

Remember Death - by Fr. Richard John Neuhaus

We are born to die. Not that death is the purpose of our being born, but we are born toward death, and in each of our lives the work of dying is already underway. The work of dying well is, in largest part, the work of living well. Most of us are at ease in discussing what makes for a good life, but we typically become tongue-tied and nervous when the discussion turns to a good death. As children of a culture radically, even religiously, devoted to youth and health, many find it incomprehensible, indeed offensive, that the word “good” should in any way be associated with death. Death, it is thought, is an unmitigated evil, the very antithesis of all that is good.

Death is to be warded off by exercise, by healthy habits, by medical advances. What cannot be halted can be delayed, and what cannot forever be delayed can be denied. But all our progress and all our protest notwithstanding, the mortality rate holds steady at 100 percent.

Death is the most everyday of everyday things. It is not simply that thousands of people die every day, that thousands will die this day, although that too is true. Death is the warp and woof of existence in the ordinary, the quotidian, the way things are. It is the horizon against which we get up in the morning and go to bed at night, and the next morning we awake to find the horizon has drawn closer. From the twelfth-century Enchiridion Leonis comes the nighttime prayer of children of all ages: “Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray thee Lord my soul to keep; if I should die before I wake, I pray thee Lord my soul to take.” Every going to sleep is a little death, a rehearsal for the real thing.

Please pray for the soul of Fr. Richard John Neuhaus who died January 8, 2009 - a convert and priest of the Archdiocese of New York, the author and editor of First Things. With wit and good humor, Father Neuhaus was a strong and intelligent voice of sound teaching and defense of the Catholic faith in the public square for many years.

The Christian presence and voice in the “public square” was a constant theme of his. He penned a book called The Naked Public Square and provided a marvelous anecdotal commentary in the monthly First Things called “The “Public Square”. He underscored that we must not allow the expression of religion to be marginalized from public discourse. People of faith have a right to express themselves in the great debate about the burning issues of our time. We have the right, as much as anyone, to shape the discourse.

Advertize Here
944-3554
Special Rates for Parishioners

BARN DOOR
Restaurant & Lounge

*Eat In - Carry Out
7 Days a week!*
440 East Elm
Ceresco NE
402-665-2500
Catholic Owners



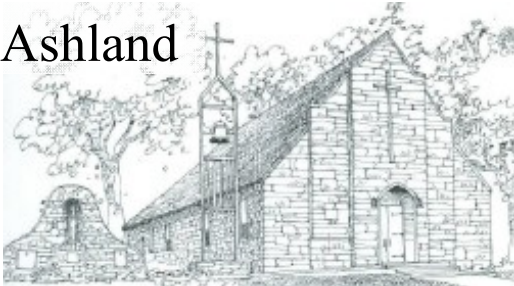
Homes
Acreages
Farms
Lots
Land
Commercial



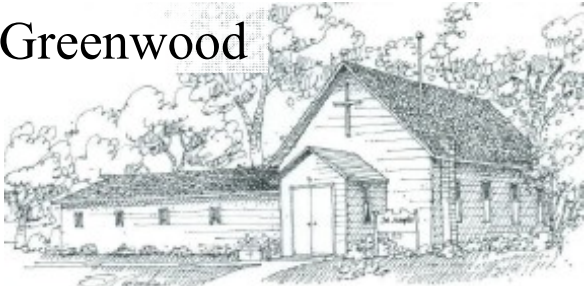
*Buyers and Sellers,
I can help you with all of
your real estate needs.*

Jan Nicola, REALTOR
jan@onestrongteam.com
402-720-5413

St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Churches



1625 Adams Street, Ashland NE 68003
Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM
Sunday Mass: 8:30 AM



7 Oak Street, Greenwood
Sunday Mass: 10:30 AM

Pastor: Father Gary Coulter

Rectory & Fax: 944-3554, CCD/Hall: 944-7509
Cell: 202-3782, stmaryashland@alltel.net

Welcome to new parishioners,
please call the rectory to register
or for information on any of our parish
activities and organizations.

Confessions a half hour before Masses
Saturday 4:00-4:50 PM St. Mary
Sunday 8:00-8:20 AM St. Mary
10:00-10:20 AM St. Joseph
Any time by calling the rectory.

CCD & Youth Group each Wed. 7:00 PM

Mass Schedule for this week				
Sat.	Jan. 17	5:00 PM	Ashland	+ Jerry Proctor
Sun.	Jan. 18	8:30 AM	Ashland	For the People
		10:30 AM	Greenwood	+ Hilda Eckery
Mon.	Jan. 19	9:00 AM	Ashland	+ Fr. Ron Patterson
Tues.	Jan. 20	9:00 AM	Ashland	Barak Obama
Wed.	Jan. 21	9:15 AM	Care Center	Agnes & Jerry Schwaller
Thurs.	Jan. 22	9:00 AM	Ashland	End to Abortion
		6:30 PM	Greenwood	+ Carryl Harre
Fri.	Jan. 23	9:00 AM	Ashland	+ Astrid von Renzell
Sat.	Jan. 24	9:00 AM	Ashland	Priest's Intention
		5:00 PM	Ashland	+ Ben Bickingham
Sun.	Jan. 25	8:30 AM	Ashland	Special Intention - BN
		10:30 AM	Greenwood	For the People

January 18, 2009

Ministries for Next Weekend

Sat. Jan. 24 - 5:00 PM
Servers: Kresak, McGinley, Issacson
Acolyte: Ken Broz
Lector: Joanna Torpy
Sun. Jan. 25 - 8:30 AM
Servers: Survil, Stille, Stander
Acolyte: Todd Survil
Lector: Colleen Crnkovich
Sun. Jan. 25 - 10:30 AM
Lector: Kevin Fuller
Offertory: Franks

Our Return to the Lord, Jan. 10-11		
	St. Mary	St. Joseph
Adult:	\$ 905.00	\$ 159.00
Plate:	\$ 230.00	\$ 28.50
Children:	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00
Weekly Budget:		
	\$ 1,587.49	\$ 390.59
Masses:	\$ 20.00	\$ 10.00

Readings and Celebrations this week:

January
19 Mon Heb 5:1-10 / Mk 2:18-22
20 Tue Heb 6:10-20 / Mk 2:23-28
[St Fabian, pope and Sebastian, martyrs]
21 Wed Heb 7:1-3, 15-17 / Mk 3:1-6
Saint Agnes, virgin and martyr
22 Thu Heb 7:25-8:6 / Mk 3:7-12
[Saint Vincent, deacon and martyr]
23 Fri Heb 8:6-13 / Mk 3:13-19
24 Sat Heb 9:2-3, 11-14 / Mk 3:20-21
Saint Francis de Sales, bishop and doctor of
the Church
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Jon 3:1-5, 10 / 1 Cor 7:29-31 / Mk 1:14-20

Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

Stewardship Thought

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time
In today’s first reading, we hear Samuel respond eagerly, “Here I am!” each time the Lord calls him.
May we, too, be listening for the call of God in our lives and be ready to say like the psalmist, “Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.”
See 1 Samuel 3:4; Psalm 40

Congratulations

Marriage Anniversaries this week
Jerry & Jackie Fudge

Birthdays this week
Branson Starns
Jen Bloomquist
Billy West
Trevor Boggs
Alice West
Art Claycomb
Mark McConnell
Shelby Wigle
Ryan Boggs
Teresa Schuelke

Upcoming Calendar

Wed. Jan. 21, 9:00 AM **Mass** at Care Center
7:00 PM **CCD & Youth Group**

Jan. 24-25, Fight FOCA **Postcard Campaign**

Sun. Jan. 25, 1:00 PM **Christian Unity** Potluck
at First Christian Church

Sat. Jan. 31, 10:00 AM **Walk for Life** at Lincoln

Our parishes are in need of new readers for Mass. **Reader Training** will be held on Sunday afternoons beginning Feb. 8. Contact Fr. Coulter.

Parish Announcements
Congratulations to Kaytlin Eileen Reichel, son of David and Sandra (Claycomb), baptized at St. Joseph on Jan. 11.

Last week, when the bulletin mentioned several marriage resources, I forgot a website: **www.foryourmarriage.org**, produced by the US Bishops, which has an extensive variety of information, resources and activities for those preparing for marriage and for married couples. A particularly interesting offering is called “Caring for Your Marriage”, which involves couples viewing videos on a variety of topics, take quizzes, compare their personality types, and a host of other fun and helpful activities.

At Masses the weekend of Jan. 24-25, everyone will be invited to join in a **Postcard Campaign to Fight FOCA**, a very deadly law that would promote abortion in our country. If able, please bring a dollar to donate for postage.

Nebraska Annual **Walk for Life** is Sat. Jan. 31, beginning at 10:00 AM on the West Side of the State Capitol in Lincoln. Stand in opposition to Roe v. Wade and in support of women and girls facing unplanned pregnancies. Contact Fr. Coulter for info on carpooling (this is a two-hour service opportunity for Confirmation students).

Community Announcements
The Ashland VFW Food Pantry needs non-perishable food like spaghetti and canned fruit.

The Ashland Ministerial Association will sponsor a Covered Dish **Potluck Lunch for Christian Unity** on Sun. Jan. 25, 1:00 PM at the Ashland First Christian Church.

Diocesan Announcements
St. Wenceslaus School, Wahoo annual **Pancake Feed** Sat. Jan 24 5:30-8PM, Sun. Jan. 25, 8AM-Noon. \$5.50 adults, \$3.50 kids. Games.

Waverly Retreat House Retreats for Women: Jan. 30-Feb. 1 with Fr. Dunavan, Feb. 6-8 with Fr. McCabe. Call 786-2705.

Diocese of Lincoln **NFP Intro Sessions** on Tues. Jan. 20 and Tues. Feb. 3. Call 488-2040.

Divorced, Separated, and Widowed Catholics are invited to a 7:30 Mass on Mon. Feb. 2, at the Blessed John XXIII Center, 3700 Sheridan Blvd, Lincoln. Presentation follows.

St. John School Plattsmouth 16th Annual **Coffee House**, an evening of acoustic folk music presented by Terri Little, Sat. Feb. 7, 7 PM. Free will offering, bring snacks to share.

Lenten **Pilgrimage to EWTN** in Alabama Mar. 7-13. Led by Fr Vandewalle, it will stop at numerous Catholic sites of interest along the way. For info contact Al at 647-2030.

Thinking of Separation or Divorce? Feel helpless to save your marriage or a friends? **Retrouvaille** helps troubled marriages regain their health, recovering love, trust and commitment. The program is highly successful in saving hurting marriages, even those already separated or divorced. For confidential info about or to register for a weekend on Feb. 20-22, call 1-888-317-5654 or see www.HelpOurMarriage.org.

High School Retreats that focus on having a relationship with God and meeting new people. TEC for juniors and seniors will be at Wahoo Feb. 14-16, QUEST for freshman and sophomores will be at Wahoo Apr. 4-5. Contact the parish or call 488-2040. See info about other youth events at the Diocesan Youth Ministry

In the United States, Thursday Jan. 22 is designated a **Day of Penance** for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life. Please fast, abstain or do some other penance in prayer to end abortion

Please Pray for our Seminarians
Pray this week for Ricardo Izquierdo from Lincoln. In College 2 at St. Gregory the Great.