



*"Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your
womb." - Lk 1:42*

St. Mary Parish

DeKalb, Illinois

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2018

The 12 Days of Christmas BEGINS ON CHRISTMAS DAY AND ENDS ON EPIPHANY DID YOU KNOW?!

Aside from the fact that Epiphany which comes twelve days after Christmas, used to mark the end of the Christmas Season, the "Twelve Days of Christmas" are not really any part of Catholic Liturgy.

The song of that name actually derives from a time in England from 1558 to 1829 when it was illegal to be a Catholic, and so the song contains a hidden teaching of Catholic theology. This was a way that parents could still secretly teach their children about the Catholic faith during that particular period.

A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE

The "True Love" one hears in the song is not a smitten boy or girlfriend, but Jesus Christ, because truly Love was born on Christmas Day. The partridge in the pear tree also represents Him because that bird is willing to sacrifice itself if necessary to protect its young by feigning injury to draw away predators.

TWO TURTLE DOVES

represents the Human and Divine natures of Christ and the two testaments of the Bible (Old and New).

THREE FRENCH HENS

symbolize the three theological virtues: faith, hope and love.

FOUR CALLING BIRDS

represent the four evangelists - Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

FIVE GOLDEN RINGS

represent the first five books of the Old Testament (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy), which gives the history of man's fall from grace

SIX GEESE A-LAYING

represent for the six days of creation.

SEVEN SWANS A-SWIMMING

represents the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit - wisdom, knowledge, counsel, piety, fortitude, understanding, and fear of the Lord.

EIGHT MAIDS A-MILKING

represent the eight beatitudes.

NINE LADIES DANCING

represent the Nine Orders (or Choirs) of Angels: Angels, Principalities, Archangels, Powers, Virtues, Dominions, Thrones, Cherubims, and Seraphims

TEN LORDS A-LEAPING

symbolize the Law of God; the Ten Commandments.

ELEVEN PIPERS PIPING

represent the eleven Faithful Apostles who stuck with Jesus when seemingly all others had abandoned Him.

TWELVE DRUMMERS DRUMMING

represent the twelve basic beliefs of the Catholic Church as outlined in the Apostles' Creed.



From the desk of Fr. Russell

"The angel said to them, '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 Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom His rests'" (Luke 2:10-14).

May the peace of the Baby Jesus rest upon you and your families this Christmas Season, and may the joy He brings strengthen you through a new year of grace in this "Year of Faith".



Thank you for your cards and support, your prayers and presence; and on behalf of the staff of St. Mary, we wish all parishioners a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

In Christ, son of Mary,
Fr. Russell

2018 Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve - Monday, December 24 - Vigil Masses

5:00 PM Youth Choir Preludes
5:30 PM Vigil Mass in English
9:30 PM Choir "Anthems & Carols"
10:00 PM Vigil Mass in English

Christmas Day - Tuesday, December 25

9:00 AM Mass in English
12:00 PM Mass in Spanish
1:30 PM Mass in Vietnamese

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

(Holy Day of Obligation)

Tuesday, January 1, 2019

9:00 AM Mass in English

Feast of the Epiphany

Saturday, January 5, 2019

4:30 PM Vigil Mass in English

Sunday, January 6, 2019

8:30 AM Mass in English
10:30 AM Mass in English
4:00 PM Mass in Spanish

Readings for the Week of December 23, 2018

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-18 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/
Lk 1:39-45

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

Tuesday: 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
Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/
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 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/
Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Wednesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc
and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Friday: 1 Jn 1:5-2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

Next Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/
1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

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Vocation Corner:

Fr. Kyle Manno,
Diocesan Director of Vocations



Christmas is just two days away! Can you believe it? I imagine your house is ready for the celebration with bright lights, a decorated tree, and beautiful gifts wrapped and waiting to be placed under that tree. Yet, is your heart ready to welcome Christ into the world on Christmas morning? What I mean by this is: have you spent time praying over the birth of Christ and meditating on the fact that the God of the Universe left his throne to become an infant who would one day save the entire world?

This prayer is crucial in the coming days because only by meditating on the birth of Christ and His mission in the world can you also discover the mission that God has for you. No matter how hard we try, we human beings can never know why we were created, only God can reveal that to us and He is so very eager to do so!

So make sure to spend some quiet time in prayer over the next couple of days meditating on the birth and mission of Christ and, in time, God will show you your mission, as well!

25TH WEEK OF FISCAL YEAR 2018 - 2019

Our Weekly Offering Week Ending 12/14/2018

Sunday Offertory	\$ 8,345.26
Guardian Angel	\$ 50.00
School	\$ 32.00
Capital Improvements	\$ 1,030.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 1,281.00
Mission Appeal	\$ 380.00
Christmas	\$ 1,630.00
Flower Memorial	\$ 125.00

Thank You for Your Contributions!



"To couples who cannot have children of their own, you are no less loved by God; your love for each other is complete and fruitful when it is open to others."

Pope St. John Paul II, Feb. 13, 1982 Homily
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Advertiser of the Week

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Thank you for your continued support of St. Mary Church through your advertisement in our bulletin.



For the latest, up-to-date information about our parish, please "Like" our facebook page! You can find it at www.facebook.com/StMarydeKalbIL/ or check out our website: <http://stmarydekalb.org>

2018 Lancer Raffle Ticket Winners



12/17 - Beth Barrile - \$20.00
12/18 - Ben Snyder - \$20.00 Donated Back! Thank You.
12/19 - Jan Fitzgerald - \$20.00 Donated Back! Thank You.
12/20 - Sylvia Maconaghy - \$20.00
12/21 - Ricardo Calderon - \$20.00
12/22 - Judith Burkart - \$20.00 Donated Back! Thank You.
12/23 - James Justice - \$30.00 Donated Back! Thank You.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ST MARY SCHOOL!

The power of prayer We pray for St. Mary parishioners, relatives, and friends who are suffering from illness, also for those who are homebound, hospitalized, or confined to a care facility, especially:

Marianne Anderson, Giana Anderson, Jane Anderson, Matt Anderson, Larry Ball, Jackie Balon, Joseph Barrile, Pat Beck, Patricia Budzinski, Debbie Coffland, Ben Coniglio, Donna Dahlin, Mario Delgado, Joe Diedrich, Quan Do, Horst Erker, JoAnn Fenzel, Bobbie Fitch, Beth Fixmer, Missy Flores, Chris Haight, Rita Hammett, Eric Hanson, Kathleen Hiatt, Ruth Higgins, Margaret Holder, Peggy Hoyt, Joann Schoo Irving, Joan Judkins, Patsy Kelahan, Rev. Richard Kramer, Kay Kribs, Carolyn Kustron, Ginger Lange, Catherine Lipps, Henrietta Lobner, Brayden MacNeille, JoAnn MaKarrall, Bob Marcheschi, Matt Marcheschi, Timothy McMillan, Louis Mustari, Virginia Nepodahl, Mary O'Brien, Tom O'Brien, Betty Ramsdell, Joel Rivera, Michele Roberts, Jeff Salazar, Richard Salazar, Erick Schroeder, Bill Sorensen, Jim Theisen, Ray Theisen, Justin Valdez, Jerry Vasko, Abel Viland, Dolores Wiczorek, Richard Wiseman, David Young

If you know of a person in our parish who is homebound and would like to receive a card of encouragement, or to have a name added to or removed from the prayer list, call the parish office at 815.758.5432.

Entrance Exam at Marmion Academy

Marmion Academy, located at 1000 Butterfield Road in Aurora, is hosting an Entrance Exam for 8th grade boys on Saturday, January 12, 2019 beginning at 9:00 AM. This exam is for any 8th grade boy who was unable to take the Scholarship Qualifying Exam on Dec. 1, 2018. Students interested should register for the exam at www.marmion.org/admissions <<http://www.marmion.org/admissions>>. In addition to academic scholarships, Marmion Academy offers need-based assistance to families that qualify. Over \$722,500 in tuition assistance was awarded for the 2018-2019 school year. Contact the Office of Admissions at 630-897-6936 ext. 227 for additional information. While students are taking the exam, parents are invited to join members of Marmion Academy's administration, faculty and staff for a continental breakfast and an informal Q&A beginning at 9:00 AM. Parents in attendance will be entered into a drawing for a \$500 tuition deposit voucher (valid for the 2019-2020 school year).



On Saturday, January 12, Aurora Central Catholic High School welcomes prospective students to take the Placement Exam. All 8th Grade students are invited to take the test. Students are asked to arrive at 7:45 am; the test will begin promptly at 8:00 am and will conclude at approximately 12:00 pm. You may sign-up online at www.auroracentral.com/placementexam.

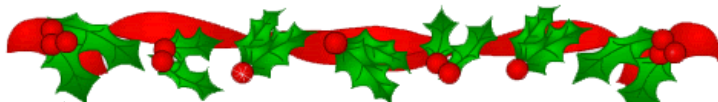
**Rosary High School Entrance Exam**

January 5, 2019 at 8 AM
901 N Edgelawn Drive, Aurora, IL
Register online at www.rosaryhs.com/exam
Contact Admissions at (630) 896-0831 or admissions@rosaryhs.com for more information.



Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest. The Savior of the world comes for the people in dark places. The real, lasting, and deep joy is that the Light shines there.

Through your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, "Light" has shown, bringing real, lasting and deep joy to the hearts of the poor who live in dark places in our streets and neighborhood.



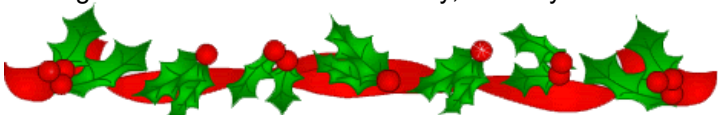
The parish staff wishes to extend to the entire St. Mary Church community a very blessed Christmas & New Year.

The parish office will be closed on Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 25.

Regular hours resume on Tuesday, December 26 at 9 am.

We will again be closed on Monday, December 31 and Tuesday, January 1.

Regular hours resume on Tuesday, January 2 at 9 am.

**From the desk of Edith Stein ...**

"So far we've been thinking about only the possibility of a disruptive intervention of the state in religious life. Let's inquire beyond that into whether it can be designated as the state's duty positively to foster religious life. The possibilities for such a positive fostering are rather limited. For religious life transpires in a sphere in which nothing can be brought about and nothing can be undone through legislation or through arbitrary initiatives in general. However, legislation, while not being productive itself, can free up productive powers or can inhibit their employment. If you set up institutions that disclose to certain individuals for the first time the possibility of coming into contact with the religious sphere, you create 'opportunities' for the kindling of new religious life, which is something that you don't control. Provided that the state is in a position to provide such a service, it can be proposed to the state through its agencies ... The question of whether the state can be a carrier of its own religious values is to be answered negatively ... for religious values belong to a personal sphere, which the state lacks. The state has no soul, for one thing ... An additional reason, of course, is that the state is not anchored in the soul of the persons who belong to it. Make no mistake about this. There's an allegiance to the state that is an affair of the soul. And so are all the other motives that impel individuals to 'recognize' the state or to refuse it. But those motives form only the groundwork upon which the existence of the state relies ... They have nothing to do with what the state as such is. For that lies totally within the sphere of freedom ... Therefore the individual who is living in the state can be holy or profane, and so can the ethnic community whose life it regulates; but the state itself cannot"



(conclusion of "Investigation Concerning the State", p. 192-193).

Welcome New Members

Patrick Sipp & Jennifer Sharp
Makenzie Sipp
Samantha, Isabelle, & Kelsey Sipp

Joe & Chrissy Large
Nick & Matt

Chad & Jaime Davis
Laken & Deaken

Anthony & Arelis Velazquez
Anthony, III

Electena Ferral
Ashley, Jesus, Brandon, & Kevin

Vincent Filicetti

Luis Espinosa & Juana Pucheco
Larissa Espinosa

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter
Rockford/Madison/Milwaukee Ministry**

May the peace of Christ be with you this Christmas! Sign up today to attend one of the next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends** on Jan 25-27 in Brookfield, WI; Feb. 15-17 in Geneva, IL or Mar 15-17 in Madison, WI. Visit our website at: alifetimeoflove.org or call (888) 574-5653. Para un fin de semana en Espanol por favor llamen a Candelario y Emilia al 815-375-4250. Las fechas son Feb 8-10, April 26-28 and August 9-11.

This week's schedule...

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NO Religious Education (CH)

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Hispanic AA Group Meeting (PCN)

1:30 PM Vietnamese Mass (CH)

2:45 PM - 5:00 PM Vietnamese Ministry Social Time (C)

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Hispanic Reconciliation (CH)

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM Hispanic Posadas (G)

Masses in English 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM (CH)

Mass in Spanish 4:00 PM

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24 *CHRISTMAS EVE*

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

NO SCHOOL

NO 7:00 AM Mass in English (CH)

No Scheduled Reconciliation in English (CH)

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM Vietnamese Ministry Christmas Social Set-up (C)

5:00 PM Youth Choir Preludes (CH)

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Hispanic AA Group (PCN)

Masses in English 5:30 PM & 10:00 PM (CH)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25 *CHRISTMAS DAY*

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

NO SCHOOL

NO 7:00 AM Mass in English (CH)

No scheduled Reconciliation in English (CH)

9:00 AM Mass in English (CH)

12:00 PM Mass in Spanish (CH)

1:00 PM Mass in Vietnamese (CH)

2:45 PM - 8:00 PM Vietnamese Ministry Christmas Social (C)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

NO SCHOOL

7:00 PM Mass in English (CH)

No Scheduled Reconciliation in English (CH)

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Men's Group (E)

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Hispanic AA Group (PCN)

24 Hour Exposition (CH)

Wednesday 7:30 AM until Thursday 6:30 PM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

NO SCHOOL

7:00 AM Mass in English (CH)

7:35 AM Reconciliation in English (CH)

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal (CH)

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Alive in His Love Prayer Group (CHP)

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Hispanic Prayer Group-Choir Rehearsal (SMR)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

NO SCHOOL

7:00 AM Mass in English (CH)

7:35 AM Reconciliation in English (CH)

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM Teen Tuesday Christmas Formal (C,G)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Hispanic AA Group Meeting (PCN)

Reconciliation in English 8:35-9:15 AM & 3:30-4:15 PM (CH)

Masses in English 8:00 AM & 4:30 PM (CH)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

No Religious Education (CH)

10:00 AM Youth Choir Preludes (CH)

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Hispanic AA Group Meeting (PCN)

1:30 PM Vietnamese Mass (CH)

2:45 PM - 5:00 PM Vietnamese Ministry Social Time (G)

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Hispanic Reconciliation (CH)

Masses in English 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM (CH)

Mass in Spanish 4:00 PM



2019 NATIONAL EDUCATION CONTEST

The Catholic Daughters of America (CDA) is working to organize the National Education Contest and would like to encourage any interested **Students** (Grades 4-12 in both regular schooling or Homeschooled) and any **Adult CDA member** of our Court to participate.

Note: Students may be Catholic and Non-Catholic.

The themes for the 2019 contest are
"Here I Am Lord I Come To Do Your Will"
 or

"Doing My Best To Do Good"

Pick only one theme for your work

All entries must be of contestant's own imagination and creation. Each participant needs to create an original idea for the entry. The choice of categories are:

**ART ESSAY POETRY COMPUTER ART
 MUSIC PHOTOGRAPHY**

The deadline to have your entry will be January 31st, 2019

If you think you would like to participate you can reach me

(Kathy Dixit) at 815-761-4254

You can text me...call me... or email me (moodixit@gmail.com)

I will get the necessary form and rules and directions for you to participate.



Stewardship

A Way of Life

The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship, she who had given herself to bear the Savior gave her time and love to others as well.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION NEEDED

Training sessions are scheduled **Monday, January 7 at 6:30 p.m. or Saturday, January 12 at 11:30 a.m. in the Church.** Please contact the Parish Office at 815-758-5432 if you would like to sign up for Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion training.

As described in the Diocese of Rockford: Norms and Guidelines for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at Mass, Office of Divine Worship, March 2004 . . .

General Principles – 1. In every celebration of the Mass, there should be sufficient ministers of Communion for the giving and receiving of Holy Communion in a reverent and orderly manner so that the faithful are given the *option* of receiving both consecrated species and that the Rite of Communion not unduly prolonged.

Our Parish is in great need of Extraordinary Ministers for all Masses but especially at the 4:30 and 10:30 Masses. Jesus called imperfect men to serve as his disciples and to build his Church on earth. Is Jesus calling you to serve our Parish as an Extraordinary Minister? Mentoring is included with training to alleviate any fear in serving in this ministry.

If you have questions and would like to inquire more about the ministry, please call Peter and Lisa Clark at 815-756-1068.



Locations: (B) Bethany Room, (CA) Cafeteria, (CHP) Chapel, (CH) Church, (E) Emmaus Room, (G) Gym, (LRC) Library Resource Center, (MARI) Marian Room, (MC) Ministry Center, (PCN) Parish Center North, (PWR) Parish Work Room, (PR) Presentation Room, (SAR) St. Anne Room, (SJM) St. James Room (Private), (SJ) St. John Room, (SJOA) St. Joachim Room, (SJOS) St. Joseph Room, (SL) St. Luke Room, (SM) St. Mark Room, (SMR) St. Matthew Room, (YC) Youth Center

LITURGICAL ROLES**Lectors****December 24-Christmas Eve**

5:30 PM Jean Petesch

10:00 PM **Please Volunteer****December 25-Christmas Day**

9:00 AM Bryan Johnson

December 29/30

4:00 PM Marlene Norris

8:30 AM Bonnie Benson

10:30 AM Jerry Smith

Ushers (Please volunteer at scheduled masses)

4:30 PM Dave Roliardi, Craig Vitkus, Richard Antczak

8:30 AM Chuck Albertson, Dan Cliffe, Doug Davis, John Sauter

10:30 AM Duane Rapp, Bill Chamness, Dan Thompson, Jim Zenz, Mark Farris, Nicholas Singer, Lance Farris, Michelle Mershon, Andrew Miller, Rick Sullivan, Toby Woodruff

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist for**December 24 - Christmas Eve**

5:30 PM

Captain Linda Ball

Chapel Volunteer

Cup 1 Volunteer

Cup 2 Lori Kedzie

10:00 PM

Captain Volunteer

Chapel Volunteer

Cup 1 Volunteer

Cup 2 Volunteer

December 29/30

4:30 PM

Captain Lisa Clark

Chapel Matt Fleming

Cup 1 NO CUP

Cup 2 NO CUP

8:30 AM

Captain Marlo Larson

Chapel Jim Ball

Cup 1 Jacqueline Wilk

Cup 2 Jennifer Petricig

10:30 AM

Captain Kellie Fuss

Chapel Mary Parson

Cup 1 Kevin Fuss

Cup 2 Tom Kedzie

Cantor Schedule**December 24 - Christmas Eve**

5:30 PM Joe Harmon

10:00 PM Teresa Fuller

December 25 - Christmas Day

9:00 AM Cecilia Aspengren

December 29/30

4:30 PM Teresa Fuller

8:30 AM Michael Hynek

10:30 AM Youth Choir

January 1-Mary, Holy**Mother of God**

9:00 AM Joe Harmon

January 5/6

4:30 PM Alice Smith

8:30 AM Sandi Bruckner

10:30 AM Tammy Farrell

Mass Intentions**Monday, December 24 (Christmas Vigil)**

5:30 PM Living & Deceased Members of St. Mary

10:00 PM Living & Deceased Members of

Lester Todd Family

Tuesday, December 25 (Christmas)

9:00 AM † Ellie Marie Palmer

12:00 PM Refugio Serrato (Spanish Mass)

Wednesday, December 26 (St. Stephen)

7:00 AM † Loras Sauter

Thursday, December 27 (St. John)

7:00 AM † Sylvia Kowalski

Friday, December 28 (The Holy Innocents)

7:00 AM † Janetta Hertle

Saturday, December 29 (Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity)

8:00 AM † Frank Van Buer

4:30 PM † Shirley Fluegel

Sunday, December 30 (The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph)

8:30 AM † Dee Dee Davis

10:30 AM Living & Deceased Members of St. Mary

December 25-Christmas Day

9:00 AM

Captain Volunteer

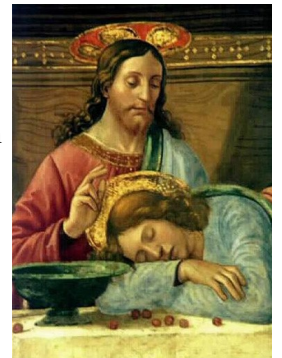
Chapel Joan Metzger

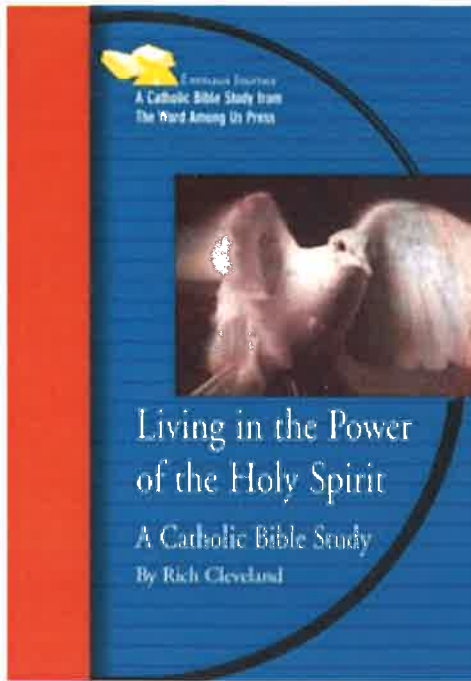
Cup 1 Helen Traglia

Cup 2 Volunteer

St. John the Apostle**Feast Day - December 27**

He was born in Galilee, the son of Zebedee the fisherman. Along with his brother, St. James the Great, he was called by Jesus to be one of His closest disciples. He witnessed the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor and Jesus' agony in the Garden of Gethsemani. As the "disciple whom Jesus loved," he rested his head on the Lord's chest at the Last Supper and was the only one to stand with Mary beneath the cross on Calvary. Jesus committed John to His mother's care, and in turn gave Mary to him as his mother. On Easter Sunday, He ran with Peter to see the empty tomb and believed that Christ was risen from the dead. After Pentecost, at the temple gate with Peter, he healed a cripple who sat begging alms. He was founder of the Church at Jerusalem and after some years went to Ephesus. Here, according to tradition, he lived with Mary until her death and authored the great Gospel and Epistles that bear his name. Early sources say that because of his teachings he was banished to the island of Patmos for a time, and there wrote apocalyptic revelations from heaven in a book called *The Apocalypse* or *Revelations*. He opposed heretics who denied that Jesus was God and taught his followers the great commandment of love. He died at Ephesus when he was about ninety-four years old. He is the patron saint of writers.





Women's Bible Study: Living in the Power of the Holy Spirit: A Catholic Bible Study by Rich Cleveland

Who is the Holy Spirit? What is his role in our salvation? How do we cooperate with him to experience the fullness of his presence? How do we receive his fruits and exercise his gifts?

These are a few of the questions explored in this nine-week Bible study, which is designed to help Catholics grow in their appreciation of the Holy Spirit and his power to transform their lives in Christ. The many relevant Scripture passages, combined with wisdom from the saints, the Catechism, and church tradition, make this a truly inspired Bible study.

All women are welcome to join in this 9 week Bible Study! Sessions will be in the Ministry Center on Thursday mornings 10:00-11:30AM on Jan. 17, 24, 31 Feb. 7, 21, 28 Mar. 7, 14, 21 Please call the parish office 815-758-5432 or email Annalisa at annalisam@stmarydekalb.org with questions or to register.

Deadline to register is Wednesday, January 2nd. Payment can be made when books are picked up. Books can be picked up at the Parish Office beginning, Thursday, January 10th. Cost is \$10. Financial assistance available.

Soup and Cinema: A Time for Miracles

Wednesday January 2nd in the Ministry Center Cafeteria

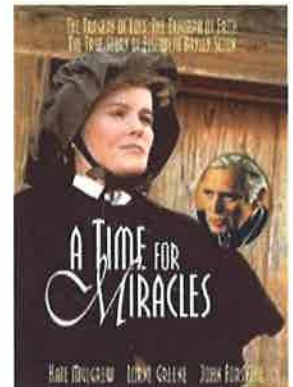
6:00 pm —Soup

6:30 pm —Movie will begin with a running time of 1hr. 40min.

This movie depicts the life of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, who is the first native born American to be canonized. Her feast day is January 4th and she is the patron saint of Catholic schools, loss of parents and widows.

Fr. Russell has a relic of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. We hope to receive a blessing with her relic during this evening.

Donations of soup, bread or desert is appreciated! Please call the parish office if you can help! 815-758-5432



Adult Faith Formation Program

Bishop Robert Barron's: The Mass

Walk through the order of the Mass and receive inspiration and insights on this most privileged and intimate encounter with our Lord, Jesus Christ. See how the Mass brings us out of the fallen world and into the heavenly realm, how it revolves around a call from God and a response from his people, the Church, and most importantly, how we are intimately joined with the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus through the Holy Eucharist.

Dates & Location: Sessions will be held in the Ministry Center on Monday evenings 6:30-8:00pm. January 14, 21, 28 February 4, 11, 18 If there is an interest in a daytime session, please call the office.

Please register by Tuesday, January 8th. Cost is \$22 for the study guide. Financial assistance available.

Name(s) _____ Phone Number _____

Email _____



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