

January 13, 2017
Baptism of the Lord

St. Leo Catholic Church **St. Martin Catholic Church**
330 W. 8th Street 125 W. 3rd Street
Palmyra, NE 68418 Douglas, NE
(402) 780-5535 (Please send mail to St. Leo Church)
Emergency Calls Only: (402) 202-7685

www.stleoandstmartin.com Email: stleopalmyra@gmail.com

Fr. Adam Sparling, Pastor

Mass Intentions

Jan	14	Mon	8:00 am	St. Leo	+Jim Condon
Jan	15	Tues	8:00 am	St. Leo	Intentions of Bob Wilmes (Wheatley)
Jan	16	Wed	8:00 am	St. Martin	+Keith Brennan
Jan	17	Thur	8:00 am	St. Leo	Maggie Gilligan Bday (on 1/7)
Jan	18	Fri	8:00 am	St. Leo	Tom & Lynette Gilligan Ann. (on 1/4)
Jan	19	Sat	4:00 pm	St. Martin	Liv & Dec St. Martin Parishioners
Jan	20	Sun	8:30 am	St. Leo	End to bigotry and gun violence
Jan	20	Sun	11:00 am	St. Leo	For the people of our parishes

OUR GRATITUDE FOR WHAT THE LORD HAS GIVEN US

January 6, 2019

	Adult	Youth	Plate
St. Leo	\$ 776	\$ 0	\$40
St. Martin	\$ 280	\$ 0	\$35

Amount needed to balance 2018-2019 budgets:

St. Leo: \$5,498/month or \$1,271/week

St. Martin: \$3,852/month or \$893/week

Our Lord has blessed all of us and He instructs us to tithe 10% of our time, 10 % of our talents and 10% of our income. Everyone, no matter age, is called to respond generously to the blessings He gives! **Thank you to those who give!**

Weekend Masses:

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

Adoration:

Sundays prior to 11:00 am
Mass

*Any time by appointment

CALENDAR ITEMS

- **9 Days for Life** - The U.S. bishops' annual novena 9 Days for Life takes place **Monday, January 14 – Tuesday, January 22**. Pray for the respect and protection of all human life with new intentions, brief reflections, and more each day. Download the novena online, or participate through Facebook, email, text message, or an app. Join at www.9daysforlife.com!
- **All ladies of St. Leo's Parish are members of St. Leo's Altar Society.** The next meeting is **January 20, 2019**, following 8:30 a.m. mass. We are still in need of a Vice President for 2019. For more information, please contact Gayle Royal or Jane Malone.
- **The annual Villa Marie Benefit Dance, Silent Auction, and Raffle**—"55 Years of Angels Among Us"—will be held on **Friday, January 25th from 6:00 – 11:00pm** at Pla Mor Ballroom, 6600 West O Street, Lincoln.. Music will be provided by *Malpractice* and dinner will be catered by Valentino's. There is no ticket price, but free will offerings will be accepted. Please call Jenny at 402-874-0577 or go to our website www.villamarieschool.com for more information. Villa Marie's Founder, Msgr. James Dawson, Bobby Layne, and the Marian Sisters will be honored at the Dance.
- **Divorced? Come find comfort, counsel, hope and healing consistent with Catholic Church teachings.** The twelve-week video series & facilitator led *Surviving Divorce* program begins on **February 4, 2019, 7-9pm**, at John XXIII Diocesan Center, 3700 Sheridan Blvd. A suggested donation of \$50 covers the cost of the program and includes the *Surviving Divorce* personal guide and all materials. Classes are kept small and may be registered for by contacting the Family Life Office at 402-473-0620 or catholicflo@cdolinc.net
- **Have you ever wondered...exactly what IS deliverance and how does it fit into our Catholic Faith?** The Diocesan Office of Evangelization/Unbound Ministry will be hosting an evening consisting of four 20 minute talks. This is open to ALL: laity, religious, clergy, members of the Christian community & anyone who would like a better understanding of the meaning of deliverance and how each person can benefit from it. Join us at Lourdes Elementary School-Nebraska City on **Thursday, February 7, from 7-8:30pm**. Questions? Contact Annette at annette-wemhoff@cdolinc.net or call 402-473-0615.
- **Joy & Hope Anniversary Recognition Mass** and reception for all married couples will be held **Sunday, February 10, 2019** at the regular **9:00 a.m.** Mass at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln. Bishop James Conley will be the Main Celebrant at the Mass for this celebration of Christian Marriage. Special recognition will be given to those couples celebrating 10, 25, 40 and 50 years or more **who have registered**. Suggested donation of \$10 per couple appreciated! Family guests are welcome. Registration forms should be available at your parish office or call the Family Life Office, (402) 473-0620.
- **MOTHER/DAUGHTER PROGRAM** "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made" for girls age 10-13 and their mother will be held **Sunday, March 3, 2019** from 1 - 4 p.m. at John XXIII Diocesan Center. This program is designed to educate girls on growing up and becoming a woman. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$20 per mother/daughter or \$30 per family. To register, visit <https://lincolndiocese.regfox.com/mother-daughter-program> Questions? please call Jen Davis at 402-261-6375 or email jmdavis17@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **MASS INTENTIONS:** We are in need of Mass intentions for our Masses. If you have a family member, friend, fellow parishioner, or petition that could use some prayers please consider having a Mass, the supreme prayer given by our Lord, offered. The suggested donation is \$10 per Mass. Checks can 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. THANK YOU!

- **GREAT RESOURCE!** Your children will love the new content for them on FORMED — programs, ebooks, movies, and talks that will entertain, engage, and inspire them with the beauty and wonder of their faith. FORMED is a free on-line Catholic resource treasure trove. If you have not signed up for it yet, go to www.formed.com -- enter the parish code **KN4A9J** -- enter information required -- create a password -- search through and enjoy the vast material.
- **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>
- **Annual Diocesan Notice:** The Diocese of Lincoln requires that its employees & volunteers report any allegations of abuse or neglect of a minor or elder connected with church related activity to law enforcement, consistent with the requirements of Nebraska law. If anyone has information that a minor or elder is being or has been subjected to abuse or neglect please report it immediately to local law enforcement or to the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services toll-free 1-800-652-1999, and also to any Parish Pastor, School Administrator, Teacher, or to any Diocesan official at the Catholic Chancery (402) 488-0921, so that immediate steps may be taken for protection of the minor or elder.

Father's THANK YOU's:

- ❖ **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 of our parish (and visiting children) for participating as well. It is always such a delight and I think it was especially lovely this year having it in the Church!**
- ❖ **I also want to thank all of you who have so graciously invited me to come visit your home and impart the Epiphany blessing of peace and protection on your home. It is a wonderful tradition and this blessing is so powerful. We priests were told in a priest study day this past fall, which was on spiritual warfare, that it has been repeatedly noted by exorcists and their teams that those possessed or obsessed by the demonic would freeze and could not enter the threshold of the homes that had been blessed, particularly with the Epiphany blessing, as the demonic will not enter in the home because of the holy blessing. This testimony only made my love for blessing homes grow that much stronger! If you would still like me to come by to bless your home please let me know and I would be happy to do so.**
- ❖ **Last and most certainly not least I want to thank 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!**

Note 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.

May God continue to greatly bless you all!! God Love You! ~ Fr. Sparling

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402-488-2142.

