

BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Date	Time	Intention
Saturday, November 30	8:00 a.m.	Maureen Smollen +
Saturday, November 30	5:30 p.m.	Dan Wenzl +
Sunday, December 1	8:00 a.m.	Ernie Von Busch +
Sunday, December 1	10:00 a.m.	Linda Havelka +
Monday, December 2	8:00 a.m.	Mary Walkowiak +
Tuesday, December 3	12:05 p.m.	All Souls in Purgatory
Wednesday, December 4	12:05 p.m.	Pete Wissing +
Thursday, December 5	12:05 p.m.	Travis Wenzl +
Friday, December 6	12:05 p.m.	Merlin Yosten +
Saturday, December 7	8:00 a.m.	Ruth Noziska +
Saturday, December 7	5:30 p.m.	Marshall & Darlene Christensen +
Sunday, December 8	8:00 a.m.	Nancy Zahm
Sunday, December 8	10:00 a.m.	Parish Family



Reconciliation Times: Wednesday - 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Saturday - 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

What a joy to begin our liturgical year with this advent Sunday! Advent is a time of preparation, repentance, and it leads us to hope and joy. The message of the prophet Jeremiah is a message of hope. The words of hope are expressing a waiting for our Savior. God promised King David an offspring who would do what is right and just and whose rule would bring peace and security in Jerusalem. His hope is based not on human capabilities but on God's faithfulness to his promises. As we begin this season of Advent, a season to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Christ, the Church reminds us that we are also preparing for Christ's second coming. His coming in the past is certainly important, but it will do us little good if we do not welcome Him into our lives in the present through prayer and faith, through the Sacraments and the Holy Spirit. He also comes to us through one another in that he told us "what you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you do to me."

But that's not all. He will come to earth a second time in unmistakable glory to gather His faithful followers to Himself. For many that second coming will be a day of fear and trembling. They will find themselves trapped because they will be unprepared. For those who have been faithful to Him, it will be a day of joy. His faithful followers are to stand erect and raise their heads, for their redemption is at hand. Let us prepare ourselves for Him who is coming to us, and make some time to reflect on what Christ's coming means to us. St. Luke has a suggestion on how we can use the next three and a half weeks preparing for Christ when he tells us, "Be vigilant at all times and pray...." Prayer and good works.

The Lord is coming, Blessings!

Fr. Robin Bashir

Contact & Livestreaming Information

518 State St., Grand Island, NE 68801 308-384-0532

Office Hours: Monday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; Tuesday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Website: blsachurch.net E-Mail: bscc_1@msn.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/blessedsacramentGI

A link to Livestream Mass will be on YouTube: www.youtube.com/@blessedsacramentGI/streams at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

- Sunday, 12/1** 8:00 a.m. - Mass
10:00 a.m. - Mass
10:00 a.m. - Children's Church
Coffee & Rolls
- Monday, 12/2** 12:00 p.m. - Chair Relaxation
5:30 p.m. - Mindful Movement
6:30 p.m. - Centering Prayer
7:00 p.m. - Women's AA Group
- Tuesday, 12/3** 12:05 p.m. - Mass
1:00 p.m. - Quilting Ladies
7:00 p.m. - Al-Anon Meeting
7:00 p.m. - AA Open Meeting
7:00 p.m. - Charismatic Group
- Wednesday, 12/4** 12:05 p.m. - Mass
5:00 p.m. - Rel. Ed. P-5
6:15 p.m. - Rel. Ed. P-5
7:00 p.m. - R.C.I.A.
7:30 p.m. - Rel. Ed. 6-8
7:30 p.m. - Freshmen, Sophomore
& Junior Godparent Groups
- Thursday, 12/5** 12:05 p.m. - Mass
1:00 p.m. - Quilting Ladies
5:30 p.m. - Serenity Flow
7:00 p.m. - Parish Council
- Friday, 12/6** First Friday
12:05 p.m. - Mass
12:30 p.m. - Adoration
1:30 p.m. - Benediction
- Saturday, 12/7** 10:00 a.m. - Al-Anon Meeting
10:30 a.m. - Adoration
5:30 p.m. - Mass
- Sunday, 12/8** 8:00 a.m. - Mass
10:00 a.m. - Mass
Open House at the Rectory
Coffee & Rolls



Please remember the following individuals in your prayers

Roseann Anderson	Marlene Beacom
Anna Blake	Mary Buhrman
Dawn Ferris	Stephanie Godziemski
Anita Graf	Gene Greene
Sharon Jarecke	LeRoy Kramer
Patrick O'Neill	Jacque Palacz
Cindy Petersen	Marcella Petersen
Kathy Stava	Emily Webster
Nancy Zahm	Julie Ziller

Pray for military personnel and pray for peace.

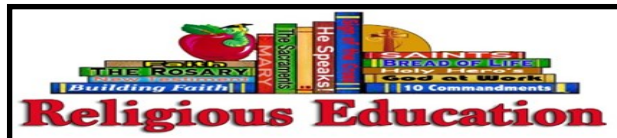
OUR GIFTS OF TREASURE

November 16 & 17, 2024

Adult Envelopes	\$9,754.25
Plate	\$549.45
Online	\$1,746.58
Thrft Store	\$1,783.20

Diocesan Appeal

Our Goal	\$75,410.00
Received to Date	\$31,090.00
Donor Goal 220	109



Baptism Preparation Class

Tuesday, December 10, at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Room. This is for parents (and godparents) preparing for the Baptism of their baby. This class is required unless you have already taken the class within the past year. Please call Deb Wetzel at 395-8521 to register no later than December 9. If we don't have any registrations, the class won't be held.

4th Grade Communal Reconciliation

December 15, 7:00 p.m., church. All parents and 4th grade students should meet promptly at 6:30 p.m. in the Jubilee Center for a short meeting prior to this Reconciliation Service.

Middle School Christmas Party

Grades 6-8, December 18, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Jubilee Center. An indoor snowball fight and fun galore!

Edgar Barge Memorial Scholarships

Blessed Sacrament will award scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 and \$750 to two seniors, who are going on to college. **Regular attendance to Sunday Masses will be prioritized.** All applications must be completed online at www.gicf.org and click on the communities tab (scholarships are located under that tab). Completed application must be electronically submitted on or before February 10 at midnight. No faxes, emails, or paper applications will be permitted.



Blessed Sacrament is hosting a blood drive on December 12 from 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. in the Jubilee Center. If you would like an appointment, you may call Mary Phelan at 382-0311 or 380-1449. You may also go online at RedCrossBlood.org. There is a severe shortage of blood at this time, so we hope you will consider donating.

If you signed up to be a new lector or Eucharistic Minister and would like to meet with Deb Wetzel just to do a walk-through of what you should do in your new ministry, she will be available at 11:30 a.m. on December 8. If you come to the 10:00 a.m. Mass, you can go tour the rectory and see the improvements, and then come for a brief training session. Deb's phone number is 308-395-8521. Thank You!

Thrift Shop

Located at 718 West North Front St.
 Store Hours: Friday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 Donations can be dropped off on Mondays, Fridays & Saturdays.
For more information, or to volunteer, please contact the Thrift Store at 308-398-3443. We need more donations!!!!

There will be an open house at the rectory on December 8 after both Masses. Please come look at the improvements and enjoy coffee and rolls. There will be no coffee and rolls in the Jubilee Center on this day.

December 9, 2024 is a Holy Day of Obligation for the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Masses will be at 12:05 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Advent Reconciliation



Communal Reconciliation Services

Sunday, **December 15 - 7:00 p.m.** at Blessed Sacrament
 Wednesday, December 18 - confessions at 11:30 a.m. -2:00 p.m.

Individual confessions at Blessed Sacrament by appointment only after December 18.

Please for our prayer chain request text, Lidia Escalante Ramirez (Liturgy Coordinator) at 308-391-8998 or email at escalanteramirezlidia@gmail.com.

YEAR END GIVING
YOUR GIFT MAKES
A DIFFERENCE

ATTENTION: ALL CONTRIBUTORS!

If you wish to make an additional contribution to be reflected in your 2024 giving, it must be labeled 2024 and be received no later than Friday January 10, 2025. Check with your accountant for a contribution from your IRA. Thank you!

Grand Island City Singers presents

The Light of Christmas

Dec 7th & 8th 2024
2:30 pm

Director, Micah Hesterman
 Accompanist, Mark Landis

St Pauls Lutheran Church
 1515 S. Harrison

Tickets are available from any City Singers member or at the door

Sponsored by

5 & Under - Free Students Grades K-4 \$4.00
 Students Grade 5 - Adult \$8.00

INSTRUMENTAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

TUES DEC 3 AT 7PM
GICC NORTH GYM

CALL TIME
 6:30pm

ATTIRE
 Black Dress Shirt
 Black Dress Pants
 Black Shoes - No Heels

VOCAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SUN DEC 8 AT 7:30PM
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

HIGH SCHOOL
 6:45pm Call Time
 Ladies: Black Dresses
 Gents: Black Slacks, White Button-Up Shirts & a Tie
MIDDLE SCHOOL
 6:45pm Call Time
 Ladies: Black Bottoms, White Tops
 Gents: Black Slacks, White Button-Up Shirts & a Tie

MINISTER SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 7 & 8, 2024

Mass Times	5:30 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
Lector	Volunteer	Greg Rempe	Justin Shavlik
Minister of Holy Communion	Volunteer	Tony Koziol Marge Koziol	Deb Wetzel Daniel Zamarripa Mirna Zamarripa Tiffany Shavlik
Altar Server	Volunteer	Diego Bermudez	Adelaide Kreutzer Ivy Shavlik
Hospitality	Volunteer	Volunteer	

Crusader Clips



FALL 2024 CRUSADER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

State Golf medalist Julia Messere earned 4th place overall after finishing 2nd at Districts. Also medaling at Districts was Kenzie Clausen, placing 6th. As a team, the girls earned the Conference Runners-Up title, and 3rd place at Districts.

The boys tennis team brought home State Tennis medals: 5th place for #1 Doubles (Kyle Kelly and Alec Menagh), and 7th place for #2 Doubles (Max Friesen and Henry Schrad).

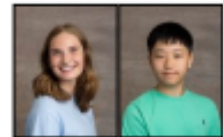
GICC's softball team, which also includes athletes from Doniphan-Trumbull, Wood River, and Heartland Lutheran, claimed the championship trophy at this year's Conference Softball Tournament.



Senior Molly Graybill was chosen by the Nebraska School Activities Association as one of their 48 Believers and Achievers recipients.



Sophomores Kenley Bogner and Kyle Ye were selected to attend the HOBY Leadership Camp in Summer 2025.



The VFW selected senior JT Rein and junior Grace Watson as finalists in their Voices of Freedom essay competition.



The GICC Marching Band, consisting of 45 musicians and 3 flag corp members, competed in two competitions this fall, the UNK Band Day Parade in Kearney and Harvest of Harmony Parade in Grand Island.



Mock Trial consisted of three GICC teams this year, with one of the teams reaching the District Final competition. Students recognized as being the Most Effective Witnesses and Attorneys include: Thomas Armstrong, Charlotte Corey, Grace Johnson, Arushi Birthi, Cooper Lee, Reegan Reilly, Emily Ye, Madison Graybill, Ella Meyer, Quinn Lee, and Arabella Richling.



This year's One Act Play, titled "Apostrophe's" earned second place for GICC at the Loup City Invitational. Spencer Wiens received the Outstanding Actor award at the competition, as well. The team's other competitions will include Conference and Districts.



Third Grader Josie Engle won the Grand Island Fire Department's Great Escape contest. As part of the prize, Josie rode to school in a firetruck and was also taken up in the ladder truck.



JOIN US:

December

- 3** - Band Christmas Concert, 7:00pm North Gym
- 8** - Choir Christmas Concert, 7:30pm St Mary's Cathedral
- 13** - Elementary Christmas Program, 1:30pm North Gym
- 19** - Preschool Christmas Program, 10:30am North Gym
- 20** - Christmas Mass & Pageant, 8:00am North Gym

January

- 11** - Soup Supper Fundraiser, 5:00-8:00pm Cafeteria

Integration of GICC Elementary School Proving to be Huge Success

The opening of Central Catholic's elementary school may be old news, but integrating the new grades into a long-standing tradition of both faith-filled school days and exemplary education is certainly in the forefront.

Central Catholic is alive with a new kind of spirit as it now shapes the hearts and minds of 39 preschool and 166 elementary students, along with its 141 middle and 186 high school Crusaders.

The joyful school spirit has materialized by not only the teachers embracing and sharing Jesus' love for every student in the classroom, but also in the unique, God-filled moments that bring students together across multiple grade levels.

"Our motto this year is 'We Are One', and we're working hard to be one school," Superintendent Dr Jordan Engle said.

Being one started on day one when this year's senior class took a stroll down the hall to say hello to the kindergarteners. The meeting included a photo and ended with the seniors giving every single kindergartener a high five to welcome them to the Crusader family.

"Seeing the Seniors and our new Kindergarteners taking the photo

made me think how amazing it's going to be when these Kindergarteners are the first graduating class to complete all 13 years here," Elementary Guidance Counselor Jill Vasquez said.

Additional opportunities continue to arise for relationship building.

"The elementary students truly looked forward to Fridays this fall, when the high school football players would read to them," Vasquez added.

Recently, a Crusader Buddy system has been established to bring upper and lower level students together for a variety of reasons.

"Some elementary students may need to work on increasing their communication skills, others may be struggling with the loss of a parent, some may need a buddy to help guide them socially. For other students, it is as simple as creating a connection and having a friendly face in an upper grade," Vasquez explained.

"Crusader Buddies helps to shape the culture of our entire preschool-12th grade school," Dr Engle contributed.



On any given school day, students can be seen interacting with different grade levels. Whether it's an 8th grade class helping in one of the preschool classrooms, or high schoolers working after school in Crusader Care, the older students are serving as role models for the younger ones.

GICC administration is continually looking for new opportunities to integrate multiple grade levels in the learning environment. Dr Engle noted, "It's already happening in the shared library space, and I may explore the idea of having a lunch program overlap as well."

GICC Elementary Principal Sarah Nordhues also has her sights set on implementing a tutoring network for upperclassmen to assist the elementary kids with academics after school.

Knowing mentoring the younger Crusaders is important, one senior requested to do a service project that would stress the importance of online safety to the GICC 4th and 5th graders.

GICC Elementary Principal Sarah Nordhues said her students will benefit by hearing this online safety message from an

older Crusader, which reinforces its importance.

"I think we can not inform our students enough about the proper ways to be safe on the internet since it plays such an important part in their lives," Nordhues stated.

From a classroom standpoint, the elementary school is also preparing its students to become the great students GICC's middle and high school also fosters.

Wit and Wisdom is the reading curriculum that the elementary is using for their English Language Arts. Wit & Wisdom is a rigorous knowledge-based program that incorporates critical thinking, writing, and how to effectively communicate.

"We believe this program will help our students smoothly transition to the expectations of middle school," Mrs Nordhues commented.



Mrs Vasquez also added, "I'm excited to see how we, as educators across the grades, can link arms to best equip our students to be the best versions of themselves by the time they graduate from Grand Island Central Catholic."

PRACTICING OUR FAITH

We proudly offer quality Catholic education and formation at GICC, as our students participate in a variety of faith-building activities and services including:

- Mass each Thursday
- Eucharistic Adoration & Confessions for students and faculty
- Christ-centered policies and curriculum
- Community service, volunteering and missions

Keeping Christ in your child's education!

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Dr Jordan Engle - Superintendent, Middle/High School Principal

Mr Phou Manivong - Middle/High School Assistant Principal

Dr Julie Hehne - Middle/High School Guidance Counselor

Mrs Sarah Nordhues - Elementary Principal

Mrs Jill Vasquez - Elementary Counselor

Mrs Barb Seier - Preschool Director

Fr Sidney Bruggeman - Chaplain



SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Fr Robin Bashir

Fr Don Buhrman

Fr Jorge Canela

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