



Third Sunday of
Advent

December 16, 2018

I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I is coming.
I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.
Luke 3:16

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ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA
A CATHOLIC PARISH FAMILY - PALATINE, IL

Parish Information

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:15am
1:30pm (*Polish*)

Weekday 6:30am (*Communion Service*)
8:00am (*Including Saturday*)

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 8:30am—9:30am

NEW PARISHIONERS: All are welcome!
Stop by the Parish Office to register and learn more about our Parish.

BAPTISM: Parents are required to attend a Baptism Preparation class preferably before the baby is born to avoid babysitting concerns. Baptisms are celebrated on most Sundays following the 11:15am Mass. Call the Parish Office for more information. *Upcoming Baptism Prep Classes: Jan 10, Jan 21 & Feb 11*

MARRIAGE: Arrangements for the celebration of marriage should be made at least six (6) months prior to your planned wedding date. Call Deacon Tom Dunne for more information.

BECOMING A CATHOLIC: Our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Process is for adults who were never baptized in any faith, who were baptized in another Christian faith but wish to become Catholic or who were baptized Catholics but never received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. Contact the Parish Office for more info. Brochures available in the Gathering Area kiosk.

COMMUNION FOR HOMEBOUND: Ministers of Care are available to bring Communion to the homebound. Contact Deacon Tom Dunne for information.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Call the Parish Office to add your name to the sick list. Due to patient privacy (HIPAA Law,) only the ailing person, or in case of their incapacitation, the person delegated for the medical care, can add their name to the sick list.

PRAYERS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL: Call the Parish Office to add a name of someone serving in the military, so our faith community can pray for their safety and service.

PARISH OFFICE

1201 E Anderson Drive, Palatine, IL 60074
Phone: 847-358-6999; Fax: 847-934-4919; www.stov.org
Parish Office Hours: Mon thru Thur 9am—8pm, Fri 9am—5pm, Sat 9am—Noon

Rev. Tom Rzepiela, <i>Pastor</i>	fathertom@stov.org
Rev. Marcin Zasada, <i>Associate Pastor</i>	fathermarcin@stov.org
Rev. Martin Luboyera, <i>Weekend Assoc.</i>	henriex1@yahoo.com
Deacon John Breit, <i>Business Manager</i>	jbreit@stov.org
Ron Schaefer, <i>Project Manager</i>	rschaefer@stov.org
Deacon Tom Dunne, <i>Minister of Care</i>	deacontomdunne@yahoo.com
Jeff Walczynski, <i>High School Youth Dir.</i>	jeff@stvoices.org
Jeanne Slatkay, <i>Interim Music Director</i>	jslatkay@hotmail.com
Connie West, <i>Bereavement Director</i>	cwest@stov.org
Suzie Walczynski, <i>Bulletin Editor/Admin</i>	suzie@stov.org
Sheila O'Shea, <i>Admin. Assistant</i>	soshea@stov.org
Joseph Spano, <i>Admin. Assistant</i>	stvliturgysched@yahoo.com

STV SCHOOL

1141 E Anderson Drive, Palatine, IL 60074
Phone: 847-358-2110; FAX: 847-776-1435; www.stvschool.org

Mary Brinkman, <i>Principal</i>	stvprincipal@stvschool.org
Stephanie Hardy, <i>Assistant Principal</i>	seventh@stvschool.org
Darcy Moder, <i>Admin. Assistant</i>	stvoffice@stvschool.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1141 E Anderson Drive, Palatine, IL 60074
Phone: 847-358-2386; www.stvrec.org

Owen Walsh, <i>Religious Ed Director</i>	owalsh@stov.org
Lisa Lechowicz, <i>Religious Ed Admin Asst.</i>	stvrec@yahoo.com

Priests

Rev. Tom Rzepiela, *Pastor*
Rev. Marcin Zasada, *Assoc. Pastor*
Rev. Martin Luboyera, *Weekend Assoc.*
Rev. John Clemens, *Weekend Assoc.*
Rev. Ray Yadron, *Pastor Emeritus*

Permanent Deacons

Deacon John Breit
Deacon Mark Duffey
Deacon Tom Dunne
Deacon Bill Karstenson
Deacon Len Marturano
Deacon Rich Willer

Pastoral Council

Jane St. Pierre Murguia, *Chairperson*
Deacon John Breit
Lexine Cramm
Barb Howell
Ann Johnson
Norbert Krogstad
Steve Lundell
Pam Maloney
Rev. Tom Rzepiela
Gay Sladky
Connie West
Rev. Marcin Zasada

Renew My Church email: RenewMyChurch@stov.org

Bulletin deadlines Articles for the bulletin are due on Fridays—9 days before publication date.



Second Family

Dear Parish Family of St. Thomas,

Are you ready for Christmas? Are all the preparations done for that special day of Christmas morning? Are you ready for Christmas— personally and spiritually? Today is the Third Sunday of Advent! It is that "spiritual reminder" that Christmas will soon be here! The Third Sunday is also called "Gaudete Sunday" from the Latin meaning "Rejoice." Are you ready to celebrate the Feast of Christmas? A reminder for all of us is that part of our readiness for Christmas is to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation! So come to Church this Monday to receive God's forgiving love in Confession! It is one of the best ways to spiritually prepare for Christmas.

As part of preparing for Christmas, you must spend more time in prayer during this Advent as we await the coming of Christ. Why not unite in prayer with Pope Francis? His December intention is "Evangelization in the Service of the Transmission of Faith" - That people who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, that their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

Thank you to all our Parishioners who stopped by at St. Joseph's Home Christmas Tree Open House Party last Sunday. The Little Sisters were so happy to see and host you. And the residents were so proud and joy-filled to show off their home! Thanks for brightening their day.

Santa is currently bringing our Parish Family a very special Christmas gift. I am happy to announce the hiring of a Music Director. Jeanne Slatkay will officially become our Music Director in the New Year. She interviewed recently and came highly recommended by our Music Search Committee. Jeanne has a wealth of experience as a Music Teacher and as a Choir Director. She and her family have been Parishioners since 1995. And she, along with others in our Music Ministry, have stepped up and have provided a seamless transition in our Liturgical Music Ministry.

On a different note, I would just like to inform you that "Ditka's" Restaurant in Arlington Heights is closing this month. So if you won gift cards and/or still have the money-off coupons from our Parish Golf Outing, I would suggest that you visit "Ditka's" before December 22 and redeem them. See you there!

Your Pastor,

Father Tom

Rev. Thomas R. Rzepiela



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<i>Dec. 16th</i> Look up the meaning of the pink candle that is lit today.	<i>Dec. 17th</i> Go to Confession at 7pm.	<i>Dec. 18th</i> Write a card to Jesus today.	<i>Dec. 19th</i> Say a prayer for a relative or friend.	<i>Dec. 20th</i> Give away some of your old things you no longer use.	<i>Dec. 21st</i> Give up some time today to ask someone about themselves and just listen.	<i>Dec. 22nd</i> Make sure to wish someone a Merry Christmas.

Parish Events

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 16

9:15am	Religious Ed. Classes	School
9:40am	Children's Liturgy of the Word	MRD
10:30am	RCIA Class	MRA
11:00am	TLC Meeting	MRB
2:30pm	Confessions—POLISH	
7:00pm	Adult Polish Volleyball	RAC

Monday, December 17

12:30pm	Pinochle Card Group	MRD
2:30pm	STV School Athletics	RAC
4:00pm	Religious Ed. Classes	School
7:00pm	Confessions	Church

Tuesday, December 18

9:00pm	Men's Basketball	RAC
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Wednesday, December 19

4:00pm	VOICES Drop-In	TR, RAC
7:00pm	STV School Christmas Program	Church
8:00pm	A.A. (Closed Meeting)	MR4

Thursday, December 20

4:00pm	STV School Athletics	RAC
7:00pm	Adult Choir Practice	Church

Friday, December 21

NO ACTIVITIES

Saturday, December 22 OFFICE CLOSED

9:00am	Morning Bible Study	MRC
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Sunday, December 23

9:40am	Children's Liturgy of the Word	MRD
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EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

- JAN. 6 Bulletin: Articles due Dec. 18

CALENDARS AVAILABLE

2019-20 calendars are available at all Church exits, compliments of Smith—Corcoran Funeral Home.

TODAY

- OPLATKI SALES** After all Masses (Page 5)
- TLC (THE LINKED COT) MEETING** 11am in Meeting Room B

UPCOMING

- GOLDEN VILLANOVANS** Wednesday, December 26 at 1pm. Group luncheon at Emmett's Ale House—110 Brockway, Palatine. RSVP or to cancel, call Kathy 847-358-7122
- LADIES PINOCHLE** Monday, December 17 at 1pm in Meeting Room D. Bring \$1 and a willingness to learn or just play for fun. We play on the last Monday of the month and you don't need to commit to every month. Bring your own beverage. Snacks will be provided. More info: Carol at 847-476-6464.
- CAROL-O-GRAMS DUE** Wednesday, December 19 (Page 5)
- HOLY YOGA** Saturday, December 29 (Page 10)
- JANUARY 2019—SAVE THE DATES!**
 - ⇒ **Chicago March For Life Sunday, January 13;** 12pm—5pm
 - ⇒ **Annulment Workshop Tuesday, January 15;** 7pm at St. James Parish in Arlington Heights
 - ⇒ **Couples Bags Tournament Saturday, January 26;** After the 5:00pm Mass in the Rowley Activity Center for all engaged and married couples

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Our Christmas & New Year Parish Office Hours:

Fri 12/21: 9am—5pm

Sat 12/22: Closed

Mon 12/24: Closed

Tue 12/25: Closed

Wed 12/26: Closed

Thu 12/27: 9am—5pm

Fri 12/28: 9am—5pm

Sat 12/29: 9am—Noon

Mon 12/31: Closed

Tue 1/1/2019: Closed



PILGRIMAGE WITH FR. PRESTA

There will be an information meeting regarding Fr. Presta's 2019 Pilgrimage to Spain and Portugal on Saturday, January 19, 2019 at 1pm. It will be held at St. Emily Parish, 1400 East Central Road, Mt. Prospect in their Parish Center, Hajdu Hall. If you park in the west parking lot, you will have direct access to Hajdu Hall. A representative from Trans World Travel, Inc. in Highland Park will be available to answer any questions you have about the trip.

PARKING

Over the past several weekends during Masses, cars have parked illegally in our parking lot and on the streets surrounding our Church. We had complaints from our neighbors that our Parishioners' cars have been blocking their driveways. This past weekend, we had cars parked in handicap spaces with no visible evidence of a handicap sticker; parked in No Parking spaces and parked in areas that were not designated for parking, including parking on the streets outside of the white lined parking spaces. The police were here and while no tickets were issued, they spoke to each of the illegal parkers. The next time, they will give tickets. Please be respectful of the parking spaces and observe the No Parking signs. We need to be "Good Neighbors".



PADS NEEDS DONATIONS

Pods is in need for **winter boots and long underwear** as the weather continues to be cold, cold, cold. Bring your new items to the bins in the gathering area and we will deliver them to the PADS center at Christ Lutheran. Thanks for your generosity and God Bless. *(Note: Gently used boots are acceptable.)*



CAROL-O-GRAMS

Sung by VOICES High School Youth Group
Friday, December 21st, 6—9pm

Palatine/Arlington Hts area ONLY! \$7.00 per order

Carol-O-Grams are just like singing telegrams! Our VOICES Youth Group will personally carol to your friends, families, loved ones or any special someone who needs some Holiday Cheer. Proceeds will go towards expenses incurred from our weekend retreats. We will make every effort to deliver your Carol-O-Gram that night, going back as many times as we can throughout the night. Questions? Please call Jeff 847-358-6999 or email jeff@stvoices.org

Forms due to the **Parish Office by Wed, December 19th.**

Please make checks payable to St. Thomas of Villanova / VOICES.



ADVENT PRAYER WREATH



Advent Wreaths are in the Gathering Area and the Narthex for you to share your Advent hopes and prayers with your faith community. Write your intention on the papers provided and then hang them on the wreath. At the end of the Advent season, your prayers will be placed in a gift box and placed in the Church crèche. From, *The Faith Formation Ministry*

OPLATKI



Oplatki (Christmas wafer) will be available today and next weekend after all Masses in the Gathering Area and Narthex—\$3.00 for each package which contains two wafers. It is a great family custom to break bread together, especially on Christmas Day.

CAROL-O-GRAM FORM
PLEASE PRINT

To: _____

Street Address: _____

PALATINE ARLINGTON HTS

Recipient's Phone Number: _____

Your Name: _____

Your Phone Number: _____



STV IS HIRING! IMMEDIATE OPENINGS

Part-Time Administrative Asst.

For the Religious Education Office

The RE Office is looking for a flexible, team-oriented assistant who has working knowledge of Microsoft Office.

Main Responsibilities Include:

- Maintaining the Religious Education Database
- Preparing weekly program materials
- Managing outgoing communications

15 Hours per week: Sunday (morning); Monday (afternoon); Wednesday (flexible)

Submit your resume to:

stvrec@Yahoo.com

Part-Time Administrative Asst.

For the Parish Office

We are looking for a person who has the following skills:

- Microsoft Office 365
- Great communication (verbal, written and phone)
- General office operations
- Office organization and scheduling

Main Responsibilities Include:

- Front Office Receptionist
- Administrative support for Parish staff
- Recording of contributions
- Managing Parish calendar

15 Hours per week: Monday thru Thursday (early evenings); Saturday (9:00am until noon)

Submit your resume/CV to:

Deacon John Breit: jbreit@stov.org

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MINISTRY

This year, as you hang the twinkling lights and decorate your mantel with holly, remember that not everyone has received the message that it's a season of peace. Unfortunately, the holidays can be an even more dangerous time than normal for those at risk for domestic violence.



From the financial stress of gift buying to an overall increase in alcohol consumption, to a flurry of emotions and other stresses that accompany a plethora of family togetherness time, there are many reasons why the chance of intimate partner violence can increase during the holidays.

What can you do? If you're currently with an abusive partner, reach out to a trained domestic violence advocate—Call the Illinois helpline at 877-863-6338. You don't need to figure out an escape plan—you can simply call to talk. Of course, if you are in immediate danger, call 911.

If you suspect someone in your life is the victim of an abusive partner, notice red flags, such as bruises, possessiveness, rigid gender roles, and deliberately humiliating one's partner in front of others. To support a victim, it is advised that you be non-judgmental but supportive. Don't badmouth the abuser. Sometimes when word gets back to the abuser that a friend or family member is asking questions about the abuse, they could be putting themselves in danger. You can also call the Illinois helpline at 877-863-6338 to get advice as to how to properly help the abused individual.

Source: www.domesticshelters.org

GREETER MINISTRY

The Lord needs people to greet everyone who walks into His house for weekend Mass. He wants His friends and family to feel welcomed. We are in **desperate** need for greeters especially at the Saturday 5pm and Sunday 7:30am Masses.

No experience necessary. Flexible scheduling. Great heavenly pay. No meetings to attend. Training is fast and can be done over the phone. Please, please volunteer! Just contact Jeanie or Jack Landeweer 847-842-0679.



CFM (Christian Family Movement) MINISTRY

CFM volunteered to serve dinner at the Catholic Charities in Des Plaines a couple weeks ago. It was a great experience for the kids and adults. Catholic Charities serves a free hot meal every Tuesday and Thursday night. It takes many volunteers to make this happen. Thanks to our CFM Ministry for helping with such a worthy cause.





MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MARCH 2, 2019!

Join us for a fine meal and Comedy Club entertainment, right in your backyard. Tickle your funny bone with comedy from WGN TV's own Mike Toomey. Be entertained with his quick-witted, spontaneous and high-energy show.

GRAND RAFFLE

FIRST PRIZE: 2019 CHEVY CRUZE OR \$10,000.00 CASH

Upgrade Available at Winner's Expense



Automobile Supplied by LIBERTYVILLE CHEVROLET

SECOND PRIZE: 1 WEEK VACATION

On the Beautiful Gulf in North Redington Beach, Florida

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

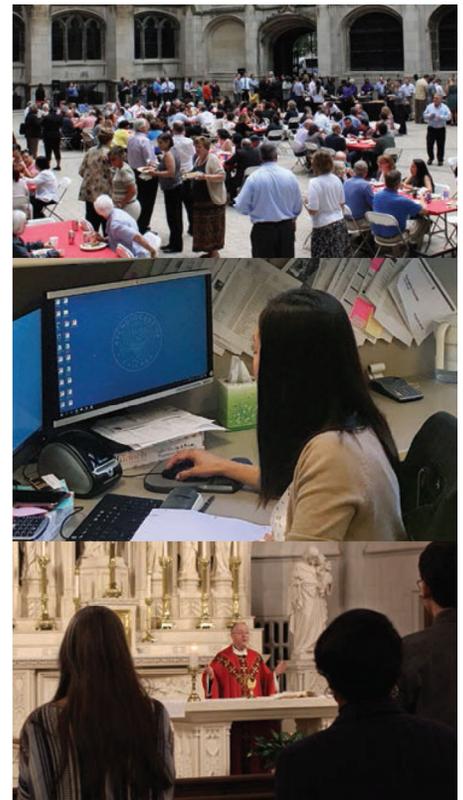


THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO IS HIRING

The Archdiocese offers employment opportunities across our organization. We provide a competitive salary and benefit package, including medical, dental, vision, paid vacation, sick days, personal days, holidays, 403(b) and more.

For the listing of current openings, please visit archchicago.org/careers, or follow us on [LinkedIn](#).

Be part of our mission. The Archdiocese of Chicago ("the Archdiocese"), the third largest Catholic Archdiocese in the United States, serves more than 2.2 million Catholics in 336 parishes in Cook and Lake Counties. The Archdiocese's 209 elementary and secondary schools comprise one of the largest U.S. private school systems and have garnered more U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Awards than any system of any type. The Archdiocese, pastored by Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, has more than 15,000 employees.



From the Principal's Desk

"Oh, what a night!"

Our second Annual Christmas Tree Lighting event was a HUGE success. Well over a hundred people attended this event. Everyone enjoyed hot chocolate, cookies, and a present for everyone who came, both young and old. Thanks so much to:

- Friends of St. Thomas of Villanova School, for donating "Thomas", our dwarf blue spruce tree.
- The teachers and staff for planning, shopping, and staffing the hot chocolate, treats, and gifts! Also, all those who attended, who had a fun and a great start to the Christmas festivities!
- And, of course, Santa, for taking time out of his busy schedule to come!

ADMINISTRATIVE ASST / SECRETARY POSITION OPEN

Mrs. Darcy Moder will be leaving St. Thomas for a new position after the holidays. While we are sad to see her leave, we wish her the best of luck in her new position, and thank her for the dedication and expertise she exhibited the last few years. We are grateful that Darcy will be at St. Thomas after the holidays to help train her replacement in the many duties for which the front office secretary is responsible. God bless you on your new path, Darcy!

If you know of any qualified administrative assistant who is looking for a position, please tell them about this immediate opening, and have them contact me.

God Bless,
Mary Brinkman



ILLINOIS TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

As we continue to grow the enrollment at our school a terrific opportunity has made itself available to us to help us provide a St. Thomas education to those who might otherwise not be able to afford it.

A group of generous donors have agreed to pool their resources and offer a 2-for-1 matching gift program to schools run by the Archdiocese of Chicago. **For every dollar designated to St. Thomas School through Empower Illinois between December 1, 2018 and February 28, 2019, St. Thomas will receive two dollars in matching funds for need-based scholarship for the 2019 – 2020 school year.** The donations are capped at \$100,000 per school. This equates to \$300,000 of scholarships.

Donors can receive a 75% Illinois state income tax credit for donating to needs based scholarships through the Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Program. Donors who would like to receive the tax credit for their 2018 taxes still have time also, but should begin the process prior to December 14, 2018 to ensure that they have enough time to make their gift by December 31, 2018.

This is a huge opportunity for kids and families. You can provide a St. Thomas school education to children from low-income families while also receiving a state tax credit for yourself. It's a Win – Win situation. Your tax credit is 75% of your donation made through the Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Program. Visit www.archchicago.org/tcs to learn more, or contact the school.

The Illinois Invest in Kids Act is different from regular charitable giving to FRIENDS of St. Thomas of Villanova School or to the parish. Please visit www.archchicago.org/tcs to learn why and to access a step-by-step guide to the program. **You must designate St. Thomas of Villanova School and donate through Empower Illinois** to benefit our school.

DOLLAR SHOPPING POWER (DSP)

Changes for Christmas & New Year's

ORDERING / PAYMENT: The last DSP submission before Christmas is TODAY. Only Prestopay orders allowed and must be submitted by 3:30pm today.

ORDER PICK UP: All orders will be ready on Wednesday, December 19.

- School families' orders will be sent home in family envelopes.
- Parishioners' orders will be available for pick up in the Parish Office after 12pm.

NO submission on: Sunday, December 23, Sunday, December 30

All orders placed after December 16 will be included in the next submission on January 6 and cards will be available on January 9.

- If paying by check, payment must be dropped off at the Parish Office by 5pm on Friday, January 4.
- If paying by Prestopay, you must submit your order by 3:30pm on Sunday, Jan. 6. Questions? Contact the DSP Coordinator at stvdspshopping@gmail.com.



2018 FISCAL YEAR SUNDAY SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Date	Weekend Collection	On-Line Giving	Weekly Total	Over / Under Budget: \$22,000
Dec 2	\$22,505.89	\$ 1,718.00	\$ 24,223.89	\$ 2,223.89
Dec 9	\$ 18,366.81	\$ 3,088.00	\$ 21,454.81	(\$ 545.19)
Dec 16				
Dec 23				
Dec 30				

YTD Totals	
YTD Budget	\$ 528,000.00
YTD Actual	\$ 522,012.78
Over / (Under)	(\$ 5,987.22)

THANK YOU!

the gift of *love*

THANK YOU

And... Everyone's "hearts grew three sizes that day!" Thanks to so many generous donors, St. Thomas of Villanova was able to help 45 local families celebrate Christmas with gifts for their entire family. A total of 245 people were gifted this year totaling well over \$12,250! And from your pink envelope donations, each family also received a \$25 gift card to help fill their Christmas table with food. Special thanks to our "elves" both young and experienced that volunteered during the drop-off / pick-up day.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS



There are two ways to donate to the Christmas Flower Fund.

1. Use your envelope in the November / December Sacrificial Giving Packet—write the name(s) for your tribute on the back of the envelope.
2. Log on to www.GiveCentral.org and clicking on "Christmas Flowers." - fill in the space labeled "Tribute Gift."

We will publish donor names and tributes in the December 30, 2018 bulletin. Donations must be received by: **Monday, December 17** to be published in the bulletin. *Questions? 847-358-6999 or suzie@stov.org*

PARISH CHRISTMAS GIFT



Along with your Sunday offering, our collections on Christmas, Easter and other Holy Days provide the income which pays our Parish Family's operational expenses. We definitely need and appreciate your sacrificial offerings in the Christmas envelope. To meet our goal of \$105,000, we suggest that each Parish household donate a gift of at least \$175.00. For some, this might be impossible. For others, a larger gift might be feasible. *To provide your Christmas donation electronically, use GiveCentral. THANK YOU! - Your Finance Committee*

HOMELESS HIGH SCHOOL HELP

thank you!

We put a small ad in the bulletin asking for donations to help Homeless High School Students in Palatine, and the response from our Parish Family was overwhelming! **\$1,650.00** was collected to help the High School students in Palatine. What a blessing for these students at Christmastime. May they feel God's love from the outpouring of our community. Thank you! Thank you!



HOLY YOGA

Saturday, December 29

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

12:00-1:30pm in the Rowley Activity Center (*Open to everyone, junior high school age and older*). Holy Yoga is the intentional practice of connecting our entire being, body, mind and spirit with God: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. With complete reliance on God's Word and prayer, Holy Yoga invites us to surrender and introduces us to Grace. For more info: Jola Oliver 847-275-7131 or Jolanta.oliver@gmail.com



STV SCRIPTURE STUDY Winter 2019 Offerings

Wisdom: God's Vision For Life

(An 8-week study) **Cost: \$23**

When: Friday mornings from 9:30-11:15am, beginning Jan. 11, 2019
AND

Tuesday evenings from 7-8:30pm, beginning Jan. 15, 2019

Ephesians:

Discover Your Inheritance

(An 8-week study) **Cost: \$22**

When: Saturday mornings from 8:45-10:30am, beginning Jan. 12, 2019

All are welcome and encouraged to join us! *Scholarships are available.*

To register: Contact Nancy Hulsebosch at 847-757-5630 or nhulsebosch@gmail.com

ON TEMPORAL-NESS, & THE 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

People who know me know I'm not good with time. As in, I tend to lose track of it. As in minutes become hours become days become weeks, etc. and they all blend together and compress. Some people might say that this is a sign of me becoming older, and these people might be right, but these people don't know that I've always been this way. Here's probably my best example... Many years ago when I was much younger man, a work colleague announced that she and her husband were going out of the country on vacation. To London, as I recall. Remembering that she had been there once before, I said, "Didn't you just go to London?" She answered quickly, with a look of concern on her face for me. "John, that was ___ years ago..." She recalled the actual number of years at the time, which I cannot now recall, but it was many, *many* years prior. I tell the story only to make the point: I'm not good temporally.

But today, I think I get it. Today, I think I *am* good temporally. And I say this because of something that hits me now as I consider today's readings. Let's start with Paul's letter to the Philippians: "Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Now compare this to John the Baptist's response to the tax collectors and the soldiers and the crowd in general



when they--upon hearing his answers to their questions--begin thinking that John may be the Christ: "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire..." Both Paul and John are pointing to Jesus, but they are pointing to him in totally different contexts. And nobody's talking Nativity.

John, of course, is pointing to Jesus in his public ministry, while Paul is pointing to Jesus in the Second Coming (which Paul underestimated by a couple thousand years now). Temporally, we're only nine days from Christmas, but temporally-*speaking*, the birth of Christ isn't all that important. Oh, it's crazy important in the salvation story, but only from the perspective of the Cross. I mean, I don't think what happened in Bethlehem millenniums ago meant much to people at the time who weren't intimately involved with the story. Nor does it now, although we set our calendar on this man's earthly presence. Precisely *when* Jesus was born is irrelevant. Precisely *that* he was born is everything. The big day will be here soon, and yes, we have many Christmas-related things to do. We know deep down, though, that it's all periphery. I may not be good temporally, but today I think I get it. And it's funny. I get it because of something Zephaniah wrote some 600 years before the manger: "The Lord, your God, is in your midst..." Then. Now. Always.

*Copyright 2018 by John B. Reynolds
(john@jrwrites.com)*

More From Emeritus Ray

Lately I have been feeling frustrated, angry at times, really tired of hearing in our wider Church and local Church about low Mass attendance, shortage of priests, the need to reach young adults, youth, Millennials, Generation X, Y and Z, Schools merging or closing, etc. I look around and observe more grey hairs or little hair like yours truly getting to Mass, practicing the Catholic faith.

I know and feel today that the Catholic Church is in a crisis mode, locally and universally. How do we reach God's people today in 2018? All His people. Young, old and in betweeners? I'll just address one issue and it's connected to the above issues mentioned earlier. It's the critical shortage of priests today here in many parts of our world and here in Pal-Meadow, etc.

The Mass, the Sacraments are being denied or not being celebrated in many areas due to this crisis which has been going on far too long in my not so humble opinion. So, we have often Communion Services which serve a good purpose. People that need a priest to anoint them when they are sick or near death often can't find a priest. The priest is the only person who can administer the Sacrament

under the present dispensation.

I have stood for, spoken boldly and preached that making celibacy optional rather than mandatory in today's world could be one possible solution to this very urgent crisis in the Roman Catholic Church. Sometimes I have and do feel frustrated that not much has happened to resolve the priest shortage. Often, I feel like the Baptist John in the Gospel echoing Isaiah "A voice crying in the desert make straight the way of the Lord".

Celibacy is a true calling from God and a gift from the Holy Spirit. It can bring freedom to serve more people, I guess. It can bring some joy and happiness too. But making celibacy mandatory for Priesthood can often result in grumpy, sad, lonely men. Priests who act in very unhealthy strange ways and actions. If you are interested, look at the Church's history of 2,000 years. Have we always had as a requirement for priesthood mandatory celibacy?

I pose this question: If priests were allowed to marry today, would we have younger, healthier, holier (to me "Holier" means WHOLE, more together, more human, more loving, more compassionate and more joyful)? I really don't know the

answer. At age 81, I like to think outside the box now and then.

But what the Roman Catholic Church is doing now doesn't seem to be working too well. Look around, observe, see. PalMeadow needs 3 Pastors I guess in the next few months. Where will they come from? Here and throughout the world?

As I say, this is only one of the many issues facing our Church. There are so many more issues facing us.

I just share these ramblings from one 81 year old priest trying to hold it together. I'm doing fairly well all in all, due to the Grace of God and people like you who give me life and joy in the midst of some darkness.

I'm a firm believer that Christ has and will guide us through the darkness and light. We sing in Advent "Oh come, oh come Emmanuel", but please hurry. Some of us get a little impatient. Come Lord Jesus, come and Renew our Church! We need you. Help us think and act a little more outside the box. You did! You came as a child! We will still sing Joy to the World on Christmas Eve! Because, you are Emmanuel (God with us.) This I believe!

In Christ's Love, Fr. Ray, Emeritus

LITURGY SCHEDULE for DECEMBER 22 / 23

	SATURDAY 5:00 PM	SUNDAY 7:30 AM	SUNDAY 9:30 AM	SUNDAY 11:15 AM	SUNDAY 1:30 PM
PRESIDER	Fr. Tom Rzepiela	Fr. Martin Luboyera	Fr. Marcin Zasada	Fr. Ray Yadron	Fr. Marcin Zasada
DEACON	Deacon Bill Karstenson	Deacon John Breit	Deacon Mark Duffey	Deacon Tom Dunne	
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SERVERS <i>Shadowing</i>	Matthew Sloan Timmy Sloan Victoria Ruetsche Joseph Pieper	Emmett Maude Kieran Maude McKenzie Maude Ryan Maude	Josh Reiswig Katie Seligmann Olivia Walczynski Joseph Reiswig	George Leidolf Lily Dix Bill Shoults Heidi Swerkun	
MUSICIANS	CHOIR, Schenkel		CHOIR, Walsh	CHORALE	
GREETERS	M G N Lynn Haas Sylvia Schaffer Bob & Nancy Bachmann	Mila Quiaoit Tom & Marianne Greener Bob & Margo Stanek	Ann Johnson Mary Ann Kenesey Donna Koehler	Roberto & Sharon Zapata John & Jan Harahan Tom & Nancy Hulsebosch	

Our Weekly Prayers

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 17

6:30am Communion Service
 8:00am ☩ Charlotte Bellina
 7:00pm Confessions—ENGLISH

Tuesday, December 18

6:30am Communion Service
 8:00am ☩ Daniel Kluss
 ☩ Frank J. Plank

Wednesday, December 19

6:30am Communion Service
 8:00am ☩ Rosie Casarez

Thursday, December 20

6:30am Communion Service
 8:00am ☩ Alan Hazel
 ☩ Richard Acton
 ☩ Mary Ann Jones
 ☩ Richard Fowler

Friday, December 21

6:30am Communion Service
 8:00am ☩ Patrick Dolphin
 7:30pm Mass—POLISH

Saturday, December 22

8:00am For All Who Are Sick
 5:00pm ☩ Sally Rossetti
 ☩ Manuel R. Dominguez
 ☩ Deacon Frank Annerino
 ☩ Michael Fanella
 ☩ Don Geary

Sunday, December 23

7:30am ☩ Daniel Kluss
 ☩ Sally Rossetti
 Int. for Nancy Eme
 9:30am All Living & Deceased Parishioners
 ☩ Lucille McNeilly
 ☩ Pete Lakers
 11:15am ☩ Adam Sochacki
 ☩ Jane Schallmoser
 ☩ Marie Kay
 ☩ Dick Kunzweiler
 ☩ Peggy Nix
 1:30pm Mass—POLISH

FOR OUR SICK

MaryAnn Acton
 Barbara Amato
 Ruth Boldt
 Jason Dean
 Vincent DeGiulio
 Madelyn Doetsch
 Steve Fortunski
 Bill Gerl
 Dick Haen
 Jason Hamlin
 David Hicks

Ed Horan
 Adeline Kaczmarek
 Eddie Karda
 Barbara Kerlin
 Mary King
 Mary Alice Kobler
 Susan Kordell
 Mary Margaret Lazich
 John Lenz
 Harold Lewis
 Alexa Rae Mang

Bob Maruska
 Elayne Maruska
 Baby Benjamin Mauro
 Joanne Moser
 Paul Moser
 Mary Nix
 Ted Otto
 Larry Peterson
 Brad Rohrsen
 Dick Samojla
 Kristina Sromek

Sharon Tadsen
 Mary Vencill
 Ralph Vencill
 Susan Wilberding
 Deacon Rich Willer
 Mary Stella Woodson
 Charmaine Zuchel
 Erin Zwadoo

IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

Lord, bless the men and women of our military as they answer the call to serve our nation and defend our freedom. Protect and heal them-- body, soul, mind and spirit--especially those in harm's way. Most of all let them know your love; that you are with them, and that you will never forsake or abandon them. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

U.S. Air Force

- MSGT Dan Fialek
- MSGT Matthew Grelck
- Lt Col Ross A. Mol
- SrA Joshua Olszak
- MAJ Matthew Walz

U.S. Coast Guard

- LT Kevin O'Brien

U.S. Navy

- LTJG Jeremy Adams
- LCDR Kevin Brandwein
- CMDR John-Paul Falardeau
- CAPT Jason Haen
- SN Caleb Harrington
- PO2 David Holley
- LT Quinn Daniel Kilpatrick
- AP James Steining

U.S. Marine Corps

- LCpl Nicholas G. Dean
- WO1 Thomas Grygowski
- SGT Cameron Miller
- SGT Kyle Rich
- CAPT Jake Schlenbecker

U.S. Army

- SSGT Brian J. Dankowski
- SPC Jack Davis
- SSG Christopher M. Fedrick
- CWO2 Timothy O'Cain
- CPT James Ruetsche, Ranger

And all those serving in the Middle East.



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 Father of Zoe & Zack

☩ *Marie Asta*
 Mother of David Asta
 Grandmother of Nicolas Asta



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve

- ◆ 3:00pm—Children's Liturgy
- ◆ 5:00pm—English Mass
- ◆ 10:00pm—English Mass
- ◆ Midnight—Polish Mass

Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Day

- ◆ 9:30am—English Mass
- ◆ 11:30am—English Mass
- ◆ 1:30pm—Polish Mass

III NIEDZIELA ADWENTU – NIEDZIELA RADOŚCI – GAUDETE – Prostota nawrócenia

Jan Chrzciciel przebywał i nauczał głównie na pustyni. Wiódł surowy tryb życia: 'Nosił odzież z wielbłądziej sierści i skórzany pas na biodrach. Żywił się szarańczą i miodem dzikich pszczoł' (Mt 3, 4). Po kimś takim można się było spodziewać srogich pouczeń i wezwania do radykalizmu. Tymczasem wskazania, których udzielał, były raczej podstawowymi regułami miłości bliźniego. Przychozącym tłumom mówił o prostych, życiowych sprawach, o dzieleniu się z potrzebującymi, o uczciwości, wrażliwości i skromności. Mocą swego autorytetu przypominał urzędnikom skarbowym, żołnierzom, ludziom mającym na prostocie życia. Nie kazał im porzucać majątków, pokutować na pustyni, ale zacząć od zwykłej uczciwości i życzliwości wobec drugiego. Prostota nawrócenia jest nam bardzo potrzebna...

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Wpływ chrześcijańskich wartości moralnych na kształtowanie tożsamości narodowej Polaków

'Musimy błędzemu bratu pokazać, że nasza religia to miłość bliźniego, braterstwo, a jej symbolem – serce...'

Tę piękną sentencję wypowiedział Karol Foucauld. Przytoczyłam ją jako motto mojej pracy, by udowodnić, że istnieje ścisły związek między postawą chrześcijańską Polaków i ich postawą obywatelską, wręcz narodową. Dzieje chrześcijaństwa oraz polskiej państwowości, jak ukazuje nasza polska 1000. historia, są ze sobą ściśle związane. Już w 966r., po przyjęciu chrztu przez Mieszka I, Polska stała się narodem chrześcijańskim, zapraszając Chrystusa do swojego życia narodowego, 'dając tym samym' zgodę Panu Bogu na współtworzenie jej dziejów. Od zawsze ludzie Kościoła wspierali i umacniali szkolnictwo, sądownictwo oraz inne instytucje państwowe. To dzięki nim z państwa plemiennego, zaczęliśmy stawać się narodem światłym, budującym nie tylko uniwersytety, ale państwowość i tożsamość narodową – Polską Ojczyznę. Jej granice i bezpieczeństwo były wielokrotnie zagrożone – wielu na nią napadało, grabiło, mordowało... Zauważymy z pewnością, śledząc historię naszego życia narodowego, iż to właśnie religia katolicka, nasza wiara w Boga, przyczyniła się zasadniczo do uratowania od rozpadu i zagłady Polski i jej mieszkańców. Ta siła wiary chrześcijańskiej Polaków, kilkakrotnie też wpłynęła na dzieje i losy całej Europy... Tak było, gdy król Władysław Jagiełło stawał do walki z Krzyżakami, niosąc na ustach pieśń 'Bogurodzica' i powierzając losy bitwy pod Grunwaldem w 1410 r. Maryi i Bogu. Tej samą pieśń intonował król Jan III Sobieski, rozgromiając w 1683 r. pod Wiedniem tureckie hordy, niosące Europie islam i zniszczenia. I wreszcie rok 1920, zdawałoby się, że Bitwa Warszawska, to wojna światów: chrześcijańskich Polaków i dążących do międzynarodowej rewolucji bolszewików, nie znających i nie chcących znać Boga... Józef Haller powiedział, że nie do przecenienia była żarliwa modlitwa, która 'jak iskra nadziei' w dniu 15 sierpnia – dniu święta Matki Bożej – przeniosła się w żar płomienny, wiary w pełne zwycięstwo. Zwycięstwo nadeszło, bolszewicka armia, dwukrotnie większa od polskiej, przegrała tę bitwę, bo po raz kolejny polski żołnierz i cały naród stawał do walki, prosząc o pomoc Bogurodzicę i Opatrzność. Cud nad Wisłą... A przecież, czy przygotowaniem tego drugiego cudu nie był już ten pierwszy, gdy po I wojnie światowej, widziało się pod skrzydłami Orła Białego 'zrosnąć' trzech części rozdartych? Ileż odmawianych paciorków różańca robionego z przydziałów chleba, wywozonych na Syberię podczas rozbiorów Polski, wyblagało u Pana wolność, ile cichych polskich modlitw zniweczyło zaplanowany proces germanizacji i rusyfikacji polskich dzieci i zniewolenie polskiego narodu?

Czy kolejnym cudem, bądź dowodem Bożej interwencji, nie jest fakt, iż podczas oblężenia klasztoru zakonu paulinów na Jasnej Górze, mała ich garstka, była w stanie odeprzeć atak silnie uzbrojonych Szwedów. To po tym zwycięstwie przeora Augustyna Kordeckiego, jak pisał H. Sienkiewicz w 'Potopie', polskie społeczeństwo podniosło się moralnie i duchowo na zgłiszczach swoich spalonych wsi i miast i stanęło ponownie do walki z bezlitosnym najeźdźcą.

Na równie bezwzględnej zagładzie społeczeństwo polskie wystawione było w XX w. To nie tylko I ale i II wojna światowa ze wszystkimi najokrutniejszymi obliczami faszystów i komunizmu. Przyszło nam mierzyć się z

systemami totalitarnymi, w których Bóg i wiara miały być, tak samo jak i polski naród, unicestwione... W czasie II wojny światowej, zarówno Niemcy jak i Związek Sowiecki, mając świadomość roli Kościoła Katolickiego w życiu Polaków, poddali go okrutnym represjom. Tysiące księży katolickich zginęło w niemieckich obozach koncentracyjnych i łagrach sowieckich. Pomimo to, wielu pozostałych wraz z siostrami zakonnymi spieszyli z pomocą ludności żydowskiej, a tysiącom dzieci żydowskich uratowano życie, wystawiając im metryki chrztu i umieszczając w katolickich, zakonnych sierocińcach. Jakże niebywale mocne duchowo przesłanie zostawił nam z tego okresu św. Maksymilian Kolbe, oddając swe życie, by uratować życie ojca rodziny. A iluż innych, bezimiennych bohaterów, zrosiło swoją krwią naszą ukochaną, polską ziemię w imię wolności dla pozostałych pokoleń? Przy wielu znaleziono różańce, medaliki, książeczki i święte obrazki... Łączyło ich wszystkich jedno – nadzieja zwycięstwa nad złem i wiara katolicka. Pamiętajmy, iż istnieli wśród nas ludzie, niosący swój krzyż w tak piękny sposób, że zdawał się on być skrzydłami u ich ramion. Wymienię tu chociażby błogosławionego księdza Jerzego Popiełuszkę, zamordowanego bestialsko przez polskich komunistów za głoszenie niewygodnej prawdy. Podczas swoich kazań w kościele św. Stanisława Kostki mówił o miłości, męstwie, prawdzie, solidarności i o zwyciężeniu zła dobrem. Jego msze w intencji Ojczyzny i tych, którzy za nią cierpieli, miały w sobie cudowną moc przezwyciężania niechęci do tych, którzy wyrządzali tak wiele krzywd naszemu Narodowi. Uczyły wybaczenia wrogom, dawały optymizm i siłę czerpaną nie tylko ze słów tego kapłana, ale i świadomości, że to sam ukrzyżowany Chrystus wybaczył i zmartwychwstał w każdym z nas. Takimi też słowy przemawiał uwięziony w czasach stalinizmu, prymas Polski, kard. Stefan Wyszyński: 'Sznuj każdego człowieka, bo Chrystus w nim żyje...'. Może dlatego tak gorliwie modlił się za swojego oprawcę Bieruta i nawoływał wiernych do wybaczenia i pojednania. Do okazywania miłosierdzia, tak jak Pan Jezus obiecywał je okazać nam, gdy przemawiał do siostry Faustyny.

Jak łatwo zauważyć, we wszystkich tych wydarzeniach historycznych i wielu innych na przestrzeni lat, nasza wiara i opatrzność Boża, sprawiły, że nasz naród skazywany na unicestwienie przetrwał i w cudowny sposób ocalał. A to dlatego, że wszystkie dramatyczne wydarzenia w historii Polski scalały i jednoczyły nie tylko ludzi ze sobą, ale i z Bogiem, który zawsze był obecny w życiu tych, którzy Mu ufali i zawierzali siebie i Ojczyznę. Pamiętajmy, że chrześcijaństwo, to religia prawdy i dobra. Jako Polacy i przede wszystkim chrześcijanie powołani byliśmy i nadal jesteśmy, by szerzyć miłość, zarażać nią inne narody, a dobro jakie czyniliśmy i ciągle czynić winiśmy, owocować będzie pokojem na całym świecie.

Droga wiary i z Chrystusem, na przełomie wieków i naszych tragicznych losów, była dla Polski naszym jedynym ratunkiem i nadzieją, a Bóg uczył nasz naród i wychowywał do całkowitego zawierzenia Mu, na wzór Abrahama, Gedeona czy Dawida, którzy też szukali ocalenia i ratunku tylko w Nim.

Dlatego więc dzisiaj wśród wielu Polaków, pojawiła się utrata pamięci historycznej i dziedzictwa chrześcijańskiego, którym towarzyszy obojętność religijna. Mam wrażenie, że wielu z nas żyje bez duchowego zaplecza. Wielu ludzi nie potrafi i nie chce już nawet łączyć ewangelicznego przesłania z codziennym doświadczeniem.

Zastanówmy się więc, co dla wielu z nas oznacza być chrześcijaninem? Uczniowie Jezusa Chrystusa po raz pierwszy zostali nazwani 'chrześcijanami' w Antiochii, ponieważ ich zachowanie, działania i przekazy przypominały postać Chrystusa. Termin ten oznacza 'należący do drużyny Jezusa'. Niestety, słowo to z czasem straciło wiele ze swojego pierwotnego znaczenia. Wielu ludzi uważa siebie za chrześcijan tylko dlatego, że chodzą do kościoła czy żyją w 'chrześcijańskim narodzie'. Bycie członkiem kościoła, regularne chodzenie na nabożeństwa nie czyni z nas pełnych i odpowiedzialnych chrześcijan. Nie każdy kto nosi krzyż na szyi, a nie chce wziąć krzyża na swoje ramiona, jest uczniem Chrystusa, bo jak słusznie zauważył św. Jakub: 'Wiara bez czynków jest martwa'. Podobnie wyraził się nasz wielki rodak, św. Jan Paweł II: 'Brońmy się przed pozorami miłości, nie miłujmy słowem i językiem, ale czynem i prawdą...'. Czy czasem więc nie próbujemy żyć niczym spadkobiercy, którzy roztrwonili dziedzictwo pozostawione im przez przodków, zapominając, iż 'Ojczyzna, to wielki zbiorowy obowiązek' (C. K. Norwid). Jaka dziś jest nasza wiara – moja, Twoja, polska, narodowa? Czy jest chrześcijańska? A jaka będzie Ojczyzna – czy moja i Twoja, czy polska, czy narodowa? Czy będzie miała tożsamość...?

Rozgraniczenie między dobrem własnym a sprawami wyższej wagi, to odwieczny dylemat człowieka. Jako katoliczkę, uczono mnie w domu, bym zanim dokonam ważnego czy trudnego wyboru, zapytała najpierw samą siebie czy to, co chcę zrobić spodoba się Bogu? Jeśli w głębi serca czujesz, że wybór któregoś chętnie dokonać jest słuszny, idź za tym głosem i czyń, co jest dobre, niekoniecznie dla siebie, ale w rezultacie dla całości sprawy, 'dla zbiorowego obowiązku'.

Historię tworzymy każdego dnia – wpływamy na losy świata i narodów. Wszyscy wiemy, że dzięki chrześcijańskim zasadom moralności, każdy człowiek potrafi rozróżnić dobro od zła i wyznaczyć przez samego Boga przykazania i codzienną modlitwą i pracą, zapewniają nam jego kontynuację i jestestwo narodowe...

Wolność i niepodległość nie są nam dane raz na zawsze – musimy o te wartości zabiegać pokoleniowo. Dlatego zacytuj tu ważne słowa – weźmy je sobie do serca: 'Każdy z was, młodzi przyjaciele, znajduje też w życiu jakieś swoje Westerplatte, jakiś wymiar zadań, które trzeba podjąć i wypełnić, jakąś słuszną sprawę, o którą nie można nie walczyć, jakiś obowiązek, powinność, od której nie można się uchylić, nie można zdezercerować. Wreszcie, jakiś porządek prawd i wartości, które trzeba utrzymać i obronić, tak jak to Westerplatte. Utrzymać i obronić, w sobie i wokół siebie, obronić dla siebie i dla innych' (św. Jan Paweł II).

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Gabryśka Marek, Polska Szkoła im. F. Chopina, Palatine, IL

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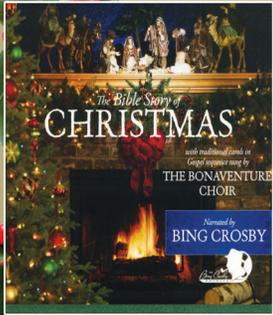


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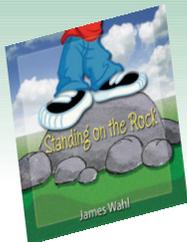
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