

Change... From Fr. Frank

Dear parishioner,

You have undoubtedly heard that starting the first weekend in February, the Mass Schedule will be changing for the Midtown Catholic parishes of St. Thomas More and St. Joan of Arc. Fr. Lorig has given you some statistics on why this is happening. He has outlined how we have far fewer priests than we had ten years ago. He also gave you the Archdiocese's projections for eight years from now. The statistics show why this will eventually have to happen. It does not show why the decision was made to do it right at this time. After all, Fr. Lorig and I have been handling the current number of Masses so far. Why not wait until it is necessary. To answer that, I would like to offer my two cents worth.

Most people see the basics that the priests do week after week. When I went into the seminary, I presumed that all a priest did was have confessions every Saturday afternoon, a couple of Masses every Sunday, and visit the school a few times a year. I have learned a little since then. To give you an idea of what I have learned and how it affects this decision, I would like to provide some information about my current situation.

On a regular week, I have about nine Masses, confessions on Saturday afternoons, and periodic visits to the school. Then I have other things to do. Usually, I have one or two funerals per week. Funerals involve working with the family to make the wake service and the funeral itself a memorable experience for the family who has just lost someone very special to them. I consider each funeral I do to be for a family member. I think that way because I

take the title "Father" very seriously. I see the weddings and baptisms I have in the same way. But that is just the start.

I am also chaplain for the Serra Club of West Omaha. The Serra Club is one of the groups that take on the special commission of supporting current priests and consecrated religious and, more importantly, promoting vocations to those roles so we will have priests in the future. Being chaplain involves a couple of meetings and one Mass per month. I am also the only Catholic priest currently enrolled as police chaplain for the Omaha Police Department, which means being available at any time of the day or night. In addition, I am one of a couple of priests who are on call for Bergan, UNMC, and Methodist hospitals. Again, this means being ready to take calls at any time of the day or night. I celebrate Mass at Bergan Hospital once a week for the staff and family members to help them deal with everything going on in their lives. I am on speed dial for several nursing homes and hospice workers in the area. And in case you haven't noticed, I am also called upon to have Mass for Shut-ins and be on Spirit Catholic Radio. There are a few other odds-and-ends that I am involved in, but this gives you a general picture. It lets you know that every priest does a lot more than just be there for his parish assignment. There are things like Engaged Encounter, Christians Encounter Christ, and Beginning Experience weekends, all of which I have been involved in but have dropped over the years. Actually, I still do C.E.C. when I have a chance. I can do so **(continued on page 2)**



St. Joan of Arc
St. Thomas More

January 16, 2022

Second Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Essential Information

Pastor: Rev. Jeffrey Lorig

402-556-1456, ext. 207

email: jlorig@midtowncatholic.church

Sr. Associate Pastor

Rev. Frank Baumert

402-677-1565

email: fjbaumert@archomaha.org

Deacons

Tim and Ruth Leininger (SJA)

tleininger@archomaha.org

Ron and Julie Ryan (SJA)

rryan@archomaha.org

Allan and Sharon Schumacher (STM)

acschumacher@archomaha.org

Matt and Lisa Wolbach (STM)

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

website: www.midtowncatholic.church

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email: ejkeisling@midtowncatholic.church

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SACRAMENTS

Baptism :

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

Marriage:

email 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 16, 2022



(Change... continued from cover)

many of these extra things because, as pastor, Fr. Lorig takes care of most of Midtown Catholic's meetings and administrative work.

I don't want you to think that this is anything but wonderful work. I love every bit of it. I love being a priest, but a second aspect makes today different and addresses why we need to decrease the number of Masses. In the past year and a half, we have had ten of our retired priests pass away. We have also had several other priests who are now out of the workforce for various reasons. We depended on some of these priests to help handle what I just listed as my workload. Over the years, "retired" priests dealt with those calls to nursing homes and hospitals, along with doing some of the weekend experiences like C.E.C. They were available to substitute for priests trying to take a vacation. If you look at the number of priest work hours served by the average priest, this means an increase of ten percent in just the last two years. It does not factor in the increase from the previous ten years or the next eight. Since some priests are already at their limits, others must do even more.

Don't get me wrong. I realize that many people face drastic changes in their personal lives. I ask that you recognize that when it happens, each person and each institution goes about looking at how it can rebalance things. That is precisely what we are doing at Midtown Catholic. There are a few things that we can cut and many that we cannot. An average of 800 people attend Mass per weekend. That is the total for all six Masses. Our churches hold a lot of people. Is it too much to ask people to look seriously at their schedules and consider whether a slight change might be acceptable? Believe me when I tell you that there will be many cuts in all the parishes around the Archdiocese very soon. Because this is new to our two parishes, it seems like a shock. For other parishes, it is old hat.

The reality is that we will adjust. The church has survived for 2,000 years. It will survive this, and so will we. As changes occur, the question always on every priest's mind is how many people will allow something like this to be their excuse for turning away from their faith. Look at how many people we lost because of the changes made due to Covid. Please pray for me, and I will pray for you.

Fr. Frank



If you want an item in the bulletin, please submit the information 6-7 days in advance of when you want the item in the bulletin. For example, *items for the Jan 23rd bulletin are due Jan 17th*. Send items to bulletin@midtowncatholic.church, text or call 402-301-6306.

A Retreat Opportunity

Windows into Heaven: Encountering and Encountered by Jesus in Icons



Saint Benedict
Center

January 28 - 30, a retreat at *Saint Benedict Center*, Schuyler, with Father James L. Secora, MDiv, MEd, Obl OSB, from Ames, IA.

It has been said what the written word of Scripture is to the ears, icons are to the eyes. Learn a brief history of icons and then spend a weekend with scripture and these "windows to heaven," which can offer greater "insight" on your spiritual journey." This retreat includes presentations on a variety of icons, *lectio divina* and *visio divina* as well as time for personal and group reflection.

Friday, January 28th at 7:30 p.m.
to Sunday, January 30th after lunch.

Cost: \$221.62 (single); \$206.44 (double)
(Includes program fee, room, meals and taxes)

Register at www.StBenedictCenter.com
or call 402-352-8819
1126 Rd I, Schuyler, NE 68661

That Man is You – Highlights

Highlights in January include Scott Hahn, an American Catholic theologian, who presented for the January 8th meeting and who will return on January 15th. A former Presbyterian, Hahn converted to Catholicism. His lectures can be found through *Lighthouse Catholic Media*.

On January 22nd, we will watch an episode of *The Chosen* (season 2, episode 2). This episode provides great insight into how Jesus taught and coached the disciples.

Jesus is still teaching. Are we listening? The regular TMIY Spring Session will begin on January 29th. If you have any questions, please call Jerry Hassett at 402-650-0360.



WINGS to Meet at Aksarben



The next WINGS meeting will be on Thursday, January 20th at the Aksarben *Inner Rail* for an evening of fellowship while we play Music Bingo. Festivities begin at 6:00 pm. Questions? Email Missy. *WINGS is still looking for a vice-president for the 2022-2023 year.*

If you are interested, please contact Missy Gates at mjogates@cox.net.



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Rachel Bielstein

rjbielstein@midtowncatholic.church

402-556-1456

St. Thomas More Parish Dinner

Sunday, January 30th – 11:30 am – 6:00 pm

The Parish Dinner is Back and Needs You!

Please help make our STM community stronger and sign up for a shift at the STM Parish Dinner.



To volunteer, use the link or QR Code or email Missy Gates at mjogates@cox.net or call 402-680-7132.

<https://tinyurl.com/3dd5hwuj>

Scrip Vendor Spotlight

Lansky's

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Lost and Found at STM

The Lost and Found box is located in the church cry room. If you have lost or left anything in the church over the last year, please check the box to claim any items. At the end of January, all items will be donated or tossed.



Baked goods are needed for the Parish Dinner Bake Sale on January 30th. Cakes, Pies, and Brownies can be dropped off after 4:00 pm on Saturday, January 29th, in the school gym or on Sunday, January 30th, anytime after 8:15 am. If dropping off cakes, please label what kind of cake it is.

SJA Mass Intentions

Monday, January 17, 2022
8:30 am † Betty Gillogly

Tuesday, January 18, 2022
8:30 am † Jim Skinner
Lady of Perpetual Help Novena after Mass

Wednesday, January 19, 2022
8:30 am † Maxine Kratky

Thursday, January 20, 2022
8:30 am † Nellie Florida

Friday, January 21, 2022
8:30 am † Dr. Thomas Gallagher

Saturday, January 22, 2022
5:00 pm † Immaculata Scalise
Fr. Lorig

Sunday, January 23, 2022
8:00 am Parishioners
Fr. Lorig

10:30 am † Margaret Joan Young
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, and for those who have died.

HOPE

The Pandemic has affected our lives in many ways including the way we shop for groceries. Did you know that if you purchase groceries online, you can pay for those items with a HOPE gift card? HyVee, Target, and Walmart all accept gift cards as a form of on-line payment. It may be a new year but groceries are still a must. Support the parish and buy HOPE cards to make your on-line purchases! By the way, HOPE now carries Amazon gift cards in \$25 denominations. Buy your cards before and after weekend Masses in the Gathering Area or during the week in the school office.

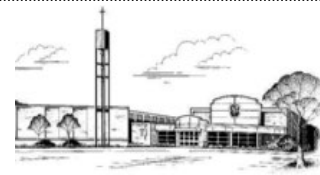
St Joan of Arc Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration

Open Hours

Sundays - 1pm, call Rick - 402-599-3152
Mondays - 5am, call Rachel - 402-658-8418
Tuesdays - 1pm, call Rachel - 402-658-8418
Wed - 11am, 12 noon, 1pm, call Rebecca - 402-991-4497
Thursdays - 1am, 2am, 3am (til March), 5pm - call Rachel
Fridays - 2pm, call Rebecca - 402-991-4497
Sat - 12am, 1pm, 3pm (til mid Feb), 6pm, call Deacon Tim - 402-731-7474

If you are interested in an hour, Call Rachel 402-658-8418.

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



Liturgical Ministers

January 22nd and January 23rd, 2022

	<u>EMHCs</u>	<u>Lectors</u>
5:00 pm	Tom Assmann	John McKinstra
8:00 am	MB Branscombe	Steve Branscombe
	Westgate Assisted Living - Rick Koch	
10:30 am	Carissa Gremm	Linda Bayer

This Week . . .

Sunday, January 16th
One Rose, One Life

Monday, January 17th
Martin Luther King Day
No School

Tuesday, January 18th
6:30 pm Ladies Guild Meeting

Wednesday, January 19th
6:30 pm ALPHA - Social Hall
"Why Did Jesus Die?"

Friday, January 21st
1:45 pm Francis House



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

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 16, 2022 - Linda Boyer

STM Mass Intentions

Saturday, 9:00 am 5:00 pm	January 15, 2022 † Aaron Parks Bob Kirk <i>Fr. Baumert</i>
Sunday, 8:00 am	January 16, 2022 † Charlie Janousek <i>Fr. Baumert</i>
10:30 am	† Joan Rosman <i>Fr. Baumert</i>
Monday, 7:00 am	January 17, 2022 † Marvin Maher
Tuesday, 7:00 am	January 18, 2022 † Thomas, † Marie, & † Joanne McCallum Lady of Perpetual Help Novena after Mass † Cherrie Boro
8:15 am	
Wednesday, 7:00 am	January 19, 2022 † Fritz Bily
Thursday, 7:00 am	January 20, 2022 † Mary Ann Kramolisch
Friday, 7:00 am 8:15 am	January 21, 2022 Dave Bouckart † Georgann Parr
Saturday, 8:00 am 5:00 pm	January 22, 2022 Cottone Family † John Janda and † Larry Hoskinson <i>Fr. Baumert</i>
Sunday, 8:00 am	January 23, 2022 STM Parish & Education Endowments <i>Fr. Baumert</i>
10:30 am	† Mary M. Galas <i>Fr. Baumert</i>

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, 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: † Eileen Gillespie

Altar Cleaning
January 21 - Team 4
Church Tidy Up
Tisha Latka



Liturgical Ministers

January 22nd and January 23rd, 2022

Altar Servers

5:00 pm, Sat., - H. Fanowiel, K. Oscar, K. Oscar, T. Oscar
8:00 am, Sun., - L. McCandless, R. McCandless,
Y. Hernandez-Williams, F. Tule Martinez
10:30 am, Sun., - S. Peralta, L. Lazarus, C. Foster, N. Foster

EMHCs

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

Lectors

Stolinski
Burrows
Vanek

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 16th <i>2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
8:30 am	Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 3 (KR)
9:10 am	Fr. Frank's Class
6:00 pm	Rosary (CH)
Monday,	January 17th Martin Luther King Day - No School
7:00 pm	Women's Cloister Group (Lib)
7:30 pm	GA (KR)
Tuesday,	January 18th
7:00 pm	Parish Council Meeting
7:30 pm	AA (SH)
Wednesday,	January 19th
Thursday,	January 20th
6:00 pm	WINGS meet at AkSarBen <i>Inner Rail</i>
6:30 pm	ALPHA (SH) "Who is Jesus?"
6:30 pm	Becoming Catholic (Lib)
Friday,	January 21st
5:30 pm	Wedding Rehearsal (CH)
7:30 pm	AA (Lib)
Saturday,	January 22nd
6:00 am	That Man is You (SH)
9:00 am	Catechesis of the GS Level 1 (KR)
2:00 pm	Brockhaus & Knutson Wedding
5:00 pm	2nd Collection— One Rose, One Life
Sunday,	January 23rd
8:00 am	One Rose, One Life 2nd Collection at all Masses
9:00 am	Catechesis of the GS Level 2 (KR)
9:10 am	Fr. Frank's Class
6:00 pm	Rosary (CH)



One Rose, One Life

The State Council of the Knights of Columbus annually sponsors the *One Rose, One Life Campaign*. At the weekend Masses on January 22/23 a second collection will be taken up for this pro-life program. There will be special One Rose One Life envelopes in the pews that you can use for your donation. For a tax-deductible donation, make your check payable to "K of C Culture of Life Foundation of Nebraska." If you do not need a tax deduction, you can simply make "Knights of Columbus" the payee on your check. Your support is sincerely appreciated.



YOU'RE INVITED!
Special Mass for Vocations
at St. Joseph–Springfield
Monday, January 17th at 5:30 p.m.



The Serra Club of West Omaha invites you to join us for a special Mass for Vocations at 5:30 pm on Monday, January 17, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 100 9th Street in

Springfield, to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life within the Archdiocese of Omaha. Mass will be celebrated by Rev. Frank Baumert, Chaplain of the Serra Club. Mass will be followed by a brief *Meeting & Mixer*. Our speaker at the meeting will be Deacon Terry Ficene of St. Joseph. He will share his vocation story and his experience serving as a deacon. Light refreshments and sweets will be provided. If you are interested in helping to build the Church locally through vocations support, contact John Lingo, Serra VP, 402-290-4670 or John@JLingoLaw.com.

Put Me in Coach. I'm Ready to Play.

Baseball and Softball registration is now open until March 2nd, 2022. There will be no late registrations accepted, so please register as soon as possible.



For anyone interested in coaching, there will be a clinic, "Coaching the Coach," to teach technique and review drills.

To register, log in to your *SportsSignupPlay* account. The link is <https://stmbengals.sportssignup.com/site/>. You'll see a red banner that says "Click here to register online."

If you have questions, contact wilson.david1022@gmail.com



Information for St. Thomas More School

Principal, Mr. Gary D. Davis
 Email, gdavis@omahacsc.org

Secretary, Leslie McDonnell
 Email, imcdonnell@omahacsc.org

School Phone, 402-551-9504

School Fax, 402-551-9507

School Website, www.stmbengals.org

School Address, 3515 S. 48 Avenue
 Omaha, NE 68106

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2. Hold an associate degree from an accredited college or university in early childhood education, education or child/youth development;
3. Have a Child Development Associate Credential;
4. Have a high school diploma or GED; and (1) 1500 verified clock hours of experience in organized group activities for school-age children as indicated by a positive reference from a former employer or supervisor; or (2) Submit a written plan for Department approval to acquire at least three credit hours or 45 clock hours of training in administration, early childhood education, education, or child/youth development, in a period not to exceed six mos.

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

Arby's

**85th & Center Sts.
 50th & G Sts.**




WINGS February Outing Information

Ladies of the Midtown Catholic Community and WINGS members, please join us for a tour of St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church and Santa Lucia Hall on Thursday, February 10th at 6:30 pm. Plan to meet at the main doors on the west side of the church at 1248 S. 10th Street, Omaha.



St. Frances Cabrini was formerly the cathedral of the Diocese of Omaha and was named St. Philomena's Cathedral at that time. The church and the rectory are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Any questions? Contact Missy Gates at mjogates@cox.net or call 402-680-7132.

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 and Mary Slavik

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To Our Son & Brother
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We Love You and Miss You
 Your Family

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