternate sisters and the past sisters as well! If you are interested in what the 7 Sisters Apostolate is or interested in joining please feel free to contact Linda Bennier who is the Anchoress. You can also visit: www.sevensistersapostolate.org



From Father:

In the Catholic Church we end the Christmas season this Sunday with the Feast of the Lord's Baptism in the Jordan. The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks the beginning of what is called the public ministry of Jesus. He was thirty years old. Last week we reflected on the wise men from the East who followed the light to the fullness of Divinity who humbled Himself to share in our humanity. This Sunday, the church points to this Manifestation in the river of Jordan, this Epiphany in the waters, as the event wherein the full plan of God for His Church and the entire creation was manifested or revealed. We are called to become a manifestation, an Epiphany of God in a world stumbling along in the darkness of sin. That is what we celebrate today. The Baptism of Jesus manifests the very life of the Holy Trinity to the whole world and opens the door, through Jesus Christ, into a communion, a participation in the life of the Trinity through Baptism into His Body, the Church. The waters of the Jordan are sanctified by the Son and now all water is sanctified. Just as the Spirit hovered over the waters of the original creation, the Spirit hovers over the waters where the Son is immersed by John. Descending into the waters of the Jordan, Jesus, who shares our humanity, makes that living water flow with healing mercy. His Divine Life is now mediated through the Sacraments in the life of the Church which is His Body. The Word descends and begins the re-creation of the universe. This is an ongoing work which will only be complete when He returns. We who are baptized into Him are called to participate in this ongoing redemptive mission. The public mission and ministry of Jesus began at the waters of Jordan. However, it continues through His Church, of which we are made members through Baptism. St. Thomas Aquinas reminded us that the baptism of Jesus by John was purely symbolic, unable to forgive sin or incorporate someone into the family of God. Thomas taught that when Jesus was baptized, he "consecrated" baptism, so to speak. In a similar way, Jesus' presence at the wedding feast at Cana (John 2:1-11) can be seen as God's blessing on marriage. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says: "Jesus' gesture [of submitting to baptism] is a manifestation of self-emptying. The Spirit who had hovered over the waters of the first creation descended then on the Christ as a prelude to the new creation, and the Father revealed Jesus as 'his beloved Son' " (no. 1224). Jesus was baptized not for his own benefit, but for ours.

Happy New Year! May the prince of peace reign in your hearts and homes! God love you! ~Fr. Sparling

"Do you realize that Jesus is there in the tabernacle for you- for you alone? He burns with desire to come into your heart!" –St. Therese