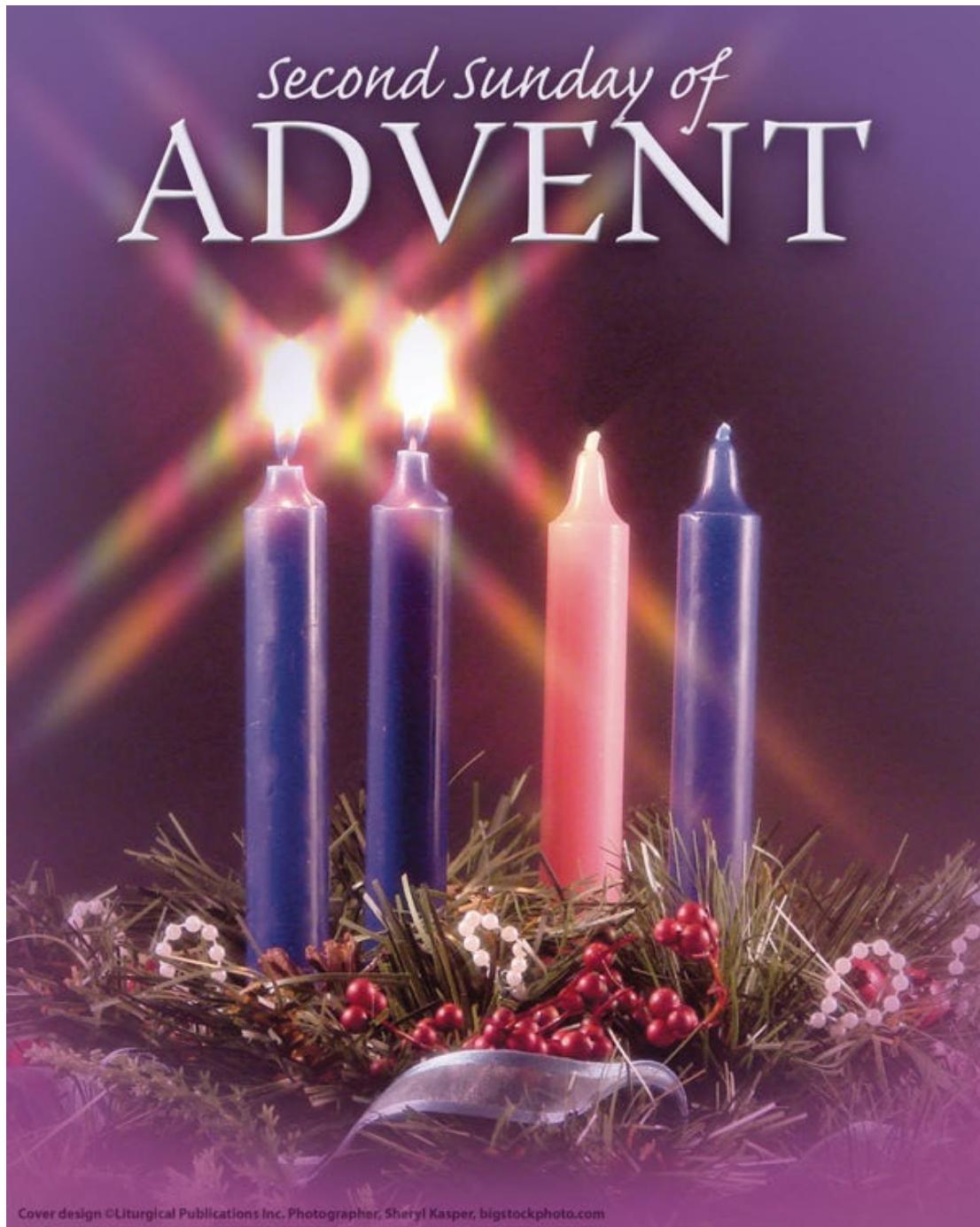


# St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church

## December 10, 2023



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### PARISH ADDRESS

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[www.straphaelcatholic.org](http://www.straphaelcatholic.org)

### PARISH STAFF

Fr. Matthew Kowalski, *Pastor*  
Dr. Gregory K. Webster, *Deacon*  
Bob Ochsner, *Deacon*  
John Haderlein, *Deacon*  
Dr. Mark Mrowiec, *Operations Director*  
Ms. Annette Wynn, *Coordinator of Religious Ed.*  
Mr. Alex Fries, *Music Director*

Dear St. Raphael Parishioners,



**Isabelle Mary Kowalski, 1927-2023.** My mother passed into eternal life last Saturday, December 2, at the age of ninety six. She is mother of six and grandmother/great grandmother to seven. Some of the parish has heard this announcement but it may be news to others. Please keep the repose of her soul in your prayers this week. The funeral is yet to be scheduled, but will probably be Monday or Tuesday December 11—12. We will update via flock note email later this week, likely before this is printed. A long life is often thought of as a blessing.

Although my family was as prepared as we could be for this, it is still very difficult to handle the loss of a family member. Especially one who has been present for so many years.

**Comfort my People:** Isaiah speaks words of encouragement to the Jews in the Sunday's first reading. My family and I are certainly looking for some comfort from God this week. Isaiah urges them to get prepared for God's arrival, and uses the familiar image of a shepherd to describe God's loving care for His flock. Isaiah's words are echoed in the gospel of Mark, "Prepare the way of the Lord"! The coming of Jesus fulfills the ancient prophecies, but in a mostly unexpected way. The Kingdom of God is indeed coming, but not the glorious triumph the crowds of the Jews were hoping for. The Kingdom of God can be found in our daily life.

**Adoration & Confessions December 12:** Advent confession times begin the evening of December 12, from 7 to 8 pm. There will be two confessors, with Spanish language available. There will also be a Holy Hour with Exposition and Eucharistic Adoration from 7 to 8 pm. Mass for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is at the usual time of 8:30 in the morning. December 12 is not a day of obligation in the United States. Confessions on Saturday, December 16 will start at 2:30 instead of the normal 3 pm.

**Simbang Gabi 2023 - Filipino Christmas Tradition:** Simbang Gabi, which means "Night Mass or Evening Mass," is a novena, a devotional 9-day series of Masses attended by Filipino Catholics in anticipation of Christmas and to honor the Blessed Mother. It culminates on Christmas Eve with the midnight Mass. The 9 Masses represent the 9-month stay of the Infant Jesus in the womb of our Lady leading up to Christmas, and so, we join or accompany her, so to speak, as she awaits the birth of her Son. St. Raphael is pleased to host the evening Mass on Saturday December 16, at 7 pm. All are invited to see the decorations and festivities provided by the Filipino families of St. Raphael church! It is a Sunday Mass this year, giving you a choice between 4 pm and 7 pm next Saturday.

May God grant us peace,

Fr. Matthew Kowalski

**Advent and Christmas Schedule****4th Sunday of Advent**Saturday, December 23, 2023

4:00 pm—4th Sunday of Advent Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 24, 2023

9:00 am—4th Sunday of Advent Mass

**Vigil of Christmas**Sunday, December 24, 2023

4:00 pm, 6:00 pm &amp; 10:30 pm - Christmas Eve Mass

**The Nativity of The Lord Christmas Day**Monday, December 25, 2023

9:00 am &amp; 11:00 am - Christmas Mass

**Feast of the Holy Family**Saturday, December 30, 2023

4:00 pm - Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 31, 2023

9:00 am &amp; 11:00 am - Mass

**Feast of The Solemnity of Mary**

The Holy Mother of God

Monday, January 1, 2024

8:30 am - Mass

**Feast of The Epiphany of The Lord**Saturday, January 6, 2024

4:00 pm - Vigil Mass

Sunday, January 7, 2024

9:00 am &amp; 11:00 am - Mass

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturday, December 9 - 3:00-3:45 pm

Tuesday, December 12 - 7:00-8:00 pm; **Holy Hour****with Adoration and Confession in English & Spanish**

Saturday, December 16 - 2:30 - 3:30 pm

Monday, December 18 - 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Wednesday, December 20 - Noon - 2:00 pm

Simbang Gabi Mass December 16, 2023 at 7:00 pm

Nativity Pageant December 17, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Doors open at 5:40 pm

St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church

***There will be no Bible Study During Advent.******Resumes January 9.*****Help Needed on December 17**

We need volunteers to help decorate the church for Christmas on 12/17 after the 11:00 am Mass. Help is needed to set up Christmas trees and the Nativity Scene.



St. Raphael's is proud to host the third annual Interfaith Nativity Pageant!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH AT 6:00PM  
ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCH ANGEL CATHOLIC CHURCH  
40000 US-45, LAKE VILLA, IL 60046

Doors Open at 5:40PM and refreshments will follow!

We are also collecting hats and gloves for the  
HOUSE OF PEACE  
in Lake County if you would like to donate to this cause!

### Knights of Columbus Christmas Tree Sale

**December 9 & 10**

Tree and Wreath Sales 8:00 am—6:00pm  
Fresh, fragrant and full Christmas Trees and  
Wreaths will be available  
at the corner of RT.173 and RT.45.

**Oplatki Available at St. Raphael**

One of the most cherished and most widely preserved Christmas customs among Christians is the use of Oplatki. The significance of the Oplatki Christmas wafer is that it shadows the Eucharistic Meal that we participate in at each Mass. The charge per envelope, which consists of 4 wafers and a Christmas letter explaining the tradition and meaning of the wafer, is \$5.00. Providing parishes with Oplatki is one of the basic means of financial support for the Missionary Sisters of St. Benedict. Any donation for the Sisters beyond the purchase of the Oplatki would be greatly appreciated. Oplatki can be purchased in the narthex after

**Dear Friends in Christ,**

On the Second Sunday of Advent, our parishes are conducting the Retirement Fund for Religious collection, an annual appeal that benefits nearly 25,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests nationwide. I am grateful for the significant influence that women and men religious, both past and present, have had on my own spiritual journey. I deeply appreciate their invaluable contributions to our diocese and the wider community. Perhaps you too have been touched by the kindness and guidance of an older religious who made a positive difference in your life.

We are called to recognize that many of our senior vowed religious have dedicated their lives to service, usually receiving little pay in return. Consequently, their religious communities face a shortage of retirement savings. Compounding this challenge are rising health-care costs and decreased income. Religious communities find it increasingly difficult to meet the day-to-day needs of aging members, including their medical expenses, nursing assistance and other necessities. Your generous donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious provide vital financial support, enabling religious communities to care for their aging members.

I know you are frequently asked to support many worthy causes. I invite you to contribute what you can at the **December 9—10 Masses**. Most importantly, please keep all our men and women religious in your prayers. Rest assured that they are praying for you. May God's abundant blessings be upon you and your loved ones during this Holy Season of Advent. With kind regards I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Blase Cardinal Cupich  
Archbishop of Chicago

**Order a Poinsettia for the Altar!**

We are taking orders for poinsettias to decorate the altar and worship area. You may order your poinsettia in honor of a loved one or as a memorial for a deceased loved one. The cost is \$10 per poinsettia. Simply fill out the form and return it to the parish office by December 17, 2023.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Loved One's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor \_\_\_\_\_

In Memorial \_\_\_\_\_

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**"WHY ADORATION?"**

Rev. Mr. John Haderlein, J.D. "Deacon John"

*Adoration is one of those devotions that seems old and dusty. We need to blow the dust off of Eucharistic Adoration. Pope Francis recently called all of us back to Eucharistic Adoration saying, "One cannot know the Lord without adoring in silence. This prayer of Adoration is the least known among us; it is the one we engage in least." The Holy Father further urged us to "waste time, if I may say it, before the mystery of Jesus Christ, to Adore, there in the silence of Adoration. He is the Lord and I Adore Him."*

Adoration is a *devotion*. Like the Rosary, a devotion is not Mass. But all devotions are "arrows" pointing us to the center of our faith, which is the Eucharist. Whether we are engaged in the Rosary, a Chaplet, or Adoration, we are finding alternate routes back to the Eucharist. "All roads lead to Rome." So, that's why we do it! To remind us of the Eucharist, the Mass, which is "the source and summit of the Catholic faith". And what is at the center of the Eucharist? Jesus' Passion, the Paschal Mystery: His "dying, death, Resurrection and Ascension into heaven".

*Adoration requires us simply to stop.* The monstrance is placed on the altar and turned toward the congregation. We just sit and bask in the Real Presence of the Blessed Sacrament. It reminds me of a lot of meditation that I have done. We just stop. We put down our phones. We put away for an hour our spouses and kids and work and grocery lists. We pause. Sometimes we can't hear God talking to us unless we shut out all the other noises in our lives. Then we listen. Adoration is like that. We simply sit before and with Jesus who is at the center of our faith. We Adore everything that Christ has brought into our lives. A spouse. A child. An education. A career. Loved ones that have died that He has welcomed into heaven. Towards the end we pray the Litany of the Saints. We sing *Tantum Ergo*. By the end of it, you will be happy that you just stopped and listened to and adored Jesus.

**Come join us for Holy Hour Adoration with Confession in English and Spanish on December 12 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm.**



*I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with all my heart. And will glorify Your name forever.  
Psalm 86:12*



Make a Difference Event at  
Feed My Starving Children on November 21, 2023



**Boxes packed: 182! Meals: 39,312 for a year: 107!! Cost: \$11,400.48**

**Family Faith Formation Group: *Sharing the Christmas Spirit***

Our next "Make A Difference" (service) event will be at St. Raphael the Archangel Church (Fellowship Hall) on this Sunday, December 10 after each Mass. Stop by to support ARS by buying HOMEBAKED cookies at the Cookie Walk then proceed to the next stations where the Family Faith Formation Group will provide FREE Christmas crafts and activities to celebrate the season. For more information or if you would like to be added to our e-mail list, contact: [FamilyFaithFormationGroup@gmail.com](mailto:FamilyFaithFormationGroup@gmail.com).

## Simbang Gabi

Simbang Gabi is a unique Filipino tradition of celebrating nine-day novena of Marian masses to heighten our preparation for celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Through Simbang Gabi, the participating parishes of Vicariate I, deaneries A, B, and C offer the faithful a deep spiritual experience that leads to a more meaningful Christmas season.

Each of the parishes listed below will host one of the evening masses.

The Filipino community of the participating parishes would like to extend a cordial invitation to all parishioners, families, and friends to come and share this cherished Filipino tradition.



Day 1- Dec 15, Fri. 7:00 PM- MTB-Immaculate Conception- 508 Grand Ave., Waukegan

**Day 2- Dec. 16, Sat. 7:00 PM- St. Raphael the Archangel- 40000 N. US Hwy 45, Old Mill Creek**

Day 3- Dec. 17, Sun. 4:00 PM- St. Mary of the Annunciation- 22333 W. Erhart Rd, Mundelein  
Dec. 17, Sun. 7:00 PM- St. Gilbert- 301 E. Belvidere Rd, Grayslake

Day 4- Dec. 18, Mon. 7:00 PM- St Joseph- 114 N. Lincoln Ave., Round Lake

Day 5- Dec 19, Tue. 7:00 PM- Prince of Peace- 135 S. Milwaukee Ave., Lake Villa

Day 6- Dec 20, Wed. 7:00 PM -St. Mary of Vernon- 236 US Hwy 45, Indian Creek

Day 7- Dec 21, Thu. 7:00 PM- St. Paul the Apostle- 6401 Gages Lake Rd., Gurnee

Day 8- Dec. 22, Fri. 7:00 PM- Little Flower-St. Anastasia- 624 Douglas Ave., Waukegan

Day 9- Dec. 23, Sat. 4:00 PM- St Brigid- Our Lady of Humility- 10655 Wadsworth Rd., Zion

If you want to serve the Simbang Gabi preparations in our parish St. Raphael the Archangel please contact Peter and Lilian at 224-628-9721

**St. Raphael The Archangel Mass Schedule and Times**

**Weekday:** 8:30 am (Monday-Saturday am); Saturday: 4:00 pm

**Sunday:** **9:00 am and 11:00 am**

**St. Raphael the Archangel Office Hours**

The Church Office is open Monday - Thursday from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm and closed on Fridays.

**Confession :** Saturday afternoons from 3-3:40 pm.

**The evening Confession on December 12 from 7 to 8 pm is in English and Spanish.**

**Baptism:** Registered parishioners should contact the parish office at 847-395-3474.

**Marriage Preparation:** Registered and supporting members should call the office. A date should not be set until consulting the pastor.

**Altar and Rosary Sodality News**

ARS will be having a Christmas Social on **Monday, December 11** in the church Fellowship Hall at 6 pm with a dinner catered by Hollywood Roadhouse; cost \$10 per person. Let JoAnn Osmond or the rectory know if you are able to attend. This will take the place of our regular December business meeting.



**These ARS ladies boxed up the Angel Tree Gifts according to family unit.**

**St. Raphael the Archangel Religious Education Calendar**

Sunday, December 10: Family Mass Grades 6 and 3 Assisting, St. Raphael Church, 11:00 am

Wednesday, December 13: Class at Milburn Middle School, 6:30-7:30 pm

Wednesday, December 20 and 27: No Class – Christmas Break; Classes resume January 10, 2024

**Religious Education Service Opportunities—Students will obtain service project credits.**

**Cookie Walk—Saturday and Sunday December 9 and 10:** Students can bake 6 dozen cookies and help with setup on Saturday; participate by volunteering at the time of the Cookie Walk after Masses; assist with cleanup on Sunday afternoon. To volunteer contact Mrs. Cherry (email: [dawny328@hotmail.com](mailto:dawny328@hotmail.com)).

**Gift Bags for Seniors:** Students can fill a gift bag provided by Open Arms Food Pantry with toiletries and which would include a Christmas card from the student delivered to the parish office no later than **Monday December 11**. Student should contact Annette Wynn to obtain a gift bag and participate in this project. (email:[religiouseducation@straphaelcatholic.org](mailto:religiouseducation@straphaelcatholic.org)).

## Mass Intentions

Week of December 10, 2023			Requested by:
Saturday, Dec 9, 2023	8:30 am 4:00 pm	Communion Service † Norbert & Tina Solarz	The Mariani Family
Sunday, Dec 10, 2023	9:00 am 11:00 am	The People of St. Raphael † Gabrielle Anne Zambo	The Ken Gunther Family
Monday, Dec 11, 2023	8:30 am	Communion Service	
Tuesday, Dec 12, 2023	8:30 am 7-8 pm	† Ken Clark Holy Hour Adoration & Confession	Chuck & Kitty Boutell
Wednesday, Dec 13, 2023	8:30 am	† Anne & George Centko	Marietta Centko
Thursday, Dec 14, 2023	8:30 am	† Joan Pfohl	The Anen Family
Friday, Dec 15, 2023	8:30 am	† Sr. Charity Keolsch	Maggie Lamb
Saturday, Dec 16, 2023	8:30 am 4:00 pm 7:00 pm	† Richard & Claudette Matthews † Jane Donahoe Simbang Gabi	Marietta Centko William Donahoe
Sunday, Dec 17, 2023	9:00 am 11:00 am	† Alden Arul Rajan The People of St. Raphael	The Arul Rajan Family

***Please pray for those in our parish and community who are sick:***

Clarence Frounfelker  
Wayne Francke  
Bill Hutchings  
Tom Tomasello, Jr.

Belen Kling  
Fr. Art Mattox  
Frank Wihtelich  
Richard Biel

Mary Lou Biel  
Residents of Rolling Hills

### **St. Raphael the Archangel Serving in the Armed Forces**

The names of active duty military personnel from the St. Raphael community are listed below. We keep them in our thoughts and prayers as they protect our country and freedom. Please notify the parish office if you would like to add someone to the list or if your service person is no longer active in the military.

**Captain Nicholas A. DeSilvia, U. S. Air Force**  
**1 LT Mary Claire Lindroth, U.S. Army**  
**SFC Robert L. Ochsner III, U.S. Army**  
**1 LT Sarah Ochsner, U.S. Army**

**Worship & Spiritual Life Schedule**  
**Mass Times for December 16-17, 2023**

Mass Times	4:00 pm Saturday	7:00 pm Saturday	9:00 am Sunday	11:00 am Sunday
Clergy	Fr. Matthew Kowalski Dcn. Greg Webster	Fr. Matthew Kowalski	Fr. Matthew Kowalski Dcn. Bob Ochsner	Fr. Ric Halvorson Dcn. Bob Ochsner
Lector	Garry Ryan	Open	John Boldt	Elizabeth Simutis
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Donna Pavelski	Open	Victoria Cardenas	Bill Booker
Altar Servers	3 Open	M. Dadivas 2 Open	K. Anen L. Anen 1 Open	G. Muzones M. Muzones J. Simutis
Ushers	Dan Bulicek Paul Pavelski 2 Open	Peter Dadivas	Vicky Cardenas Tom Hagerty Fritz Meyers 1 Open	Rafael Muzones Rich Josten 2 Open
Fellowship	Karen Hopkins		Angie Badame	Mary Mrowiec

**Events for the Week of December 10, 2023**

Sunday Dec 10	Monday Dec 11	Tuesday Dec 12	Wednesday Dec 13	Thurs Dec 14	Friday Dec 15	Saturday Dec 16	Sunday Dec 17
8am-6pm KofC Tree/Wreath Sale	8:30 am Mass	8:30 am Mass <b>No Bible Study</b>	8:30 am Mass	8:30 am Mass	8:30 am Mass	8:30 am Mass 9:30am - 12pm	9 am Mass 10 am Choir Practice
9am Mass	6 pm ARS Christmas Party	<b>Resumes 1/9/2024</b>	<b>No Bible Study Resumes 1/10/2024</b>		6:30 pm OCIA	Pageant Dress Rehearsal	10:05 am
10am Choir Practice		7-8 pm <b>Holy Hour With Confession in English &amp; Spanish</b>	6:30 pm Religious Ed Milburn School			2:30-3:30 pm Confession	Parish Rosary -Church
10:05 am Parish Rosary -Church						4 pm Mass <b>7 pm Simbang Gabi Mass</b>	12 pm Choir Practice
11 am Family Mass							6 pm <b>Nativity Pageant - Church</b>
12 pm Choir Practice							
6pm Pageant Practice							
<b>Cookie Walk &amp; FFF Activities Before and after Mass</b>							

Please submit any articles, events or activities that you would like included in the bulletin, no later than 12 noon on Wednesday, ten days prior to publication. Early Publisher deadlines require earlier submissions. All articles are subject to approval.

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**December 10, 2023**

**St. Raphael the Archangel**



## Seeing Advent Through Mary's Eyes

An Evening of  
Meditation, Reflection and  
Marian Music

Mary Ann Beatty, Soprano  
Carol Prendergast, Piano and Organ  
Rick and Dianne Rose, Readers  
Maya Hernandez, Flute

**Monday, December 11th**  
**St. Mary of the Annunciation**  
**22333 W. Erhart Rd. Mundelein**  
**7:00 pm - Main Church**

**Through beautiful Marian music and scripted narrative be invited into reflection of Mary's experience as she awaited Jesus' birth. Explore and achieve personal spiritual growth -- with Mary leading the way -- as we approach the birth of the Lord!**

**Catholic Women's Club of Lake County**  
Meeting December 14 at Little Flower, St. Dismas site. Rosary at 11 am, Potluck Luncheon. Hostesses are members from Little Flower. Bring donations of gently used kitchenware, towels, bedding. New items and cash are also accepted. Guests from The Women's Board of Catholic Charities, Lake County Services, will attend and collect our donations for their "Welcome Home Program", which provides housing for clients/families in need.

## Yam Young Adult Ministry Lake County Illinois Vicariate I

Join us Every Wednesday for Mass at 7 pm and /or Eucharistic Adoration from 8-9 pm At Marytown followed by fellowship at Culver's

Marytown: 1600 W. Park Ave, Libertyville

Culver's: 803 E. Park Ave, Libertyville

Information: Email [YAMLakeCounty@gmail.com](mailto:YAMLakeCounty@gmail.com)



**ST. PATRICK  
SCHOOL**

Wadsworth, Illinois



You are invited to

St. Patrick School's

## OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 28, 2024  
From 9:00–12:00

- Tour the School
- Meet Students & Faculty Members
- Visit ALL the classrooms
- Enjoy the Open House Pancake Breakfast
- Discover Our Many Attributes: Technology, Art ,Music, P.E. and STEM
- Learn About Busing, Extra-Curricular Activities , Sports, and Our Before & After Care Programs
- Discuss Financial Aid
- Get Your Questions Answered

### What We Offer:

Preschool-3 Yr. Olds—8th Grade



15020 W. Wadsworth Rd.  
Wadsworth, IL 60030  
847-623-8446  
[www.spswadsworth.org](http://www.spswadsworth.org)



## ST. BEDE SCHOOL

36399 N. Wilson Rd. Ingleside, IL 60041 - 847-587-5541- [www.stbedeschool.com](http://www.stbedeschool.com)

NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



*Our Lady of Guadalupe*

**Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe School Mass  
December 12, 2023  
at 8:30am**

At the conclusion of this bi-lingual Mass, Mrs. Paukner's students will present a reenactment of the apparition of Our Lady to Juan Diego.

All are welcome to attend.