Queen of Peace Parish

Welcome!

We, the Catholic community of Queen of Peace Parish, centered in the Eucharist, strive to grow in our faith and our relationship with God as a welcoming people, working for peace and justice through service to others.

OUR LADY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

8747 W. Lawrence Avenue
Chicago, IL 60656
Ph. (773) 625-3369

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:
Monday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

MASSES:

Tuesday:	7:00 am
Thursday:	7:00 am
Sunday:	10:00 am

ST. EUGENE CHURCH

7958 W. Foster Avenue
Chicago, IL 60656
Ph. (773) 775-6659 (773) 775-6660
(773) 775-6694

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:

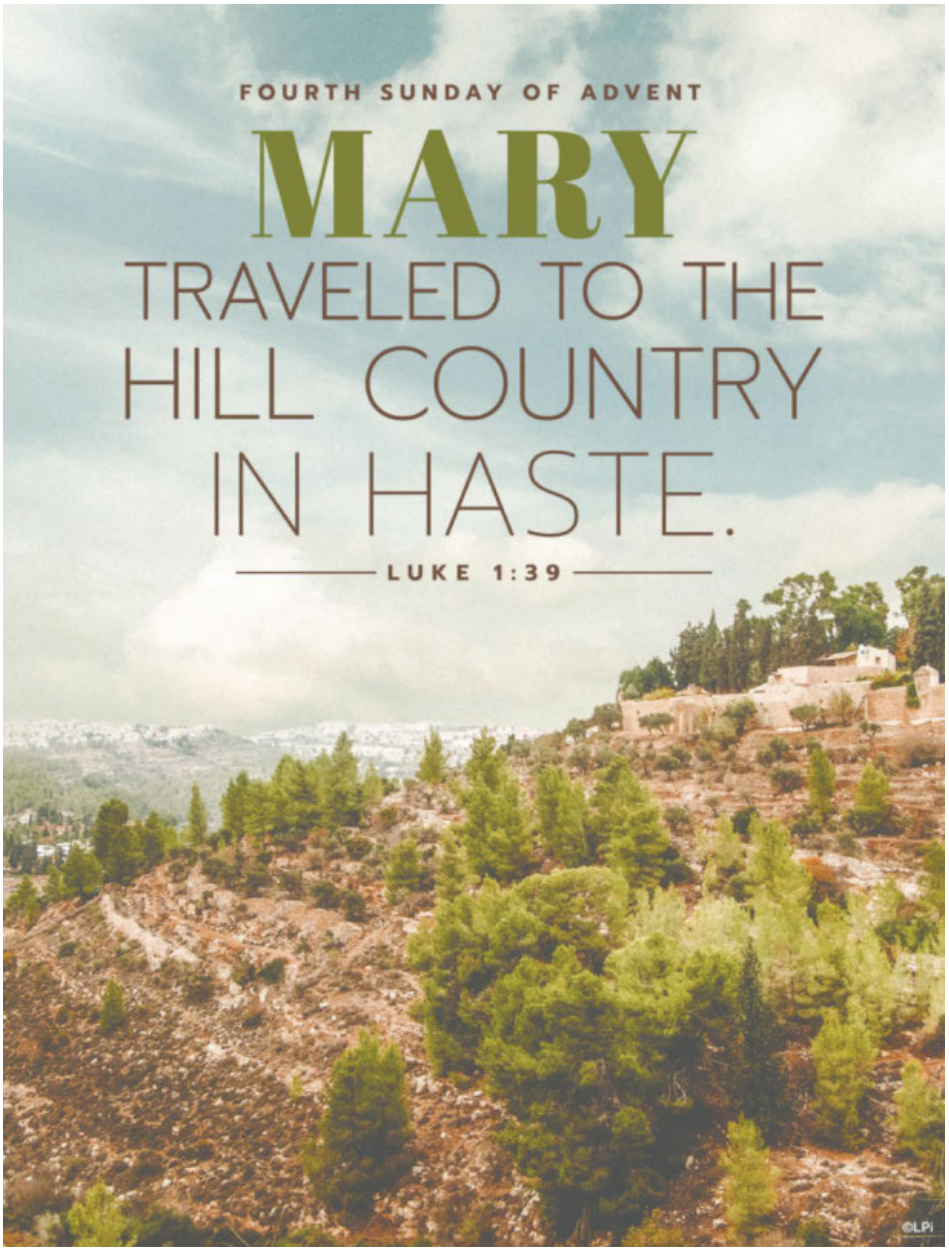
Mon.- Thur.:	9:00 am - 7:00 pm
Friday	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday:	9:00 am - 1:00 pm

MASSES:

Monday:	9:00 am
Wednesday:	9:00 am
Friday:	9:00 am
Saturday:	8:30 am
Sunday Vigil Mass:	4:30 pm
Sunday:	8:30 am
	11:30 am
CONFESSIONS	3:30 pm on Saturday

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday:	4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Benediction:	5:45 pm



December 22, 2024



FROM THE DESK OF FR. RICH

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy focuses on the Blessed Virgin Mary whose story distills the essence of the season as no other figure can.

Her "yes" to God made Christ's first coming as we know it possible while her unquestioning faith and trust furnish us with a model to follow as we prepare for his second coming at the end of time.

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 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.

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 couple of weeks. Please note that our Christmas and New Year's Mass schedule is slightly different than regular weekends. As you know some of our Masses during the holidays can be very crowded. If you are planning to attend these Masses, please try to get here a little earlier than usual to help ease the seating process and the parking lot congestion.

QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH

Our Christmas Eve Mass Schedule on Tuesday, December 24th will be: 3:00 p.m. (St. Eugene), 4:00 p.m. (Our Lady, Mother of the Church), 5:00 p.m. (St. Eugene), and 10:00 p.m. (with carols beginning at 9:30 p.m. at St. Eugene)

Our Christmas Day Mass Schedule on Wednesday, December 25th will be: 8:30 a.m. (St. Eugene), 10:00 a.m. (Our Lady, Mother of the Church), and 11:30 a.m. (St. Eugene).

Mass times for Feast of the Holy Family on Saturday/Sunday, December 28th/29th will be our normal weekend schedule.

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Christmas Oplatki (wafer) may still be available in the parish office during normal business hours, for those who wish to share in this beautiful custom at their Christmas family meals. This Christmas Wafer is a Christmas tradition celebrated in Poland (Oplatki), Lithuania (Kaledaitis), Slovakia and some regions of Italy. This wafer is identical in composition to the host that is used during a Catholic Mass. It is usually embossed with Christmas related religious images, varying from the nativity scene, especially the Virgin Mary with baby Jesus, to the Star of Bethlehem. Family members and friends break off a small piece of the wafer and give it to one another along with a blessing, as a symbol of forgiveness and to remind participants of the importance of Christmas, God and family. An explanation of how to partake in this custom is provided on the envelope containing the wafer. Each packet contains 4 wafers and is available for $3.00. Every year we run out, so you might want to pick yours before they are gone.

Wishing all in our parish a blessed conclusion of the Advent Season and week ahead.

Fr. Rich Yanos





QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH - MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 21, 2024
8:30 am Mass at St. Eugene Church
Margaret Bastian - 84th Anniversary
Domenica Dammicco
S.I. For Family
4:30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass - Mass at St. Eugene Church
Juan Diaz
Betty & John Gebhardt
Krol Family
Mary & Jeffrey Wrobel
Sunday, December 22, 2024 - 4th Sunday of Advent
8:30 am Mass at St. Eugene Church
Anderson Family
Juan Diaz
Frackiel Family
Tony Parisi
James Stuber
Wawronowicz Family
10:00 am Mass at Our Lady, Mother of the Church
People of the Parish
Lydia Adriano
Connie Caranfa
Matilda & James Halas
Sandra Morelli
Pietro Pisello
Maria Murphy Sanchez
S.I. for Deacon Ted Marszalek - Healing & Blessings
Mary Stanwyck
Joseph Subsits
11:30 am Mass at St. Eugene Church
Mary Kate & John Brennan
Vito Urso Cale
Rosa Chavez
Annie & Michael Connor
Mary Lines
Michael & Virginia Muscarello
Gerry Papish
Bernadette Sedlacek
Robert Seliga - 25th Anniversary
Carlos Vasquez
Monday, December 23, 2024 - Late Advent Weekday
9:00 am Mass at St. Eugene Church
Joanna Bischof
Kolief & Regan Families
Living & Deceased Members of Lutfy & Dahir Families
Zoila Aurora Paredes
Elba Rodriguez
Tuesday, December 24, 2024 - Late Advent Weekday
7:00 am Mass at Our Lady, Mother of the Church
Mary Samp
Tuesday, December 24, 2024 - Christmas Eve
3:00 pm - (Family Liturgy) - St. Eugene Church
Thomas & Steven Hanson
Irene & Hugh McGreevy
Frank Scalise
Anna Scola
4:00 pm - Our Lady, Mother of the Church
Eileen Sullivan
Wieslawa Karczmarczyk
5:00 pm - St. Eugene Church
Chris & Tadeusz Dabos & Family
9:30 pm (Christmas Carols Begin) - St. Eugene Church
10:00 pm - St. Eugene Church
Carmela & Frank Esposito
Dominica & Ernesto Fiorante
Angela & Cristina Greco
Maria Janus - Death Anniversary
Deceased Members of the Mitrenga Family
John Kula & Family
Wednesday, December 25, 2024 - Christmas Day
8:30 am - St. Eugene Church
Living & & Deceased Members of Feist & Mikulski Families
Jozef Krol
Living & Deaceased Members of Lutfy & Dahir Families
Michael & Josephine Magnine
Riotto & Russo Families
Emidio & Elvira Spinelli
10:00 am - Our Lady, Mother of the Church
Mandile & Vero Families
Sandra Morelli
Maria Murphy Sanchez
11:30 am - St. Eugene Church
Domenico & Anna Battista
Cristina & Giovanni Greco
Haj & Janus Families
John Kula & Family
Michael Vito & Mike Sr. & Anna Parente
Stefanovski Family
Thursday, December 26, 2024
7:00 am Mass at Our Lady, Mother of the Church
Phyllis & Arthur Bastian Wedding Anniversary
Fred Rogers
Roy Tufts
Friday, December 27, 2024
9:00 am Mass at St. Eugene Church
Dorothy & Elmer Chanski
DeVito Family
Ursula Kucharski
Mark Mucek
Newell Family & Tommy Barnes
Saturday, December 28, 2024
8:30 am Mass at St. Eugene Church
Killmer & Karen Families
4:30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass - Mass at St. Eugene Church
People of the Parish
Andrew Bujdasz
Charles Ferdinand - 1st B-Day
Agnes & Ludwig Kompera
Angeline Kompera
Jozef Krol
Ursula Kucharski
Jimmy McGuire
Ruben Purificacion
Frederick Tomzik
Sunday, December 29, 2024
8:30 am Mass at St. Eugene Church
For the family of Nicole, Damian, Matthew, Mike & Marsha
Joshua Hadary, Jude & Minn Families
Mirno Della Santina
James Stuber
Mary Varga
10:00 am Mass at Our Lady, Mother of the Church
Eloisa Barrera
Juan Diaz
Dominick Di Cristofano
Carmela Di Matteo
Deceased Members of Kot & Feret Families
Sandra Morelli
Fred Nuccio B-Day
Pietro Pisello
Maria Murphy Sanchez
Mary Stanwyck
11:30 am Mass at St. Eugene Church
Agnieszka Chabura
Stanislaw & Franciszka Chabura
Bennie Martin
Carmen B. Melendrez
Joseph Miklewicz
Kathy Montalbano
Bozena Mogielnicka
Joseph & Anna Wilk
Wiktoria Wilk



Advent Weekday - Tuesday, December 24

7:00 am - Our Lady, Mother of the Church

Christmas and New Year`s Schedule

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24

3:00 pm - (Family Liturgy) - St. Eugene Church
4:00 pm - Our Lady, Mother of the Church
5:00 pm - St. Eugene Church
9:30 pm (Christmas Carols Begin) - St. Eugene Church
10:00 pm - St. Eugene Church

Christmas Day, Wednesday , December 25

8:30 am - St. Eugene Church
10:00 am - Our Lady, Mother of the Church
11:30 am - St. Eugene Church



Feast of the Holy Family, Sunday, December 29

4:30 pm - Saturday, December 28 - St. Eugene Church (Mass of Anticipation)
8:30 am - St. Eugene Church
10:00 am - Our Lady, Mother of the Church
11:30 am - St. Eugene Church

New Year's Eve, Tuesday, December 31

7:00 am - Our Lady, Mother of the Church

New Year's Day, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Wednesday, January 1

4:00 pm - Tuesday, December 31 - St. Eugene Church (Mass of Anticipation)
10:00 am - St. Eugene Church

Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, Sunday, January 5

4:30 pm - Saturday, January 4 - St. Eugene Church (Mass of Anticipation)
8:30 am - St. Eugene Church
10:00 am - Our Lady, Mother of Church
11:30 am - St. Eugene Church

Rectory will be closed on Tuesday, Dec. 24th, Wednesday, Dec.25th, Tuesday, Dec. 31st & Wednesday, Jan. 1st.



Opłatki - Christmas Wafers will be available beginning Nov.30th for a donation of $3.00 at both churches and at the rectory office during regular office hours.



Schedule of Liturgical Ministers

Date	Celebrant	Extraordinary Minister	Altar Server	Lectors
Saturday, 12/28 4:30 PM - SE	Rev. Rich Yanos	D. Sulimowski - WB L. Feist - B Celebrant / M. Pollowy - C J. Horn - O A. Cisek - WO R. Cantal - Cup B M. Meo - Cup O	Marty Marrinan Aly McGovern Olivia Loboda	D. Sulimowski
Sunday, 12/29 8:30 AM - SE	Rev. Ed Pacocha	R. Kennedy - WB B. Czubek—B Celebrant / P. Duszcynski G. Fornek—O J. Fornek—WO	Bennett Villena Christian Rodriguez Shauna Kerr	I. Rog
Sunday, 12/29 10:00 AM - OLMC	Rev. Greg Rom	M. Walsh - AB M. D'Alessandro - AC E. Espi - TB C. Capps - TC	D. Flynn G. Pilch J. Pilch	G. Henderson - 1st P. Peterson - 2nd
Sunday, 12/29 11:30 AM - SE	Rev. Rich Yanos	D. Hernandez - WB S. Pinner - B Celebrant / C. Giacalone - C T. Moore - O M. Villaba - WO P. Paetsch - Cup B M. Zurek - Cup O	Chloe Brown Leo Parrillo Michael Clancy	P. Wagner

Living Rosary

Pray a decade of the Rosary each day for the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for the glory of the Most Holy Trinity, and in honor of St. Philomena, the patron of the Living Rosary.

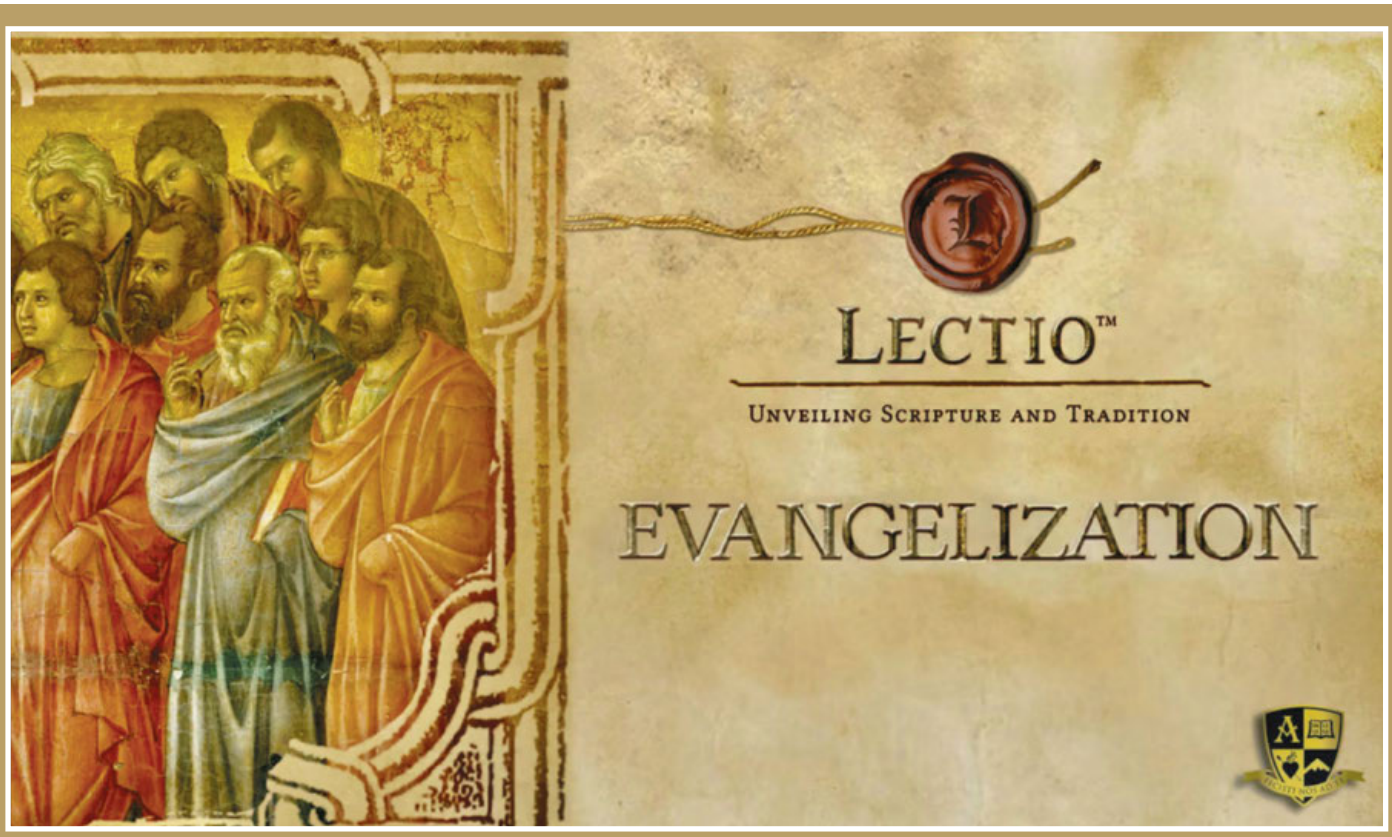
To sign up to pray a daily decade, please contact the parish office.

Joyful Mysteries
Annunciation - Ted M.
Visitation - Barb R.
Nativity - Josephine N.
Presentation - Karen R.
Finding in the Temple - Mary M.

Luminous Mysteries
Baptism of Jesus - Barb R.
Wedding at Cana - Mary M.
Proclaim the Kingdom - Ted M.
Transfiguration - Emily A.
Institution of Eucharist - Emily A.

Sorrowful Mysteries
Agony in the Garden - Jean R.
Scourging at the Pillar - Jean R.
Crowning with Thorns - Mary M.
Carrying of the Cross - Ted M.
Crucifixion - Demi S.

Glorious Mysteries
Resurrection - Lita J.
Ascension - Marsha G.
Descent of Holy Spirit - Camille C.
Assumption of Mary - Camille C.
Coronation of Mary - Camille C.



How is Jesus working in our lives to fulfill his call to evangelize?

How are we called to respond in the midst of conflict, rejection, and outright persecution?

There is no better place to look for guidance in the New Evangelization than the Acts of the Apostles. This chronicle of the Church in action gives us the blueprint for the life and mission of the Church today.

In *'Evangelization and the Acts of the Apostles'*, Dr. Mary Healy combines Bible study with Church teaching and practical wisdom to show how modern Catholics can effectively impact people for Jesus Christ.

Join us for this 10-part Adult Faith Formation series on **Tuesdays at 10am**, or **Thursdays at 6:30pm** starting January 21st and January 23rd, 2025.

Please, register in the rectory. The cost is $25.
We will meet at Room 110 at school.

- *Fr. Jacek A. Dada*



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024

4:30pm SE	$ 3,917.00
8:30am SE	$ 2,812.50
10:00am OLMC	$ 3,011.00
11:30am SE	$ 1,999.00
Mail	$ 10,671.88
Total Physical	**$ 22,411.38**
Online Collection	$ 4,175.01
Grand Total	**$ 26,586.39**
Immaculate Conception	$ 3,053.00
Retirement for Religious	$ 6,041.00

Thank you for your Support!



SECOND COLLECTIONS

December 25
Christmas

January 1
Solemnity of Mary

January 12
Sacred Heart / St. Eulalia Parish Sharing

Please Pray for our Deceased Parishioners:

† Pasquale "Pat" Lavorgna
† Daniel Karbowski

May the souls of the faithful rest in peace.



Bulletin Submissions:

Bulletin requests must be sent 2 weeks prior to the desired bulletin weekend to mgeurtsen@archchicago.org
We reserve the right to edit. Submissions will be placed in the bulletin if space allows and pending administration approval. Please call the parish office for the holiday schedule. *Thank you.*

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Come join us to make a difference in peoples lives. We crochet shawls, lap robes, baby blankets, crosses and even scarves and hats when there is a need. If interested we meet the first and third Wednesday of every month. Any questions please reach out to Pam at 773-685-7586 or 773-848-4586.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Queen of Peace Parish will be starting a **youth group** after the New Year and will be joining with the group at Immaculate Conception Parish to start.

YOUTH GROUP

We will be having an initial event for anyone interested in the bowling at the Immaculate Conception (IC) school on Friday, January 10th. This will be an opportunity to get together after the holidays.

If interested, please email Fr. Carlton at rcarlton@archchicago.org

Bible Study

Wednesday in St. Eugene School room 110 from 10:00 to 12:00. Questions or comments please feel free to email Frank at fjlizak@comcast.net
Hope to see you there!

Knights of Columbus

If you are interested in joining the Knights of Columbus, please contact Joe Marley at 708-702-2726 Marley-j@comcast.net

LEGACY PLANNING

During this most holy season, rejoice in the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As stewards of our faith, please continue his good work on earth by considering a gift through your individual retirement account (IRA) in support of our Church. If your family's needs are being met, you may wish to include our parish as a beneficiary. You can contact your IRA administrator and ask for change of beneficiary forms to include Queen of Peace Parish as a recipient of your good stewardship. For more information, please contact our Parish Operations Director, Lisa Keeney by phone at 773-775-6659 or email at lkeeney@archchicago.org.





PRAYER REQUESTS

Lord God, we place our worries in your hands. We place our sick under your care and humbly ask that You restore your servant to health again. Above all, grant us the grace to acknowledge your will and know that whatever you do, you do for the love of us. We thank You and praise You through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Pat Apida
Annabella Amato
Ralph J. Amelio
Victoria Amelio
Peter Badagliacca
Patricia & Lawrence Basili
Judy Bauer
Don Bellisario
Ludwika Bialo
Bronislaw Bialo
A. & V. Bischof
Gabriella Bongiorno
Virginia Bongiorno-Lawrence
Frank Bucaro
Johnmar Castillo
Gracie Carey
Karen Cazolas
Mary Ciliak
Mark Corrado
Jacqueline Connoly
Sharon Crowley
Susan Curtin
Angela D'Alessandro
John Dahlquist
Joseph Duna
Carol Fijalkiewicz
Tony Fiore
Bob Gasiorek
Harry Gelardi
Patricia Gelfond
Susan Hennessy
Jeff Herden
Renee Holm
Terry Katz
Arthur Kopeck
Harry Krawczyk
Thomas Landeck
James LaPietra
Abagail Lim
Allie Lim
Frank Lizak
Rose Mary Maratto
Mickey Margelewski
Dcn. Ted Marszalek
Stanisław Mazek
Azucena & Jazmine Melendrez
Lena Menconi
Dolores Michalek
Patrick Misciniscinski
Judy Mitrenga
Linda Morton
Norman Mosk
Michael J. Muscarello
John Nelson
Joey Notaro
Anthony Notaro
Victtoria Nudo
Rev. James J. O'Brien
Donie Odulio
Catherine O'Hara
Blanca Pacia
Camille Pavlis
Karen Pavlis - Karasawa
Kay Phelan
Jackie Pomis
Rita Rogers
Jean Rogers
Bill Ruhl
Lorraine & Tom Ryan
Diane Rizzuto
Luis A. Sanchez
Pat Schippers
Shirley Schindler
Peter Schroeder
Robert Shelton
Dolores Scorza
Maria Slomski
Daniel Staniec
Emily Steckiewicz
Rachael Stowe
Mae Stryker
Lavergne Suchor
Tom Szczech
Dave Tudron
Paul Tscherwenka
Ernesto Vergara
Dolores Wilk

We pray for our loved ones who are serving in any branch of the Armed Forces during this time of conflict.



**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**

Major Adamczyk
Joseph Antosh, Jr.
Ghaleb Azroui
Matthew Calderisi
Timothy Emmett Carolan
Melissa Rose Cortese
James Vincent Degrazia
Patrick Edward Dillon
Zbigniew Dudkowski
Matthew Scott Forrest
Dominic John Guerrieri, Jr.
Major Dirk Haller
Andrew Hopkins
Christopher Jenkins
Bernard Edward Kusinski
Lt. Radoslaw Korzeniak
Antonio James Lim
Payne Manczko
Chris Marchiori
Daniel McLenighan
Daniel Meaney
Keith Miller
Michael Morales
Mike Mroszczak
Thomas Neuhengen
Eric Norwood
Elliott O'Claire
Vincent Page
Chad Pritchard
Nicholas Ranch
Adam Roberts
Joseph Saineghi, Jr.
Holly Schippers
Michael Schippers, Jr.
Sean Sherlock
Sharon Sherlock
Phillip R. Simonsen
Tony Strzalka

Liturgical Life

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

The Hidden Truth

If you have ever been visibly pregnant, chances are that someone, somewhere, whom you do *not* know, has reached out to touch your stomach.

I've had this happen to me, and sure, it's a little strange. Generally, I prefer people to ask before they touch me. But it's also very sweet, this great mystical excitement inspired by a pregnant belly. We know that belly is special. We know enclosed within it is hope and potential — the very future of our world. Hidden, but real. How can we help but venerate it?

It's why the pregnant Madonna is my favorite devotional image. I even prefer it over the depictions of the Madonna and Child because I find in the sight of Mary's swollen belly more to meditate upon than I find in the unveiled face of the Christ Child. Salvation and redemption, enclosed in flesh, moving, and growing and breathing, but I cannot see it. It's real and it's true and it's *there*.

And it is hidden.

There is much about God that we know with certainty. But there is so much that remains beyond our sight, beyond our comprehension. Questions of evil and sorrow. Pain and tragedy. Life and death. Why don't we have all the answers? We grow very impatient about this. We're like teenagers who want to be trusted with all the family secrets. We hate feeling left out of the loop.

But truth, like life, does not come to us showing its face. Perhaps this is because we could not bear its terrible beauty. Perhaps it's because we would not recognize it if it was laid bare for us to see.

But it's there, right in front of us. We can reach out and touch it. We may not see it. We may not understand it. But we can know it.

— *Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman*

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

Answer:

Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

Readings for the week of December 22, 2024

Sunday:
Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/
Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Monday:
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10
and 14/Lk 1:57-66

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

Wednesday:
Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
(2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or
1:18-25 *Night*: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12,
13 (Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/
Lk 2:15-20 *Day*: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/
Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Jn 1:1-18
or 1:1-5, 9-14

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

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

Saturday:
1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/
Mt 2:13-18

Next Sunday:
1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10
(see 5a)/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

The Blessed Virgin teaches us the secret to being blessed, happy, and full of joy. When Elizabeth, her cousin, greets her, she calls Mary "blessed" for two reasons, her motherhood of Jesus, and Our Lady's belief that **"there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord"** (Luke 1:45). Mary is "blessed" entirely because of her relationship to the Incarnation of God in Jesus, and for no other. This of course makes perfect sense, because as the Lord, as God-in-the-flesh, her son is the source of all blessedness, life, and joy. Mary is blessed because of her contact with Jesus, and by her faith in him.

So, it is with us, too. We become blessed by our "motherly" contact with Christ in our souls through baptism. He lives in us and grows to maturity within us. We bear him to the world. This requires unshakeable faith that his promises to us will be fulfilled, despite all the problems and difficulties that plague us. We become blessed, happy, and joyful in the measure that we are in contact with Jesus and trust in him.

Advent challenges: 1.) This week go to someone who has borne the love of Jesus to you and tell her or him how they have been a blessing to you. 2.) Name someone in your life now to whom God has sent you to bring Jesus' presence. Pray: "Lord, thank you for the blessing of sending me to bring your presence to this person. Help me bear you faithfully to him/her."

— Father John Muir

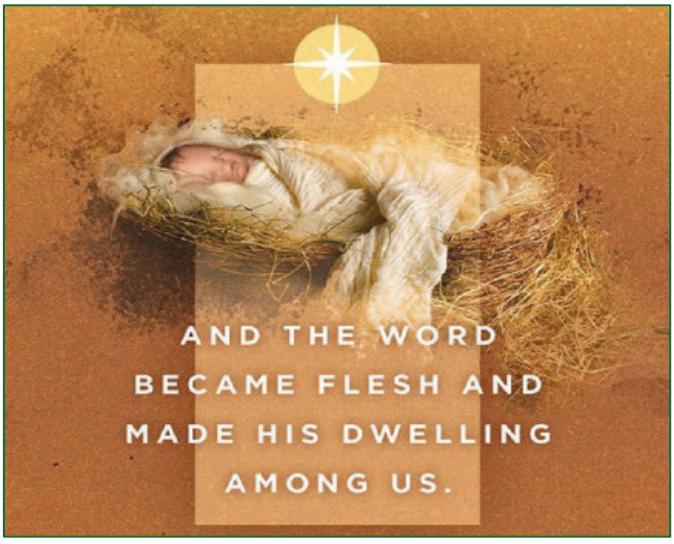
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
from the *Roman Martyrology*

The Twenty-fifth Day of December

when ages beyond number had run their course
from the creation of the world,
when God in the beginning created heaven and earth,
and formed man in his own likeness;
when century upon century had passed
since the Almighty set his bow in the clouds
after the Great Flood,
as a sign of covenant and peace;
in the twenty-first century since Abraham, our father in faith,
came out of Ur of the Chaldees;
in the thirteenth century since the People of Israel were led
by Moses in the Exodus from Egypt;
around the thousandth year since David was anointed King;
in the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Daniel;
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
in the year seven hundred and fifty-two
since the foundation of the City of Rome;
in the forty-second year of the reign
of Caesar Octavian Augustus,
the whole world being at peace,

JESUS CHRIST, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,
desiring to consecrate the world by his most loving presence,
was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and when nine months had passed since his conception,
was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judah,
and was made man:

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.



Rosaries for the Imprisoned

In this Jubilee year that begins on Christmas Eve, Pope Francis will open a Holy Door in the Roman prison of Rebibbia on December 26 as "'a symbol of all the prisons in the world' at a time for forgiveness and restoration." Also in Rome are Jubilee 2025 tote bags being made by inmates, along with a social cooperative. Here in the United States, the Catholic Mobilizing Network is asking people to take jubilee action by signing a petition that asks President Biden to halt the executions of the 40 people on federal death row, giving these inmates more opportunity for redemption, and respecting their lives. Let us pray a Rosary this week for all who are in prisons, that they may come to know, love, and serve the Lord. Rosary Guild members include: Emily A., Lori G., James H., John I., Lita J., Evelyn K., Terri K., Gilda M., Lonnie M., Mary M., Ted M., Josephine N., Emilie P., Stefania P., Jean R., Demi S., and Shirley S.



This week's at
Our Lady, Mother of the Church



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"And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." - Lk 1:43-45

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Micah prophesied a "ruler" would come through the line of David ("Bethlehem-Ephrathah") and bring peace to the divided kingdom of Judah and Israel. How might you be able to promote peace this week among your family or co-workers?

Second Reading:

The author of Hebrews reminds us that Christ makes us holy so that above all else, we do God's will. As the season of Advent draws to a close, what could be one practical way to do God's will this week?

Gospel:

Elizbeth calls Mary "blessed" because she believed and trusted in the Lord. Are there people in your life who model such trust and faith in God?



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Christmas 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In this holy season of Christmas, words from the Book of Wisdom echo in our hearts: *For while all things were in quiet silence, and the night was in the midst of her course, Thy almighty Word leapt down from Heaven from Thy royal throne, as a fierce conqueror into the midst of the land of destruction.* (Wisdom 18:15).

We have many reasons to think of our world as "the land of destruction." Today, so many people across the globe suffer the ravages of war and violence, the burden of illness, crushing poverty and displacement, and natural disasters that are often weather related.

Our faith affirms that the Eternal Word of the Father took our flesh, shared our human condition in all its troubled dimensions, and then as "a fierce conqueror" lifted us up into new life. This mystery at the center of our faith gives us renewed hope and encouragement as we make our pilgrim way in this wounded world. Indeed, across the coming Holy Year, we celebrate the hope that only the Lord in his goodness can give us. It is hope, Saint Paul tells us, that *will not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts, through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.* (Romans 5:5)

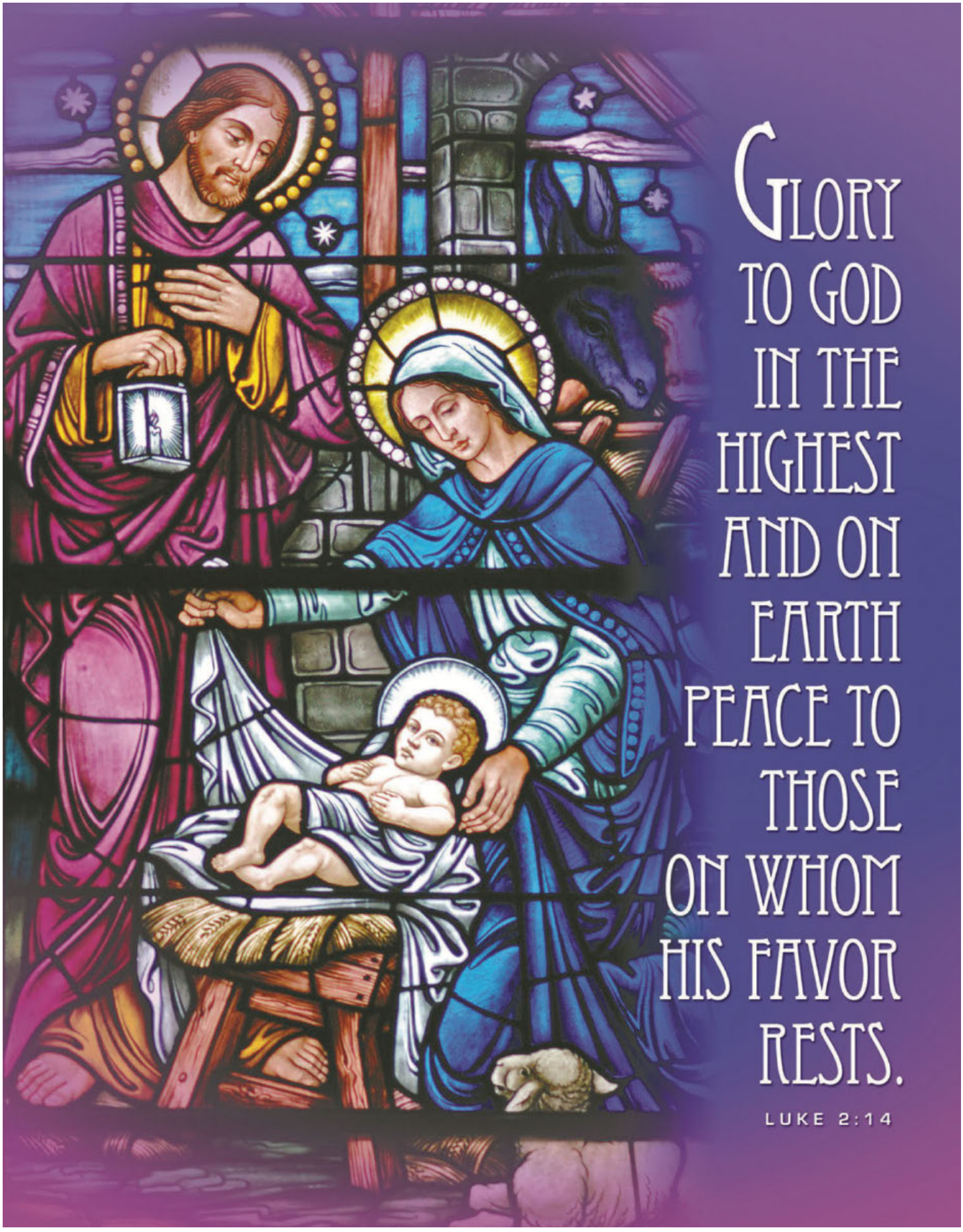
As you gather with family and friends in this holy season, I will pray for you and for a renewal of your hope. May the upcoming Holy Year with its theme *Pilgrims of hope* be an opportunity for all of us to learn how to be signs and instruments of hope for our struggling and burdened world.

As I celebrate the Eucharist in this holy season, I will ask the Lord to help you and your loved ones to cling to his word of promise that is the true source of our hope.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Blase Card. Cupich

Archbishop of Chicago


GLORY
TO GOD
IN THE
HIGHEST
AND ON
EARTH
PEACE TO
THOSE
ON WHOM
HIS FAVOR
RESTS.
LUKE 2:14

Rectory will be closed on Monday, December 24th and on Tuesday, December 25th.

"…the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it."
(John 1:5)

May we be a people of faith and joy that rejoices in the light and hope that Christmas brings.

We wish you a Merry Christmas.



Men's Silent Retreat

Arrive Friday Jan 24th between 3:30pm & 6pm at the Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House in Barrington.

Depart 12-2pm on Sunday, January 26th.

Fr. Michael Graham, S.J. will be speaking on the twists and turns of the life of St. Ignatius Loyola and how it relates to our own life.

Delicious meals and clean private rooms are provided.
For more information, and suggested donations, please contact Ralph Cantal at 708-362-0631.

There are also other retreat weekends available this winter and spring exclusively for woman, married couples, or mixed adults.
Please visit the Bellarmine website at jesuitretreat.org



OCIA
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

BECOMING CATHOLIC — OCIA (FORMERLY RCIA)
ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is the process for adults who desire to join the Catholic faith and for those seeking more information on the Catholic Church. OCIA can also be a method for Catholics to complete their reception of the initiation sacraments. The manual used in the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults states that the rite is designed for adults "who after hearing the mystery of Christ proclaimed, consciously and freely seek the living God." The manual also states when speaking about those in the process "By God's help they will be strengthened spiritually during their preparation and at the proper time receive the sacraments fruitfully."

WHO IS OCIA FOR?

- Non-Catholics who want to find out more about the Catholic Faith
- Those who want to join the Catholic Church through Baptism, or Profession of Faith
- Those who were baptized Catholic as infants but never received religious education, Confirmation, or First Eucharist.

The preparations for Christmas include buying or making gifts for those whom we love. You can give no better gift than the gift that God has given to us: his Son, Jesus. Invite someone who is not Catholic to attend Mass with you at Christmas. For information about the RCIA, contact the Parish Office at 773-775-6660 or Fr. Carlton at rcarlton@archchicago.org for any questions.

Medjugorje and the Treasures of the Adriatic



12 Days - April 21st to May 2nd, 2025

with Fr. Rich Yanos

All in our parish along with your family and/or friends are welcome to join us on our next adventure that will be taking us to the beautiful coastline of the Adriatic Sea.

As we meander along the magnificent Adriatic shoreline will be touring the countries of Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. In these beautiful places we will be visiting the cities of Dubrovnik, Trogir, Split, Zadar, Zagreb, and Ljubljana. We will also be spending time at Lake Bled, the open -air museum at Kumrovec, Plitvice Lakes and most especially a highlight of this trip – Medjugorje (where the Blessed Virgin has appeared in apparitions to six of the cities local children). You don't want to miss this trip!

If you would like to hear more about this trip or might like to sign up please call Fr. Rich at 773-775-6659.

If you would like your own brochure there are available in the gathering spaces of our churches or at the parish office. These trips are filled in the order in which people sign up. I would love to have you join us along with your family and friends. If you are definitely planning on joining us, I would encourage you to get your RSVP form in as soon as possible.

Queen of Peace Parish

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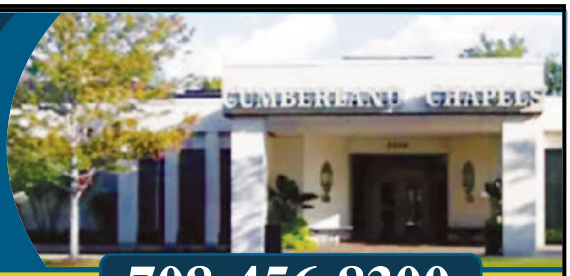
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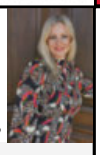
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