



THE CARPENTER

DECEMBER 13, 2020
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

OUR VISION

THROUGH OUR BAPTISM
AND EUCHARIST, WE
ARE CALLED TO LOVE AS
CHRIST LOVES AND SERVE
AS CHRIST SERVES.



OUR MISSION

In Jesus Christ, we will grow
and flourish through

- Engaging, welcoming and building community
- Lifelong faith formation
- Social justice and service to others in need
- Engaging and understanding the energy and interests of our youth
- Prayer and worship that deepens our spiritual life
- Accountability in using our resources wisely

SO THAT WE
MAY LIVE LIFE
ABUNDANTLY!



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH—LIBERTYVILLE, ILLINOIS
WWW.STJOSEPH-LIBERTYVILLE.ORG

CARDINAL CUPICH PRESIDED AT OUR 7:15 A.M. DRIVE-IN MASS LAST SUNDAY AND VISITED FOOD PANTRY



Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, archbishop of Chicago, visited St. Joseph Catholic Church on Sunday, December 6. He surprised the 7:15 a.m. Drive-in Mass attendees by presiding at Mass on that cold morning. “If you can hear me, would you honk?” said the Cardinal at the beginning of Mass. “Perfect! This is my first time doing this, so I wanted to make sure that I got it right.”

During his homily, the Cardinal preached on the readings for the Second Sunday of Advent. “John the Baptist says three things. The first is that there is a need to overcome obstacles, the inertia that we can’t do anything new. Secondly, he reaches out to those who are marginalized, those who are distant from God because of their sinfulness or other circumstances. He makes sure that no one is excluded. And thirdly, he says that what he does is just the beginning—it’s just a foretaste of what the Messiah will do.”

The Cardinal thanked the parish for their efforts in helping the community that is in need, especially through the food pantry. After Mass, he and Fr. John Trout visited our parish food pantry on Milwaukee Avenue. The Cardinal was very impressed and said that, “You are impacting the lives of people in a way that will enhance their future and their life, giving them a sense of hope.”

Finally, Cardinal Cupich sent a message to the entire community of St. Joseph Catholic Church. “My wish for you in this season as we draw near to Christmas is that you will find the comfort and the joy that belongs to those who are generous, and I am sure that you will, because you have been so good to people who are in need.”

Listen to his homily here: www.wtjoseph-libertyville.org/homilies

See more pictures of the Cardinal's visit: www.facebook.com/SJLibertyville



**STANTON LANIER
VIRTUAL PIANO
PERFORMANCE**

St. Joseph Catholic Church is excited to have Stanton Lanier performing “An Evening of December Peace, an Advent-Christmas Concert” on Sunday, December 20, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

This Advent and Christmas Concert will be centered around Scripture-inspired piano and favorite Advent/Christmas melodies to experience God’s peace and presence, and to listen for His voice. Mr. Lanier will perform on his own Steinway Model M Grand Piano. You can preview Mr. Lanier’s playing at www.stantonlanier.com. This event is specifically tailored for St. Joseph Catholic Church and will be interactive in nature. As we are making this event digital, we ask that you sign up before December 20 to receive a Zoom link to the performance.

Sign-up link for the concert is <https://stjoseph.ivolunteer.com/concert2020>. The Zoom link to this private performance will be sent via email during the week of December 14.

www.stantonlanier.com

CLOSING THE BUDGET GAP CHALLENGE

Update: The **Closing the Budget Gap Challenge** (see below) began on December 6 and in two days we have collected **\$31,114**. Our weekly budget is \$42,230. We are short **\$10,116**. We have only until December 12 to raise \$10,116 to meet the challenge! Then, our generous donor will donate \$5,000 to this week’s collection. Let’s keep it coming! Thank you.



The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented effect on global health and the global economy. Our parish recognizes that families in our community are struggling and in need of support. Your unwavering generosity helps our parish continue to support those in need, our many ministries, and the faith formation of our school and religious education students. The demand at our food pantry has more than quadrupled since the start of the pandemic.

Our fiscal year-to-date collections, through November 22, 2020, are in the red and considerably off of the budgeted amount by **\$169,788**. Each week, this gap widens. Weekly collections are down **\$50,119** from actual collections a year ago. Like any household, we have maintained a tight focus on costs and operating expenses.

A generous parishioner has stepped forward and will con-

tribute \$5,000 every week that we meet or exceed the weekly budgeted amount. Take advantage of this exciting challenge during the month of December. Join the generous donor who put up this challenge. **Donate today but only until December 31.** We need your help to meet or exceed the weekly budgeted amount. **Here are three easy ways for you to give and continue to support St. Joseph Catholic Church:**

- **Text To Give** Text To Give can be done right from your phone. Simply Text “Joseph” to 73256 and enter your weekly or monthly gift amount; or give a little extra this time.
- **Give Online** You can give online through our website. Visit www.stjoseph-libertyville.org/give.
- **Mail or Drop Off** Mail or drop off your donation in the mail slot at the parish office, 121 E. Maple Avenue, Libertyville.

Thank you! This is a challenging time for all of us and we thank you for your continued support!

“I GAVE TODAY” #StJoesGiving Encourage others to give and share on your social media accounts that you supported St. Joseph Catholic Church with a simple “I GAVE TODAY” post using the hashtag **#StJoesGiving**. **Stay Healthy And Pray!**

REGISTRATION FOR DRIVE-IN MASSES AND IN-CHURCH MASSES

December 12-13 Sunday Masses in Church

-5:00 p.m. Saturday, 9:00 a.m., 10:45 and 5:00 p.m. Sunday-

Each Mass is open to **182 pre-registered people.**

https://stjoseph.ivolunteer.com/reopeningweekend_2020

Drive-in 7:15 Mass & 10:45 Family Mass

https://stjoseph.ivolunteer.com/driveinmass_2021

No one may attend the above Masses without registration.

Registration will open each Wednesday for the following Sunday Masses. This week, online registration for December 12-13 Masses opens on Wednesday, December 9 at 9:00 a.m. and the deadline is Saturday at 4:00 p.m. Register at links above.

If you are unable to register online, you may phone 847-362-2073 from Wednesday, December 9 to Friday, December 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Phone registration is closed Saturday.

6:30 & 8:30 a.m. Daily Mass in Church

No one may attend the daily 6:30 or 8:30 Mass without registration. Each Wednesday, registration opens for the following week's daily Masses and continues Monday to Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You may register for more than one daily Mass at a time.

6:30 Mass: https://stjoseph.ivolunteer.com/630weekday_2020

8:30 Mass: https://stjoseph.ivolunteer.com/weekday_2020

If you are unable to register online, you may phone 847-362-2073 only on Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Only the Maple Avenue doors will be open for daily Mass.

Funeral Masses

Please go to <https://stjoseph-libertyville.org/funeral> to see a listing of scheduled Funeral Masses. You must register to attend. If you are unable to register online, you may phone 847-362-2073 Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Private Prayer & Reconciliation

The church is open for private prayer from 7:30-9:30 a.m. Monday to Friday. Reconciliation is on Saturday, 11:00-Noon, in church.

Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration is livestreamed on Thursday afternoons at 3:00 p.m., hosted by the Vocations Ministry. Join in at: www.stjoseph-libertyville.org/live.

Livestreaming Continues

www.stjoseph-libertyville.org/live

- Sunday Mass at 5:00 p.m. Saturday and 9:00 a.m. Sunday
- Daily Mass Monday-Saturday at 8:30 a.m.
- Eucharistic Adoration on Thursdays at 3:00 p.m.

Worship Aids

If you have registered to attend Mass, please download/print a PDF of the worship aid at www.stjoseph-libertyville.org/live and take it with you after Mass. For livestreamed liturgies, follow along in the online worship aid or print yourself a copy.

ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES TO OPEN ON DECEMBER 16

Registration for Christmas Masses will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 16 at

<https://stjoseph.ivolunteer.com/christmaseveanddaymasses>

Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve Liturgies

3:00 p.m. Drive-in Mass, 4:00 p.m. in Church, 4:00 p.m. in Gym, 6:00 p.m. in Church, 6:00 p.m. in Gym and 10:30 p.m. in Church.

Friday, December 25, Solemnity of Christmas

Mass Times: 7:15 a.m. Drive-in Mass, 9:00 a.m. in Church, 10:45 a.m. in Church, 10:45 a.m. Drive-in Mass and 12:30 p.m. in Church. **No 5:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day**

LIVESTREAMED CHRISTMAS MASSES

These Masses will be livestreamed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Please log in at www.stjoseph-libertyville.org/live.

December 24: 4:00, 6:00 and 10:30 p.m. in Church.

December 25: 9:00 and 10:45 a.m. in Church.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

ALL DAY ON DECEMBER 19

Prepare for Christmas with the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Priests will be available from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 19.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES-CORRECTED

Even though we are not currently printing *The Carpenter*, the company that handles our bulletin has early deadlines.

Carpenter Date	Deadline
December 20	was on Wednesday, December 9
December 27	Tuesday, December 15
January 2	Monday, December 21

LOGISTICS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Greeters are needed to help with reopening efforts. If you are over the age of 18 and with no underlying health conditions, please submit your availability. Persons older than 65 are welcome as long as you are aware of the risks involved. Visit: <https://www.stjoseph-libertyville.org/churchreopening>. You will be contacted with information on the required training.

THE PARISH OFFICES ARE CLOSED

We are following recommendations from the Archdiocese in determining a reopening date for our parish offices. Please contact staff or clergy through email. A list of email addresses can be found at www.stjoseph-libertyville.org/staff.

The Pope's Tweet of the Week



I want to be close to all doctors and nurses during this time in which the pandemic calls us to be near all men and women who suffer.

Thank you for drawing near to them, thanks for your tenderness, thanks for your professionalism in taking care of the sick. @Pontifex

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH ADVENT EVENTS CALENDAR 2020

Also accessible at www.stjoseph-libertyville.org

Sunday, December 13 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

RCIA Dismissal at 9:00 a.m. Mass

Teen Mass at 5:00 p.m. Mass

Giving Tree gifts dropped off with tags attached to gifts, 7:00 a.m.-Noon in the gym

Thursday, December 17

An Evening with Mary, 7:00 p.m. Online, see page 11.

Presenter: Joy Anderson

Saturday, December 19

Saturday Morning Live, 7:00-8:25 a.m., online via Zoom, hosted by Men's Ministry.

Extended Advent Reconciliation, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in Church

Sunday, December 20 - 4th Sunday of Advent

Advent and Christmas Concert Live, with Stanton Lanier, online via Zoom, 7:00 p.m., hosted by Prayer and Worship.

Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve Liturgies

3:00 p.m. Drive-in Mass, 4:00 p.m. in Church (livestream),

4:00 p.m. in Gym, 6:00 p.m. in Church (livestream),

6:00 p.m. in Gym and 10:30 p.m. in Church (livestream).

Friday, December 25, Solemnity of Christmas

Mass Times: 7:15 a.m. Drive-in Mass, 9:00 a.m. in Church (livestream), 10:45 a.m. in Church (livestream), 10:45 a.m. Drive-in Mass and 12:30 p.m.

in Church. **No 5:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day**

Saturday, December 26

8:30 a.m. Mass only—**No Reconciliation**

Saturday, December 26 & Sunday, December 27,

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph-

Regular Weekend Mass schedule

Thursday, December 31 Mass in Anticipation for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God at 5:00 p.m.

Friday, January 1, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

(Holy Day of Obligation) – No 6:30 a.m. Mass, only 8:30 a.m.

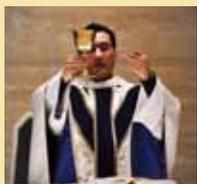
Saturday January 2 & Sunday January 3, Solemnity of the

Epiphany of the Lord-Regular Weekend Mass schedule

Saturday, January 10 & Sunday, January 11, Feast of the

Baptism of the Lord-Regular Weekend Mass schedule.

An Act of Spiritual Communion



My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

The basic elements of an Act of Spiritual Communion are an Act of Faith, an Act of Love, a desire to receive Christ, and an invitation to Him to come into your heart.

Jesus Christ is at the heart of every family. Make room for him in your lives in a deeper way by joining in the Sunday celebration.

Protocols for the two Drive-in Masses in the Hurlburt Court Parking Lot

- Drive-in Mass participants must register the one vehicle, not the persons.
- Parking will be every other spot to accommodate 6-foot social distancing.
- Traffic control will direct you to appropriate space. First come, first served.
- All must remain in their cars.
- Donations can be placed in a large receptacle clearly marked in the lot.
- There will be a radio transmitter which you can tune into at 87.9 FM.
- The communion host will be passed through your car window.
- There will be no music. • Mass length is approximately 30 minutes.

Protocols for In-Church Masses

- Parking is available in front of the church and on Broadway Street. Parking for 10:45 In-church Mass: arrive 10-15 minutes early to allow time to park. Park on the north side of the church (Maple Avenue) or in the 200 N. Milwaukee Avenue lot or on Broadway Street. There is a Drive-In Mass at 10:45 a.m., so please do not use the back parking lot on Hurlburt Court and Park Place.
 - Each individual attending must be registered separately.
 - Arrive 5 minutes early for check-in.
 - All four entrances will be open on weekends.
 - The pews will be marked for spacing and seating.
 - Certified, trained greeters will verify that you are registered and wearing a mask.
 - Only Music Ministers may sing.
- If you have registered and find you are unable to attend,** please update your registration to allow your fellow parishioners the opportunity to worship in person, as we are nearing capacity.



5 BEHAVIORS TO KEEP US SAFE

As a member of our community, I will...

1. Wear a mask
2. Keep my distance
3. Wash and sanitize my hands
4. Stay home if I am sick
5. Get tested if I exhibit symptoms

... because protecting others in our community is my responsibility, too.



Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Please donate at your local parish or by mail at:

National Religious Retirement Office
3211 Fourth Street NE
Washington DC 20017-1194

Make check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious.

retiredreligious.org

Above, from left: Sister Alice Garcia, SSCJ, 91; Brother Martin Gonzales, OCSO, 95; Sister Theresa McGrath, CCVI, 86; Sister Anne Cecile Muldoon, OSU, 93; Abbot Emeritus Peter Eberle, OSB, 79.
©2020 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington DC • All rights reserved • Photo: Jim Judkis

OPTIONS TO GIVE



Many of you might be wondering how you can still support St. Joseph Catholic Church during this time of uncertainty. Our weekly collections are down and we need your help, now more than ever, as the coronavirus is impacting our collections.

Here are three easy ways for you to give and continue to support St. Joseph Catholic Church:

Text To Give Text To Give can be done right from your phone. Simply Text "Joseph" to 73256 and enter your weekly or monthly gift amount; or give a little extra this time.

Give Online You can give online through our website. Visit www.stjoseph-libertyville.org/give.

Mail or Drop Off Mail or drop off your donation in the mail slot at the parish office at 121 E. Maple Avenue, Libertyville.

Thank you! This is a challenging time for all of us and we thank you for your continued support!

"I GAVE TODAY" #StJoesGiving Encourage others to give and share on your social media accounts that you supported St. Joseph Catholic Church with a simple "I GAVE TODAY" post using the hashtag #StJoesGiving. **Stay Healthy And Pray!**

PRAYER & WORSHIP

BAPTISMS

Madelyn Jean Capp, child of Jennifer (Froeter) and Andrew Capp
Eloise Violet Kadera, child of Mariah (Marvin) and Noah Kadera

IN MEMORY

Please pray for the souls of:

Jeannette Carroll
Lois Filzen
Patricia Nelson
Tim Whalen
Sharon Alister

THE MEMORY OF LOVED ONES TO CREATE OUR CHRISTMAS GARDEN



This Christmas Season, as a way to remember those who have been a gift to us, you are invited to contribute towards the flowers that will grace our worship space during the Christmas Season. Through these memorials the Christmas flowers will be a true garden of gifts representing those who have blessed our lives. Envelopes for this can be found on the tables in the back of church and are in your envelope packets. Fill one out with your contribution and drop it in the collection basket in the Narthex or send it to the parish office. After Christmas, the names of those remembered in our Gift Garden will be published in the Carpenter.

PRESIDERS/DEACONS

Only parishioners with confirmed online reservations may come to these Masses in Church or the parking lot. The 5:00 Saturday and 9:00 a.m. Sunday Masses are livestreamed and available to view at: www.stjoseph-libertyville.org/live.

Saturday, December 12

5:00 p.m. Church Fr. Ortiz
Deacon Coughlin

Sunday, December 13

7:15 a.m. Drive-in Fr. Luboyera
9:00 a.m. Fr. Trout
10:45 a.m. Church Fr. Kartje
Deacon Coughlin
10:45 a.m. Drive-in Fr. Luboyera
5:00 p.m. Fr. Ortiz
Deacon Mudd

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK



Randy Blake
Bob Keefe
Justin Hobbs
Rick Hobbs, Jr.
Pat & Fran Didier
Pauline Summerfield
Fran Forys
Rita Kelliher
Mike DeCicco
Bernie Didier
Joseph Neme
Ann Thellefson
Curt Krabbenhoft
Margaret Krabbenhoft
Brielle Pickford
Flo Harris
Julie Love
Ron Herbes
Donna Herzberg
Yuris Gutierrez
George Schnarre
Janice Kleinschmidt

Gail Diss
Iryna Shablouskaya
Erik Fossum
William Dohm
Jennifer Philbrick
Margaret Bregrenzer
Donna Wantrobski
Marion O'Neill
Maria Coton
Michelle Lucas Freer
Mary Pikula
Dolores Schultz
Fr. John Hennessey
Alejandro Benavides
Fernando Benavides
Peter Krol
Stan Szot
Carol Michalski
Terry Venchus
Joseph Locascio
Sean Kolber
Micah Peckels Quirk
and all those affected by COVID-19

MASS INTENTIONS

You may attend the daily 6:30 or 8:30 a.m. Mass if you are registered in advance. See page 4.

It will also be *livestreamed* Monday through Saturday at 8:30 a.m. available to view at: www.stjoseph-libertyville.org/live.

Monday, December 14

Bob & Jean Mitchell
Roxane Obenauf
Sophie & Edward Nowak
Lourdes Guzman

Tuesday, December 15

Laurie Sutterlin
Lourdes Guzman
Mary R. Lockowitz
Catechists for Children's Faith

Formation, well-being

Wednesday, December 16

Mass of Thanksgiving
Roxane Obenauf
Danette Molidor
Susan Zimmer

Thursday, December 17

Frank Didier
Joseph Groner
Peggy Ames

Helen Hanna

Friday, December 18

Kathleen Matthews
George DiPrima
Mary Beatty
Ruth Dorsey

Saturday, December 19

Kathy & Jim McLaughlin
Mary Hickey

Sunday, December 20

All parishioners

SOCIAL JUSTICE & SERVICE

GREEN TIP: EXCERPTS FROM POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL LAUDATO SÍ

Care for the environment is a matter of inter-generational justice. The notion of the common good also extends to future generations. The global economic crises have made painfully obvious the detrimental effects of disregarding our common destiny, which cannot exclude those who come after us. We can no longer speak of sustainable development apart from inter-generational solidarity.

Once we start to think about the kind of world we are



leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others. Since the world has been given to us, we can no longer view reality in a purely utilitarian way, in which efficiency and productivity are entirely geared to our individual benefit. Inter-generational solidarity is not optional, but rather a basic question of justice, since the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us. (159)

SOCIAL JUSTICE & SERVICE

GIVING TREE DISTRIBUTION THIS WEEKEND

Please remember to return your gifts for the families and charities to the Gym on Saturday, December 12 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. or on Sunday, December 13 from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon. Remember to securely tape the tag identifying the gift onto the package. The charities and families will be picking up their gifts on Sunday at Noon. Thank you for all of your support in making Christmas special this year for so many individuals, families and children.



PROCEDURE FOR FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS HAS CHANGED!

Beginning December 14, the St. Joseph's Food Pantry will only accept donations in our new donation bins located inside the front door of the Food Pantry, at 112 N. Milwaukee Avenue. Donations will be accepted every day of the week from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the new location **except during hours when the pantry is open to patrons** (for health safety reasons). The old boxes will be located inside the church Narthex now, but parishioners will only have access to these during Mass hours. Please avoid bringing your donations to the foyer of the Food Pantry during the open hours listed below.

Donations will be accepted every day of the week: 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. except when the Food Pantry is open to the public (see below)

Food Pantry Hours:

Sunday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Monday	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday	4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Thursday	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Friday	4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.



St. Joseph Catholic Church's Food Pantry is doing amazing work for the families of our community, and it is parishioner donations and support that make this work possible.

LOVING OUTREACH TO SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE



LOSS groups meet monthly throughout the Archdiocese. Suicide is a tragedy for not only the victim, but for the loved ones left behind. Catholic Charities invites those who have experienced the devastation of suicide to attend a (currently) online support group meeting by phoning 312-655-7283 or by email to loss@catholiccharities.net. LOSS is a non-denominational program offering hope and healing. The schedule of meetings may be found at www.catholiccharities.net/GetHelp/OurServices/Counseling/Loss.aspx

EMPLOYMENT MINISTRY MEETINGS TO RESUME ON JANUARY 21

Determining My Values, Motivators and Needs

The first step in the job search is deciding "What Do I Want to Do?" It's also one of the most important. If you're clear about what you want and need, you will present yourself to a prospective employer in a confident and succinct manner. In this session, **Dan Barber**, our own career transition expert, will help you identify those aspects of work that are most important to you, to help you evaluate how well potential opportunities "fit" with who you really are, and are likely to provide you with the most personal satisfaction.

Our January and February meetings will help you:

- 1) Determine your unique skills, talents, strengths and abilities, and activities that energize you and make you happy,
- 2) Develop the language to clearly articulate your unique traits in a few short sentences, and
- 3) Create a crisp, clear value proposition for yourself and prospective employers.

January 21—Determining My Values, Motivators & Needs
February 4—Assessing My Strengths, Competencies & Accomplishments

February 18—Your Brand and Value Proposition



We meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. Our sessions are free, and all are welcome—feel free to invite a friend! Please preregister at the Zoom link below:

Zoom meeting: Determining My Values, Motivators and Needs

Thursday, January 21, 7:00 p.m. Central Time

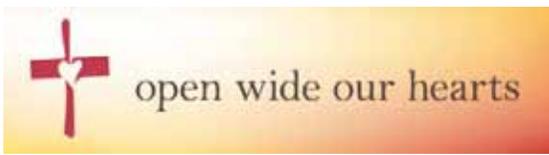
Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZMuc-igrz-4vGtFWWhkEN_o53QfUrrTecAn29

(NOTE: If clicking the link above doesn't take you to the Zoom registration, please copy and paste it into your browser.) After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

St. Joseph Employment Ministry assists the unemployed and under-employed in the pursuit of fulfilling employment opportunities. Anyone with an interest in assisting job-seekers is also invited to attend. Zoom meetings are usually held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month and feature topical presentations. If you have questions, contact John Jennings at jjennings@comcast.net. Employers are invited to post open positions by sending an email to John.

SOCIAL JUSTICE & SERVICE



A CALL FOR ENCOUNTER

Pope Francis tells us, "...faith is an encounter with Jesus, and we must do what Jesus does: encounter others."

Many members of the Body of Christ have suffered the pain of racism. In **Open Wide Our Hearts**, the bishops invite us to create opportunities to see Christ in our neighbors and to listen to their stories and experiences. As you read and reflect on the Pastoral Letter, it is critical to

find opportunities to hear the real-life experiences of others. These experiences can make the message of the pastoral letter tangible and help prepare you to receive it.

As members of the Body of Christ, we are each created in the image of and loved by God, we are called to form relationships with one another, and we are called to create a culture of encounter.

Creating a Culture of Encounter

<https://www.wearesaltandlight.org/reach-out-together/building-relationships-creating-culture-encounter-through-one-ones>

Check out the guide for individual or group reflection from the Network advocates for justice, inspired by Catholic Sisters.

<https://networkadvocates.org/recommittoracialjustice/>

Join our Open Wide our Hearts Facebook group. Here we share resources, prayers, books, ministry news, and links to films and webinars to accompany us on our journey. Join through the St. Joseph Church's Facebook page.

FAITH FORMATION



Saturday Morning Live Advent Edition

Guys, save the dates!

The St. Joseph's Men's Ministry invites all men to join us (virtually) this Advent for "Dealing and Healing" during this year's *Saturday Morning Live*. If you are tired of all of the complaining and opinions, please join us to share the love and the Good News of how men are dealing and healing with our current environment.

Sessions will be conducted via Zoom on December 5, 12 and 19 from 7 to 8:25 a.m. Take time this Advent and experience how the Holy Spirit is working in men through their **Faith, Family** and their **Community**.

The SML Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83504348662?pwd=ODVncFpmM1lYVlFwN11U1ZCZ2Q4Zz09>

Registration is required. To register, visit:

www.stjoseph-libertyville.org/saturday-morning-live-2020





December 2020

Dear St. Joseph Parishioner,

The **Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship Program** provides Illinois children access to scholarships that could cover up to 100% of their tuition, depending on financial need. I write to you today to ask that you prayerfully consider donating to **Empower Illinois' Tax Credit Scholarship program and designating St. Joseph Catholic School, Libertyville** as the recipient of your funds. When you contribute to this program, you will receive a state tax credit equal to 75 percent of your contribution. What an amazing opportunity—support St. Joseph students while significantly reducing your state tax bill.

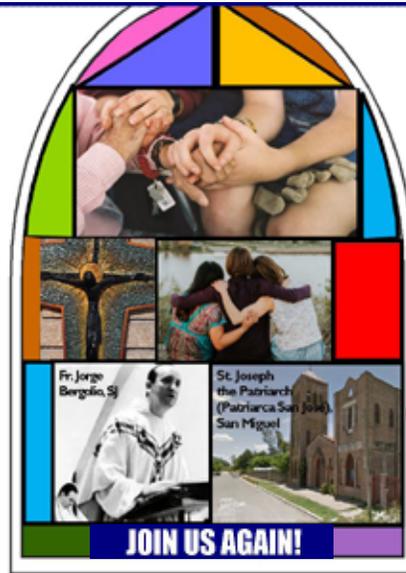
Last year, the Archdiocese of Chicago ran a 2:1 matching promotion from December through February. That promotion resulted in \$100,000 in scholarships for 19 students at SJCS. This year, I am excited to announce that the Archdiocese is again offering the 2:1 matching opportunity. Every \$1 donated to Empower Illinois by February 28, 2021 (and naming our school as the recipient of your donation) will be matched 2:1. This is an enormous opportunity for our students in need. In order to take advantage of this 2:1 matching opportunity, your donation must be made to Empower Illinois between December 1, 2020 - February 28, 2021. Matching funds are limited, so please make your donation before matching funds are depleted. Please visit: <https://empowerillinois.org> to learn more and to make a donation.

During the first year of this program, only three SJCS students received a Tax Credit Scholarship. Now, in our third year of Tax Credit Scholarships, 19 students received a scholarship toward their SJCS tuition obligation. However, six students remain on the scholarship wait list. Even in our community of Libertyville, the need is still great for many families, especially now due to the pandemic.

As you know, St. Joseph Catholic School offers an outstanding education rooted in faith and service. I ask that you please consider making a donation to Empower Illinois and designating the funds to St. Joseph Catholic School, Libertyville. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 847-362-0730 or aphoenix@sjslibertyville.org.

God Bless,

Anne Phoenix
Principal, St. Joseph Catholic School



Universal
US
in
action
Putting
Fratelli Tutti
into practice

Saturday, January 16, 2021, 9:30 -11:30 a.m.

Where: Online

Pope Francis stresses in his recent encyclical that there are no "others," no "them," there is only "us." How does a local parish put his words into action? Learn from the Pope's own experiences as a pastor.

Participate by registering for the Zoom link:

<https://stjoseph-libertyville.org/universal-us-in-action>

More information and a summary of Fratelli Tutti, visit

www.stjoseph-libertyville.org/events/theuniversal-us

Returning to share with us:



Fr. John Trout
Pastor at
St. Joseph
Catholic Church



Robert O'Gorman, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus of
Pastoral Studies,
Loyola University



Paul Dokecki Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus of
Department of Human
and Organizational
Development,
Vanderbilt Peabody College

Questions? Call the Adult Faith Formation Office: 847-990-1266

**ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL
LITTLE KNIGHTS PRESCHOOL
NOW ENROLLING FOR
2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**



**3'S AND 4'S PROGRAMS AVAILABLE
FULL AND HALF DAY OPTIONS
SPACE IS LIMITED!**

**CONTACT TRACY LOMBARDO AT
TLOMBARDO@SJSLIBERTYVILLE.ORG OR 847.362.0730**

MOVING TO ONLINE!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020

An evening with Mary

Join presenter Joy Anderson for a spiritual break, to spend time with our Blessed Mother, preparing our hearts and souls this Advent season, including time to pray and reflect on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary



Want to learn about Joy Anderson?
Visit www.medesthaichicago.com/about

When:
7 to 8 p.m.

Who Can Attend?

- Anyone is welcome.
- Please have your rosaries with you.

Join us on Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89002282809?pwd=bzRiUlJuZnVWaksrbFpVa3hwV0xkZz09>



Sponsored by the Mary and Joseph Adult Faith Council
A joint effort of St. Mary of Vernon and St. Joseph-Libertyville parishes

PARISH WELCOMED RCIA CANDIDATES

The St. Joseph community celebrated the Rite of Welcoming for candidates Lexi Bolke and Jon Kendall on December 6 during the 9:00 a.m. Mass. The rite, which is part of the process of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and Children, is celebrated for those who are baptized in either the Catholic faith or another Christian denomination and wish to learn more about the teachings of Catholicism and prepare to receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.



— COMMUNITY BUILDING



MOTHERS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

MYC Book Club & Holiday Trivia Online Event—*Evvie Drake Starts Over* by Linda Holmes — Tuesday, December 15 from 7:30 p.m. Ho, ho, ho, homebodies! Virtual book club headed your way. Zoom from the comfort of your most decked-out holiday room (unless it is near a child's room). Wear Christmas jammies! There is also going to be some holiday trivia (general, movie, music) to get you in the merry mood! RSVP on Meetup and to check out further details.

COMMUNITY BUILDING



Please join us in welcoming the following new parish members: **Henry Rodriguez & Flor Hernandez** and **Kyle & Caitlin Lees**. Welcome to our community of faith!

RETIREES & WANNABES

- December 20 Advent & Christmas Concert with Stanton Lanier for our parishioners. Zoom at 7:00 p.m. See page 3.
- December 22, Christmas Feast to Go - Mediterranean Chicken with sundried tomatoes, mushroom & artichoke hearts, served with wild rice, carrots, garden salad, dinner roll and cheesecake for dessert. \$10. To order: 847-247-7659 by December 18.

YOUTH



\$15 per kit

includes:

- pre-cut wood
- screws
- detailed instructions

*The only tool needed is a screwdriver!

Order Here: <https://forms.gle/785a8FwVRZyw14tL8>

Questions? bddutton@stjoseph-libertyville.org

Each summer St. Joe's teens go to Harlan, KY to help the community and repair homes to leave them warmer, safer and drier. By purchasing an AMT birdhouse kit, you're helping make it possible for us to buy the construction materials necessary to make these repairs.

ACCOUNTABILITY

CONSIDER A YEAR-END GIFT

As you begin year-end tax planning, take advantage of the charitable tax deduction for gifts made before December 31 and consider the variety of gift options available to you. Your gift to our parish can make a great difference to us and help you as well.

Online Giving is a convenient way to make your gift to St. Joseph Catholic Church. To create or update your St. Joseph Catholic Church Online Giving Account, visit www.givecentral.org/location/181. Or text "JOSEPH" TO 73256, enter your gift amount and follow the prompts.

If you choose to make a cash donation, please prepare your

check and mail it so that your envelope is postmarked or received by the Parish Office by December 31 to qualify as a gift in the year 2020. Beginning January 1, all contributions received in the offertory plate at Mass will be treated as 2021 gifts.

As always, work closely with your tax and legal advisors to determine how any particular strategy will affect your overall tax situation.

Your generosity has been a blessing to St. Joseph Catholic Church throughout this challenging year. Your continued support allows us to help our many ministries and school.

Thank you for your continued support!

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Weekly Offering for November 22, 2020

	Current Year		Last Year		Over (Under) Last Year	
	Week	Year to Date	Week	Year to Date	Week	Year-to-Date
Weekend Offering	\$15,958	\$406,708	\$18,509	\$504,314	\$(2,551)	\$(97,605)
Electronic Giving	\$17,427	\$352,563	\$6,939	\$305,078	\$10,487	\$47,485
Total Collection	\$33,385	\$759,272	\$25,448	\$809,392	\$7,937	\$(50,119)
Budget for Collection	\$42,230	\$929,060				
Difference	\$(8,846)	\$(169,788)				

Thank You! St. Joseph Parish is grateful to those who give generously on the weekends and monthly through our automatic contribution program. Thank you to those who regularly and generously give of their treasure as well as those who give of their time and talent to support the work our parish does in the name of Jesus Christ. Learn more at www.stjoseph-libertyville.org.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

121 E. MAPLE AVENUE, LIBERTYVILLE, ILLINOIS 60048

PHONE 847-362-2073 FAX 847-362-6821

E-mail info@stjoseph-libertyville.org Website www.stjoseph-libertyville.org

Parish Office hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.,

Saturday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Rev. John Trout, PASTOR

jtrout@stjoseph-libertyville.org

Rev. Martin Luboyera, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

mluboyera@stjoseph-libertyville.org

Rev. Robinson Ortiz, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

rortiz@stjoseph-libertyville.org

Rev. John Hennessey, PASTOR EMERITUS

jhennessey@stjoseph-libertyville.org

DEACONS

Dan Coughlin, George Kashmar, Dennis Mudd



PASTORAL STAFF

Mr. Brandon Bowman, Communications Coordinator,

847-990-1228, bbowman@stjoseph-libertyville.org

Mr. Kevin Burrow, Director of Music

847-990-1276, kburrow@stjoseph-libertyville.org

Mrs. Mary Causey, Director of Social Justice and Service

847-990-1213, mcausey@stjoseph-libertyville.org

Mr. & Mrs. Tom and Brigid Dutton, Youth Ministers,

847-275-2597, bdutton@stjoseph-libertyville.org

Mrs. Ann Harmon, Parish Office Manager

847-362-2073, aharmon@stjoseph-libertyville.org

Mr. Dan Harris, Facilities Manager

847-722-5345, dharris@stjoseph-libertyville.org

Mrs. Kelly McMahan, Director of Technology

847-990-1277, kmcmahan@stjoseph-libertyville.org

Mrs. Anne Phoenix, Principal, St. Joseph School

847-362-0730, aphoenix@stjoseph-libertyville.org

Mr. David Retseck, Director of Faith Formation

847-990-1266, dretseck@stjoseph-libertyville.org

Mrs. Anna Roeser, Director of Administration

847-990-1241, aroeser@stjoseph-libertyville.org

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL E-mail the PPC at info@stjoseph-libertyville.org. Your questions and suggestions are welcome.

Members of the Parish Pastoral Council: Fr. John Trout, Bridget Chaney (Faith Formation), Deacon Dan Coughlin (Social Justice & Service), Michelle Hobson (Chair), Jim Lobus (Community Building), David & Kathy Olson (Youth), Brian Savage (Accountability), Dennis Valentini (Prayer & Worship)

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL Fr. John Trout, Bob Killackey, Joseph Loumeau, Kevin Rule (Chair), Joanie Sauers, Brian Savage, Tom Sear, Craig Sondalle

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS Submit Carpenter articles to Marie Tuohy (marietuohy@sbcglobal.net) **after approval by your Pastoral Staff Lead.** Articles must be received by Noon on the Monday before issue date.

NEW PARISHIONERS Welcome! Please stop or call the parish office weekdays from 9:00 to 4:00 p.m. or download registration form at www.stjoseph-libertyville.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AT MASS

Due to Jasmine Sosa at jsosa@stjoseph-libertyville.org by noon on Mondays. Guideline: 1-2 sentences.

ACCESSIBILITY If you have a disability and require special accommodations, please call the parish office.

MINISTRY OF CARE, SACRAMENT OF THE SICK The Sacrament of the Sick is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. Mass on the 2nd Saturday of each month, or by arrangement. Contact the parish office if seriously ill, hospitalized, or homebound. A Minister of Care is available to bring Communion.

FUNERAL PLANNING Please call the parish office for assistance from a Bereavement Minister and a funeral planning guide.

MATRIMONY Congratulations! Please contact the parish office as soon as you are engaged. Six months is usually required for marriage preparation.

INFANT BAPTISM As an expectant parent, you are invited to the Pre-Baptismal Session 3 months prior to birth; 6:00 p.m. the 2nd Monday of every month at 6:00 p.m. in church.

BAPTISM OF SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN Classes for parents and children begin in September. Call 847-362-5797 for information.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE Celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday mornings or by arrangement.

PRAY THE ROSARY The Rosary is prayed in church at 7:55 a.m. Monday through Saturday.

Worship Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

• Accessible washrooms, west side of narthex • Hearing Loop for persons with hearing aids • Assisted Hearing Devices in sacristy for persons with difficulty hearing • Accessible, powered door at east end of narthex • Ramped north entrances to narthex • Accessible Ramp on east side of sanctuary • Pew Accessibility on east front side and center sections • Padded Pew last row, far southeast corner of church • Accessible parking spaces north of church along Maple Avenue. • A "read-aloud" PDF version of The Carpenter for those with visual impairments. Please email request to info@stjoseph-libertyville.org.

BURNETT-DANE FUNERAL HOME, LTD.

Serving Members of the Parish Since 1912
Family Owned & Operated

Pre-Arranged Funerals - Cremation and Traditional Services
Phil & Cynthia Dane - Paul & Connie Chominski — Parishioners - Preston Dane

120 W. Park Ave., Libertyville 847-362-3009
www.burnettdane.com Email: burnettdane@comcast.net

Friess Financial Inc.
Tax Preparation and Accounting Services

Andrew Friess, EA
Owner / Parishioner

940 N. Milwaukee Ave., Ste. A, Libertyville, IL 60048
friess.taxes@gmail.com
(847) 281-5125
www.friessfinancial.com

FINDaPARISH.com
Check It Out Today!

The Most Complete Online National Directory of Catholic Parishes

FURLONG LAW

Michael D. Furlong
Attorney

1880 West Winchester Road
Suite 206 • Libertyville, IL
847-549-2240
mfurlong@furlongllc.com
www.furlongllc.com

Injury Claims | Business Litigation | Real Estate Litigation | Wills and Trusts

Local Roofing Co., Inc.
1394 St. Paul Ave. **Gurnee**
24 Hour Emergency Service
847-244-0500
Serving You Since 1952

740 N. MILWAUKEE AVE., LIBERTYVILLE (847) 362-6030
Info@georgegarnercyclery.com

George Garner CYCLERY
northbrook | libertyville | lake Zurich

www.georgegarnercyclery.com #ridewithgg@GGCyclery

Arrow PLUMBING, Inc.

547 North Ave. • Libertyville
(847) 549-9600

Parishioner **www.ArrowPlumbingInc.com** Lic# 055-012314

COMPLETE PLUMBING SERVICE

Say Good-bye to Clogged Gutters!

CALL BY 9/30 TO RECEIVE **75% OFF LABOR***

Receive a \$25 Lowe's Gift Card with FREE in-home estimate!

LeafGuard® is guaranteed never to clog or we'll clean it for FREE!

Seamless, one-piece system keeps out leaves, pine needles, and debris
Eliminates the risk of falling off a ladder to clean clogged gutters
Durable, all-weather tested system not a flimsy attachment

ENGLERT **LeafGuard**
Get it. And forget it.®

Please Cut Out This "Thank You Ad" and Present It The Next Time You Patronize One of Our Advertisers

Thank You

Thank you for advertising in our church bulletin. I am patronizing your business because of it!

LIBERTY AUTO CITY IN LIBERTYVILLE

CHRYSLER Jeep DODGE RAM MAZDA SUBARU SUZUKI

45 Years of Great Service at the Same Location Supporting Our Community

1000 E Park Avenue in Libertyville
847-362-2683
www.libertyautocity.com

LIBERTY AUTO PLAZA IN LIBERTYVILLE

NISSAN Das Auto. KIA

Freedom from High Prices for 45 Years!

LIBERTY AUTOPLAZA

920 S. Milwaukee Avenue in Libertyville
847-680-8000
www.LibertyAutoPlaza.com

The UPS Store LIBERTYVILLE

• Packing • Shipping
• Printing • Mailboxes

872 S. Milwaukee Ave.
847-918-0181
store1319@theupsstore.com
www.theupsstorelocal.com/1319

Protecting Seniors Nationwide

Medical Alert System

\$29.95/Mo. billed quarterly

- One Free Month
- No Long-Term Contract
- Price Guarantee
- Easy Self Installation

Call Today! Toll Free 1.877.801.8608

BERRY TIRE & AUTO LIBERTYVILLE

1001 N. Milwaukee 847-362-4110

GOODYEAR TIRE & AUTO SERVICE

CENTURY 21®
Elm, Realtors
Carol August
Multi-Million Dollar Producer Locally
847-226-6181
carol.august@gmail.com

847.918.7994 **LINDEMANN CHIMNEY CO.** We Guarantee our People, Service and Products, 100%

Visit Us Online For Current Specials: **www.cleanfireplace.com**

250 Albrecht Drive, Lake Bluff, IL 60044 • 847.918.7994 • www.cleanfireplace.com

Free Wood For Life Call For Details!

David S. Maloney
Attorney at Law

Wills, Trusts and Estate Planning
Real Estate Closings
Business Formation

1880 W. Winchester Rd., Suite 205
Libertyville
847.247.2700 www.maloneylawllc.com

Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will.

For further information, please call the Parish Office.

Arpino Orthodontics
Since 1972

Orthodontics for Children & Adults
847.362.8262
109 W. Maple, Libertyville
www.LibertyvilleBraces.com

PRIVATE TUTORING
 "Invest In Your Child's Success"
 Certified Teacher
 Grades 1 and 2
 At Your House
 (847) 543-7646

catholicmatch
 Illinois



CatholicMatch.com/myIL

See
Your Ad
 in **COLOR**

Call J.S. Paluch Today!
1.800.621.5197

GENTLE DENTAL CARE
 287 N. Lake St., Mundelein
DR. ANTHONY COLLINS
 Carmel Graduate
 847-566-5350

CAHILL HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
 INSTALLATION AND SERVICE FOR ALL OF YOUR HEATING, COOLING
 HUMIDIFICATION, AND AIR CLEANING NEEDS

TRANE residential 847-367-4492 commercial 47 YEAR ANNIVERSARY
 FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1973 PARISHIONER

If You Live Alone You Need MDMedAlert!

24 Hour Protection at HOME and AWAY!

✓Ambulance ✓Police ✓Fire Solutions as Low as \$19.95 a month
 ✓Friends/Family FREE Shipping FREE Activation NO Long Term Contracts

CALL NOW! 800.809.3352
 GPS Tracking w/Fall Detection Nationwide, No Land Line Needed
 EASY Set-up, NO Contract 24/7 365 Monitoring in the USA

FRIDAY FISH FRY
 COMPLETE BANQUET FACILITIES
 Weddings • Showers • Rehearsal Dinners
 847-680-6100
 250 W. Gregg's Pkwy., Vernon Hills
 (In Gregg's Landing)

Woody's Tree Service
 (847) 514-1552
 Complete Tree Service
 10% Discount w/Ad (max value \$ 100.00)

JOSEPH W. HAMMAN, DDS
 FAMILY DENTISTRY
 Across from GLSA Soccer Complex
 Lake Forest Hospital Medical Building
 755 S. Milwaukee Ave., Libertyville Parishioner 362-3250

ALLIED
 Air Conditioning & Heating Corp.

\$95 OFF on Service Call
 Allied AC & Heating Corp., Palatine
 Not valid with any other offers.

\$100 OFF
 a New Furnace or Air Conditioner
 Allied AC & Heating Corp., Palatine
 Not valid with any other offers.

500 E. Northwest Hwy., Palatine 847-359-4500

A1 SECURITY ROOFING
 "Above All a Good Roof"
 Residential - Commercial
 Repair Specialists
 847-362-0850
 Libertyville

ARK A. WOJCIECHOWSKI
 DDS, PC
 Creating Beautiful Smiles
 800 S. Milwaukee Ave., Ste. 111
 Libertyville, IL 60048
 847-362-5511
 www.wojidental.com

DENNIS P. RYAN, JD, MBA
 Financial Advisor
 Parishioner

RETIREMENT AND FINANCIAL PLANNING
 INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT • ESTATE PLANNING
 LIFE INSURANCE • LONG TERM CARE

DIRECT: 224-425-4360
 www.WEGadvisors.com
 Member FINRA/SIPC

RICHARD KORSAK LTD.
 CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

478 CHESTERFIELD LANE, VERNON HILLS, ILLINOIS 60061
 PHONE 847-680-8967 • FAX 847-680-8955
 E-Mail: korsak2@aol.com • WEBSITE: accountant-city.com/rkorsak

ANTHOLOGY SENIOR LIVING GRAYSLAKE

SAVE UP TO \$8,000
 Limited time only

224-540-0944
 AnthologySeniorLiving.com

Assisted Living | Memory Care

THE VILLAGE AT VICTORY LAKES
 A Franciscan Community
 Prairie Homes
 Independent Apartments
 Assisted Living
 Skilled Nursing & Rehab
 847-356-4666
 Lindenhurst, IL
 www.victorylakes.org/np

Flood Brothers
 DISPOSAL/RECYCLING SERVICES

We Take Service Personally
 Contact us today for a customized, reliable
 waste management, recycling, or dumpster quote.
 630-261-0400

Get this weekly bulletin delivered by email - for FREE!
 Sign up here:
www.jspaluch.com/subscribe
 Courtesy of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc.

...ESTD 1957...
HONEY BAKED Hamco CAFE
 Cater & Deliver for Special Events
 847.775.1616
 4949 Grand Ave | Gurnee, IL 60031
 www.myhoneybakedstore.com

McMurrough
 Funeral Chapel

Three Generations Since 1947

- Traditional Funerals
- Cremations
- Pre-Arrangements

Brian & Mark McMurrough

101 Park Place, Libertyville
 A Member of St. Joseph Parish since 1947
 847-362-2626 www.libertyvillefuneralhome.com

DJ PLUMBING SERVICES
 a Roger J. Schwab Plumbing Company

- Water Heater & Sump Pumps
- Sinks & Faucet Repair & Installation

CALL 1-847-362-1121

Catholic Cruises and Tours and The Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America
 Take your FAITH ON A JOURNEY.
 Call us today at 860-399-1785 or email eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.com
 www.CatholicCruisesandTours.com

Life Matters

For more information go to www.usccb.org/respectlife

ORPHANS OF THE STORM

Adopt a Friend for Life
 Adoptions 11am-5pm
 7 Days

847.945.0235
 2200 RIVERWOODS RD.
 RIVERWOODS
 www.orphansofthestorm.org

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD



A JOURNEY TO DISCIPLESHIP—JESUS COMPANIONS US THROUGH SCRIPTURE

1. Proclaim God's Word. Choose someone to read the Scripture. After reading, there is silence from the group in reverence.
2. Invite Response. Invite individuals to respond to a word, phrase or passage that strikes them in some way.
3. Praise God. After a period of response, close by leading the group in praise of God by praying together the Glory Be.

NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL — Luke 1:26-38

Leader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the

Response: **Glory to You, O Lord**

house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

REFLECTION The Advent season draws to a close next Sunday. With the account of the Annunciation from Luke's Gospel, we focus on God's invitation to Mary to accept His long-promised Messiah into her life. Mary, well-versed in Scripture, surely understood that Isaiah's prophecy was to be fulfilled as the angel Gabriel declared that "the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God." By accepting the invitation to bring Christ into her own world, Mary, through His incarnation, made it possible for all of us have Christ present in our own lives. Like Mary, we are invited to make room for Christ in our life. To find an answer as to what we might do to bring Christ into the world, we look to Mary. There is so much to revere in Mary's "yes"—her humility, her openness and her faithfulness. In addition, she has so much to teach us about accepting Jesus into our lives. Reflecting on her "yes" to God's invitation, we can find the inspiration and courage to overcome doubt. With Mary as our model, we can place our lives in God's hands and live faithfully. How many times do we find ourselves in situations of doubt and confusion? How long do we struggle with that doubt and the stress that comes from trying to handle things ourselves? Do we listen for the advice and counsel of the Holy Spirit? What can happen when we really place our trust in our God who loves us so unconditionally that He would send His Son into our world to bring us salvation, joy and peace? What can happen if we, like Mary, are open to inviting Jesus in and turning over our hearts, minds and souls to Him? As we look forward to the celebration of Christmas, take a look at what Mary's faithfulness has meant to the world and consider what your faithfulness could do to change the world.

For further reflection on Mary's role as the mother of Christ and of the Church, see *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraphs 484-507; and on the prayer of the Virgin Mary, paragraphs 2617-2619.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What have I done to make more room for Christ in my life? My family?
2. How can contemplating Mary's humility, openness and faithfulness encourage me to become a more active member of the Body of Christ, the Church?
3. When we accept Christ's invitation to enter into our life and transform our heart and soul, we are also invited to make His love abundantly present in our world. What can I do in the days ahead to be more trusting of God's plan for my life and to surrender to it? What can I do to grow in humility? In generosity?

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27	St. John of the Cross
Tuesday:	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23; Mt 21:28-32	
Wednesday:	Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 7:18b-23	
Thursday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17	
Friday:	Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25	
Saturday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25	
Sunday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38	