

LOVE

blessed is the fruit of your womb





ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

14936 W. Wilmington - Peotone Rd.

Manhattan, Illinois 60442

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 21, 2025

Most Revered Bishop Dennis Spies
Administrator

Office Phone 815-478-3440

Facebook St. Patrick Church of Wilton Center

Website: www.stpatrickwiltoncenter.org

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass is celebrated on Saturday evening only

| | | |
|--------------|--------|--|
| Dec. 20 | 5:45pm | +Jim & +Rita Phelan req. by Ed & Judy Phelan +Gladys Meyer req. by The Family Parish Family of St. Patrick |
| Dec. 24 | 4:30pm | Parish Family of St. Patrick +Gladys Meyer req. by The Family +Eleanore Price req. by Steve Niemiec |
| Dec. 27 | 5:45pm | +Dot McGrath req. by Ed & Judy Phelan +Harold Toepper req. by Ann Bishop & Family Parish Family of St. Patrick |
| Jan. 3, 2026 | 5:45pm | +Gladys Meyer req. by The Family +Eleanor Price req. by St. Patrick C.C.W Parish Family of St. Patrick |

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

| | <u>Lector</u> | <u>Minister</u> |
|------------------|----------------|---|
| Dec. 20—5:45pm | Mark May | P. Engler |
| Dec. 24 - 4:30pm | Jim Kreske | P. Engler; R. Stauffenberg; C. Kinsella |
| Dec. 27 - 5:45pm | Jim Kreske | C. Smith |
| Dec. 31 - 4:00pm | Jerry Kinsella | C. Kinsella |

SERVERS & USHERS

Please volunteer at the Mass you are attending

**Scripture Readings
For the Week of December 21, 2025**

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Advent Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rm 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

Monday 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

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

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

Thursday The Nativity of the Lord

Vigil Mass: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25

Mass during the Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Mass at Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

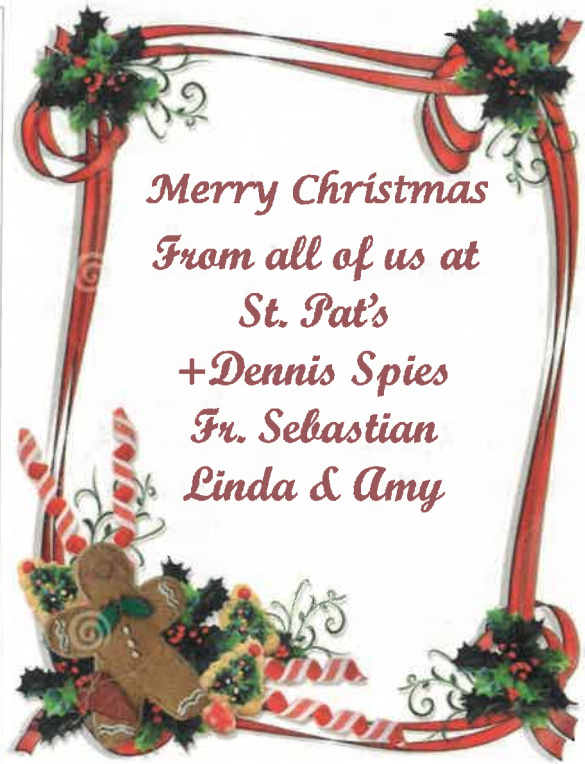
Mass during the Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Friday Feast of Saint Stephen, First Martyr

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

Saturday Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist 1 Jn 1:14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a and 2-8

Sunday Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23



**Our St. Joseph Candle
Is Burning for
THE PARISH FAMILY
OF ST. PATRICK**

**WEEKLY OFFERING FOR
12/14/2025**

Sunday - \$1,110.00

Maintenance - \$40.00

Immaculate Conception—\$164.00

Christmas Flowers \$50.00

Retired Religious - \$245.00

Our weekly budget goal is \$1,211.54

THANK YOU For your faith - filled support

**Please Remember our sick;
especially:**

Greg Harnois, Jim Kreske, Ann Marie & Tori Jasinski, Lisa Price, Marshall & Duncan Lorenzen, Barbara Schriver, Leslie Lund, Joe & Carol Price, Beth Oniel, Bernice & Dominick Marino, Tom Lane, Peggy Schiesow, Haley Donzella, Ken Smith, Laura 'Hanson, Steve Niemiec, Nancee Long, Shay Phelan, Lisa Bernard. Joe Hanson

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS IN MEMORY / HONOR OF:

Elkin Family
Phelan Family
M. A. Timm Family
L. Greenwalt Family
G. Hnetkovsky Family
Grace Niemiec
Helen Niemiec
Stanley Niemiec.
The Jim Phelan Family
The Bill Gast Family
Mary Gast
St. Patrick's Parish
Jerry, Stella, Gary Ulman
Fred & Lillian Cakora

Fred & Rose Cakora
Kate Stromski Family
Don & Dorothy Nugent
Cathy Engler
Dorothy & Don Nugent
Hope & Ray Button
Eva & Grace Duffus
Ed Button
Donald W. Price
Daniel Price
Eleanor M. Price
Dick Smerz
Theresa Osburn



CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONERS

M/M James Shields
Amy Younker
M/M Martin Ruzella

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

How many languages do you know? Most Americans might say they have a primary language, can follow the basics of another encountered in school or in the workplace, and maybe know the barest elements of a third. Yet nearly everyone is fluent in languages of symbol and ritual, languages that transcend the spoken word and may perhaps communicate more clearly. A dance, the delights of the table, the thrill of sport, the power of a painting, a shared silence on a surf-washed beach or under a desert sky, a burst of delighted applause, all communicate without a single word.

Sacrament empowers fluency in these languages. A little girl returning from Mass where a baby had been baptized was asked to summarize her day thus far. "I went to church, and some little baby became my brother." That's far more accurate than the adult's remark, "There was a baptism at Mass today." When we celebrate sacrament, Christ is always calling us into deeper fluency with the languages beyond speech. Sacraments open our senses to the presence of God precisely so we can respond to the depth of that love more fully.

—Rev. James Field



December 18, 2025

Dear Friends,
Peace be with you.

Today, December 18, 2025, it was officially announced that I will be installed as the 11th Archbishop of the Archdiocese of New York on Friday, February 6, 2026.

I want to begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to Pope Leo XIV for this appointment. Growing up in the south suburbs of Chicago, just a stone's throw from where he grew up, and having spent part of my priesthood in missionary work in Latin America, I feel a deep connection to him. His leadership is a guiding light for me, and I accept this new role with humility and an open heart.

I am also grateful to Cardinal Christophe Pierre, our apostolic nuncio, for his trust. When he called to share this news, I told him I simply wish to do God's will. Receiving his phone call on the feast of Saint Juan Diego is a reminder that sometimes God calls us to things that feel beyond us, but with grace and faith, we can answer yes.

I also want to offer a heartfelt thank you to Cardinal Timothy Dolan for his more than 17 years of leadership in New York. I have been touched by his gracious support and encouragement.

These past five years in Joliet have been a true blessing for me. I have felt grateful, happy, and deeply blessed to serve as your bishop. Together we have catechized, evangelized, and put our faith into action. The relationships we have built, the faith we have shared, and the journey we have walked together are treasures I will carry with me to New York.

As you continue to read, share, and embrace my pastoral letter, "MAKE," I ask you to let it keep guiding you. Please do not let it sit on a shelf, gathering dust. Instead, continue to implement it as a living, breathing call to be disciples who MAKE disciples.

I have much to learn in New York, and I will serve there as I have served here, with all my heart. I trust in God's will and count on your prayers. Know that as you pray for me, I am praying for you, with immense gratitude and love.

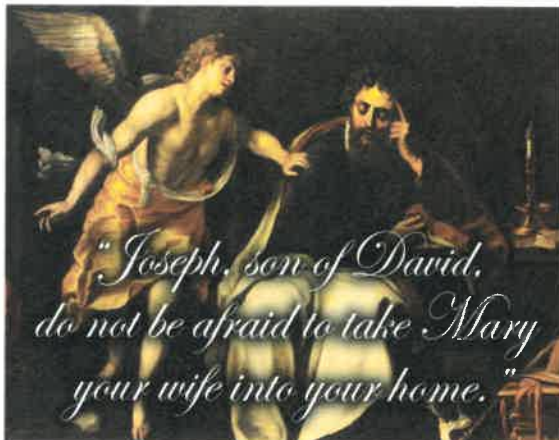
With good wishes, may God bless you this Advent season as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

As I remain --
Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks

Bishop of the Diocese of Joliet and Archbishop designate of the Archdiocese of New York


Good St. Joseph


I confess that I struggle with a large ego. I want to be seen and acknowledged and validated. I simultaneously struggle with low self confidence. In this generation so many families fail due to prioritizing our individual needs above all else. Often unconsciously, we seek status and wealth, a common human flaw. We frequently seek more attention, particularly in what is supposed to be our safe haven, our own household. In today's Gospel, we get a glimpse into the heart of Joseph, the righteous and honorable man chosen to help raise the Son of God. We see his holiness, his desire to respect others, and his obedience to God. St. Joseph, as a descendent of King David, you knew your identity. You knew your littleness but recognized that you were protected always in the arms of God. You understood that God is with us. Looking to you as an example, we can also have faith that we will prevail despite any earthly struggle. From family uncertainty to having to flee from your homeland, you trusted God with a steadfastness I hope to emulate. Faithful and virtuous, your commitment to others came before your own needs. St. Joseph, patron saint of families, help me to be like you. Help me to be humble, to be at peace within my heart. Teach me that love is above all, sacrificing in order to place other's needs before my own. Show me how to be meek, poor in spirit, a peacemaker - as your beloved Child taught - as this is true richness. Help me to be quiet, to reflect, to listen - not cry out - to be reflective rather than reactive. Create in me a spirit of contentment and soften my heart so that I can make room for my Lord Jesus to have a home. - By Alexis Dallara-Marsh



O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

The Birth of Jesus





MROO

NGEAL

BYBA

NBOR

You will find the baby lying in a _____

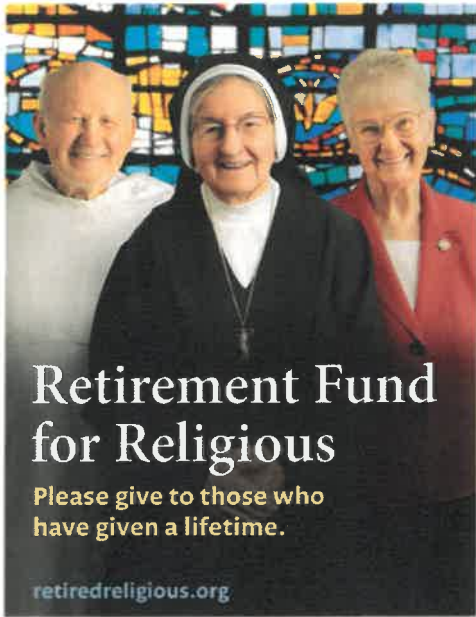
Luke 2:12

1 2 3 4 5 6

"This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Luke 2:12

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**They gave their lives in service —
now they need your help.**

Heartfelt gratitude for your generosity! “Thank you very much for your donations, always,” says Sister Olivia Bellegante, 93, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in St. Louis, Missouri. Your gift directly impacts thousands of senior religious, providing the support they need in their later years. Learn more at retiredreligious.org.

CLOSING MASS OF THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025

On Sunday December 28 throughout the world Catholics will gather at their Cathedral Churches to celebrate the closing of the Jubilee Year of Hope 2025. The Diocese of Joliet will celebrate the closing of this Jubilee Year at the 10:30 am Mass on December 28 at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus in Joliet. Everyone is invited to this very special Mass as a worldwide celebration of the Jubilee Year of Hope 2025 ends. This has been a very special time for the Church and we now gather to give thanks for all the blessings received during this Jubilee Year of Hope throughout the Diocese. Mark your calendar to be present at the 10:30 am Mass at the Cathedral on Sunday December 28 and join all Catholics throughout the world celebrating the closing of the Jubilee Year of Hope 2025.

Fourth Sunday of Advent Emmanuel

On this last Sunday before Christmas, we see that Jesus' birth is the fulfillment of the promise of Emmanuel, meaning "God is with us." (Mt 1:23) The gospel refers to the first reading from Isaiah. There we see the king of Judah, Ahaz, is under attack by the kings of Aram and Israel. He wants to ask the Assyrians for help, instead of relying on God. That's why he says, "I will not tempt the Lord." (Is 7:12) He is afraid to admit his lack of faith. So the weakness of Ahaz gives us the wonderful prophecy of the birth of Jesus. Ahaz of course did not understand the full meaning of that prophecy. For him, the prophecy meant the destruction of Judah.

In the gospel, Joseph also does not understand how Mary was pregnant. But unlike Ahaz, Joseph did have faith in God and the message of the angel. He took Mary as his wife and helped her through her pregnancy and afterwards in raising Jesus. His faith in God kept Jesus from being murdered by Herod after the Magi's visit.

So now we have to choose who we rely on: Do I act like Ahaz, relying on the worldly powers, or like Joseph who trusted the Lord? I would like to say that I trust in the Lord only. But if I look at my actions and priorities, I might be more like Ahaz than I want to admit.

How much time do I spend watching television (especially now that it's in HD) compared to time in prayer? How much time do I spend reading the scriptures compared to the newspaper or magazines? How much do I spend on Christmas decorations or gifts for my family, compared to what I give to the Church? If I really believe that "God is with us," which is what Christmas is all about, how much of God can people see in my actions?

Maybe if we kept in mind that promise that God IS with us, in the Baptism we received and the sacraments of the Church, and the love of our spouse or parents – we could see how close God really is and let others see in our actions, that Jesus is Emmanuel.