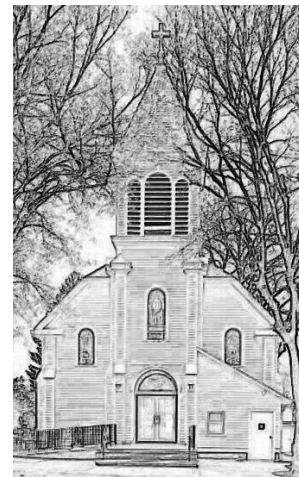




Pastor: Fr. Luke Fleck
stjosephcolon@gmail.com
Rectory Phone: (402) 647-4901
Sacramental Emergency: (402) 786-8655

January 11, 2026
The Baptism of the Lord Sunday
www.stjosephstmary.org



St. Joseph's Colon, NE—Est. 1918

www.facebook.com/stjosephcolon

Mailing Address: PO Box 58, Colon, NE 68018

Physical Address: 111 Cherry St. Colon, NE 68018

St. Mary's Cedar Bluffs, NE—Est. 1918

www.facebook.com/stjosephcolon

Mailing Address: PO Box 58, Colon, NE 68018

Physical Address: 207 N 3rd St. Cedar Bluffs, NE 68015

Mass Schedule

12	Monday	NO MASS		
13	Tuesday	7:00 AM	@ St. Joseph's	St. Ann Sodality members
14	Wednesday	7:00 AM	@ St. Joseph's	Special Intention
15	Thursday	7:00 AM	@ St. Joseph's	Bryce & Elizabeth Lund Family both Living and Deceased
16	Friday	7:00 AM	@ St. Joseph's	Holy Souls in Purgatory
17	Saturday	5:00 PM	@ St. Joseph's	Judy Little *deceased
18	Sunday	8:00 AM	@ St. Joseph's	For the people of the parishes
		10:00 AM	@ St. Mary's	Harvey Callahan †

CONFESSIONS: Weekdays: 20 minutes before Mass
 Saturday: 4:30—4:50 pm @ St. Joseph's
 Sunday: 7:30—7:50 am @ St. Joseph's
 9:30—9:50 am @ St. Mary's
 or call the office for an appointment.

BAPTISM: Please contact the Pastor to schedule a date and time.

MARRIAGE: Please contact the Pastor **AT LEAST 6 months** before the planned marriage.

ADORATION/EXPOSITION: St. Joseph's will have exposition on Saturdays from 4:00-4:50pm and Sunday 7:00—7:50am. Also from 7:00am - 1:00pm every Wednesday of the

We are grateful you are here! All families and individuals are welcome in our parish community!

If you are new to St. Joseph's or St. Mary's, please reach out to Kara Lombardo (St. Joseph's) at (402)480-1395 or Mary Tenopir (St. Mary's) at (402)720-3491. Kara and Mary would love to introduce themselves and answer any questions you may have regarding the registration process, men's and women's groups, and our annual church dinner.

If you are returning to the faith, interested in becoming Catholic, want more information, or just dialog with someone. Please contact the Pastor or Ryan Mascarello at rjmascarello@gmail.com.

Father's Re"Fleck"ions:

Dear Parishioners,

It has been a whirlwind of activities here at St. Joseph and St. Mary's over the last 18 months as your pastor. I am continually humbled by your zeal for Christ and the desire for greater devotion to the Eucharist and in sharing the joy of the Gospel. Since arriving at the parishes, the most frequent request I have received has been a return to the full use of the altar rail for the distribution of the Most Sacred Body of Christ. With the help of various families and individuals of the parishes, we are now ready to begin using the altar rail at St. Joseph on Ash Wednesday.

To facilitate this transition, I offer a few thoughts on why the Church uses altar rails and their function in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. First, it is called an altar rail because the name has reference to the altar. The truth is that the altar rail is meant to be an extension of the altar of sacrifice for the laity to kneel before, to consummate the sacrifice. We cannot receive the Body of Christ at the main altar as priests do, but we can receive at the altar of the laity, the altar rail. The altar rail reminds the faithful that Mass is a sacrifice, that Christ's one sacrifice is made present at every single Mass. This extension of the Main Altar, the altar rail, serves to unite the faithful to all the sufferings, joys, and sacrifices of Christ for the sake of the Church and the whole world. The altar rail is not just a physical barrier between the sanctuary (Heaven) and the main body (Earth), but a profound symbol of the laity's participation in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. It represents the culmination of the layperson's sacrifice of joining their sufferings, joys, and sacrifices to Christ's Body. The altar rail becomes that sacred space where the laity go up to the Banquet Table (the altar rail) of the Lord in communion. And it is there that our Lord comes to us. Christ Himself becomes present on the altar and invites us to be fed at His altar via the rail. Interestingly, the appearance of the rail often matches or imitates the appearance of the main altar, with an altar cloth.

There are practical reasons to return to the use of the altar rail. One, it can enhance the sense of reverence and the sacredness of the Mass. Altar rails help to visibly delineate the sanctuary as a holy space, fostering a deeper experience of the mystery and transcendence present in the liturgical celebration. Due to the space they provide for the faithful to individually come and stand or kneel before the altar of the Lord, they encourage a meditative and prayerful atmosphere. Further, by offering a kneeling space to receive Holy Communion, the faithful are invited to a physical expression of humility, reverence, and devotion towards the Eucharist, acknowledging the real presence of Christ. The altar rail provides a space for the faithful to receive the Eucharist either standing or kneeling, in the hand or by the tongue, while giving time for the laity to ponder the mystery of the Eucharistic sacrifice. In this space, the altar rail fosters time for the communicant to fully receive the Eucharist before moving away from the priest, who is the caretaker of the Eucharist and is bound to ensure the full reception of the Eucharist before continuing.

I want to emphasize that the altar rail is not a space of division, but of unification between Heaven and Earth, Christ the Head and His Body the Church. It makes an important distinction. Ultimately, if what I am receiving is only a piece of bread or a drop of wine, then I don't need a sacred space for it. However, if it truly is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ, then it's worth considering how we express that reception.

In Christ, Fr. Luke Fleck

NEXT SATURDAY, January 17, 5 pm at St. Joseph

Acolyte: John Ell **Lector:** Bob Rezac

Servers: Alex & Jadon Rezac

NEXT SUNDAY, January 18, 8 am at St. Joseph

Acolyte: Zach Meduna **Lector:** Richard Meduna

Servers: Aiden Fulks & Owen Hull

SUNDAY, January 18, 10 am at St. Mary

Volunteers needed for all positions

St. Joseph's Contacts

Sacramental Emergency: (402) 486-8655

Adoration Hour Chair: Ryan Mascarello (402) 203-0208

Bulletin Request: Ann Borer annreneej@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus: Jeremy Vrana (402) 443-7300

Hall Rental: Cyndy Bohaty (402) 647-2555

Men's Group: Adam Quinn (402) 853-2693

St Anne's Funeral Group: Co-Chair: Alice Meduna, (402) 647-4485 or richardmeduna@windstream.net.

Co-Chair: Patty Swanson, (402) 480-1771 or pswan-son999@gmail.com

Sacramental News and Special Announcements

We are currently in need of an adorers for hours 1pm—7pm. Please see the website for open hours or contact Ryan Mascarello for more information. rjmascarello@gmail.com.

St. Mary's Contacts

Sacramental Emergency: (402) 486-8655

Bulletin Request: Ann Borer annreneej@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus: Jeremy Vrana (402) 853-7300

PCCW Funeral Group: Gladys Wagner (402) 628-5345 or Mary Osterloh (402) 708-0284

	Last Week's Actual Collection	Last Week's Budgeted Collection needed	Year to Date Actual Collections	Year to Date Budgeted Collections needed
St. Mary's	\$ 1,776	\$ 1,518	\$ 38,566	\$ 40,988
St. Joseph's	\$ 5,931	\$ 3,384	\$ 85,646	\$ 91,374

Local News

St. Joseph's ladies: The 2026 Sodality work lists have been emailed out and are available in the back of church. Please take the list with your name on it - thank you! If you are not on the work list, please complete the contact information form (on the table in the narthex) and return it to Nicole Trutna or put it in the offertory basket, so that you can be included. Please know that if you have been left out, it was unintentional!

St. Joseph's - Cleaning the Church in January: Sodality members responsible for cleaning the church during the month of Lynze Cihal, Marie Gruenes, Ali Opp, Shelly Kostal, and Sophie Meduna.

St Anne's Altar Sodality is hosting a **parish breakfast on Sunday, January 11th after the 8am Mass** at St Joseph Parish Hall. The December 2025 and January 2026 groups are in charge. See you then! Also, St. Anne Sodality is still looking for a volunteer for Sodality Vice-President! We need a vice president to step in when needed, and to prepare to take on the presidency in two years.

"Knights of Columbus 1833 John Paul II Council Free Throw Contest will be held on Sunday, January 11th at the St. Wenceslaus School gym. Enter through the east door. Registration at 12pm and the competition will start at 1pm. Ages 9-14 (age as of January 1st), boys and girls divisions. Winners of each age division will qualify for districts. No cost for entry and prizes for the winners. Please join us and give your child a chance to shoot for the stars!"

Join us at St. John Nepomucene FEBRUARY 14TH for the debut of Pizza, Puzzles, and Pivos/Pop! With 2 challenge categories available, this is sure to be a night of fun and competition!

>> Adult Challenge (age 21+)—Teams of 4 will finish a 500-piece puzzle, 1 large pizza, and a 12-pack of beer. Cost \$100/team.

>> Teen Challenge (age 12+)—Teams of 4 will finish a 300-piece puzzle, 1 large pizza, and a 2-liter bottle of pop. Cost \$60/team.

Each team will race to finish their puzzle, pizza, and drinks. Prizes go to the top 2 teams!

6PM check-in, puzzling starts at 6:30PM—Additional drinks and pizza will be available for purchase

Register your team here: <https://forms.gle/5S1mBM5HrTAsfZX6> or call (402) 646-0592. Pay at the door.

St. John Nepomucene Parish is hosting a Confirmation retreat on Saturday, March 21, 2026 from 9 am to 1 pm. A team of students from Benedictine College's Ministry Retreat Team will be coming for the retreat. Father Vandewalle would like to open this retreat to any students in the Wahoo Deanery who might need an alternate to what their parish is offering. If you have a confirmand who would like to attend, please share this online registration form with the family: Confirmation Retreat--St. John Nepomucene Church, Weston NE; Saturday, March 21, 2026 – Fill out form We need to have the final number in early February, so the due date is Monday, Feb. 2. The cost is \$10 per student and checks should be made payable to St. John Nepomucene Parish.

St. Vitus (Touhy) Catholic Church Soup Dinner - Sunday, February 8, 2026 at St. John School Gym in Weston - 11am - 1:30pm Serving Chili, Chicken Noodle and Ham & Bean Soups; Free Will Offering! Live Polka Music! Silent and Live Auctions; Raffle; Baked Goods! Fun for All!!

Diocese and National News

SEMINARIAN PRAYER CALENDAR: Please pray for seminarian Henry Stuhr attending St. Gregory the Great Seminary, son of Kevin & Betsy Stuhr from St. Wenceslaus Parish in Wahoo.

Marriage Encounter Experience At North American Martyrs Church Feb. 20-22 in Lincoln "Communication enhancing our Marriage" Register right-away to save a place Call/Text 402-370-5839



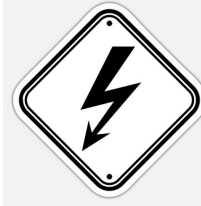
Call Adam to schedule an appointment (402) 277-0349
www.wahoosunrise.com
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 Owner/Stylist

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Anthony Lombardo

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If you're interested in **advertising in the bulletin.**

Please reach out to Ryan Mascarello at rjmascarello@gmail.com

DEADLINE: Bulletin announcement/additions should be requested before noon on Thursday of each week. Please email Ann Borer at annreneej@gmail.com



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