

PARISH FAMILIES OF ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE & ST. VITUS

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CONFESSIONS: One half hour before Masses or by appointment



Baptism of the Lord  
January 11, 2026

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday	January 12 <sup>th</sup>	7:50 am	+ Tom & Tillie Shanahan
Tuesday	January 13 <sup>th</sup>	7:50 am	+ Bob Hedges
Wednesday	January 14 <sup>th</sup>	7:50 am	+ All Souls Day Int. of Patty Bartek
		5:30 pm Touhy	+ Rose Walla
Thursday	January 15 <sup>th</sup>	7:50 am	+ Twila Janecek
Friday	January 16 <sup>th</sup>	7:50 am	+ Bob Vanek
Saturday	January 17 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 pm	+ Don Meduna
Sunday	January 18 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 am Weston	Missa pro Populo
		10:00 am Touhy	+ Lewis & Cheryl Kavan

NOTES FROM FR. VANDEWALLE

**End of the Christmas Season, Beginning of "Ordinary Time" of the Church Calendar** – It is appropriate that the Baptism of the Lord, which we celebrate this Sunday, ends the Christmas season, for at the same time it kicks off what is called “Ordinary Time” in the Church calendar. Ordinary Time focuses not on Jesus’ birth or Jesus’ death and resurrection, but on Jesus’ public ministry. For it was at Jesus’ Baptism that He was ‘anointed’ by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit to go on His Mission to spread the Good News of the Kingdom. It is a good time for us to re-commit to our mission, given to us at Confirmation, to spread Jesus and the Good News of His Kingdom to the world.

**Reflection on the Baptism of the Lord** - We consider Jesus’ Baptism this weekend. Jesus’ baptism anticipated our baptism. Jesus didn’t need to be baptized to be made Holy. He was already Holy. Rather, Jesus was baptized to make the waters of Baptism Holy, so we could become Holy. The State of Grace – Sanctifying Grace is God’s life in one’s soul. The normal way this is received is at Baptism. When one receives Sanctifying Grace, now all that they do, even the smallest normal actions in their daily lives become ‘meritorious.’ This means that their lives and actions emanate God’s Grace into the world and have good spiritual effects on people in the world. One day in heaven God will show us all these good effects and we will be amazed. That is why it is so important to stay in the ‘State of Grace.’ If one loses Grace by mortal sin, then the sooner they can reasonably get to confession, the better. (Of course, if one has ‘perfect contrition’ they can be forgiven even before going to confession, though Confession is the normal way to be reinstated into the life of Grace.) Jesus’ Anointing by the Holy Spirit – As Jesus came up from the waters when He was baptized by John, the Holy Spirit settled upon Him. Thus, He was ‘anointed’ by the Holy Spirit for His mission and so He began His public ministry. In a similar way this happens for us at our Confirmation. In the Sacrament of Confirmation, we are anointed by the Holy Spirit to go on our mission of spreading Jesus and His Good News to the world. This year, as is the case every third year, the bishop comes to confirm our students in fifth through seventh grade. So we are very excited about that!

**Safe Environment Update** – It is that time of the year again that we need to mark our calendars for the annual safe environment recertification training through the CMG Connect platform. It is important to stay diligent in our training renewal to ensure safe environments for everyone. The safe environment training recertification must be completed in January 2026, with a deadline of January 31, 2026. Per the safe environment policies of the Diocese of Lincoln, the following individuals must complete: (1) the annual safe environment training on CMG Connect, and (2) a background check every five (5) years: (1) Clergy (2) Religious (3) Lay Employees (4) **Volunteers whose duties include contact with minors**. To complete the training beginning January 1, 2026, go to [CMGconnect.org](http://CMGconnect.org) and log into your account to complete the 2026 renewal module that will be located in your required training. Thank you for your efforts in providing safe environments for all people within the Diocese of Lincoln.

ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE PARISH

Liturgical Ministries for the weekend of January 17-18, 2026

<b>Acolyte:</b>	Sat. 1/17 Jesse Sabatka	Sun. 1/18 Matt Tvrdy
<b>Lector/Reader:</b>	Sat. 1/17 Bill Laughridge	Sun. 1/18 Barb Opp
<b>Servers:</b>	Sat. 1/17 Volunteers	Sun. 1/18 Corbyn Zitek/Hudson Fortik
<b>Ushers:</b>	Sat. 1/17 Paul Virgl/Don Sabatka	Sun. 1/18 Paul Pleskac/Charlie Jelinek
<b>Gifts:</b>	Sat. 1/17 Paul Virgl Family	Sun. 1/18 Paul Pleskac Family
<b>Stewardship of Treasure: January 4, 2026</b> We gave back to the Lord in return for all that He has given us...		
<b>Total - 2025:</b> \$6,165.85 <b>PLUS: Christmas:</b> \$235.00 <b>Christmas Flowers:</b> \$30.00		
<b>Total - 2026:</b> \$3,834.33 <b>PLUS: Candles:</b> \$25.00 <b>Solemnity of Mary:</b> \$594.00 <b>Guardian Angel Fund:</b> \$350.00		
<b>Retired Priests:</b> \$50.00		

PRAYERS FOR SISTERS VOCATIONS & SEMINARIAN OF THE WEEK

Pray for young women to discern a vocation to the Sisterhood in our Diocese of Lincoln Motherhouses. Pray for Henry Stuhr of St. Wenceslaus, Wahoo, who attends St. Gregory the Great Seminary.

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.

ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE PARISH COUNCIL

The St. John Nepomucene Parish Council meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of even numbered months at 6:30pm at the School. Public comment period is from 6:30pm-6:45pm. Anyone can use that time to make any comments to the council. Immediately after public comment, the meeting will take place. Anyone who is not a member or have an item listed on that meeting’s agenda will be asked to leave at that time. To request a specific item be placed on the agenda please email [stjohn-weston@cdolinc.net](mailto:stjohn-weston@cdolinc.net) and provide details on your request.

ST. VITUS PARISH

Liturgical Ministries for the weekend of January 17-18, 2026

Acolyte:

Sun. 1/18 Zach Kastl

Lector/Reader:

Sun. 1/18 Steve Bartek

Servers:

Sun. 1/18 Corbyn Kastl/Caleb Kastl

Ushers:

Sun. 1/18 Brian Byers/Ted Bohac

Gifts:

Sun. 1/18 Dale Dvorak Family

Stewardship of Treasure: January 4, 2026

We gave back to the Lord in return for all that He has given us...

Total: \$2,819.47

PLUS: Children: \$.25

Christmas Flowers (2025): \$20.00

Christmas (2025): \$330.00

Solemnity of Mary: \$30.00

Altar Society Meeting—Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, at the school house after the 10:00am mass. Altar Society Booklets are available in the back of church, please pick yours up. Thank you!

St. Vitus Catholic Church Soup Dinner will be held on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at St. John School gym in Weston. Silent and Live Auctions along with a raffle will be held. If you plan on donating an item to the Live Auction, we request that it be worth \$100 or more. Also, a soup dinner letter with raffle tickets will be coming soon! Looking forward to a wonderful day together! Thank you!! The Soup Dinner Committee!

READINGS OF THE WEEK

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 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

Thursday:

1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45

SPIRITUAL CORNER

“Today let us do honour to Christ’s baptism and celebrate this feast in holiness. Be cleansed entirely and continue to be cleansed. Nothing gives such pleasure to God as the conversion and salvation of men, for whom His every word and every revelation exist. He wants you to become a living force for all mankind, lights shining in the world.” ~St. Gregory of Nazianzen

SCHOOL NEWS

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!

AREA NEWS

FCSLA parents and students: It's time to apply for the 2026-27 Scholarship Program—The deadline for application is February 10, 2026. Scholarships are awarded for elementary, secondary, vocational, college, and post-grad programs. Applicant requirements and application forms are available on-line at [www.fcsla.com](http://www.fcsla.com) or e-mail [Scholarship@FCSLA.com](mailto:Scholarship@FCSLA.com). There are also request forms in the back of church.

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 15<sup>th</sup>** 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](http://www.heartofthefather.com) for more information about Unbound.

Ignatian Retreat—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](http://www.goodcounselretreat.org)

Friends of Christ in the Midst of the World ~ Men’s Retreat—January 16-18, 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](http://www.goodcounselretreat.org).

LDCCW Winter Symposium, January 30<sup>th</sup>–31<sup>st</sup>—Please plan to join the Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women for the Winter Symposium at Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House. The Symposium is a 2-day gathering that begins Friday at 6:00pm (registration at 4:30pm with an optional 5:00pm bring-your-own fellowship meal) and continues through Saturday at 3:30pm, offering women of all ages an opportunity for talks, prayer, adoration, friendship, devotions, speakers, Mass, and lunch, all designed to foster connection, discussion, and shared faith. For more information or registration, visit [www.goodcounselretreat.org](http://www.goodcounselretreat.org) or contact [office@olgcretreat.org](mailto:office@olgcretreat.org) or 402-786-2705.

St. Vitus (Touhy) Catholic Church Soup Dinner—Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at St. John School Gym in Weston, 11:00am-1:30pm. Serving Chili, Chicken Noodle and Ham & Bean Soups; Free Will Offering! Live Polka Music! Silent and Live Auctions; Raffle; Baked Goods! Fun for All!!

Marriage Encounter Experience—North American Martyrs Church, February 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. "Communication enhancing our Marriage" Call/Text 402-370-5839. Register right-away to save a place.

A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOR

I’m reading a book about anti-gravity. It’s impossible to put down.  
There wasn’t a dry eye at the wedding. Even the cake was in tiers.