



# BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Date	Time	Intention
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
Monday, December 9	12:05 p.m.	William E. O'Neil, Jr. +
Monday, December 9	6:00 p.m.	Tom & Earleen Moroney +
Tuesday, December 10	12:05 p.m.	Bob Kutilek +
Wednesday, December 11	12:05 p.m.	Jerome Starman +
Thursday, December 12	12:05 p.m.	Fr. Donald J. O'Brien + & Family
Friday, December 13	12:05 p.m.	Everett Stegman +
Saturday, December 14	8:00 a.m.	Susie Engel +
Saturday, December 14	5:30 p.m.	Tom Wieck +
Sunday, December 15	8:00 a.m.	Parish Family
Sunday, December 15	10:00 a.m.	Maureen Smollen +



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

Dear Sisters & Brothers,  
Do you recognize the voice of the Lord speaking to you when you listen to the Word of God in Scripture? Luke, the evangelist, tells us that the "Word of God came to John in the wilderness" (Luke 3:2). John stood at a pivotal juncture in the history of God's dealings with His people. He bridged the Old and New Testaments.

When John received his name shortly after birth, his father prophesied that he would be "called the prophet of the Most High who will go before the Lord to prepare his way" (Luke 1:76). John was called to be a prophet, a spokesman for God.

John's mission was to prepare the way for God's Anointed King who would come to establish God's rule above all other kings and authorities. Luke emphasizes the universal call of the Gospel to all peoples without distinction. He quotes from the prophet Isaiah that "all flesh shall see the salvation of God" (Isaiah 40:5; 52:10).

John not only took the Scriptures to heart, he molded his life according to it, and he made himself a servant of the Word of God. John was led by the Spirit into the wilderness and lonely places away from the noise and distractions of everyday life. John preached for repentance, conversions and preparation for the coming of the Lord. John invites us for the conversion of our hearts. Conversion involves receiving God's Word into our heart and mind and allowing His Word to change our attitudes and wrong ways of thinking and judging. Repentance is the deliberate turning away from sin (wrong-doing) and turning to God to receive his pardon, healing, and strength to do what is good and reject what is wrong.

Are you hungry for the Word of God, and do you allow God's word to transform the way you think, speak, and live your life? Blessings on the Second Sunday of Advent. 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](http://blsachurch.net) E-Mail: [bscc\\_1@msn.com](mailto:bscc_1@msn.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/blessedsacramentGI](https://www.facebook.com/blessedsacramentGI)

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

# THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

**Sunday, 12/8** Collection for Religious Retirement  
 8:00 a.m. - Mass  
 10:00 a.m. - Mass  
 Rectory Open House - come & enjoy Coffee & Rolls

**Monday, 12/9** Immaculate Conception  
 12:00 p.m. - Chair Relaxation  
 12:05 p.m. - Mass  
 5:30 p.m. - Mindful Movement  
 6:00 p.m. - Mass  
 7:00 p.m. - Homeowners  
 7:00 p.m. - Women's AA Group

**Tuesday, 12/10** 12:05 p.m. - Mass  
 1:00 p.m. - Quilting Ladies  
 6:00 p.m. - Baptism Class  
 7:00 p.m. - Al-Anon Meeting  
 7:00 p.m. - AA Open Meeting  
 7:00 p.m. - Charismatic Group  
 7:00 p.m. - Stewardship Meeting


**Wednesday, 12/11** 12:05 p.m. - Mass  
 12:30 p.m. - Prime Time Dinner  
 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, 12/12** 10:30 a.m. - Blood Drive  
 12:05 p.m. - Mass  
 1:00 p.m. - Quilting Ladies  
 5:30 p.m. - Serenity Flow

**Friday, 12/13** 12:05 p.m. - Mass  
 7:00 p.m. - Finance Council Meeting

**Saturday, 12/14** 10:00 a.m. - Al-Anon Meeting  
 No Adoration or Confessions  
 5:30 p.m. - Mass

**Sunday, 12/15** 8:00 a.m. - Mass  
 10:00 a.m. - Mass  
 10:00 a.m. - Children's Church  
 Coffee & Rolls  
 7:00 p.m. - Advent Penance Service



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 Red Cross Blood.org. There is a severe shortage of blood at this time, so we hope you will consider donating.

## OUR GIFTS OF TREASURE November 30 & December 1, 2024

<b>Adult Envelopes</b>	<b>\$22,449.56</b>
<b>Plate</b>	<b>\$563.25</b>
<b>Online</b>	<b>\$4,059.00</b>
<b>Thrft Store</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>

### Diocesan Appeal

Our Goal	\$75,410.00
Received to Date	\$35,635.00
Donor Goal 220	113



### 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 at Sunday Masses will be prioritized.** All applications must be completed online at [www.gicf.org](http://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.



**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
Jacque Palacz	Cindy Petersen
Marcella Petersen	Kathy Stava
Emily Webster	Nancy Zahm
Julie Ziller	

**Pray for military personnel and pray for peace.**

# 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 Service

No Confessions - Saturday, December 14

**Sunday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament**

If you have a prayer chain request, please text, Lidia Escalante Ramirez (Liturgy Coordinator) at 308-391-8998 or email her at escalanteramirezlidia@gmail.com. We welcome Lidia to our office staff.

**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!

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!

**Catholic Daughters Court Queen of Peace #2227** will be hosting a Diaper Drive for Mary's Cradle located at the Cathedral Square during the month of December. A decorated playpen can be found outside of the new Sacristy. We thank you in advance for your generosity during this Advent Season, as we strive to help moms in need as they care for their babies.

### Catholic Daughters Court Queen of Peace #2227



2024 – 2025 Annual Contest Information

Details:

#### National Education Contest

Deadline: January 27, 2025

Variety of Age groups and Entries

available (see flyer) in the Gathering Area.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Entering 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Catholic School National Scholarship Essay

Deadline: April 1, 2025

2 - \$1,000 scholarships available

For questions, please contact Chris McCarraher 308-390-2059 (Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church) or Gina Woods 308-380-7472 (Resurrection Catholic Church).



**"Prime Time" on Wednesday, December 11, 2024.**

**Mass: 12:05 p.m. followed by Lunch (Free –Will Offering)**

**"Christmas Then and Now"**

The Twin Home Singers will entertain us with music and poetry comparing old-fashioned Christmas songs with the songs we sing today. Alice Torpin will present some of the poems that she has written. Come join us for a fun time!



**Our Deepest Sympathy to the Family of**

**PATRICK O'NEILL**

**Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen**

## MINISTER SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 14 & 15, 2024

Mass Times	5:30 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
Lector	Volunteer	Volunteer	Kathy Bohnart
Minister of Holy Communion	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Altar Server	Volunteer	Diego Bermudez	Adelaide Kreutzer Adi Carraher
Hospitality	Volunteer	Volunteer	Chuck Pfeifer



# The Joy of CHRISTMAS

CELEBRATE THE SEASON

## BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

### Communal Reconciliation Services

Wednesday, December 11 – 7:00 p.m. at *Resurrection*

Sunday, December 15 – 7:00 p.m. at *Blessed Sacrament*

Monday, December 16 – 7:00 p.m. at *St. Leo's*

Tuesday, December 17 – 7:00 p.m. at *St. Mary's Cathedral*

Wednesday, December 18 confessions from 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

*(Individual confessions at Blessed Sacrament by appointment only after December 18)*

### Christmas Eve Mass - Tuesday, December 24

5:00 p.m.

10:00 p.m.

*Christmas music begins 30 minutes before all Masses*



### Christmas Day Mass - Wednesday, December 25

8:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

### Holy Day Mary Mother of God Mass - Tuesday, December 31

5:30 p.m.

### Holy Day Mary Mother of God Mass - Wednesday, January 1

8:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

*A most Blessed Christmas and New Year to you  
from the Blessed Sacrament Parish Staff!*

## **Confession: It puts you straight with everyone**

Penance, aka confession, is the sacrament of the forgiveness of sin. You can't beat it for convenience. It's available practically whenever. Tell a priest you want to go to confession and you'll get his attention. One bishop I know was cornered on an airplane. Another passenger figured out what was going on and asked if he could confess too. It must have been an interesting game of musical seats. An interesting question for priests might be: Where was the strangest place you ever administered the sacrament of penance? The answers I've gathered include "in a sports bar, at a graduation party" and "on the golf course, walking up the fairway."

Confession has benefits. Here are ten:

1. Confidentiality guaranteed. There's nothing like confessing your sins to someone guaranteed not to tell anyone else. Sometimes you need to talk in absolute confidence. Even under subpoena, a priest can't tell anyone what's said to him in confession. He can't even hint at it. Now that's confidentiality.
2. Housekeeping for the soul. It feels good to be able to start a clean life all over again. Like going into a sparkling living room in your home, it's nice when clutter is removed – even if it's your own.
3. A balm for the desire for revenge. When you have been forgiven you can forgive others. If the perfect Jesus forgives me, who am I to want to avenge the slights in my life. Think: "Why did they promote him over me?" or "Mom played favorites!"
4. Low cost therapy. It's free, which makes it cheaper than a psychiatrist for dealing with guilt.
5. Forced time to think. Socrates said that the unexamined life is not worth living. To examine our lives and acknowledge failings marks the first step of making things right with God, others and ourselves. Life can be more worth living when you ponder the meaning of your own life.
6. Contribution toward world peace. Gaudium et Spes, the Second Vatican Council's Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, said that the imbalances in the world that lead to war and tensions "are linked with that more basic imbalance which is rooted in the heart of man." Peace of soul leads to peace of heart leads to peace beyond oneself.
7. A better neighborhood. Confession leaves you feeling good about yourself, thereby cutting back the inclination to road rage and aggressive shopping cart driving. With the grace of the sacrament you're energized to, as Jesus said to the woman caught in adultery, "go and sin no more."
8. Realistic self-perception. Confession helps overcome arrogance when you have to admit you're as much of a sinner as anyone else. It helps build tolerance for others' perceived shortcomings.
9. One more benefit of being Catholic. There are lots of benefits, including a sense of community, liturgical rites to help us encounter God in prayer, and the wonderful sense of humanity exemplified in the saints, from Mary, the loving Mother of God, to Augustine, the exasperating son of Monica. The sacrament that leads us to inner peace is among the greatest boons.
10. Closeness to God. Confession helps you realize that you have a close connection to God and receive his grace through the sacraments. What can be better than knowing God's on your team, or, to be less arrogant about it, that you are on God's.

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