



December 21, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

*“The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel.”*

St. Joseph must have been stupefied. How could his betrothed, Mary, be pregnant? She was loving, joyful, and holy. Now unfaithful? His whole world had to be shaken. Being upright himself, he wanted to protect her from scandal. Thankfully God intervened and Joseph heeded the angel’s bidding to take Mary into his home for it was by the Holy Spirit that Mary conceived. The child to be born should be named Emmanuel, meaning, “God is with us.”

The Church teaches us that God is with us in many ways: in His Word, sacred scripture; especially in his Sacrament, the Eucharist; in his priests, who serve in the name of Christ; and in his people, for when two or three come together in His name, God is present.

As pastorates come together in July, it will be especially important to see the face of Christ in others, especially within people who are unfamiliar to us. We’ll need to introduce ourselves, begin to form new relationships, and be open to different means of ministering and worshipping. “We’ve always done it this way,” won’t be an acceptable response when it comes to serving food, ushering at Masses, or caring for the grounds. Just as the world of St. Joseph was upended, so too, our lives will change. But just as Joseph remained steadfast, we too will triumph over the temptations of the evil one towards division, if we listen to the voice of God’s angel urging us not to be afraid. God will be with us, Emmanuel has come, will come, and comes among us each day.

Next Week’s Readings:

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

PARISH OFFICE

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9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Monday-Friday

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School Website:

www.tinyurl.com/ndcschool

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, December 22 | No Mass
+Pray for Vocations to Religious Life

Tuesday, December 23 | Mass

5:15 p.m. +Colby Fye
Sacristan: Duane Heit
2:00 p.m. Assisted Living Mass
+Scott Steffen

Wednesday, December 24 | Mass

4:00 p.m. See Insert

Wednesday, December 24 | Mass

8:00 p.m. See Insert

Thursday, December 25 | Mass

9:00 a.m. See Insert

Friday, December 26 | Mass

8:00 a.m. +Nestor & Dolly Reicks
Sacristan: Duane Heit

Saturday, December 27 | Mass

4:00 p.m. +Tony Tremmel and Fr. Benjamin Tremmel

EMHCs: Duane Heit; Lisa Kimball; Becky McGee

Lectors: Duane Heit; Brian McGee

Servers: Luke Fisk; Sam & Jameson Meyer

Music: Dee Hosek; Jamie Fisk

Greeters: Gretchen Laub; Carver Munkel

Hosts: Gretchen Laub; Carver Munkel

Ushers: Gretchen Laub; Carver Munkel; Brian McGee; Bryan Sheehy

Sacristan: Carol Stoker and Mindy Jones

Sunday, December 28 | Mass

8:00 a.m. +Linda Johnsrud-Gebhardt

EMHCs: Boyd Turnbull; Patti Guyer; Julie Haskovec

Lectors: Roger Kleve; Boyd Turnbull

Servers: Oakley Vobr; Raelynn Rissman

Music: Dee Hosek; Polly Jones

Greeters: Jordan & Patti Guyer; Betty Hebrink

Hosts: Joe & Julie Haskovec

Ushers: Joe & Julie Haskovec; Dale Lickteig; Tom Mullen

Sacristan: Boyd Turnbull

Sunday, December 28 | Mass

10:00 a.m. +Vern and Bernice Walker

EMHCs: Don & Kris Dietzenbach; Tracy Hart

Lectors: Tracy Hart; Kayla Head

Servers: Brendon Hovden; Mason Keune

Music: Jaclyn Jirak-Wright; Polly Jones

Greeters: Jolene Trachta; Audrey Hyke

Hosts: Don & Kris Dietzenbach Family

Ushers: Brad & Jodi Dull; Brian McConnell; Richard McConnell

Sacristan: Jerry & Barb O'Donnell



Missalettes: For the People

Candle: Tieskotter and Vrzak Families

Bread: Ruben Gamez

Wine: Ruben Gamez

Stewardship of Prayer

Please pray for the sick of our parish, including the following and those listed in the Book of Petitions. (Prayer List will be cleared on December 28th. Please contact the office to keep your loved one on the list if needed. Thank you!)

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

Advent Week 4 Reflection: Love and the Journey in Faith

In the final week of Advent, we light the Candle of Love, remembering the profound truth that God sent His Son into the world out of perfect, self-giving love. This love is the foundation of our salvation, the heart of the Gospel, and the reason we prepare our hearts for Christmas.

This message beautifully aligns with the mission and values of Journey in Faith, which calls us to grow as disciples who reflect Christ's love in all we do. God's love motivates our service, shapes our decisions, and guides the way we build strong, vibrant parish communities.

- Love strengthens our prayer, helping us listen attentively and respond generously to God's call.
- It transforms our worship, where we encounter the depth of Christ's love in the Eucharist.
- It animates our charity, compelling us to care for the poor, comfort the suffering, and lift up the vulnerable.
- And it deepens our lifelong learning, inspiring us to know, love, and follow Christ more fully.

As we near the celebration of Christ's birth, this candle invites us to renew our commitment to living out love in practical, visible ways within our parishes and pastorates. Journey in Faith encourages us to build communities rooted in unity, compassion, and mutual support—communities that truly reflect the love of Christ.

May the Love candle remind us that everything we do in the Church begins and ends with Christ's love. As we prepare for Christmas, may that love guide our actions, strengthen our relationships, and fill our hearts with gratitude for the gift of Emmanuel—God with us.

Stewardship of Offering

DECEMBER 14, 2025

Total Stewardship Contributions/Offertory Income

Needed each week: \$ 10,837.00

Last week's Envelope Contribution Income: \$ 11,127.00

Last week's ACH Contribution Income: \$ 7,115.00

Last week's offertory income: \$ 494.10

When he discovered that Mary was with child, Joseph resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead the protector of the child Jesus and His mother, Mary. God grant that I may be as open to the leading of the Holy Spirit!

Christmas Mass Ministries

Wednesday, December 24 | Mass

4:00 p.m. +Mike McCabe; deceased members of Schulte and McCabe families

EMHCs: Jim & Anne Ott; Alanda Meyer
(Extra: Steve & Terry Duerre)

Lectors: Kayla Head; Terry Duerre

Servers: Claire, James, & Cora Kach

Music: Pam Daley; Polly Jones

Greeters: Galen & Lavon Fye

Hosts: Jim & Anne Ott

Ushers: Jim Murphy; Brian McGee; Steve Duerre; Ray Schwarzhoff

Sacristan: Carol Stoker; Mindy Jones

Wednesday, December 24 | Mass

8:00 p.m. +Robert, Rita, Gary and Becky McCabe

EMHCs: Patti Guyer; Joyce Jirak; Emily Dohlman-Govern
(Extra: Frank & Donna Ryant)

Lectors: Roger Kleve; Emily Dohlman-Govern

Servers: Lincoln Manske; Max Manske; Luther Govern

Music: Good News Singers

Greeters: Kenny & Jeri Andera

Hosts: Kenny & Jeri Andera

Ushers: Jordan Guyer; Dick Jones; Tom Mullen

Sacristan: Frank & Donna Ryant

Thursday, December 25 | Mass

9:00 a.m. +Michaelleen and Darrell Riehle; Chuck and Michael Pierce; Genny and Kellie Riehle; Fred Jr. and Mildred Riehle

EMHCs: Boyd Turnbull; Jed & Joyce Becker
(Extra: Chuck & Sanna Feldman)

Lectors: Boyd Turnbull; Jed Becker

Servers: Luke Fisk; Sebastian Gourley

Music: Jordyn and Julianne Fisk; Jamie Fisk

Greeters: Mike & Rachel Gooder

Hosts: Mike & Rachel Gooder

Ushers: Richard McConnell; Jerry & Wanda Reicks; Kathy McCarville

Sacristan: Jerry & Wanda Reicks



Drive Through Living Nativity Help Wanted!

Notre Dame Parish and Immanuel Lutheran Church will be hosting a "Drive Through" Living Nativity on Sunday, January 4th at Notre Dame Parish.

We need volunteers to help provide the following:

- **Set up-meet at the Notre Dame Parking Lot at Noon on Sunday, January 4th**
- **Cast of characters: all adults and children interested in being part of the Living Nativity as the Holy Family, Wise Men, Shepherds, Soldiers, Angels, etc. are welcome to join! Costumes provided!**
- **Donations of baked goods and hot cocoa-any/all donations of baked goods and hot cocoa for our cast are appreciated!**
- **Clean-up crew-7:00 PM on Sunday January 4th and the morning of Monday, January 5th.**

For more information or to get involved, contact Brian McGee at the Parish Office or at b.mcgee@dbqarch.org.

SIGN UP FOR **FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY**

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Sign up for this *Financial Peace University* class today!

Ever feel like no matter what you do, you can't get ahead with money? You're not alone. You'd be surprised how many people you know are struggling just like you. But it's time to make a change! Join our Financial Peace University class at 6:00 p.m. starting on January 14th and learn to pay off debt, save money, and build lasting wealth. Each household pays \$79 to attend. The registration cost includes a hardcopy workbook, access to Ramsey+ for an entire year, and the classes that are weekly from January 14-March 11th.

QR Code



2026 Women's conference



Grace
for the
JOURNEY

Saturday
JANUARY 31

LIVESTREAM starts at 9:00 am
-1:30 pm

Speakers



Kitty Cleveland



Kelsey Kaiser

**Join us for the 2026
Women's Conference**

***Beauty in Christ:
Grace for the Journey!***

**Gather with other faith-filled women
at Notre Dame, or participate
virtually from your own home! Be
inspired to know that His grace is
enough!**

**Registration is \$20 which includes
access to recordings, breakfast,
lunch, and door prizes!**



For more information: www.notredamecresco.com/womens-conference

TAKE NOTE:



Christmas Flowers

Donations are being accepted for Christmas Flowers. Please put your donation in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers" with you 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.

Drive Through Living Nativity will be held on Sun., Jan. 4th, from 5-7:30 p.m. in the Notre Dame parish parking lot with real people and real animals! Sponsored by Notre Dame and Immanuel Lutheran.



This Week at Notre Dame

Card Party will meet on Mon., Dec. 22nd, at 2 p.m., in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Bible Study will meet on TUES. Dec. 23rd, 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.

Thank You to all who helped with the making of and bringing of the twenty-one plates of cookies which were delivered to our homebound and the Christmas cards sent to nursing home residents. If you would like to help with this project in the future, please contact Elaine Kleve or the parish office.

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".

Learn to Make Rosaries has been rescheduled to January 12th and will still be from 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.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to those who have donated! We have received a \$15,000 Howard County Foundation Grant, a \$4,000 memorial from Judy Bohr, and many parishioners donations!

PROJECT INCLUDES:

- Locking doors for our parish hall (school lunchroom)
- Security cameras
- 24/7 Monitoring
- Remote Access
- System Maintenance



We are still accepting monetary donations towards this "Safe and Secure Space" project for incurring monthly expenses.



Journey in Faith

Novena January 3-11th

In the most recent "Go Forth" newsletter from the Archbishop, parishioners were invited to join in praying a Novena from the Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus (Jan 3) to the Baptism of the Lord (Jan 11). But what is a Novena?

- Nine days of prayer with a specific intention. It is a structured way to be persistent in prayer and build trust in God's timing.
- Usually involves repeated prayers, scripture, and often praise of Saints or Mary.
- The first novena was the apostles praying for nine days between Jesus' Ascension and Pentecost, waiting for the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:14)
- It is not necessary to pray the novena at the same time every day (although you can).
- Novenas should not be seen as magical incantations that guarantee desired results. God controls the universe and we certainly do not control God. He is a loving Father in Heaven. Even though our intentions may be good, God knows what is best for us, whether we understand his divine intention or not.

The novena for Journey in Faith will be placed as an insert in the bulletin on January 3rd and 4th. We will post it on our social media platforms and have a link on our calendar and website. Please let us know if you have any questions.

PLANNING AHEAD:

SURPRISE WINTER FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT!

All families are invited to join us for a Surprise Winter Movie Night!

Tuesday, December 30th from 6:30-8:30 PM
Notre Dame Parish Hall (Church Basement)
Snacks, drinks, and children's activities available!

Everyone is welcome!!

Free Will donations appreciated



In the Community

VFW Breakfast will be held at the VFW Hall from 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on December 21st. Menu includes: regular, blueberry, & chocolate chip pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, and beverage. Sponsored by the VFW Post & Auxiliary 4561. Free-will donation.

Blue Christmas Service sponsored by the Cresco Ministerium will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church on Sun., Dec. 21st 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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