

## November 20, 2011 Our Lord Jesus Christ The King

<b>St. Stephen's Church</b>	<b>Rev. Tom Kuffel</b>	207 N. Union Ave.	Exeter, NE 68351
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Date	Time	Place	Intention	By	Feast Day
<b>Mon. Nov 21</b>	<b>7:30 AM</b>	<b>Exeter</b>	<b>Gail &amp; Barb Heffelfinger</b>		
<b>Tues. Nov 22</b>	<b>7:30 AM</b>	<b>Exeter</b>	<b>Susie Perkins</b>	<b>Richard Perkins</b>	
<b>Tues. Nov 22</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Nursing Home</b>	<b>Connie White</b>		
<b>Wed. Nov 23</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Exeter</b>	<b>Richard E. Erdkamp</b>	<b>John &amp; Peg Becker</b>	
<b>Thu. Nov 24</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>Exeter</b>	<b>Bob &amp; Kate Harre</b>		
Thu. Nov 24	10:00 AM	McCool	For The Knights		
Fri. Nov 25	7:30 AM	No Mass Here	Bill Cudaback	The Family	
Sat. Nov 26	8:00 AM	McCool	Alois & Margaret Allwelt	Terry & Stephanie Salyer	
<b>Sat. Nov 26</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>Exeter</b>	<b>Edson &amp; Margaret Walker Family</b>	<b>Joan Dumpert</b>	
<b>Sun. Nov 27</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>Exeter</b>	<b>Gene Ruhl Family</b>		
Sun. Nov 27	10:00 AM	McCool	For the Parish		

### November & December Ministers

<b>Sat 26</b>	A-Gerry	L-Bob	S-Elliot & Mitchell	U – Joan K.	G-Joan Kuska & Ron Kuska
<b>Sun 27</b>	A-Roger	L-Doug	S-Sam & Max	U – Tess M.	G-Tess Moor & Denice Kovanda
<b>Sat 3</b>	A-Ron	L-Pat	S-Evan & Theron	U – Ken & Lisa	G – Ken & Lisa Soukup
<b>Sun 4</b>	A-Rusty	L-Denice	S-Stephen & James	U– Lin & Melanie	G – Lin Schlueter Family
<b>Sat 10</b>	A-Mark	L-Rick	S-Kirby & Jack	U – Bob & Pat	G – Bob & Pat Becker
<b>Sun 11</b>	A-Brad	L-Children	S-Spencer & Caleb	U & G – Children's Mass – Children will fill in.	

**Please Pray For:** Luke Joseph Fleck from St. Joseph, Lincoln, NE. He is in College 2 and is studying at St. Gregory the Great. He graduated HS in 2009 from Pius X.

**Prayer Intentions:** Richard Perkins, Bill Hays, Joanna Geiger Webster, Baby Benjamin Webster, Ann Pospisil, Jean Hoffman, Irene Petrucek, Dawn Welch, Kelley Champion, Bernard & Lorene Zeleny, J.J. Dinneen, Taylor Thomas, Steve Lawson, Tim Becker, Joe Huber Jr., Patrick Hoarty, Carol Smith, Cindy Hogman, Zach Johnson, Lauren Dick, Stephanie Salyer, Mark Thomsen, Noah Lambrecht, & Military Personnel Jason & Lacey Hood, Rob Coffey, Jacque Erks, Zac Hartmann, Anthony & Alex Due.

### St. Stephen's Church Support 11-13-2011

Adult Envelopes	\$1182.00	Loose Plate	\$87.00	Children	\$4.25	Total	\$1273.25
Number of Envelopes	\$1 - \$5 [ 1 ]	\$6 – 10 [ 9 ]	\$11 - \$20 [ 9 ]	\$21 - \$40 [ 15 ]	\$41 & Up [ 10 ]		
All Saints Total:	\$82.00	All Souls	\$115.00				

\*\* The actual budget for collections is \$85,305 for this fiscal year. It includes envelopes, loose plate, children, and special collections (i.e. Christmas, Easter, etc). On average, we need to collect \$1640 weekly in order to balance our budget. Check here weekly to see the actual collections compared to the budget. **Fiscal Year-to-Date we are at \$29,436 and we should be at \$32,800.**

### Announcements

**Birthdays:** Doug Thomsen – November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Gerry Geiger – November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Tom Hoffman – November 23<sup>rd</sup>

**CCD:** Nov 20<sup>th</sup> – Regular Class. Youth Choir Practice after class at Church. Nov 27<sup>th</sup> – No Class. Dec 4<sup>th</sup> – Practice at Hall for Program. Youth Choir & Angel Practice after class at Church. Dec 11<sup>th</sup> – Class at church to practice program.

**CYO:** Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> – NO CYO. CYO will resume November 30<sup>th</sup> in Exeter.

**Altar Society:** The November Basket is a Savings Bond donated by Frances Pracheil.

**Thanksgiving Mass Schedule:** Wed. Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7PM in Exeter. (There will be pie at the rectory after mass.) Thurs. Nov 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM in Exeter and 10AM in McCool. The collections will be for the cloistered sisters.

**Food Bank Collection:** During the month of November, the CCD children will be collecting food for the Blue Valley Food Pantry. Please leave your non-perishable donations in the back of the church.

**Donations for Birthright:** Nov 27<sup>th</sup> the Altar Society will start collecting baby items for Birthright. Please leave your baby items in the back of the church. Thank you for donating to this very worthy cause.

**Penance Service:** Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> 3-4PM at the church. The CCD Christmas Program will follow

**CCD Christmas Program:** Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> at 4PM at the church. Covered dish to follow at the Hall.

**St. Pat's-Utica Soup Dinner/Raffle:** Sun, Nov 20<sup>th</sup> 11AM-1PM. At Church Hall.

**Utica Christmas Open Houses:** Nov 26<sup>th</sup> 2-8PM & Nov 27<sup>th</sup> 11-4PM at Senior Center (520 D St) & Schriener's (580 7<sup>th</sup> St). \$5 per person. Decorated trees, Santa collections, Snow collections, Nativity sets, etc. Proceeds to Senior Center.

**Dec 4 at 3PM at St. Stephen's Church "Acoustic Christmas - A Musical Journey from Advent to Epiphany".** *The 75-minute concert captures the Christian spirit of season beginning with the joyful anticipation during Advent, continuing on to the celebration of the birth of the Christ child at Christmas, and finally to the visit of the Magi and the first revelation of Christ to the Gentiles at Epiphany. Traditional and contemporary Christmastide songs, along with scripture and stories, by Terry Little.*

**Prayer:** Christ Jesus, I acknowledge You King of the universe. All that has been created has been made for You. Make full use of Your rights over me. I renew the promises I made in Baptism, when I renounced Satan and all his pomps and works, and I promise to live a good Christian life and to do all in my power to evangelize the triumph of Jesus over Satan and evil

**Quote** Christ's Spiritual Kingship is a battle. This struggle against moral evil must go on as long as men remain here below exposed to suffering and death; to corruption and sin. Only in eternity shall the triumph be complete, by the victory of the good and the defeat of the wicked.

**Think on this:** God rarely forces a man to do something against his will, because he would far and above prefer that he didn't have to, rather man willingly does the will of God. What God is after is a man so yielded to him, so completely surrendered, that his heart is easily moved by the Spirit of God to the purposes of God. That kind of heart makes for a good king. "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve" (Joshua 24:15).

## **Pope Benedict**

The Solemnity of Christ the King was established by Pius XI in 1925 and, later, after the [Second Vatican Council](#), it was placed at the close of the liturgical year. The Gospel according to St Luke presents, as in a great painting, the kingship of Jesus at the moment of his Crucifixion. The leaders of the people and the soldiers taunt “the first-born of all creation” (Col 1:15) and put him to the test to see whether he has the power to save himself from death (cf. Luke 23:35-37).

Yet precisely: “on the Cross, Jesus is exalted to the very ‘height’ of the God who is Love. It is there that he can be ‘known’.... Jesus gives us ‘life’ because he gives us God. He can give God because he himself is one with God” (Pope Benedict).

In fact, while the Lord seems to be mistaken because he is between two wrong-doers, one of them, aware of his sins, opens himself to truth, arrives at faith and prays “the King of the Jews”: “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom” (Lk 23:42).

From the One who “is before all things, and in him all things hold together” (Col 1:17) the so-called “Good Thief” straight away receives forgiveness and the joy of entering the Kingdom of Heaven. “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise” (Lk 23:43). With these words, Jesus, from the throne of the Cross welcomes every sinner with infinite mercy.

St Ambrose comments that this “is a beautiful example of conversion to which one should aspire: forgiveness is quickly offered to the thief and grace is more abundant than the request; the Lord in fact”, St Ambrose says, “always gives more than is asked for.... Life is being with Christ because where Christ is there is the Kingdom”.

Dear Friends, Christian art reflects the way of love that the Lord reveals to us and invites us to take. In fact, in the past “in the arrangement of Christian sacred buildings... it became customary to depict the Lord returning as a king — the symbol of hope — at the east end; while the west wall normally portrayed the Last Judgment as a symbol of our responsibility for our lives” (Encyclical [Spe Salvi](#), n. 41). We hope in the infinite love of God and commitment to ordering our life in accordance with the love of God.

When we contemplate depictions of Jesus inspired by the New Testament — as an ancient Council teaches — we are led to “understand... the sublimity and the humiliation of the Word of God and... to remember his life in the flesh, his Passion and his salvific death, and the redemption that the world derived from it” (Council in Trullo, [691 or 692], can. 82). “Yes, we need it, precisely to... become capable of recognizing in the pierced heart of the Crucified One the mystery of Christ our King. In his kingship, we rule by serving others as did our King.

### **Homily: New Roman Missal Changes**

The Holy Holy Holy or the quote from Isaiah 6:3 is another change. Once again, the thrice use of holy emphasizes the sacredness of God. This prayer is taken directly from the Scripture; where Isaiah has a vision of heaven. He sees Seraphim Angels, the burning ones, stationed above the throne of God, with six wings, veiling faces and feet chanting, “Holy Holy Holy is the Lord of Host, All the earth is fill with his glory” (Is 6:3) is their song. We sing this song with the Angels preparing ourselves for the act that sealed the covenant: the New Passover. Jesus becomes the lamb of sacrifice and is crucified, then buried, and on the third day resurrected.

References to the Scripture fill the Liturgy. This quote of the Angels in heaven praising God is one clear, concise reference. Other references are more obscure. The Passover Symbolism is little known. The changes in the words of institution of the Eucharist change slight and for most they are not critical. But once again, the Mass is the most sacred ritual of all rituals and we should make every effort to celebrate it with precision and beauty.

The Last Supper is set in the context of the Jewish Passover, where Jesus takes bread and wine and blesses it creating the New Covenant in his blood. The words of institution change the word cup to chalice. The new translation also changes the words, “for all” to “for many.”

The New Covenant is the sacrifice of the Lamb, Jesus, Who takes away the sins of the world. His blood is sacred. It is contained in the chalice which were sacred vessels used at the time of the Passover. The change is not mere semantics but symbolized a blood covenant. The Ancients had blood covenants which seem strange to us. Blood was the life giving force, considered sacred. Jews could not touch it or drink it as did many pagans did. Jesus tells us we need to eat his body and drink his blood otherwise we have no life. This is a radical change and many followers left Jesus because of this new teaching which the Jews saw as abhorrent.

If you entered into a blood covenant then you were willing to offer your life for the life of the covenant. Jesus offers his blood, his life, for us so that we may have his life. This transforms our life from being sinful and human to being pure and divine.

This New Covenant is for all, but not all choose to live in the covenant. That is why we changed backed to the original meaning of the Latin words, “for all” to “for many.”

Not everyone is received into the Faith, but it not because of the lack of invitation. All are invited, but not all are properly dressed as we reflect on the parable of the man without the proper wedding garment. We are responsible to come prepared to the Eucharistic Banquet, otherwise we ought to remember the words of Jesus. “My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?” But he was reduced to silence. Then the king said to his attendants, 'Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.' Many are invited, but few are chosen” (22:13 – 14).

### **Parish Council Building Project**

Jim Hutchinson continues to work on the plans for the New Parish Hall. He thinks the cost of the building will be around \$400,000 estimating the square footage and recent bids that came in for other buildings.

The building will be 66x67 with a sprinkling system. The seating area will be 38x67 and it will have four classrooms (12x14 with 9 foot ceilings). It will have a 16x24 kitchen with a small panty along with a 17x16 storeroom. It will have two mechanical rooms along with men’s and women’s restroom (handicap accessible). We are still working with Jim to adjust the plans so that they are better suited for our needs. If you have any input or questions, please contact one of the board members.

We discussed possible means of raising money for the building. The board decided to propose that the parish pay for \$250,000 of the building taking the money from the DI&L Account (Savings) and that the parish raise \$150,000. (We have \$11,000 pledged for the project at this time) This not only uses the money gifted to the parish for this type of use, but also reminds us of our own personal commitment to the parish.

During Advent, we will have pledge cards sent to all the parishioners seeing if they are willing to support the project. Pledges may be either a onetime donation or a monthly, quarterly or yearly pledge for three to five years.

Please review your own personal commitment to our parish and prayerfully consider a pledge to support the parish. As explained in last week’s attachment to the bulletin, a direct grain, cattle, or stock donation directly to the parish saves you tax dollars and yet gives more to the church (call Les Mach 402-488-0921 for more information).