

"Be her Joseph!"

By Tom Mealey

When we first married, my wife, Misty, and I were the typical secular couple. We relied on hormonal contraception. Due to bad side effects, that didn't last long. Misty found out about Natural Family Planning (NFP) through a Catholic friend. Admittedly, I was suspicious of all the "hocus pocus" involving thermometers and observations written in cryptic symbols on the NFP chart. That would all change in surprising ways once we got into living the NFP lifestyle.

Before having children, Misty had been an atheist and I had been an agnostic. With our first child, the miracle of life spurred a spiritual awakening in us. We realized the Holy Spirit had already led us into a Catholic life. Even after our conversion, however, **NFP grew our relationship with each other and with God in ways we never expected.**

We studied Pope John Paul II's "theology of the body" and became excited about living out our faith and sharing it. It was thrilling to learn the compelling reasons behind the Church's beautiful teachings on sex and marriage.

Much to my surprise, I also learned how grateful my wife was that I was willing to learn how her body worked. Sharing the family planning responsibility, as well as finding non-sexual ways of expressing affection and intimacy when we had good reasons to postpone pregnancy, **strengthened our marriage and made me a better husband and father.**

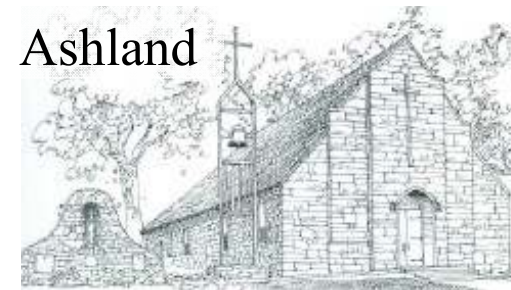
When we became Catholic, I knew I wanted to be the spiritual leader of our family, but I didn't understand what that entailed besides herding our children to church on Sundays. Through NFP and Scripture, I discovered that I had a choice in the kind of man—the kind of husband—I was going to be.

We often blame Eve for eating the forbidden fruit. But in Genesis, we learn that after taking a bite, she turned and offered the fruit to Adam, who was with her. Adam didn't stop her and say, "This is a bad idea, let's go." He did not protect his wife, but stood by silently while the serpent convinced her to surrender her holiness and damage her relationship with God.

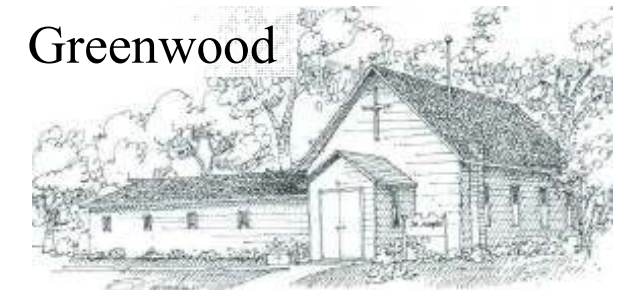
Then there was St. Joseph. When Joseph obeyed the angel who told him to bring Mary into his home, he was accepting the public shame and embarrassment of a pregnant fiancée. **He sacrificed his personal honor and reputation to obey God and protect Mary and Jesus.**

The choice for a husband is clear: he can be his wife's Adam or he can be her Joseph. A man can stand by silently and allow his wife to suffer the physical and spiritual consequences of contraception. Or he can defend her virtue, body, and soul by using NFP. Today, contraception is accepted and expected. Any man who forgoes it for NFP will likely be exposed to ridicule and criticism. But as St. Joseph taught us, there are some things more important than the opinion of others. **May we husbands choose to be Joseph to our wives!**

St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Churches



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



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

Pastor: Father Gary Coulter Rectory & Fax: 944-3554, CCD/Hall: 944-7509
 View the weekly bulletin & monthly calendar Cell: 202-3782, stmaryashland@windstream.net
 at our **website: home.windstream.net/stmaryashland**

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.

Mass Schedule for this week				
Sat.	July 17	5:00 PM	Ashland	+ Jose Fuentes
Sun.	July 18	8:30 AM	Ashland	+ Jerome Van Hoenecker
		10:30 AM	Greenwood	For the People
Mon.	July 19	9:00 AM	Ashland	+ John Tafoya
Tues.	July 20	9:00 AM	Ashland	+ Jerry Campbell
Wed.	July 21	9:15 AM	Care Center	+ Ben Buckingham
Thurs.	July 22	9:00 AM	Ashland	+ Msgr Charles Keenan
		6:30 PM	Greenwood	+ Ralph Barber
Fri.	July 23	9:00 AM	Ashland	Stille Fathers
Sat.	July 24	9:00 AM	Ashland	
		5:00 PM	Ashland	Poor Souls
Sun.	July 25	8:30 AM	Ashland	For the People
		10:30 AM	Greenwood	+ Joseph & Idella Lorenz

<p>Scholl's Lawn Service Lawn Mowing • Aeration Commercial • Residential Rob Scholl St. Joseph Parishioner 304-0813 Free Estimates</p>	<p>BARN DOOR Restaurant & Lounge <i>Eat In - Carry Out</i> <i>7 Days a week!</i> 440 East Elm Ceresco NE 402-665-2500 <i>Catholic Owners</i></p>	<p><i>Advertise Here</i> Discounts for Parishioners 944-3554 stmaryashland@windstream.net</p>
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July 18, 2010

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ministries for Next Weekend

Sat. July 24 - 5:00 PM
Servers: Craven, Lyons
Acolyte: Gerald Fudge
Lector: Donna Nicholson
Sun. July 25 - 8:30 AM
Servers: Adams, Stander, Stille
Acolyte: Tim Kirkpatrick
Lector: Karen Stille
Sun. July 25 - 10:30 AM
Lector: Ginny Hummel
Offertory: Aguirre

Our Return to the Lord, July 10-11
Table with 3 columns: Category, St. Mary, St. Joseph
Adult: \$ 870.00, \$ 185.00
Plate: \$ 159.03, \$ 16.10
Children: \$ 1.00
Weekly Budget: \$ 1,619.86, \$ 396.58
Masses: \$ 60.00, \$ 10.00

Readings and Celebrations this week:

July
19 Mon Mi 6:1-4, 6-8 / Mt 12:38-42
20 Tue Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 / Mt 12:46-50
21 Wed Jer 1:1, 4-10 / Mt 13:1-9
22 Thu Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13 / Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
23 Fri Jer 3:14-17 / Mt 13:18-23
24 Sat Jer 7:1-11 / Mt 13:24-30

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Gn 18:20-32 / Col 2:12-14 / Lk 11:1-13

Stewardship Thought
Today's readings speak of hospitality. Abraham, who cheerfully did for his guests all that desert hospitality required, was rewarded with his heart's desire — a son. Martha also busied herself with all the details of hospitality, but grudgingly and with complaint. Am I a cheerful or a grudging giver?

Congratulations
Anniversaries this week:
Lucille & Earl Brauckmuller
Tim & Stephanie Dolan
Todd & Doreen Survil
Birthdays this week:
Jordan Svoboda
Jared Novotny
Donna Alley
Carissa Schuelke
Conner Adams
Char Horton
Randy Reim
Teresa Kresak

Calendar for this Week

Sat. July 17, Ashland Stir-Up Days
7:00 PM Knight's Bingo (6 PM Setup)
Sun. July 18, 6 PM Summer Catechism Class
Wed. July 21, 9:15 AM Mass at Care Center
Thurs. July 22 6:30 PM Mass at Greenwood
Sun. July 25, 6 PM Summer Catechism Class

Parish Announcements

Thank you to all helped with the Ashland Stir-Up Days activities. Knights of Columbus will sponsor Bingo with set-up at 6:00 PM, Bingo from 7:00-10:00 PM.

Peter's Pence Collection for the Holy Father to help the most disadvantaged and needy worldwide. Thank you for your generosity. Collection to date: St. Mary \$485, St. Joseph \$60. Extra envelopes in back of Church.

Holy Land Pilgrimage with Fr. Coulter and Fr. Damien Cook Nov. 7-17, 2010. Deadline to sign-up us Aug. 1 to guarantee the low price of \$2,835/person, double occupancy. Contact Fr. Coulter at 944-3554 for more info.

Communion Announcements

Ashland VFW Food Pantry requests donations for the needy, this month needs include: Spaghetti and Sauce, Toothpaste and Deodorant.

Diocesan Announcements

Couple-to-Couple League will bring a new NFP class on Sun. July 18, 2 PM in Lincoln. Go to www.ccli.org or call 328-8063.

Natural Family Planning (NFP) Introductory Session in Lincoln Thurs. Tues. July 20. Info and pre-registration: 488-2040.

St. Michael, Cheney will host a national speaker on Bioethics, Dr. Elena Lugo, Wed. July 21, 7-8 PM talk. Free, Refreshments provided.

Thursday Night Forum lecture on July 22, 8:00 PM at Omaha Gloria Deo, 13065 W Center Rd. Sebastion Carnazzo on "666 and the Mark of the Beast: What the Bible Really Says."

Discover Adoption, a free informational meeting for parents about the adoption process. Mon. July 26, 6:30 PM at Hope Christian Church, Lincoln NE. RSVP by calling 402-992-2661 or email hlundgren@bethany.org. Do you want to touch the life of a child? Are you being called to grow your family?

Stop Planned Parenthood from opening an abortion clinic in Omaha at 3105 N 93rd St near a strip mall. Nebraskans United for Life has created a Petition that needs to be signed as soon as possible, and is organizing a one hour Prayer Vigil on Saturday, July 31st starting at 1:00 PM at the location for the new clinic 3105 N 93rd St. Go to nebraskansunitedforlife.org to download the petitioner of find out more information.

Marriage Saving Weekend - Retrouvaille is a series of presentations given by a team of three couples and a priest. It presents a technique of communication that enables you to take a good look at most areas of your relationship. After each presentation you have time in the privacy of your room to discuss the presentation. For confidential information about or to register for the weekend on August 6-8, call 1-888-317-5654 or www.retrouvaille.org on the web.

Twelve Day Pilgrimage to Italy with Fr. Rand Langhorst, Apr. 25-May 6, 2011. Rome and the Vatican, Monte Cassino, Shrine of St. Philomena, Eucharistic Miracles of Lanciano, Cascia and Orvieto, Shrine of St. Rita, Padre Pio's Tomb, Pompeii, Assisi, and more. \$3,855 per person. Call Fr. Rand at 402-643-3421.

Save the Date: Catholic Social Services memorial Golf Classic & Auction on Fri. Aug. 13 at Hillcrest Country Club. www.csisus.org

Spirit Catholic Radio continues what Jesus did: touching large groups with faith. Spirit 102.7 FM can also be heard at www.KVSS.com.

Fr. John Corapi on The Battle Between Good and Evil, Sept 11 at Omaha Quest Center: www.fathercorapiomaha.com

11th Annual Midwest Catholic Family Conference, Aug. 6-8, Wichita KS - outstanding speakers: www.catholicfamilyconference.org

Pray for our Seminarians
This week: James Winter, from Lincoln. College 2 at St. Gregory the Great Seminary.