



St. Mary of Vernon Catholic Church

236 US Hwy 45
Indian Creek, Illinois 60061

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2020

Welcome!

*We are pleased that you have come
to worship with us.*

*The doors and hearts of
our parish family of faith are
always open, and we invite you to
contact us at any time:*

Parish Office:
847-362-1005

Fax:
847-362-6375

Religious Education:
847-362-0653

Youth Ministry:
847-362-1021

Parish Website:



Find us on:
facebook®

facebook.com/maryofvernon

www.maryofvernon.org

Assistive Listening Devices are
available at the Reception Desk in
the Church Narthex.

**ASSISTIVE
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SYSTEMS
AVAILABLE**



*May it be done to me
according to your word*

Parish Office Hours:
Monday thru Thursday
Friday
Saturday

9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.
Closed
8:30 a.m.—Noon

Christmas 2020



Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, December 24 3:00PM, 5:00PM and 7:00PM

Christmas Day, December 25 9:00AM and 11:00AM

New Year's Eve, December 31 5:00PM

New Year's Day, January 1, 2021 9:00AM

Important Information

Since our occupancy is limited by state regulations, registration for Mass is **mandatory** through Sign up Genius or by calling the parish office at 847-362-1005. You will find the link for Sign Up Genius on the parish website: www.maryofvernon.org. All Masses will be celebrated in Church and will be simultaneously broadcast on the large screen in the Parish Center. Eucharistic Ministers will bring Holy Eucharist to the people who are watching Mass in the Parish Center. We cannot have overflow seating in the narthex. The current regulations only allow us to seat 110 people in Church and 110 in the Parish Center.

On line registration will open on December 10, 2020 and close on Wednesday, December 23, at noon. We will fill the Church first, then the Parish Center. Remember you must attend Mass in the building where you are registered. **We cannot accept walk-ins for the Christmas Masses since we cannot go over our regulated occupancy.**

- Seating will begin 20 minutes before Mass. If you come earlier we invite you to wait in your car until the doors open.
- Facemasks that cover both nose and mouth must be worn while inside the buildings.
- Your hands will be sanitized when entering the building and before receiving Communion.
- Ushers will direct you to your seat.
- Directions for distribution of Communion will be given at each Mass.
- Church and the Parish Center will be cleaned and sanitized between each Mass.

Please note that the Mass times and plans are subject to change if the Archdiocese or State of Illinois COVID guidelines change.

From the desk of our Pastor . . .

Dear Family of SMV,

The first Christmas began with the annunciation. The angel Gabriel was sent by God to Mary. Gabriel greeted Mary with these words, “Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you” (Lk. 1:27). This Christmas, Gabriel’s greeting reminds me of another angel’s greeting in The Book of Judges chapter six. There the children of Israel had sinned against the Lord. The Lord delivered them into the power of Midian. An angel of the Lord was sent to Gideon. Upon appearing to Gideon, the angel said, “The LORD is with you, O champion!” Gideon replied, “My Lord, if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are the wonderous deeds of which our fathers told us when they said, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ For now the LORD has abandoned us and has delivered us into the power of Midian” (6:13).

COVID-19 has restricted our freedom. We have been told to be careful while visiting with family members. In fact, we are encouraged to stay away from family gatherings this Christmas. The worst part of this pandemic is that the end is not even in sight. The uncertainty and fear of the unknown has placed a huge burden on each of us. In addition to COVID-19, many parishioners are dealing with other personal issues. When I consider all these, Gideon’s words resonate.

In our First Sunday of Advent, the prophet Isaiah pleads with God, “Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old” (Is. 63:19b-64:2-3). Isaiah’s image portrays an obstacle between God and the children of Israel. It gives the impression that the clouds form a shield between God and God’s people. The children of Israel, through the prophet, express that God had withdrawn from them. They believed God was far from them. They asked, “Where is he who brought up out of the sea the shepherd of his flock? Where is he who put his holy spirit in their midst?” (Is. 63:11). The prophet highlights his questions for God by asking, “Where is your zealous care and your might, your surge of pity and your mercy?” (Is. 63:15). In essence, the prophet was asking God, where is the foundation of your compassion? What happened to your compassion?

The children of Israel acknowledged their sins had damaged their relationship with God. Through the prophet they exclaimed that their sins had drastically changed their appearance to the point that even their fathers, Abraham and Jacob, might not recognize them. These patriarchs gave the children of Israel their identity as children of God. Since the sins of the children of Israel had disfigured them so much to the point that even their ancestors could barely recognize them, the children of Israel had no business standing before God. Thus, they could not appeal to God’s Justice. Were God to treat them as they had deserved, had God given them what they earned, their situation would have been worse. Accordingly, the children of Israel pleaded to the fatherly character of God. “O lord, hold not back, for you are our father,” the prophet pleads.

I am sure fathers understand the ground of the prophet’s plea. Fathers, you know it does not matter how many times your child offends you, you will continue to forgive and love her because you are her father and she is your child. It is to this fatherly characteristic in God that the prophet appeals: “You, LORD, are our father, our redeemer you are named forever” (Is. 63:16). God did come to the aid of Israel and helped them rebuild their nation.

Seven hundred years later, God shattered the heavens and came to earth “with the mountains quaking before [him], while [God] wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old.” God became one of us. He was born in Bethlehem. God is no longer far from us. He is Emmanuel, God-with-us.

May the miracle of Christmas increase our faith and bring us hope.

Blessings always,
Fr. Ignatius

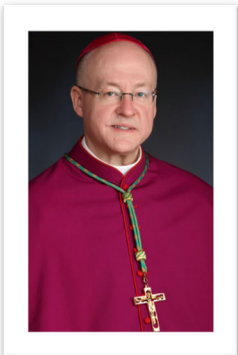
Sign up for Sunday & Christmas Masses Reminder

A quick thank you to all who take the few minutes needed to register to attend Mass each week. Pre-registering for our weekend Masses is very important and helps the check in process go much faster, especially now that the weather has gotten colder. We are able to print out the registration list each week and just check your name off the list when you arrive. While we still have room for people to attend Mass each weekend, people who just come without pre-registering slow down the check-in process since we need to take your name and phone number before you can enter Church.

Please try to pre-register for Mass each week by using the links below. **Remember we will not accept walk-ins for the Christmas Masses.** Registration is now open for those Masses. Go to our webpage www.maryofvernon.org or <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f45adab2fa4fd0-stmary10>

Sign up for Daily Mass at <https://tinyurl.com/yaymo6v2>. Sign up for Saturday night & Sunday Masses at <https://tinyurl.com/y9823aam>.

BISHOP GROB TO CELEBRATE MASS AT ST. MARY OF VERNON ON DECEMBER 27 AT 8:00 A.M.



Bishop-elect Jeffrey S. Grob was born on March 19, 1961, in Madison, Wis. He grew up on a dairy farm outside Cross Plains, Wis. He earned a master of divinity degree in 1992 from the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, where he was also awarded a Licentiate in Sacred Theology in 1999. Bishop-elect Grob earned a Licentiate in Canon Law and a doctorate in Canon Law from St. Paul University in Ottawa, Ontario, in 2000 and 2007, respectively. He earned a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Ottawa in Ottawa, Ontario, also in 2007.

Bishop-elect Grob was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago by Cardinal Joseph Bernardin on May 23, 1992. He served in parishes as resident and assistant pastor at SS. Faith, Hope and Charity Parish, Winnetka, from 1992 to 1998, and as a weekend assistant at St. Basil Parish in Ottawa, Ontario, from 1998 to 2002. He was dean of Deanery IV-D from 2008 to 2009 and pastor of St. Celestine Parish in Elmwood Park from 2008 to 2013.

He has served the archdiocese in many, often simultaneous positions. Bishop Grob was consecrated a bishop on November 13, 2020 at Holy Name Cathedral. He is an Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago and the Episcopal Vicar of Vicariate I, a region of the archdiocese composed of north and northwest suburbs of Cook and Lake County in Illinois. His Vicariate office is located in Libertyville, Illinois.

PICTURES WITH SANTA

*Sponsored by St. Mary of Vernon
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Stop by the St. Mary of Vernon Christmas tree lot and have your picture taken with Saint Nick!

**Sunday December 20th
after 11AM Masses.**

This will be outdoors and seating for photos will be socially distanced.

Please park in the tree lot area and wait in your vehicles to keep warm until called up.

**Remember: Christmas Tree Sale
Ends December 23rd**



PREP NEWS... There are no classes this week.
Next classes are January 10, 11.

January PREP Highlights

- ✧ 9 - First Reconciliation Retreat (details to follow)
- ✧ 10, 11 - PREP/ChiRho Classes
- ✧ 24, 25 - PREP/ChiRho Classes
- ✧ 30 - First Reconciliation (details to follow)
- ✧ 31 - PREP/ChiRho Classes



Attn 8th graders:

All Confirmation Year 1 forms, Sponsor Form, Information Sheet, Saint/Confirmation Name Report, Bishop and Pastor Letters, and Mercy Expression Forms are now due into the PREP Office. Mass Reflection Journal Sheets (12 total) are due on January 10th.

First Reconciliation Retreat

This year's retreat will be self-directed by the parents with their children at their own homes. We will be assembling all needed materials for the retreat and are asking that each family picks them up here at the PREP Office for completion.

Packets will need to be returned to the PREP Office by January 25th - before the in-person First Reconciliation Service on January 30th.

Specific details regarding both First Reconciliation Events will soon be emailed out to the families.



ALPHA OMEGA

ST. MARY OF VERNON HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

Medical and Permission Forms, if required, can be found on the parish website: www.maryofvernon.org or in the Kiosk (wooden tower) in the Narthex (gathering space of the Church).

Please continue to look for information about Youth Ministry activities on Alpha Omega's Facebook page & Instagram page as well as through our Remind texts.

Not getting the Alpha Omega Youth Ministry Remind texts? Text @22fd9g2 to 81010 to make sure you are getting the latest Youth Ministry info.

READINGS, FEASTS AND MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Monday, Dec 21—Sg 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45 *St. Peter Canisius*

8:30am—No intention

Tuesday, Dec 22—1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

8:30am—No intention

Wednesday, Dec 23—Mal 3:1-4; 23-24; Lk 1:57-66 *St. John of Kanty*

8:30am—No intention

Thursday, Dec 24—2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79

8:30am—No intention

Christmas Eve: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25

3pm—No intention 5:00pm—No intention 7:00pm—No intention

Friday, Dec 25—Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 *Christmas Day*

9am—Robert Hill, Peter & Laura Lichter, James & Kris Lemmon

11am—Jose Pempe Rodriguez

Saturday, Dec 26—Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22 *St. Stephen*

8:30am—No Mass

5:00pm—Donald Blindauer

Sunday, Dec 27—Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:00am—Arlette Krock

11:00am—Zenon Goni

NEED HELP?

Alcohol or drug abuse: Call Alcoholics Anonymous 847-362-1811 Al-Anon 847-680-4640; Adult Children of Alcoholics 847-680-4640

Gambling: Call Sarah at 847-546-6450 or visit www.gamblingservices@nicasa.org.

Narcotics: www.na.org

Emotions Anonymous: 847-370-6937 Ask for Don.

Drinking or Emotional Problems: Holbrook Counseling Ctr of Mundelein, 312-655-7725

Physical/sexual abuse: The Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center offers counseling for children & adult survivors of abuse. Call 847-244-1187. Hot line is 847-872-7799.

Reporting Allegations of Child Abuse to Civil Authorities: Contact Matt Chancey, Chief of Criminal Division at 847-377-3000. D.C.F.S. = 1-800-252-2873. **To report sexual abuse of minors by priests or deacons, lay employees, and/or volunteers:** Call Leah McCluskey, MSW, LSW, 312-751-5205. **Confidential Hotline:** 1-800-994-6200.

Domestic Violence Group Counseling offered in English & Spanish. Monday evenings in Waukegan, Tuesday evenings in Mundelein. Call 847-249-4450 <https://>

Information on Elder Abuse: www.nursinghomeabusecenter.com/resources/faith/

Pregnant and Need Help? Call 847-249-2700 (Aid for Women of Northern Lake County)

Please Pray For Our SMV Loved Ones Who Serve in the Military

MAJ Jay Althoff, USA
FC2 Trevor A. Amos, USN
LTC Robert Bowen, USA
COL Steven Carozza, USA
Sgt Michael J. Cinnick, USMC
SGT Alyssa Cleary, USA
SGT Thomas Cleary, USA
PO2 Swen Erickson, USN
LTC Grace Gallagher, USA
ETV2 Michael Gielczyk, USN
COL Matthew Hepburn, USA
LT Alex Hoersten, USN
SPC Kevin Holum, USA
2LT Nicole Keane, USA
LTJG Kendall G. Knorr, USN
PVT Matthew Kukula, USMC
LCpl Michael Kukula, USMC

LT Melanie C. Lecaroz, USN
LTC Michael Milas, USA
MAJ Paul J. Milas, USA
SN Abraham L. Moore, USN
CPT Christian A. Moree, USA
Capt Sean P. Morrow, USMC
Maj Thomas W. Morrow, USMC
PFC Nicholas J. Pagano, USA
SGT Anthony R. Powers, USA
SSG David Ptak, USA
CAPT Katie Schullian, USN
Maj Matthew Tegeler, USAF
CDR Matthew Wauson, USN
HN Anthony J. Wick, USN
2ndLT Michael D. Wick, Jr, USMC
CPT Stephen M. Woldridge, USA

Please call Sue Wogan at 847-362-1005 if you would like to add your loved one to this list or have any changes to their information.

OUR SICK WHO HAVE REQUESTED PRAYER

Pat Slovak, Sarah Weigert, Helen Dorn, Ruth Nowak,
Bill O'Shaughnessy, Sam Denton, Sr., Barbara West,
AnneGene Fortman, Nathaniel Lee, Michelle Lucas Freer,
Pat Cahill, Jim Wogan, Kay McNamara, Zoe Weller,
Margaret Litgen, Roy Slade, Tommy Murdock, Andy Gorajski,
Matthew Jurey, Debbie Semple,
Fr. Hilary Muheezangango, Pat Montgomery

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