



St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

December 3, 2023—First Sunday of Advent

451 W. Terra Cotta Ave., Crystal Lake, IL 60014

815-455-5400/www.stthomascl.church



Mission Statement

We are a Catholic family, living our awareness of Christ's presence through worship, service, evangelization and community for the benefit of all.

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Center Hours:

Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Confessions (Reconciliation - Oak Street Church):

Mondays: 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Saturdays: 8:00 am - 9:00 am and 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Locations:

Oak Street Church - 451 W. Terra Cotta Ave.

Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Pierson Street Church - 453 Pierson St.

Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Parish Office - 272 King St. Crystal Lake, IL 60014

St. Thomas School - 265 King St. Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Little Saints Preschool - 454 Lake St. Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Holy Hearts Adoration Chapel:

Monday, 6:15 am - Friday, 9:00 pm

Saturday, 7:15 am - 5:45 pm

Sunday, 7:15 am - 6:45 pm

adorationchapel@stthomascl.church

Resources:

Crystal Lake Food Pantry

42 East St. Crystal Lake, IL 60014

(815) 455-0961

M, W, F - 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Th - 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Sat. - 9:00 am - Noon

St. Vincent DePaul Society: (779) 800-6742

Little Christopher Resale Shoppe:

469 Lake St., Crystal Lake, IL 60014

(815) 459-9442

Tues., Wed., Sat. - 10:00 am - 1:00 pm,

Th. 12:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Donations accepted: During Store Hours

Marian Central High School: (815)-338-4220

www.marian.com

Connect with us:

www.stthomasflocknote.com

www.facebook.com/saintthomascl

www.stthomascl.church

www.stthomascl.org

www.instagram.com/st.thomascl

Cover photo courtesy of CameraLady.com

Pastor: Rev. Robert Jones

Parochial Vicars:

Rev. Charles Fitzpatrick

Rev. James Linkenheld

Rev. William Tunarosa

Permanent Deacons:

Mr. Allen Bondi

Mr. Neal Carpenter

Mr. Jose Aguilar

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Sandi DePaul - Ext 405

sdepaul@stthomascl.church

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dkothera@stthomascl.church

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jsernett@stthomascl.church

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phaviland@stthomascl.church

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Janis Kolberg - Ext 406

receptiondesk@stthomascl.church

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Reverend William Tunarosa, Parochial Vicar

Irene Garcia, Hispanic Ministry Secretary

igarcia@stthomascl.church

Jose Guimaray– Hispanic Ministry Faith Formation Dir.

jguimaray@stthomascl.church

St. Thomas School/Little Saints Preschool: (815) 459-0496

Gina Houston, Principal

ghouston@stthomascl.org

Michelle Boppart, Office Manager

mboppart@stthomascl.org

www.stthomascl.org

From the Pastor's Desk...



Welcome to the Season of Advent and the beginning of a new Liturgical Year. Advent is meant to be a time of joyful anticipation as we prepare our hearts for the Christmas season. In the weeks leading up to Christ's birth, Christians around the world pray, repent, and reflect on God's goodness and promises. Even in the most challenging of times, we are reminded of God's steadfast love for all creation.

As we light the candles of the Advent wreath each Sunday, we are called to let the themes of the season enter our hearts and souls. Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love are the gifts we are called to embrace in the coming weeks.

Many women gathered for an Advent Evening of Candlelight on Friday night, December 1, to reflect on the Hope this season of Advent promises to offer us. This weekend, we invite you to a festive evening of Chocolate, Wine and Jazz on Saturday, December 2, at 6 pm in the Community Room. This Sunday, December 3, at 7 pm, we welcome Mr. Mike Pacer, an inspirational speaker who will help us enter into the true meaning of this beautiful season we call Advent.

The season of Advent is a Penitential season and taking advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a great way to personally allow this season's message of Peace enter our hearts. There will be many opportunities to receive this sacrament this season, especially in the week leading up to Christmas, which will include a Communal Penance Service on Tuesday, December 19, along with many individual times throughout that week.

Joy is the focus for the third week of Advent when the rose candle is lit. Although this is meant to be a joyful season, we do recognize that a great many people have greater struggles this time of year. Our Ministry of Hope is offering a Longest Night Prayer Service on Thursday, December 21, at 7 pm, to offer some hope, peace, joy, and love to all, as we strive to be faithful amidst life's many challenges.

The fourth Sunday of Advent pushes right up to Christmas Eve, which will both be on the same day this year. So hopefully we will see many of you twice in what promises to be a very full weekend of worship. Let's pray it is also a weekend where the Love of Christ touches our parish and all our families in a very special way.

The season of Advent often tends to be very busy and goes by rather quickly. My prayer for all of us is that we can take some time to slow down and embrace the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love that our Lord offers us in this special time of year.

Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love,

Fr. Bob Jones

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 4th

6:30 am † Raymond Pozdol
12:10 pm † Paula Zajac

Tuesday, December 5th

6:30 am † Margaret Huber
8:30 am Golden Family (Living & Deceased)
12:10 pm † Roland Gigon

Wednesday, December 6th

6:30 am † Mary Cericola
12:10 pm Those on St. Jude's Prayer List
(Special Intention)

Thursday, December 7th

6:30 am † Paul Cribb
8:30 am Helen Zaleski (Special Intention)
12:10 pm † Don Pogliano
7:00 pm † Bill and Nina Blake

Friday, December 8th

6:30 am † Nancy Cichero
8:30 am The People of St. Thomas Parish
(Living & Deceased)
12:10 pm † Gene Baseggio
4:30 pm † Bernard Puccinelli
6:00 pm † Peter Kahles

Saturday, December 9th

7:30 am † John Tietjen
4:30 pm † Frank & Jean Rydzinski

Sunday, December 10th

7:30 am † John and Rosemarie Baldo
9:00 am † Erv LeCoque
10:30 am † Thomas Lehner
12:00 pm The People of St Thomas Parish,
Living & Deceased
5:30 pm † Kevin McTague



Please visit or call the Parish Center to schedule a Mass Intention.

Parish Calendar

Sunday, December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent- Giving Tree

8:30 am Blood Pressure Screening (Library)
9:00 am RCIA "Rite of Acceptance" at Mass
10:00 am RCIA Class (Lower Oak)
10:30 am Family Mass (Community Room)
7:00 pm Mike Pacer's Advent Pres. (Oak St. Church)

Monday, December 4, 2023*

10:30 am MMP Rosary Group
5:00 pm Confessions (Oak St. Church)
7:00 pm SPRED Catechist Mtg (Parish Center)

Tuesday, December 5, 2023*^

7:00 pm Ministry of Hope Team (Comm. Room)
7:30 pm Knights of Columbus Mtg (Lower Oak)

Wednesday, December 6, 2023*

9:30 am Bible Timeline (Lower Oak)
4:30 pm Religious Ed Classes (Pierson St. Church)
7:00 pm Bible Timeline (Lower Oak)

Thursday, December 7, 2023*^

5:00 pm Big Brothers/Big Sisters (Comm. Room)
7:00 pm Vigil Holy Day Mass (Oak St. Church)

Friday, December 8, 2023 - Parish Center Closed

Holy Day of Obligation – Immaculate Conception

Masses at Oak: 6:30 am, 8:30 am, 12:10 pm, 4:30 pm,
and 6:00 pm
10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (Lower Oak)

Saturday, December 9, 2023

5:00 am Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass
(Oak St. Church)
7:30 am Mass (Oak St. Church)
8:00 am Confessions (Oak St. Church)
8:15 am Men's Group (Lower Oak)
9:00 am SPRED Group (Parish Center)
3:00 pm Confessions (Oak St. Church)

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent – Giving Tree

8:30 am Coffee & Donuts (Community Room)
10:00 am RCIA Class (Lower Oak)
1:30 pm 7th Grade R. E. (Community Room)
7:00 pm Confirmation Year 1 & 2 (Comm. Room)

*6:30 am and 12:10 pm daily Mass at Oak Street

^8:30 am Mass at Oak Street

Adoration Candle Intentions

Nov. 26 - Dec. 9

Wolf Family

Slowey Family

† Stanley Tanan

† William Tefft



Please pray for the Deceased

Donald W. Pogliano

Kenneth Artner

Virginia Hoover

Robert Schmidt

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Friday, December 8, 2022

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Masses at the Oak Street Church on
Thursday, December 7, at 7:00 pm

Friday, December 8, at
6:30 am, 8:30 am, 12:10 pm,
4:30 pm, and 6:00 pm.

The Parish Center will be closed on the 8th.

Celebrant Weekday Masses

12/4	6:30 am	Fr. Jones
	12:10 pm	Fr. Linkenheld
12/5	6:30 am	Fr. Jones
	8:30 am	Fr. Fitzpatrick
	12:10 pm	Fr. Fitzpatrick
12/6	6:30 am	Fr. Linkenheld
	12:10 pm	Fr. Jones
12/7	6:30 am	Fr. Fitzpatrick
	8:30 am	Fr. Linkenheld
	12:10 pm	Fr. Tunarosa
	7:00 pm - Vigil	Fr. Linkenheld
12/8 Holy Day	6:30 am	Fr. Fitzpatrick
	8:30 am	Fr. Jones
	12:10 pm	Fr. Linkenheld
	4:30 pm	Fr. Jones
	6:00 pm	Fr. Fitzpatrick
12/9	7:30 am	Fr. Fitzpatrick

Celebrant Weekend Masses

12/9	4:30 pm	Fr. Linkenheld
12/10	7:30 am	Fr. Fitzpatrick
	9:00 am	Fr. Linkenheld
	10:30 am	Fr. Jones
	12:00 pm	Fr. Jones
	5:30 pm	Fr. Fitzpatrick

WEEKEND MASS MINISTERS - 12/9 & 12/10

	Lector	EM	Altar Server
4:30 pm	Lou Bianchi	Gloria Marmol, Monica Caldicott	
7:30 am	John Streit	Eleanore Wojewoda, Emily Pachla, Nancy Tomaso, Gina Houston	Michael Davis, TJ Pachla
9:00 am	Laura Buthod	Lis Tevyaw, Brad Frey, Cathy Mueller, Tom Mueller	Jack Hermann, Brady Hermann, Michael Robson
10:30 am	Lily Langos	Dawn Ahsmann, Vicki Roberts, Valerie Cuchna, Matt Turk	George Cuchna, Cade Justen, Mitchell Schwartz
12:00 pm	Judy Wiedenfeld	Deb Sosnowski	
5:30 pm	Joanna Majewska	Annette O'Connell	Jake Polston, Luke Polston, Daniel Polston

Weekly Collection - November 19	
Sunday Envelopes	\$19,749.00
Online Giving	\$13,186.00
Sunday Offering	\$2,060.00
Total Collection	\$34,995.00
Weekly Tithe	Hope for Haitians

Weekly Collection - November 26	
Sunday Envelopes	\$13,668.62
Online Giving	\$13,215.65
Sunday Offering	\$2,108.00
Total Collection	\$28,992.27
Weekly Tithe	Catholic Relief Services

The Little Way Catholic Book Store

Did you know Crystal Lake has a Catholic Bookstore? The Little Way Catholic Book Store, located at 50 Brink St, Crystal Lake (815-455-4877), will be selling Advent and Christmas items after all the Masses on Saturday, December 2, and Sunday, December 3, in the Narthex of our Oak Street Church. Here's your chance to do early Advent and Christmas shopping.

Readings for the week of December 3, 2023

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

You are invited to attend The Diocese of Rockford



Wednesday, December 6 | 6 p.m. | St. Mary, Huntley

Please join us as we anticipate the Birth of Christ.

Event sponsored by the Diocese of Rockford Office of Divine Worship and the Diocese of Rockford Office of Charitable Giving. More information available at rockforddiocese.org.

Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve

This year the Fourth Sunday of Advent Falls on Sunday, December 24th which is also Christmas Eve - **so when do we go to church?**

To fulfill the Sunday obligation for Mass you need to attend either Saturday, the 23rd 4:30 Mass or one of Sunday, the 24th morning Masses - 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am or Noon.

To fulfill the Christmas Mass (Holy Day) obligation you can attend any of the Masses on Sunday afternoon/evening - 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 7:30 pm or Midnight Mass. Or one of the Masses on Monday, December 25th - 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am or Noon.

Rite of Welcoming – R.C.I.A. Candidates

Today, Sunday, December 3, at the 9:00 am Mass, we celebrate the Rite of Welcoming with the Candidates in our R.C.I.A. program. This Rite will be an opportunity for the Candidates to publicly declare for the first time their intention to continue their journey toward full initiation into the Catholic Church at Easter. Please join St. Thomas the Apostle Community in welcoming and congratulating them. The Candidates and their Sponsors will be attending the 9:00 am Mass each Sunday.

Additional Advent Weekday Masses

Advent is the Season as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Christ. The first Sunday of Advent is December 3rd.

In addition to our daily 6:30 am and 12:10 pm Masses during the week (Monday through Friday), **we will be having an additional Mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 am at our Oak St. Church (December 5 through December 21).** We encourage you to attend Mass during this Season of Advent.

We will be needing sacristans and lectors for the eight additional Masses during Advent.

Giving Tree

Please stop by our Giving tree and pick up ornaments to help those in need this Christmas season.

While most of the ornaments on the Giving Tree will be for gift cards, we will have ornaments for actual gifts to purchase. The two organizations will be Crystal Pines and Fair Oaks. Only the gifts for Crystal Pines should be **wrapped** and placed on the tables set up near the tree.

The remaining organizations will be requesting gift cards. **All gift cards should be for \$25.** Checks to these organizations can be for any amount. **Please attach your color-coded ornament to your gift card** or check or place the ornament in an envelope with the gift card. All gift cards and checks should be placed in the drop box attached to the wall marked "Giving Tree" in the Narthex.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR GIFTS NO LATER THAN NOON ON DECEMBER 10TH to insure delivery by our volunteers. If you have any questions, please call Jill Kratochvil, Giving Tree Coordinator at 815-459-7068.



Operation Support our Troops America

K of C Christmas Drive 2023 to Help Our Military Overseas

**Items will be collected from
Nov 25th through 12:00 noon on Dec 10th**

Collection table is in St. Thomas the Apostle Church (Oak St. Church) near the North disability entrance Door # 1. Below is a list of items most needed by our overseas military: (Donated items will be included in Comfort and Care Packages and sent to our troops overseas)

Eye Drops / Saline Solution
Nasal Spray
Anti-Itch Cream
Mouthwash (17oz or smaller)
Dental Floss
Pain Relief Medication (100 ct., or less)
Foot Powder
Cough Drops / Vitamin C Drops
Antacids
Canned Fruit (16 oz. or less, no glass)
Sunscreen 30 SPF or higher (16 oz or less, non-aerosol only)
Men's 3 in 1 (shampoo, body wash, conditioner)
Individual Tissue Packs
Small Toothpaste
Shaving cream/gel (non-aerosol only)
AA Batteries
Granola Bars
Toilet Paper
White or Black Athletic Socks
Individual Hot Drinks: Individually wrapped tea bags, Coffee singles (no K-cups)
Peanut Butter (28 oz or less, no glass)
Rice Krispy Treats (Individually wrapped)
Individual Macaroni & Cheese cup (2.05 oz)
Crackers / Cookies (Snack Bag Size)
Individual packets of: jelly, hot sauce, mayo, mustard, salt, pepper, sugar, sweetener.
Pouched Chicken or Tuna (3 oz or less)
Individual Cold Drink Mix Single Packets (mix only, no bottles)
Canned soup or Chili - Ready to Eat (16 oz or less, No glass)
Pop-Tarts
Beef Jerky / Slim Jim

Please do not donate glass items, larger sizes than listed or expired items.

Please also write a letter.

Dear Military Person,

Every Comfort and Care Package includes at least one letter...

Please use the greeting of "Dear Military Person" and do not seal the letters...

If you wish, include your name and address so the individual may write back...

Any questions please call Rick Oliveira at 317-908-7404
Knights of Columbus, Council 3880

Ministerio Hispano

Dirección: 272 King St. Crystal Lake, IL. 60014

Teléfono: 815-455-5400

Línea Directa: 815-356-0860 Fax: 815-455-2733

Horario de Misas

Martes 6:00 am Miércoles 6:00 am

Jueves 7:30 pm Viernes 7:30 pm

Sábado 5:00 pm y 7:00 pm

Domingo 9:30 am y 11:30 am

La Adoración al Santísimo es en la Capilla de Adoración ubicada en la esquina de la calle Oak/Ruta 176.

De Lunes 6:15 am a Viernes 9:00 pm

Sábado: 7:15 am a 5:45 pm

Domingo: 7:15 am a 6:45 pm

“Ven y Adora, Él espera por ti”

El Adviento es la espera alegre y activa de la preparación a la Navidad; donde celebramos el nacimiento del Salvador. Nos preparamos para recibir al Señor en gozo y acción. El Señor que viene nos invita a salir a abrir la puerta para ver más allá de nuestra propia realidad. “Cada cristiano y cada comunidad discernirá cuál es el camino que Dios le pide, pero todos somos invitados a aceptar este llamado: salir de la propia comodidad y atreverse a llegar a todas las periferias que necesitan la luz del Evangelio. La alegría del Evangelio que llena la vida de la comunidad de discípulos es la alegría misionera” (Papa Francisco). Estas palabras del Papa Francisco no están pasadas de moda, son activas para todos nosotros especialmente en este primer Domingo de Adviento.

En medio de todo lo que vivimos en la sociedad en este tiempo, la invitación continua a seguir acogiendo y consolando, en lo que se puede, al inmigrante y al que sufre toda clase de violencia. Crear nuevas posibilidades para despertar alegría en los corazones dormidos. El Evangelio nos advierte: “Estén preparados y vigilando, porque no saben cuándo llegará ese momento...estén despiertos” (Marcos

Horario para confesiones:

Viernes de 6:00-7:00pm

Sábados después de misa de 7pm

O hacer una cita en la oficina parroquial.

Coordinador: Reverendo William Tunarosa

Atención al Público: Martes a Jueves de 9:00am a 4:00pm

Llamar a la Oficina Parroquial para hacer su cita: (815-356-0860)

Oficina del Ministerio Hispano, Atención al Público:

Irene Garcia: Lunes a Viernes 9:00am a 5:00pm

Colecta Semanal - 11/19 & 11/26	
Pierson St.	\$3,651.00 /
Pierson Online	\$170.00 /

13,33-37). Hay que abrir bien los ojos para descubrir dónde está el Señor, porque no es fácil verlo. ¿Cuáles actitudes debemos poner en práctica en este Adviento? La confianza, la vigilancia, la hospitalidad y la esperanza. ¿Y tú, cuál otra actitud agregarías?

©LPi



Celebración de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Iglesia de la Oak St. y 176	
Sabado, 9 de Diciembre del 2023	
Horario	Evento
2:00-2:45 am	Rosario
2:45-3:20 am	Representación de las Apariciones
3:20-3:50 am	Danza a la Virgen
3:50 -4:50am	Mañanitas a la Virgen (Mariachis)
4:50 -5:00am	Procesión al Templo
5:00-6:00 am	Misa en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.
6:00-6:30 am	Desayuno
6:30-7:30 am	Limpieza del Community Room



Knights of Columbus #3880

Christmas Tree Sale

Fresh Cut Balsam and Canaan
Fir Trees from 6 to 10 feet.

18", 24", 36" & 48" Wreaths
& Swags

Sales start the Friday, 11/24,
after Thanksgiving at 9:00 am.

Hours: Monday—Friday 5 pm - 9 pm,
Saturday 9 am - 8 pm, Sunday 9 am - 7 pm

All profits are donated to local charities.

Any questions contact Mike Kebr at
mkebr@comcast.net

Knights of Columbus Annual

"Breakfast with Santa!"

It is that time of the year again, and the *Jolly Old Elf* will be making his annual appearance at the **Fr. McCormick Council Knights of Columbus** monthly breakfast on **December 17th** in the Parish Community Center. All are invited to stop in with the little ones and watch their eyes light up with glee as they tell Santa what they want and how so very, very good they have been all year!

Children between newborn and ninety-five will get a special treat from Santa's elves!

We will be serving our spectacular full menu of something for everyone... eggs, pancakes, sausage, ham, bacon, waffles, steak & eggs, mouth-watering omelets, and a few specials!

Stop in before or after Mass! But even if you cannot come in to eat, let the children visit Santa.

Your continued support of Fr. McCormick Council is appreciated, and we wish all the best of this most Holy holiday season to you and your family. God Bless!

*St. Thomas The Apostle Church
and School are Happy To Announce:*

FAMILY MASS IS BACK!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023
10:30AM

COMMUNITY CENTER, OAK STREET CHURCH
451 W. TERRA COTTA AVENUE
CRYSTAL LAKE, IL 60014

ALL ARE WELCOME. PLEASE JOIN US!

IF YOUR CHILD OR FAMILY IS INTERESTED IN
PARTICIPATING AS A GREETER, USHER OR LECTOR,
PLEASE CONTACT
SHELBY YOUNGE, SHELBY@THEYOUNGES.COM
(773)426-2195

**St. Thomas the Apostle
Presents**

Experience an awesome

Advent

with Mike Pacer

on December 3 at 7:00 pm

**A Peaceful and Joy-Filled
Christmas**

Embrace the Season of Advent differently, avoiding all the over the top Christmas hype. Receive the joy it provides by drawing us into a deeper relationship with Christ, a better understanding of ourselves and our journey.

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St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church
451 W Terra Cotta Ave, Crystal Lake, IL

MIKE PACER

*The Three
Comings
of Christ*

DAILY MEDITATIONS
FOR ADVENT

Youth Ministry

Wed., Dec. 6 No HS Youth Ministry

Thurs., Dec 7 Big Brother Big Sister Christmas Party (BBBS) / 5 – 9PM / Grades 6-12 / Sign up to help (limited numbers)

Sun., Dec. 10 Confirmation I & II / 7 pm / Community Room

Wed., Dec. 13 HS Youth Ministry / White Elephant Party / 7 – 8:30 / Grades 7 – 9 / Community Room

Thurs., Dec., 14 Jr. High Youth Ministry / White Elephant Party / 7-8:30 pm / Grades 6 – 8 / Comm. Room

NO YM December 20th - January 4th

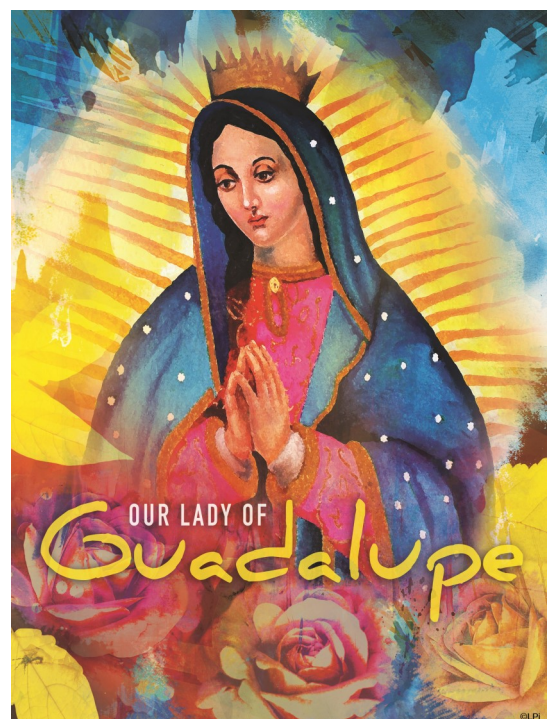
Our Lady of Guadalupe

You may be familiar with Our Lady of Guadalupe from devotions in Hispanic communities. On December 9, 1531, Our Lady appeared to a simple Aztec Indian who had converted to the Catholic faith, Juan Diego. Three days later, at Juan Diego's request, Mary provided a sign so the local bishop would believe that she actually had appeared. Roses grew out of the cold winter soil, and when Juan Diego opened his cloak to show the bishop what he had found, an image of Our Lady appeared on the fabric. These occurrences led to the conversion of most of Mexico and remain today a strong sign of Our Lady's concern and love for us.

There is a rich heritage originating in Mexico, the site of the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe. But Mary is for all of us! Our Lady of Guadalupe is, in fact, named the patroness of all the Americas, from the Chilean Patagonian mountains to the Arctic islands of Canada. After Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego as a young, mestizo woman, conversions to Catholicism began to grow exponentially throughout Latin America. Our Lady of Guadalupe has been meaningful to the Mexican people, and her image and devotions have been incorporated as broader symbols of culture.

This apparition inspires across lines of nationality and culture. Juan Diego, recipient of the apparition, was a poor laborer. The famous image of Our Lady of

Guadalupe did not appear on silk or stone, but on the simple, natural woven fibers of Juan Diego's tunic. The apparition affirms the dignity of the poor and shows striking solidarity. Mary appeared as the people appeared. In the apparition, Mary is indeed radiant, with the sun behind her and a cloak of stars around her. But her dress is simple, and she is pregnant. This apparition also reminds us of the sanctity of life and the need for life's protection at all stages. Mary's moving words to Juan Diego are words for us all: *"Am I not here who am your mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Are you not in the folds of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms?"*



LONGEST NIGHT

Prayer Service

This wonderful time of year can also be a stressful time for many. We welcome you to a night of prayer, peace, faith, joy, hope and love. Fellowship time included.

December 21 | 6:30-8PM

St. Thomas the Apostle Church
451 W. Terra Cotta Ave.
Crystal Lake, IL

Hosted by:
St. Thomas the Apostle

Ministry of Hope



DIOCESE of ROCKFORD

Catholic Charities



Employment Opportunity for the 2023-2024 School Year

Extended Time Care Supervisor/Manager

St. Thomas School offers after school care from dismissal at 2:00 until 5:00 pm.

Students begin extended care with large motor activity recess; go to cafeteria for snack and then return to the ET Classroom for quiet games, G-rated movies, homework time, or quiet reading as they wait for their pickup.

This is an hourly paid position. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Houston, STS Principal. ghouston@stthomascl.org



Employment Opportunity for the 2023-2024 School Year

Preschool Classroom Assistant

Little Saints Preschool of St. Thomas the Apostle School is in need of a classroom assistant for our 4-year-old classroom.

This is an hourly paid position. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Houston, STS Principal. ghouston@stthomascl.org





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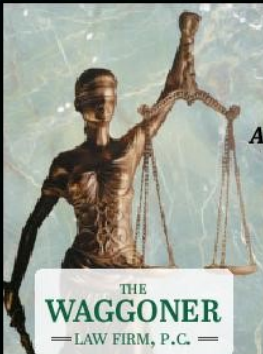
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