

PARISH FAMILIES OF ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE & ST. VITUS

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CONFESSIONS: One half hour before Masses or by appointment



First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2020

MASS SCHEDULE					
Monday	November 30 th		7:50 am	+ John & Mayme Machacek	
Tuesday	December 1 st		7:50 am	+ Msgr. James Dawson	
Wednesday	December 2 nd	Mass in Church	7:50 am	+ Leon Albin	
			5:30 pm	+ All Souls--Novena	
Thursday	December 3 rd		7:50 am	+ Hank & Delia Dolezal	
Friday	December 4 th	First Friday	7:50 am	+ All Souls—Novena	
			8:30-9:10 am Touhy	Holy Hour	
Saturday	December 5 th		5:30 pm Weston	+ William Frohner	
Sunday	December 6 th	St. Nick Feast Day	8:00 am Weston	Missa pro Populo	
			10:00 am Touhy	+ Dorothy Masek	

NOTES FROM FR. VANDEWALLE

Light of the East – As we begin Advent, one of the best “Advent-y” things I heard last week was a Podcast from “Light of the East” Radio which can be found at byzantinecatholic.org under “features and programs”. Fr. Thomas Loya is an Eastern Catholic Priest. Eastern Catholics are part of the Catholic Church, but with customs different than the Roman Catholic Church. In his 11/10 episode #842, Father Loya spoke of how while there is always the spiritual battle going on against evil, it seems that the world is now contending with the same demons, despair, hopelessness. BUT there is also lots of good! How do we understand this? No matter who our leaders are in church or state [which can cause confusion], there is a battle of ideologies of God v. evil. This may be happening now in ways beyond precedent in history. At the time things are happening, we seldom realize what God is up to. God may allow evils we don’t understand, but only for some ultimate good that He intends to bring out of the evil. Our job is to become AUTHENTIC Catholics. Previously it was easy to get by with “cafeteria” Catholicism without the cross. For a while the Church has not challenged people, thinking that this will help people to stay in the church ... but it did not work. Now, it seems God has “had enough” and is trying to make us stronger. The reception of the body and blood of Christ will enliven us and put us “on our toes” more prepared to face the enemy in this cosmic battle. It seems that God has allowed evil to be even more apparent; it is not hiding anymore, it is out in the open. Furthermore, things have been revealed about ourselves, our weakness and self-indulgence. We are reminded that we are called to martyrdom, either “red” (actually dying for Christ) or “white” (“dying to our self-wills” so God’s will in us takes precedent). We are meant to say no to ourselves so we can say yes to God and our better selves. This seems foolish to modern society. We are to become people of prayer and to be a gift to other people. To call us back, God has to strengthen us like a drill sergeant at boot camp. And we are to help save peoples’ lives. Fr. Loya invites us to look to the invisible realities beyond the visible.

Advent – The first half of Advent (“toward the coming”) we look toward the second coming of Christ, examining our conscience for readiness and some penitential practice to straighten what is crooked and make some reparation for our sins. The second half of Advent we look toward the First Coming of Christ that made it all possible.

Advent Resources - You can find some Advent practices at <https://www.catholicculture.org/> under the “Liturgical Year” tab under “Advent Season Overview”. You can sign up for “The Road to Bethlehem” Advent Journey at <https://advent.augustineinstitute.org/> to receive handpicked Advent videos, talks, and texts. Or you can go right to FORMED.org. Register and sign-in using our parish code 68NGD2

The Advent Word Among Us and the Magnificats are in the back of church along with the new missalettes.

Immaculate Conception Solemnity –The Immaculate Conception is normally a Holy Day of Obligation. Along with the masses on December 8th, the evening mass on December 7th will be the Vigil. Even if with the dispensation you will not be attending mass for safety concerns, plan ahead to Keep Holy this day and giving honor to God through Mary, conceived immaculately to be a fitting vessel and Mother for Jesus. There are lots of options: Attend mass on-line. Pray the rosary today with someone. Read the beginning of the Gospel of Luke. Look up how the Eastern Catholic Church honors Mary on this Feast. Pray and celebrate with Mary and the saints with a delicious dessert.

Christmas Program & Big Raffle – **Thursday, December 10th after 7:50am mass.**

Christmas Flower Envelopes – If you would be interested in giving a contribution to the Christmas poinsettias that will be on display in the churches at Christmas, there is an envelope in your tithing packet for this donation.

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, Patsy Sabatka and Albina Kellner; Saunders County Care Center—Julius & Marcella Meduna and Marjorie Rezek; Oxbow Living Center, Ashland—Bob Machacek. Please let us know if you would like to be added to this list.

ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE PARISH

Stewardship of Treasure: November 22, 2020 We gave back to the Lord in return for all that He has given us...

Total: \$1,671.69 **PLUS: Guardian Angel Fund:** \$100.00 **All Saints Day:** \$50.00 **Candles:** \$31.10

Cloistered Sisters: \$10.00 **Joy of the Gospel Rebate 23:** \$25.00

St. John & St. Vitus Churches will again participate in the statewide **Advent Baby Shower** through December 24th. Suggested gift ideas are bottles, receiving blankets, hooded bath towels, crib sheets/heavy blankets, disposable diapers (especially med. & lg.), bibs, rattles/toys, sleepers, socks/booties, snow suits, formula, & undershirts/onesies. ***Please bring only new, not used items.*** Place them in the container that is in back of each church. Thank you.

READINGS OF THE WEEK

Monday: Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

SPIRITUAL CORNER

‘Awaken! Remember that God comes! Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today, now! The one true God, "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob", is not a God who is there in Heaven, unconcerned with us and our history, but he is the-God-who-comes.’

-Pope Benedict XVI, Celebration of First Vespers of Advent, Vatican Basilica, December 2006

SEMINARIAN OF THE WEEK

This week please pray for Augustine Reimers from St. Vincent de Paul, Seward.

ST. VITUS PARISH

Stewardship of Treasure: November 22, 2020 We gave back to the Lord in return for all that He has given us...

Total: \$585.00 **PLUS:**

St. Vitus December Church Cleaning—Chairman: Kathy Strizek. Group: Deb Meyer, Pam Strizek and Delores Strizek.

SCHOOL NEWS

Support Our School with 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

Catholic Daughters will meet at 6:30pm on Monday, November 30th at St. Wenceslaus starting with the MEMORIAL mass for our deceased members. Meeting will follow mass. This is also the night to bring grocery items for the Marian Sisters. We will practice social distancing and wear masks.

Squires Christmas Toy Drive—The Wahoo Squires are collecting new and gently used toys. If you would like to donate, please put your items in the marked box in the back of St. John (Weston) church or the box in the school by Tuesday, December 8th. All toys will be donated to Catholic Social Services.

The Emmaus Institute for Biblical Studies—Register now for the upcoming online or in-person winter classes running November 30th-February 18th. *Studying Ecclesiastes: A Journey Toward a Meaningful Life*, *The Historical Books (Joshua-Maccabees)*, *Heaven Help the Home: Recapturing a Biblical Vision of Marriage and Family*, and *Encountering Jesus in The Gospel of Luke*. Learn more and register now at www.emmausinstitute.net

Healing Hearts Grief Ministry—Please join Sandy Danek, founder of Healing Hearts Grief Ministry, on December 3rd at 7:00pm as she explores Grief and the Holidays from a Catholic perspective. Open to anyone who has experienced a loss of a loved one or is suffering from infertility or miscarriage, or those who want to know how to better support a loved one experiencing grief. More information and registration is at <https://lincolndiocese.regfox.com/grief>. This event will be at the Harbor Coffeehouse and livestreamed, and is free.

Two Day Equipping—This Two Day Equipping event led by Bart Schuchts of the John Paul II Healing Center. During the training, you will learn the foundations of abiding in Christ, hearing His voice and becoming empowered to pray for others as Jesus did. If you desire to do the works that Jesus did and to live more fully into the calling Christ described in John 14:12, we invite you to attend! This event takes place at St. Michael Catholic Church in Hastings on December 4th-5th. Register at: www.jp2ihealingcenter.org. Call 402-463-1023 or email JP2RetreatHastingsNE@gmail.com for more information.

The annual Mass of the Holy Innocents will be celebrated on Monday, December 28th. All are invited to attend this Memorial Mass, especially those families who have suffered the loss of a baby through miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death or abortion. Reading of names will begin at 6:30pm with Mass at 7:00pm. This year, the Mass will take place at Cathedral of the Risen Christ Church due to the pandemic and social distancing measures. The Cathedral is located at 3500 Sheridan Blvd., Lincoln. If you would like your child's name to be remembered & placed on the banner, please call the Office of Family Life at 473-0620 **before 5:00pm on Friday, December 18th**. *If you placed your child's name previously, it will remain on the list.*

A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOR

Three brothers age 92, 94 and 96 live together. One night the 96 year old draws a bath, puts his foot in and pauses. He yells down the stairs, “Was I getting in or out of the bath?” The 94 year old yells back, “I don’t know, I’ll come up and see.” He starts up the stairs and pauses, then he yells, “Was I going up the stairs or coming down?” The 92 year old was sitting at the kitchen table having coffee listening to his brothers. He shakes his head and says, “I sure hope I never get that forgetful.” He knocks on wood for good luck. Then he yells, “I’ll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who’s at the door.”