



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 15, 2018

Pastor: Rev. Michael Houlihan
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PARISH WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

ENTER THE MASS! Glorify God!

Monday, July 16

8:00 a.m. +Eva Krebsbach

Tuesday, July 17

8:00 a.m. +All Souls Day Intentions

Wednesday, July 18

8:00 a.m. +Carlos Sweatt

Thursday, July 19

8:00 a.m. +Mary Lou Kocanda

Friday, July 20

8:00 a.m. +Don Garnett

Saturday, July 21

8:00 a.m. +Margaret Stransky

5:00 p.m. People of the Parish

Sunday, July 22

8:00 a.m. +Ron Holstein

10:30 a.m. +Rev. Melvin Rempe

CONFESSIONS:

Weekdays: Before Mass

Saturdays, 3:30 - 4:45 PM

Sundays, 7:30 - 7:45 AM and 9:30 - 10:15 AM

Head Count at Mass last weekend: 623

Contributions for July 8, 2018

General Collection at Mass	\$	6,944.98
General Online Giving	\$	7,997.50
Debt Reduction	\$	1,565.00
Debt Reduction <i>Online Giving</i>	\$	905.00
Teachers/Staff	\$	423.00
Teachers/Staff <i>Online Giving</i>	\$	80.00
Peter's Pence <i>Online Giving</i>	\$	25.00
Utilities	\$	330.00
Utilities <i>Online Giving</i>	\$	40.00

Prayer requests? Please call 296-4404 or 296-3039 or email chsprayerchain@gmail.com

To be on the Holy Hour of Adoration schedule, please leave a message for Sue at 296-5047.

Are you traveling this summer? You can find the Mass times for most anywhere you go: www.masstimes.org

Church cleaning reminder: For July 21 (at 9:00am): Kayhanfar, Keruzis, Keruzis, Keruzis, Kief, King, Klinefelter, Knust

Raffle Items Wanted for the upcoming Fall Festival! ...Such as furniture, appliances, dishes, bikes, sports gear, services, etc. Items needed by August 26. If you have questions, email CHSFallFestival@gmail.com. Thank you!

Work being done:

The first phase of some needed major repairs has started. The ground under the west end of the Commons had been sinking, requiring multiple bracings over the past few years. That type of fix showed signs of becoming unsustainable, so this past week we corrected the problem with mudjacking and stabilizing the footings.

In a section of the school, water leakage problems often occurred because of poor drainage of rain waters. Work has begun to both repair the damage and to change the drainage pattern.

These are somewhat major repairs – it's good to get working on them, yet they are costly, of course, and there is more that will need to be taken care of. Thank you for your continued generosity as Father Houlihan strives to serve the Lord in deciding the path to take for upkeep of our buildings, guided by careful research by our Building & Grounds Committee and the studying of our parish's monetary situation by our Finance Council.

Knights of Columbus – Council 1966 / George Johnson GK 235-2518

July Breakfast – The Knights will be serving breakfast this Sunday after the 8:00 and 10:30 Masses. The proceeds from this breakfast will go towards the rectory roof cost overrun. The Knights will be serving pancakes, French toast, sausage, scrambled eggs and apple sauce. After the 10:30 Mass, there will be also be smoked pork loin.

Officer's Meeting – Saturday, July 28th, 7:00pm at Brother George Johnson's home in Beaver Lake.

St. John Lunch Program is looking for volunteers to help in the kitchen on Thursdays from 10:55-12:45 during the school year. Volunteers would help serve food and clean up afterwards. You must be able to lift 20 pounds and be on your feet the entire time. This can be on either a weekly, biweekly or monthly volunteer basis. Bonus: you can have lunch with your child or grandchild! The time does count towards your stewardship hours. Contact Lisa Platt at: lisa1016@charter.net.

Some upcoming dates:

July 15 – Knight's free-will donation Breakfast in the gym after Masses

July 17 – CDA "Picnic" at 12:00 Noon

July 21/22 – Mission Co-op priest here

Be sure to check the front table in the Commons for most current notices' details

This week's featured Sisters in Formation: From the School Sisters of Christ the King: Sr. Peter Marie Lewandowski from Overland Park, KS, and Sr. Mary Immaculata Bader from Gresham, NE, who both have made their 1st Vows. Please pray for all our sisters in formation, and for our seminarians, especially Adam Bohan from our parish.



St. John the Baptist School Band... We are building up our band program and would like to have a variety of instruments on hand for the students to try out. If you happen to have a band instrument that you would like to donate to the school's program, we would so greatly appreciate it.

PASTOR'S NOTES:

Today is the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, but for those who pay attention to the feast days of the various saints, this is also the traditional date of commemorating St. Swithun, an English bishop in the ninth century. The legend in England connected with him goes thus: St. Swithun's day if thou dost rain/For forty days it will remain/St. Swithun's day if thou be fair/For forty days 'twill rain nae mare. One variation (in Buckinghamshire) says: If on St. Swithun's day it really pours/You're better off to stay indoors. Supposedly on his deathbed, the bishop begged that he should be buried outside the north wall of his cathedral where passers-by should pass over his grave and raindrops from the eaves drop upon it. Whether this is true or not, we certainly continue to depend upon God for all good things, and pray for favorable weather.

It has been about one year since Noni and Don Thiesen and I planted four cherry trees north of the grotto area (and yes, you can plant trees in July—you just need to water them a lot!). As I write this, all four have made it well through the last year (although fences had to be put up rather quickly last summer when the local deer were using the free greens for their salad bar). Out of all four, there is one cherry that was developing on one of the four trees. Not a big harvest the first year—I am sure some bird got the “crop” by now, but a very promising start for the future. I have been asked why I plant cherry trees every place that I have lived as pastor (Brainard, McCook, Blessed Sacrament in Lincoln, St. Michael's in Hastings, and now Plattsmouth) and the reason is very simple. I want to be able to answer, whenever I leave a place, the question about what I accomplished during my time there. I can give the honest answer that I planted trees—even if there is nothing else that I can point to—spiritual work is hard to evaluate in this life. I am a big fan of the idea which came from our famous neighbor who once lived to the south of us, in Nebraska City, J. Sterling Morton. He is the one who popularized the idea of Arbor Day, because except for along the Missouri River where we are and along some rivers and creeks and a few other places, there are few or no native trees in Nebraska. Since “the LORD God then took the man (i.e., Adam, the first man) and settled him in the garden of Eden,

to cultivate and care for it” (Gen. 2:15), we have all been commissioned to take care of nature—to use it, certainly, but also to manage it wisely, to be good stewards. Whatever growth that occurs, whether physically or spiritually, should be attributed to God. St. Paul once wrote: “I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth. Therefore neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, Who causes the growth” (1 Cor. 3:6f). Blessed be God, Who causes the growth! I love our Church of the Holy Spirit grounds. We are close to our Creator here. Thanks to all the people that make our land beautiful (and the same for our cemetery!). Thanks also to our farmers and gardeners who grow the good things that we depend on for food. You are special instruments of God and a sign of hope to the hungry. If they can have Johnny Appleseed in some of the more eastern states, we can have “Charlie Cherry-Pit” here in Nebraska! (For the record, though, we started with seedlings and not pits!).

What are some of the things that we can do to help with the spiritual growth of people—how can we, as a parish, help people grow closer to God? There are a number of programs that have been used here and other places to enhance the opportunity for the Holy Spirit to do His work—Cursillo and SINE or Light of the World come to mind, and things like Bible studies and our fine RCIA program. Are there any that would be willing to take part in a weekly journey (for oneself, of course, but also for others) to help the spiritual growth of the people in Plattsmouth—not just our own parishioners, although they would be important “targets,” but even the larger community in general? Do we not have something special to share with our brothers and sisters? We are not talking about “sheep-stealing” or proselytizing, but helping people have a greater conversion, or “turning toward” the Lord. That is surely why we even exist as a parish and as a people—to bring the Kingdom of God to others. Bishop Flavin, our bishop from 1967-92, used to say that our job is not “to keep the faith,” but rather, “to spread the faith.” Some of us are looking at different ideas and models to help us, but we need the prayers and ideas of many of the rest of you as well. What do you think?

Father Houlihan