

12/28/2025



The  
Epiphany  
of the Lord



1/04/2026

## Saint John Neumann Church

601 East Delp Road \* Lancaster, PA 17601

phone: (717) 569-8531 \* [www.sjnlancaster.org](http://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](mailto:frdan@sjnlancaster.org)

### Reverend Clark Stiteler

Parochial Vicar ~ [frstiteler@sjnlancaster.org](mailto:frstiteler@sjnlancaster.org)

### Reverend Michael Culkin - Substitute Priest

### Deacon Peter Jupin ~ Permanent Deacon

[pjupin@sjnlancaster.org](mailto:pjupin@sjnlancaster.org)

### Deacon Michael Oles ~ Permanent Deacon

[moles5@comcast.net](mailto:moles5@comcast.net)

### Tom Conner ~ Parish Manager

[tconner@sjnlancaster.org](mailto:tconner@sjnlancaster.org)

### Kim Mikulski ~ Parish Secretary

[kmikulski@sjnlancaster.org](mailto:kmikulski@sjnlancaster.org)

### Linda Gowarty

Youth Protection, Administrative Staff

[lgowarty@sjnlancaster.org](mailto:lgowarty@sjnlancaster.org)

### Tonianne Bertel ~ Parish Health Ministry

[tbertel@sjnlancaster.org](mailto:tbertel@sjnlancaster.org)

### Kurt Kehler

Music Coordinator ~ [kmk@pa.net](mailto:kmk@pa.net)

### Nate Gulya

Director of Religious Education (DRE)

[ngulya@sjnlancaster.org](mailto:ngulya@sjnlancaster.org)

### Erin Houser ~ Assistant to the DRE

[ehouser@sjnlancaster.org](mailto:ehouser@sjnlancaster.org)

### Udoka Ugoagwu - Youth Ministry

[YouthMinistry@sjnlancaster.org](mailto:YouthMinistry@sjnlancaster.org)

### St. John Neumann Catholic School

(717) 844-6100

Karen Henry ~ Principal

[henryka@sjnschoollancaster.org](mailto:henryka@sjnschoollancaster.org)

### Lancaster Catholic High School

(717) 509-0315

President ~ Kyla (Morrison) Hockley '96

[khockley@lchsy.org](mailto:khockley@lchsy.org)

Principal ~ Sean Van Eman

[svaneman@lchsy.org](mailto:svaneman@lchsy.org)



download myParish app - select our Parish after opening

FEAST OF THE

Holy Family

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;  
and the favor of God was upon him.  
Luke 2:40

### 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 27**

- 4:00 p.m. - Harvey Snyder

#### **Sun., December 28**

- 7:30 a.m. - People of the Parish
- 9:00 a.m. - Special Intention for Justin Melvin
- 11:00 a.m. - Vincent Kneizys
- 5:00 p.m. - Louis DeSimone

#### **Mon., December 29**

- 9:00 a.m. - Charles L. Brodeur

#### **Tues., December 30**

- 9:00 a.m. - Elizabeth Whiston

#### **Wed., December 31**

- 9 a.m. - Loretta McKenna
- 5 p.m. - Mary Miller

#### **Thurs., January 1, 2026**

- 9 a.m. - Special Intentions for Paul Slegelmilch
- 11 a.m. - People of the Parish
- 6 p.m. - NO MASS

#### **Fri., January 2 ~ First Friday**

- 9 a.m. - Andy Olearczk

#### **Sat., January 3 ~ First Saturday**

- 4:00 p.m. - Christopher Reith

#### **Sun., January 4**

- 7:30 a.m. - Judy Baidy
- 9 a.m. - People of the Parish
- 11:00 a.m. - Theresa Hettinger
- 5:00 p.m. - Special Intentions for Glenn & Darah Catalan

### Mass Intentions

#### **Mon., January 5**

- 9:00 a.m. - Charles Barone

#### **Tues., January 6**

- 9:00 a.m. - Jim Smallwood, Jr.

#### **Wed., January 7**

- 9 a.m. - John Weinheimer, Jr.
- Brethren - Special Intentions for Acy Catalan

#### **Thurs., January 8**

- 9 a.m. - Adele Gagliardo
- 6 p.m. - Jon Lucin

#### **Fri., January 9**

- 9 a.m. - Bob Hofmann

#### **Sat., January 10**

- 4:00 p.m. - Patricia Armitage

#### **Sun., January 11**

- 7:30 a.m. - Allan Rey Ponce
- 9 a.m. - Msgr. Daniel Mitzel
- 11:00 a.m. - People of the Parish
- 5:00 p.m. - Betty Huegel



The Altar Flowers for the week of:  
January 3-9, 2026  
in honor of Mary Feeley's  
90<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

### **Truth, Beauty, and Goodness: The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass**

"Escape from your everyday business for a short while, hide for a moment from your restless thoughts.... Make a little time for God, and rest a while in him."—Saint Anselm.

This upcoming year, Father Stiteler will present a three part-series on the Mass from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Social Hall. Please join us on the following Wednesday evenings, for some or all of the parts:

January 7 - Part I: "...and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries."

February 2 - Part II: "Lift up your hearts."

March 3 - Part III: "Behold the Lamb of God"



# Parish Events

## Sun., December 28

- 10 a.m. - OCIA - Library
- 6~8:30 p.m. - Youth Ministry - Youth Room

## Mon., December 29

- 8:30 a.m. - Rosary - Church
- 9:30 a.m.~12 p.m. - Prayer Shawl Ministry - Conference Room

## Tues., December 30

- 8:30 a.m. - Rosary - Church

## Wed., December 31 ~ New Year's Eve

- **Parish Office Closed**
- 8:30 a.m. - Rosary - Church
- NO Adoration
- 5 p.m. - Holy Day Vigil Mass - Church

## Thurs., January 1, 2026 ~ Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

- **Parish Office Closed**
- NO Rosary
- 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. - Holy Day Masses - Church
- NO Confessions
- NO Adoration
- NO Spiritual Support Group
- NO Off the Streets

## Fri., January 2

- **Parish Office Closed**
- 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study - Library
- 8:30 a.m. - Rosary - Church
- 9:30 a.m. - Divine Mercy Chaplet - Church

## Sat., January 3

- 11 a.m. - Secular Franciscan Formation - Library
- 2:00~3:30 p.m. - Confessions

## Sun., January 4

- Following morning Masses - Coffee & Donuts
- 6~8:30 p.m. - Youth Ministry - Youth Room

## Mon., January 5

- 8:30 a.m. - Rosary - Church
- 9:30 a.m.~12 p.m. - Prayer Shawl Ministry - Conference Room
- 6 p.m. - Walking with Purpose - Social Hall, Library, Youth Room, Conference Room
- 7 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal - Church

## Tues., January 6

- 8:30 a.m. - Rosary - Church
- 4:15~5:30 p.m. - CGS - Atrium
- 6:30 p.m. - Divine Mercy Cenacle - Social Hall

## Wed., January 7

- 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
- 6:30 p.m. - Adult Education with Fr. Stiteler

## Thurs., January 8

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

## Fri., January 9

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

## Sat., January 10

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

## Sun., January 11

- Following morning Masses - Coffee & Donuts being hosted by the Knights of Columbus - Social Hall
- 10 a.m. - OCIA - Youth Room
- 10 a.m. - Faith Formation Peer Meeting - Education Center
- 12~5 p.m. - Adoration - Church
- 1~4 p.m. - Secular Franciscan Order Gathering - Social Hall
- 6~7 p.m. - Adoration - Church
- 6~8:30 p.m. - Youth Ministry - Youth Room
- 7 p.m. - Opening of Forty Hours with Fr. Thomas Meinert as Homilist





## Collection

December 14, 2025

Sunday Envelopes and ParishSoft . . . . . \$26,649.12

December 21, 2025

Will be posted in a future bulletin.

*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.*

### ParishSoft

by Ministry Brands

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!*

## 2025 Diocesan Annual Campaign Pilgrims of Hope

Goal . . . . . \$ 223,042  
Total Pledged to Date . . . . . \$ 197,727  
Total Cash Received to Date . . . . . \$ 198,127  
Outstanding Goal Balance . . . . . \$ 24,915

## 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!



*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.sjnconfsvdp.org](http://www.sjnconfsvdp.org) and click on the **DONATE** button in the upper left corner.

Thank you.

## Vocations Corner

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

## Feast of the Holy Family - 12/28/2025

*"Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel." (Matthew 2:20)*

Joseph's obedience to God protected the Holy Family. In marriage, spouses are called to protect and nurture each other in faith. Reflect on how God might be guiding you to build a family rooted in His love. Pray and ask God how you can better serve and protect your family this week.



## Epiphany of the Lord - 1/04/2026

*"They prostrated themselves and did him homage." (Matthew 2:11)*

The Magi offered their gifts to Christ, just as we are called to offer our own. What gifts has God given you, and how is He calling you to use them in service to Him? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at (717) 657-4804 ext. 282 or via email: [vocations@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:vocations@hbgdiocese.org)

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.

*Sign Up Sheets  
are now  
available in the  
Narthex.*



### Daily Readings for Dec 29-Jan 3

#### **Monday**

1 Jn 2:3-11  
Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6  
Lk 2:22-35

#### **Tuesday**

1 Jn 2:12-17  
Ps 96:7-8a; 8b-9, 10  
Lk 2:36-40

#### **Wednesday**

1 Jn 2:18-21  
Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13  
Jn 1:1-18

#### **Thursday**

Num 6:22-27  
Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8  
Gal 4:4-7  
Lk 2:16-21

#### **Friday**

1 Jn 2:22-28  
Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4  
Jn 1:19-28

#### **Saturday**

1 Jn 2:29-3:6  
Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6  
Jn 1:29-34

### Daily Readings for Jan 5-10

#### **Monday**

1 Jn 3:22-4:6  
Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a  
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

#### **Tuesday**

1 Jn 4:7-10  
Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8  
Mk 6:34-44

#### **Wednesday**

1 Jn 4:11-18  
Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13  
Mk 6:45-52

#### **Thursday**

1 Jn 4:19-5:4  
Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17  
Lk 4:14-22

#### **Friday**

1 Jn 5:5-13  
Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20  
Lk 5:12-16

#### **Saturday**

1 Jn 5:14-21  
Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b  
Jn 3:22-30

### **Readings for Sunday, January 4, 2026**

*Epiphany of the Lord*

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

### **Readings for Sunday, January 11, 2026**

*Baptism of the Lord*

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

### **Hymns for Sunday, December 28, 2025**

Entrance: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Prep of the Gifts: *The First Noel*

Communion: *What Child Is This*

*Away In The Manger*

*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

Recessional: *Angels We Have Heard On High*

### **Hymns for January 4, 2026**

Entrance: *O Come All Ye Faithful*

Prep of the Gifts: *What Child Is This*

Communion: *We Three Kings*

*The First Noel*

*Away In A Manger*

Recessional: *As With Gladness Men of Old*

### SEVEN SISTERS APOSTOLATE

We will be starting women's prayer groups at Saint John Neumann Parish specifically for the intentions of Fr. Dan and Fr. Stiteler. The plan is to offer prayer for them in the form of holy hours using the simple structure created by the Seven Sisters Apostolate (Seven Sisters apostolate.org). One priest, seven women praying one hour, seven days each week.

The Seven Sisters Apostolate was started by Janette Howell in 2011. Janette sensed a "nudge" to pray more frequently and intentionally for her pastor, Fr. Joseph R Johnson in Minneapolis, MN. Since that time, the membership has grown to have at least one group praying in every state of the United States and in many countries overseas. There are groups praying for the intentions of bishops, archbishops and cardinals. There are even 8 groups praying daily, specifically for the intentions of Pope Leo IV!!

The goal of each group is to have seven women volunteering to pray a holy hour for the intentions of a specific priest one day a week. This generous commitment of prayer is ideally for a period of one year, but can remain open-ended in time as each individual senses the call to continue. The plan here at SJN is to develop a group praying specifically for the intentions of Fr. Dan initially, and then to develop a group praying for the intentions of Fr. Stiteler.

Would YOU like to be involved in this unique prayer ministry? Are you experiencing a "nudge" from the Holy Spirit?

If you are a woman who senses a call to join one of these groups, or simply would like more information about what is involved, please contact Kathy Birmingham at 717-397-8647. The hope is to start this ministry by the end of January in 2026.

Thank you for your willingness to respond to this call.

### 2025 Tax Statements

If you received a tax statement last year through the mail, you will automatically receive on this year. No need to do anything.



If you did not receive one last year, please call the Parish Office to request one for this year.

### Parish Health Ministry (PHM)

Today, December 28, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

We are all called to be Holy families. Our Catholic understanding of family stands as a radiant sign of unity, love, and divine purpose. Our world is marked by fragmentation and noise and sadly many see the family as mere social construct or biological arrangement. Yet, we know it is a sacred vocation, a domestic church where holiness is to be nurtured and God's love is to be made visible.

It was St. John Paul II who often referred to the family as the “domestic church,” a place where faith is lived, taught, and passed on. Within the walls of a home, children first encounter the love of God through the tenderness of their parents. Meals become moments of gratitude, bedtime prayers become seeds of trust, and forgiveness becomes a daily sacrament of grace. Today, let us strive to remember we are called to be that domestic church. In continuing with our Advent process of reflecting on a quote and responding to a question & prayer.

“The family is the original cell of social life.”

(CCC 2207) What small daily practices help your household become a “domestic church”?

Let us Pray: Lord God, You who dwell in communion and love, Bless every family with your peace and presence. May our homes be places of prayer, forgiveness, and joy. Help us reflect the Holy Family and your holiness in every moment And guide us to be living witnesses of your love. Amen.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** May the New Year bring you Troubles that last only seconds; Giggles that last minutes, Chuckles that last hours, Laughs that last days, Smiles that last weeks, Happiness that lasts months, Friendships that last years. But most of all love that last years.

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On January 4, 2026, we acknowledge the Epiphany of the Lord. The day the three kings arrived and witnessed the divinity of Jesus. While we acknowledge this day through Mass attendance, there are some family-oriented traditions that may also take place. Many of us bless our homes with holy water and add to the doorway the sign with the initials of the Magi—C+M+B—alongside the new year date. This is to invoke Christ's protection on our household and all who reside within it. Some families may read the story of the Wise Men (Matthew 2:1–12), and or share a special meal with

a King Cake to honor the gifts of faith, hope, and love. These simple acts remind us that Christ's light is meant to shine in every home. Matthew 2:1--2“... Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star\* at its rising and have come to do him homage.”

What gifts can our family offer to Jesus this year?

Let us pray: Loving God, Bless this home and all who dwell here. May it be a place of peace, joy, and hospitality. As the Magi followed the star to find Jesus, May we always seek Your light and truth.

Christ, bless this house and remain with us throughout the year. Amen.

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A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED FOOD ITEMS, HAMS, TURKEYS AND TURKEY BREASTS FOR OUR THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS. YOUR DONATIONS SERVED Over 20 FAMILIES AT EACH HOLIDAY.

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Our Meal Ministry is looking to expand. Volunteers would provide a simple nutritious meal for an individual or parish family experiencing a health issue or welcoming a newborn. Please prayerfully consider adding your name to this ministry. To volunteer or ask questions, call Tonianne at

717-569-8531.

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Mental Health Ministry is planning a presentation on Dementia in the weeks to come- watch the PHM section of Bulletin for details.



*Our Christian Community Welcomes*

*Sophia Rose Szili*  
*December 21, 2025*

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*Rowen James McFerren*  
*December 28, 2025*

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

**\* Rest in Peace \***

**Dr. James Smallwood**

**Kathryn Henry**

*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.*

**Remember the Sick of our Parish ~ Especially**

Hans Deatruck, 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

The students, faculty and staff of St. John Neumann Catholic School hope you are enjoying a healthy and blessed Christmas! May your heart and home be filled with all the joys of the season.

The 26-27 Admissions Season opens on Monday, Jan. 5! Online applications for the 26-27 School Year can be completed on the school's website at [www.sjncls Lancaster.org](http://www.sjncls Lancaster.org). Questions? Contact Janice Wolfe at 717-844-6100 or [wolfeja@sjschoollancaster.org](mailto:wolfeja@sjschoollancaster.org) beginning on the 5th. Please see the flier in today's bulletin and we hope to see an application from you!

On Thursday, we will join as a school family to pray our All School Rosary.

And, Friday is a Mission Dress Down Day. Please remember your donation for the Missions. (It's also a Chick Fil A Day for those students who have purchased.)



**SUNDAYKIDZ**

### Feast of the Holy Family

S	E	A	R	C	H	K	O	K	K
I	K	B	W	W	R	I	S	E	O
D	N	I	E	E	U	D	K	I	F
R	D	A	E	H	K	D	R	M	X
E	H	A	Z	G	O	B	W	A	F
A	N	N	A	A	Y	L	Y	G	L
M	I	E	N	N	R	P	D	I	E
N	G	S	Y	D	G	E	T	I	E
L	H	H	B	A	B	E	T	R	T
T	T	X	N	O	V	B	L	H	P

Magi Behold Angel Dream Rise  
Flee Egypt Search Night Nazareth



**SUNDAYKIDZ**

### Epiphany of the Lord

K	I	N	G	T	U	K	X	S	F
K	C	K	R	R	D	C	S	C	B
O	I	P	U	E	P	H	H	R	P
W	J	T	L	A	R	I	E	I	N
L	P	F	E	S	I	L	P	B	G
A	S	N	R	U	E	D	H	E	E
N	B	T	L	R	S	X	E	S	J
D	O	A	A	E	T	A	R	D	A
F	R	A	D	R	S	J	D	M	E
U	N	X	L	H	B	S	E	H	W

Born King Star Priests Scribes  
Land Ruler Shepherd Child Treasure

## Second Collection ~ January 11, 2026

### **Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe**

On Sunday, January 11, we will take up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This collection supports the Church in more than 25 countries that are still struggling to recover from former communist rule. It also aids communities throughout the region that are affected by the war in Ukraine.

Funds support pastoral care, catechesis, renovations, and seminary formation. Your contribution restores the Church and builds the future in this region. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection next week. You can find more information at [www.usccb.org/ccee](http://www.usccb.org/ccee). #iGiveCatholicTogether also accepts funds for this collection if you prefer to donate online.



## Upcoming Woman of Grace Studies

“Fight Like a Catholic”, Spiritual Warfare in the Catholic Tradition, Book Study by Susan Brinkmann, OCDS, Director of Communications and New Age Research for the Women of Grace Apostolate.

Study begins Saturday, January 17th, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Seven Sorrows Catholic Church in Middletown for Five Saturdays (also January 24, January 31, February 14, and February 21).

Study includes weekly video; cost of book \$15.95. All Catholic women encouraged to attend!

Contact Chris Arnold, Regional Coordinator, at 717-379-6041 or [carnold@womenofgrace.com](mailto:carnold@womenofgrace.com).

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“Moments with Mary” Module 1, “Who is Mary?” authored by Johnnette Benkovic Williams, Founder of the Women of Grace Apostolate.

Study begins Saturday April 18th, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Parish in Hershey for Five Saturdays (also April 25, May 9, May 16, and May 23).

Study includes weekly videos in class and individual daily videos with Johnnette! Cost of book is \$25. All Catholic women are encouraged to attend!

Contact Chris Arnold, Regional Coordinator, at 717-379-6041 or [carnold@womenofgrace.com](mailto:carnold@womenofgrace.com).

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Spanish Morning of Grace for All Hispanic Women of the Diocese of Harrisburg on Saturday March 14, 2026! Theme “The Women at the Foot of the Cross” .....

Free Event! From 8 a.m. to 12:00 (Noon)...in Spanish Language

Morning includes Mass, Presentations, Rosary, Adoration, Refreshments and Fellowship!

Contact Chris Arnold, Regional Coordinator, at 717-379-6041 or [carnold@womenofgrace.com](mailto:carnold@womenofgrace.com).

OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR ~ January 8  
Mary is patroness of the city of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana under this title. The statue of Our Lady of Prompt Succor was brought to New Orleans in 1810 by a French Ursuline sister, Mother St. Michel Gensoul, in thanksgiving for receiving permission to join the Ursulines there. “Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us.”

**NOW  
ACCEPTING  
APPLICATIONS  
FOR  
2026-2027**



**ST. JOHN NEUMANN  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Applications are now being accepted for the 2026-2027 School Year. Parishioners are our first priority but spaces are limited in several classes so apply today!

Want to set up a tour? Questions about the school? Contact Janice Wolfe at [wolfeja@sjnschoollancaster.org](mailto:wolfeja@sjnschoollancaster.org) or 717-844-6100.



[www.sjncslancaster.org](http://www.sjncslancaster.org) Apply Here





## **Free Throw Basketball Championship**

January 18, 2026

Lititz Recreation Center, 2:00 pm. to 4:00 pm.  
Sponsored by St. James Knights of Columbus,  
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The basketball free throw event is open to all boys and girls, who are ages 9 to 14, as of January 1, 2026. Parent or Guardian signed permission will be needed in order to compete. Registration forms will be available at the start of the event. There is no entry fee.

Participants with high scores will be invited to a district championship in February.



We hope to see you there!

Contact:  
Rick Thompson 717-514-6124

## **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

### **TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

We are in the season of the Incarnation, the mystery of God's love poured out in Christ's birth. The word derives from the Latin carnis meaning "flesh." Throughout history, some Christians have distrusted the "flesh," and stressed a hatred of this world and its pleasures. Perhaps they have not paid enough attention to how "embodied" the sacraments are. One third-century author put it plainly in an image that may alarm diet-conscious Americans, explaining that we wash the body so the soul can be cleansed, that we anoint the body so the soul can be strengthened, and that we eat the body and blood of Christ so that "the soul can fatten on God."

Catholics "get" that God is revealed in this world. The sacraments use the "stuff" of creation: water and oil; the senses of the body, touch and taste and smell. We use the things of this world rightly. After all, God's love poured out into human flesh means the world has eternal value. Why else would Jesus describe the kingdom to come as a teeming city or a marriage banquet? Catholics are realists, and nowhere is that more evident than when we gather for a sacrament.

—Rev. James Field



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2026 Men's Conference

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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/>

### When Christmas Comes Quietly: Finding True Joy in His Presence

by Erin Houser

December 25 is now a few days behind us. The gifts have been opened, the special meals shared, and for many families, the long buildup to Christmas Day has finally eased. And yet, in the richness of our Catholic tradition, Christmas is not finished; it is just beginning.

As I look back on December 14, when our Faith Formation families gathered in the school for a regularly scheduled meeting, I'm struck by how providential the timing was. What appeared ordinary on the calendar became something extraordinary in our hearts. As snow gently fell on white-capped trees outside, something sacred unfolded inside, a quiet moment of grace that reminded us what Christmas is truly about.

Families had the opportunity to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, to sit in the stillness of Adoration, and to spend quiet time with Jesus. As the Nativity story was read, Rousseau's *Silent Night* played softly in the background, creating an atmosphere of reverence and peace. Before Adoration, we listened as Nate shared the beautiful story of our faith: how Jesus was born as a baby, lived among us, showed us how to live holy lives, taught us how to love God and one another, worked miracles, and ultimately gave His life for us. Through Him, we are given a second chance to be holy, to be close to God, and to love as we were always meant to. The presence of the Holy Spirit during Adoration was unmistakable. A hushed peace filled the room, gently enveloping children and adults alike. For this overly busy, sometimes worn-out, soul-weary mom, it felt like an unexpected and deeply personal gift. In that moment, I experienced genuine Christmas joy. Not the fleeting, well-meaning joy we parents sometimes try to manufacture with packed schedules, celebrations, and gifts we'll be paying off for months, but rather the deep, abiding joy that only Jesus Christ can place in a human heart. If you were present for this meeting, I pray you felt it too. As we step into the Christmas season together, may we linger a little longer with Him, allowing His peace and joy to dwell in our hearts.

Would you like to be part of our Family of Faith? Contact Nate Gulya at [ngulya@sjnlancaster.org](mailto:ngulya@sjnlancaster.org).

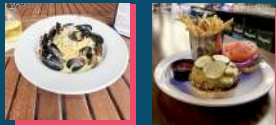
The feast day for Saint John Neumann, the first male American saint, is celebrated on January 5th, marking the anniversary of his death in 1860, and honors his legacy as a tireless missionary, founder of Catholic schools, and advocate for immigrants and the sick.





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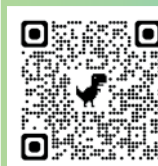
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