

PARISH FAMILIES OF ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE & ST. VITUS

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CONFESSIONS: One half hour before Masses or by appointment



Epiphany of the Lord & The Baptism of the Lord January 2 & January 9, 2022

Double Bulletin

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. – Wed.	January 3 rd – 5 th	NO MASS	
Thursday	January 6 th	7:50 am	+ Fr. Rudy Oborny
Friday	January 7 th First Friday	7:50 am	Liv/Dec PCCW Members
Saturday	January 8 th	5:30 pm Weston	Vince Kudlacek
Sunday	January 9 th	8:00 am Touhy 10:00 am Weston	+ Loretta Tejral Missa pro Populo
Monday	January 10 th	7:50 am	+ Monica, +James & +Andrew Chohon
Tuesday	January 11 th	7:50 am	Bernard Tvrdy
Wednesday	January 12 th	7:50 am 5:30 pm Touhy	+ Hank & Delia Dolezal + Terry Jo Maly
Thursday	January 13 th	7:50 am	Lucy Burke
Friday	January 14 th	7:50 am	+ Eugene Kros
Saturday	January 15 th	5:30 pm Weston	+Georgia Arroyo
Sunday	January 16 th	8:00 am Weston 10:00 am Touhy	Missa pro Populo + Loretta Walla

NOTES FROM FR. VANDEWALLE

On Retreat - I will be gone on a priest retreat at the John Paul II healing Center in Tallahassee from January 3rd-7th. If you need a priest, please try Wahoo at 443-4235, Prague 663-4615 or Val 784-2511. However there will be school masses on January 6th and 7th and First Friday devotions with visiting priests on those days. (Fr. Holoubek and Fr. Jirovsky).

The Feast of the Epiphany – This weekend we celebrate the Visit of the Magi who visited the Christ-child on behalf of all the nations. “Wise men still seek Him!”

Epiphany Blessing of the Threshold – Here is a powerful blessing for the threshold (above your doorway) of your home, a tradition of the Church in the East. It is very powerful against the powers of evil. The powers of evil tempt all of us, and sometimes have deeper manifestations. But God’s Good is stronger than any evil. While God permits temptations and evils so that we might overcome them, He also gives us graces (especially through the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion) to aide us. Additionally, “sacramentals” (such as prayers, holy pictures, crosses, statues, medals, rosaries, holy water, etc...) inspire goodness and overcome evil. One such sacramental is the Epiphany Blessing of the Threshold. The Epiphany Blessing (below) is prayed by the priest or head of the household and the Blessed Chalk (at the back of Church) is used to mark on or above the doorframe of the entrance of one’s home (and other doors if you wish). Here is what a family would write in chalk above the door (with the accompanying “Epiphany Blessing of the Threshold Prayer” below which will be included with the “chalk packets”). It includes the current year, the first initials of the wise men, interspersed with the cross: 20 †C † M † B † 22

Epiphany Blessing of the Threshold Prayer (to be recited along with the marking of the chalk): Sacred is this threshold of our home and holy is this door. This is the meeting place of friend, neighbor, and stranger. May it be a bridge for our comings and goings. Whenever we stand in its sacred circle, may our eyes be granted new vision, so that we can see in friend or stranger the God of ten thousand disguises. May this threshold be a sacred space where we come to celebrate the Sacrament of Hospitality. May the spirits of evil never cross this threshold, and may the Name of the All-Holy-One protect our home from harm. May God’s angels stand guard at the right and the left of this opening to grace our comings and goings. May we who live in this home guard the sacredness of this doorway. May our hearts be always alert to the danger of falseness and pretense as we greet those who come to our door. Let our affection be graced with honesty and reverence, and may the oil of truth burn in the lamp of our eyes. Help us to remember that our ancestors were strangers and exiles in Egypt, that Joseph and Mary came knocking at a door like this, weary and in search of kindness. May we receive all at this door as Godly guests. May the blessing of God, and peace and grace of the All-Holy-One, surround this threshold and rest upon all who shall pass across it. R: Amen. [Blessed Chalk is now used to write the blessing above the door: 20 †C † M † B † 22]

Details of Bethlehem - St. Ignatius says that when we meditate on the mysteries of our Lord’s life, we can use our imagination of how things may have been and what may have been going on the minds of the participants. He suggests: Imagine what it was like for Joseph and Mary as they traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Dr. Marcellino D’Amboise tells us some helpful facts to help our imagination. Bethlehem is known as the city of David because David was born there. It is only 6 miles due South of Jerusalem. It was very small. It has lots of natural caves. Some houses are built using those caves. Caves were used as stables. There were only about 50 families, so only 200 to 500 people. It is a 113 mile walk from Nazareth and passes through a desert. It is 16 miles walking uphill in the desert, walking uphill from Jericho to Bethlehem. It is not a flat walk from Nazareth to Bethlehem. There are big descents and ascents and windy areas and is a desert. This is the route taken by the Holy Family. They made this journey many times. It was made 3 times a year by pious observant Jewish men and women. And it takes a week to get there and is an arduous journey. The church that covers the Birth place of Jesus has a strong tradition of being the actual place of Jesus’ birth. As early as the 2nd century there is mention of the cave in which Jesus was born. Early Church Fathers visited there many times. The early roman emperors, when trying to stamp out Christianity, would try to desecrate the holy places such as the place of Jesus birth and the Calvary by building temples over them. Thus, these places were well known and now have churches built around them. To enter the church of the nativity, you must duck down. They did this so that no horses would be ridden in, but this ducking reminds us of the humility which is needed to approach the birth of the Lord. The place is marked by a star on the floor. There are still Christians in Bethlehem who live in small communities. It is hard for them to get jobs in the larger community, so please offer a prayer for them. Pilgrims have been coming from the beginning. Both St. Jerome and St. Nicholas lived there for a while so that they could be close to the place where Jesus was born. The book “Jesus the Way, the Truth, and the Life” by Ascension Press tells more. You can get the book at DrItaly.com

WEEKLY TITHING COLLECTIONS

	<u>St. John Nepomucene</u>	<u>St. Vitus</u>
Amount Budgeted per Week (\$3,054.89) in December	\$12,219.56	
Amount Budgeted per Week (\$2,021.94) in December		\$ 8,087.76
Amount Received in December	\$11,470.65	\$ 9,117.00
Net Excess (Deficit) for the month of December	\$ (748.91)	\$ 1,029.24

Required Notice:

The Diocese of Lincoln requires that its employees and volunteers report any allegations of abuse or neglect of a minor or elder connected with church related activity to law enforcement, consistent with the requirements of Nebraska law. If anyone has information that a minor or elder is being or has been subjected to abuse or neglect please report it immediately to local law enforcement or to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services toll-free number 1-800-652-1999, and also to any Parish Pastor, School Administrator, Teacher, or to any Diocesan official at the Catholic Chancery (402) 488-0921, so that immediate steps may be taken for the protection of the minor or elder.

ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE PARISH

Liturgical Ministries for the weekends of January 8-9 & 15-16, 2022

Acolyte:	Sat. 1/8 Pat Carroll	Sun. 1/9 Matt Tvrdy
Lector/Reader:	Sat. 1/8 Deb Carroll	Sun. 1/9 Marvin Wiese
Servers:	Sat. 1/8 Volunteers	Sun. 1/9 Mason Wiese/John Adams
Ushers:	Sat. 1/8 Paul Virgl/Joe Janecek	Sun. 1/9 Marion Bartek/Jim Woita
Gifts:	Sat. 1/8 Paul Virgl Family	Sun. 1/9 Paul Pleskac Family
Acolyte:	Sat. 1/15 Paul Virgl	Sun. 1/16 Milton Bouc
Lector/Reader:	Sat. 1/15 Ron Walla	Sun. 1/16 Peg Bouc
Servers:	Sat. 1/15 Volunteers	Sun. 1/16 Cameron Woita/Hudson Fortik
Ushers:	Sat. 1/15 Rich Virgil/George Wonka	Sun. 1/16 Jim Woita/Paul Pleskac
Gifts:	Sat. 1/15 Rich Virgil Family	Sun. 1/16 Don Sabatka Family

Stewardship of Treasure: Christmas & December 26, 2021 We gave back to the Lord in return for all that He has given us...
Total: \$3,454.56 **PLUS: Candles:** \$48.00 **Immaculate Conception:** \$40.00 **Christmas Flowers:** \$25.00
Christmas: \$5,847.99

St. John's PCCW is looking for ladies who are interested in becoming the Vice President for the upcoming year. If you are interested, please contact Peg Bouc at: (402) 480-2962.

No coffee & rolls after the 8:00am mass on Sunday, January 2nd. It is rescheduled to Sunday, **January 16th**.

READINGS OF THE WEEK

Monday:	1 Jn 3:22—4:6; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25	Friday:	1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16
Tuesday:	1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44	Saturday:	1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30
Wednesday:	1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52	Sunday:	Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Ps 29; Acts 10:34-38; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
Thursday:	1 Jn 4:19—5:4; Lk 4:14-22		
Monday:	1 Sm 1:1-8; Mk 1:14-20	Friday:	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mk 2:1-12
Tuesday:	1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28	Saturday:	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; Mk 2:13-17
Wednesday:	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39	Sunday:	Is 62:1-5; Ps 96; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11
Thursday:	1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45		

SPIRITUAL CORNER

“Your adornment should not be an external one...but rather the hidden character of the heart, expressed in the imperishable beauty of a gentle and calm disposition, which is precious in the sight of God.”

—St. Peter's advice to women

OTHER INFORMATION

Please remember in your prayers and, on occasion, call or send a card to our home-bound/assisted care facilities parishioners: South Haven—Charles Kadavy, Rose Walla, Mary Lou Woita and Albina Kellner; Saunders County Care Center—Marcella Meduna; Saunders House—George Furasek, Jr.; David's Place—Patsy Sabatka; St. Joseph's Court—Rose Bohac. Please let us know if you would like to be added to this list.

ST. VITUS PARISH

Liturgical Ministries for the weekends of January 8-9 & 15-16, 2022

Acolyte:	Sun. 1/9 Tom Rezac	Sun. 1/16 Dan Furasek
Lector/Reader:	Sun. 1/9 Ron Furasek	Sun. 1/16 Jeff Walla
Servers:	Sun. 1/9 Lane Bohac/Chase Bohac	Sun. 1/16 Cody Furasek/Adam Furasek
Ushers:	Sun. 1/9 Brian Byers/Ted Bohac	Sun. 1/16 Brian Byers/Ted Bohac
Gifts:	Sun. 1/9 Lucy Hanks/Jennifer Joakim	Sun. 1/16 Joe Kouma Family

Stewardship of Treasure: Christmas & December 26, 2021 We gave back to the Lord in return for all that He has given us...
Total: \$3330.00 **PLUS: Children:** \$10.00 **Christmas Flowers:** \$20.00 **Cloistered Sisters:** \$20.00
Immaculate Conception: \$20.00 **Christmas:** \$520.00

St. Vitus' Altar Society Group - Coffee & Rolls—Please join us for coffee and rolls after the 8:00am Mass on Sunday, January 23rd at the school house. Group #3 will be serving.

St. Vitus January Church Cleaning—Chairman: Donna Furasek. Group: Heather Byers, Jennifer Joakim & Shelly Mayo.

St. Vitus Catholic Church Soup Dinner is being planned for Sunday, February 13th. Silent and Live Auctions & Raffle will be held! Shop after Christmas sales! Watch your mailbox for an upcoming letter with more info!! The Soup Dinner Committee!

SCHOOL NEWS

Christmas Break—Classes will resume at Bishop Neumann on Wednesday, January 5th and Thursday, January 6th at St. John's.

Scrip—Order forms are in the back of church and can be mailed or turned in to Barb at St. John's School or emailed to stjohnscrip19@gmail.com. Clearly mark on the envelope St. John's SCRIP. Envelope should include your order form complete with address, phone number and payment. Cards are ordered on the 15th of each month. You will get your cards approx. 2 weeks after order is placed. Please email stjohnscrip19@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Please Keep Saving Your Labels/Box Tops—Please continue to save Box Tops for Education labels, Our Family UPC's, Best Choice UPC's, and store receipts from Sun Mart and Corner Market. There is a basket in back of church to drop off all your labels and receipts.

AREA NEWS

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA Life) is accepting applications for their 2022-23 scholarship program. FCSLA Life members are eligible for these scholarships, which include college, high school, elementary, and vocational/trade/tech school awards. Applications may be obtained on-line, via email, fax, mail, or phone. Please see the orange flier in the back of church. Questions may be directed to Barbara Opp, branch secretary, at 402-642-5342.

Let the Word of God illuminate your new year with an online or in-person class from the Emmaus Institute for Biblical Studies. January "Short Courses" include: *Introduction to the Bible I: What It Is and How We Got It* (January 10-14); *Reading Scripture with the Fathers of the Church* (January 17-21 – online and in-person); and *Introduction to the Bible II: What It Says and How to Read It* (January 24-28). Classes are in Lincoln and run Monday-Friday from 9:30-11:30am. Learn more and register at www.EmmausInstitute.net.

Date Night—Make time for your vocation! The Family Life Office invites you to a date night out on January 11th, 6:00pm-9:00pm at UNL Newman Center Rosary Hall with the Emmaus Institute. The topic is "How to Pray with Scripture in Your Family". \$45 for dinner/drinks/apps for two, \$15 for Drinks/apps, or come for free to the talk and go out to eat on your own (will also be streamed). More info/registration at <https://lincolndiocese.regfox.com/jandatenight>

Catholic Coffee House returns this year with a series of talks on ways we can continue to grow in our Catholic formation. The winter line up will be: Cultural Formation (Jan 16); Evangelical Formation (Feb 20); and Biblical Formation (Mar 20). Each event consists of panel conversations, Q and A, and some time to socialize and will be hosted at the St. Thomas Aquinas-Newman Center, Lincoln in Rooms 18/19 (downstairs) from 7:00pm - 8:30pm. There is no fee and no registration. For more information visit: www.newmaninstitute.com/coffeehouse

March for Life Pilgrimage—There are currently only 27 spots left for the diocesan trip to Washington, DC for the Annual March for Life. Busses leave from Lincoln and Hastings on Tuesday, January 18th, and return on Sunday, January 23rd in the evening. Cost for the trip is \$450. Adult chaperones are also needed. Go to www.lincolndiocese.org/m4l or call 402-473-0625 for more information.

Marriage Encounter—Lincoln, February 4th-6th, 2022. Bringing our couple communication to a heartfelt exchange between us. Call right away to reserve a place, 402-370-5839

17th Annual Spirit Celebration Dinner—Spirit Catholic Radio invites you on Saturday, February 12th to enjoy a meal together and honor keynote speaker and Spirit Award Recipient, Steve Ray. Steve has hosted many pilgrimages for Spirit Catholic Radio and is a frequent guest on Spirit Mornings and EWTN Radio. Social hour begins at 6:00pm with the dinner and program beginning at 7:00pm. Only \$50 per seat. Please make your reservation at spiritcatholicradio.com/dinner by February 5th.

A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOR

A pastor giving a children's sermon on vestments asked: "Why do you think I wear this collar?" One kid answered, "Because it kills fleas and ticks up to 30 days?"