

December 3, 2017



St. Leo Catholic Church

330 W. 8th Street
Palmyra, NE 68418
(402)780-5535

www.stleoandstmartin.com

St. Martin Catholic Church

125 W. 3rd Street
Douglas, NE
(Please send mail to St. Leo Church)

Email: stleopalmyra@gmail.com

Fr. Adam Sparling, Pastor

Mass Intentions

Dec	4	Mon	7:00 am	St. Leo	Don Wheatley (birthday)
Dec	5	Tues	7:00 am	St. Leo	Bob & Marlene Wilmes (66 th Wedding Anniversary)
Dec	6	Wed	7:00 am	St. Martin	+Barbara Barak
Dec	7	Thur	6:00 pm	St. Leo	+Doug Hornback
Dec	8	Fri	6:00 pm	St. Martin	+Larry McAuliffe
Dec	9	Sat	4:00 pm	St. Leo	+Patrick Beecham
Dec	10	Sun	8:30 am	St. Martin	+Jim O'Grady
Dec	10	Sun	11:00 am	St. Leo	People of our Parishes

OUR TITHE TO THE LORD

November 26, 2017

	Adult	Youth	Plate
St. Leo	\$611	\$ 0	\$34
St. Martin	\$390	\$ 41.40	\$13

Amount needed to balance yearly budget:

St. Leo: \$1,185/week or \$5,133/month

St. Martin: \$1,002/week or \$4,342/month

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

Been longer than a month since your last confession? Perhaps it is time to come receive His forgiveness again.

Confessions:

Saturdays: 3:30-3:45 PM

Sundays: 8:00-8:15 AM

10:30-10:45 AM

***Any time by appointment**

CALENDAR ITEMS

- **ALL ARE WELCOME to the Annual Advent Party at St. Martin's which will be TODAY Sunday, December 3rd. Set-up and decorating of Church basement will begin at 4pm. Potluck dinner starts at 5pm -- Please bring main dish and either a side or dessert. Drinks and tableware provided. Santa (aka St. Nicholas) will bring something for the kids around 5:30pm. BINGO starts at 6pm...we ask that all wanting to play Bingo bring little prizes. You can bring gently used items from home or \$1 items. Candy, socks, coloring books, puzzle books, mugs, etc...get creative!! EVERYONE's A WINNER!! Mark your calendars make it a new tradition and come have some fun with your parish family!!!**
- The Diocese of Lincoln **Natural Family Planning (NFP)** Creighton Model Introductory Sessions for December's dates are: **Thursday, December 14th** Register online or download a registration form at www.lincolndiocese.org/nfp.
- The annual Mass of the Holy Innocents will be celebrated on **Thursday, December 28th**. All are invited to attend this Memorial Mass, especially those families who have suffered the loss of a baby through miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death or abortion. Reading of names will begin at **6:30 p.m.** with Mass at **7:00 p.m.** at **John XXIII Diocesan Center Chapel**, 3700 Sheridan Blvd., Lincoln. If you would like your child's name to be remembered & placed on the banner for this year, please call the Family Life Office at 473-0620 **before 5:00 p.m. on Dec. 19th**. *If you placed your child's name previously, it will remain on the list.*
- **Introduction to Deliverance:** Have you ever wondered what exactly deliverance is or how it fits into our Catholic Faith? The Diocesan Office of Evangelization will be hosting this free event 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, the Unbound ministry & how each person can benefit from it. Join us in **Beatrice at St. Joseph Parish Hall** on **Thursday, January 4th 7:00-8:30 p.m.** **No registration needed.** Contact Matt at matthew-simmons@cdolinc.net or 402-805-9668 with questions.
- **UNBOUND** Retreat at Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House, **January 19-21, 2018** with Fr. William Holoubek. This weekend retreat is geared towards men and women who have already read the book or watched the video series, and will provide opportunities for praying the five keys with a prayer team. Please register at <http://goodcounselretreat.com/>

Mass Schedule for Immaculate Conception of Mary

- Thursday, December 7th, 6 p.m. at St. Leo
- Friday, December 8th, 6 p.m. at St. Martin

Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Giving an asset such as corn, wheat, soybeans or cattle (instead of cash) can have great tax benefits, allowing you to be more generous to your parish. For free, confidential advice and for more information about your giving options, please contact Les Mach, a representative of the Catholic Foundation of Southern Nebraska, at 402-443-6180. See flyer at the parish or contact Fr. Sparling for more info!**

- **Parish Needs Wish List:** Your help in donating to these things will help defray the cost of the parish purchasing the following needs:
 - **Large Bulletin boards**
 - **Reams of white or colored letter paper**
 - **General classroom supplies**
 - **Financial gifts to be put toward updating technology such as: Tv's or projectors and dvd players in classrooms, upgrading Divine Mercy Hall to larger screen or projector, wifi coverage for social hall, printer ink, laptop computers or tablets for teachers to use to communicate with tv or projector in classrooms, classroom speakers.**
 - **Financial gifts to defer the cost of the new office copy/scan/printer machine that replaced the antiquated and inefficient model acquired in 2004 and the computer printer. This 1 new unit replaced two machines and reduces our cost per page. (\$1,300)**
 - **Large capacity external hard-drive to backup parish computer. We currently have NO backup system in place now! If the computer crashes all of our parish records go with it.**

- **Come to Daily Mass** - Start the day with the holy Sacrifice of the Mass, offered for your family, friends, and special intentions. This is the living and eternal sacrifice of Jesus to His Father. He has joined our lives to His in this awesome gift to the Father. The Father will shower down His grace on those for whom we pray at Mass.

- **FYI** - Please **email** any items you would like mentioned in the bulletin to the parish office by Thursday's as the bulletin typically is printed Friday's.

Advent and Christmas has always been my favorite time of the year, as I am sure it is for many of you too. The joyful meditations, preparation, and coming celebration of when our Savior came into the world has always grabbed the attention of my heart. Every aspect of the Advent and Christmas season from the decorations, to the crisp winter air (although we haven't had much of that this year), to the wonderful white snow (still waiting for it) just exudes joy and happiness! Last week I wrote the following as a good reflection on preparation for the season of Advent and I share it again:

As we prepare for Advent I invite you to celebrate Advent well. What does that mean exactly? It means that similar to lent we should work to detach ourselves from sin and that which keeps us from Christ. Take a moment to evaluate your life. What tv shows, movies, books, video games, work, etc. do you spend time with each day? Do they bring you closer to Christ or lead you away from Him? If they lead you away then why allow them to continue to be a part of your life? Detach yourself from them! It is a difficult thing to do indeed and the strength to let it go can only come from Christ. Which then brings one to consider the question of, do I spend time in prayer each day? Not just the "oh sure I pray every day" answer but seriously what prevents you from stopping in to the Church for say 10 minutes each day? I bet the honest answer might be a tv show, movie, book, video game, internet, work, social media, perhaps? All of us can find time in our day to do the things we WANT to do. We just need to WANT to make time to be with Jesus each day. Anything preventing that is what we need to detach ourselves from. Why? Well, to be frank, as Christ says in the Scriptures, because where we spend our eternity depends on it.

As a resource to help you dive into the mystery of Advent I want to gift each parish family Scott Hahn's book: *Joy to the World: How Christ's coming changed everything (and still does)*. I propose that you might read this book together as a family. In addition to this book there are many GREAT reflections and programs available on FORMED.org that our parishes subscribe to and are ready for you to access anytime and place! These tremendous resources can help you and your family make this Advent and Christmas season a wonderful season reflecting on Jesus Christ and the mystery of the Incarnation!

Have a blessed week and a great start of Advent! God love you! ~Fr. Sparling