

PARISH FAMILIES OF ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE & ST. VITUS

P.O. Box 10 Weston, NE 68070 Phone #: 402-642-5245 Fr.'s Cell #: 402-853-2846

Rev. Matthew Vandewalle, Pastor E-mail address: fr.matthew-vandewalle@cdolinc.net

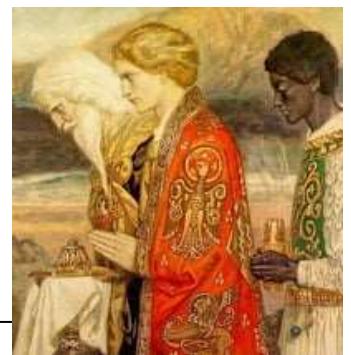
E-mail address: StJohn-Weston@cdolinc.net

Website address: www.stjohnschurchweston.com

CONFSSIONS: One half hour before Masses or by appointment

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 4, 2026



MASS SCHEDULE

Monday	January 5 th	7:50 am	+ Mike Glanz
Tuesday	January 6 th	7:50 am	+ Tim Vasa
Wednesday	January 7 th	7:50 am	+ Frank Chloupek
Thursday	January 8 th	5:30 pm Touhy	L/D Relatives of Janet Bartek
Friday	January 9 th	7:50 am	+ All Souls--Novena
Saturday	January 10 th	7:50 am	+ Max Wonka
Sunday	January 11 th	5:30 pm Touhy	+ Bonnie Kadavy
		8:00 am Touhy	+ Loretta Walla
		10:00 am Weston	Missa pro Populo

NOTES FROM FR. VANDEWALLE

Feast of the Epiphany – Formerly, the Feast of the Epiphany included three ‘epiphanies’ or ‘valuable reveals’: (1) The Visit of the Wise Men, whereby they represented the nations and Jesus was revealed as the light to ALL people; (2) The Baptism of the Jesus in the Jordan with the descent of the Holy Spirit upon him with the ‘reveal’ by the voice of the Father from heaven, saying, “This is my beloved Son, listen to him.”; and (3) The first public miracle of Jesus of turning water into wine at the wedding at Cana. This showed forth his power, his disciples began to believe in him, and this began his public ministry. These Three special ‘showing-forth’, or epiphanies, about Jesus as the Son of God and a light for the nations are now spread out and celebrated over these three Sundays after Christmas, to give more time to consider each one, individually. And now just the Wise Men’s visit, is considered as the Feast of the Epiphany. Reflection: In gratitude for these wonderful reveals of God’s love for me, what gifts of ‘gold, frankincense, and myrrh’ can I bring to God?

Happy New Year – The phrase ‘God is ever ancient, ever new, attributed to St. Augustine, reflects the timelessness of God’s beauty and truth, emphasizing how ancient practices and beliefs continue to resonate in contemporary faith and culture. Reflection: How is God calling me this new year to discover His timeless goodness and discover it anew in the world today, and bring it to the world today?

Christmas Thank You: Thank you so much to everyone for all the Christmas gifts, cards, prayers, and kindnesses! It was so nice to receive so many kind words and wishes and prayers; I appreciated all of them and all of you! Thank you, too, to all who in any way to make our Churches beautiful for Christmas, through music, cleaning, decorating, serving, and the like! I missed celebrating Christmas with you, due to some blood clots, but am glad to be back and on the mend to celebrate the new year and the rest of the Christmas Season! Merry Christmas!

Epiphany Blessing of the Threshold – This Annual Eastern Church tradition blessing your doorway is powerful against evil. The head of one’s home leads this prayer, invoking the wise men by their initials, Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar. We had an exorcist assistant talk to us on a priest study day and tell us how very powerful this blessing is against evil. Chalk and blessings are at back of the church. Please save, return, or dispose of blessed chalk reverently, such as by burying. Blessed Chalk and the Epiphany blessing are in packets at church, but I will include the blessing here in the bulletin as well.

Epiphany Blessing of the Threshold – [This is prayed before marking your threshold with blessed 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 † 26]

Here is a notice we are required to publish annually: *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 weekend of January 10-11, 2026

Acolyte: Sat. 1/10 Pat Carroll **Sun. 1/11 Milton Bouc**

Lector/Reader: Sat. 1/10 Deb Carroll **Sun. 1/11 Peg Bouc**

Servers: Sat. 1/10 Volunteers **Sun. 1/11 Rhett Bouc/Brooks Lanik**

Ushers: Sat. 1/10 Ron Walla/Joe Janecek **Sun. 1/11 Ron Brazda/Volunteer**

Gifts: Sat. 1/10 Teresa Virgil Family **Sun. 1/11 Charlie Pleskac Family**

Stewardship of Treasure: December 28, 2025 We gave back to the Lord in return for all that He has given us...

Total: \$14,223.25 **PLUS: Candles: \$40.00** **Christmas: \$2,601.37** **Christmas (Children): \$43.12**

St. John's PCCW Group will have **Coffee & Rolls** after the 8:00am Mass on Sunday, January 4th.

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—Lucille Strizek. Please let us know if you would like to be added to this list.

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	\$23,823.51	\$ 9,519.00
Net Excess (Deficit) for the month December	\$11,603.95	\$ 1,431.24
2025 Year-to-Date Total	\$169,034.33	\$92,666.13

READINGS OF THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4; Lk 4:14-22

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30
Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Ps 29; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17

SPIRITUAL CORNER

"Truth, by which the world is held together, has sprung from the earth, in order to be carried in a woman's arms." ~St Augustine

PRAYERS FOR SISTERS VOCATIONS & SEMINARIAN OF THE WEEK

Please pray for Sr. Kateri Toler, Jr. Sister, Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln; and for Jacob Knutson of North American Martyrs, Lincoln, who attends Mount St. Mary Seminary.

SCHOOL NEWS

Christmas Break—Classes will resume at both St. John's and Neumann on Tuesday, January 6th.

Support Our School with Scrip Gift Cards—We have scrip cards for sale in the office year round. To purchase immediately: **RaiseRight app** Enrollment Code for St. John's- **259F58BL632L1** Every business gives a percentage back to St. John School! Thank you for purchasing! If you have any questions, about Scrip, or want it explained more, just ask!

ST. VITUS PARISH

Liturgical Ministries for the weekend of January 10-11, 2026

Acolyte: Sun. 1/11 Zach Kastl
Lector/Reader: Sun. 1/11 Steve Bartek
Servers: Sun. 1/11 Corbyn Kastl/Caleb Kastl
Ushers: Sun. 1/11 Brian Byers/Ted Bohac
Gifts: Sun. 1/11 Dale Dvorak Family

Stewardship of Treasure: December 28, 2025 We gave back to the Lord in return for all that He has given us...

Total: \$1,048.00 **PLUS:** Christmas: \$425.00

Knights of Columbus Meeting—Thursday, January 8th, at Sts. Mary & Joseph Parish Hall, Valparaiso, 7:30pm. Lunch 7:00pm.

St. Vitus Catholic Church Soup Dinner is being planned for Sunday, February 8, 2026! Silent and Live Auctions & Raffle will be held! Shop Christmas sales! Raffle tickets will be distributed soon! If you plan on donating an item to the Live Auction, we would request that it be worth \$100 or more. Thank you!! The Soup Dinner Committee!

AREA NEWS

Knights of Columbus 1833 John Paul II Council Free Throw Contest—Sunday, January 11th at the St. Wenceslaus School gym. Enter through the east door. Registration at 12:00pm and the competition will start at 1:00pm. Ages 9-14 (age as of January 1st), boys and girls divisions. Winners of each age division will qualify for districts. No cost for entry and prizes for the winners. Please join us and give your child a chance to shoot for the stars!

Sts. Mary & Joseph, Valparaiso will be hosting Unbound for Men and Women—Are you stuck in a rut? Are sins (yours or others) getting in your way? Are you having trouble forgiving someone? Unbound is a practical way to live the Christian faith through deliverance from all that is not of God, giving you freedom in Christ. We will be meeting eight **Thursdays**, from **January 15th** through Lent, at 6:30pm in Sts. Mary and Joseph Parish Hall to watch and discuss videos regarding **Unbound: Freedom in Christ**. The cost is \$10 for provided materials. Please sign up in the vestibule of church or text/call Katie at 402-480-4755. See www.heartofthefather.com for more information about Unbound.

Ignatian Retreat—Experience an Ignatian Silent Retreat this winter at Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House. Guided by Fr. Gary Coulter, Jo Vasa, and other seasoned directors, these retreats offer quiet, prayerful days of spiritual renewal following the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Multiple formats are available: January 15-23 (8-day & 4-day). Come away, rest in the Lord, and deepen your relationship with Christ through silence, prayer, and spiritual direction. Register at: www.goodcounselretreat.org

Friends of Christ in the Midst of the World ~ Men's Retreat—January 16-18, 2026. Men of all ages are invited to a weekend of quiet prayer and renewal at Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House. Bishop Finn will guide participants in reflections on the Plan of Life, the call to holiness and our identity as sons of God. The retreat begins Friday with a 7:00pm conference and Rosary, and concludes Sunday with Mass and noon lunch. Attend in person or register for the virtual option. Register at: www.goodcounselretreat.org.

Desert Day Retreat—Step away from the noise and spend a quiet day in prayer, reflection, and rest with the Lord at Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House on January 22nd. Come for a whole day, or just half the day. Visit www.goodcounselretreat.org to learn more about our day retreats!

A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOR

What's the difference between a poorly dressed man on a unicycle and a well-dressed man on a bicycle? Attire.
Why did the cowboy get a wiener dog? He wanted to get a long little doggie.