

PARISH FAMILIES OF ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE & ST. VITUS

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CONFESSIONS: One half hour before Masses or by appointment



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time January 15, 2023

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday	January 16 th	7:50 am	+ All Souls Day Int. of Ron & Donna Furasek
Tuesday	January 17 th	7:50 am	+ Bill Spicka
Wednesday	January 18 th	7:50 am	Priest's Intentions
		5:30 pm Touhy	+ Greg Rezac
Thursday	January 19 th	7:50 am	+ Twila Janecek
Friday	January 20 th	7:50 am	+ Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI
Saturday	January 21 st	5:30 pm	+ Rose Furasek
Sunday	January 22 nd	8:00 am Touhy	+ Cheryl Bartek
		10:00 am Weston	Missa pro Populo

NOTES FROM FR. VANDEWALLE

What is "Ordinary Time"? - Now that the Christmas Season is over, we enter into what the Church calls Ordinary Time. "Ordinary" actually comes from the word "Ordered" so it doesn't just mean "plain." We read in a priests' liturgical instruction manual: "Besides the times of the year that have their own distinctive character, there remains in the yearly cycle of 33 or 34 weeks in which no particular aspect of the mystery of Christ is celebrated, but rather the mystery of Christ Himself is honored in its fullness, especially on Sundays. This period is known as Ordinary Time" - (Universal Norms of the Liturgical Year). I often think of the kick-off to Ordinary Time as the Baptism of the Lord, because that is when, after His Baptism, when the Holy Spirit descended like a dove upon Jesus and the words "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," were heard, then the Spirit sent Jesus out into the desert, the pre-cursor to His public ministry. In other words, after Christmas and Jesus' private life were done now it was time for Him to go announce the Gospel. It reminds us that now that Christmas is over, let's get busy doing the work Jesus has for us, which includes our own daily duties that sanctify the world, and at times to announce more explicitly the Good News. Jesus and Mary, we ask the grace to do it!

Catechism in a Year – Recommended to me a couple of times was *The Bible in a Year* (TBIAY) Podcast by Fr. Mike Schmitz. I love his stuff, but never got around to listening to it. Fr. Schmitz has a brand new one for 2023, *The Catechism in a Year* (TCIAY). It has been a #1 podcast (as was his TBIAY, most recently still #3). Also, good news, was that another Bible podcast was #2. I started listening to TCIAY podcast Monday and am already up to Day 7 as Fr. Schmitz is enjoyable to listen to and, with one exception, they have been under 20 minutes. I would HIGHLY recommend as a summary of Faith. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) was commissioned by Pope St. John Paul II, as the first universal Catechism since about 1545. It profoundly covers the most important things: God, life, and us! I hope many of you will join me and I would love to hear your feedback. Also, I highly recommend Fr. Schmitz YouTube videos for LOTS of topics, or his Sunday mass on-line if you find yourself homebound.

Ordinary Time for 2023 began on Tuesday, January 10th and continues through Tuesday, February 21st, the day before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten season. It will resume when the Easter season ends, on Monday, May 29th, the day following Pentecost.

2023 Walk for Life is Saturday, January 28th. Join us at 10:00 a.m. at the Nebraska State Capitol (mass precedes at St. Mary's). This year, there will be a GALA event the night before.

The Priest Retirement Envelope (Jan 22) is in tithing envelope packets. This is an optional collection that the Diocese invites us to take up and the parish sends in. *Extra envelopes in the back of church.

Day of Prayer for Right to Life - In all the dioceses of the United States of America, January 23rd shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion. (General Instruction of the Roman Missal). Last year Gov. Ricketts declared this a day of statewide prayer for this same intention.

ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE PARISH

Liturgical Ministries for the weekend of January 21-22, 2023

Acolyte:	Sat. 1/21 Paul Virgil	Sun. 1/22 Matt Tvrdy
Lector/Reader:	Sat. 1/21 Ron Walla	Sun. 1/22 Bob Masek
Servers:	Sat. 1/21 Volunteers	Sun. 1/22 Hudson Fortik/Noah Huisman
Ushers:	Sat. 1/21 Rich Virgil/Volunteer	Sun. 1/22 Marion Bartek/Volunteer
Gifts:	Sat. 1/21 Pat Carroll Family	Sun. 1/22 Matt Rezac Family

Stewardship of Treasure: January 8, 2023 We gave back to the Lord in return for all that He has given us...

2022 Total: \$1,080.00

2023 Total: \$4,643.01 **PLUS: Guardian Angel Fund: \$150.00 Retired Priests: \$25.00 Candles: \$50.00**

PCCW Members-Please pick up your 2023 Yearbook in the church entryway this weekend. Dues are \$15 this coming year. You can put your dues envelope in the collection and it will be passed on to the Treasurer.

SEMINARIAN OF THE WEEK

This week please pray for Caleb Hansen of St. Joseph, Lincoln, who attends St. Gregory the Great Seminary.

READINGS OF THE WEEK

Monday:	Heb 5:1-10; Mk 2:18-22	Friday:	Heb 8:6-13; Mk 3:13-19
Tuesday:	Heb 6:10-20 Mk 2:23-28	Saturday:	Heb 9:2-3, 11-14; Mk 3:20-21
Wednesday:	Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Mk 3:1-6	Sunday:	Is 8:23—9:3; Ps 27; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17; Mt 4:12-23
Thursday:	Heb 7:25—8:6; Mk 3:7-12		

SPIRITUAL CORNER

“Liturgy, in truth, is an event by means of which we let ourselves be introduced into the expansive faith and prayer of the Church. This is the reason why the early Christians prayed facing east, in the direction of the rising sun, the symbol of the returning Christ.”
-Pope Benedict XVI

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, Albina Kellner; Saunders County Care Center—Marcella Meduna; David’s Place—Patsy Sabatka. Please let us know if you would like to be added to this list.

ST. VITUS PARISH

Liturgical Ministries for the weekend of January 21-22, 2023

Acolyte: Sun. 1/22 Mark Walla
Lector/Reader: Sun. 1/22 Steve Bartek
Servers: Sun. 1/22 Caleb Osmera/Simon Strizek
Ushers: Sun. 1/22 Brian Byers/ Ted Bohac
Gifts: Sun. 1/22 Brian Byers Family

Stewardship of Treasure: January 1, 2023 We gave back to the Lord in return for all that He has given us...

2022 Total: \$1,525.00 **PLUS: Christmas Offering:** \$100.00 **Southern Nebraska Register:** \$15.00

2023 Total: \$1,287.00 **PLUS: Solemnity of Mary:** \$150.00 **Guardian Angel Fund:** \$10.00

Stewardship of Treasure: January 8, 2023 We gave back to the Lord in return for all that He has given us...

2022 Total: \$270.00

2023 Total: \$651.00 **PLUS: Water Lease:** \$20.00

St. Vitus Catholic Church Soup Dinner—Sunday, February 12th! Silent and Live Auctions & Raffle will be held! St. Vitus parishioners please pick up your soup dinner envelope in the back of the church. It includes your raffle tickets! If you need more raffle tickets, please let a committee member know. If you are donating a live auction item, please let us know what it is. You can bring your item to any soup dinner committee member or bring to St. John School in Weston. Thank you!! The Soup Dinner Committee!

SCHOOL NEWS

St. John’s Parent-Teacher Assn. (P.T.A.) meeting is on Wednesday, January 18th, at 6:30 pm in the school.

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.

AREA NEWS

Pro-life Retreat by Sr. Deidre Byrnes: religious sister, medical doctor, patriot. “Witnessing to Life No Matter the Cost” at Center, Lincoln on Thursday, January 19th 8:30am-2:00pm, sponsored by OneHeartOneMind. Space is limited: email prolifeinitiative@protonmail.com or Venmo \$25 to @goodcounselretreat by January 16th; includes lunch.

Called to the Silence: 3 Day Ignatian Retreat Opportunity—God speaks to you in the silence. Steep yourself in the sacred space of the Creighton University Retreat Center, just one hour east of Omaha, to be still and open yourself up to the graces God has for you. You will meet with an Ignatian-trained spiritual director daily to reflect on what’s stirring in your heart. Mass daily and confession. Retreat cost: room/meals - \$350. Four opportunities to attend: Jan. 19-22; Feb. 23-26; Apr.13-16; May 4-7. Register at Creighton.edu/curc

Was one of your New Year’s resolutions to dive back into your faith life? Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House, Waverley has several retreats to help foster that relationship with God. Join us Jan.19-22 with Regnum Christi for the “Meet Me at the Well: Women’s Spiritual Exercises” retreat. Register at www.goodcounselretreat.org, email office@goodcounselretreat.org or call 402-786-2705.

The St. Wenceslaus School Family Association invites you to stop by Bishop Neumann High School on Saturday, January 21st between 7:00am and 10:00am for the St. Wenceslaus **Breakfast Burrito Drive-Through Fundraiser** at Bishop Neumann High School.

Walk for Life Gala—In celebration of the reversal of Roe v Wade, the *inaugural Walk for Life Gala*, will be held the night before the Walk. This year’s featured speaker, Dr. John Bruchalski, will be participating in both events, and will describe his journey from a physician performing abortions to a leading light in pro-life medicine. Tickets for the Gala, which will be at Embassy Suites in Lincoln on Friday, January 27th, are \$50, and can be purchased online at nebraskarighttolife.ticketspice.com/2023, or send a check made out to Nebraska Right to Life (noting it is for Gala), PO Box 80410, Lincoln, NE 68501-0410.

Shine Like His Stars 2023—Villa Marie School’s annual fundraising dance and auction is Friday, January 27th, 6:00pm-10:30pm at Lancaster Event Center in Lincoln. Purchase your general admission tickets, reserve a table, bid on auction items, or make a donation. Text vmdance23 to 243725, or <https://bidpal.net/vmdance23>

It’s Time to Walk for Life—Grab your gloves and walking shoes, and join thousands of Nebraskans for the annual Pro-Life mass and the Nebraska Walk for Life on January 28th. The Pro-Life Mass will be held at St. Mary’s in downtown Lincoln at 9:00am. To be celebrated by Archbishop Lucas. Immediately following, the Nebraska Walk for Life begins at 10:00am at the North Capital steps. Bring friends, signs, and your voice to advocate for a culture of life in a Post-Roe Nebraska!

Assumption Parish, Dwight—Sunday, January 29th GOD BLESS AMERICA ANNUAL Dinner & Live Auction. Assumptions Parish Hall Social Hour starting at 5:00pm, Nebraska Wine Grab, Prime Rib or Chicken Breast dinner 6:00pm followed by live auction. Meal reservations needed to attend, \$25 per person. No reservations sold at the door. Visit dwrightassumption.weebly.com for meal & table reservation forms or call Parish rectory, 402-566-2765.

2023 Spirit Catholic Radio Celebration Dinner will be held Saturday evening, February 4th at the Mid America Center in Council Bluffs, IA! This year, our special guest speaker, Jeff Cavins, will present on *Life of a Disciple – Taking your Faith to the Next Level*. Reserve your seat by January 20, 2023 for \$50. For more details and ticket purchasing, visit spiritcatholicradio.com/dinner

Confirmed for Mission—Confirmation Retreat, February 11th, North American Martyrs and March 11th, Cathedral Parish, Lincoln from 10:00am-4:00pm. For children to be confirmed with at least one parent (sponsors also welcome). \$20 per person, lunch provided. Register at: www.lincolndiocese.org/mission or contact: Michele-chambers@cdolinc.net or call 402-473-0625.

Bohemian Mardi Gras 2023—Hosted by Sts. Cyril and Methodius Plasi Parish on Saturday, February 11th, Prague Parish Hall. Social time 6:00pm. Roast pork, dumplings and kraut dinner, 6:30pm. Games, live auction, beer and wine bar. Advanced tickets: \$20 each or a table for 8 for \$140. Tickets at the door: \$25. For advanced tickets call Jo at 402-663-5242. This is an adults only (21+) event.

FCSLA Life is pleased to announce its 2023-24 scholarship program—Candidates must be FCSLA members for at least 3 years. Scholarships will be awarded in all educational areas – early elementary, elementary, high school, college, grad school, vocational, trade, and technical schools. Submission deadline is February 14, 2023. Applications and further details may be obtained by visiting the FCSLA website at www.fcsla.com or sending an email to Scholarship@FCSLA.com.

A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOR

A poodle and a collie are walking together when the poodle suddenly unloads on his friend. “My life is a mess,” he says. “My owner is mean, my girlfriend ran away with a schnauzer, and I’m as jittery as a cat.” “Why don’t you go see a psychiatrist?” suggests the collie. “I can’t,” says the poodle. “I’m not allowed on the couch.”

The Spiritual Testament of Benedict XVI

The Vatican published the Spiritual Testament of Benedict XVI, written on Aug. 29, 2006, one year and four months into his pontificate. Each pope writes a spiritual testament to be made public only after his death. Below is CNA's translation of the full testament from Italian:

If in this late hour of my life I look back at the decades I have been through, first I see how many reasons I have to give thanks. First and foremost, I thank God himself, the giver of every good gift, who gave me life and guided me through various confusing times; always picking me up whenever I began to slip and always giving me again the light of his face. In retrospect I see and understand that even the dark and tiring stretches of this journey were for my salvation and that it was in them that He guided me well.

I thank my parents, who gave me life in a difficult time and who, at the cost of great sacrifice, with their love prepared for me a magnificent abode that, like clear light, illuminates all my days to this day. My father's lucid faith taught us children to believe, and as a signpost it has always been steadfast in the midst of all my scientific acquisitions; the profound devotion and great goodness of my mother represent a legacy for which I can never give thanks enough. My sister has assisted me for decades selflessly and with affectionate care; my brother, with the lucidity of his judgments, his vigorous resolve and serenity of heart, has always paved the way for me; without this constant preceding and accompanying me I could not have found the right path.

From my heart I thank God for the many friends, men and women, whom He has always placed at my side; for the collaborators in all the stages of my journey; for the teachers and students He has given me. I gratefully entrust them all to His goodness. And I want to thank the Lord for my beautiful homeland in the foothills of the Bavarian Alps, in which I have always seen the splendor of the Creator Himself shining through. I thank the people of my homeland because in them I have been able again and again to experience the beauty of faith. I pray that our land remains a land of faith, and I beg you, dear countrymen: Do not let yourselves be turned away from the faith. And finally, I thank God for all the beauty I have been able to experience at all the phases of my journey, especially, however, in Rome and in Italy, which has become my second homeland.

To all those whom I have wronged in any way, I heartily ask for forgiveness.

What I said before to my countrymen, I now say to all those in the Church who have been entrusted to my service: Stand firm in the faith! Do not let yourselves be confused! It often seems that science — the natural sciences on the one hand and historical research (especially exegesis of Sacred Scripture) on the other — are able to offer irrefutable results at odds with the Catholic faith. I have experienced the transformations of the natural sciences since long ago and have been able to see how, on the contrary, apparent certainties against the faith have vanished, proving to be not science, but philosophical interpretations only apparently pertaining to science; just as, on the other hand, it is in dialogue with the natural sciences that faith, too, has learned to understand better the limit of the scope of its claims, and thus its specificity. It is now sixty years that I have been accompanying the journey of Theology, particularly of the Biblical Sciences, and with the succession of different generations I have seen theses that seemed unshakable collapse, proving to be mere hypotheses: the liberal generation (Harnack, Jülicher etc.), the existentialist generation (Bultmann etc.), the Marxist generation. I saw and see how out of the tangle of assumptions the reasonableness of faith emerged and emerges again. Jesus Christ is truly the way, the truth and the life — and the Church, with all its insufficiencies, is truly His body.

Finally, I humbly ask: Pray for me, so that the Lord, despite all my sins and insufficiencies, welcomes me into the eternal dwellings. To all those entrusted to me, day by day, my heartfelt prayer goes out.

Last Words of Benedict XVI - According to the Catholic News Agency the last words of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI as he lay on his deathbed were "Lord, I love you!" according to the late pope's longtime personal secretary Archbishop Georg Gänswein, Vatican News reported. At about 3 a.m. on Dec. 31, a few hours before he died, Benedict was alone with a nurse who did not speak German, Vatican News reported. At that time Gänswein and others who were taking turns staying with the pope emeritus had left the room for a moment. Gänswein recounted that Benedict XVI "in a soft but clearly distinguishable voice said in Italian, 'Lord, I love you!'" Gänswein said: "I was not there at the time, but the nurse told me shortly afterwards. Those were his last comprehensible words because after that he was no longer able to express himself."

The Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts. This announcement is a neat, and practical, tradition. It is actually sometimes chanted at Mass on the Feast of the Epiphany. Though a church calendar includes these dates, my electronic calendar does not; yesterday I entered them in for the next two years. I thought I would include the official announcement here (you'll have to chant it yourself or imagine it chanted). You can also find a table of the Moveable Feasts on line such as at this website that has them through 2060. (when I'll be 90!) Table of Moveable Feasts: <https://liturgyoffice.org/Calendar/Info/moveable.shtml>

Know, Dear Brethren, that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Savior. / On the 22nd day of February will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season. / On the 9th day of April you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ. / On the 21st day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. / On the 28th day of May, the feast of Pentecost. / On the 11th day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. / On the 3rd day of December, the First Sunday of the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen. (From the Roman Missal, Third Edition, Appendix 1)