



**December 7, 2025**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

*“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:  
all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”*

The prophet Isaiah offers a beautiful message of hope in our first reading. God’s chosen people dealing with exile or who will be subject to it can be confident in the one upon whom the spirit of the Lord rests. The kingdom of this messiah will be marked by peace. Amazing to ponder wolves and lambs cohabiting in tranquility. Calves and young lions grazing in harmony. Cows and bears serenely resting together.

As we ponder new arrangements of parishes this summer, initially we might object because of long-held grudges or divisions among towns and schools. Comments are made that parishioners will never worship at the neighboring parish because their sports teams have been rivals for years. Memories of injustices regarding benefits or programs could linger and it seems impossible that the faithful of these different areas could come together for common worship and purpose.

Yet, it also seems inconceivable that a root could sprout from a stump. That a baby could safely play beside a cobra’s den. But the kingdom of God supersedes the human imagination and transforms separation and doubt into communion and trust. Peace and right relationships mark the kingdom of the messiah, the Christ. Thomas Merton wrote, “We are not at peace with others because we are not at peace with ourselves, and we are not at peace with ourselves because we are not at peace with God.” As we journey in faith together, may we produce good fruit as evidence of our desire to be peacemakers.

Next Week’s Readings:  
Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

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Monday-Friday

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# MASS SCHEDULE

## Monday, December 8 | Holy Day Masses

9:00 a.m. +Steve Slifka

Sacristan: Melanie Vobr

12:05 p.m. +Connie Frana

Sacristan: Jed & Joyce Becker

5:15 p.m. +Connie Frana

EMHCs: Frank & Donna Ryant; Janel Langreck

Lectors: Kayla Head; Gary Langreck

Servers: Brendon Hovden; Genevieve

Opreicht

Music: Harlan Larson; Mary Larson

Greeters: Bart & Julie Wilson

Hosts: Curtis & Kayla Head Family

Ushers: Bart & Julie Wilson; Marvin Lensing;

Dale Lickteig

Sacristan: Carol Stoker; Mindy Jones

## Tuesday, December 9 | No Mass

## Wednesday, December 10 | Mass

8:00 a.m. +Tom Herold and Zach Stapelkamp

Sacristan: Jed & Joyce Becker

Music: Jed Becker

## Thursday, December 11 | Mass

9:00 a.m. +Steve McCarville

Sacristan: Inez Kruse

## Friday, December 12 | Mass

8:00 a.m. +Danny Donlan

Sacristan: Jerry & Barb O'Donnell

## Saturday, December 13 | Mass

4:00 p.m. +Clarence Riha; Clarence and

Verena Novotny; Mary Fritz; Gilbert

and Eleanor Fritz

EMHCs: Brian McGee; Lisa Kimball; Becky McGee

Lectors: Terry Duerre; Karen Hyke

Servers: Lily Godman

Music: Pam Daley; Polly Jones

Greeters: Bryan & Denise Sheehy; Lois

Ollendieck

Hosts: Bryan & Denise Sheehy

Ushers: Joey Reinhart; Brian McGee; Bryan &

Denise Sheehy

Sacristan: Karen Hyke; Joey Reinhart

## Sunday, December 14 | Mass

8:00 a.m. +Ed & Marcella Opat

EMHCs: Emily Dohlman-Govern; Phil & Kim Walker

Lectors: Brooks Manske; Holly Manske

Servers: Lincoln Manske; Max Manske; Luther Govern

Music: Dee Hosek; Andrea Klimesh

Greeters: Dale & Lynette Andera; Janet Andera

Hosts: Dale & Lynette Andera

Ushers: David & Shannon Andera; Marvin

Lensing; Tony Roberts

Sacristan: Marvin Lensing

## Sunday, December 14 | Mass

10:00 a.m. +Tom Kleve

EMHCs: Jerry O'Donnell; Sue Runyan; Janel Langreck

Lectors: Jerry & Barb O'Donnell

Servers: Landree McCarville; Bria McCarville; Sully McCarville

Music: Melanie Vobr; Andrea Klimesh

Greeters: Kathy McCarville; Jolene Trachta

Hosts: Kathy McCarville

Ushers: Kathy McCarville; Brian McConnell;

Richard McConnell; Sue Sovereign

Sacristan: Jerry & Barb O'Donnell

# Stewardship of Prayer

Please pray for the sick of our parish, including the following and those listed in the Book of Petitions.

|                 |                |                 |                 |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| JODENE VAN DYKE | MATT DUERRE    | JERRY SMITH     | TONY WICKS      |
| ETHAN PEPERA    | JOYCE KAPLER   | BETTE SULLIVAN  | TESS SHEEHY     |
| LISA PETER      | DIANE KOVARIK  | BRENT NEWMAN    | WAYNE SCRABECK  |
| CLARE STEJSKAL  | MARY STEVENSON | MALISSA KAPPES  | ED KOVARIK      |
| STU GORDON      | MARIA LARSON   | MARK TIESKOTTER | RICK SCHOLBROCK |
| JIM MURPHY      | MARY GANSEN    | SARAH FRANKLIN  | KYLE SLIFKA     |
| BEV BINA        | AUDREY HYKE    | BILL SINDELAR   | BETTY WENTHOLD  |
| SHARON BOYD     | MICHELLE FUNKE | DEB WILKINS     | HEATHER KANIK   |
| PATTY ELSBERND  |                |                 |                 |

## Advent Week 2 Reflection: Peace and the Journey in Faith

As we light the second candle of Advent—the Candle of Peace—we remember that Christ came not only to fulfill God's promises, but to bring peace to a world longing for wholeness. This peace is more than the absence of conflict; it is the deep, steady assurance that God is with us, guiding His people with wisdom and love.

This message resonates powerfully with our Archdiocese's Journey in Faith mission and vision. The call to become joyful missionary disciples, united in Christ, is a call to be instruments of peace: people who reflect God's presence, foster unity, and help build communities rooted in trust and compassion.

- Advent peace invites us into prayer, listening for God's voice in quiet expectation.
- It shapes our worship, grounding us in the Eucharist—the sacrament of Christ's peace.
- It forms our lives of charity, urging us to meet the needs of others with gentleness and mercy.
- And it strengthens our commitment to lifelong learning, which helps us grow in understanding how to embody Christ's peace in every aspect of our lives.

In this season of preparation, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide our parishes, pastorates, and the entire archdiocesan community with the peace that only Christ can give. As Journey in Faith leads us toward a more vibrant and sustainable future, may the Peace candle remind us that God is already at work—healing, uniting, and preparing the way before us.

May Christ, the Prince of Peace, calm our hearts, deepen our trust, and help us bring His peace into our homes, our relationships, and our Church as we continue our Journey in Faith.

# Stewardship of Offering

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

Total Stewardship Contributions/Offertory Income

Needed each week: \$ 10,837.00

Last week's Envelope Contribution Income: \$ 3,643.50

Last week's ACH Contribution Income: \$ 5,467.00

Last week's offertory income: \$ 447.85

*We must be good stewards of God's gifts to us, receiving them gratefully and cultivating them with care, lest we be the ones about whom John the Baptist speaks today, cautioning us, "Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."*

## TAKE NOTE:



### Christmas Flowers

Donations are being accepted for Christmas Flowers. Please put your donation in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers" with your name and the name(s) of those you wish to remember.

### Budget Boxes and Calendars

2026 Budget Boxes and Calendars are available in the Church. If you participate in ACH, Gifts of Grain or Gifts from your IRA, you do not have a budget box.



### Christmas Decorating

Christmas Church Decorating will be held on December 22nd after the 10 a.m. Mass. Many hands make light work.

### Giving Tree

If you took a Care Tag off of the giving tree in the gathering space, please bring the unwrapped gift with the tag to the parish office by Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!



## Our Sympathy

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of Gerald "Jerry" Wilson and Thomas "Tom" McGee.  
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

## Congratulations to those Baptized in November

**Cooper Winn Thomas**  
child of Colter and Molly Thomas

**Brady Michael Buchheit**  
child of Riley and Madeline Buchheit

**Elsie James Davis**  
child of Zach and Karlee Davis

**Emery Marie Watson**  
child of Trevor and Faith Watson

Welcome to Kay Conway, Pat Klimesh, and the family of Spencer and Chelsey Schmitt, who joined Notre Dame in November.

## PLANNING AHEAD:

### Financial Peace University

If you've ever felt like no matter what you do, you can't get ahead with money, you're not alone. Join our Financial Peace University class at 6:00 p.m. starting on Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> to learn how to pay off debt, save money, and build lasting wealth. For more information, call the Parish Office.

### Adult Winter Dance

The next Adult Winter Dance will be held on January 17<sup>th</sup> from 5-10 p.m. at the Heritage Events Center. Tickets are required for entry and can be purchased for \$25/person at the parish office. Catered meal included in ticket price!

### Women's Conference

Notre Dame will again be a host site for the Archdiocesan Women's Conference. This year's theme is "Women of the Word" and will include keynotes from national speakers Kathryn Whitaker and Barbara Heil. It will be held in the Parish Hall on Saturday, January 25, from 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Contact Melanie Vobr for more information.

## This Week at Notre Dame

**Card Party** will meet on Mon., Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m., in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend.

**Learn to Make Rosaries** at the Parish Office on December 10<sup>th</sup> between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. At this come-and-go event, you will learn how to make a rosary in a one-on-one learning environment. All supplies will be provided. No cost to attend.

**Bible Study** will meet on Wed. Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Office to go over the upcoming weekend's readings. All are welcome to attend either session.

**"The Christmas Call"**, a Christmas concert featuring Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> graders from Notre Dame School will be held in the church on Thurs., Dec 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

**Coffee & Donuts** will be served after all Masses next weekend sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #1571. All are welcome to join.

**Thank You** to all who helped with Meals on Wheels during the month of November!

**During this Season of Giving**, please continue to think about donating towards the Don Davis Good Samaritan fund that helps assist those in our area with heating, gas, food, etc. You can donate at the parish office or place it in the offertory marked "Don Davis Fund".

**Rosary Program** - Our Lady (Notre Dame) is asking each of us to pray the rosary every day. The rosary is so powerful and carries with it so many graces. Continue to tally the number of rosaries prayed on any piece of paper and drop it into the collection basket as part of your offering. Monthly totals will be published in the bulletin. Rosaries prayed in November: 159.

## In the Community

**Holiday Cookie & Candy Fundraiser** for Regional Health Services of Howard County Hospital Auxiliary will be held on Friday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. - Noon (or until sold out) at the Cresco United Methodist Church (310 N Elm). Questions or to volunteer contact: Barb Franklin 563-203-8077 or Elaine Brookins 563-203-0815.

**The Decorah Chorale** joyfully invites you to its 25th Annual "Home for Christmas" concert on Saturday, December 13, at 7:00 p.m. at Decorah Lutheran Church. This cherished holiday tradition - now in its twenty-fifth year of supporting Winneshiek County Habitat for Humanity - promises an evening of festive music and cheer.

**Toys for All Toy Giveaway** will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church on Sat. Dec 20<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. - Noon. Families must not already be adopted by another CARE or COMMUNITY ACTION adoption program. Donations collected by The Mint & The Place of Protivin, The Drift Runners Organization, and other local agencies - We thank them ALL for their support! For questions, call Cindy at 719-237-6102.

**Blue Christmas Service** sponsored by the Cresco Ministerium will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church on Sun., Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. with comforting prayers, music, & more. The holidays are a time of joy, however, that isn't always the case for those experiencing loss and grief. If you find yourself struggling, join us in worship as we acknowledge the realities of loss and grief and as we remember Christ's light that shines even through the darkness. All are welcome.

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