

God, our loving Father,  
help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

May this Christmas morning  
make us happy to be your children and  
Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,  
forgiving and forgiven for Jesus' sake. Amen.

*Robert Louis Stevenson*

Visitation Roman Catholic Church ❖ Elmhurst, Illinois

Christmas Day ~ 2022

visitationparish.org ❖ 630/834-6700

**MASS INTENTIONS****MONDAY, DECEMBER 26****6:15 AM**

+Mary Scopelliti

**8:15 AM**

Intentions of Saverio Gianni

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27****6:15 AM**

+Brian Lechowski

**8:15 AM**

+Tyrone Magsino

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28****6:15 AM**

+Warren Phillips

**8:15 AM**

+Fr. Bob Noesen

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29****6:15 AM**

+Parish Purgatorial Society

**8:15 AM**

+James Christofalos

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30****6:15 AM**

+Leo Carr

**8:15 AM**

+Frances Eraci

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31****8:15 AM**

+Joan Pezza

**4:00 PM**

+Rosa Sarno

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 1****7:30AM**

People of Visitation

**9:30AM**

+Robert Genza

**11:30AM**

+Fr. Bob Noesen

**6:00PM**

+Susan Solcani

**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 intentions of Tebitha
- For the intentions of Barbara Carvalho

**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**

III William Keeley and Nicolle Szilagyi

**PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED**

Please pray for all of those who have died, especially

**Mary Lou Muehleis**

**Dorothy Bechel**

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

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- 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
- Monday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22
- Tuesday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35
- Friday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
- Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18
- Next Sunday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

*Sunday Offering*

	<u>12/11/22</u>
Weekly Offering ....	\$29,702.34
Offering same week last year ...	\$33,307.00
Target Goal each week	\$30,940.00
Year to date Budget	\$742,560.00
Year to date Collection	\$738,388.38
Retirement for Religious	\$7,864.00
Immaculate Conception	\$5,473.00

These totals include Online Giving.  
Thank you for your generosity.

## A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Parish Family,

That first Christmas night, the Angel announced to the shepherds: **"I bring good news and a great joy... A Savior has been born for you!"** [Luke 2:10] "The Light that has come, and His message calls us to set out, to leave the narrow circle of our desires and interests, to go out to meet the Lord and worship him. We worship Him by opening the world to truth, to good, to Christ, to the service of those who are in need and in whom He waits for us" [Pope Benedict XVI, 2007].

As we celebrate Christmas, I invite you to take up the song of the angels who appeared to the shepherds in Bethlehem on the night when Jesus was born. It is a song which unites heaven and earth, giving praise and glory to God, and the promise of peace on earth.... **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.** [Lk 2:14].

The sights and sounds of this beautiful time of year and the glorious announcement of the angels to the shepherds reminds us that Christmas calls us to come home to the Lord and His Church, and give glory to God. I hope that these days of Christmas will be an opportunity for you, and all those you love, to come to know the true face of God the Father, who has given us Jesus, His Son.

We've all had to deal with so many joys and sorrows this past year... good and bad. And yet, Christmas comes with its message of *Peace on Earth, Goodwill toward all!* It's a message we certainly need. Let's open ourselves up to the love God wants to shower upon us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior... the dawn of our Salvation.

Christmas blessings to you and all those you love. Father Alberts, our helper-priests, deacons, and entire parish staff join me in offering our wishes for a very happy, holy and Merry Christmas. I welcome everyone joining us for Christmas Mass. Join us each week as we celebrate the presence of Jesus among us, making Himself known to us in *the breaking of the bread.*

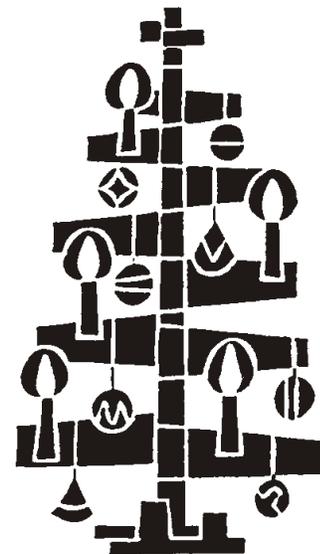
God bless you and Merry Christmas!

*Father De Salvo*



## The Christmas Tree

Some claim that Martin Luther was the first to take home a tree and use it as a Christmas decoration. There is evidence, however, that indicates the practice developed out of the medieval religious Paradise play in which a fir tree decorated with apples was used to symbolize the tree of the knowledge of good and evil mentioned in Genesis 2:9. The play told the story of creation, of the sin of Adam and Eve, and of their expulsion from Paradise. It usually ended with the consoling promise of the coming of the Savior and the story of Bethlehem. Obviously, this made the Paradise play a favorite pageant for Advent, usually performed outdoors in front of the church or inside the church. If the pageant was performed inside, lighted candles were placed around the tree, and the play was actually staged within that circle of light. After these plays were no longer performed in the churches, the Paradise tree found its way into the homes of the faithful, becoming a symbol of the coming of the Savior.



By the fifteenth century, the fir tree decorated with apples was a common tradition. Gradually, small white wafers were added to the apples as decorations for the tree — the wafers symbolizing the Eucharist. The meaning was richly symbolic and deeply rooted in faith and Scripture: the tree which bore the apples, symbolizing the sin of Adam and Eve, also bore the saving fruit of the Eucharist. Later, the wafers were replaced by pieces of white pastry in the form of stars, angels, hearts, flowers, and bells, as well as brown cookies in the form of people, birds, dogs, roosters, and other animals. Today, of course, those things are replaced with brightly colored [and various themed] ornaments.

By the middle of the seventeenth century, candles, representing Christ as the Light of the World, were placed on the tree. As glass decorations were added to the cookies and the fruit on the tree, our modern Christmas tree came to be. It developed in Germany, gradually was accepted in most other countries, and came to the United States through the German immigrants in Pennsylvania.

**HOLIDAY  
OFFICE HOURS** OLPI

The rectory will close on  
Wednesday, December 21 at 11:30 AM  
& will reopen Tuesday, January 3 at 8:30 AM

## The Christmas Call to be Angels

Editorial Board of Our Sunday Visitor — December 25, 2016

Some of the most beautiful words found in the Infancy Narratives — the Gospel passages relating to the birth of Jesus — are proclaimed by the angels. The Angel of the Lord declares to the shepherds: *"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord"* (Lk 2:10-11). Next, a *"multitude of the heavenly host"* pronounces a refrain so significant that it contributed to the development of a beloved liturgical prayer: *"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*

Through their proclamations, these angels are the first, following the birth in Bethlehem, to spread the Good News of

the Christ Child who was the Savior of the world. They are the first *evangelizers* of Christmas. It makes perfect sense. The Greek word *euangelion*, from which *"evangelization"* is derived, itself comes from the Greek word *angelos*, meaning *"messenger"* or *"to announce,"* from which we also, of course, get the word *"angel."*

Why is this significant for us? Because, particularly at Christmastime when families gather together, we have our own important opportunity to do as the *angelos* did — to be messengers of the Good News. We must never forget the significance of our own witness. We are able to introduce people to Jesus by showing the difference he makes in our own lives, an effort that is reflected first and foremost in how we treat those with whom we meet. Evangelization must be relational. It must be lived. As Pope Francis said in September 2015, *"to evangelize is not only to convince, it's to give witness that Jesus Christ is alive ... with your flesh, with your life."* Which brings us back to the *angelos*. We have only to look to the angels in Luke's Gospel to discover some key qualities of an evangelist: a spirit of joy, a message of truth, a song of praise and a heart of courage.

In order to properly evangelize, we must have always within us a spirit of joy. We must be lit from within, filled with Gospel zeal and an abiding satisfaction and peace. Spreading the Faith means knowing the Faith. We must be well-versed in what the Church teaches and why so we are able to share this message of truth. Truth begets authenticity, and authenticity is key to winning people to Christ. We can best spread the Good News of Christ by sharing our love for him. With a constant song of praise, we can always be filled with a spirit of gratitude for his many blessings. This love is infectious and appealing, working as a balm to warm others' hearts to Christ.

It isn't easy to evangelize. Not only do we have to be prepared for dismissal and even ostracization when it comes to voicing our beliefs, we are, perhaps even more challengingly, faced with the task of working hard to be our best selves. This takes commitment and hearts of courage to chip away at these goals a little each day.

May the blessings of the season be with you this Christmas. And, may the angels of the Lord always guide you on the path of evangelization... of making Christ known!



Christmas celebrations are often full of sound.

It would be good for us to make room for silence, to hear the voice of Love!

[Pope Francis I]

## The Christmas Truce

The abiding memory of the First World War is an incredible moment of peace!

If you have never heard the story, 2022 is the year to read some history! In spite of a bitterly fought war, the two opposing sides miraculously laid their arms down for one day... Christmas. The celebration of the birth of our Savior was able to make bitter enemies friends for a day. Read the true

story of *The Christmas Truce* that happened in 1914. The beautiful story should give us all hope that no matter what unrest, uncertainty, hardship, division, and hatred we face... all things are possible with faith — All things are possible with God.

**Go online and check it out... it's a story worth reading!**  
<https://time.com/3643889/christmas-truce-1914/>



## Christmas Season Confessions

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.



## Christmas Carols "sing" of the Season!

From: *The Catholic Answer*, December 2008

What would the Christmas Season be without Christmas Carols? These seasonal songs seem to greet us everywhere this time of year with their familiar melodies and lyrics. Though we may know the first verse and the refrain of a number of Christmas carols, do we know the origin of these songs we sing year December?

The singing of psalms and songs of praise in worship dates back to earliest Christian times, of course, a tradition with roots in Jewish religious custom. Hymns written especially in honor of Christ's birth first appeared in the early centuries, such as *Of the Father's Love Begotten*, composed by the Latin poet Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-413). Over time the repertoire of Latin chant that developed for use in the Mass came to include "proprs chants" written especially for the Nativity and nearby celebrations on the Church calendar, such as Advent and Epiphany. Their words were based on Scripture and other sacred texts. The kind of popular song we would typically call a "Christmas carol" today, however, had different origins. The word "carol" probably comes from the French *carole*, a circle dance accompanied by singing, often with a verse and refrain pattern.

Up through the later Middle Ages, *caroles* were thus typically dance music for communal celebrations. But eventually they were used also as processional songs during religious festivals and as accompaniment for religious mystery plays. Only later did they come to be sung in churches and associated with Christmas in particular.

The singing of popular Christmas tunes received a boost from St. Francis of Assisi. In 1223 he formed a living Nativity scene on the outskirts of town, inviting the people of his village to come see the creche while he taught them simple songs to honor the coming of the Lord. This new December custom grew larger and more ornate each year, spreading throughout Europe, with each culture adding its own local customs to the celebrations. Carols were composed and learned by the common folk wherever the creche and seasonal plays were performed. To the chagrin of some local parish priests, many of these new Christmas carols borrowed melodies from well-known drinking songs. Clergy in some places opposed their being sung. But the joy of singing carols was infectious and unstoppable. Bands of traveling singers and musicians, or *carolers*, as they would come to be known, performed on street corners, in taverns and in homes in village after village.

After the Protestant Reformation, which began in the 16th century, Lutherans followed the lead of their founder, the German Martin Luther (1483-1546), who encouraged his congregations to sing the popular songs of the Christmas season. But the 17th-century English Puritans outlawed the singing of Christmas carols, viewing them as popish holdovers. Nevertheless, English Catholics (and no doubt some less strict Anglicans as well) continued to sing carols privately, such as "The First Noel" and "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen." After the passing of the Puritans from pow-

er in England, several 18<sup>th</sup>-century Anglican composers produced joyous hymns for the season. For example, Isaac Watts (1674- 1748) wrote "Joy to the World"; John Francis Wade (c. 1711-1786), "O Come, All Ye Faithful"; and Charles Wesley (1707-1788), "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."

During this time, the distinction between Christmas carols (popular songs for informal singing) and Christmas hymns (composed by skilled churchmen for formal use in worship) began to be blurred. Carols came to be sung in church, and hymns outside of liturgical settings. Christmas carols of all types experienced a renaissance in England, America and elsewhere during the 19th century. Some of the most familiar carols we sing today were composed at that time, such as "Silent Night," "Away in a Manger," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," "Sleep, Holy Babe," "We Three Kings of Orient Are" and "What Child Is This" (using an old English melody, "Greensleeves").

When the English Queen Victoria married her cousin Prince Albert of Germany in 1840, it became known that the royal couple was quite fond of Christmas carols. In an attempt to gain royal favor, numerous families and church groups came to the royal palace to sing for them. Like the enthusiastic troubadours of past centuries, these English carolers of the Victorian age took to the streets of London with their songs.

In the United States, it was Lutheran and Methodist congregations, especially, who made carols popular both in worship and in the culture at large. By the end of the Civil War, caroling had become a way for many denominations to evangelize beyond their four church walls. Caroling groups brought joy to the sick and the homebound with their musical visits.

These days caroling groups have been replaced in many ways by recorded Christmas music. Yet the sight of a group of carolers at the shopping mall or in the neighborhood still brings the season to life and is a reminder of the true meaning of the celebration.



STAN GORSKI



**"Christmas is not a time or a season but a state of mind. To cherish peace and good will, to be plenteous in mercy is to have the real spirit of Christmas. If we think on these things, there will be born in us a savior and over us will shine a star sending its gleam of hope to the world."**

[President Calvin Coolidge, 1925]

## *Christmas Lunch with Father*

Our “senior and seasoned” parishioners had a wonderful time at their Christmas Lunch, hosted by the Staff of Visitation Parish, with Father DeSalvo, Father Alberts, our Deacons and their wives.

Father DeSalvo lead everyone in a Christmas sing-a-long, and during dessert the kindergarten classes from Visitation School came in to perform some Christmas songs.

Thank you to everyone who made this event a success, including the 8th graders who helped greet, serve and clean up!



## Set Up and be Enchanted by Your Nativity Scene

Pope Francis I

A Nativity scene is a simple reminder of something astonishing: God became human to reveal the greatness of his love by smiling and opening his arms to all! [*Admirabile Signum – “Enchanting Image” – Pope Francis Apostolic Letter on the Nativity Scene. December, 2019*]. Wherever it is, and whatever form it takes, the Christmas creche speaks to us of the love of God, the God who became a child in order to make us know how close he is to every man, woman and child, regardless of their condition.

Pope Francis signed His short letter December 1, 2019, the first Sunday of Advent, during an afternoon visit to Greccio, Italy, where Saint Francis of Assisi set up the first Nativity scene in 1223. When St. Francis had a cave prepared with a hay-filled manger, an ox and a donkey – no statues or actors or baby, even - he carried out a *great work of evangelization*, Pope Francis said, and Catholics can and must continue that work today.

With this letter I wish to encourage the beautiful family tradition of preparing the Nativity scene in your homes in the days before Christmas, but also the custom of setting it up in the workplace, in schools, hospitals, prisons and town squares. It is my hope that this custom will never be lost and that, wherever it has fallen into disuse, it can be rediscovered and revived. At the heart of even the simplest Nativity scene there is a reminder of *God's tender love: the Creator of the universe lowered himself to take up our littleness*. This baby is the source and sustenance of all life. In Jesus, the Father has given us a brother who comes to seek us out whenever we are confused or lost, a loyal friend ever at our side. He gave us his son who forgives us and frees us from our sins.

The magic of the season goes deep when someone gazes upon a Nativity scene. And whether or not they can put what they experience into words, they come away knowing that God's ways are astonishing, for it seems impossible that he should forsake his glory to become a man like us. To our astonishment, we see God acting exactly as we do: he sleeps, takes milk from his mother, cries and plays like every other child! As always, God baffles us. He is unpredictable, constantly doing what we least expect. *The Nativity scene shows God as he came into our world, but it also makes us reflect on how our life is part of God's own life. It invites us to become his disciples if we want to attain ultimate meaning in life.*

Knowing that some families keep to the essential characters and setting while others add all sorts of characters and buildings and streams and towns. But, even fanciful additions show that in the new world inaugurated by Jesus there is room for whatever is truly human and for all God's creatures. We should focus on some key elements, starting with the starry night, the simplicity of the stable and the poverty of the shepherds. Giving the Nativity scene a nighttime backdrop respects the Gospel account of Jesus' birth but also serves to remind people of times when they've experienced darkness.

The creche says that even then, God does not abandon us, but is there to answer our crucial questions about the meaning of life: *Who am I? Where do I come from? Why was I born at this time in history? Why do I love? Why do I suffer? Why will I die?* It was to answer these questions that God became man. His closeness brings light where there is darkness and shows the way to those dwelling in the shadow of suffering. The simple shepherds, who were the first to go to the stable to see the newborn Jesus, are reminders that the humble and the poor are the first to welcome the good news.

In a particular way, from the time of its Franciscan origins, the Nativity scene has invited us to *feel* and *touch* the poverty that God's son took upon himself in the incarnation. That, in turn, calls Jesus' disciples to follow him along the path of humility, poverty and self-denial that leads from the manger of Bethlehem to the cross. It asks us to meet him and serve him by showing mercy to those of our brothers and sisters in greatest need. Jesus, gentle and humble in heart: was born in poverty and led a simple life in order to teach us to recognize what is essential and to act accordingly.

Mary is a model of discipleship, faithfully accepting God's will for her life and sharing him with others, inviting them to obey him. Joseph, too, accepts the role God assigned him, protecting the baby Jesus, teaching him and raising him. And, of course, when, at Christmas, we place the statue of the Infant Jesus in the manger, the Nativity scene suddenly comes alive. God appears as a child, for us to take into our arms. The whole scene, he said, reminds adult Catholics of their childhood and of learning the faith from their parents and grandparents. Each year, it should be a reminder that the faith needs to be passed on to one's children and grandchildren. Standing together before a Nativity scene, in wonder and awe, is a simple way to start.



## A Note from Fathers

Dear Parish Family,

Recently, we have been informed that parishioners have been receiving emails from people claiming to be the priests and deacons of the parish requesting money, gift cards, and other forms of payment to support various initiatives, like COVID-19 supplies, etc. **These emails are NOT from the parish clergy. DO NOT respond to their requests.**

This sort of scam is carried out in a manner sometimes called “spoofing”. The perpetrators have gained access to a mailing list with priest email addresses and have “spoofed” them, which means that they mimicked their appearance using fake accounts. It is a practice similar to forging a signature on a letter or impersonating someone on the telephone. Email scams are significantly more dangerous because they are much easier to fake.

The offenders in this scam have not gained access to our actual accounts, but rather made very convincing looking fake accounts that will appear in your inbox as “Father De Salvo” or “Father Alberts”, etc.

These emails will usually include a general greeting and then tell you a story about how one of us is experiencing an emergency (for example, our mother is in the hospital, or the parish is having a COVID-19 emergency) and request that you purchase gift cards and send us the numbers. You also may be asked to provide bank account numbers, card numbers, passwords, social security numbers, or other sensitive information. **TO BE CLEAR: THESE ARE FAKE.**

1. The parish priests and deacons will *never* request money transfers, gift cards, passwords, social security information, or other sensitive information from you over email.
2. While Father De Salvo and Father Alberts have no doubt of your generosity, if we are experiencing an emergency, please be assured we would not be reaching out to parishioners via email.
3. If you are ever unsure of whether an email that appears to be from us is legitimate, you are encouraged to call the parish office and confirm it.

Please, always be vigilant on the internet, always be skeptical of anything out of the ordinary, and NEVER provide personal information over email.

For more information and tips on how to avoid becoming a victim of fraud, The United States Federal Trade Commission has very helpful resources at [consumer.ftc.gov](http://consumer.ftc.gov).

May God bless you abundantly!

*Fr. De Salvo & Fr. Alberts*



### 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**

**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!

**ADORATION OF HIS MAJESTY**

The “little ones”: how different is human logic from  
the divine! The “little ones” according to the Gospel,  
are those who know they are God’s creatures and shun  
all presumption: they expect  
everything from God and so  
are never disappointed. This  
is the basic attitude of the be-  
liever: faith and humility are  
inseparable. The greater one’s  
faith, the “littler” one feels, in  
the image of Jesus Christ,  
who, “though he was in the  
form of God, emptied him-  
self” (Phil 2:6-7) and came  
among us as our servant. – Pope St. John Paul II



On this Christmas day, let us remember that Our  
God is the God of Joy! He came to us as a tiny baby  
so we would not be afraid. He remains hidden in the  
tiny Host, both on the altar at Mass and in the Mon-  
strance at the Adoration Chapel, to continue serving us  
until the end of time: food and companionship for the  
journey toward our Heavenly Home.

During this beautiful Christmas season, make a spe-  
cial visit to the Adoration Chapel and give thanks and  
adoration to Our God, Jesus, “the Word [who] became  
flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and  
truth...” (John 1:14). In fact, register for a weekly hour  
to become transformed into the likeness of Christ Je-  
sus – our Brother!

The following hours need partners:

Mon. 2AM & 7AM

Wed. 1PM

Thurs. 1PM & 2PM

Fri. 1AM & 2PM

Sat. 12PM & 5PM.

To register, contact the Adoration Committee at  
[VisitationAdorationChapel@gmail.com](mailto:VisitationAdorationChapel@gmail.com) or call Joan  
Taylor, 630-530-8963; Owen & Gail Hilding, 630-573  
-0033



**“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 [traceydegman@hotmail.com](mailto:traceydegman@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 (c) 3 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**

**Save the Date!**

**TIES & TIARAS**

(formerly known as the Daddy Daughter Dance)

Calling all girls of the parish pre-school through  
8th grade

**Friday, February 3rd, 2023**

**7-9PM**

**Valentino Center (Visitation School Gym)**

Look out for more information next week!