



***December 14, 2025***  
***Third Sunday of Advent***

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.”*

The first followers of Jesus in His Way likely expected him to return soon after his ascension into heaven. St. Paul promised that the archangel’s voice would be heard with the sounding of the trumpet on the last day as Jesus arrives on the clouds. Therefore, in anticipation they gathered together each Lord’s Day to celebrate the Lord’s Meal. But Jesus didn’t return after a whole year, and another year, and an additional year. No doubt they began to wonder and to grow concerned about the promises of Christ.

St. James, in our second reading, urged them to be patient. Faith and hope are virtues that require perseverance. He made an analogy between waiting for the coming of Christ and farmers who must be resilient as they hold out for favorable weather and the fruit of their labors. Jesus will return, but not on our terms and according to our expectations. Patience doesn’t excuse us from activity, allowing us to be completely passive, sitting back and doing nothing. But it does demand understanding, wisdom and trust. Activities such as farming or teaching or fishing, call us to recognize the big picture that for every problem there will be a solution. For each setback, a triumph will follow.

We likely wonder what parish life will look like in July. How will parish staffs be impacted? Will our faith formation programs be altered? What about finances? What time will Masses be celebrated? Where will the priests live? For now, it’s good to consider possibilities. It’s important to pray for wisdom. During the interim period next year from July to January, parishioners from pastorates will work together to determine how to fulfill our purpose to know, love and serve God. We will be invited to share our insights. Patiently working together, we will continue to prepare the people of God for Christ’s return one day.

Next Week’s Readings:  
Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

***PARISH OFFICE***

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School Website:

[www.tinyurl.com/ndcschool](http://www.tinyurl.com/ndcschool)

# MASS SCHEDULE

## Monday, December 15 | No Mass

+Pray for Vocations to the Religious Life

## Tuesday, December 16 | Mass

5:15 p.m. +James, Shirley and Joseph  
McCConnell

Sacristan: Duane Heit

## Wednesday, December 17 | Mass

8:00 a.m. +Betty Cleveland

Sacristan: Jed & Joyce Becker

Music: Jed Becker

## Thursday, December 18 | Mass

9:00 a.m. +Dan Courtney

Sacristan: Inez Kruse

1:00 p.m. Accura Mass

+David Myers; Diane Bruening; Debra Winsell

## Friday, December 19 | Mass

8:00 a.m. +Adolph and Dolores Hayek, John,  
Adolph Jr., Jay, Jim and Janet Hayek

Sacristan: Jerry & Barb O'Donnell

## Saturday, December 20 | Mass

4:00 p.m. +Dan Courtney

EMHCs: Jim & Anne Ott; Angie Kappes

Lectors: Brian McGee

Servers: Axton Langreck

Music: Pam Daley; Andrea Klimesh

Greeters: Galen & Lavon Fye; Pat Korsmo

Hosts: Terry Duerre; Barb Prochaska

Ushers: Ray Schwarzhoff; Joe & Lynn Rose;  
Jim Murphy

Sacristan: Brian McGee

## Sunday, December 21 | Mass

8:00 a.m. +Beverly Koshatka

EMHCs: Frank & Donna Ryant; Jim Truka

Lectors: Jim Truka; Carol Foley

Servers: Claire, James, & Cora Kach

Music: Katie Ferrie; Deb Moellers

Greeters: Jim & Lori Truka; Pat Pinter

Hosts: Jim & Lori Truka

Ushers: Ken Hruska; Dick Jones; Richard  
Neubauer; Art Schwarzhoff

Sacristan: Frank & Donna Ryant

## Sunday, December 21 | Mass

10:00 a.m. +Dell and Monica Reicks; Pat  
Reicks

EMHCs: Janel Langreck; Jed & Joyce Becker

Lectors: Jed Becker

Servers: Chris, Eva, & Andrea Aby

Music: Good News Singers

Greeters: Randy & Tommy Mashek; Aby & Mary  
Juliet Family

Hosts: Jerry & Wanda Reicks

Ushers: Randy & Tommy Mashek; Matt & Erin  
Daley Family

Sacristan: Jerry & Wanda Reicks

# SURPRISE WINTER FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT!

December 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Parish Hall

Everyone is welcome.

Free-will donations accepted.



# 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	MADELYN OPPREICHT		

## Advent Week 3 Reflection: Joy and the Journey in Faith

As we light the third candle of Advent—the Candle of Joy, often called the Shepherd’s Candle—we remember the joy that broke into the world at the announcement of Christ’s birth. The shepherds heard the angel proclaim “good news of great joy,” reminding us that Christ’s coming transforms even ordinary moments and unlikely places into encounters with God’s grace.

This spirit of joy reflects the heart of our Archdiocese’s Journey in Faith vision of becoming joyful missionary disciples. Joy is not merely a feeling; it is the fruit of knowing that Christ is near, guiding His Church, strengthening our communities, and walking with us through every challenge and blessing.

- Joy deepens our prayer, helping us recognize God’s presence in our daily lives.
- It enlivens our worship, where we celebrate Christ who comes to make all things new.
- It fuels our charity, moving us to share generously with those in need.
- And it inspires our lifelong learning, as we grow in faith and rediscover the beauty of the Gospel.

As we continue the Journey in Faith process, this candle reminds us that joy remains at the center of our mission. Even in times of change or uncertainty, Christ offers us joy—a steady confidence that His Spirit is renewing our parishes and preparing us for a bright and hopeful future.

May this week’s candle remind us that joy is not something we create on our own, but something we receive from Christ—and are called to bring joyfully into our families, our parishes, and our communities.

# Stewardship of Offering

DECEMBER 7, 2025

Total Stewardship Contributions/Offertory Income

Needed each week: \$ 10,837.00

Last week’s Envelope Contribution Income: \$ 18,862.00

Last week’s ACH Contribution Income: \$ 825.00

Last week’s offertory income: \$ 373.00

*Each of us has his or her own role to play in the coming of the kingdom of God. John the Baptist was called to be the herald of the Messiah, preparing the way of the Lord. To what is the Lord calling me?*

## 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 21st after the 10 a.m. Mass. Many hands make light work.

### Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped at the Supper with Santa. If you are a St. Andrew's member and still need to pay your dues, please send them to the Parish Office as soon as possible. Thank you!



## This Week at Notre Dame

**Circles of Faith Potluck** will be held on Mon., Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Bring a finger-food to share. All are invited to attend.

**Knights of Columbus Council #1571** will not meet in December. The next meeting is on January 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

**Bible Study** will be held on Wed., Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Office. All are invited to attend. (The next two weeks, it will be held on Tues., Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> and Dec 30<sup>th</sup>.)

**Faith Formation Commission** will meet on Thurs., Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Office.

**Notre Dame School Christmas Break** begins on Fri., Dec 19<sup>th</sup>.

## LOST SOMETHING?

### WE CAN HELP YOU FIND IT!

Did you lose an item at Mass recently? Did you accidentally leave something behind after Mass? Did you know we have two 'lost and found' places in the Church? This is your reminder to check them out to see if your lost item is there.

#### ➤ Brochure Stand

Some small items get left on the Brochure Stand in the gathering space.

#### ➤ Elevator Lobby

Other items are placed on the shelf on top of the table at the bottom of the stairs to the elevator entrance.



## 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.

Notre Dame Parish and Immanuel Lutheran Church present:

## DRIVE THROUGH Living Nativity

Celebrate the Christmas Season with a Living Nativity featuring real people and animals without leaving the comfort of your car!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4<sup>TH</sup> | 5:00-7:30 PM

Notre Dame Parish Parking Lot:  
223 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. E Cresco, IA 52136

## In the Community

**Toys for All Toy Giveaway** will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church on Sat. Dec 20th 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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