



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT—THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD • DECEMBER 21-25, 2025

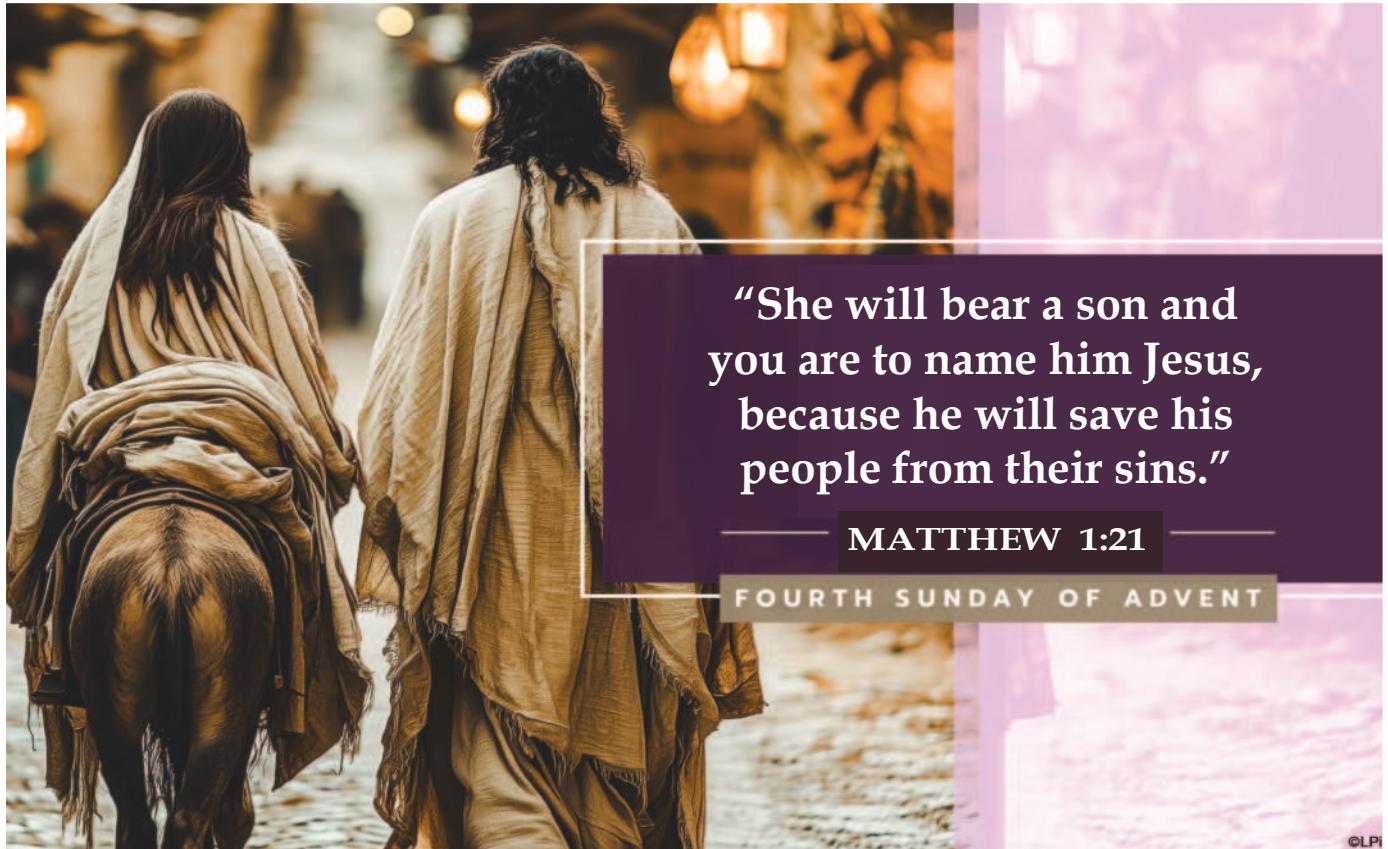
The Parish of ST. JOHN NEUMANN

Fostering Christ's Love in Our Lives

17951 Dixie Highway, Homewood, IL 60430

(708) 798-0622 rectory@sjnhomewood.org

sjnhomewood.org



**“She will bear a son and
you are to name him Jesus,
because he will save his
people from their sins.”**

MATTHEW 1:21

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

©LPI

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Edmond Aristil, Pastor

edaristil@archchicago.org

Rev. Ralph Zwirn, Retired Associate

Rev. Ted Ostrowski, Resident Priest

Christina Rios, Operations Director

crios@archchicago.org

Carlos Roman, Faith Formation

croman@archchicago.org

Jasmine Dowdy, Rel Ed Asst.

jcdowdy@archchicago.org

Karen Canty, Music Director

kcanty@archchicago.org

William Rosas, Music Coord.

wrosas@archchicago.org

Jama Dowdy, Bookkeeper

jdowdy@archchicago.org

Agatha Kienzle, Office Manager

akienzle@archchicago.org

Robert Chan, Maintenance Coord.

rchan@archchicago.org

DEACON MINISTRY

Deacon George Maddock

Deacon Gary Michael Miarka

WEEKEND LITURGIES

Saturday Mass.....5:15 PM

Sunday Mass.....8:00 & 10:30 AM

WEEKDAY LITURGIES

Monday—Saturday Communion.....6:30 AM

Monday - Friday Mass8:30 AM

Holy Day Masses

Holy Day Masses.....8:30 AM, 7:00 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Adoration

Saturday....4:30-5:00 PM

Monday...9:00 AM-10:00 AM

CONTACT

Rectory708-798-0622, fax 798-6137

Religious Education.....708-798-0622, ext. 4

Music.....(708) 798-0622, ext. 7

Parish E-mail.....rectory@sjnhomewood.org

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Mon, Tu, Wed, Th, Fri.....8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sat, Sun.....closed

From Our Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend we celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent. In a few days, we will be celebrating Christmas: the coming of the Lord. Today's Gospel is an annunciation to Joseph that Mary would conceive and bear a son by the Holy Spirit. The birth of Jesus Christ came about ... through the Holy Spirit. Yet, by God's choice, the cooperation of an ordinary man and an ordinary woman was necessary. Joseph and Mary heard God's word announcing salvation and obeyed it. Joseph's response made a difference. He could have opted to drop out of the marriage. He could have refused legal paternity of Jesus.

Instead, he chose to be the catalyst by which God's plan becomes a reality. He gave the name and, by giving the name, gave himself. He accepted to cooperate with God so that we can have the Savior, the one who delivers us from slavery of sin and lead us to God.

Today's Gospel tells us that Joseph was a "righteous man." Indeed, he was. His justice is demonstrated first in his decision not to expose Mary to the law, which would have given him some personal satisfaction. His justice is again proven when he becomes the agent of God's justice by his unquestioning obedience to God's command.

Joseph's response made a difference because he decides to obey the Angel, to obey God. He commits himself to God's plan, challenging as it will surely be. Our small human acts of mercy may seem inadequate or unimportant, but when they participate in the divine mercy that God has shown repeatedly, they may themselves lead to something greater.

Paul reminds us of our mission to cooperate with God when he writes in his letter to the Romans that we have received the grace of Apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith and we are called to belong to Jesus Christ. God's choice to seek human cooperation in bringing about salvation is not limited to Mary and Joseph but continues in our own hearing of God's word and obedience to God's will.

The birth of Jesus isn't simply a historical event that happened long ago but is a present experience of "God-with-us" Emmanuel. Though unnamed in the Gospels, we are to be the Josephs who dream dreams and the Marys who give birth to this child who saves. We make a home for Emmanuel whenever we make a home for those around us. We are now to be the risen presence of Christ in our world, we are to make the Gospel known, and we are to do all that God commands us to. This is how "God is with us."

As we celebrate Christmas this year, my heart is filled with gratitude for each of you. The joy of this season isn't found only in decorations or gifts, but also in the love we share as a parish family and in the miracle of Christ's birth.

Christmas reminds us that God chose to enter our world in the most humble way, bringing light into darkness and hope into every heart. My prayer is that you feel that same light shining in your homes, your families, and your daily lives.

May laughter fill your gatherings, may peace settle in your hearts, and may kindness guide your steps into the New Year.

Thank you for the ways you live out your faith and support one another — you are a true blessing to our community.

I wish you a joyful Christmas and a New Year full of hope, renewal, and God's abundant love.

With warmth and prayers,

Fr. Edmond Aristil

WELCOME!

St. John Neumann Parish is a joy filled, Eucharist-centered community of missionary disciples, rooted in Scripture, Sacrament and Prayer, dedicated to encountering Christ in our lives, and creating a culture of belonging, unity and compassion as we reach out in service to others and embrace all people to give witness to the Love and Mercy of God in the greater community.

WEEKLY OFFERING TOTAL DECEMBER 6 & 7

Weekend Collections	\$11,771.00
Electronic Giving	\$1,896.25
Total Donation	\$13,667.25
Building/Utilities:	\$1,895.00
Christmas:	\$851.00
Flowers:	\$110.00
Sharing:	\$290.00
All Saints/All Souls:	\$62.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$1,096.00
Mission Coop:	\$100.00
Seminary:	\$20.00
Solemnity of Mary:	\$85.00
Thanksgiving:	\$171.00
Thank you for your generosity!	

Donate
Online



If you would like to consider electronic giving to St. John Neumann Parish in Homewood, online donations can be made using credit or debit card through GiveCentral.org

You can make one-time donations or can sign up for weekly or monthly donations.

To sign up for Give Central, go to www.givecentral.org or <https://www.givecentral.org/location/114>

Around the Parish



Christmas 2025

The Parish of Saint John Neumann

SCHEDULE OF MASSES:

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday, December 20 5:15 p.m.
Sunday, December 21 8:00 a.m.
10:30 a.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE (VIGIL)

Wednesday, December 24 4:00 p.m. (With the Blessing of the Nativity scene)
10:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY

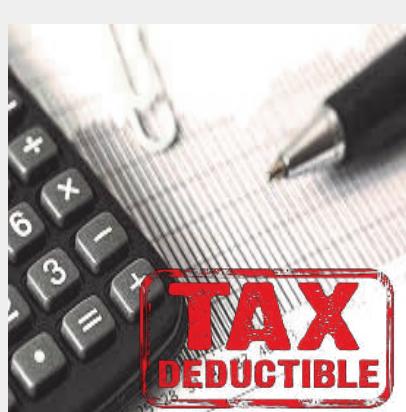
Thursday, December 25 8:00 a.m.
10:30 a.m.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Saturday, December 27 5:15 p.m.
Sunday, December 28 8:00 a.m.
10:30 a.m.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Thursday, January 1 9:00 a.m.



A TAX-SAVVY WAY TO SUPPORT ST JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

When you donate appreciated securities or mutual funds to our parish, you can reduce or even eliminate federal capital gains taxes on the transfer. You may also be entitled to a federal income tax charitable deduction based on the fair market value of the securities at the

time of the transfer. For more information about donating stock or securities, please contact your financial advisor.

To make a stock or IRA donation to St. John Neumann Parish, please contact:

Christina Rios, St. John Neumann Parish Operations Director
at 708-798-0622, ext. 5 or crios@achchicago.org

Around the Parish

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the many parishioners who have participated in the special collection for Christmas flowers. Here are the names of those loved ones especially remembered during the Christmas season:

Adebesin Family

Badar Family

Berschinski Family

Helen Bock

Bodnar Family

Jovita Burke

Mary Burton

Chlopecki Family

Clay Family

DeWilde Family

Egofske Family

John Fritts

Gaffney Family

Gaughan Family

Freeman Family

Funke Family

Tim Goldenstein

Genevieve Hayes

John P Hayes

Tom Hayes

Hickson Family

Hudson Family

George J. Kuzma

George W. Kuzma

Helen C. Kuzma

Bernard Leo

Irene Leo

Mary Leo

Tom Leo

Lynch Family

Edward A. Marszewski

Mason Family

Bernadette McAleenan

Owen McAleenan

McCrowey Family

Nepomuceno Family

Ogbuli Family

Patterson Family

Perez Family

Ray & Florence Prindaville

Reynolds Family

Robinson Family

Scott Family

Schultz Family

Silvino Family

Smith Family

Straton Family

Jack Sullivan

Tollerson Family

Williamson Family

Zawada Family

Zelek Family

Christmas Flowers offering envelopes are available in the back of the church. Please print the names of your loved ones that you would like to remember during this Christmas on the back of the envelope. Please return your flower offering in the regular collection or drop it off at the rectory office.



PRAYING IN THE NEW YEAR

You are all invited to come together after the Mass on New Year's Day to "Pray In the New Year".

We will meet in the church immediately after morning Mass.

If you wish to start off 2026 with a little more prayer in your life, if you wish to join with fellow parishioners to pray for our families, parish, and community,

if you would like to spend some quiet time in Centering Prayer, please join us for about an hour of prayer, silence and reflection.

If you have any questions, please call Elaine at 708 269-6209.

Hope you can join us!!!!

PARISH MINISTRIES

ALTAR SERVERS:

Contact: Fr. Edmond Aristil

ARTS & ENVIRONMENT:

Contact: Erin Roeper

ATHLETICS

Contact: John Blasgen

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Contact: Elaine Bulanda, Mary Paetsch

BOOK CLUB

Contact: Helen Hillegass

CATECHISTS/RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Contact: Carlos Roman

6:30AM COMMUNION SERVICE

Contact: Steven McDowell

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

Contact: Jama Dowdy

ELIZABETH MINISTRY

Contact: Marge Hayes

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

Contact: Jack Hayes, Tom Blaszczyk

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Contact: Serena Hewitt

FOOD DRIVE

Contact: Mary Ellen Brabec

GARDENING TEAM

Contact: Elaine Hoffman

GUADALUPANAS

Contact: Caitlin Amescua

HOSPITALITY

Contact: Mary Ellen Brabec

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Contact: Timothy Gsell

LECTORS

Contact: Mary Ellen Brabec, Tom Brabec

LITURGY WRITING TEAM

Contact: Julie Orbik, Ruth Austing

MEALS-PLUS

Contact: Jim Bova

MEN FOSTERING FAITH GROUP

Contact: Frank Casella, Oscar Griffin Jr

MINISTERS OF CARE

Contact: Jack Hayes, Tom Blaszczyk

MUSIC MINISTRY

Contact: Karen Carty, William Rosas

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Maureen Kelly, Dave Wolken, Helen Hallman, Angela Murray, Paul Lynch, Susan Gates, Connie Callahan, Sandra Cutz, Marge Gleason, Katie Seidel, Dobar Dogisso

PIECEMAKER QUILTERS/PRAYER SHAWL

Contact: Helen Hillegass

PRAYER MINISTRY

Contact: Julie Orbik

SANCTUARY GUILD

Contact: Sue Wolken

SMALL FAITH SHARING GROUP

Contact: Elaine Bulanda, Mary Paetsch

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Contact: Elaine Bulanda

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MINISTRY

Contact: Janice Scott

USHERS

Contact: Patrick Nevins

YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY

Contact: Carlos Roman

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2025

5:15PM *Fr. EDMOND ARISTIL*

Birthday Blessing Debra Johnson
Birthday Blessing Joanne Middleton
Birthday Blessing Susan Jaros
† Sean Henderson
† Tim Naughton
† Mercides Moret

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

8:00AM *Fr. TED OSTROWSKI*

† Adam & Andrew Ciesla
† Chelsea Marie Simonsen

10:30AM *Fr. EDMOND ARISTIL*

Birthday Blessing Susan Jaros
Birthday Blessing Therese Mannes
Birthday Blessing Debra Johnson
Birthday Blessing Frances Wilkinson
Special Int. Kevin & Declan Glynn
Special Int. Judy Larkin Family
Special Int. Maura Douglas Family
Special Int. Kathleen Cox Family
† Francisco Navarro
† Donald Stankiewicz
† Fred Gold
† Andrea Glynn

11:30AM *BAPTISM JOSIAH LEON CASTENADA*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2025

8:30AM *Fr. EDMOND ARISTIL*

Birthday Blessing Therese Mannes
† Josh Kaplin

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2025

8:30AM *Fr. RALPH ZWIRN*

Birthday Blessing Liz Dirksen



CHRISTMAS EVE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025

4:00PM *Fr. EDMOND ARISTIL*

Birthday Blessing Janine Boyle
Special Int. Jack Boyle
† Corinne Schillings & Andrew Roccella
† Fred Gold
† Stella Holtz

10:00PM *Fr. EDMOND ARISTIL*

† People of St. John Neumann Parish

CHRISTMAS DAY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2025

8:00AM *Fr. TED OSTROWSKI*

† Julia & Justin Berschinski
† John Schmidt



10:30AM *Fr. EDMOND ARISTIL*

Birthday Blessing Caden Mitchell Gladieux
† Jim Colgan
† Barbara Jeanne Lowery
† Elizabeth Schwab
† Kuzma Family
† Edward A. Marszewski
† Renee McDowell
† Joseph C. Chlopecki
† Nancy Swanborn

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2025

8:30AM *Fr. TED OSTROWSKI*

† Mike Britton
† Lara Fryk
† Anna Tinsley

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2025

10:00AM *MEMORIAL MASS: JANICE GERZEMA*

5:15PM *Fr. EDMOND ARISTIL*

Birthday Blessing Suzanne Bodnar
† Yvonne Brooks
† Carlo Flamini
† Renata Flamini

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025

8:00AM *Fr. EDMOND ARISTIL*

† Ann Koranda
† Robert & Frances Frederickson
† Martin & Mary Kay Monahan

10:30AM *Fr. RALPH ZWIRN*

Birthday Blessing Therese Mannes
Special Int. Richard & Marge Lynch
Special Int. Kienzle Family
† Robert Cosgrove
† Denis Bandera
† Sterling, Ann & Marykay Hill
† Gay Gorman
† Martin & Mary Kay Monahan
† Jean Mizicko
† Jean Schlesinger

GIFT BEARERS FOR SUNDAY MASSES

You can request a Mass offering at a particular Mass for one of your loved ones or friends. Please know, that if you would like to bring up the Offertory Gifts at that requested Mass, you can do so by advising one of the ushers before the Mass begins.

Religious Education for All Ages

INFANCY NARRATIVE ACCORDING TO MATTHEW—CURRENT INSTALLMENT

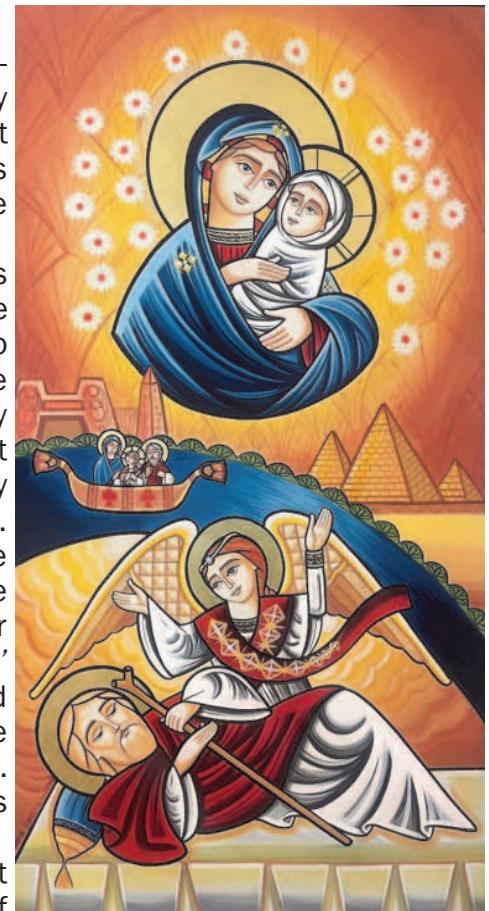
It is time to light that final candle in the Advent wreath. Its illumination signifies that we approach the end to our preparations. A nice family tradition for this season is it not? The readings this 4th Sunday of Advent in Matthew's Lectionary cycle return us to what is described as JC's "Infancy Narrative." Matthew presents for us his perspective on these events according to Joseph's role in this holy pageant.

Today's story takes us to that moment when the Holy Family is formed. *"An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream."* Code words for 'God speaks, listen carefully to the message.' This instruction to Joseph obviously fulfills the prophecy given by Isaiah in his passage in the first reading. Isaiah is clearly impatient with king Ahaz who emphatically spurns Isaiah's counsel. It was tradition for a king to consult a prophet to discern God's will before momentous decisions such as military engagements. Ahaz declines the offer and essentially refuses God's help. Isaiah was accustomed to the lot of an OT prophet. No one listens to the wisdom! Isaiah's brusque reply is that Ahaz will receive a sign whether he asks for it or not. Isaiah predicts the birth of a child to a virgin mother who will name her son 'Emmanuel,' a name that means 'God is with us.' No one, even the obtuse Ahaz, will be able to forget that. Ahaz preferred to be without God's influence. Isaiah essentially tells God's chosen people that their salvation is coming—just not from a misguided idiot like Ahaz. Isaiah's implicit message to us is that we must vigilantly prepare for this coming.

The subsequent historical record tells us that it does not turn out well for Ahaz. Rather than join forces with his northern neighbors of the kingdom of Israel against the invading Assyrians, Ahaz chose an alliance with the invaders instead. He imagined this association would spare him and his kingdom the grief of occupation. But Ahaz did not choose wisely. His expedient strategy bought him a mere couple of years. Assyria occupied Ahaz's northerly neighbors and effectively—but quietly—subjugated Ahaz's kingdom. This was a portent of the Babylonian exile that followed. Matthew soothes the sting by including Ahaz in David's lineage in the genealogy of Jesus in his opening chapter.

Ahaz did not heed Isaiah's encouragement to rely upon God. A proud person imagines that he can 'go it alone' in a challenging life without acknowledging God's unmistakable presence. Matthew resurrects this encouragement by offering us God's real presence in His son, the Christ child. The willing cooperation of 2 humble humans was necessary. Joseph was an essential component in a less dramatic fashion. Might you be scared witless if a heavenly being occupied your dreams? In every episode in the Bible when an angel so appears, the heavenly messenger dispels the frightening with the command *"Be not afraid!"* That always does it for me. Joseph faced a real quandary. His situation had all sorts of bad optics for himself and his young bride-to-be. There appeared to be no good way out of this situation. But Joseph, unlike his forebear Ahaz, placed his trust in God. Just as Mary indicated her assent to the angel Gabriel at her annunciation, so too did Joseph. Was his unhesitant—but silent—'YES!' any less profound than Mary's? Instead of 'quietly divorcing her' Joseph publicly *"took his wife into his home as the angel had commanded him."* No one would suspect that something incredibly extraordinary had occurred.

Remember Joe's legacy with this prayer: *"Dear St Joseph, protector of the Holy Family and patron of workers, I pray for intercession to become more like you. May I have the wisdom to listen quietly to God's will; the understanding to discern His meaning; the courage to act upon it immediately without hesitation; the unwavering tenacity to persevere despite hardship, discouragement and despair; the steadfast and resolute stamina to always resist temptation; and the confidence in knowing, that with God's grace and love, there is nothing that He asks me to do that I cannot accomplish. For these things I pray."*



Readings for the Week

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 21, 2025

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Thursday: *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 *Night:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 *Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 *Day:* Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 (see 1)/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

[Daily Readings > https://sjnhomewood.org/daily-readings-and-gospel](https://sjnhomewood.org/daily-readings-and-gospel)



REMEMBRANCE TREE

The Remembrance Tree is a way to remember your deceased loved ones during the month of December and the Christmas season.

You are invited to take an ornament from the basket located in the back of the church. Write the names of your deceased loved ones on the ornament. Then, place the ornament on the Remembrance Tree.

Around the Parish



JOIN US • GET INVOLVED

YOUNG ADULTS in 20's and 30's

Meet Thursdays at 6:30 PM
in the School Building

For more information contact Carlos Roman at
croman@sjnhomewood.org or 708.798.06, ext. 4

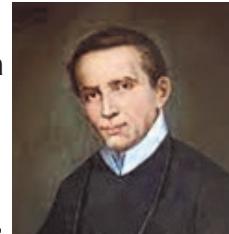
ST. JOHN NEUMANN NOVENA

A **Novena** (from Latin word: *novem*, "nine") is an ancient form of prayer consisting of private or public prayers repeated for nine successive days or weeks.

The Novena is often prayed in preparation for the feast of a saint or for a specific intercession. The nine days between the Feast of the Ascension and Pentecost, when the disciples gathered in the upper room and devoted themselves to prayer, is often considered to be the first novena.

We invite you, our parish family, to pray a Novena in preparation for the feast day of St. John Neumann.

The Novena will begin on **December 28**,
be prayed for nine days, and
conclude on **St. John Neumann's feast day: January 5th**.



There are copies of the Novena available on the tables in the back of the church. Please take a copy home with you and let us pray together as a parish family as we prepare to celebrate the feast of St. John Neumann.

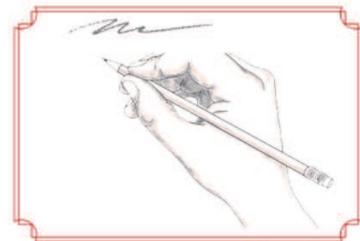
Coming to a pew near you!

Your Parish Council invites you to complete our suggestion cards found in the pews and vestibule. Your thoughts will be our guide to caring for our church family and communities more faithfully.



What would you like to see?

The Parish Pastoral Council welcomes
your thoughts and ideas for helping
the parish grow in faith and community.



Please deposit your suggestions in the Collection Basket
or in the Suggestions Box in the church vestibule.

Thank you!

Around the Archdiocese



Christmas 2025

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Our Christmas celebrations coincide with the beginning of winter. There is less light at this time of year and more cold than we might want. The contrast is striking for people of faith. We remember God's only begotten Son born of the Virgin Mary. He comes into a dark and cold world as its light and its warmth.

In chapter four of Matthew's gospel at the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus, the evangelist cites words of the prophet Isaiah:

*...the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region
and shadow of death
light has dawned. (Mt 4:16)*

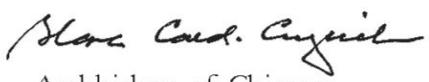
Events of this past year could suggest that all we have is indeed a cold and dark world. That seems to be the message of the wars fought around the world, of the tragic school shootings and political assassinations in our nation, and of our frayed connections with each other.

Again, for us as people of faith, the contrast is stark. We are realistic, and we know well the challenges of our world in this tense moment of the world's history. We also know, however, a larger narrative of God's love incarnate in Jesus Christ, the light that breaks the power of sin and death. Saint John wrote of him: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5) This light enlightens us and warms us. Whatever struggles we face, we are assured because he walks with us.

As you gather with family and friends and fellow parishioners, I urge you to reassure each other with our convictions of faith. Take responsibility in the world to be a sign of hope and a source of encouragement for others. In this way, you will bring Christ the light to those who need him.

Join me and pray for our world, our nation, and our local communities that we can all walk in the light.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Archbishop of Chicago



The rectory office will be closed
December 25-28.



SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO ST. JOHN NEUMANN!

Sunday, December 21st

following the 10:30 AM Mass in
the School Gym

TAMALES AND POZOLE FOR SALE
FAMILY PHOTOS WITH SANTA
BAKED GOODS

For more information, please call
Carlos at 708-798-0622, ext. 4
or croman@sjnhomewood.org.

ST. JOHN NEUMANN'S ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

If you have a need for
financial assistance, please
contact St. John Neumann
St. Vincent de Paul at
708-798-0622 ext 8.



Around the Parish

MERRY
Christmas

To our Parish and Religious Education Program Families, The Religious Education Program joyfully wishes you a Merry Christmas! May your hearts be filled with love and joy, and may the season surround you with warmth and happiness.

2025

PRAYER BEFORE CHRISTMAS DINNER

God of all gifts, we thank you for the many ways you have blessed us this day. We are grateful to each of those who are gathered around this table. We ask you to bless us and our food and to bless those we love who are not with us today. In our gratitude and love, we remember your humble birth into our lives and pray for those who are without enough to eat. We remember the stable in which you were born and pray for those who have no place to live. We remember your challenging message of caring and giving, and we pray for peace in families and nations throughout the world. We bless you and give you thanks in your Spirit who brings our hearts to life on Christmas Day and forever. Amen.

onlineministries.creighton.edu

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



The Vicar for Deacons

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED THE CALL TO BE A DEACON OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

Join us at 7 pm on January 19, 2026

Office of the Diaconate, 816 Marengo, Forest Park, IL

We will provide an overview of the Deacon Formation Program, the application process and information on the ministry of a deacon. Men, single or married, are invited to attend. Wives are strongly encouraged to accompany their husbands. For more information and to register, contact the Office of the Diaconate at 708-366-8900.

"Whom shall I send? Who will go for us? 'Here I am, send me!' –Isaiah 6:8



Body & Soul

Pray for the Sick

LIZ ADDUCCI
 NORMA ALFORD
 WILBER "LEROY" ARCHER
 SUZETTE D. ARISTIL
 BALASKAS FAMILY
 MARIA BEELE
 FR. THOMAS BELANGER
 JO ANN BLASZCZYK
 DONNA BOOKER-KNIGHT
 BARBARA BOZZO
 ALEX BRANDT
 GLEN BROWN
 RUSSELL BROWN
 CONNIE BRUSICH
 JOAN BULF
 DOROTHY BURKES
 SEAN BURTON
 BETTY BUTLER
 VICKY BUTLER
 HELEN CARROLL-O'BRIEN
 HAROLD CHAPMAN
 FRANK CASELLA
 CARLA CASSARO
 VICTORIA CHAVEZ
 MELISSA CHLOPECKI
 ANDREA CRAFTON
 SHIRLEY & BITH CURRY
 OSBORN CURTIS
 FRANK DANIELS
 RARICK DAY
 MAURICE & SANDRA
 DELANEY
 CHAR DROZDOWSKI
 RENEE ELIACIN
 SERGE ELIACIN
 KAREN & DAVE ERICKSON
 ROBERT EVERAERT
 MARIA ELANA ESTRADA
 SUSAN EYSENBACH
 CANDIDO ESPARZA

MARGE FASANO
 ED FASANO
 MARY FERNANDEZ
 JUDY FISHER
 ALMA FITZPATRICK
 DOLLY FORCH
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Color denotes
 recently added
 attention family
 members.

After 8 weeks,
 please notify the
 Rectory if your loved
 one still needs to be
 on our prayer list.

Prayers for Our Troops

Please pray for the men and women in our Armed Forces. May God protect them and return them safely to their families:

AMY BAWA, US ARMY
 SEBASTIAN ASCENCIO, US AIR FORCE
 BRUNO BRITTANY, US ARMY
 BRADLEY BRUNO, US NAVY
 LT. COL. ANGELA BULANDA, US ARMY
 CAPT. ROBERT BULANDA, US AIR FORCE
 ANTONIO FABIAN CAMPOS, US ARMY
 LT. REBECCA CONTI-VOCK
 CAPT. NOEL CONRAD
 CAPT. AARON CHRISTIAN DEAL
 LT. THOMAS DEVANE
 SCPO PETER DONALDSON
 AIRMAN ALEX FUENTES
 ALAN GRAGE, US ARMY
 COL. DAWN HARDEMAN, US ARMY
 E4 SPECIALIST ROLAND HARGROVE II
 SF RANGER CHRISTOPHER JOHN JONES
 PO2 MATTHEW JURON, US NAVY
 PRIVATE ARTHUR KRUEGER
 SEAMAN THOMAS KRUEGER
 PVT. NATHAN A. MACH
 SFC AMY MACKOWIAK, ILNG
 SPECIALIST JOSHUA S. MITCHELL
 MAJ. SAMUEL MODICA, USMC
 LT. DANIELLE PETERSON
 A1C. JESSICA POLACEK
 GYSGT LOUIS RODRIGUEZ
 CAMRYN SHUPRYT, US ARMY
 NICHOLAS SHUPRYT, US ARMY
 LNCPL DILLON THOMPSON
 AIRMAN GAVIN TIENSTRA
 MAJ. JONATHAN TROUTMAN
 PRIVATE JOSHUA TYLER, USMC
 MGYSGT JOSEPH UNWOOD
 PFC ALEXANDER D. URBAN
 LT. COL. KEVIN J. WALKER
 1ST LT. DANIEL J. WEBB
 DESHAUN WHITE, US ARMY

From Death to Eternal Life - Please Pray for

JANICE E. GERZEMA
 (8/13/1934-8/3/2025)

Memorial Mass:
 Saturday, December 27, 2025
 10:00am



May the choir of angels lead her into Paradise.

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