

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Prepare the Way of the Lord,
make Straight his Paths.*

Saint John Neumann Church

12/07/2025

601 East Delp Road * Lancaster, PA 17601

phone: (717) 569-8531 * www.sjnlancaster.org

Parish Office Hours

Mon. ~ Thurs. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Closed Fridays

Sunday Masses

Sat. Vigil ~ 4 p.m.

Sun. ~ 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 5 p.m.

Reconciliation

Thurs. ~ 4:30-5:45 p.m.

Sat. ~ 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Or by appointment

Live Streamed Masses

Daily ~ 9 a.m.

Sat. ~ 4 p.m., Sun. ~ 9 a.m., 11 a.m.

Weekday Masses

Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. ~ 9 a.m.

Thurs. ~ 9 a.m., 6 p.m.

Adoration

Wed. ~ 12-4 p.m.

Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:45 p.m.

Thurs. ~ 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Very Reverend Daniel F. X. Powell, V.F.

Pastor ~ frdan@sjnlancaster.org

Reverend Clark Stiteler

Parochial Vicar ~ frstiteler@sjnlancaster.org

Reverend Michael Culkin - Substitute Priest

Deacon Peter Jupin ~ Permanent Deacon

pjupin@sjnlancaster.org

Deacon Michael Oles ~ Permanent Deacon

moles5@comcast.net

Tom Conner ~ Parish Manager

tconner@sjnlancaster.org

Kim Mikulski ~ Parish Secretary

kmikulski@sjnlancaster.org

Linda Gowarty

Youth Protection, Administrative Staff

lgowarty@sjnlancaster.org

Tonianne Bertel ~ Parish Health Ministry

tbertel@sjnlancaster.org

Kurt Kehler

Music Coordinator ~ kmk@pa.net

Nate Gulya

Director of Religious Education (DRE)

ngulya@sjnlancaster.org

Erin Houser ~ Assistant to the DRE

ehouser@sjnlancaster.org

Udoka Ugoagwu - Youth Ministry

YouthMinistry@sjnlancaster.org

St. John Neumann Catholic School

(717) 844-6100

Karen Henry ~ Principal

henryka@sjnschoollancaster.org

Lancaster Catholic High School

(717) 509-0315

President ~ Kyla (Morrison) Hockley '96

khockley@lchsydes.org

Principal ~ Sean Van Eman

svaneman@lchsydes.org

©Diocesan



@padredanny



Dan Powell



SJNLancaster



@Fr_Dan_Powell



download myParish app - select our Parish after opening

Sacrament of Baptism

Parishioners who would like to have their child baptized at SJN are asked to go to the "How Do I?" tab on our website to personally schedule a date.

Baptisms are held on Sundays at 1:00 pm and Saturdays by request. At least one sponsor must be a practicing Catholic, age 16 or older, Confirmed, and must present a sponsor certificate if from another parish. A Baptism class is required if you have not completed one already. More information available on the website.

Counseling Services Available

Counseling services are now available at St. John Neumann by Kathy Birmingham, L.C.S.W. for a free-will offering. If you are interested in hearing more about this opportunity or would like to schedule a time, please call Kathy at (717) 397-8647.

Are you planning a trip? Check out FindAMass.org and masstimes.org. With these tools, you can easily locate the most up-to-date Mass and sacrament times, as well as Catholic Church locations across the United States.

Mass Intentions

Sat., December 6

- 4:00 p.m. - Saturino Ponce & Alicia Castro

Sun., December 7

- 7:30 a.m. - Joan Libonati
- 9:00 a.m. - Andy Boyle
- 11:00 a.m. - People of the Parish
- 5:00 p.m. - Bob Hofmann

Mon., December 8 ~ Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (a holy day of obligation)

- 6:30 a.m. - Anne Schober
- 9:00 a.m. - People of the Parish
- SJNCS - Susan Baumlner
- 6:00 p.m. - Mark D. Hanlon

Tues., December 9

- 9:00 a.m. - Anne Powell

Wed., December 10

- 9:00 a.m. - Ed Erb
- Long - Carrie Marshall

Thurs., December 11

- 9:00 a.m. - Msgr. Daniel Mitzel
- 6:00 p.m. - Steve Stoltz

Fri., December 12

- 9:00 a.m. - Randy Axelrod

Sat., December 13

- 4:00 p.m. - Mary Ann Bozym

Sun., December 14

- 7:30 a.m. - Joann Driggers
- 9:00 a.m. - Henry Roberts
- 11:00 a.m. - Steve Gaydosz
- 5:00 p.m. - People of the Parish

Parish Events

Sun., December 7

- Giving Tree Gifts being Collected and Sorted - Youth Room
- Following all morning Masses - Coffee & Donuts being hosted by Pastoral Council
- 10 a.m. - Faith Formation Peer Meeting - Education Center
- 12~1:30 p.m. - Confirmation Prep - Education Center
- 6~8:30 p.m. - Youth Ministry - Youth Room

Mon., December 8

- **Holy day of obligation - Masses at 6:30 a.m., 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.**
- 8:30 a.m. - Rosary - Church
- 9:30 a.m.~12 p.m. - Prayer Shawl Ministry - Conference Room
- NO Walking With Purpose
- NO Choir Rehearsal

Tues., December 9

- 8:30 a.m. - Rosary - Church
- 2~3:30 p.m. - Women's Group - Youth Room
- 4:15~5:30 p.m. - CGS - Atrium
- 7~8:30 p.m. - K of C General Council - Social Hall
- 7~8:30 p.m. - St. Vincent de Paul - Library

Wed., December 10

- 8:30 a.m. - Rosary - Church
- 12~4 p.m. - Adoration with Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:45 p.m.
- 4:15~5:30 p.m. - CGS - Atrium
- 6 p.m. - Men's Hour - Social Hall
- 7 p.m. - Auscultation Brass Band Concert - Church

Thurs., December 11

- 8:30 a.m. - Rosary - Church
- 9:30 a.m. - Pro-Life Stations of the Cross - Church
- 1~3 p.m. - Pinochle - Youth Room
- 4:15~5:30 p.m. - CGS Level I - Atrium
- 4:15~5:30 p.m. - CGS Level II - School Atrium
- 4:30~5:45 p.m. - Confessions
- 6:30~7:30 p.m. - Adoration for Religious Life and Vocations - Church

Fri., December 12

- 6:30~7:45 a.m. - Men's Bible Study - Library
- 8:30 a.m. - Rosary - Church
- 9:30 a.m. - Divine Mercy Chaplet - Church

Sat., December 13

- 9:30~10:45 a.m. - CGS - Atrium
- 2:00~3:30 p.m. - Confessions

Sun., December 14

- Following all morning Masses - Coffee & Donuts being hosted by Knights of Columbus
- 10 a.m. - OCIA - Youth Room
- 10 a.m. - Faith Formation Family Meeting - Education Center
- 12~1:30 p.m. - Confirmation Prep - Education Center
- 1~4 p.m. - Secular Franciscan Order Gathering - Social Hall
- 6~8:30 p.m. - Youth Ministry - Youth Room



Collection

November 23, 2025

Sunday Envelopes and ParishSoft \$30,601.94

November 30, 2025

Sunday Envelopes and ParishSoft \$28,062.94

Each parish in the diocese operates as an independent Charitable Trust. Contributions provided to our parish are used solely for the operation of our parish and its missions.



If you are interested in enrolling in ParishSoft Giving, please visit our webpage and click on the Donate Now Tab or scan this QR Code. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Gowarty at 717-569-8531.



Thank you for your generosity!

Vocations Corner

**Adoration for Vocations to the Priesthood
every Thursday 6:30~7:30pm**

Second Sunday of Advent



*"The kingdom of heaven is at hand!"
(Matthew 3:2)*

John's call to prepare for Christ echoes in every family. In holy matrimony, love and faith creates the foundation where God's kingdom flourishes. Is God calling you to build a holy family? Ask Him to show you His way by praying for your (future) spouse and children. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at (717) 657-4804 ext. 282 or via email: vocations@hbgdiocese.org.

2025 Retirement Fund for Religious

Second Collection December 13-14

A lifetime of service deserves care in return. "Thanks to your generosity, we can provide the very best care to the sisters in our community," says Sister M. Stephanie Belgeri, 73, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George in Alton, Illinois. Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious provide housing, medical assistance, and essential support for thousands of aging religious. Please consider giving next week.

2025 Diocesan Annual Campaign Pilgrims of Hope

Goal \$ 223,042
Total Pledged to Date \$ 189,527
Total Cash Received to Date \$ 188,827
Outstanding Goal Balance \$ 34,215

December 8

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
(a holy day of obligation)



Mass Times

6:30 a.m.
9:00 a.m.
6:00 p.m.



*Please remember our
neighbors in need.
Help us to help them.*



You can now use our new website for donations. Use the QR code or go to www.sinconfsvdp.org and click on the **DONATE** button in the upper left corner.

Thank you.

BECOME A KNIGHT

Are you a practicing Catholic man over the age of 18? As we continue to celebrate Blessed Michael McGivney's beatification, online membership with the Knights of Columbus is free when you use the promo code **BLESSEDMCGIVNEY**. Join today!



Daily Readings for Dec 8-13, 2025

Monday Gen 3:9-15, 20 Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38	Thursday Is 41:13-20 Ps 145:1 & 9, 10-11, 12-13ab Mt 11:11-15
Tuesday Is 40:1-11 Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 Mt 18:12-14	Friday Zech 2:14-17 or Rev 11:19a; 12-1-6a, 10ab Judith 13:18bcde, 19 Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Wednesday Is 40:25-31 Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 Mt 11:28-30	Saturday Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Readings for Sunday, December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Hymns for Sunday, December 7, 2025

Entrance: On Jordan's Bank

Prep of the Gifts: Maranatha

Communion: A Voice Cries Out

Recessional: The King of Glory

Join US...

January 11-13, 2026

St. John Neumann's
**ANNUAL FORTY HOURS
EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTIONS**

Adoration

Sunday, Jan. 11

12-5, 6-7 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 12

9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 13

9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.



Homilist

Fr. Thomas Meinert

Sun.-Tues. at 7 p.m.

*Watch for
Adoration Sign
Up sheets in the
Narthex.*

AUSCULTATION BRASS BAND

Christmas Concert

Wednesday December 10 7 p.m. in the Church

Free will offering benefits SJNCS



Our Christian Community Welcomes

Carter & Austin Wells

Eliora Matias

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...

*** Rest in Peace ***

Jeanette DiCostanzo

*Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them Oh Lord, and Let Perpetual
Light Shine Upon Them. May All the Souls of the Faithful
Departed, through the Mercy of God, Rest in Peace.*



Giving Tree

Thank you in advance for your
generous support of the Giving Tree
Ministry.

All gifts are due on the table in the
Narthex by 12:00 Sunday, December
7th.



Parish Health Ministry (PHM)

AWAKENED BY LIGHT: AN ADVENT JOURNEY

Weekdays will not include reflection due to limited space, read scripture passage, reflect on quote and respond to question & prayer.

Second Sunday of Advent

Matthew 3:1-12 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

Reflection: Repentance is something we don't talk about much these days. It's a concept that has fallen out of favor. To the modern ear it is too much about regret and shame. And yet, every Advent we hear the Baptist's words, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" Why would the Church want to make us feel badly, especially this time of year, we might moan. But at the heart of this word is the theme of renewal and hope, not impoverishment. We're called, still, to change direction, to walk toward the light and what will ultimately save us, and away from what keeps us bound.

Where Did You See the Light Today? Did you feel a gentle nudge to turn back toward God? What might He be inviting you to leave behind?

Whisper-Prayer: Jesus, turn my heart toward the light that saves.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary / Monday of the Second Week of Advent

Luke 1:26-38 "He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High."

Where Did You See the Light Today? Did something today point you toward purity, beauty, or readiness? Did you sense Mary's quiet strength?

Whisper-Prayer: Mary, conceived without sin, pray for me, that I may be a worthy dwelling place for Christ.

Tuesday of the Second Week of Advent

Matthew 18:12-14 "In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost."

Where Did You See the Light Today? When did you feel sought out, noticed, or deeply known?

Whisper-Prayer: Good Shepherd, find me when I wander.

Wednesday of the Second Week of Advent

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest."

Where Did You See the Light Today? Was there a moment of unexpected rest—or a reminder that you don't carry your burden alone?

Whisper-Prayer: Jesus, let me walk beside You and rest in Your strength.

Thursday of the Second Week of Advent

Matthew 11:11-15 "Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Where Did You See the Light Today? How has your life been changed because you believe Jesus is the Christ?

Whisper-Prayer: Jesus, thank You for calling me into the Kingdom.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe / Friday of the Second Week of Advent

Luke 1:26-38 "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

Where Did You See the Light Today? Can you name one quiet, courageous "yes" you've said to God lately?

Whisper Prayer: Mary, light-bearer and mother of trust, pray for us to follow your yes with our own.

Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr / Saturday of the Second Week of Advent

Matthew 17:9a, 10-13 "So also will the Son of Man suffer at their hands."

Where Did You See the Light Today? Where do you need strength to follow Christ into difficulty?

Whisper Prayer: Jesus, Light of the world, help me not to look away when your path leads through suffering

*** **

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

On this day, we honor the brave men and women who served and sacrificed during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. Their courage reminds us of the cost of freedom and the strength of a nation united in the face of adversity. May we remember their service and bravery with gratitude and continue to uphold the values they defended, praying for peace in our world.

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." — John 15:13



Remember the Sick of our Parish ~ Especially

Hans Deatrick, Dennis Downey, Michael Jurasinski, Jeff Lamp, John Perozich, Linda Philbin, Dick Savicky, Bob Sugra, John Viscardi, Bill White, Dennis White, and all those in the Prayer Circle/Chain.





As an authentically Catholic community, we welcome and value each person's giftedness while inspiring growth in Truth, Wisdom, Faith & Virtue. We exemplify Christ's love in service to others.

This Week at SJNCS

All prospective families are encouraged to attend our next Tours on Tuesday this Tuesday at 9 am! These tours, offered the second Tuesday of each month, last about an hour and include a tour of the school and information about the application process. Interested parents can register to attend on our website at www.sjncls Lancaster.org under "Admissions." Come and see what SJNCS can offer your student and your family.

On Wednesday, our students and faculty will gather to pray the Rosary. It is also Ice Cream Day so don't forget your ice cream money if you didn't already pre-pay.

Our awards ceremony for the First Trimester will also take place on Thursday during Morning Prayer.

On Friday, our 7th & 8th grade students will participate in our school's National History Day competition showcasing projects they have worked on for the last several months. The winners from Friday will go on to represent SJNCS at the Regional level in the spring. Good Luck to all of our historians!

Christmas is coming! The St. John Neumann Christmas Shoppe will be open for student shoppers this week. Students may shop during their classes designated time on Tuesday, Dec. 9, Wednesday, Dec. 10 & Thursday, Dec. 11. This is a great opportunity for students to buy inexpensive gifts for their family and friends right here in our parish hall!



Lancaster Catholic High School



Lancaster Catholic High School is aiming to expand the educational opportunities for our students in the Multimedia Learning Center. We are asking for alumni authors, graphic designers or broadcasters who would be willing to provide examples of their work for display or come in and speak with our students about careers in those fields. Email Jordan Fritsch '19 at jfritsch@lchsy.org or call 717-509-0313.

ADVENT



WORDSEARCH



MARY
ANGEL
JESUS
ADVENT
CANDLE

JOSEPH
PURPLE
WREATH
BELIEVE

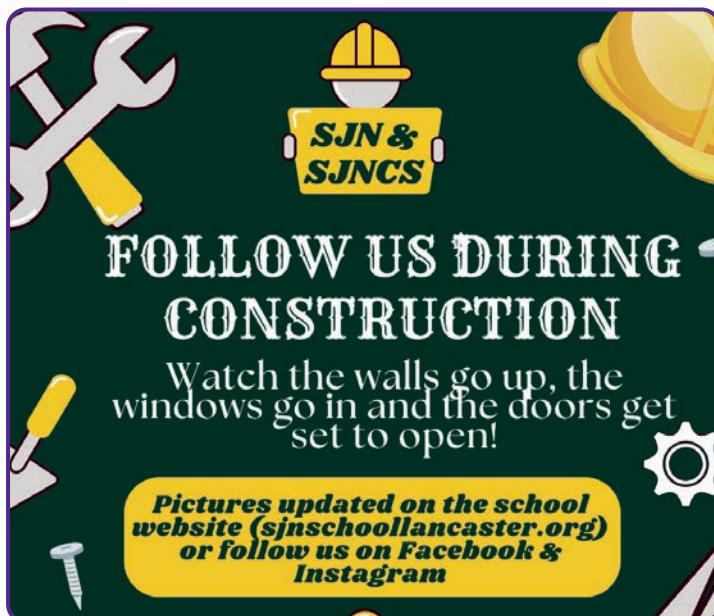
REJOICE
SAVIOR
EMMANUEL
GOODNEWS
ISRAEL

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OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of the Americas, appeared to native American Juan Diego in 1531, requesting that a church be built on the spot. When the bishop asked for a sign confirming the authenticity of the apparition, she responded by producing roses in December for Juan Diego to gather, and left an image of herself imprinted on Juan Diego's tilma or mantle.



Happening Soon...



Fr. Dan is planning a mission trip to St. Francis of Assisi, our sister parish, in El Factor, Dominican Republic. April 6-13, 2026

If you are interested, or would like more information, please email

Fr. Dan at frdan@sjnlancaster.org.

THE EPIPHANY ITALIAN MASS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026 AT 12:15 PM

SAINT PATRICK CATHEDRAL

212 State Street, Harrisburg

Reverend Joshua Brommer, Celebrant

Please join us for the Holy Mass

Italian reception after Mass

For information please contact:

Maria DiSanto at 717-554-5698,

disanto1@comcast.net

or Mariella Amato at 717-278-9420

Sensory-friendly Mass - December 7

Saint Joan of Arc Catholic Church, Hershey, will offer its next Sensory-friendly Mass on Sunday, December 7 at 2:00 pm in the Main Church (359 W. Areba Ave., Hershey). The Mass will include dimmer lighting, no music, and a shorter homily among other adaptations to promote a fully inclusive environment. Every effort will be made to accommodate all in attendance, and all behaviors are welcome. For more information please contact the Parish Office at 717-533-7168 or Office@stjoanhershey.org. Thank you.

SAINT JUAN DIEGO (1474-1548) ~ December 9

How well Mary's own words describe Juan Diego: "God has cast down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly" (Luke 1:52). Through him, for the diverse peoples of the Americas, indigenous and immigrant, the Mother of God became known as their Mother too. Cuauhtlatzin, his given name, means "One Who Speaks Like An Eagle," and Juan Diego faithfully delivered the Virgin's request that a church be built at Tepeyac where she had appeared to him. To the skeptical bishop's request for a sign, Our Lady showed Juan Diego roses blooming through stony ground, despite winter's cold. When he unfolded his tilma to present them to the bishop, imprinted there was Mary's image! Her blue sash and the flower over her womb were traditional Aztec symbols of pregnancy and new life. But her features were those of a mestiza, indicating mixed Aztec-European heritage.

Thus to peoples too easily prone to a "clash of cultures," Our Lady of Guadalupe remains the enduring icon of unity-in-diversity, the fruit of our one baptism into Jesus, her Son. —Peter Scagnelli



St. John Neumann Conference

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

"Treating homelessness is costly - preventing homelessness isn't."

It costs an average of **\$35,578** per year to support a person who is chronically homeless. In contrast, preventing homelessness through early intervention costs, on average, **\$2,000."**

U. S. Nation Council - Society of St. Vincent de Paul

There are few agencies or organizations one can turn to for rent assistances; and those that do limit the amount given. If one is facing eviction, a partial payment will not stop the eviction.

It costs an average of ~\$1,250 for us to prevent homelessness.

St. John Neumann Conference

Annual Second Collection

Sunday December 21st.



SCAN FOR ONLINE DONATION



ANNOUNCING

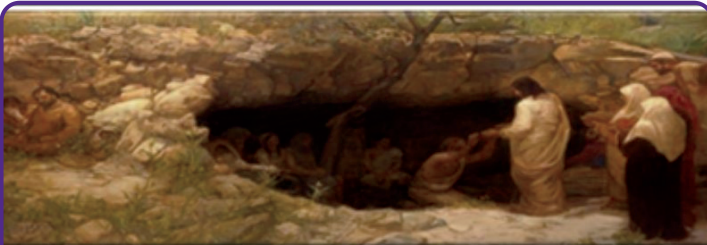
ADVENT GUIDES



JOIN TODAY

www.hallow.com/parish

Type **Saint John Neumann Parish** in the search box.



Columbia Catholic Mental Health Ministry

The *Columbia Catholic Mental Health Ministry*, in collaboration with Holy Trinity Catholic Church & St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, will be hosting its **Monthly Workshop on Wednesday, December 17 @ 7:00 PM at St. Peter's, 121 S. 2nd Street, Columbia, in the Social Hall** and is open to everyone in the community.

The topic of this Workshop is **Trauma Informed Care** and will feature **guest speaker Garret Book**, Lancaster Behavioral Health Hospital Patient Experience Coordinator and a Certified Trauma Professional through PESI. Garret is a 2015 graduate of Lancaster Theological Seminary where he earned a Master of Divinity. At Penn State Hershey Medical Center & Children's Hospital, he completed his Chaplaincy Internship and Residency. He worked as a staff chaplain for Lancaster General Hospital, Lancaster Rehabilitation Hospital, and Lancaster Behavioral Health Hospital from 2019 to 2023, when he took his current position.

If you would like to learn more about this topic or learn more about the CCMHM and services offered (such as spiritual accompaniment) please contact the ministry at **ccmentalhealthministry@gmail.com**.

For non-emergency peer support in or near Columbia contact the NAMI Lancaster County Warm Line at (717) 394-215. The Warm Line is for non-crisis situations, offering peer support for mental and emotional challenges before they become severe.

If you are experiencing a mental health emergency that requires immediate attention, please contact Crisis Intervention at (717) 394-2631 or call 988 to connect you directly to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. If you prefer to text, contact the Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741 to connect with a trained crisis counselor.

Second Sunday of Advent

Gifts of the Spirit

The reading from the prophet Isaiah is a very hopeful description of the Messiah. And part of that description in verses 2-3 contains the traditional seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Messiah, and looking forward to His coming in glory, let's take a look at those gifts and see how we can use them.

Wisdom is first and it is not a matter of tossing out proverbial quotes. This wisdom is the gift of seeing God in his creation. It means that we value the things of this world only as they help us to know and love God more. The second gift, Understanding, follows from Wisdom: as we appreciate God in His creation, we understand what God expects of us in dealing with creation and other people. This gift helps us to know how to act in a world that seems to ignore God. Counsel follows from Understanding as the gift of making correct judgments on how to act, how to follow those commands of God. For example, Understanding can lead us to love others. Counsel guides us to love them in appropriate ways.

Strength or fortitude, is the gift that enables us to do those things inspired by understanding and counsel, even if they are difficult. John the Baptist shows that gift in the gospel, when he challenges the Pharisees. It gave him the courage to die for his faith.

Knowledge is similar to counsel (knowing how to act) in that we begin to see what God wants for us in this world. It includes an understanding of Scriptures and how God's Word applies to our lives. Knowledge leads us to deeper revelations of the truths of our faith. This can lead to the sixth gift (seventh in Isaiah's text: "delight in the Lord") of Piety. This is a willingness to worship and love God, a desire to be close to Him in prayer. Piety leads us to totally rely on God and humbly ask his help.

The final gift, Fear of the Lord, is more than just being afraid: It is the awe and wonder of recognizing how great God is, how much he loves us, and so how much we want to stay close to Him. The desire to be close to God leads back to Wisdom, where we see God in his creation.

Tom Schmidt

St. Anne-Neumann Seniors

Please join us for our Christmas Lunch on Tuesday, December 16th to be held in the Social Hall.

Sign in 12:30 p.m. in the Narthex, Lunch at 1:00 p.m. Food being catered by Pasquale's. Cost is \$22 per person.

Entertainment will be Dick Finefrock.

Reservations needed. Call Gina White at 717-569-9364 ASAP. Payment can be made at the door by cash or check made out to St. Anne/Neumann Seniors.

LOURDESHOUSE NEEDS YOUR HELP!



Urgent Need:

Due to possible WIC and SNAP benefit disruptions, many of our moms may not have access to formula or food this month.

We are in immediate need of:

- Baby Wipes
- Baby Formula: Similac Advance, Similac 360, Similac Sensitive, Enfamil Nutramigen

Additional Needs:

- Nonperishable food items
- Prepared meals for mothers and babies

Drop off:
120 Willow Rd, Hbg 17109
717-412-4865
jdobinson@cchbg.org

Together, we can ensure every mother and baby is cared for during this difficult time.



Local Advent Penance Services

Throughout Advent	Our Lady of Lourdes, New Holland	Saturdays 4-4:45 p.m. & Sundays 9:15-10:15 a.m.
Mon., December 1st	Sacred Heart, Lancaster	7 p.m.
Sun., December 7th	Holy Trinity & St. Peter's (Combined at St. Peter's, Columbia)	4:30 p.m.
Tues., December 9th	St. Catherine of Siena, Quarryville	7 p.m.
Thurs., December 11th	Our Mother of Perpetual Help	7 p.m.
Fri., December 12th	St. Peter's, E-Town	7 p.m.
Sun., December 14th	St. Philip the Apostle	2 p.m.
Sun., December 14th	St. Mary's, Lancaster	6:30 p.m.
Mon., December 15th	Mary, Mother of the Church	7 p.m.
Tues., December 16th	St. Leo the Great, Lancaster	7 p.m.
Tues., December 16th	San Juan Bautista	7 p.m.
Wed., December 17th	St. Joseph, Lancaster	7 p.m.
Thurs., December 18th	St. John Neumann, Lancaster	7 p.m.
Mon., December 22nd	St. James, Lititz	7 p.m.

Prepare the Way of the Lord

I remember going to Mass at my parish during Advent and hearing Father sing "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" (from the musical Godspell) to start his homily. I was completely confused because the singing felt like it came out of nowhere. But he went on to explain how that song summed up the Advent season. We are preparing the way of the Lord.

In today's Gospel, we see that John the Baptist knew that Jesus's ministry was coming, saying "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire." He was helping people repent so they could be ready for Jesus' world changing ministry. As ridiculous as he might've sounded, the people who listened were able to repent and prepare. Just like actors and actresses practice for the big show, preparing themselves to perform, we need to prepare ourselves for his Second Coming.

This can also apply to modern-day society. While we are preparing for the Christmas parties and all the gift giving, we sometimes forget, myself included, what we are truly preparing for. One thing that helps is remembering to fit in the Sacrament of Reconciliation to repent of my sins and be fully present to celebrate Jesus' birthday.

As we prepare for the Lord, I pray that each of you can truly enjoy the Advent season and the Christmas season. Let's also take time to pray for those who aren't practicing Christians, that this Christmas season can help them see the good that God can do in each one of our lives.

By Ben Hooper

2nd Sunday of Advent

The Candle of Peace

The second candle is the Candle of Peace. It symbolizes preparation for Christ's arrival and the peace He brings to our broken world.



You're Invited

Advent's Journey of Hope



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Location: St. Peter Catholic Church

904 Mill Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Date: Monday, December 15, 2025 Time: 7:00 PM

Contact: Parish office 717-367-1255

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Catholic Social Teaching Symposium - January 31

Registration is open! Rooted in the dignity of every human person, the Diocese of Harrisburg's inaugural Catholic Social Teaching Symposium is a day dedicated to exploring the Church's response to some of the most urgent issues of our time. Through panels, breakout sessions, and practical discussions, participants will deepen their understanding of human dignity, solidarity, and our call to serve the common good. Together, we will reflect, learn, and discern how we can bring Christ's love into our communities through action, advocacy, and encounter.

All are welcome to register and attend. The cost is \$20 per person which includes lunch. For the complete schedule, details, and to register, please visit <https://www.hbgdiocese.org/event/catholic-social-teaching-symposium/>

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