

PARISH FAMILIES OF ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE & ST. VITUS

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CONFESSIONS: One half hour before Masses or by appointment



Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday	December 15 th	7:50 am	+ Alice Virgl
Tuesday	December 16 th	7:50 am	+ Tom & Tillie Shanahan
Wednesday	December 17 th	7:50 am	+ Milo Meduna
		5:30 pm Touhy	+ All Souls--Novena
Thursday	December 18 th	7:50 am	+ Patsy Sabatka
Friday	December 19 th	NO MASS	
Saturday	December 20 th	5:30 pm	+ Bob Ohnoutka
Sunday	December 21 st	8:00 am Weston	+ Terry Jo Maly
		10:00 am Touhy	Missa pro Populo

NOTES FROM FR. VANDEWALLE

Gaudete Sunday – As the pink-hued sunrise welcomes the soon-to-be seen sun, so Gaudete (gow-DAY-tay), or ‘rejoicing’, Sunday, complemented with rose-colored accoutrements, invites us to rejoice that we are near the Christmas birth!

Big Raffle - Thanks for supporting our St. John’s School’s Big Raffle! Here are our winners:

- 1st Prize \$500: Ann Lombardo sold by the Dylon Marshalek Family
- 2nd Prize \$250: Lauren Gdanitz sold by Dane Petersen
- 3rd Prize: \$200: Bob Furasek sold by Grayson Pecka
- 4th Prize: \$150: Steve Stanek sold by Rylee Stanek
- 5th Prize: \$100: Denny Wullenwaber sold by Jesse Stava

Reflection on Readings – As the desert looks forward to rains and blooms or the farmer patiently for the crop, so John the Baptist - in prison for speaking the hard truth - will not settle for anything less than the One he has been waiting for – the One who can do miraculous healings. Like John, we may experience dark prisons, but rather than turn to the half measures of pleasure that may numb us or exhilarate momentarily, we don’t want to settle for anything less than God and His NEW hope. (Further, God was with John the Baptist in prison; He is with you in all challenges.)

Wait, with Faith, in the Dark. (from Word Among Us) – In Advent, we symbolically sit as a community in the dark night. We sit together in the dark and wait with patience, as well as with hope, knowing that Christ is coming. The entrance procession as the priest walks down the center aisle at the beginning of Mass is more than a pleasant ritual that we watch while singing the opening hymn. It symbolizes Christ walking amid the people. By standing as the priest approaches the altar, representing Christ walking by, you are proclaiming that you believe Christ walks beside you. Even if God’s face is obscured for now, Christ promises his light. **Reflection questions** (1) Even when you’re in a dark night, God is still present. He has never left you. Meditate on one aspect of his presence and faithfulness today, drawing from Psalm 23. Is it his leading you to waters of rest? Or is it his presence by your side? Spend some time leaning in on a verse that speaks to you. (2) We experience Advent as a church community, waiting together in the dark for the coming light. How might you bring light and hope – a listening heart, encouragement, companionship – to someone who is struggling through a period of personal darkness?

A Christmas Confession? “When I was living at home my parents would take the opportunity during this third week of Advent to take us to the large penance service at St. Joseph’s parish in Lincoln. It was interesting to see so many people gathered at the parish to take advantage of the sacrament of Confession. They even had about 15 priests hearing confessions for about 2-3 hours! It was a beautiful evening that gave us some time to intentionally spend time with our Blessed Lord.” (Fr. Luke Fleck). Next Sunday’s Penance service will happen around the deanery throughout the day and from 5:00pm - 6:00pm, at St. John’s, we will have a penance service and adoration with a few priests hearing confessions. Monday evening in Wahoo.

Penance Service Schedule (Multiple Priests at each service)

On Sunday, December 21st, the schedule is:

- 9:45 am Mead
- 2:00 pm Ashland, Morse Bluff
- 4:00 pm Colon, Prague, Davey
- 5:00 pm Weston
- 5:30 pm Valparaiso

On Monday, December 22nd, at St. Wenceslaus in Wahoo at 7:00 pm.

READINGS OF THE WEEK

Monday:	Num 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27	Friday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
Tuesday:	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32	Saturday:	Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17	Sunday:	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24
Thursday:	Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25		

SPIRITUAL CORNER

“Jesus tells John the Baptist's followers, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.” ~Matthew 11:5

ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE PARISH

Liturgical Ministries for the weekend of December 20-21, 2025

Acolyte: Sat. 12/20 Jesse Sabatka Sun. 12/21 Matt Tvrdy
Lector/Reader: Sat. 12/20 Ron Walla Sun. 12/21 Marvin Wiese
Servers: Sat. 12/20 Volunteers Sun. 12/21 Brayden Pleskac/Landon Pleskac
Ushers: Sat. 12/20 Paul Virgl/Rich Cherovsky Sun. 12/21 Don Sabatka/Marion Bartek
Gifts: Sat. 12/20 Paul Virgl Family Sun. 12/21 Chuck Lacey Family
Stewardship of Treasure: December 7, 2025 We gave back to the Lord in return for all that He has given us...
Total: \$2,680.25 **PLUS: Immaculate Conception:** \$20.00 **Candles:** \$18.00 **Cloistered Sisters:** \$10.00
Guardian Angel Fund: \$100.00 **Christmas Flowers:** \$230.00

All parish women are invited to join us at the PCCW Christmas Party—Tuesday, December 16th at 6:30pm in the convent kitchen. Please bring a snack to share and a \$10 Gift Exchange item. There will be a brief meeting before we eat and exchange gifts.

PRAYERS FOR SISTERS VOCATIONS & SEMINARIAN OF THE WEEK

Please pray for Sr. Benedicta Hawkins, Jr. Sister, Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln; and for Caleb Hansen of St. Joseph, Lincoln, who attends St. Charles Borromeo 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.

SCHOOL NEWS

End of 2nd Quarter—St. John’s last day of school will be December 17th. School will resume 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!
Please Keep Saving Your Labels/Box Tops—Please continue to scan receipts for Box Tops for Education labels, Our Family UPC's, and Best Choice UPC's. There is a basket in back of church to drop off all your labels.

ST. VITUS PARISH

Liturgical Ministries for the weekend of December 20-21, 2025

Acolyte: Sun. 12/21 Dan Furasek
Lector/Reader: Sun. 12/21 Adam Furasek
Servers: Sun. 12/21 Cody Furasek/Cody Furasek
Ushers: Sun. 12/21 Pat Bartek/Bryan Woita
Gifts: Sun. 12/21 Pat Bartek Family
Stewardship of Treasure: December 7, 2025 We gave back to the Lord in return for all that He has given us...
Total: \$6,572.50 **PLUS: Cloistered Sisters:** \$150.00 **Guardian Angel Fund:** \$70.00 **Christmas Flowers:** \$220.00
Thank you to the Larry Masek Family for the new hymnal board at St. Vitus in his memory. God Bless You!
Choir Practice—St. Vitus choir practice will be held on Wednesday, December 14th after the 8:00am mass and also on December 17th after the 5:30pm mass. Please come and help us out if you can! Thank you!
St. Vitus Christmas decorating—Tuesday, December 23rd at 5:00pm. All ladies are welcome! We would enjoy and appreciate help from anyone available.
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

Christmas Mass and Confession times for parishes across the Diocese of Lincoln can be found at:
lincolndiocese.org/christmas
Advent Baby Shower—St. John & St. Vitus Churches will again participate in the statewide event 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.
Knights of Columbus Toy Drive—There is a box in the back of St. John’s Church and St. Vitus, to put your new or gently used toys in. Donations will be accepted until December 19th.
The Veterans of Foreign War will once again be sponsoring a project for the community. The VFW and the Christmas Drive Committee are asking that, if you are in need this holiday season, you complete the referral form in the back of St. John and St. Vitus churches and mail it to the address on the form. The VFW Christmas Drive will cover all of Saunders County communities other than Ashland. **Please send your completed form by December 15th** to VFW Christmas Drive, 271 N. 31st Street, Ashland, NE 68003. Deliveries will be made during the afternoon on December 20th.
A Light Shining in the Darkness—December 19th-21st, an Advent Retreat with Fr. Gary Coulter. Prepare your heart for Christmas by joining Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House for a peaceful Advent weekend. Through Scripture, prayer, and quiet reflection, Fr. Coulter will guide retreatants to encounter Christ as the true Light shining in the darkness. The retreat begins Friday with an 8:00pm Rosary and Mass and concludes Sunday with Mass and noon lunch. Attend in person or register for the virtual option. Register at: www.goodcounselretreat.org

A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOR

A boy wanted to be Joseph in the Sunday School pageant. He was cast as the landlord and objected loudly, but to no avail. When the pageant was presented, Mary and Joseph knocked on the door and asked him if he had a room for them. The boy smiled and said, "Yes, sure. Lots of room. Come on in!"