

# Visitation Catholic Church

779 S. York Street — Elmhurst, Illinois — [visitationparish.org](http://visitationparish.org)

## The celebration of Christmas — 2022



Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> – 2023

The Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

New Year's Day ~ The Octave of Christmas

New Years Eve / Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

[Daily Mass at 8:15 am]

Vigil of Sunday: 4:00 pm

New Years Day / Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am and 6pm

*\*Please note: Ample time was provided throughout Advent for all to make a good confession of their sin in preparation for Christmas. Confessions are not heard on Christmas Day, or during its Octave Days. Scheduled Confessions resume on Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm.*

### Christmas Confessions:

- Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>: 9am - 4pm
- Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>:  
Before the morning masses & 5-5:45pm
- Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>:  
3 - 5pm and 7 - 8:30pm

*Please note: These will be the last scheduled confessions before Christmas. Confessions are not scheduled on Christmas or during its Octave Days. They will resume on Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm.*

### Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Eve

Daily Mass – 8:15 am

Christmas Vigil Mass:

3:00 pm

4:30 pm

Mass at Midnight:

11:30 pm Carols and Blessing of Crib  
followed by Midnight Mass.

### Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Day

Christmas Masses: 7:30, 9:30, and 11:30 am

*\*There is NO evening Mass on Christmas Day*



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STAN GORSKI

**MASS INTENTIONS****MONDAY, DECEMBER 19****6:15 AM**

+Leo Carr

**8:15 AM**

+Claire Guistolise

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20****6:15 AM**

+Frances Eraci

**8:15 AM**

+Sam Ponticelli

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21****6:15 AM**

+Fr. Bob Noesen

**8:15 AM**

+Romona Osgood

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22****6:15 AM**

+William Sippel

**8:15 AM**

+Fr. William Kirk

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23****6:15 AM**

+Richard and Carmella Kaupraun

**8:15 AM**

Deceased members of Brinton-McGawley families

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24****8:15 AM**

+Deceased bishops of the Diocese of Joliet

**3:00 PM**

Intentions of the Diocese

**4:30 PM**

Intentions of the Pastor

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25****12:00AM**

+Brian Walden

**7:30AM**

+Skutaris and David families

**9:30AM**

+Tracey Ward

People of Visitation

**11:30AM**

+Bill McGinnis

+Lenora Heavrin

**Mass Intentions**

One must never forget the infinite graces that flow from the Sacrifice of the Mass which benefit one's soul.

To have a Mass said, please stop by the rectory or call 630-834-6700.

**FLAME OF FAITH**

Candles will burn perpetually this week before the Blessed Sacrament in the *Adoration Chapel of Our Lady, Mother of the Eucharist*, for the following intentions:

- For the domestic church
- +Ester Clarke
- For Jerry Sr. and Jerry Jr.
- For the intentions of Maria E. Garcia

**PRAY FOR OUR SICK**

Please keep these parishioners in your prayers, and all the sick and their families:

**Karen Boozell, Franciszek Stec,  
Renee Moran-Vogel, Noreene Damolaris,  
Patricia Golen, Leonard Tompone,  
Frank Guistolise**

**WEDDING BANNS**

II William Keeley and Nicolle Szilagyi

**PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED**

Please pray for all of those who have died, especially

**Carlotta Lawton**

**Dolores Piccirilli**

*"Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them."*

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS****MONDAY, DECEMBER 19**

Living in the Divine Will	8:45 AM	PC
RCIA Meeting	7:00 PM	PC

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21**

Christmas Confessions	3:00 PM	C
Children's Choir I	3:00 PM	C
Children's Choir Christmas Party	3:30 PM	PC
Children's Choir II	3:45 PM	C
SPRED	6:30 PM	MP
Christmas Confessions	7:00 PM	C
Flame of Love	7:00 PM	Crypt

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Sunday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/  
Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

**Monday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

**Tuesday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

**Wednesday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

**Thursday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

**Friday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

**Saturday:** *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

**Next Sunday:** *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 *Night:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14  
*Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 *Day:* Is 52:7-10/  
Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3])/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

## A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Parish Family,

Christmas Confessions will be heard this weekend, and then on Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. The times are published in today's bulletin. These will be the last scheduled Confessions before Christmas. Throughout the Advent Season, ample times were provided for everyone to make a good Confession of their sin in preparation for Christmas. Now that Christmas has come, it should find us ready and eager to celebrate the Feast. Scheduled Confessions are not held on Christmas, or during the Octave Days — in celebration of the Solemnity being celebrated. Scheduled Confessions resume Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm.

Especially as the “rush” of the season unfolds, it's important to take a few minutes of quiet time, alone, to ponder the great mystery of the *Word of God becoming Flesh!* Taking stock of our lives and making a good confession of our sins is not only a wonderful way to prepare to receive the *real* blessings of Christmas, but think how happy the Lord will be! What a wonderful gift you can give *Him* for Christmas! Especially if you have been away from the Sacrament for a while, I would encourage you to make a good confession of your sin before Christmas. The Lord is waiting for you with great love, great mercy, incredible compassion, and great forgiveness.

Likewise, I would encourage you, throughout the coming Christmas Season, to stop in the *Perpetual Adoration Chapel*, and to spend some time in quiet prayer with the Lord, really and truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. The chapel is available 24 hours a day. Jesus is waiting for you. Keep Him at the center of your Christmas celebrations, and you'll see... you'll have the best Christmas ever! Hopefully, stopping in during this busy season will help form a new habit for the coming year. Jesus is waiting for you!

I hope to see you for the masses of Christmas which begin on Christmas Eve at 3pm. The complete schedule for Christmas is on the cover of today's bulletin. Of all of the masses of the holy day, the Mass at Midnight... *The Mass During the Night...* is my favorite. When I hear the Christmas Gospel, I imagine the Lord Jesus being born *during the night hours...* in the silence of the night. It's really a beautiful time to celebrate the Lord's birth. The familiar Christmas Carol, *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, has a beautiful line which reads: *How silently, how silently the Wondrous Gift is given!* It was in the silence of that night that the *Wondrous Gift* was given to all of us. Let's take the time, then, to *be silent* so that we don't miss the coming of the Lord Jesus in the beauty of Christmas, in the *silence* of the night. Then, being renewed by that silence, we will be able to eagerly rush towards Christmas to greet the Lord and celebrate His coming among us.

THE decoration of Christmas is the Nativity Scene, which reminds us of the moment of Christ's birth in Bethlehem— how salvation entered the world. I hope the Nativity Scene in our church, and in your home, will hold a special place in your heart, and provide a beautiful moment

for you to pause and remember that first *Silent Night*, and ponder the miracle, the mystery, the wonder, and the love that came down to earth on Christmas.

Blessings to all, as we prepare to greet the *Newborn King!*

*Father De Salvo*

## *Christmas Confessions*



Considered to be a penitential season in the Church, Advent is also a time for coming home, for making amends, and setting things right with family and friends... with the Lord. It is a time of joyful expectation for the coming of Jesus. But, in order for us to be properly prepared for His coming — at Christmas and at the end of our own lives — we need to be found worthy of His presence. Frequent confessions helps us to grow in holiness and recognize the comings of the Lord Jesus in our own lives. As we prepare for the coming feast of Christmas, we prepare our hearts as well as our homes. The Sacrament of Penance is readily available to all. Make a good Confession in preparation for the coming feast of Christmas.

### **Schedule of Christmas Confessions:**

Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>: 9am - 4pm

Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>:

Before Sunday morning masses & 5:00 - 5:45 pm.

Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>: 3 - 5pm and 7 - 8:30pm

***\*These will be the last scheduled Confessions before Christmas. When the feast comes, it should find us ready to celebrate. Confessions are NOT heard on Christmas or during the Octave Days of Christmas. Scheduled Confessions resume on Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.***

*Prepare for the Lord's coming,  
not only at Christmas, but for His coming  
at the end of your own life — and at the end of time,  
His Second Coming in glory.  
Make a good confession of your sin for Christmas!*

# Mary in Advent

Matthew Bunson — editor, *The Catholic Answer* (osv.com)  
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The Blessed Mother bears many titles: *Theotokos* (“God-bearer”), *Mother of God*, *Star of the Sea*, *Immaculate Conception*, *Queen of Heaven*, *Seat of Wisdom*, and many more. All of them honor her in different ways and help us to appreciate more fully her role in the life of her Son, her rightful place in the Church and the reasons for loving and venerating her.

Catholics, of course, do not worship Mary and never have, despite the erroneous claims of many Protestants and evangelicals to the contrary. Surprisingly, Martin Luther had a strong Marian devotion and called her the “highest woman and the noblest gem in Christianity after Christ.... She is nobility, wisdom, and holiness personified. We can never honor her enough” (Sermon, Christmas 1531). Sadly, the church which he founded and bears his name has, over the centuries, lost that affection and devotion for the Mother of our Savior.

It is in the Scriptures that we can so appreciate especially the place of the Blessed Mother in salvation history, which means that we see her not just in the New Testament, but in the Old Testament as well. As the Second Vatican Council taught, *These earliest documents, as they are read in the Church and are understood in the light of a further and full revelation, bring the figure of the woman, Mother of the Redeemer, into a gradually clearer light* (Lumen Gentium, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, #55).

As we journey through Advent and prepare ourselves for the Christmas season, the Virgin Mary in the Old Testament is revealed especially. Take just one example in Isaiah: *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son, shall name him Emmanuel* (7:14; see also Mi 5:2-3; Mt 1:22-23).

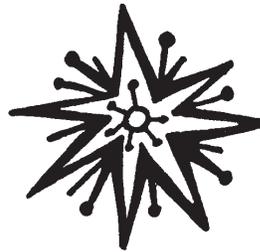
Vatican II memorably wrote: *“The Blessed Virgin was on this earth the virgin Mother of the Redeemer, and above all others and in a singular way the generous associate and humble handmaid of the Lord”* (Lumen Gentium, #61).

How beautiful it would be if we too could be a bit like our Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary! With a heart open to God’s Word, with a silent heart, with an obedient heart, with a heart that knows how to receive God’s Word and that allows itself to grow with the seed of good for the Church.



Pope Francis I

## Giving Gifts at Christmas



For us as Catholic Christians, Jesus is the gift we should remember as our greatest Christmas present, the one that affirms our faith in the goodness of life and the love of God. And so, *the first gift of Christmas is LOVE* — the baby Jesus, the “love” of the Father come down to earth.

Modern holiday gift-giving can become tainted with competition, status, and self-indulgence. Too often Christmas gifts create separation by implicitly dividing us into the “haves” and the “have nots.” Christ is born in poverty as a sign that the truest gifts are not bought with wealth or status, but are freely given to all God’s children to unite rather than divide us. The faithful imitate God by generously sharing God’s gifts with everyone, especially the poor.

Opening gifts is a highlight of Christmas for children. For people of faith, opening God’s gifts is also the key to fully celebrating Christmas. The Lord has given us many gifts that too often remain unopened under the tree of life. Christmas calls us to open these gifts gratefully and use them responsibly. On Christmas morning, then, we open our eyes and ears, we open our hearts and minds, and we open our hands and lives to the love of God that is born to us in Jesus. Our gift giving to one another is in imitation of God, our Heavenly Father, who has given us the greatest gift of all... Jesus His son!

By: Jerry White, from *What is Christmas All About?* All Saints Press



## The First Christmas Creche...



Saint Francis of Assisi called it a "creche," the French word for cradle. He spoke fluent French, and at his time, among the aristocracy, it was popular to use it. Francis created the first *creche* using real people, a real manger, a real OX and ass, and real shepherds.

The Incarnation, Christmas, was a key component in the spirituality of St. Francis. He wanted to celebrate the Incarnation

in a special way. He wanted to do something that would help people remember the Christ Child and how He was born in Bethlehem. Francis wanted people to see and experience how He lay in a manger with an ox and an ass standing by — how He lay upon the hay where He had been placed.

It was Christmas Eve in the year 1223. At the appointed time, Franciscan Brothers came to the "new Bethlehem" [a cave on a mountain in Greccio, Italy]. Men, women, and children from the area also came to celebrate. The torches they carried lit up the night as they approached the creche. Once again shepherds were walking in the night to come and adore Him. All were filled with joy over the mystery of the Incarnation. And a great tradition began.

As you gaze upon the Christmas Nativity scene, may you remember and celebrate again God's love for His creation. To show His abundant love, mercy, and forgiveness, He became a person like us. This is what the creche symbolizes.

The night-time darkness had fled! The woodland clearing on a mountain near the small Italian village of Greccio was made bright as day with torchlight. The villagers cried out in surprise and awe as they beheld the Christmas Eve gift of St. Francis of Assisi. The chanting of the Franciscan Brothers echoed through the rocky hills as St. Francis stood in front of the manger. Overcome with tenderness, he watched as the villagers saw and felt the cold and poverty of the humble birthplace of the *Little Brother of all Mankind*. Then with a wondrous joy, St. Francis read aloud from the Holy Gospel. Those witnessing the scene saw Francis pick-up the figure of the Baby Jesus, which had turned, miraculously into a radiant, smiling, little child. He appeared to converse with the Baby Jesus.

Since that deeply stirring night near Greccio, the Christmas creche has become a part of the world's Christmas celebration. And whether as a living dramatization, a large Nativity scene, or carved miniatures, it brings happiness to the hearts of adult and child alike. Gazing upon the creche with reverence brings us always closer to the two thousand year old, *but ever new*, Christmas Mystery. In a Catholic home, the Christmas Creche should be "the" decoration of the season. Is there a Christmas Nativity Scene in your home?

[Adapted from "Vita Prima" by Thomas Celano. 1258 a.d.]

## ROOM IN THE INN

The fact that there was no room for Jesus, Mary and Joseph in the inn at Bethlehem on the first Christmas should make us wonder, because the birth of Christ was foreseen and planned by God from all eternity. Did God, then, forget to make room for His only Son? How is it possible there was no room when the child born at Christmas owns the inn, and Bethlehem, and the world, and every inch of room in the whole universe?



Obviously, God did this on purpose. There was no room in the inn because this demonstrates that the world has rejected God. The world makes no room for the God who created it. Being turned away from the inn foreshadows the fact that the Savior Himself will be rejected, despised and ultimately crucified. All this was part of God's plan from all eternity. Ultimately, the lack of room in the inn symbolizes the lack of room we make for Him in our hearts. When our hearts are filled with all kinds of other desires than God, we gradually crowd Him out altogether.

Christ comes at Christmas to change all that. Today, He does not seek an inn; He seeks room **INN** our own hearts and lives. (adapted from Christ for the Unborn by Fr. Frank Pavone)

No room in the inn? There is always room **INN** our Adoration Chapel for those who want to welcome Jesus. Come to the **INN** at Visitation.

The following hours are in serious need of a partner. That means that an hour is shared by 2 or more registered adorers, thus making it easier for both.

Monday 2-3 AM, Monday 7-8 AM  
 Wednesday 1-2 PM  
 Thursday 9-10 AM, 1-2 PM, Thursday 2-3 PM  
 Friday 1-2 AM, Friday 2-3 PM  
 Saturday Noon – 1 PM, Saturday 5-6 PM

Please contact the Adoration Committee by leaving us a message at [VisitationAdorationChapel@gmail.com](mailto:VisitationAdorationChapel@gmail.com) and volunteer to be a Registered Adorer. You can also contact Joan Taylor at 630-530-8963 or Owen & Gail Hilding at 630 573 0033 if that is more convenient.

## Mary and Joseph Show us the Mystery of Christmas

Pope Francis I



Mary and Joseph, who first accepted Jesus through faith, introduce us into the mystery of Christmas. Mary helps us to put ourselves in the attitude of willingness to welcome the Son of God in our concrete lives, in our flesh. Joseph encourages us to always seek God's will and to follow it with full confidence. Both of them allowed themselves to be approached by God.

“Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, he will be given the name Emmanuel, which means ‘God-with-us’” (Mt 1:23). So the angel says: “Emmanuel will be called the child, which means God-with-us”, that is, God close to us. And to God Who comes close, do I open the door – to the Lord – when I hear an inner inspiration, when I feel that I am asked to do more for others, when I am called to pray? God-with-us, the God who approaches. This announcement of hope, which is carried out at Christmas, brings to completion the expectation of God in each of us, in the whole Church, and in the small that the world despises, but whom God loves and to whom God draws near.

Christmas is coming in just a few days. In the course of this week – I recommend – that we try to find some time to stop, take a bit of silence, and imagine the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph, who are going to Bethlehem. Imagine how they go: the way, the fatigue, but also the joy, emotion, and then the anxiety to find a place, the worry, and so on. The Nativity helps, in this way. Let us enter the true Christmas, that of Jesus, Who approaches us... God-with-us, close to us... in order to receive the grace of this celebration, and the grace of closeness, love, humility and tenderness.

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### THE FLAME OF LOVE DEVOTION

Please join us every Wednesday evening at 7PM for prayer in the Crypt of the Saints below the Adoration Chapel.

The five effects of the Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

- To blind Satan
- To save souls (especially family members)
- To save the family
- To free souls from purgatory
- To convert the world.

## Christmas Message

Francis Cardinal George — Christmas, 2011

“God is closer to us than we are to ourselves,” said Saint Augustine, and that closeness, through the power of the Holy Spirit in the wondrous mystery of the Incarnation, becomes visible in Jesus Christ. It also becomes visible in how we treat each other and how we radiate the hope Christ brings to the world. *The Word made flesh* reconciles God and his human family and all creation; that is His interpretation of the Christmas crib.

The giving of oneself to others constitutes the nature of God; therefore, Jesus never comes alone. To genuinely celebrate his birth, we cannot put individuals or entire peoples in boxes in order to dismiss them from our lives. Likewise, if we climb into a box to separate ourselves from others by our attitudes or actions, the *Word made flesh* cannot speak to us, transform us or save us. Moreover, if we allow our faith to be boxed in by our secular age, it becomes a personal hobby without any public presence, witness or role.

By her response, *My soul magnifies the Lord* (Lk 1:46), Mary shows complete trust and faith in God; her active cooperation with God is a model for all. As Pope Benedict emphasizes in His encyclical, “God Is Love,” in these words she expresses her whole program of life: not setting herself at the center, but leaving space for God, who is encountered both in prayer and in service of neighbor— only then does goodness enter the world. “God has spoken and the eternal Word is made flesh. With the courage born of our faith, we proclaim in word and action, in our very flesh and bone, that Jesus Christ our Savior is born. It is our turn to speak, to one another and to the world.”

### NEW MINISTRY

Wanted: Compassionate women willing to walk with pregnant and new moms through difficult times. Time commitment manageable. All training and resources provided. SATISFACTION GUARANTEED. If interested in volunteering to serve God and needy neighbor in a very special way, contact Vis right-to-life coordinator Paul Esposito at [espo382@comcast.net](mailto:espo382@comcast.net).

### LIVING IN THE DIVINE WILL

Ever wonder if you are doing God's Will? Come join us as we pray and study the writings of Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta who was in conversation with Jesus for forty years. He taught her how to live in the Divine Will.

We meet every Monday after 8:15 Mass until 10:30 in the Hospitality Room.

Have a question or two?  
Call Mary Kay Lightner at 630-229-8517.

## The Mercy Fund

*To assist those in need - and ourselves*

***Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your Heavenly Father. . . But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.***

*[Matthew 6:1-3]*

The spiritual work of Almsgiving is a necessary part of the Christian life for the individual Catholic. It is also an important element of good stewardship. We need to make a conscious, regular, and generous effort to provide for those in need. Named after Our Lady of Mercy, Visitation Parish established the *Mercy Fund* to assist those in need. Through the envelope included in your envelope packet and/or regular contributions to the Mercy Fund, and through use of the *poor boxes* installed at the entrances of the church, a variety of ways exist to assist those in need.

One of the beautiful titles used for the Blessed Virgin Mary is ***Our Lady of Mercy***. The mercy, compassion, and love of God is our greatest treasure, and should be the focus of our lives. His mercy is seen perfectly in the Blessed Virgin Mary. Being the Mother of Jesus — the Mother of God — who is *mercy*, itself... Mary, by giving birth to Jesus, brought God's mercy into the world. We should always seek Her intercession. She wants our good, She wants our salvation, She wants us to experience in our own lives the love and mercy of God. Living *after the Heart of Christ* demands that we put the mercy and love we have received from the hand of God into action in our own lives, in imitation of the Blessed Virgin. In Christ's name we extend assistance to those in need, and place our efforts under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary ~ Our Lady of Mercy.

In obedience to His command to ***love one another as I have loved you***, we must reach out in love and in concern to those around us, especially to God's poor. One way we do that is through *almsgiving*. In giving alms, Scripture says, *our left hand is not to know what our right hand is doing*, for *our Father who sees in secret will repay us*. We give alms for love of Jesus, to help those who are in need, and to help ourselves. A true alms is also to include the element of sacrifice: We are to give until we "notice" that we are giving. For each person the amount will vary, and the amount of the gift is unimportant. The Lord does not ask equal gifts, He demands equal sacrifice. Only then do our gifts become true corporal works of mercy, when they include a sacrifice on our part.

Many requests are made of the parish for assistance from various organizations, individuals, and institutions who are in need. These requests are received by the Recto-

ry throughout the year. To that end, and in addition to the monthly Mercy Fund envelope in your packets, *Poor Boxes* to receive consistent monetary gifts for the poor are installed near the entrances of the church [gold boxes mounted into the walls of the church, marked *for the poor*]. Monies received will be placed in ***The Mercy Fund***. It is from this single charitable fund that our Parish will provide for the needs of the poor, continue to provide for the programs we already are supporting, and hopefully be able to increase in our care for God's poor. Make it a regular habit to provide for those in need. And, know that the Lord will bless you abundantly for your generosity.

### Save the Date for Jesus

*"I didn't know what to expect when I signed up to attend the Women's CRHP retreat. What I found was a group of beautiful women sharing their faith, their hopes and joys with Christ at the center. I found a renewed love of my Catholic faith."*

Mary

**Visitation's Women's CRHP Retreat  
Saturday & Sunday,  
January 28 -29<sup>th</sup>  
Visitation Parish Hall, Elmhurst IL**

Mark your calendars! More information to follow.  
For more information or contact:  
Michele Koelle at (312) 502-3407



**SAVE THE DATES in 2023!**

**Celebrate the  
National Eucharistic Revival  
With these special  
Diocesan Celebrations**

**DIOCESAN-WIDE FORTY HOURS DEVOTION  
FEBRUARY 8, 9, 10**

**AT THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. RAYMOND NONNATUS, JOLIET  
AND**

**PRAYER SERVICE with NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PREACHER  
MARCH 23, 24, 25**

**AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE**

Watch for more information in the upcoming bulletins

### HOSPITAL VISITS

If you or a loved one is in the hospital and would like a visit from a priest or deacon, please have the **HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN OR A FAMILY MEMBER** call our rectory to request it. Due to HIPPA regulations, our priests and deacons will not be notified by the hospital.



## VISITATION SCHOOL Weekly News



### Visitation Students Celebrate the Season of Advent!



Visitation students continue to celebrate the season of Advent as they prepare for the birth of Jesus. Students are learning about the Three Kings and Baby Jesus in the manger. Teachers are reading stories and having students complete beautiful art projects to help them learn more about Advent.

### ARMED FORCES PRAYER LIST



We remember and pray for the protection of our military as they serve in our Armed Forces.

#### *U.S. Air Force*

**MSGT Kevin M. James** (Andrews AFB, MD)  
**SrA E4 Jacob Neimanas** (Travis AFB, CA)

#### *U.S. Army*

**PFC Michael Perrone** (Germany)  
**MAJ Patrick Leen** (IL.)  
**CPT Nicholas Keller** (Ft. McCoy, WI)  
**1 LT Thomas J. Diwisch** (Fort Bragg, NC)  
**SPC Stephen J. Taylor** (Fort Riley, KS)  
**1 LT Francesca Cervone** (Fairbanks, AK)  
**CPT Nathaniel A. Greenberg** (Ft Leonard Wood, MO)

**CPT Kathleen M. Donofrio** (Fort Sheridan, IL)  
**E2 Logan Williams**, (Ft Leonard Wood, MO)

#### *U.S. Army National Guard*

**MAJ Joseph Doyle** (ID)  
**CPL James Kotowski** (Afghanistan)

#### *U.S. Coast Guard*

**CPO Patrick Kirby** (TX)

#### *U.S. Marine Corps*

**PVT Nicholas Acevedo** (CA)  
**CPT Kurt P. James** (Okinawa)  
**PVT Dominic Tosto** (San Diego, CA)  
**L CPL Skylar Stafford** (San Diego, CA)

#### *United States Navy*

**LCDR Robert Aranha** (United States)

**Please call the rectory if your loved one has changed position or location. 630-834-6700**



*Make your Gift Today!*

Thank you to the 324 parishioners who have contributed to the 2022 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal! We've almost reached our goal. As of December 11th we are \$430 away from reaching our target goal of \$144,900. Lets finish off this important obligation to the diocese within the next week. So far, pledges/gifts total \$143,875. Let's meet and exceed our goal. Go online to make your gift: [jolietdioceseappeal.org](http://jolietdioceseappeal.org)

Let's all do our part and do what we can to contribute to our parish's success in meeting this serious Diocesan obligation. Make your gift today! Thank you for your support of the CMAA and for your continued generosity and support of Visitation Parish.

### Bereavement Ministers Needed

This ministry assists the family in planning the Funeral Liturgy and at the Funeral mass. You will receive Bereavement Ministry training and a practice session with a Bereavement Minister to prepare you for the Mass of Christian Burial.

An experienced Bereavement Minister will be with you the first few times. Compassion, listening and organizational skills a plus. Please contact Angie Pagel for more information by calling (630) 832-6999 or emailing [pagel.angie@gmail.com](mailto:pagel.angie@gmail.com)

### Thank you

Thank you to all of those who came to the Advent John Angotti concert. If you would like to view pictures of the event, please go to <https://visitationparish.org/photoalbums/john-angotti-concert-2022> or use the QR code.



### MASS FOR THE HOLY INNOCENTS LOST THROUGH ABORTION

On the Feast of the Holy Innocents  
 Wednesday, December 28, 7pm,  
 St Michael Church, Wheaton, IL.

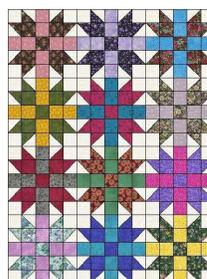
Children and grandchildren are encouraged to attend. Please wear yellow, the color of Life. Refreshments available after Mass.

We will have a Live Nativity, including Daisy the donkey and Fluffy the sheep.

Sponsored by The Holy Name Society, The Knights of Columbus and the Pro-Life Community.

Please help us pack the church in prayerful support of all the innocent lives lost to us through abortion, and for conversion of hearts and reparation for America. They shall not have died in vain. Be not silent!

### PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY



The Prayer Quilt Ministry would like to encourage all parishioners to let us know about those who are going through a significant difficulty and who may benefit from the prayers of our congregation and the tangible evidence of those prayers in the form of the prayer quilts. The recipients of the prayer quilts may be going through a health issue, facing surgery, be in the

military (or just returned from military duty), dealing with grief, emotional concerns, etc. They do not have to be members of Visitation Parish or be Catholic.

Anyone may offer a prayer quilt to anyone you feel might benefit and appreciate being covered by our prayers. The recipient MUST agree to accept the prayer quilt. If you would like to request a prayer quilt for someone, please complete the form below, place it in the collection basket or drop off at the Rectory Business Office and someone from the prayer quilt ministry will get in touch with you to obtain additional information.

#### Request for a Prayer Quilt

Name of contact person/Phone:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of recipient/Phone:

\_\_\_\_\_



### “12th Annual Bags for Wags” Bean Bag Tournament Saturday, February 11, 2023

To prevent the spread of illness during this event, all attendees are encouraged to wear masks

- Cost:** \$100 Per 2 Player Team  
 Register on-line via hi-lit link below
- Location:** Visitation Valentino Center  
 851 S. York Rd, Elmhurst, IL. 60126
- Time:** 6:00 PM  
 (On Site Registration & Sign-In: 4:45 PM -5:45 PM)
- Participant Age:** 16 and up
- Winners:** Cash prizes for the top teams. Prize amounts will be announced on the day of the tournament.

Please visit our website for Rules and Registration  
<http://BrianEWagnerFund.org>

Junior High and High School students are encouraged to volunteer. Contact [traceydegan@hotmail.com](mailto:traceydegan@hotmail.com) and provide your: Name, Phone # and Hours of Availability for SAT. 2/4/2023

Complimentary refreshments for all registered teams  
 Mama Maria’s Pizza and Soft Drinks

**General Admission for Spectators**  
 (Covers the Cost of Food/Drink for Whole Evening)  
 Age 16 and Older= \$10  
 Under Age 16= \$5

**PIZZA FOR PAID SPECTATORS WILL BE SERVED FROM 7:30 PM-8:30 PM**

The BEWSF is a 501 c3 non-for profit organization registered with the State of IL. All proceeds from this event including but not limited to: admission fees, registration costs, raffle prizes and monetary donations benefit the multiple scholarships which are awarded annually to recipients each spring.

**BEWSF \* PO Box 531856 \* St. Petersburg, FL. 33711-9998**