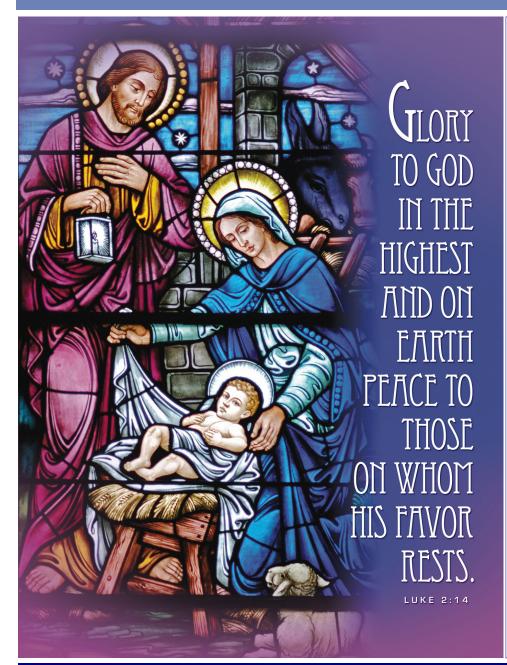
# QUEEN OF PEACE

Roman Catholic Parish

Welcome!

December 25, 2022



# OUR LADY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

8747 W. Lawrence Avenue Chicago, IL 60656 Ph. (773) 625-3369

#### Masses:

Tuesday: 7:00 am
Thursday: 7:00 am
Sunday: 10:00 am

#### ST. EUGENE CHURCH

7958 W. Foster Avenue Chicago, IL 60656 Ph. (773) 775-6659

#### Masses:

Monday: 9:00 am
Wednesday: 9:00 am
Friday: 9:00 am
Saturday: 8:30 am
Confessions 4:00 pm
Sunday Vigil Mass: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 8:30 am
11:30 am

# Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Monday: 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Benediction: 5:45 pm

#### **RECTORY OFFICE HOURS**

Our Lady,
Mother of the church

Monday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

St. Eugene

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Saturday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

# Father Rich Yanos

Today as we celebrate Christmas and the Nativity of Our Lord, we gather with our family, friends and church community to give thanks for this awesome gift of God, who sent His only Son to dwell among us by not only sharing in our humanity, but also offering us the opportunity of eternal salvation. What a gift!

This Christmas I am keenly aware of this gift of God to us all. I am also very much aware of the many ways God has blessed and gifted our community of faith at Queen of Peace through each and every one of our parish family. May we all be reminded that as members of this parish, whenever we gather together, we do so as one body of faith around the true Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ himself – the Savior of the world.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Last week I wrote about some "Common Good Excuses" we sometimes use to not attend Sunday Mass. This week I'd like to offer 18 reasons why we should go to Sunday Mass or perhaps even return to Sunday Mass if we've been away for a while. Please share this column with those who might need a little reminder of what participation in the Mass gives us or who have perhaps just become complacent and have lost their way.

- **Reason 1.** It's your way to relive the Last Supper.
- **Reason 2.** When was the last time you prayed too much?
- Reason 3. If you want to spend eternity with Christ, you need to get to know him now.
- **Reason 4.** It's the central, necessary activity of Christian worship (Luke 22:14-23; John 6:53; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).
- **Reason 5.** It's your best way to identify yourself with Christ's sacrifice on the cross.
- **Reason 6.** Some of the greatest people in history were Mass goers (St. Francis, Mother Teresa, Pope John Paul II ...)
- Reason 7. Wise people invest money for the future. How much more should we invest in eternal life?
- **Reason 8.** It has to be better for you than TV.
- **Reason 9.** If you've been to confession, you get to receive Jesus Christ. If you find a better deal, do that instead.
- Reason 10. If you knew Jesus would be somewhere, wouldn't you go see him?
- Reason 11. Guaranteed Bible readings. Countless lives have been changed by Scripture. Might yours?
- **Reason 12.** Statistics say that people who go to church are less stressed.



- **Reason 13.** It's the best way to pray for your family and friends and to cope with troubled times.
- Reason 14. One out of Ten Commandments asks you to go to Mass every Sunday.
- Reason 15. You'll become a better person at Mass. The more you are part of God's life, the better you'll be.
- Reason 16. Life is complicated. Get directions that work from the One who created life.
- **Reason 17.** It's your way to go most directly through Jesus Christ to God the Father by the power of the Holy Spirit in prayer.

Reason 18. Is one hour too much to give to God? How many do you spend on other priorities?

\*\*\*\*\*\*

All are invited to join us on our upcoming 11-day tour of Sicily, Rome and Southern Italy departing on October 16<sup>th</sup> thru October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Whether you have been to Italy before or not, no tour of this beautiful country is ever the same. Sharing this experience with your family, friends and/or fellow parishioners helps to make it that much more enjoyable as we always have so much to talk about and share at the end of each of our days of sightseeing and touring.

Be sure to see the promotional information about this exciting trip in today's bulletin. We will be having an informational meeting on Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in Mtg. Room 110 of the school for anyone that might be interested in hearing more about the highlights of this trip that will outline all the places we will be visiting including an audience with Pope Francis while in Rome.

This trip will probably fill up quickly. For anyone definitely wanting to join us you can hold your spot by filling out and sending in the RSVP form contained in the trip brochure with your deposit. Brochures are available at either of our parish offices, in the vestibules of our churches or by request by filling in the form in today's bulletin.

\*\*\*\*\*\*

Also, next Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, we will be celebrating the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. There will be a Mass of anticipation on Saturday night, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 p.m. No confessions will be heard this night. On Sunday we will have our regular Mass Schedule of Masses which is: 8:30 a.m. at St. Eugene, 10:00 a.m. at Our Lady Mother of the Church, and 11:30 a.m. at St. Eugene.

Wishing all in our parish community of Queen of Peace a very Merry Christmas!

Fr. Rich Yanos





Christmas 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

"The Word was made flesh, and he made his dwelling among us." These momentous words from the beginning of John's Gospel describe exactly what we celebrate at Christmas. Jesus, the eternal Son of God, has indeed come among us and become a part of our human family. He shared our joys and our sorrows. He came to know the full expanse of our human experiences, those that lift us up and those that cast us down. Through his death and resurrection, he has transformed our lives and our very world. The One born among us as Son of God and Son of Mary has given us a new birth in hope.

We know the challenges that marked his life from the very beginning. We recall how the Holy Family shared the plight of refugees, when they had to flee to Egypt to protect their newborn child from violence. These challenges find an echo in our world today. We see people flee the violence of war and oppression and crushing poverty. Their plight moves our heart to do whatever we can to alleviate their pain. Their story, framed within the story of the Holy Family, also reminds of the unfailing hand of God's providence that leads us and saves us. And that gives us joyful confidence.

Whatever the challenges we face as individuals and communities — from war, violence, disease, injustice, natural climate disasters — we do not lose hope. We know that the Word was made flesh and made his dwelling among us. He walks with us. He sustains us. He gives us a hope that will not disappoint.

Join me in prayer this Christmas season. Let us ask God to deepen our faith in the Incarnate Word. Let us ask God to renew our hope and lift us up when we are weary. Let us ask God to keep our hearts joyful in all circumstances, because we have come to know God's love for us.

God bless you and all your loved ones. As I celebrate the Eucharist in this Christmas season, know that I bring all of you to the altar with me.

Sincerely yours in Christ

Store Coud. Carriel

Archbishop of Chicago



#### Saturday, December 24, 2022 Vigil of Christmas

3:00 pm Mass at St. Eugene Church (Family Liturgy)

George & Filipa Concioldi,

Liv. & Dec'd mbrs Lutfy & Dahir Fams.,

Irene McGreevey, Annie Nash, Jerry Stephen

**4:00 pm** Mass at Our Lady, Mother of the Church

People of the Parishes

5:00 pm Mass at St. Eugene Church

Janina & Wieslaw Borawski, Juan Diaz, Richard Humanski, Joseph, Helen & Philip Iwan, Janus & Haj Fams., M/M Evaristo Natalino,

Susan Tiedje, Halina Wardzala

10:00 pm Mass at St. Eugene Church

Leonardo Cataldo, Carmela & Frank Esposito, Domenica & Ernesto Fiorante, Cristina & Giovanni Greco, Joseph Krol,

12:00 am Midnight Mass

Mass at Our Lady, Mother of the Church

People of the Parishes

John Kula & Nienczyk

Sunday, December 25, 2022 - Nativity of the Lord

7:30 am Mass at St. Eugene Church

People of the Parishes

Feist & Mikulski Fams., Kula Fam.,

Josephine & Michael Mugnini, Elvira & Emidio Spinelli

9:00 am Mass at Our Lady, Mother of the Church

People of the Parishers

9:00 am Mass at St. Eugene Church

Jimmy Byrne, Charles & Frances Clark, Int. of Bonnie Frackiel & Genowefa Pawula, Int. of Mark & Arthur Frackiel, Antoni Orlowski, Anna Scola, Robert Seliga, Leonard Stancy,

**11:00 am** Mass at Our Lady, Mother of the Church

People of the Parishes

11:30 am Mass at St. Eugene Church

Anna Maria & Domenica Battista, Tod Bourgart, Walter Caban, Witol Gadomski Fam., Krys, Dabros, & Wytrwold Fams., Anna & Mike Parente Sr., Michael Vito Parente, Phil & Phillip Saineghi

Monday, December 26, 2022

**9:00 am** Mass at St. Eugene Church

Rosa & Vito Calabrese, Angieszka Chabura, Stanislaw & Franciszka Chabura, Mark Mucek, Miller Fam., Wiktoria Wilk, Joseph & Anna Wilk

Tuesday, December 27, 2022

7:00 am Mass at Our Lady, Mother of the Church

Purgatorial Society, Helena & Andrzej Mac Grace Bastian, Phyllis & Arthur Bastian, Chester B. Howaniec, Ken Sadowski, Jeff Stalpart,

#### Wednesday, December 28, 2022

9:00 am Mass at St. Eugene Church

Dorothy & Elmer Chanski, B-day blessing for Damian,

Edna Crisostomo 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniv. of Death,

Ed & Jackie Kenney, Joseph Krol, Bennie Martin,

Phil & Philip Saineghi,

Thursday, December 29, 2022

7:00 am Mass at Our Lady, Mother of the Church

Deacon Carmen Cesario, Carol Johnson, Rysard Kwiatkowski, Carmen B. Melendrez,

Linda Newton, Fred Nuccio B-day

Friday, December 30, 2022

9:00 am Mass at St. Eugene Church

Giacomo & Maria D'Aniello, Juan Diaz, Giacomo & Maria, Antoni Gumkowski, Eugene Kosla, Regina Podwysocka,

Paul & Annetta Simonetti

Saturday, December 31, 2022

8:30 am Mass at St. Eugene

S.I. Scott Ventura, David Ventura,
Paul Wehner & Patricia & Garrett Meade

Saturday, December 31, 2022

4:00 pm Saturday Vigil Mass - Mass at St. Eugene Church

Dimitri Anton, Andrew B. Bujdasz,

Bernice Cwiklik,

Elmer & Grace D. Frelka,

Dec'd mbrs of Kot & Feret Fams, Ludwik Komperda,

Hillard & Michael Michalek,

Joseph Mikewicz,

Carlos Saul

Sunday, January 1, 2023

8:30 am Mass at St. Eugene Church

People of the Parishes

Caterina, Vincenzo, Maria,

Giuseppe Campisi, Juan Diaz,

Domenica, Rosario, Giacoma, Salvatore, & Antonino

Gerraci, Domenico & Anna Iannelli

10:00 am Mass at Our Lady, Mother of the Church

Eleanor Calabro, Santo Calabro Carmela DiMatteo,

Ted Marszalek, Sr., Pietro Pisello,

Matilda & James Halas

Blessings for Family of Darek, Marsha, Isia,

Damian, Nicole, Matthew,

11:30 am Mass at St. Eugene Church

M/M Salvatore Allegra, Spec. Int. Sophie, Katarzyna & Teofil Cabaj, Dominick & Maria Di Rea & Fam.,

Witold Gadomski & Fam., Bruno Janus, Krys,

Dabros, & Wytrol Fams.,

Jan Mikulski,

Anthony & Josephine Riggio, Paul & Annetta Simonetti

## SCHEDULE OF LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Date	Celebrant	Extraordinary Minister	Altar Server	Lectors
Saturday, 12 / 31 4 pm - St. Eugene	Rev. Ed Pacocha	F. Klus - WB M. Egan - B T. Crivlare - C J. Horn - O M. Pollowy - WO	TBD	P. Brown
Sunday, 1 / 1 8:30 am - St. Eugene	Rev. Gregory Rom	L. Feist - WB B. Czubek - B J. Cardella - C G. Bermas - O J. Kolaski - WO	TBD	C. Bobka
Sunday, 1 / 1 10:00 am - OLMC	Rev. Rich Yanos	M. Riebock - C G. Henderson - T	D. Flynn G. Pilch J. Pilch T. Molas	R. Catalano - 1st - UP K. Kelch - 2nd
Sunday, 1 / 1 11:30 am - St. Eugene	Rev. Jacek A. Dada	P. Paetsch - WB J. Pomis - B J. Mroszczak - C R. Sparacino - O S. Sparacino - WO	TBD	L. Vasich

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

9:00 am - St. Eugene Church

WEEKDAY MASS, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:30 am - St. Eugene Church

New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31

4:00 pm - (Mass of Anticipation) - St. Eugene Church

NEW YEAR'S DAY MARY MOTHER OF GOD—SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023
(A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)

8:30 am & 11:30 am - St. Eugene Church 10:00 am - Our Lady, Mother of the Church

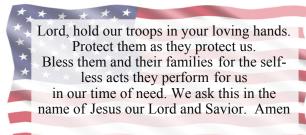
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2023

8:30 am - St. Eugene Church



We pray for our loved ones who are serving in any branch of the Armed Forces during this time of conflict.





Major Adamczyk Joseph Antosh, Jr. Ghaleb Azroui **Donald Bellisario** Matthew Calderisi Timothy Emmett Carolan Melissa Rose Cortese James Vincent Degrazia Patrick Edward Dillon Zbigniew Dudkowski Kurt Feiereisel Matthew Scott Forrest

Dirk Haller Andrew Hopkins Christopher Jenkins Bernard Edward Kusinski Antonio James Lim Payne Manczko Chris Marchiori Daniel Meaney Keith Miller Michael Morales Mike Mroszczak Thomas Neuhengen Eric Norwood

Elliott O'Claire Vincent Page Chad Pritchard Nicholas Ranch Adam Roberts Joseph Saineghi, Jr. Holly Schippers Michael Schippers, Jr. Sean Sherlock **Sharon Sherlock** Phillip R. Simonsen Dominic John Guerrieri, Jr.

We ask all of our parishioners, if you have a loved one serving in the military, to please contact the rectory office to give us the name of the soldier, so the whole parish can pray for your loved one. Also, please call the rectory when your loved one returns home.

A book in the church vestibule is available for inscribing the names of all military personnel. This book will be part of the offertory procession from now until the war is over.

Saturday 5:00 pm St. Eugene Church Sunday 8:30 am St. Eugene Church

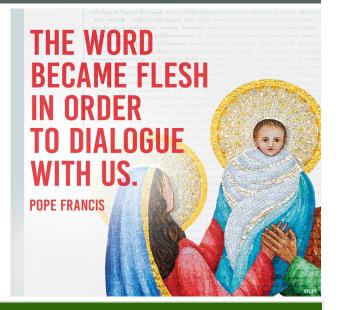
10: 00 am Our Lady, Mother of the Church

St. Eugene Church

11:30 am St. Eugene Church

Weekday Masses

Monday 9:00 am St. Eugene Church Tuesday 7:00 am Our Lady, Mother of the Church Wednesday 9:00 am St. Eugene Church Thursday 7:00 am Our Lady, Mother of the Church **Friday** 9:00 am St. Eugene Church Every Saturday 8:30 am



# ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US ON OUR UPCOMING TOUR OF: SICILY, ROME and SOUTHERN ITALY 11 Days.... October 16 - 27, 2023



Italy is known for its magnificent scenery, quaint side street ristorantes, historic sculptures and impressive fountains around every corner, and museums filled with some of the world's greatest masterpieces and fine art. Some of the places we will be visiting are: Palermo, Amalfi Coast, Sorrento, Pompeii, Rome (and an audience with Pope Francis), Agrigento, Taormina, Monreale and so many more breathtaking venues.

Whether you have been to Italy before or not, no tour of this beautiful country is ever the same. Sharing this experience with your family, friends and/or fellow parishioners helps to make it that much more enjoyable as we always have so much to talk about and share at the end of each of our days of sightseeing and touring.

Sicily, Rome, and Southern Italy always draw a lot of interest and this trip is sure to fill up quickly, so if you think you might be interested in joining us this October be sure to get your reservation in early. Brochures containing all the information about this ITALIAN GETAWAY, as well as the complete itinerary, can be obtained by filling out the form below and returning it to: Fr. Rich Yanos at 7958 W. Foster Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60656 or by picking one up in the bulletin kiosk at Our Lady Mother of the Church or the pamphlet racks in the vestibule of St. Eugene. You can also pick up a brochure at either of our parish offices. An informational meeting about this trip will be on Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in Meeting Room 110 located at the west end of the school off the church parking lot.

NAME:		
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE: ZIP:	
PHONE #:	EMAIL:	

Request for Fr. Rich's Sicily, Rome & Southern Italy Brochure

# You are cordially invited to join the Ministry of Prayer. What is the Ministry of Prayer?

Volunteers in this ministry pray daily for the needs of the church, community, and world. The goal of this ministry is to provide us with the opportunity to pray "together while apart." Although this ministry was originally directed to those who are homebound, it has expanded to include any of us who would like to pray as a group, even though we never formally get together, using the prayer intentions provided for us, while in our favorite place to pray. The prayers can be as simple as an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be, a decade of the rosary, the Divine Chaplet; it can be a simple conversation with Our Lord, or it could be taking a few minutes to meditate on the prayer intention. Whatever prayer method is used is the best prayer.

If you would like to join the Ministry of Prayer, simply fill out the form below and you will receive the prayer intentions for the month of November. There is no fee; there are no meetings to attend. Every three months, you will receive the prayer intentions for the next 3 months. All you are asked to do is to pray for the intention of that day — that's it! There is power in prayer, especially when we pray together — even if we are all in our own homes! Won't you join us?

Please fill in the form below; drop it off at the rectory office; drop it in the collection basket; mail it in; or email the information to us.

collection basket; mail it in; or email the information to	
Name:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip code:	-
Telephone #	_
9000	

#### Rosaries

Our Rosary intention this week is for the salvation of the world. If you would like to pray at least one Rosary for the weekly intention, please contact the rectory office to add your name to the list of Rosary Guild members: Emily A., Lori G., James H., John I., Evelyn K., Terri K., Gilda M., Lonnie M., Mary M., Ted M., Josephine N., Emilie P., Stefania P., Jean R., Shirley S., and Milabelle T. The Living Rosary is where people pray a decade of the Rosary daily for the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and in honor of the patron of the Living Rosary, St. Philomena. Six decades are still available: the fifth Sorrowful Mystery, and the five Glorious Mysteries. Please contact the rectory office to sign up to pray a decade daily.

#### Joyful Mysteries

Annunciation—Ted M.
Visitation—Barb R.
Nativity—Josephine N.
Presentation—Karen R.
Finding in the Temple—Mary M.

#### Luminous Mysteries

Baptism in the Jordan—Barb R. Wedding at Cana—Mary M. Proclamation of Kingdom-Ted M. Transfiguration—Emily A. Institution of Eucharist—Emily A.

#### Sorrowful Mysteries

Agony in the Garden—Jean R. Scourging at the Pillar—Jean R. Crowning with Thorns—Mary M. Carrying of the Cross—Ted M.

#### Mother of Perpetual Help Devotion

We pray on Tuesday after the 7 a.m. Mass at the Our Lady, Mother of the Church worship site.



This week's at Our Lady, Mother of the Church

**Sanctuary Lamp** 

Bread & Wine

Is in memory of

**NICOLA TROIANO** 

JOSEPH MANDILE



# St. Eugene School

7930 W. Foster Ave., Chicago, IL 60656 • (773) 763-2235 www.steugene-school.org







Please Call 773-763-2235 or Visit Our Website at <u>www.steugene-school.org</u> to Schedule a Tour and Find Out More Information.

Due to the early printing of our bulletin no donation information is available. It will be reflected in the next available bulletin.

#### Thank you for all your support.

Please continue your contribution in the usual way, until we finalize the merger of the databases and electronic giving accounts. Also, if you are registered parishioner of OLMC, DS or St. Eugene Church — you don't need to re-register.



Happy Birthday Wishes To Pastor Emeritus Rev. James J. O'Brien December 29, 2022



Rectory Office will be closed on Saturday, December 24<sup>th,</sup> & Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>



# Early Bulletin Submissions Dates:

Please call parish office for holiday submission dates. We would not be able after the deadline. Thank you.



#### **EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

SPEND TIME WITH OUR LORD IN EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

St. Eugene Church Mondays 4:00 pm - 6:00pm Benediction at 5:45pm No adoration on Monday, January 2nd.



### Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.

Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. *Amen.* 



ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2023
THERE WILL BE A NEW SICK LIST.
PLEASE CALL THE RECTORY BY
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2023 (9:00 AM)
IF YOU WOULD LIKE A NAME ON THE NEW LIST.



Queen Of Hearts Raffle Tickets Available After All Masses In Rear Vestibule (All Tickets are Also Available In SE Rectory Office)

> Second Collection: Christmas Collection

\*\*\*\*\*\*

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Second Collection Next Weekend Solemnity of Mary



#### **Bulletin Advertising**

Did you know that our bulletin is completely subsidized by our Advertisers? Please be sure to thank them in the name of our Parish by utilizing their products or services. If you would like to participate as a sponsor or know someone who is interested, please contact J.S. Paluch Company at 1-800-566-6170.

CRISIS PREGNANCY HELPLINE 1-800-400-4205

#### ADDING NAMES TO THE PARISH SICK LIST

It has always been the goal of Queen of Peace Parish to offer our parish community an opportunity to pray for those parishioners who are ill and in need of our prayers. We have tried to keep close track of these names for our Bulletin as they are made available to us. However, now we face an important privacy issue, very much like the issues faced by hospitals, health institutions, and certainly by other parishes.

We cannot (by law) publicly let our parish community know the health status of any of our members without their permission.

We appreciate the fact that often times friends, neighbors, and acquaintances wish to do something special for those who are sick. We simply can no longer accept names in this manner.

Names for the sick list placed in the Bulletin have to be called in by the person who is ill, or by a member of their immediate family.

At the time they call in the name, they will be asked whether they are the sick person him/herself, or a member of their family, and if they give permission for the name to be placed on the list.

They will be asked for the **correct spelling** of the sick person's name. If a **family member**, they will be required to give **their** name for our records.

Thank you for your patience regarding this process.

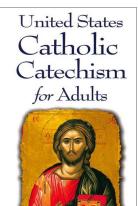
We wish to do all we can to offer our parish community the opportunity to offer prayers for those who are ill but we must also be cognizant of the fact that all members of our congregation are entitled to their privacy in this regard.

#### Please Pray for our Deceased Parishioners:

† Mary Candelora

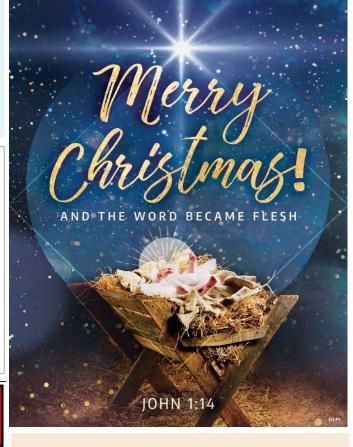


May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.



# UNITED STATES CATHOLIC CATECHISM FOR ADULTS

Still available for \$20.00 (not \$29.95) In the Rectory Office Questions? Contact Fr. Greg





#### St. Eugene School Queen of Hearts Raffle



DRAWING EVERY WEDNESDAY 9:00PM BINGO BEFORE DRAWING AT 7:00PM @MULLEN'S BAR & GRILL - 8313 W. Lawrence



TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE, RECTORY, OR MULLEN'S BAR AND GRILL ANYTIME

54 card deck including Jokers - You pick 1-54! If the joker is picked, the raffle resets!



# LECTORS & EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

I will be working on the 1st Quarter 2023 schedule for Lectors & Extraordinary of Communion which will be January 8<sup>th</sup> through March 26th, 20023.

Please drop a note in the Sunday collection basket or

leave a note at the rectory and mark it to my attention (Lois Feist) with the dates that you would be unavailable to be a Lector or Extraordinary Minister of Communion or email me at loismfeist@gmail.com NO LATER THAN December 12th, so I will not schedule you for those dates. If you need to make any change in the mass times you requested, or you no longer have a landline, or prefer to change or make any correction to your contact information, please include that as well.



Find St. Eugene & OLMC on Facebook!



# WEDDINGS 2022 QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH St. EUGENE CHURCH

Katarzyna Zegar & Paul M. Kolendo - August 27, 2022

Jaclyn R. Felber & Keith Brandon Panlilio -September 3, 2022

Emily M. Lapinski & Martin Raymond Carlino - October 22, 2022

Maria G. Lupo & Jesse Campos - November 4, 2022

Kelsey Marie Wieties & Frank Anthony Fagiano - November 5, 2022



#### **SUNDAY'S READINGS**

#### **FIRST READING:**

For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. (Is 9:5)

#### **PSALM:**

Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord. (Ps 96)

#### **SECOND READING:**

Beloved:

The grace of God has appeared, saving all. (Ti 2:11)

#### **GOSPEL:**

"Do not be afraid;

for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

For today in the city of David

a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." (Lk 2:10-11)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

#### **OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 25, 2022**

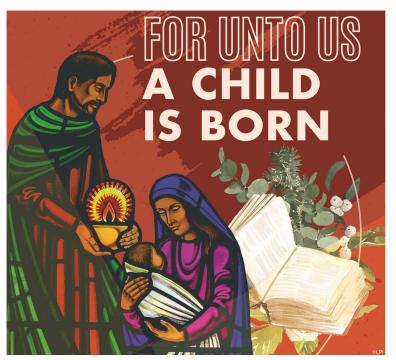
Sunday: The Nativity of the Lord Monday: St. Stephen, First Martyr

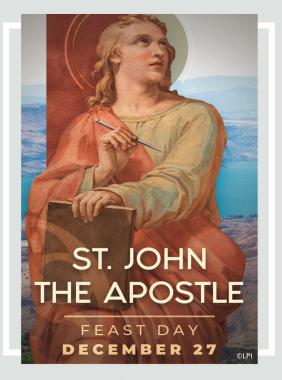
Tuesday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist Wednesday: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Thursday: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr Friday: Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Saturday: St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve

Next Sunday: Mary, The Holy Mother of God, National Migration Week,

New Year's Day, World Day of Peace





#### Saint of the Week

Saint John was one of the Twelve, part of Jesus' inner circle, among the few that witnessed the Transfiguration, the raising of Jarius' Daughter, and the Agony in the garden at Gethsemane. He and his brother James were the sons of Zebedee and Salome. When Jesus called them, they left their father mending nets and followed him. Jesus called the brothers "Boanerges," meaning "sons of thunder" — they were passionate in their faith and Jesus had to rebuke them for their fiery zeal on more than one occasion. John, the younger brother, possibly the youngest disciple, was the only one present at Jesus' death.

Saint John the Apostle is traditionally thought to be the author of the fifth Gospel, the three Epistles of John, and the Book of Revelation. However, there has been some debate among scholars from antiquity to the present. Tradition also gives him the title Beloved Disciple and John's Gospel sees him seated next to Jesus at the last supper and the one to whom Jesus gives the care of Mary at the crucifixion. Although Church tradition says that John survived the other disciples, living a long life, much of it is steeped in myth and legend. Some say he retired to Ephesus after the crucifixion with Mary and remained there until he died. But in other traditions he is more active. For a time he remained in Jerusalem with the other disciples, then founded churches in Asia Minor. In a legend of his persecution, during the reign of the Emperor Domitian, John is taken to Rome and thrown into a cauldron of boiling oil but preserved from death. He is then exiled to the island of Patmos where the Book of Revelation was written.

#### BEING THE SIGN

I think the real challenge of evangelization in the modern age is the reality that pretty much everyone has already heard of Jesus Christ or, at least, they think they have.

To our 21st-century eyes, the angel who shared news of the birth of Jesus with the shepherds had an easy job. All he had to do was announce it.

Our baptism compels us to do the same — to announce the coming of Christ over and over again, always and everywhere. But our audience is not a group of illiterate shepherds in ancient Judea. Our audience is a world that has heard so much about Jesus they often claim weariness of his name. So how do we do it? If we walk into a crowd of strangers and tell them we want to talk about Jesus, their reaction will probably be either "I already know about Jesus, thanks," or "I've heard of him, and based on the behavior of those who

claim to follow him, I'm really not interested in hearing more."

Because in the end, our very lives are how we "announce his salvation" in the present day. We announce it in our actions to strangers. We announce it in our treatment of people who have wronged us. We announce it in our interactions with those who disagree with us.

How long had the coming of the Messiah been foretold to the Israelites? So long that, no doubt, many of them despaired of his coming altogether. So, God had to give them a sign: "You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

Now we are the sign.

The world has heard of Christ by now. But have they all seen him? It's our job to show them.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

# WHY DO WE GIVE GIFTS AT CHRISTMAS?

Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.









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