

Saint Cecilia Cathedral

Mother Church of the
Catholic Archdiocese of Omaha

Where our mission is to bring all to the beauty, truth, and joy of Christ.



SALVATION

December 22, 2024
4th Sunday of Advent

701 N 40th Street, Omaha NE 68131 | StCeciliaCathedral.org

Weekend Holy Mass: Sunday 8:30 am & 10:30 am & 5:30 pm

Saint Cecilia Cathedral Spiritual Leadership

Most Rev. George Lucas, Archbishop
Rev. Jeremy Hans, Parish Pastor/Cathedral Rector
 jjhans@archomaha.org

Rev. Zach Eischeid, Associate Pastor
 zpeischeid@archomaha.org

Rev. Eliot Schwer, Associate Pastor
 easchwer@archomaha.org

Rev. Georges Sokpo, Associate Pastor
 gksokpo@archomaha.org

Tim Bloomingdale, Deacon
 timbloomingdale@skuttccatholic.com

Jim Tardy, Deacon
 jgtardy@archomaha.org



Dear Saint Cecilia family,

A merry and blessed Christmas to you! May the love of our newborn savior fill you with His peace and joy. With Mary and Joseph, let us gaze on the face on the child Jesus and wonder at God's incredible love for us, a love so great that God would send His only Son to become one of us, first as a little child, and then to die and rise for us, to save us from our sins and offer us eternal life.

I am once again very excited and very blessed to be part of Christmas here at St. Cecilia Cathedral. It is truly a wonderful experience. I pray that this Christmas you and your loved ones will grow closer to our Lord and feel His loving presence in your lives. May that love fill your heart with gratitude and fill your home with joy. May the serene love of the Holy Family draw our families, our parish and our community closer together. And may this love pour out of our hearts and our hands to those around us, so that our St. Cecilia family will carry out our mission to bring the light and hope of Christ to the world.

May our Lord Jesus Christ, born to us in a manger, bless you and your loved ones abundantly this Christmas and always. ~ Fr. Hans

Masses and Intentions

Saturday	December 21	
7:30 am	Deacon Dave Gurney +	
5:30 pm	Leo Batenhorst +	Fr. Sokpo
Sunday	December 22	
8:30 am	Saint Cecilia Parishioners	Fr. Hans
10:30 am	Eileen Raun + (B)	Fr. Sokpo
Monday	December 23	
11:15 am	Sylvia Kaminski + (B)	
Tuesday	December 24	
11:15 am	Maria Lanh Nguyen +	
5:30 pm	Mary Chase + (B)	Fr. Hans
Midnight	Archbishop's intention	Abp Lucas
Wednesday	December 25	
8:30 am	Blake Smola +	Fr. Sokpo
10:30 am	Saint Cecilia Parishioners	Fr. Hans
Thursday	December 26	
11:15 am	RoseMary Hanson +	
Friday	December 27	
11:15 am	Daniel Musilek +	
Saturday	December 28	
7:30 am	Maria Lanh Nguyen +	
5:30 pm	Saint Cecilia Parishioners	Fr. Sokpo
Sunday	December 29	
8:30 am	Tom Hennig + (B)	Fr. Hans
10:30 am	John Kuhlman +	Fr. Sokpo



Saint Cecilia Cathedral

Come Home to Cathedral for Christmas!

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24

5:10 pm: Musical prelude: Cathedral musicians
 5:30 pm: Vigil Mass
 11:00 pm: Christmas concert: Cathedral musicians
 Midnight: Holy Mass with Archbishop George Lucas



Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25

8:30 am: Holy Mass
 10:30 am: Holy Mass



Solemnity of Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday, Dec 31, 5:30 pm: Vigil Mass
 Wednesday, January 1, 9:00 am: Holy Mass

We wish you a Christmas season filled with the wonder of the birth of Christ!!





CELEBRATING ALL THINGS CATHEDRAL

Blessings from Fr. Georges Sokpo

Dear Beloved in Christ,
Praise be Jesus Christ...

Another Christmas season is with us. As we celebrate this Christmas season, let us remember the profound message of hope, love, and joy that the birth of Jesus Christ brings to the world. In the quiet town of Bethlehem, God sent His Son as a light to dispel the darkness and a Savior to redeem humanity. This humble beginning reminds us that greatness often arises from simplicity, and miracles unfold in unexpected ways.

Let this season inspire you to embrace the peace and goodwill that Jesus embodies. Reach out to those in need, share kindness with strangers, and strengthen the bonds of love within your families and community. Just as the shepherds and wise men journeyed to meet the Christ Child, let us also draw closer to God, seeking His wisdom and guidance in our lives.

Remember, the message of Christmas is not just for a day but for every moment of our lives. Christ's love, which transformed the world, is alive in each of us. As we reflect on His birth, let us renew our faith, trust in His promises, and commit to living lives that honor Him.

May this Christmas fill your hearts with immeasurable joy and your homes with unending blessings. Merry, Merry Christmas!

A Message from Fr. Eliot Schwer

One of the great daily works of the priesthood is praying the Liturgy of the Hours. A couple of weeks ago I got to read my favorite passage from the entire Office of Readings. It is from a homily by St. Peter Chrysologus. For me, it distills the reason why, when one is presented with the truth, he will want to begin the journey of seeking God with all of his heart, the enterprise that the season of Advent presents to us anew each year.

As we celebrate the Christmas season, let us gather around the Nativity with the Three Wise Men who are such great examples of carrying on this ultimate adventure of adventures! May our hearts burn as ardently as theirs to see Christ coming into the world!



Greetings from Fr. Zach Eischeid

Merry Christmas! We finally welcome our Savior into the world this Christmas. What joyful and beautiful news we get to share! Just as parents and families get the joy of welcoming children into their life, we have the joy of God Incarnate coming to our life. He comes to us. How good our God is!

I hope you all have a wonderful and merry Christmas! May Christ grant you peace, joy, and love!!

Cathedral Campus Events

Sunday	December 22	
11:30 am	Baptism: Ayan Heideman	[NAVE]
Monday	December 23	
6:30 pm	Seeking Truth Bible Study	[PCCR]
Tuesday	December 24	
5:30 pm	Christmas Eve Mass	[NAVE]
11:00 pm	Christmas Concert	[NAVE]
Midnight	Christmas Midnight Mass	[NAVE]
Wednesday	December 25	
8:30 am	Christmas Mass	[NAVE]
10:00 am	Karenni Christmas Mass	[GYM]
10:30 am	Christmas Mass	[NAVE]
Thursday	December 26	
Noon	Eucharistic Adoration	[OLNC]
Sunday	December 29	
2:00 pm	Jubilee Year Opening Liturgy	[NAVE]

Be Invitational Disciples

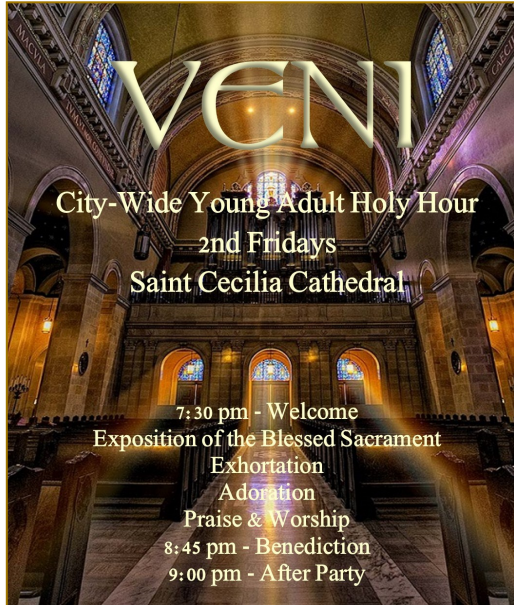
Eucharistic Adoration at Cathedral

Adoration in Our Lady of Nebraska Chapel

Thursdays Noon to 6:00 pm

Consider signing up or stopping in.

Contact Brenda Novak at 402-203-8802.



Advent: Preparation

Confession

Sunday, December 22, 11:45 am - 1:00 pm

Monday, December 23, 11:50 am - 1:00 pm

Monday, December 23, 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Knights Family of the Month

The December 2024 Knights of Columbus Family of the Month is **Thomas & Jane Werner**. Thomas has been a Knight since 1962. Jane is an active member of our Catholic Daughters court. They both have been active with the parish, and still continue to be even though they currently live in Papillion. We honor them and their dedication to all things Cathedral.

Everlasting God, strengthen and sustain Tom, Jane, and all who volunteer in our church; that with patience and understanding they may love and care for Your people.

St. Margaret Mary Parish Advent Reconciliation Schedule:

Monday, December 23

7:00 – 7:20 am & 3:00 - 4:00 pm

Tuesday, December 24

7:00 – 7:20 am

St. Margaret Mary Parish Christmas Mass Schedule:

Tuesday, December 24

5:00 pm (Children's Liturgy) & 8:00 pm

Wednesday, December 25

7:30 am & 10:00 am

Blessing of the Christmas Creche

Father Jeremy will bless our Nativity Scene, set up in the Nash Chapel, after the 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass. We will have a gift for the children at each of our Christmas Masses to help them relate to this beautiful event. Bring your families to pray before the Nativity.

Support Our Parish

We appreciate all contributions to our ministries.

Contact John Wees, Development Director,
to discuss your year-end giving options: 402-551-2313.



Flower Festival

Thursday, January 23 through

Sunday, January 26

One of the city's longest-running and best-loved arts events, featuring this year's theme of 'Light', with Nebraska's most creative and distinguished floral artists. Watch for details of event times, receptions, and patron events.



Volunteer of the Year

Coach Steve Ramacciotti has been selected as our 2025 Comedy & Cuisine Honored Volunteer! Make plans to attend this school fundraising event March 29, 2025.



Be Missional Disciples

Outreach Ministry: Saint Vincent de Paul

Kevin Vaughan, Cathedral SVDP Coordinator 402-551-2313

This outreach ministry has a mission to witness God's love by embracing all works of charity and justice. The Conference responds weekly to requests for food, utilities or other emergency needs and also collaborates with the central office or parish conferences for special or larger projects.

We encounter Jesus!

Our parish is the home, heart, and foundation of the Archdiocese of Omaha.

We minister to people throughout the Omaha area and beyond.

We welcome people into a worshipping, ministering, loving community, and graciously accept our leadership role in the Archdiocese and community.

Our Cathedral parish consists of over 930 households.

We share the grace of God through all of our ministries.

We equip Jesus' disciples!

Our school was founded in 1907 in the Dominican tradition of prayer, study, community, and preaching.

We welcome and educate children in PreK through 8th grade.

Our mission is to teach and live the Catholic faith within a nurturing family-like community, to teach reverence for life and respect for all,

and to foster each student's academic potential. Students have opportunities to share the fruits of their studies and prayer through a life of faith and service.

We live Jesus' mercy!

One of our largest ministries, our on-campus childcare center is licensed for children 6 weeks to 13 years old.

Using a variety of experiences, learning is exciting and functional. With Jesus Christ as our model, through dedicated partnership of parents, educators, and parish, we guide children in spiritual growth and success.

Activities for social and cognitive development are taught in a safe, loving environment.

Where's the Roast Beast?

Prior to Advent a few years ago, Cathedral Communications Director Sheila Graham and I were discussing the fact that **there is no single element known by all as the "Christmas ____ at the Cathedral."** Sure, we have the beautiful, giant wreath hanging at the crossing, but that is an Advent icon. We have the nativity set in the Nash Chapel, but that is not, in and of itself, iconic and closely associated with our identity.

We have the Midnight Mass¹, filled with parishioners and visitors, Archbishop, choir, organ, and brass, joyously celebrating the birth of Christ – but that is a beautiful shared experience, not an iconic...thing. There is no single, visual element that everyone in the community associates with the Cathedral at Christmas. We felt like Catholic Grinches², and pondered, "Why don't we have one?"



So we sat, with our churchy-feet ice cold in the snow, puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so?

We don't have an icon, no bright yellow star; no living nativity to drive past in your car.

No bright string of lights hung high on the towers; we don't even have frankincense burning for hours.

We don't have a thing we can point to and brag; no tall Christmas statue, no waving silk flag.

And we puzzled and puzzled 'till our puzzlers were sore. Then we thought of something we hadn't before:

What if at Cathedral, perhaps, Christmas means a little bit more?

What if Cathedral, we thought, doesn't need an icon? We've been here a hundred years without one.

The miracle is our community gathered as one; at Saint Cecilia, for Christmas, we rejoice in His Son."



We don't need an iconic Christmas element. Not a tree, not a star, not a creche set, nor even a giant wreath. The fact that the message of Christmas: Emmanuel, the miracle that **God is With Us**, is celebrated here, is more than enough. And that miracle occurs every single day, and twice on Sundays, at the Cathedral.

~ Yours in Christ, John Wees, Development Director

¹You wouldn't believe the number of calls we get at the Administration Office asking what time this Mass starts.

²Apologies to Theodor Seuss Geisel.

Be Intentional Disciples

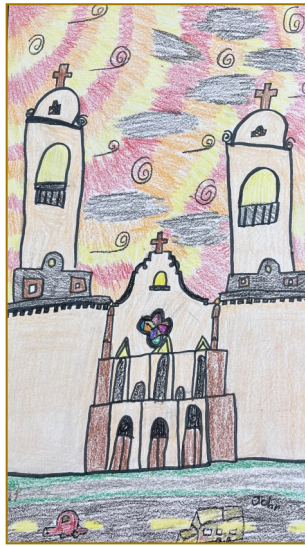
Personal Prayer Time

The Cathedral is open for individual visits for prayer:

MTWF 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Thursday 8:00 am to 6:00 pm
Saturday 7:00 am to 7:00 pm
Sunday 7:30 am to 6:00 pm

Praying for Cathedral Ministries & Members

Join us on **Thursdays 2:30-3:00 pm** from wherever you are to pray for the priests, deacons, ministries, staff, and families of Cathedral. May the Lord work through them to reach those in need of His love. Call Sheila Graham to be added to the weekly email list 402-551-2313 or email sgraham@stceciacathedral.org.



Our Cathedral Prayer

Father of holiness and power, we give You thanks and praise through Jesus Christ, Your Son. For You have blessed our parish community, and Your presence makes our church a house of prayer.

May all who gather in faith to listen to Your word and celebrate Your sacraments, experience the presence of Christ.

May our parish community joyfully go forth to love and serve You and to proclaim Christ's name to all those we encounter, for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Praying for Each Other

Sheryl G, Jack Matthew Pohren, Rhonda Bohaty, Chuck R, Makayla Abney, Nancy Ruiz Guzman, Joshua Pieper, Doug Barak, Tom Jacobson family, Dan Boeckman, Adrian Smoot, Jesse Edwards, Hallie Neill, Steven Schultze, Robbie Dylla, Patrick Moore, Noah Galley, Rose Davis, Nina Holiday, Jen N, Mary Werner, Helen McGill, Rita Petska, Angela K. Hernandez, Andrea Enga, Minerva Salazar, Hitosis family, Mary B, Terri Hennig, Jan Limpach, Susan Walters, Bob and Becky Sabata, Maria, Anna, Jasper, Lynndell Skarnulis, Ron Baxter, Kathleen Schuler, Will Woleben, Josh Benk, Henry B, Kevin Jackson, Wallace family, Graham family, Allen family, Steve Caldwell, Maureen Allen, Linda J, Mary J, John Kennedy, Pat Boganowski, Marie Bruno, Abbey, Katrina Conway, Casey, Mariann, Katie Gross, Tim Rourke, Jean, David P, Mark Morehouse, Jose Gomez, Nina, Vito C, John Sweeney, Mary Helen Diaz, Bob Ollie, Cindy Lopez, Danielle Talkington, Grace Thomsen, Bob Ebert, Rebecca Rosas, Peter Rinn, Sara Hopp, Virginia Higgins, Marilyn Knox, Phyllis Heimann, Don Wall, Rita Wall, Darlene Koley, Chris Peasley, Don Cutshall, Edward I. Powell, Saint Cecilia priests, deacons, parish, school, childcare staff, families, and friends.

This is an important charitable ministry for our Cathedral community. Contact Sheila at sgraham@stceciacathedral.org or call the Cathedral Administration Office at 402-551-2313 to get a name on/off of this list.

What are the Core Beliefs of the Catholic Faith?

The core beliefs of the Catholic faith are found in the Nicene Creed.

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.



Sacraments at Saint Cecilia

Holy Mass

Sunday 8:30 am and 10:30 am (choir)

Daily Mass 11:15 am weekdays

Saturday 7:30 am and 5:30 pm vigil

Confession

Saturday 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Weekdays 11:50 am - 12:10 pm

Or call 402-551-2313 to make an appointment

Baptism Classes

Contact Kay Garfield at 402-551-2313 / kgarfield@stceciliacathedral.org to sign up for the class and set the baptism date.

Marriage Preparation

Parishioners registered and active here for a minimum of 6 months are eligible to set a date. Then at least 6 months of marriage preparation as required by the Archdiocese. Email: kgarfield@stceciliacathedral.org.

Sacraments at Saint Margaret Mary

Holy Mass

Sunday 7:30 am and 10:00 am

Daily Mass 6:30 am weekdays

Saturday 8:30 am and 5:00 pm vigil

Holy Days 6:30 am, Noon, and 5:30 pm

Confession

Saturday 3:30-4:30 pm

Weekdays 7:00 - 7:20 am



Cathedral Administration

402-551-2313

Rev. Jeremy Hans: Parish Pastor/Cathedral Rector
jjhans@archomaha.org

Gerard Alemndjrodo: Campus Business Manager
gerardalem@stceciliacathedral.org

Kay Garfield: Sacraments/Scheduling/Business Office
kgarfield@stceciliacathedral.org

Sheila Graham: Communications/Membership/Ministry
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Kelly Hickey: Campus Technology Director
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Denise Leibert: Childcare Center Director
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Marie Rubis Bauer: Music Director/Cathedral Organist
merubisbauer@archomaha.org

Jessie Stoffel: Grade School Principal
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John Wees: Development Director
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