



# Howard County Catholics

Sts. Peter & Paul | St. Anthony | St. Joseph  
February 16, 2025

**Rev. Vincent L. Parsons**  
J.C.L., Pastor

[pastor@howardcountycatholics.com](mailto:pastor@howardcountycatholics.com)

**Rev. Mr. Neil Baquet**  
Deacon

[deacon@howardcountycatholics.com](mailto:deacon@howardcountycatholics.com)

**Julie Dush**  
Homebound Pastoral Minister  
308-968-3421

**Judi Baker**  
SPP Office Manager  
Monday-Friday 8am-4pm  
308-754-4002  
[office@howardcountycatholics.com](mailto:office@howardcountycatholics.com)

**Kathy Gorecki**  
SA & SJ Office Manager  
308-336-3351

**Tri-Parish Website:**  
[www.howardcountycatholics.com](http://www.howardcountycatholics.com)

### **Daily Mass Schedule:**

Tuesday-Thursday 8:30am SPP  
Friday 9:00am -  
at Matelyn/Brookfield

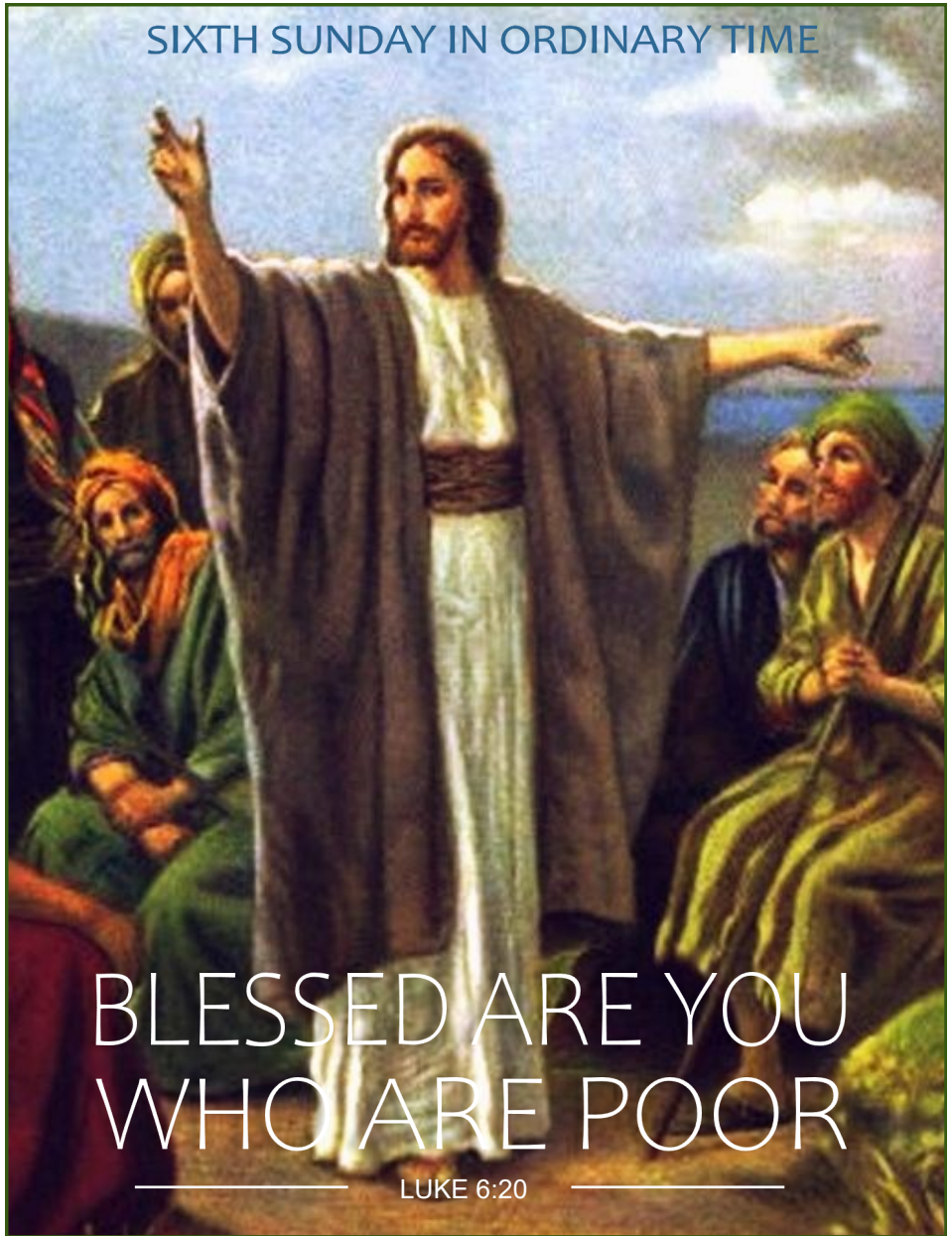
### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturdays at 4:30pm or  
by appointment

### **Sacrament of Baptism**

Please call the Parish Office  
(308) 754-4002

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



BLESSED ARE YOU  
WHO ARE POOR

LUKE 6:20



One God  
One Family  
One Hope

**Sts. Peter & Paul**  
713 Elm Street  
St. Paul, NE 68873  
(308)754-4002  
Saturday Mass 5:00PM  
Sunday Mass 8AM & 10AM

**St. Anthony**  
103 Kerns Avenue  
Farwell, NE 68838  
(308)336-3351  
MASS 1ST SATURDAY OF  
EACH MONTH 7:00PM

**St. Joseph**  
1803 Highway 11  
Elba, NE 68835  
(308)336-3351  
MASS 3RD SATURDAY OF  
EACH MONTH 6:30PM

### Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

Heaven is like... Heaven is... How do you describe heaven? We, as Christians, are aware of heaven as the experience where we will come to know as the greatest joy of our existence. We may try to explain heaven as similar to the feelings associated with an extraordinary moment in one's life – a wedding day or the birth of a child. Or we may attempt to make the connections with heaven through sensory events such as the smell and the beauty of a hillside of colorful flowers or the taste and smell of eating a piece of warm blueberry pie with a scoop of vanilla ice cream. Most of us, on reflection, can give an example of how we would imagine heaven. However, no matter the extent of our imagination and sensations, we cannot easily describe the kingdom of heaven. We will not fully appreciate heaven until we leave our mortal bodies and return the embrace of God's loving arms.

What then is your greatest desire? This might be a leading question after our thoughts about heaven but if we really think about it, there can only be one choice. Unfortunately, there is a growing number of people who question the presence of God in their lives, and their greatest desire may lead to something they can physically experience. For those who have no concerns about the entry into heaven, they concentrate on extracting as much happiness as imaginable in this life. These individuals strive to seek to fulfill all their fantasies, to own the fastest car, to possess the newest electronics, or go on the perfect vacation and their list becomes never-ending. Even after all these experiences, there is still something missing. They race through life and never find the elusive ability to be happy. Often we shake our heads and think how tragic these people are, who live extravagant lifestyles but still suffer from drug abuse, divorces or suicide.

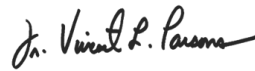
The idea of "If only I get this or do this, then I will be happy" is an illusion, whether we are rich or poor, famous or ordinary. We lie to ourselves that things will fulfill our deepest desires. We lie to ourselves that we can buy happiness. No matter the money or the dreams, heaven will not be found on earth. If we were to achieve all of our desires today, tomorrow will we still not hunger for something? Will, we not still encounter sorrow? Will, we not still experience someone's hatred?

Suffering, hunger, and poverty whether physical or spiritual are a part of our human condition. We cannot magically make these afflictions disappear. It is easy to say we have faith but is much more challenging to live out our faith. Our trials and tribulations provide us with the opportunities to grow in faith. Only by turning to the saving power of God will we have relief from our daily suffering and realize the only place where there is true happiness is in heaven.

*Our soul waits for the Lord;  
he is our help and shield.*

*Our heart is glad in him,  
because we trust in his holy name.*

*Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,  
even as we hope in you. (Psalms 33:20-22)*



### Ministry Schedule

#### FEBRUARY 22ND & 23RD

##### SATURDAY 5:00PM MASS

**S:** Michael Happ / Sestaks / Julie Baquet

**GREET:** Chris Dethlefs / Shelly Johns / Amy Christensen / MaryAnn Fredrick

**LECTOR:** Julie Baquet

**EM:** Mary Gappa / Sharon Tibbetts

**S:** Jamie Stepanek / Claire Dubas

##### SUNDAY 8:00AM MASS

**SACRISTAN:** Ken Vincik

**GREET:** Leo & Gina Haggerty Family

**LECTOR:** Travis Hedman

**EM:** Tim & Amy Scheer / Kelsey Scheer

**SERVE:** Boston Bowder / Hallie Bauder

##### SUNDAY 10:00AM MASS

**SACRISTAN:** Russ Kosmicki/Bill Gregoski

**GREET:** 4th Grade RE/ Christi Stepanek

**LECTOR:** Linda Kezeor

**EM:** Matt & Ann Rief / Gabe Rief /

Heather Valasek / Sarah Townsend

**SERVE:** 4th Grade Religious Ed.

### This Week's Schedule

#### Monday, February 17

No Daily Mass

OCIA Class 6:30pm (PLC Conference Room)

#### Tuesday, February 18

Daily Mass 8:30am (SPP)

Intention: †Florence Duester

By Deb Placek

Catholic Daughters Meeting 7pm (PLC)

#### Wednesday, February 19

Daily Mass 8:30am (SPP)

Intention: †Brent & †Emily Wysocki

By Kathy Carson

Religious Ed. 5th-11th 7pm (PLC Classrooms)

#### Thursday, February 20

Daily Mass 8:30am (SPP)

Intention: Jason Casteel

By Tom & Pat Knutson

#### Friday, February 21

Daily Mass 9:00am (Matelyn)

Intention: †Dan Gorecki

By P.J. & Theresa Wood

#### Saturday, February 22

Reconciliation 4:30pm (SPP)

Weekend Mass 5:00pm (SPP)

Intention: †John & †Victoria Dush

#### Sunday, February 23

Weekend Mass 8:00am (SPP)

Intention: People of the Parishes

Religious Ed. Pre-4th 9am (PLC Classrooms)

**Father Vince's Birthday Breakfast by CCW**

9-11:30am Parish Life Center

Weekend Mass 10:00am (SPP)

Intention: †Karen Killion

By Jim & Judy Rose

*Please get Bulletin information in to the office this week by 1:00pm on Monday, February 17. Thank you!*

**PARISH OFFICE will be CLOSED**  
February 20th & 21st



Confirmation Class Retreat 2025

### Tri-Parish Events & News

**RETREAT APPRECIATION**

Thank you to Father Vince for having Adoration & Reconciliation for the Confirmation Retreat. Thank you to Carrie & Dan Vech for leading this great group of youth and for getting it all organized. We are thankful for the excellent UNK/ UNL college student leaders. Thank you to all the parents for provided funding &/or food also.

**ASH WEDNESDAY MASS**

March 5th: 7am/ 12:05pm/ 7pm SPP

**Upcoming Schedule:**

**Catholic Daughters** - February 18th, 7pm at SPP Parish Life Center

**Father Vince's Birthday** - February 23rd, following 8am Mass to 11:30am in the Parish Life Center!

**INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

There will be NO weekday morning daily Mass on days that St. Paul Public School is CLOSED or has a LATE START due to inclement weather.

**SUMMER RETREAT REGISTRATION**

6th - 12th grade students wishing to attend a Diocesan summer retreat, **PLEASE** get register ASAP! <https://gidiocese.org/youth-events> HG Extreme Faith is already full, but they do have a waiting list.

**St. Anthony CCW:**

The Council of Catholic Women of St. Anthony will Meet Wednesday, February 19, at 7:00pm in the Farwell Church Rectory

Knights of Columbus \* Sts. Peter & Paul CCW

## FRIDAY NIGHT LENTEN FISH FRY

MARCH 7TH • MARCH 21ST • APRIL 4TH

Saints Peter & Paul Parish Life Center 5:00 - 7:00PM

LENT is coming upon us quickly...  
March 5th is Ash Wednesday!

Proceeds from our first Fish Fry, on March 7th, will be designated to support our Parish Hall Building Fund (Debt Relief).

**DIOCESAN APPEAL**  
OCTOBER 2024 - SEPTEMBER 2025

**TRI-PARISH UPDATE** \$goal % / household %

St. Anthony -	41%	50%
St. Joseph -	16%	38%
Sts. P & P -	36%	64%

PLEASE  OR WRITE IN AMOUNT

<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50
<input type="checkbox"/> \$40	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10
<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____		

Cash  Check # \_\_\_\_\_

**COLLECTION ENVELOPES**

Thank you for checking the amount & type of contribution on your envelope, it saves our collection counters a lot of time!

**Finance Corner**

Sunday Collections & OSV Online Giving  
**February 3 - 9, 2025**

**The Lord's Portion Farwell & Elba**

St. Anthony Church	\$435.00
St. Joseph	\$265.00

**The Lord's Portion Sts. Peter & Paul**

Actual General Fund	\$3356.00
OSV On-Line General Fund	\$1511.00
Parish Life Center	\$257.00
Religious Education	\$5.00
Restoring Our Father's House	\$5210.00

**February Totals as of 2/2/25**

Monthly Budget	\$20000.00
Actual General Fund	\$7572.00
Online General Fund	\$2167.00
Monthly <b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$10261.00</b>

**Special Collections**

DIOCESE: March 5 - Eastern Europe  
PARISH: March 5 - Ash Wednesday

**THANK YOU**  
for your continued support!

### Area Events & News

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN OYSTER FEED**

Wood River/Shelton Knight of Columbus  
**February 22, 2025 5:00-7:00pm**  
St. Mary's Marian Hall 408 W 11 St. Wood River - Free Will Donation (suggested \$12/plate) Menu: Mountain Oysters, Shrimp, Chicken Tenders, Bake Beans, Cole Slaw, Buns, Tea & Water. Also a Cash bar.

**MAGNIFICAT BRUNCH**

Ministry to Catholic Ladies  
**February 22, 2025 9am to Noon MT**  
Holy Rosary Lyceum - Alliance, NE  
Guest Speaker - Larry Snyder  
Join us for prayer, music, a meal & fellowship. Cost \$12. Contact: Teresa Nelson via email: turts@charter.net or cell phone 308-760-3070

**HEROIC VIRTUE FAMILY RETREAT**

**Early Bird Registration \$350/Family now through February 28, 2025**  
Camp August 1-3, 2025 at Crossing Retreat Center in Lexington, NE  
A Retreat for families with children ages 5-12, real life formation, fun family activities, liturgy, & worship. Visit: [givocations.org/family-retreat](http://givocations.org/family-retreat)

**HEARTS RESTORED NEBRASKA**

A healing ministry for those suffering from the impact of abortion. Visit: [www.HeartsRestoredNebraska.com](http://www.HeartsRestoredNebraska.com)  
Available: confidential hotline, confidential e-mail, mentoring, counseling, retreat information, spiritual services, healing for men, & other online resources.

Todd & Cindy Peters  
Riley & Katlynn Peters

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BARBARA A. WROBLEWSKI  
JULIE K.W. GAWRYCH  
Attorneys at Law

617 Howard Ave.  
P.O. Box 23  
St. Paul, NE 68873

308-754-4442



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