

SECOND

Sunday

of

Advent

On that day,
a shoot shall sprout
from the stump of Jesse,
and from his roots
a bud shall blossom.

Isaiah 11:1



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December 8, 2019

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 Class: Jan 9, Jan 21 & Feb 10.*

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 Thu 9am—8pm, Fri 9am—5pm, Sat 9am—Noon

Rev. Kris Janczak, <i>Pastor</i>	fatherkris@stov.org
Rev. Marcin Zasada, <i>Associate Pastor</i>	marcin.zasada@yahoo.com
Deacon John Breit, <i>Business Manager</i>	jbreit@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>Music Director</i>	jslatkay@stov.org
Suzie Walczynski, <i>Bulletin Editor/Outreach</i>	suzie@stov.org
Sheila O'Shea, <i>Admin. Assistant</i>	soshea@stov.org
Ann Duffey, <i>Admin. Assistant</i>	aduffey@stov.org

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
Alex Kmiotek, <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 Asst. Director</i>	stvrec@yahoo.com

Priests

Rev. Kris Janczak, *Pastor*
Rev. Marcin Zasada, *Assoc. Pastor*
Msgr. John Canary, *Weekend Assoc.*
Rev. Tom Rzepiela, *Pastor Emeritus*
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

Pam Maloney, *Co-Chairperson*
Barb Howell, *Co-Chairperson*
Deacon John Breit
Lexine Cramm
Ann Johnson
Norbert Krogstad
Steve Lundell
Gay Sladky
Rev. Marcin Zasada

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



If you need a hearing device, please ask an usher.



Dear Friends,

Each year on December 8th our Catholic Church has a Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary -- except this year, when this feast day falls on Sunday. Most times it is a holy day of obligation. So, this year this special feast is moved to Monday, December 9th. But because it has been moved, it is not a holy day of obligation, meaning, we don't have to go to church on Monday...

I know this is confusing, but I don't make the rules. Anyway, because of the Immaculate Conception being celebrated this week and also the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12, it feels appropriate to write about the Blessed Virgin Mary today.

Many people seem to think Catholics worship Mary as the Mother of God. This is wrong. Catholics do not worship Mary as such, but instead, "the Church commends to the special and filial veneration of Christ's faithful the Blessed Mary ever-Virgin, the Mother of God, whom Christ constituted the Mother of all" (Can. 1186). We know this because Jesus Christ said on the Cross, "Behold your mother" (John 19:27). Thus, since Mary is our mother (not just Jesus' mother), we show profound reverence and respect for her, hence the term, "venerate". Therefore, Mary, amongst other saints, is venerated, where the faithful recognize her example of holiness as one to follow in living as an inspiration to the Christian life. Amidst this recognition, the faithful find themselves asking for the intercession of Mary and the saints to pray for them. Simply explained, just as a person might ask their relative or friend to pray for them, so also we ask Mary and the Saints to help us in our path towards holiness.

Long before the angel of today's Gospel appeared to Mary, another angel approached another woman, Eve. This angel, an evil angel, successfully tempts Eve to disobey Almighty God. As a result of this disobedience, Adam and Eve are cast from the Garden. But before being sentenced to a life of hard labor, Adam and Eve hear a verdict that filled them with some measure of hope. For it must be remembered that God cursed the bad angel, and in cursing him, God promised that He Himself, in a future time, would send another woman who would finally defeat and shame the evil angel forever. He was talking about Mary, the Virgin Mother of God.

It is a happy timing that we honor Mary during this Advent season of expectation, because her experience was an advent/expectation of God's manifestation in her life. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they immediately experienced the consequence of their action – separation from the God who loved them. God in His mercy promised them a Redeemer who would pay the price for their sin and the sin of the world. We see the marvelous unfolding of God's plan of redemption in the events leading up to the Incarnation, the birth of the Messiah. Mary's prompt response of "yes" to the divine message is a model of faith for all believers, for each of us. Mary believed God's promises even when they seemed impossible. She was full of grace because she trusted that whatever God said, was true and would be fulfilled. She was willing and eager to do God's will, even if it seemed difficult or costly.

God gives us grace and He expects us to respond with the same willingness, obedience, and heart-felt trust as Mary did. When God commands, He also gives the grace, strength, and means to respond. We can either yield to His grace or resist and go our own way. As we honor Our Lady, let us realize the destiny which we lost, and to which we are called. We would have been born with the Immaculate Conception if it were not for original sin. But given the fact of sin, we are still called to be perfect, to be holy and blameless. Let us be faithful to our calling.

Fr. Kris

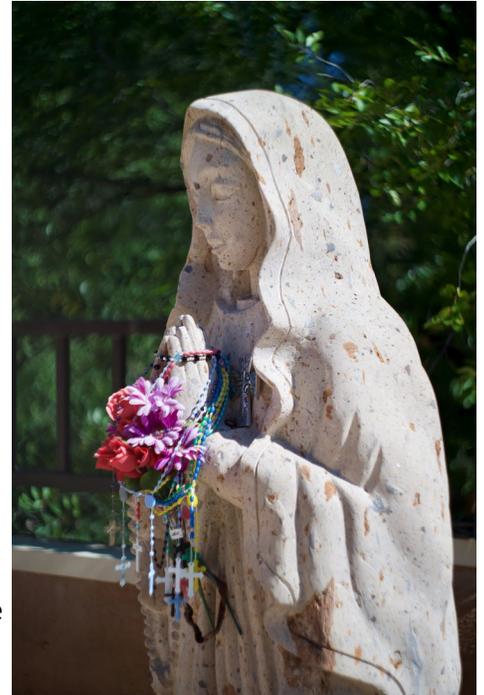


Image by Fr. Kris Janczak

Parish Events

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 8

9:15am	Religious Ed Classes	School
9:40am	Children's Liturgy	MRD
2:45pm	STV School Athletics	RAC
5:00pm	Christmas Concert	Church
7:00pm	Volleyball—POLISH	RAC

Monday, December 9

12:00pm	Hour of Grace	Church
4:00pm	Religious Ed Classes	School
6:00pm	STV School Athletics	RAC
7:00pm	K of C Monthly Mtg	MRA & B

Tuesday, December 10

2:30pm	STV School Athletics	RAC
7:00pm	Polish Choir Rehearsal	Church
9:00pm	Men's Basketball	RAC

Wednesday, December 11

2:30pm	STV School Athletics	RAC
4:00pm	VOICES Drop-In	TR, RAC
6:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
6:30pm	Women's Club Guild 1	MRB
7:15pm	A Teaching Mass	Church
8:00pm	A.A. (Closed Meeting)	MR4

Thursday, December 12

8:00am	Producemobile	Parking Lot
2:30pm	STV School Athletics	RAC
7:00pm	English Choir Rehearsal	Church
7:00pm	GIFT Program	MRA & D

Friday, December 13

3:00pm	STV School Athletics	RAC
5:00pm	Advent Confessions	Church

Saturday, December 14

8:00am	STV School Athletics	RAC
9:00am	Morning Bible Study	MRC

Sunday, December 15

9:15am	Religious Ed Classes	School
9:40am	Children's Liturgy	MRD
10:30am	Confirmation Retreat	RAC
2:45pm	STV School Athletics	RAC
7:00pm	Volleyball—POLISH	RAC

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

- DEC. 22 Bulletin: Articles due Dec. 9
- DEC. 29 Bulletin: Articles due Dec. 13
- JAN. 5 Bulletin: Articles due Dec. 17

TODAY

- **FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION** Thank you!
- **CHRISTMAS CONCERT** Tonight at 5:00pm in Church!



UPCOMING

- **HOUR OF GRACE** Monday, December 9 (Page 6)
- **CHIPOTLE DINE-N-SHARE** Monday, December 9 (Page 8)
- **GOLDEN VILLANOVANS** Wednesday, December 11 at 1:30pm. Christmas Lunch at Palm Court—1912 N Arlington Hts Rd.
- **A TEACHING MASS** Wednesday, December 11 (Page 6)
- **GCFD PRODUCEMOBILE** Thursday, December 12 (Page 6)
- **ADVENT RECONCILIATION** Friday, December 13 (Page 7)
- **CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS** Due Monday, Dec. 16 (Page 9)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **MEN'S RETREAT January 17—19, 2020** at Joseph & Mary Retreat House, 100 E Maple Ave, Mundelein—*On the grounds of the Mundelein Seminary.* "Tailgating with God" with Retreat leader: Deacon Mark Duffey. Registration/Questions: jcummings@josephandmaryretreat.org (Jen Cummings) or 847-566-6060
- **COUPLES BAGS TOURNAMENT January 18, 2020** after the 5:00pm Mass in the Rowley Activity Center. All engaged and married couples are welcome. Watch the bulletin for further details. See you there! If you would like to help with this event, please call the Parish Office.

RITE OF WELCOMING—RCIA CANDIDATES



From Left: Fr. Marcin, Margo, Cari, Jack and Bob

On Sunday, December 1 at the 7:30am Mass, our two RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) candidates celebrated the Rite of Welcoming as a step towards becoming Catholic. Cari DeLillo and Jack Pickup, with their sponsors Margo and Bob Stanek at their side, publicly declared their intention to continue their journey toward full communion with the Catholic Church. Since they both have been baptized, this Rite asks if they are ready to listen to the apostles' instruction, gather with the worshipping community in prayer and join our community in the love and service of others. Upon their acceptance, they were then signed with the Cross to show that they belong to Christ.

Let's get to know our candidates better:

- ◆ Hi! My name is **Cari De Lillo**. My family and I have been parishioners at St. Thomas for six years. Both my husband and children are Catholic. My children will be celebrating their Confirmation this February at St. Thomas. Although, I was baptized and raised in a Catholic family, I never received the rest of my sacraments, but have always wanted to. I have really enjoyed attending church here the past few years. Everyone has been so kind and welcoming! I am looking forward to finally being able to complete my journey and become a member of the Catholic community along with my family.
- ◆ Hi! My name is **Jack Pickup**. I have been attending St. Thomas for a couple years now. I am going through RCIA with my sister. We were baptized and then raised with the Catholic faith by our late mother. Unfortunately, our parents were of different faiths, so we never completed our journey to confirmation. I'm happy to be going through this process now, and especially at a place that has been very good to and for my family and friends.

Please pray for our candidates as they continue their journey of faith.



ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA
Religious Education Community

Catechist Corner
Getting to know our Catechists

Norbert Krogstad



Teaches:

8th Grade

Years Taught:

This is my 20th year!

Why Volunteer?

To make a difference by helping students realize that God has a purpose for each of us. If we trust in God and do His will, the world will be a little better as a result.

Hobbies:

1. Play with my 6 grandchildren.
2. Write, illustrate and sell children's books.

Fun fact:

I commonly drive and operate 150 foot (15 story tall) aerial boom lifts.

Danielle Smith



Teaches:

8th Grade

Years Taught:

4

Why Volunteer?

To help children

Hobbies:

Crafting

Fun fact:

I grew up in Chicago.



The Hour of Grace

Monday, December 9th

Noon to 1:00pm in Church

Come and Visit Our Mother on Her Special Day

Prayer aids will be provided.

“Mystical Rose” Apparitions In Montichiori, Italy 1947-1966

Our Lady said: “It is my wish that every year, on the 8th of December, at noon, the Hour of Grace for the World be celebrated. Many divine and bodily graces will be received through this devotion. Our Lord, my Divine Son Jesus, will send His overflowing mercy if good people will pray continuously for their sinful brother... it is my wish that the Hour of Grace for the World be made known and spread throughout the world. Our Mother’s Request:

1. The Hour of Grace: December 8th, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, to be started at noon and continuing until 1pm for one full hour of prayer.
2. During this hour, the person making the Hour of Grace must put away all distraction and totally concentrate on your union with God.
3. Begin by praying the 51st Psalm three times with out-stretched arms.
4. The rest of the Hour of Grace may be spent in silent communication with God or by using favorite prayers and hymns.



A TEACHING MASS

A Teaching Mass is an opportunity to learn about the Mass by attending one with commentary lead by Fr. Bradley Zamora and Seminarian Casey Flack. If you have ever asked why or what at Mass, come to find out!

What: A Mass with commentary

When: Wednesday, December 11th
@7:15pm

Where: St. Thomas of Villanova

All ages are welcome.

GCFD FOOD DISTRIBUTION

On **Thursday, December 12**, the Greater Chicago Food Depository Produce Mobile will be at St. Thomas in our Church parking lot.

- ◆ Anyone in need of assistance can pick up free produce. No registration is required.
- ◆ Volunteers are needed to help bag produce and unload the truck, which may arrive as early as 8:00am.

Food distribution will begin at 9:30am and last until 11:30am outdoors, regardless of weather. Thanks in advance for your help.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Respect Life Committee of STV sponsors a Prayer Shawl Ministry for the Parishioners here at St. Thomas who are ill, hospitalized or homebound, and for patients at Manor Care in Arlington Heights. We are asking and welcoming anyone to join our Ministry as our numbers have recently decreased. We can teach you crocheting or knitting or just update your skills, as needed. We also provide the needles and yarn at no cost. Please think about joining us. We have great conversations during our meetings, and most of the work is done at home. **We meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 1—3pm in MRD.** We begin our meetings with a prayer for all those who will be receiving one of our shawls. Contact the Parish Office for any questions. We look forward to welcoming you into our Ministry. **Yarn donations? YES! We would love donations of yarn to our Ministry, too!**



ADVENT PRAYER

Holy Hour is the Roman Catholic tradition of spending an hour in Eucharistic adoration in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. This is a beautiful practice in which the Eucharist is placed in a Monstrance, and the faithful pray before it. **Every Wednesday**, we have Eucharistic Adoration from **6 - 7pm in Church**. We are now going to end **Holy Hour with Benediction** of the Blessed Sacrament. Benediction is a devotional practice whereby the priest or deacon will incense the Monstrance containing the Eucharist, and bless the congregation with it. Advent is a time of preparation for the birth of Jesus. Prayer is a beautiful way to prepare for this feast. Come and pray before the living Jesus present in the Eucharist. Come for the whole hour or for whatever time you can give.



ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE

TODAY from 2pm—4pm

Living Word Center—800 N Fernandez, Arlington Hts

Gather to pray for the transformation of the world. All are invited!
www.slw.org or call 847-577-5972

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 by writing your intention on the papers provided and then hanging 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 Evangelization Team*



OPLATKI

During this season of Advent, we remember the traditional custom of sharing the Christmas wafer or Oplatki. Baskets will be available at Church exits with packets of blessed Oplatki. Each packet contains 2 wafers, and you are invited to give a free-will offering from your family. It is a great family custom to break bread together—especially on Christmas Day.



Advent
A Season of Hope & Expectation

Reconciliation Opportunities

During Advent, take the time to prepare your heart for the birth of Our Lord. You can receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on **Saturdays from 8:30am—9:30am** or come to the evening confessions on

**Friday, December 13
from 5:00pm—7:00pm**

Cut out and bring to confession, if needed.

ACT OF CONTRITION

Traditional

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You, and I detest all my sins, because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell, but most of all because they offend You, my God, who are all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to confess my sins, to do penance and to amend my life. Amen.

Contemporary

O my God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against You whom I should love above all things. I fully intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Amen.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

**Tuesday, December 24
Christmas Eve**

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

**Wednesday, December 25
Christmas Day**

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



Please Donate to Empower Illinois

St. Thomas of Villanova School welcomed twenty new students for the 2019-2020 school year under the Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Program, thanks to generous donors.

Please consider donating to this scholarship program for the 2020-2021 school year and help us spread the word about this Illinois Tax Credit opportunity with your family, friends and businesses. Donors can receive an Illinois state income tax credit of 75% of their donation. Donors who would like to receive the tax credit for their 2019 taxes can do so but should begin the process ASAP to make their gift by December 31, 2019.

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.

Donations for the 2020-2021 school year opened on December 1. If you donate by December 31, 2019, you will receive an Illinois Tax Credit for 2019. Visit www.archchicago.org/tcs to learn more or contact the school.

The Illinois Invest in Kids Act provides for scholarship giving that is different from charitable giving to FRIENDS of St. Thomas of Villanova School or to the parish. Please visit the archdiocese website 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.***

Please help us provide a quality, Catholic education to families who might not otherwise afford it!

SCHOOL SPIRIT TASTES GREAT



Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support St Thomas Of Villanova. Come in to the Chipotle at **781 E. Dundee Road** in Palatine on **Monday, December 9th** between **4:00pm** and **8:00pm**. Bring in this flyer, show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 33% of the proceeds will be donated to St Thomas Of Villanova.



Online orders will not be included in the fundraiser total. To ensure your purchase is counted in the fundraiser, you must order and pay in-restaurant. Gift card purchased during fundraisers do not count towards total donated sales, but purchase made with an existing gift card will count.

SWEET RETURNS™

Need a pie for the Holidays?



STV FSA Fundraiser
\$15 per pie



Get your pie card now until December 18th
Cards Valid at any Bakers Square
Each card is valid for 1 whole pie.
No expiration on cards

Stop in the Parish Office or contact Melanie DeLorenzo at melaniedelorenzo@yahoo.com for cards.

Pie cards good for pie only;
carrot cake and cheese cake not included.

Checks payable to: STV FSA.

2019 FISCAL YEAR SUNDAY SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Date	Weekend Collection	On-Line Giving	Weekly Total	Over / Under Budget: \$21,400.00
Dec 1	\$ 19,844.30	\$ 1,343.00	\$ 21,187.30	(\$ 212.70)
Dec 8				
Dec 15				
Dec 22				
Dec 29				

YTD Totals	
YTD Budget	\$ 470,800.00
YTD Actual	\$ 447,634.99
Over / (Under)	(\$ 23,165.01)

THANK YOU!

Sharing / PINK Envelope: \$3,277.82

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

This year, you can donate to the Christmas Flower fund by:

1. Using your envelope in the November / December Sacrificial Giving Packet.
2. Logging on to www.GiveCentral.org and clicking on "Christmas Flowers."

Both options allow for you to donate in honor / in memory of your loved ones. Either write on the back of the envelope the name(s) for your tribute or, if you are donating online, just fill in the space labeled "Tribute Gift." We will publish donor names and tributes in the December 29, 2019 bulletin; however donations must be received by: **Monday, December 16** 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 \$100,000, 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 a fitting expression of thanks and of praise to God for all of His blessings, especially the gift of His Son. If possible, you might increase your Christmas gift in the name of those parishioners who cannot give as they would like because of their current financial situations. *To provide your Christmas donation electronically, use GiveCentral.*



THANK YOU for all your sharing of Treasure, Time and Talent which enables our Parish Family to proclaim Jesus in so many ways.

Your Finance Committee

2ND COLLECTION TODAY

The Retirement Fund for Religious collection is an annual appeal that will benefit some 30,000 Sisters, Brothers and religious order Priests. Your gift to the fund provides vital funding for medications, nursing care and more. Thank you for your generosity.

CALENDARS AVAILABLE

2019-20 calendars are available at all Church exits, compliments of Smith- Corcoran Funeral Home. These Catholic appointment edition calendars are available in both English and Polish. Please take one home for your family today.

ON-LINE GIVING

GiveCentral ONLINE GIVING is a convenient way for St. Thomas of Villanova to receive your SSG support, as well as other giving opportunities. It is a secure online system with payment options from direct debit (ACH) to all major credit cards: Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover.

You can donate to these funds:

- Sunday Giving
- Sharing / Ministry of Care
- "To Teach Who Christ Is"
- Christmas Flowers 2019
- Parish Christmas 2019

To sign up, visit:
www.givecentral.org

5th GRADE ADVENTURES

5th grade was invited to tour the Archdiocese of Chicago's Radio and Television Station last week! They also participated in the 12:15pm Mass at Holy Name Cathedral where they were welcomed personally by the Presider. What a blessed day!



From the Principal's Desk

Congratulations to Sayda Avdo, Denis Avdo, and Brandon Venzuela, who were baptized at our 8:00am school Mass this past week. They received a cross and a stole from the school, and enjoyed a reception after Mass with their classes. Welcome to our Catholic family!

TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION - Are you aware that the Tax Credit Scholarship helps about 40 of our present students? A Catholic education is invaluable, and provides our students with a solid faith, academic, and social foundation. Please consider donating to this worthwhile scholarship. Let grandparents, business associates, and neighbors know of this opportunity. See page 8 for more information.

Our annual **Door Decorating Contest** begins Wednesday at 4:00pm! Please go to the STV Facebook page to enjoy all the Christmas Door decorations. This year our theme includes animals in some way. Teachers and students went all out to convey their Christmas spirit. Vote for your favorites by pressing "Like." Have fun! Share with your friends, and have them vote!

One of the benefits of attending our Catholic school is that students can receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** during the school day. This week, our 2nd through 8th grade students will go to confession as they continue to prepare their hearts during Advent for the coming of our Lord Jesus on Christmas day.

We are still in need of help. Please consider the following opportunities. Call the School Office, **847-358-2110**, if you are interested or to learn more.

- **LUNCHTIME HELP:** We are looking for an able body to heat up the lunches and hand them out to the students. This is a 1.5-2 hour a day PAID position.
- **AFTER CARE SUBS:** Our After Care needs substitutes when our assigned supervisors cannot make it. Would you love the opportunity to get paid to supervise perfectly behaved little angels? This is the chance to play games and read stories with our future leaders. Please call the school if the Holy Spirit moves you.
- **CLASSROOM VOLUNTEERS:** We are looking for volunteers to help out with individual classroom needs. This can be one hour a week, or as much as you would like to volunteer. Please call the front office for more information.

God bless,
Mary Brinkman

P.S. Feeling hungry? Chipotle Dine-N-Share is on Monday, December 9 or buy a pie card. Both are delicious ways to support our school. (See page 8)

Children's Worship Bulletin™

December 8, 2019 • Matthew 3:1-12

John Prepares the Way

John the Baptist came to preach about Jesus.

Circle 6 differences in the bottom picture.



John the Baptist said, "I baptize you with water for repentance." What else did he say?

Use this grid to fill in the blanks.

	5	6	7	8	9
4	N	E	L	W	F
3	M	S	A	Q	C
2	H	Y	D	U	I
1	P	T	J	R	O

"

3,7 4,9 1,6 4,6 1,8 3,5 4,6 4,8 2,9 4,7 4,7

3,9 1,9 3,5 4,6 1,9 4,5 4,6 4,8 2,5 1,9

2,9 3,6 3,5 1,9 1,8 4,6

1,5 1,9 4,8 4,6 1,8 4,9 2,8 4,7 1,6 2,5 3,7 4,5

2,9 4,8 2,5 1,9 3,6 4,6

3,6 3,7 4,5 2,7 3,7 4,7 3,6 2,9 3,7 3,5

4,5 1,9 1,6 4,9 2,9 1,6 1,6 1,9

3,9 3,7 1,8 1,8 2,6

"

He meant 1,7 4,6 3,6 2,8 3,6

LITURGY SCHEDULE for DECEMBER 14 / 15

	SATURDAY 5:00 PM	SUNDAY 7:30 AM	SUNDAY 9:30 AM	SUNDAY 11:15 AM	SUNDAY 1:30 PM
PRESIDER	Fr. Marcin Zasada	Fr. Kris Janczak	Fr. Ray Yadron	Msgr. John Canary	Polish Mission
DEACON			Deacon Tom Dunne	Deacon Len Marturano	
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Our Weekly Prayers

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 9

6:30am Communion Service
 8:00am ✠ Patrick Dolphin
 Int. for Ofelia Quiaoit
 6:00pm Mass—POLISH

Tuesday, December 10

6:30am Communion Service
 8:00am ✠ Nicholas Dahm
 ✠ Ken Doruff
 ✠ Michael Kerrigan

Wednesday, December 11

6:30am Communion Service
 8:00am ✠ Irene Spahn

Thursday, December 12

6:30am Communion Service
 8:00am All Who Are Sick

Friday, December 13

6:30am Communion Service
 8:00am ✠ Kathleen Scollard
 ✠ Caroline Attaneseo

Saturday, December 14

8:00am ✠ Rosie Casarez
 5:00pm ✠ Philip Tisdall
 ✠ Carole L. Reibel

Sunday, December 15

7:30am Int. for James & Louis LaCapra
 9:30am ✠ Christopher Kanis
 ✠ Ben Stepp
 ✠ Ken Doruff
 ✠ Randy Pettry
 11:15am ✠ Marie Kay
 All Living & Deceased Parishioners
 1:30pm Mass—POLISH

WEEKLY READINGS

Mon: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
 Tue: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14
 Wed: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
 Thu: Zec 2:14-17; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38
 Fri: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
 Sat: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
 Sun: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED

Denis Avdo
Sayda Avdo
Mia Lekienta
Leon Christopher Ostaszewski

Sofia Ramirez
Brandon Velenzuela
Jessica Anna Vojtek

FOR OUR SICK

MaryAnn Acton	Barbara Kerlin	Baby Benjamin Mauro	Virgilio Sotto
Barbara Amato	Mary King	Joanne Moser	Kristina Sromek
Baby Aubrey	Andy Kist	Paul Moser	Richard Steelman
Richard Barnes	Roswitha Kist	Jeff Moskala	JoAnn Swanson
Alex Bingham	Mary Alice Kobler	Lana Murley	Robert Szott
Carmen Cline	Susan Kordell	Baby David Paprocki	Sharon Tadsen
Jason Dean	James LaCapra	Amie Parisi	Jack Treanor
Mary Depies	Louis LaCapra	Larry Peterson	Alfreda Wasilewska
Jeanne Formanski	Mary Margaret Lazich	Emily Piscitelli	Susan Wilberding
Parker Forseth	John Lenz	Jean Pope	Deacon Rich Willer
Steve Fortunski	Harold Lewis	Brad Rohrsen	Fr. Ray Yadron
Bill Gerl	Ron Magnuson	Rosalyn Rubino	Charmaine Zuchel
Phil Gerould	Alexa Rae Mang	Dick Samojla	Erin Zwadoo
Edward Grygowski	Bob Maruska	Jane Samojla	
David Hicks	Elayne Maruska	Shirley Serena	

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. Army

- Lt. Col Bernadette O'Shea Bland
- SSGT Brian J. Dankowski
- SPC Jack Davis
- SSG Christopher M. Fedrick

U.S. Navy

- CWO2 Timothy O'Cain
- CPT James Ruetsche, Ranger
- LTJG Jeremy Adams
- LCDR Kevin Brandwein
- CDR John-Paul Falardeau
- CAPT Jason Haen
- SN Caleb Harrington
- PO2 David Holley
- LT Quinn Daniel Kilpatrick
- AP James Steining

U.S. Coast Guard

- LT Kevin O'Brien

U.S. Marine Corps

- LCpl Nicholas G. Dean
- WO2 Thomas Grygowski
- SGT Cameron Miller
- SGT Kyle Rich
- CAPT Jake Schlenbecker

And all those serving in the Middle East.

OUR SEMINARIANS

Pray for all Seminarians as they continue their priestly formation, especially: Casey Flack, Andy Matijevic and AJ Sales



ROSE OF LIFE

In Loving Memory of my Husband
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FOR OUR DEPARTED, REST IN PEACE

✠ Linda Sughero-Barton
 ✠ Emilie Drewanz
 ✠ Gloria J. Jung
 ✠ James R. Vencill
 Husband of Mary Vencill

UROCZYSTOŚĆ NIEPOKALANEGO POCZĘCIA NMP i II Niedziela Adwentu

– 'Niech mi się stanie według twego słowa'

Maryja to ważna osoba w planie zbawienia. Wszystko, co się dokonało, opiera się na mocy Bożej łaski. W przypadku Maryi była to łaska uprzedzająca, która zachowała ją od grzechu. W naszym przypadku to łaska wspomagająca, która umożliwia podążanie drogą woli Bożej. Idziemy razem z Maryją. Niepokalane Poczęcie napełnia sensem całe adwentowe oczekiwanie. Spoglądamy na Maryję, uczymy się od Niej i prosimy, byśmy tak jak Ona potrafili uwierzyć, że Słowo także w nas chce stać się życiem. Radość i pokora Maryi poszerzają nasze adwentowe horyzonty. Nie da się przejść Adwentu bez Niepokalanej. Razem z Nią walczymy o godne przyjęcie Mesjasza.

Adwent Maryi – 9 miesięcy radości, wahań, wątpliwości. Zupełnie jak w naszym życiu...



Na Adwent warto spojrzeć jako na szczególny czas oczekiwania Matki Bożej na przyjście na świat Jej Syna, którego nosiła w swoim łonie. W tym aspekcie Maryja staje się niezwykle bliska wszystkim kobietom i rodzicom szukającym się na przyjście na świat swojego dziecka.

Adwent – czas oczekiwania

Od kilku już dni słyszymy sporo o propozycjach owocnego przeżycia okresu przygotowującego nas do świąt Narodzenia Pańskiego. Można poświęcić więcej czasu na refleksję nad sobą i próbę zmiany życia, symbolizując wieniec adwentowy lub zapalać wieczorem świecę, symbolizującą postawę czuwania.

Wierni ze Wschodu, oczekując na przyjście na świat Chrystusa, podejmują 40-dniowy, dosyć srogi post. Rzadko jednak patrzymy na tygodnie i dni poprzedzające wieczór wigilijny i bożonarodzeniową radość jako na czas oczekiwania Matki Bożej na rozwiązanie.

Trwało ono dłużej niż cztery adwentowe tygodnie, bo przecież cały dziewięćmiesięczny okres ciąży. Czas, w którym zapewne towarzyszyły Maryi potężne, czasem sprzeczne uczucia, tak dobrze znane kobietom i rodzicom spodziewającym się dziecka lub długo wyczekującym jego poczęcia.

Radosna cisza

O czasie swojego 'maryjnego Adwentu' Ewangelie mówią nam w zasadzie niewiele. Opisując zwiastowanie, Święty Łukasz Ewangelista zwraca uwagę, że przyszła Matka Zbawiciela, słysząc słowa Archanioła Gabriela, 'zmieszła się i rozważała, co miałoby znaczyć to pozdrowienie' (Łk 1, 29).

Po wyjaśnieniach aniola o wypełnieniu za jej pośrednictwem obietnic mejsjańskich wobec Izraela, Maryja logicznie pyta: 'Jakże się to stanie, skoro nie znam męża?' (Łk 1, 34). Zakończenie dialogu z Bożym posłańcem, podczas którego Gabriel powiedział Matce Bożej, że jej nieplodna krewna poczęła dziecko i jest już w szóstym miesiącu ciąży, zwieńczone deklaracją pokornej zgody Maryi na wypełnienie misji od Pana nie rozwiązuje jednak od razu wszystkich wątpliwości młodego małżeństwa z Nazaretu.

Święty Ewangelista Mateusz lakonicznie i subtelnie, ale obiektywnie opisuje w pierwszym rozdziale swojej

Ewangelii wątpliwości Świętego Józefa, który jako człowiek prawy i odpowiedzialny nie chce narażać małżonki na skandal obyczajowy i myśli o oddaleniu jej zgodnie z prawem mojżeszowym. Musi zainterweniować anioł we śnie, by przekonać przyszłego opiekuna Jezusa, że 'z Ducha Świętego jest to, co się w niej poczęło' (Mt 1, 20).

Ocean emocji, wahań lub wątpliwości, które przeżywali w tej sytuacji Maryja i Józef, nie jest zapewne możliwy do opisanie w kilku ewangelicznych zdaniach. Ta zagadkowa cisza Ewangelii jest jednak niezwykle bliska kobietom, które znalazły się w stanie błogosławionym. Czy będę dobrą matką? Czy ciąża przebiegnie bez komplikacji? Jak zachowa się mój mąż? Czy będzie dobrym ojcem, czy zapewni nam bezpieczeństwo?

Czas pytań i radzenia sobie z lękiem

Wbrew pozorom odpowiada też sytuacjom bardziej dramatycznym: lękowi kobiety opuszczonej podczas ciąży przez męża lub ukochanego, dowiadującej się o swoim stanie podczas poważnej choroby lub noszącej dziecko ze schorzeniami wykrytymi w okresie prenatalnym. Takie milczenie koresponduje z bólem rodziców nie mogących począć potomstwa.

Święty Łukasz pokazuje jednak od razu pewną receptę na poradzenie sobie – przynajmniej częściowe – z tego rodzaju burzą uczuć. Bezpośrednio po zwiastowaniu opisuje scenę nawiedzenia Świętej Elżbiety – brzemienna Maryja podejmuje wysiłek dotarcia do swojej krewnej, którą Bóg obdarzył łaską macierzyństwa.

Przychodzi do niej i dzieli się z radością, wygłaszając w finale piękny hymn 'Magnificat' sławiący Boga za wypełnianie danych człowiekowi obietnic i przerywający radością dotychczasową ciszę Ewangelii.

Jest w tej scenie jakaś nauka dla nas, oczekujących na Boże Narodzenie? Może wśród naszych znajomych znajduje się osoba w ciąży? Warto się z nią spotkać, niekoniecznie nawet na wspólnej modlitwie, ale choćby tylko przy grudniowej kawie? Zapewnić o wsparciu, wspólnie cieszyć się z nowego życia?

Czy my, mężczyźni, nie mamy obok siebie kolegi, który wkrótce zostanie ojcem? Czy nie potrzebuje naszej rozmowy, przyjaznego i życzliwego gestu? A może jest też obok nas para od lat nosząca krzyż nieplodności i moglibyśmy zaproponować im wspólną kolację? W końcu, może słyszeliśmy o kimś, kto rozważa podjęcie adopcji, ale obawia się, że nie podola jej ze względów psychologicznych lub finansowych? Czy potrzebuje naszej pomocy lub współobecności?

Mało dostrzegana ciąża Matki Bożej

Zastanawiająca jest duża wstrzemięźliwość, z jaką sztuka sakralna na Zachodzie i Wschodzie starała się pokazywać Matkę Bożą w stanie brzemiennym. Wierząc w cudowność poczęcia Chrystusa, zapewne nie chcieli sprowadzać tego aktu do cech ściśle fizycznych.

Czas Adwentu, oczekiwania na Boże Narodzenie to szczególny moment nadziei rozpostartej pomiędzy teraźniejszością a przyszłością, podobny do ciąży i oczekiwania na pojawienie się dziecka. Czas, w którym wszyscy powinniśmy być bliżej siebie i pielęgnować łaskę kochania bliźnich, w których zawsze tli się płomień Bożego światła.

12. grudnia – liturgiczne wspomnienie Matki Bożej z Guadalupe

– Matka Boża z Guadalupe i Polska...



Jako Polacy jesteśmy bardzo przywiązani do wizerunku Matki Bożej Częstochowskiej, której jesteśmy oddani w szczególną opiekę. Tymczasem Prymas Wyszyński zawierzył nasz naród jeszcze jednej potężnej orędownicze znanej na całym świecie. Patronuje nam także Matka Boża z Guadalupe.

Wszystko zaczęło się w roku 1946, gdy polski żołnierz AK – Jerzy Skoryna – przybywa i osiedla się w Meksyku. Na miejscu dowiaduje się, że wiele narodów dokonuje tu zawierzenia Maryi z Guadalupe. Widząc flagi wszystkich państw, które tego dokonały, w roku 1958 udaje się z taką prośbą do ówczesnego Prymasa Meksyku, kard. Gomeza. Ten informuje go, że może się to stać tylko, gdy oficjalnie poprosi o to Prymas Polski oraz prezydent naszego kraju.

Jerzy Skoryna postanawia wówczas podjąć oficjalne kroki w tym kierunku. Kard. Stefan Wyszyński nie zastanawia się długo i wysyła do Meksyku oficjalną prośbę, by zawierzyć Polaków Dziewicy z Guadalupe. W Polsce w tym czasie rządzą komuniści i nie można liczyć na wsparcie prezydenta, który deklaruje wrogość wobec wiary i Kościoła. Dlatego aktu tego dokonał rząd emigracyjny na uchodźstwie w Londynie.

Zawierzenie odbyło się 3. maja 1959 r. – gdy w Polsce świętowano uroczystość Maryi Królowej Polski. W organizację włączyło się wiele środowisk polonijnych w Meksyku. Kardynał Gomez wygłosił homilię, w której odwoływał się do uroczystości, jaka tego dnia obchodzona jest w Polsce. Później ucałował polską flagę z haftowanym godłem przyniesioną do ołtarza i odmówił akt zawierzenia Polaków i ich przyszłości Matce Bożej z Guadalupe. Po tym akcie zebrani wierni zaczęli skandować 'Viva Polonia', a w mieście rozległo się bicie dzwonu.

Na koniec Prymas Meksyku zwrócił się raz jeszcze do Polaków, przypominając o przyjaźni, jaka łączy nasze narody za sprawą tych dwóch szczególnych wizerunków Maryi. Wyraził przekonanie, że Polska dzięki wstawiennictwu MB będzie suwerenną i niepodległą.

Meksyk zawsze wspierał Polskę w dążeniu do wolności. Gdy w 1953 r. więziono Prymasa Wyszyńskiego, w Meksyku trwały modlitwy o jego uwolnienie. To przykład pięknej przyjaźni między narodami. Wszystko pod czujnym okiem troskliczej Matki...



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