St. Eugene Parish
Chicago, IL 60656

THE VOICE

Fourth Sunday of Advent **December 23, 2018**

Rectory
7958 W. Foster
773/775-6659
Fax 773/775-2832
churchoffice@st-eugene.org
www.st-eugene.org

School
7930 W. Foster
773/763-2235
Fax 773/763-2775
www.steugene-school.org

Convent
Spiritual Center
Verbum Dei Sisters
7920 W. Foster
773/467-0295
vdeichicago@comcast.net

SUNDAY MASSES: (5:30 PM Saturday), 7:00, 9:30, 11:30 AM, 4:30 PM

WEEKDAYS: 6:30, 9:00 AM (8:30 AM Saturday)

CONFESSIONS: Saturdays from 4:00—5:00 PM in the Reconciliation Room.

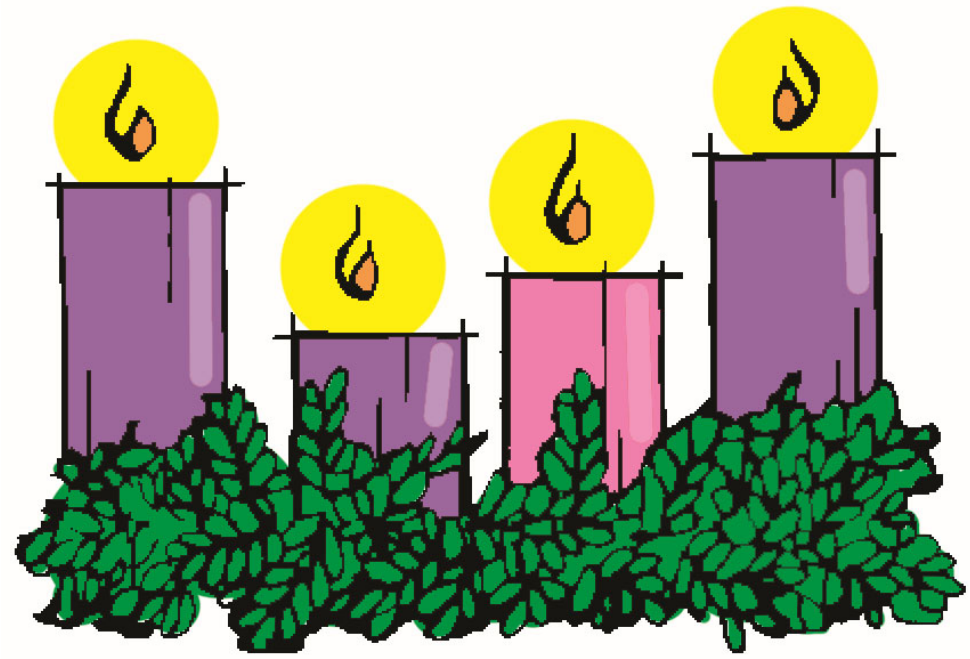
BAPTISMS: 1st & 3rd Sundays at 1:00 PM. Baptismal Preparation Class the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM in the rectory. Please telephone the rectory to register.

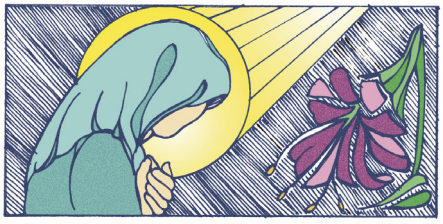
WEDDINGS: Arrangements must be made 6 months in advance with one of the Priests. Weddings are celebrated for registered parishioners of St. Eugene Parish.

PARISHIONERS: When moving in or out of St. Eugene Parish, please notify the rectory.

YOUR WILL: Remember the church in your bequests.

CHURCH ETIQUETTE: The priest should be the last in, and first out of church.





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Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
Luke 1:42

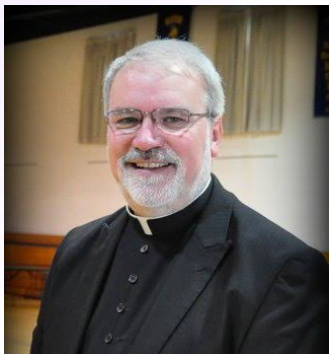
Parish Staff

Rev. Richard M. Yanos, Pastor
Rev. James J. O'Brien, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Greg Wojcik , Associate Pastor
Rev. John G. Hetland, Associate Pastor
Rev. Philip J. Grib, S.J., Resident
Rev. Ed Pacocha, Retired Visiting Priest
Deacon Chick O'Leary, Business Manager
Ms. Lydia Hilado, Director of Music
Mr. Vincent Hilado, Assist. Director of Music

Ms. Catherine Scotkovsky, Principal
Mrs. Janet Kusinski, Assistant Principal
Mrs. Barbara Meier, Bulletin Editor
Mrs. Joanna Bischof, Mrs. Pat Conlon,
Ms. Christine Jassak, Mrs. Rita Kopf &
Mrs. Terri Swiderski, Receptionists

Please TURN OFF any electronic devices before entering the church for Mass or any other Liturgical service.
Please do NOT park in front of church to ensure emergency vehicle access.
There are ample parking spaces provided on the north side,
to the rear of the church and the Shaunessy Center parking lot.

From the Pastor's Desk…



With the celebration of Gaudete (Joyful) Sunday last weekend, we as the Church were reminded of the "joyful" expectation that comes with the reaching of the 3rd week of Advent. Now we have arrived at the 4th Sunday of Advent with the anticipation of the coming of Christ at Christmas growing even greater. There are no greater memories I have than when I was a child and my sister and I counted down the days until Christmas. We were truly filled with more excitement than I am sure my parents needed at that time, as they were making all of their own preparations and probably worrying about bills and family gatherings etc. — the kinds of things children fortunately don't have to worry about. Through it all, though, I can still hear my mother gently reminding us of what Christmas was really all about and it had nothing to do with Santa and presents and rifling through the Sears catalogue picking out the things we wanted to find under our tree on Christmas Day.

It was, in fact, what was under our tree that our attention was focused. In our home, it was a simple but carefully placed Nativity Set. But more than its simple appearance was the opportunity that was taken advantage of by our parents to remind us that the little child in the straw stable was the real reason for celebrating Christmas. It sometimes saddens me today to see so much emphasis on commercialism and making sure our children get everything that they want rather than on emphasizing what God has given us through the birth of his son into our midst. When I spoke to a few of our religious education classes a number of years ago, I asked the children how many of their homes had the new air-inflated Santa, Grinch, Reindeer, and Snowman. In an unbelievable show of hands, almost every child's front lawn had one or more of these or something like it. Then I asked how many of them had a nativity set with Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus? You probably already know what the response was. Only one did. How truly sad it is that we have come to the point in our history, not only as Americans, but more importantly as Christians, when the true reason for celebrating Christmas has become so completely over-shadowed by the increasingly secular world in which we live as well as by the commercialism of our society.

As I write you this week, I encourage you to remind yourself, your children, family and friends what great event we are about to celebrate less than a week from now. In doing so, perhaps we can reclaim the real meaning of Christmas and how we will once again welcome Christ into our hearts and lives.

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I look forward to seeing all of you and your families at our many Masses over the next few days. Please note that our Christmas and New Year's Mass schedule is slightly different than regular weekends. Hopefully, by now, you have received my Christmas letter and our Christmas Season Mass Schedule. As you know some of our Masses during the holidays can be very crowded. If you are planning to attend these Masses please make an effort to get here a little earlier than usual to help ease the crowds.

Please Note: In the past the first Christmas Eve Mass had always been at 4:00 p.m. Accidentally, it got printed as 4:30 p.m. in the Advent/Christmas mailing. Due to the fact that it would be very difficult to correct this error, we will keep the first Christmas Eve Mass as it was printed – at 4:30 p.m. So, our Christmas Eve Mass Schedule will be: 4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. (with carols beginning at 9:30 p.m.). I apologize for the error.

Beginning with the new year and the weekend of January 5-6, the priests of St. Eugene will no longer be assisting with the distribution of the Eucharist at our weekend Masses. I'm sure you are aware that for many years now, this Ministry has long been encouraged to be shared by and entrusted to the lay members of our parish faith communities. In reality the door to the laity participating as Eucharistic Ministers was opened with the Second Vatican Council over 50 years ago.

We are all certainly aware that there are not many parishes today where the priests -- other than the celebrant of the Mass assist in the distribution of the Eucharist at weekend and/or daily liturgies. To be honest with you…in the almost 36 years I have been a priest, I have never been in a parish where the associate/ resident priests assisted with the distribution of Holy Communion. Sadly, here at St. Eugene's, we are not even able to offer the Eucharist in its fullest form with both the Body and Blood of Christ at any of our Masses because we are so terribly short of Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. In a parish the size of ours and with the numbers of parishioners that attend all of our Masses, we should have no difficulty filling this need with lay Eucharistic Ministers. My feeling is that seeing two or three priests coming out at each Mass on the weekends gives the impression that our parishioners are not needed to step up to fill this need. **The fact is… you are needed** and we, as a parish, would be better served by your responding to this call to perhaps one of the most significant ministries available to you. **The time to step up is NOW.** Sadly, because I have only been here for a few months, I do not know enough of our parishioners that well, yet, to personally ask you to be a Eucharistic Minister. Those that I do know are already serving as Eucharistic Ministers. So I am asking you to consider filling this great need here at St. Eugene. I would love to see all the nationalities that make up our vast and multi-ethnic parish represented as Eucharistic Ministers. So, I am asking for the second time now that **MANY** of our parish members fill out the form below and either mail it to the rectory or simply place it in the collection basket over the next couple of weeks. I am hoping we will get a significant number of names so that we can provide the proper formational and parish training to prepare you for this very special Ministry. In your consideration to join this Ministry, I would encourage you to ask yourself this question….If not me, WHO?

.....

Recognizing the importance of this Ministry, I (we) would be honored to be an Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Eucharist_____

I (we) would be honored to be a Lector_____

NAME:_____

ADDRESS:_____

CITY:_____STATE:_____ZIP:_____

PHONE #_____

EMAIL(If you have one)_____

PLEASE DROP IN THE COLLECTION BASKET or DELIVER TO THE PARISH OFFICE ASAP.

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As next week's bulletin will be after the celebration of our Christmas Masses, I wish all in our parish a reflective end to the season of Advent and a beautiful and family-filled Christmas Season.

Fr. Rich

Advent and Christmas 2018 Schedule

Advent Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5:30 pm
Sunday: 7:00 am
9:30 am
11:30 am
4:30 pm



OPLATKI
Christmas Wafers Oplatki will be available at church and at the rectory office (during regular office hours) for a donation of $3.00. There are 4 wafers per envelope.



Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule

Weekday Mass: Monday, December 24 - 6:30 & 9:00 am
Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24 - 4:30 pm (Family Liturgy), 6:30 pm, 9:30 pm (Christmas carols begin), 10:00 pm (the Mass of Midnight)
Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25 - 7:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am

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Weekday Mass: Monday, December 31, 2018 - 6:30 & 9:00 am
New Year's Eve, Monday, December 31, 2018 - 4:00 pm (Mass of Anticipation)
New Year's Day, Mary, Mother of God (a Holy Day of Obligation)
Tuesday, January 1, 2019 - 10:00 am (Community Mass)

~ ~

Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord
Saturday, January 5 - 5:30 pm (Mass of Anticipation)
Sunday, January 6 - 7:00, 9:30, & 11:30 am, and 4:30 pm

THIS WEEKEND

OPLATEK
AVAILABLE IN THE VESTIBULE
(and at the rectory during the week.)

MEMORIES AND DREAMS

Throughout our lives, we retain the language and habits of our native region and family of origin. Should we return to our home after a long absence, we quickly revert to its familiar speech and practices. Our deep memory is reflected in old stories and words and speech patterns. This familiarity runs like an underground river and accompanies us wherever we go.

Not only do we remember, we are incorporated into and made part of a greater memory. In remembering and recollecting, we are in turn gathered up and re-collected.

Today we remember Mary, a small figure travelling the country roads to visit Elizabeth. All the great pronouncements and dreams of the prophets point to this time when the Lord's words to Mary would be gathered and fulfilled. The memories of her people are alive in her, and memories of her nourish our own living faith.

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HAPPENINGS

SUNDAY	**23**
12:30 pm	Youth Athletics: SH.CTR
MONDAY	**24**
	Christmas Eve
TUESDAY	**25**
	Christmas Day
WEDNESDAY	**26**
	NO AVTIVITIES
THURSDAY	**27**
	NO ACTIVITIES
FRIDAY	**28**
	NO ACTIVITIES



Welcome, visitors and guests, to St. Eugene Church and Parish. Please sign our guest register in the rear vestibule and let our ushers know if you need a taxi or need to use a phone.



December 16, 2018

DUE TO THE EARLY PRINTING OF OUR BULLETIN DONATION INFORMATION IS NOT AVAILABLE

EARLY PRINTING OF OUR BULLETIN

The bulletin for the weekend of December 29/30 has gone to the printer.
Bulletin copy for the weekend of January 5/6 must be in the rectory office by 9 am on Wednesday, December 26 by 9 am.



SATURDAY	**29**
10:00 am	AA: SCH.RH
SUNDAY	**30**
12:30 pm	KC's 5th Sunday Rosary following 11:30 am Mass: CH
12:30 pm	Youth Athletics: SH.CTR

FACILITY CODES

CH	**Church**
CV	**Convent**
REC.LL	**Rectory Lower Level**
SCH.110	**School Room 110**
SCH.RH	**Ryan Hall**
SH.CTR	**Shaunessy Center**
SH.CTR+MR	**Shaunessy Center & Meeting Room**
SH.MR	**Shaunessy Center Meeting Room**

WE WILL NOT HAVE ADORATION
ON CHRISTMAS EVE
MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2018
&
ON NEW YEAR'S EVE DAY
MONDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2018



ADORATION of the
BLESSED SACRAMENT
Mondays in church
12:00 NOON - 8:00 pm
with Benediction at 7:45 pm

"God so loved the world that He gave
His Only-Begotten Son,
in order that everyone who believes
in Him might have eternal life."
Gospel of John
Taken from the Magnificat, Vol. 13 No. 13

PLEASE COME — VISIT JESUS

PEOPLE OF THE CROSS UNITED

We are all members of the Body of Christ.
If one member suffers, all members suffer.
(1 COR: 12:26)

Please pray for our brothers and sisters who suffer persecution in many countries throughout the world because of their Christian faith.



Prayer with Scripture

We invite you to an encounter of prayer where you can stop from the hurry of the moment and listen to God through God's Word, in silence, meditation, adoration and contemplation. In this short but intense time, we listen to a talk that introduces us into the understanding of the Word of God, which later, we reflect on and meditate in an attitude of faith, discovering what God is trying to reveal to us. The prayer is accompanied by the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with songs to help the faithful enter more into prayer.

Every Tuesday in Spanish - 7:00 pm
Every Wednesday in English - 7:00 pm
Every Thursday in Polish - 7:30 pm

St. Eugene Convent
7920 W. Foster, Chicago IL 60656
For more information please contact the convent at:773-467-0295



5TH SUNDAY ROSARY
Next Sunday, December 30
Church

Knights of Columbus
Karol Wojtyla/Pope John Paul II Council # 14008



Our nation and the world are experiencing a growing moral breakdown that causes assaults on our core rights, restrictions on our religious beliefs, disdain for life, elimination of GOD from our society, and threatens the collapse of world order. We pray the rosary to Our Lady as she requested, to heal our nation, to ask for peace, to turn our people back to GOD and to offer reparation and penance for our sins. The Knights of Columbus invite all parishioners and their families to pray the rosary with us every time a 5th Sunday occurs during a month. **The 5th Sunday Rosary service will be conducted on December 30, immediately following the 11:30 AM Mass. Please join us to pray for peace and guidance.**

Bulletin copy **MUST** be in the rectory office **NO LATER THAN 12:00 NOON EACH MONDAY**. Copy material received past the deadline will not be published in *The Voice* until the following weekend—NO EXCEPTIONS.

RECTORY HOURS
THE RECTORY WILL CLOSE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23
AT 1:00 PM
AND
RE-OPEN
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26
AT 9:00 AM.
THE RECTORY WILL CLOSE
MONDAY, DECEMBER 31
AT NOON
AND
RE-OPEN
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2
AT 9:00 AM.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES
TO
REV. JAMES J. O'BRIEN
DECEMBER 29



RECTORY HOURS
MONDAY - FRIDAY
9:00 - 11:30 am & 12:30 - 8:00 pm
(closed for lunch: 11:30 am - 12:30 pm)
SATURDAY & SUNDAY:
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

ANNIVERSARY WISHES
TO
PAT & JIM CONLON
66 YEARS



OUR DEARLY DEPARTED
LOVED ONES
ALL SOULS DAY REMEMBRANCE
De Frisco Family
Mangiamele Family
Romano Family
Santella Family

ST. EUGENE ADULT CHOIR
Please meet Lydia,
our Director of Music,
at the organ in church.
Practice is every Sunday, at 10:45 am.
We will sing at the 11:30 am Mass.
Everyone is welcome to sing with us.!!!

SOCIAL CONCERNS MINISTRY



DECEMBER FOOD DRIVE
will take place the weekend of
December 29 / 30



THANK YOU AGAIN to those of you who contributed food and monetary donations to our Thanksgiving Food Drive in November. Your generous donations put food on many tables and provide aid to the poor in other ways. There are so many in need.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

In ancient pagan Rome, these days in mid-December were a time for general slacking off at work and far too much rejoicing. The period of leisure after the harvest and a whole cluster of pagan festivals were a force for the church to reckon with. The Saturnalia, breaking out on December 17, was a time of high living and loose morals. Christians were advised by their bishops to drop out of the mayhem and do some serious fasting. A famous church council at Saragossa in Spain made a season of fasting mandatory from December 17 to December 23, exactly coinciding with the Saturnalia. The bishops at that time were perhaps less concerned with preparing for Christmas than with resisting the kind of loose living going on.

Modern times have restored a bit of the Saturnalia spirit to our culture, so that a general period of partying with a vague connection to religion is now upon us. How does a Christian keep balance? The practice of charity by remembering the poor in our gift□giving, of hospitality in finding a place at our holiday tables for the poor and lonely, and of daily prayer in the home and at church are great helps. Although Advent is not a penitential season like Lent, it is a time for making room in our lives for what matters most.

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Knights of Columbus
Karol Wojtyla/Pope John Paul II Council # 14008

The winning entries in the Knights of Columbus "KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" poster contest at St. Eugene School will be on display in the rear vestibule of the church throughout the Christmas season.

Parishioner Contact Update

To help us keep our records current, please print the information below and drop the form in the collection basket or at the rectory. Thank you.

Last Name _____ First Name _____ M/M, Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss

Last Name _____ First Name _____ M/M, Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss

Address _____ City _____ Zip code _____

Email address: _____ Email address: _____

Phone # (Home) _____ Cell # _____ Cell # _____

ALTAR & ROSARY CHRISTMAS PARTY - DECEMBER 4, 2018

















FORMED PICK

The Story of the Nativity

Explore the Birth of Christ

This fast-paced look at the true story of the Nativity clears away misunderstandings about Jesus's origin and is invaluable for learning more about the truth of Christmas.

Watch on formed.org



★★★★★

"I LOVE the biblical referencing tying the Old and New Testaments together...it shows the fullness and perfection of God's plan unfolding!"

—Sandy S., Eustis, FL



Register at EUGENE.FORMED.ORG

A REMINDER

To make sure a Mass Intention is included in the bulletin, it must be made **2 weeks** in advance. To make sure a Mass Intention is read at Mass, it must be made at least **1 week** in advance of the date requested.

CRISIS PREGNANCY HELPLINE
1-800-400-4205

Find St. Eugene on Facebook!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A PARISHIONER OF ST. EUGENE PARISH, WE WELCOME YOU TO PLEASE STOP BY THE RECTORY OFFICE DURING REGULAR OFFICE HOURS.
M-F 9 am - 8 pm, SAT – SUN 9 am - 1 pm



POPE FRANCIS
TWEET FOR THE WEEK
Even when we pray alone, we pray together with all the people of God.



Baptisms

Aleksandar Ivan Sisul



O COME, LONG FORETOLD

O come, Desired of nations,
Whom priest and prophet long foretold
Will break the captive fetters,
Redeem the long-lost fold.
Dear Savior, haste; come, come to earth,
Dispel the night and show your face,
And bid us hail the dawn of grace.

--Simon J. Pellegrin (1663-1745),
Tr. by Mary of St. Philip (1825-1904)

+ MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK +

Saturday, December 22 - Vigil: 4th Sunday of Advent
5:30 Marie Dituri, Jimmy McGuire, Maeve Molloy, Dr. Bob Thurness

Sunday, December 23 - 4th Sunday of Advent
7:00 Living & Dec'd Mbrs. Manczko & Bova Fams.
9:30 Stanislaw & Sranciczka Chabura, Agnieszka Chabura, Carmela Esposito, Mary Morreale
11:30 Salvatore Alaimo & Mario Bartucci, Cristoforo & Concetta Alaimo, Virginia Florkiewicz, LaPietra Fam. & Fri., Irene McGreevy, Hillard & Michael Michalek, Casto Neri, Eugene Paulini, Kenneth Paulini, Sam Salvato
4:30 People of the Parish

Monday - Friday: 6:30 am & 9:00 am
Saturday: 8:30 am

Monday, December 24 - Vigil of Christmas
6:30 Mary Anne Loftsgaarden
9:00 Eugene Kosla, Irene McGreevy
4:30 Sam Cortese, George Meier
6:30 Joe Jagiello
10:00 Thomas & Michael Doles, Int. for Brian Leahy, Living & Dec'd Mbrs. Lutfy & Dahir Fams., Int. for Richard Kurtyka

Tuesday, December 25 - The Nativity of the Lord
7:00 People of the Parish, Attilio & Giosina Turano
9:30 Pearl, George & Paul Baker, James Collins, James & Marie Ciolino, Martin & May Collins,
11:30 Francisco & Ninfa Balistreri, Aurora & Patrizia Barone, Amalia & Gennaro Barone, Walter Caban, Frank Caira, Leonard Cataldo, Diane Fiorentino Colantonio, Joseph Cozzi, Dabros & Wytrwal Fams., Larry DeMarco, Steve & Helen Dobrowolski, Michael Fiorante, Zofia & Witold Gadomski, Sean Killen, John Kula, Lising & Nardi Fam., Michael & Josephine Magnine, Virginia Sorce & Joseph Ronald Magnine, Franciszew & Angela Mietus, Hillard & Michael Michalek, Irene McGreevy, Kathy McGuinness, Edward Madura, Adam Ostrowski, Anna & Mike Parente, Sr., Michael Vito Parente & Domenico Battista, Dec'd Mbrs. Rogers & Tufts Fams., Russo & Riotto Fams., Frank & Marianna Scavelli, Vincenzo DeFilippo, Anna Scola, Emidio & Elvira Spinelli, Edward & Victoria Wnek

Wednesday, December 26 - St. Stephen
6:30 Alex Kornas, Patricia Zmijewski
9:00 Jeanne & Fred Brickman & Fam., Chester Kolakowski Fam., Joe & Estelle Kurtyka, Eraldo Simonetti, Edward & Victoria Wnek

Thursday, December 27 - St. John
6:30 Purgatorial Society
9:00 Charlotte Matyga

Friday, December 28 - The Holy Innocents
6:30 Anthony Bongiorno
9:00 Leroy Salemi

Saturday, December 29 - St. Thomas Becket
8:30 Rachelle Turano-Wojcik

Saturday, December 29 - Vigil: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
5:30 Bennie Martin, Carmen Melendrez, Patricia Orzel

Sunday, December 30 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
7:00 People of the Parish
9:30 Dominick Di Re, Eugene Kosla, Jerome Lipps, Sr. & Dec'd Fam. Mbrs. , Mike Savino
11:30 Dorothy & Elmer Chanski, George Concialdi, Ernesto & Domenica Fiorante, Giovanni & Cristina Greco, Frank Jablonski, Int. of Abraham & Kate Jose, Joseph Kuzara, LaPietra Fam. & Fri., Helen Mazurek, Domenico Selvaggio
4:30 Ron Brown

From nearby to next door

For many of us, making shocking discoveries can be traumatic. Undoubtedly; Joseph's discovery of Mary's "situation," her sudden and (initially) inexplicable pregnancy; was one of those discoveries. Yet, Joseph learned a lesson and we learn one, too, from Matthew 1:18-24. Joseph discovers that God is no longer distant. God will soon be close enough to touch. Joseph also discovered that he, himself, was valuable and that he would have a role in making sure Emmanuel, "God with us," arrived safely into the world. Joseph's encounter with the angel assured him, and believers today as well, that God is now not just "nearby" in, say, the Temple or, for us, in a church, but rather, that God is literally right next door, as close as we might be to our neighbors. A God that close, a God who is right next door, then becomes the God who wishes to live in our lives and be to us as close as possible. That is one of the great promises of Christmas.

SCHEDULE OF LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Mass Dec. 29 / 30	Celebrant	Lectors	Extraordinary Ministers of Eucharist	Altar Servers
Saturday 5:30 PM	Fr. John Hetland	Diane Divello	Angie Cisek Marie Guerrieri Janet Horn Brian O'Neil Marcia Pollowy	C. Fredrick K. Kinel G. Thome I. Reddy
Sunday 7:00 AM	Fr. Rich Yanos	Mary Egan	Glory Bermas Joseph Carrozza Mary Egan Lois Feist Raquel Perez	A. Santucci L. Lara A. Miller
Sunday 9:30 AM	Fr. John Hetland	Terri Swiderski	Carrie Lim Manny Lim Josephine Nardi Bernard Ndiwe Tom Swiderski	M. Spanola M. Clancy G. DiGenova
Sunday 11:30 AM	Fr. Ed Pacocha	Pat Conlon	Joseph Cardella Rosa Fiorante Martha Holder Pat Paetsch Maria Russo	R. Urey S. Urey
Sunday 4:30 PM	Fr. Greg Wojcik	Pat Brown	Sr. Ann Marie Betty Gebhardt John Gebhardt Carol Paulini James Schmidt	K. Adams C. Czubek K. Kelly

Fourth Sunday of Advent
O Little Town of Bethlehem

There is a Christmas song that says of Bethlehem: "Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light." Bethlehem is a suburb of Jerusalem. Its main tourist attraction in the time of Jesus was that it was the birthplace of David. Though today it has many modern homes and buildings, you can still see that it is part of "the hill country. . .of Judah." (Lk 1:39) It is not too far from En Kerem, where John the Baptist was born, and apparently where today's Gospel takes place.

We see in the Gospel reading today how Elizabeth and her unborn child rejoiced at the news of Jesus' coming birth. The story implies that Mary went to see Elizabeth as soon as the angel told her about Jesus. Maybe it was easier to tell her cousin, who was also with child, than her fiancé. I would think that talking about it made this miracle more real. I know that talking about my faith makes it more real to me.

Jesus is the "everlasting Light" mentioned in the song. That light shines today, not just in Bethlehem, but everywhere that his followers bring it. When we console someone who is mourning, that light shines. When we offer to help someone in need, it shines brighter. When we forgive someone who hurt us, the light is burning. When we offer to sponsor a candidate in the RCIA, the light grows. When we teach a child how to pray, it shines even brighter.

Our dark streets need the everlasting Light today as much as they did 2000 years ago. Today we remember how Mary and Elizabeth shared their faith in God. They did so much like we do today. Mary could not see her unborn son yet, but helped Elizabeth to believe by her words. Jesus, who seems to be invisible today, is seen in the shared faith of those who bring him into the world by their words and actions.

Tom Schmidt, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



PLEASE PRAY

***For the Sick*:** Annabella Amato, Victoria Amelio, Pat & Bob Apida, Fred & Cahad Ballog, Lawrence Basili, Mary Bloodworth, Anthony Bongiorno, Julie Bronski, Margaret Brinlee-Brucken, Helen Bruchalski, Franca Chiappetta, Jim Conlon Jr. & Sr., Brenda Crotty, Lorraine Czerwinski, Connie D'Astice, Joan De Stefano, Nancy Donatello, Marge Dyson, Don Feist, Bob & Carol Gasiorek, Patricia Gelfond, Ava Geole, Frances Gofron, Fr. Phil Grib, S.J., Erika Arquilla Hlavacek, Tim Heider, Florence Jassak, Eileen Kearns, Janet & Edward Kindybalyk, Olga Kykta, Allie Lim, Rose Mary Maratto, Helen Masley, Phyllis McGarrh, Rich Moellering, Jr., Michael C. & Virginia Muscarello, Mary Oberheim, Joan O'Connor, Aline Papciak, Norma Quilici, Charlotte Rice, Jeannine Riotto, Diane Rizzuto, Rita Rogers, Stella Rombotis, Frances Salvato, Leo & Theresa Samborski, Bernadett Sedlacek, Vicki Smith, Emily Steckiewicz, and for those who are homebound, in hospitals, nursing homes and under hospice care.

Newly added to our sick list: Robert Moore

For the Deceased: Janina Serowski

PLEASE CALL THE RECTORY IF YOU WANT TO ADD A NAME TO THE SICK LIST.

When a Family Member is Hospitalized

Please notify the rectory office at: 773/775-6659, when a family member is hospitalized. Because of HIPPA (privacy) laws, Presence Resurrection Medical Center and other hospitals are no longer permitted to notify us when parishioners are admitted to the hospital.

At the time of a family member's death, if you would like memorials to be made to St. Eugene Parish, please instruct the Funeral Home to use the following in the death notice:
"In lieu of flowers, a memorial may be made to St. Eugene Parish, Foster Avenue, Chicago."
Envelopes can be provided by the Funeral Home.



Communion for the Homebound

If you know of any member of St. Eugene Church who is homebound and would like a Minister of Care to bring them the Eucharist please let us know. Just call the Rectory Office at 773/775-6659 and someone will get back to you.



SOCIAL CONCERNS MINISTRY

If you are in need of assistance,
call the rectory.
A member of the **SOCIAL CONCERNS MINISTRY**
(formerly St. Vincent de Paul)
will get back to you.

Yankee Candle Fundraiser

Help Support St. Eugene School! We are partnering with Yankee Candle Fundraising to help support our school. St. Eugene School will receive 40% of the profits!

Order online at: www.yankeecandlefundraising.com and enter Group Number 990009657. Online orders will be shipped directly to your house! Online ordering ends January 10, 2019! Thank you for your support!

SAVE THE DATE!
ALUMNI WEEKEND
FEBRUARY 22, 23, & 24, 2019



ST. EUGENE SCHOOL
IS STILL COLLECTING *BOX TOPS*



Knights of Columbus
Karol Wojtyla/Pope John Paul II Council # 14008



2018/19 Knights of Columbus Youth Free-Throw Championship

Local Competition

St. Eugene Parish Shaunessy Center
Sunday, January 6, 2019 1:00 - 3:00 pm

All boys and girls, ages 9 to 14, are invited to participate in this local competition. Winners will progress through local, district, and state competitions.

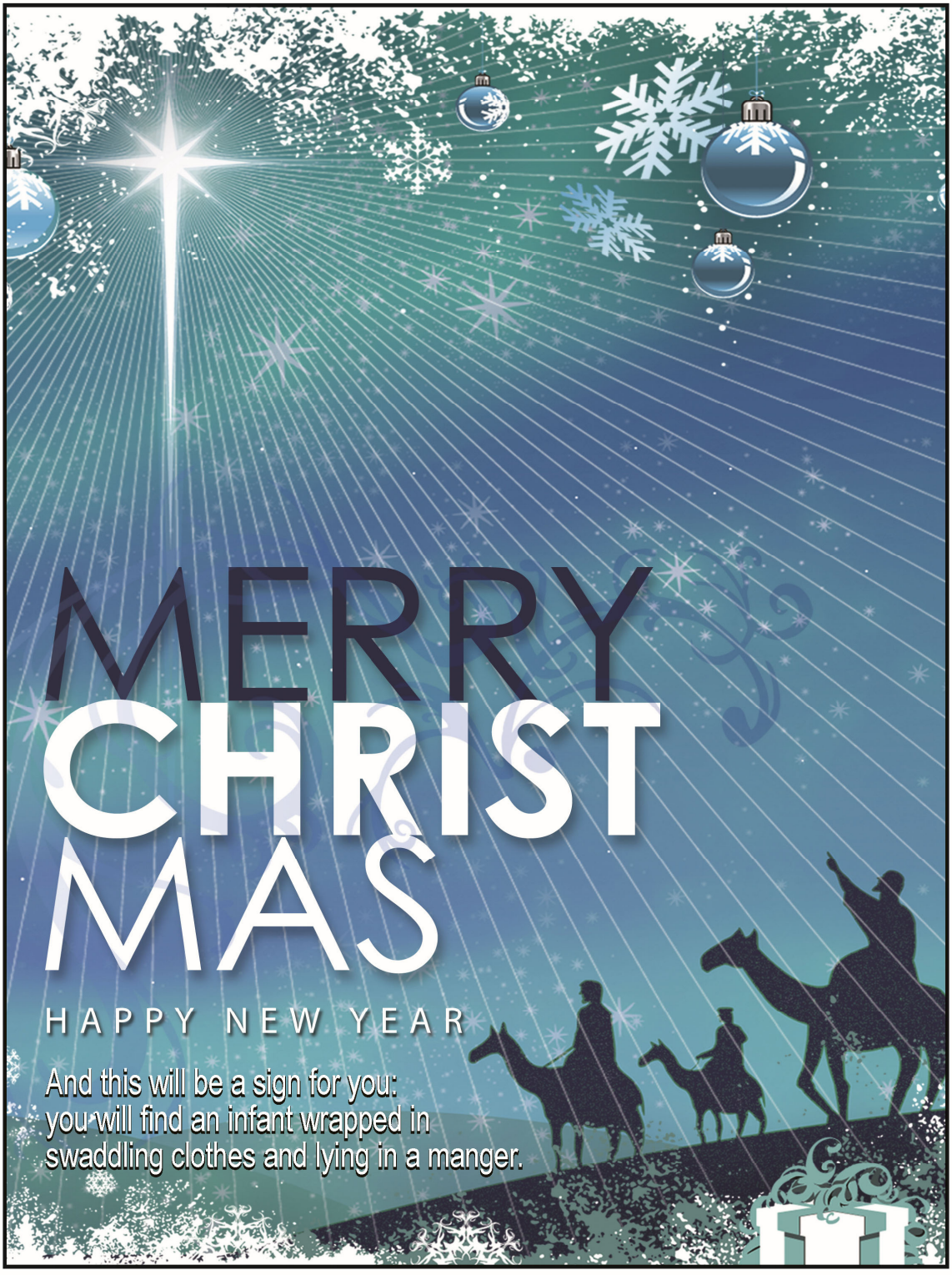
All boys and girls 9-14 years old are eligible to participate and will compete in their respective age divisions.

All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation in this event. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent.

Entry forms must be submitted prior to January 5, 2019.

For entry forms or additional information, please contact:

Patty Samborski, St. Eugene Athletic Director
773-763-2235 ext. 227 psamborski@st-eugene.org


MERRY
CHRIST
MAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR
And this will be a sign for you:
you will find an infant wrapped in
swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

We ask all of our parishioners, if you have a loved one serving in the military, to please contact the rectory office to give us the name of the soldier, so the whole parish can pray for your loved one. A book in the church vestibule is available for inscribing the names of all military personnel. This book will be part of the offertory procession from now until the war is over.

A PRAYER

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands.
Protect them as they protect us.
Bless them and their families
for the selfless acts they perform
for us in our time of need.
We ask this in the name of
Jesus our Lord and Savior. Amen

We pray for our loved ones

who are serving in any branch of the Armed Forces during this time of conflict.

MAJOR ADAMCZYK
GHALEB AZROUI
DONALD BELLISARIO
TIMOTHY EMMETT CAROLAN
ZBIGNIEW DUDKOWSKI
MATTHEW SCOTT FORREST
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ANDREW HOPKINS
CHRISTOPHER JENKINS
BERNARD EDWARD KUSINSKI
ANTONIO JAMES LIM

ANGEL LOPEZ
CHRIS MARCHIORI
DANIEL MEANEY
KEITH MILLER
THOMAS NEUHENGEN
ERIC NORWOOD
VINCENT PAGE
CHAD PRITCHARD
NICHOLAS RANCH
HOLLY SCHIPPERS
MICHAEL SCHIPPERS, JR.

If you would like to add a name to the list, please call the rectory.
Also, please call the rectory when your loved one returns home.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission as Catholics united in faith at St. Eugene Parish is to help bring God to people and people to God. Through evangelization, education and being of service to each other, we strive to make our parish community a holistic community in body, mind and spirit. It is our goal to develop, support, encourage and empower one another in our parish ministries, so that each person can reach their human and Christian potential. We are enthused about the future of St. Eugene and the whole Catholic Church and we pledge our participation in that future. We seek dialogue and open communication with all parishioners in fulfilling the needs of our parish. While recognizing the cultural diversities in our community, we will strive to bring all people together in Christ under a common bond of faith, hope and love.

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washes with ADVERTISED soap
puts on ADVERTISED clothes
drinks a cup
of ADVERTISED coffee
drives to work
in an ADVERTISED car
and then . . . .
refuses to ADVERTISE
believing it doesn't pay.
Later if business is poor
he ADVERTISES it for sale.
WHY IS IT?

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