

Dear Parishioners,

By now, you should have received my Christmas letter. It would be understandable if you have not opened it yet. Surely, it is just asking for money, right? ☺ The letter, in case you have not opened it, announced the new Mass schedule for our parishes slated to begin the weekend of February 5th and 6th. The Parish Councils of St. Thomas More and St. Joan of Arc have had some good discussions over the past year about this change, and they were helpful in advising me. I will admit it is certainly easier to look at the data and theorize about possible changes than actually to decide to make the changes. I do not make these changes lightly. The few change management books I have read over the years all insist on emphasizing the "why" over the "what." You have probably heard me mention the "why" a few times already, but the same books also say I should overcommunicate those reasons. So here goes.

- The Archdiocese of Omaha will experience a loss of 30 priests over the next eight years. We currently have 118 active priests serving in parishes. Ten of those are on loan from other dioceses. In 2030, only eight years from now, we will have 88 active priests. Right now, at St. Joan of Arc and St. Thomas More, we have the luxury of two priests serving our parishes as a team. We cannot predict the future regarding how long that will last. Likely, we will take on another parish soon, but we do not know when that will happen either. I believe if we make ourselves lean (as far as Masses go), maintain our attendance numbers, and continue to build the structure for a family of parishes working together as *Midtown Catholic* right now, we will have fewer changes to contend with as another wave of planning by the Archdiocese takes place in the very near future.

- Fewer Masses allow us to have more volunteer resources such as EMHCs, lectors, and hospitality team members. Fewer Masses enable us to think about the Mass as not just another event but as *the* event of the week. I was recently looking for a stock image for a Facebook post and saw several photos with someone holding a sign that said, "Volunteers Needed." While sometimes volunteers are needed, the true need is the individual's need to serve. The church does not need volunteers nearly as much as we, the church, need to volunteer and serve one another. It is good for us, good for the soul. There is a maxim that says if you really want your parish to thrive, every member needs to become a minister. Members are called to serve, not to be served. The new hospitality teams are an example of this opportunity; you can sign up by emailing TJ Simpson at [tjsimpson@midtowncatholic.church](mailto:tjsimpson@midtowncatholic.church).

- When we enter into phase two of our new Mass schedule (see schedule inside), *Midtown Catholic* will need only one priest to say the Masses, which will be a huge relief from having to find substitute priests when one of us is gone. I am not sure how Fr. Frank and I will schedule our Masses, but I know we would like to make ourselves available when another priest needs help.

We are going through many changes, and I am so proud of everyone's willingness to try to make this work. I think it is working, and we will continue to move forward and adapt as we go.

Blessings,  
Fr. Jeffrey P. Lorig



St. Joan of Arc  
St. Thomas

January 2, 2022



## Essential Information

**Pastor: Rev. Jeffrey Lorig**  
402-556-1456, ext. 207  
email: [jlorig@midtowncatholic.church](mailto:jlorig@midtowncatholic.church)

**Sr. Associate Pastor**  
Rev. Frank Baumert  
402-677-1565  
email: [fjbaumert@archomaha.org](mailto:fjbaumert@archomaha.org)

**Deacons**  
Tim and Ruth Leininger (SJA)  
[tcleininger@archomaha.org](mailto:tcleininger@archomaha.org)  
Ron and Julie Ryan (SJA)  
[rryan@archomaha.org](mailto:rryan@archomaha.org)  
Allan and Sharon Schumacher (STM)  
[acschumacher@archomaha.org](mailto:acschumacher@archomaha.org)  
Matt and Lisa Wolbach (STM)  
[mfwolbach@archomaha.org](mailto:mfwolbach@archomaha.org)

**Office Hours: M-F 8:00 am-4:30pm**  
**Closed for Lunch from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm.**  
Office: 402-556-1456  
Fax: 402-556-1395  
email: [office@midtowncatholic.church](mailto:office@midtowncatholic.church)  
website: [www.midtowncatholic.church](http://www.midtowncatholic.church)

**Director of Finance** - Eric Keisling  
email: [eikeisling@midtowncatholic.church](mailto:eikeisling@midtowncatholic.church)  
**Accounting Coordinator** - Martha N. Saettele  
email: [mnsaettele@midtowncatholic.church](mailto:mnsaettele@midtowncatholic.church)  
**Director of Evangelization** - T.J. Simpson  
email: [tjsimpson@midtowncatholic.church](mailto:tjsimpson@midtowncatholic.church)  
**Religious Educ. Coordinator** - Rachel Bielstein  
email: [rjbielstein@midtowncatholic.church](mailto:rjbielstein@midtowncatholic.church)  
**Office Secretary** - Patty Settles  
email: [pssettles@midtowncatholic.church](mailto:pssettles@midtowncatholic.church)  
**Bulletin Editor** - Linda Boyer  
email: [bulletin@midtowncatholic.church](mailto:bulletin@midtowncatholic.church)

## SACRAMENTS

**Baptism :**  
email [office@midtowncatholic.church](mailto:office@midtowncatholic.church) or call  
402-556-1456 two (2) months prior to Baptism

**Marriage:**  
email [office@midtowncatholic.church](mailto:office@midtowncatholic.church) or call  
402-556-1456 at least six (6) months in advance  
for date and instruction information. Verify  
priest and church availability before reserving  
reception venue.

**Penance:**  
Saturdays, 4:00-4:50 pm  
Anytime by appointment

**Anointing of the Sick:**  
Call 402-556-1456

*Si necesita alguna información o tiene preguntas  
acerca de la iglesia por favor comuníquese con  
Martha Nevárez Saettele al 402-556-1456*

Midtown Catholic  
January 2, 2022



**Mark Your Calendars**  
**St. Thomas More Parish Dinner**  
**Sunday, January 30th, 2022**  
**11:30 am – 6:00 pm**



**Christmas Break Information**  
**Schools/School Offices will be Closed**  
**December 22nd – January 5th**  
**Classes Resume January 6th**

## New Mass Times

### Beginning February 5th-6th

#### Phase 1

|          |          |                 |
|----------|----------|-----------------|
| Saturday | 5:00 pm  | St. Thomas More |
| Saturday | 5:30 pm  | St. Joan of Arc |
| Sunday   | 8:00 am  | St. Joan of Arc |
| Sunday   | 10:30 am | St. Thomas More |

#### Phase 2

When Permission for a 4pm Mass is Given (Coming Soon)

|          |          |                 |
|----------|----------|-----------------|
| Saturday | 4:00 pm  | St. Thomas More |
| Saturday | 5:30 pm  | St. Joan of Arc |
| Sunday   | 8:00 am  | St. Joan of Arc |
| Sunday   | 10:30 am | St. Thomas More |

If you would like to have an item printed in the bulletin, please submit the information 6-7 days in advance of when you want it in the bulletin. For example, *items for the Jan 9th bulletin are due Monday, Jan 3rd. Items for the Jan 16th bulletin are due Jan 10th.* Send items to [bulletin@midtowncatholic.church](mailto:bulletin@midtowncatholic.church), text or call Linda Boyer at 402-301-6306.



## Catholic Cemeteries

### Archdiocese of Omaha

Many of you who have lost loved ones gathered Wednesdays of Advent at 6:00 pm in Holy Angels Mausoleum at Resurrection Cemetery. We prayed for your peace and healing as we awaited the coming of the Christ Child. You left petitions at the Christmas Remembrance Tree. Now, it is time for those petitions to be presented in prayer during the **5:30 pm Memorial Mass, Monday, January 3, 2022.** *There will be a Rosary at 5:00 pm.* For further information, contact Deacon Tardy at [jtardy@catholiccem.com](mailto:jtardy@catholiccem.com) or at 402-391-3711.

## Nine First Fridays



"I promise you, in the excessive mercy of my heart that my all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the first Friday for nine consecutive months, the grace of final repentance; they shall not die in my disgrace nor without receiving the sacraments; my divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in that last moment."

- Our Lord to Saint Margaret Mary

"Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart, never to be blotted out."

## Pilgrimage to France

Fr. Frank Baumert is going to be leading a group tour of the best Catholic shrines in France. The group will be gone from October 1st through October 12th, 2022. This cross-country Pilgrimage will take you across the country of France. From small villages in the South of France to Paris, one of the greatest cities in the world. France is sure to take your breath away. On this pilgrimage, you will see magnificent Shrines and Churches and learn of the lives of St. Bernadette, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Veronica and Zaccheus, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, St. Therese of Lisieux, and St. Catherine Labourne. There is also a stop at the beaches in Normandy.



Check out <https://www.pilgrimages.com/frbaumert/> for all the details of this trip. This trip is set up by 206Tours. Their website is [www.206Tours.com](http://www.206Tours.com). You can contact Fr. Frank at [fjbaumert@archomaha.org](mailto:fjbaumert@archomaha.org).

## Wanted: Officers for 2022-2023 WINGS



The STM WINGS group will be in need of two (2) positions following the Mother-Daughter Breakfast in May: *President and Vice President*. If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact Missy Gates at [mjogates@cox.net](mailto:mjogates@cox.net).

*This advertiser and others on the back of this bulletin make our bulletin possible. Support them when you can.*

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402-556-3070



Dr. Terry Bolamperti and Dr. Talia Bolamperti O'Malley



The Alpha Course is a practical introduction to the Christian faith, where guests have an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere where no question about life or God is too simple or too hostile.

## The Alpha Course

The course meets once per week (dinner included) for 10 weeks at 6:30 pm Wednesdays at SJA - Thursdays at STM. SJA Alpha begins January 5th and STM Alpha begins January 6th. There is no charge to attend the course.

Register by calling the parish office at 402-556-1456 or Rick Fanciullo 402-558-8861.

## STM WINGS Accessory Exchange

Thursday, February 10, 2022

STM Social Hall, 6-8:00 pm

*Refreshments will be served.*

Bring any household item(s) in good condition that you no longer want such as clothing, shoes, scarves, purses, jewelry, wall hangings, books, DVDs, decorative pillows, toys, dishes, etc. Items need to be clean. At the event, browse items and place a clothespin on items you would like to take home. If yours is the only clothespin, then the item is yours. When an item has multiple clothespins, a drawing will determine who takes the item home. All unclaimed items will be donated to the Humble Lily which supports the Bethlehem House. Find treasures while supporting Bethlehem House. If you have questions, call Mary Ann Kaipust at 212-0839.



Valeria Alondra Espinoza, daughter of Arazeli Murillo and Jose Luis Espinoza Calderon, was baptized on December 12, 2021, at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church.

## The Baptism of the Lord - January 9, 2022

What gifts do you give to the Lord? As baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus - the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.

## SJA Mass Intentions

**Monday, January 3, 2022**  
8:30 am † Dr. Thomas Gallagher

**Tuesday, January 4, 2022**  
8:30 am † Nellie Florida  
Lady of Perpetual Help Novena after Mass

**Wednesday, January 5, 2022**  
8:30 am † Maxine Kratky

**Thursday, January 6, 2022**  
8:30 am † Paul Dworak

**Friday, January 7, 2022 - First Friday**  
8:30 am † Tim Urlaub  
Litany to the Sacred Heart of Jesus after Mass

**Saturday, January 8, 2022**  
5:00 pm † Sally Farley  
*Fr. Lorig*

**Sunday, January 9, 2022**  
8:00 am Parishioners  
*Fr. Lorig*  
10:30 am † James Elston  
*Fr. Lorig*

**Please remember those who are sick in our parish:**

Marge Fitzsimmons, George Balkus, Tim Nieland, Charlotte and Dominic Cullenward, Margaret Benak, Jerry Hogya, Rosemary Hays, Ron D'Agata, Grace Fascianella, Julie (Nebbia) Hamik, Maxine Kantor, Sherry Smisek Nickel, Shirley Bardsley, Steve Hamill, Bob Mercier, Mick Ascherl, Andrew Ascherl, Anto Kinsley, Ken Renkenberger, Roger Pedroza, Bev Sladovnik

**Please remember those who have died:** † Rodney Kruse, † Robert "Bob" Fitzsimmons, † Josynne Sherlock, † Mary Jean Safranek (mother of Rev. Bill Safranek)

### St Joan of Arc Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration

Open Hours

Sundays - 1pm, call Rick - 402-599-3152  
Mondays - 1am, call Rachel - 402-658-8418  
Wednesdays - 11am, 1pm, call Rebecca - 402-991-4497  
Thursdays - 1am, 2am, call Rachel - 402-658-8418  
Fridays - 2pm, call Rebecca - 402-991-4497  
Saturdays - 12am, 1pm, 6pm, call Dcn Tim - 402-731-7474

*"My joy, My pleasure, My delight is to be with you." (Prov 8:30)*  
If you are interested in an hour, Call Rachel 402-658-8418.

### Attention Altar Servers St. Joan of Arc is Ready for You

SJA invites all Altar Servers  
back into service.



All former altar servers, boys and girls, grade schoolers, middle schoolers, teens, and adults are invited to call Mrs. Wallace at 402-393-2314, ext 3 to get on the schedule.

This will get us one more step closer to normal.

St. Joan of Arc  
Catholic Church  
3122 S. 74th Street  
Omaha, Ne 68124



## Liturgical Ministers

January 8th and January 9th, 2022

|                            | <u>EMHCs</u>  | <u>Lectors</u> |
|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 5:00 pm                    | Georgia Goltf | Carol Nish     |
| 8:00 am                    | Sue Thomas    | Anthony Manno  |
| Westgate Assisted Living - | Mike Elston   |                |
| 10:30 am                   | Rose Koch     | Rick Koch      |
| Counters:                  | Bayer/Stodden |                |

## This Week ...

**Sunday, January 2nd**  
The Epiphany

**Wednesday, January 5th**  
6:30 pm ALPHA - Social Hall  
"Is there more to life than this?"

**Thursday, January 6th**  
School Resumes

**Friday, January 7th**  
First Friday of the Month

**Sunday, January 9th**  
The Baptism of the Lord



*"... and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form, as a dove, and a voice came from heaven, Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased." (RSV, 2008, LUKE; 3:22)*



### Phone Numbers for St. Joan of Arc ...

Deacon Ron & Julie Ryan 402-551-4330  
Deacon Tim & Ruth Leininger 402-731-7474

School Principal: Kayleen Wallace  
Secretary, Renae Vorland 402-393-2314, ext 3;  
Fax 402-393-4405

Athletic Director: Dylan & Beth Biros 402-210-5407

Prayer Assistance Line  
Melinda Kenton 402-390-9470; Kim Large  
[prayer@sjaomaha.org](mailto:prayer@sjaomaha.org)

Holy Communion Homebound Deac. Tim 402-731-7474

Food for the Francis House Mary Kentch 402-593-8703

Mass Intentions and Funerals  
Midtown Catholic Office 402-556-1456

### 500 Confraternity

January 2, 2022 - Mike & Ruth Wiczorek

## STM Mass Intentions

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Saturday,</b><br>9:00 am<br>5:00 pm    | <b>January 1, 2022</b><br>† Alice Tesarek<br>† Rose Keefover<br><b>Fr. Baumert</b>                     |
| <b>Sunday,</b><br>8:00 am<br><br>10:30 am | <b>January 2, 2022</b><br>† Rich Majorek<br><b>Fr. Baumert</b><br>† Georgann Parr<br><b>Fr. Lorig</b>  |
| <b>Monday,</b><br>7:00 am                 | <b>January 3, 2022</b><br>† Jim Janda and<br>† Deceased members of the<br>Schlueter & Wichert Families |
| <b>Tuesday,</b><br>7:00 am                | <b>January 4, 2022</b><br>† Virginia Kirk<br>Lady of Perpetual Help Novena after Mass                  |
| <b>Wednesday,</b><br>7:00 am              | <b>January 5, 2022</b><br>† Dick Rettenmaier   |
| <b>Thursday,</b><br>7:00 am               | <b>January 6, 2022</b><br>† John Jachym  |
| <b>Friday,</b><br>7:00 am<br>8:15 am      | <b>January 7, 2022</b><br>† Matthew Ferrante<br>† Margaret Parks                                       |
| <b>Saturday,</b><br>8:00 am<br>5:00 pm    | <b>January 8, 2022</b><br>† Dave Bouchaert<br>† Virginia Mirioovsky<br><b>Fr. Baumert</b>              |
| <b>Sunday,</b><br>8:00 am<br><br>10:30 am | <b>January 9, 2022</b><br>† Jean Stahmer<br><b>Fr. Lorig</b><br>† David Domayer<br><b>Fr. Lorig</b>    |

**Please remember those who are sick in our parish:**

Ron Brougham, Betty Mayhan, Jean Jirak, Michael Paskach, Rose Anne Rozmarin, Ed Smith, Tony Aliano, Will McConnell, Lois Maloney, Collin Joseph Priebe, Rita Wolbach, Jack Pfeffer, Charles Guthrie, Jr., Bette Hess, Anna Bell, Diane Christensen, Billie Rosendahl, Kendra Collins, Xander Collins, Steffie Nelson, Lorraine Andersen, Mark Bohls, Ron Miles, Betty Burt, those homebound or confined in health-care facilities, and those on the STM prayer line. **Please remember those who have died:** † Edie Winkelman

**Altar Cleaning**  
January 7 - Team 2  
**Church Tidy Up**



## Liturgical Ministers

January 8th and January 9th, 2022

### Altar Servers

5:00 pm, Sat., - M. Arlen, E. Arlen, D. Coniglio, P. Skradski  
8:00 am, Sun., - L. Upah, E. Lee, B. Stanek, A. Young  
10:30 am, Sun., - L. Teunissen, C. Rains, I. Ayivi-Guedehoussou,  
and E. Ayivi-Guedehoussou

### EMHCs

5:00 pm, Sat., - Schumacher, Delgado  
8:00 am, Sun., - Ferrante, Nary, Upah  
10:30 am, Sun., - Roberts, P. Reed

### Lectors

McConnell  
Hendricks  
L. Reed

### Homebound

1. Tom Sobetski
2. Rick Fanciullo
3. Sue Franco
4. Kay Monzingo

St. Thomas More  
Catholic Church  
4804 Grover  
Omaha, Ne 68106



# This Week . . .

**Sunday January 2nd**  
**The Epiphany of the Lord**  
6:00 pm Rosary (CH)



**Monday, January 3rd**  
7:00 pm Stephen Center  
7:30 pm Men's Club (SH)  
GA (KR)

**Tuesday, January 4th**  
7:00 pm AA (SH)

**Wednesday, January 5th**

**Thursday, January 6th - School Resumes**  
6:30 pm ALPHA (SH)  
Is there more to life than this?

**Friday, January 7th**  
7:30 pm First Friday of the Month  
Don & Millie's Family Night  
AA (SH)

**Saturday, January 8th**  
6:00 am That Man is You (SH)  
9:00 am Catechesis of the GS—L1 (KR)  
6:00 pm KOC Free Throw Contest (GYM)  
(after 5pm Mass)

**Sunday, January 9th**  
8:30 am **The Baptism of the Lord**  
Catechesis of the GS  
Level 2 (KR)  
6:00 pm Rosary (CH)



**Baptism  
of the Lord**

### Eucharistic



### Adoration

St. Peter of Alcantara said, "Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament has His hands full of graces, and He is ready to bestow them on anyone who asks for them."

Come and get yours.

To sign up for an hour, please contact Mary Beth McKee, 402-556-1672, or Connie Johnson, 402-339-8253

### Current Open Hours

Monday- 12am,1am, 2am,3am,5am, 8am, 10am, 10pm, 11pm  
Tuesday- 12 am, 1am, 2am, 3am, 4am  
Wed-1am,2am,4am,8am,11am,3pm,5pm,6pm,8pm,9pm,11pm  
Thursday-1am,2am,4am,7am,10am,6pm,7pm,8pm  
Friday- 12am-4am,9am,12pm, 1pm,4pm-7pm, 10pm,11pm  
Sat-12am-4am,11am,12noon,6pm,7pm,8pm,9pm,10pm,11pm  
Sunday- 12am, 1am, 2am, 3am, 4am, 9am, 1pm, 2pm, 4pm

## Communication is More Than Just Talking

In marriage, communication is more than just talking. At some point, did you stop sharing about the things that were important to you? Did your spouse?

Improving a marriage takes time and a conscious effort to learn about your spouse. Growing closer in a marriage does not happen automatically.

*Retrouvaille* is a marriage program dedicated to helping couples grow closer and develop a stronger bond. You give your heart and soul to everything you do, between your work and your family. Are you giving your heart and soul to your marriage? Sometimes, the distance between a husband and a wife can seem so wide that it appears unrepairable.

*Retrouvaille* is a marriage program designed to bring couples closer together. For more information about a *Retrouvaille* Weekend Program Feb. 11-13, 2022, call 1-800-470-2230, or [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org) or [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org). The last day to register is January 30th, 2022.



## Attention High School Senior Girls

The Omaha Urban Area of Catholic Women (OUCCW) is offering a \$250 Scholarship to a high school senior catholic young woman. There is also a \$150 Honorable Mention Award.

The winning application will be forwarded to compete for the \$500 scholarship offered by the Omaha Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (OACCW).

Application forms are available on the OACCW website, Scholarship-Omaha Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women ([oaccw.org](http://oaccw.org)) and are also available via guidance counselors of area high schools.

All high school senior Catholic girls are encouraged to apply. **Applications must be submitted by January 15, 2022 to Cathy Vak, 3255 S. 77 Street, Omaha, NE 68124. Late applications will not be considered.**

Questions may be referred to Cathy Vak, at 402-391-0484.



## Scrip Vendor Spotlight

**Aksarben Cinema**  
2110 South 67th Street  
in Aksarben Village

It's time to get back to the movies!!



## Cheerleading Clinic



Mercy High School is hosting a Cheerleading Camp for girls in Kindergarten through 5th grades on Saturday, January 15th from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Come have lunch at Mercy, meet new friends, learn cheers

from Mercy cheerleaders and perform during the 2:30 pm Varsity basketball game. Come have lunch at Mercy, meet new friends, learn cheers from Mercy cheerleaders and perform during the Varsity basketball game. The \$25 registration fee must be received before January 10th in order to receive a t-shirt. For more details and to register, go to [www.mercyhigh.org/happenings/](http://www.mercyhigh.org/happenings/).



Join the Youth Choir!

Coming to Midtown Catholic in Spring 2022

Open to 4th through 8th grades

St. Thomas More & St. Joan of Arc  
Schools/Parishes

Rehearsals on Thursday evenings

Lead music at select weekend Masses  
and Special Events

To receive more information, please contact:

Rachel Bielstein

[rjbielstein@midtowncatholic.church](mailto:rjbielstein@midtowncatholic.church)

402-556-1456

## Information for St. Thomas More School

Principal, Mr. Gary D. Davis

Email, [gdavis@omahacsc.org](mailto:gdavis@omahacsc.org)

Secretary, Leslie McDonnell

Email, [imcdonnell@omahacsc.org](mailto:imcdonnell@omahacsc.org)

School Phone, 402-551-9504


School Fax, 402-551-9507

School Website, [www.stmbengals.org](http://www.stmbengals.org)

School Address, 3515 S. 48 Avenue

Omaha, NE 68106

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**Patrick Parr, DDS**  
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 stormdanceomaha@gmail.com

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To Dr. Edward  
 and Mary Slavik

We Love You and Miss You  
 Your Family

To Our Son & Brother  
 Augustus E. Slavik

We Love You and Miss You  
 Your Family

**SJA Development Dinner**  
 Saturday,  
 April 30th 2022

Dinner & Drinks with Family  
 & Friends Live Raffle, Silent  
 Raffle, Wine Pull

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2\* to St. Thomas More!

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 www.4lpi.com/careers



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**South Park Apartments**  
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**Cedar Heights**  
 402-554-0449

**Four Seasons Apartments**  
 402-558-9099

**Saint Joan of Arc**  
 Catholic School

State Accredited PreK-8th

Now enrolling  
 (402)-393-2314

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 LICENCED DRIVER WITH  
 VEHICLE AND INSURANCE**

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