

St. Joseph Catholic Church

Fr. Kenneth Hoelsing, Priest in Res. / Fr. Craig Clinch, Parish Admin.

DECEMBER 14, 2025

3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

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This Weeks' Masses and Liturgies

DATE	DAY	TIME	INTENTION	SAINT / FEAST
Dec 15	Mon	7:30 am		
Dec 16	Tues	7:30 am	Special Intention	
Dec 17	Wed	7:30 am	+Charles Hathaway	
Dec 18	Thur			
Dec 19	Fri	7:30 am	Jim & Robin Anderson	4 th Sunday in Advent
Dec 20	Sat			
Dec 21	Sun	9:00 am	+Zane Wickham	
		11:30 am	Parishioners of St. Joseph	
Confessions: one half hour before Sunday Masses				

Our Offering to God last week	\$1,725.00
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St. Joseph Prayer Chain

A special intention	George Hoffmeister	Cecilia Meeza	Tony Stec
Dan Adler (Sem)	Jim Jackson	Alyssa O.	Shannon Tebo
Andrea Ainsworth	Cathy Kamost	Brad Oschner	Ryan Urbanosky family
Bill Alexander	Bill Kerber	Salvador Palas	Angel Valdivia
Wayne Alley	Shirley Koenig	Fr. Allan Phan	Landon Van Boening
Greg Almond	Erica Lauinger	Sharon Reasland	Garry Veik
Pete Bartels	Rita Mach	Dennis Reddick	The Verde family
Randy Chloupek	Jolene Markland	Nancy Sapp	Teresa Volesky
Kelem Fabrice	Cecilia Martel	Randy Schulte	Diane Walz & family
Cesaria Gabriel	Shirley McCabe	Juan Slazar	Edith Weber
If you have any intentions you would like to add to the prayer chain, call Elaine Almond (402-224-0732) or Shirley Koenig (402-984-0692).			

Parish News & Upcoming Events

◆ Food Pantry thanks: Thank you to everyone who helped with the Food Pantry on Saturday. The more volunteers we have, the lighter the load is for everyone. Food was distributed to — households this time around.

◆ Triumph of the Heart (Maximilian Kolbe movie that was in theaters this fall) is on Formed.org for a limited time: This movie about Maximilian Kolbe was in theaters this fall. It's now available for a limited time for free on Formed.org. All parishioners have a free subscription to Formed.org, so please feel free to take advantage of this offer.

◆ Penance Service: There will be a penance service at Sutton next Sunday, December 21, at 4:00 p.m. Fr. Jirovsky and Fr. Hoelsing will be hearing confessions there. If you want to go to another priest other than your own parish priest, this is a chance to do that.

◆ Holy Father Prayer Intention for December: For Christians in areas of conflict — Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Masses will take place at the following times:

December 24, 4:00 p.m. (English)
December 24, 6:00 p.m. (Spanish)
December 25, 9:00 a.m. (English)

◆ End-of-year giving: We are close to the end of the year. If there are donations you wish to give before the end of the year, now is the time since there are only three weeks of the year left. Any giving you want to count for 2025 should be dated or postmarked no later than December 31, 2025.

◆ Seminarian of the Week: The seminarian of the week is Caleb Hansen. He is a parishioner of the St. Joseph's church in Lincoln. He entered the seminary in 2020. His parents are Corey & Monica Hansen. He attends St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, PA. Please pray for him and all our seminarians.

◆ Rosary: As we prepare for the coming of Christ during Advent, the rosary is a good way to help prepare for his coming. Pray a whole rosary or just a decade. Mary will be pleased. And always remember, it's a very portable devotion.

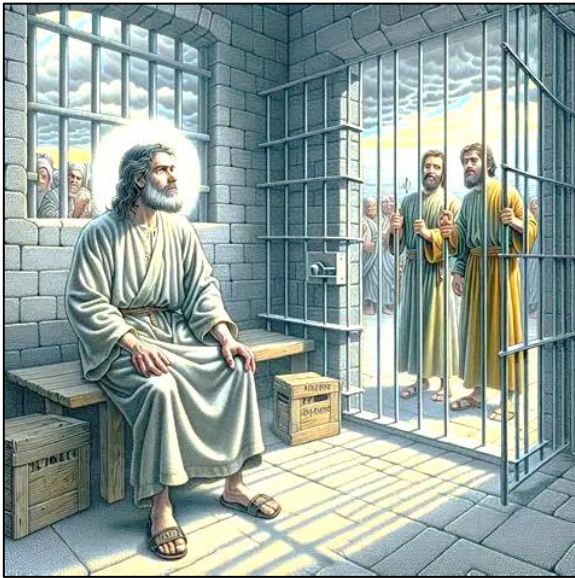


◆ Use prudence when inclement winter weather is taking place: As we are in the midst of winter now, just a reminder: You should never put yourself or your family at risk to attend Mass; God understands. Don't risk breaking hips or knees. It's always a good idea to pray for safe travel for ourselves and for others during the winter months.

Change and newness on Christ

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?”

Matthew 11:2–3



Why did Saint John the Baptist send his disciples to Jesus to ask this question? Recall that John had previously stated about Jesus, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). So if John knew that Jesus was the “Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,” then why would he send his disciples to ask Jesus if He is the one who is to come?

The Church Fathers explore many reasons, but most arrive at the conclusion that John did this not because he didn’t know Who Jesus was, but for the sake of his disciples, so that they would come to follow our Lord once John was killed by Herod. So this was a way of trying to point his disciples to Jesus and to encourage them to embrace this new change in their life of faith.

Jesus understood the reason John sent his disciples to Him. As a result, Jesus gave these disciples what they needed so as to come to believe themselves. He points them to the works that He has done as the Christ so that they would be able to interpret these works on their own and, thus, come to the newness of faith. Jesus points out that the blind regain their sight, the lame walk,

lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. Who could argue with such miraculous signs from Heaven? But Jesus goes even further and states something very subtle. He says, “And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.” This line appears to be one way that Jesus gently reproached these disciples for what appears to be their own personal struggle with this change of spiritual leaders. Jesus identified a certain “offense” that they were dealing with. They were “offended” by the fact that Jesus was indeed increasing while John was decreasing.

In many ways, this is a common experience any time there is a change in our spiritual lives. When something is new, we often struggle with various aspects of the change and newness. But the Christian life is all about change, transformation and newness of life. And this is good. We must seek to change, be transformed, build better and new relationships, learn new ways of loving and reaching out, and become very comfortable with any and every new experience that our Lord places in our lives.

Reflect, today, upon any way that you have struggled with changes in your spiritual life. Oftentimes, those things we struggle with are actually glorious opportunities to live our Christian faith and charity on a new level. Seek out the changes God is calling you to embrace in your life and know that even if they are difficult, they are the surest pathway to a life of greater holiness for you.

Dear Lord, I know You call me to embrace the newness of life and the changes that I must endure so as to follow You more faithfully. Help me to be open to all that You call me to so that I will continually become a new creation in Your grace. Jesus, I trust in You