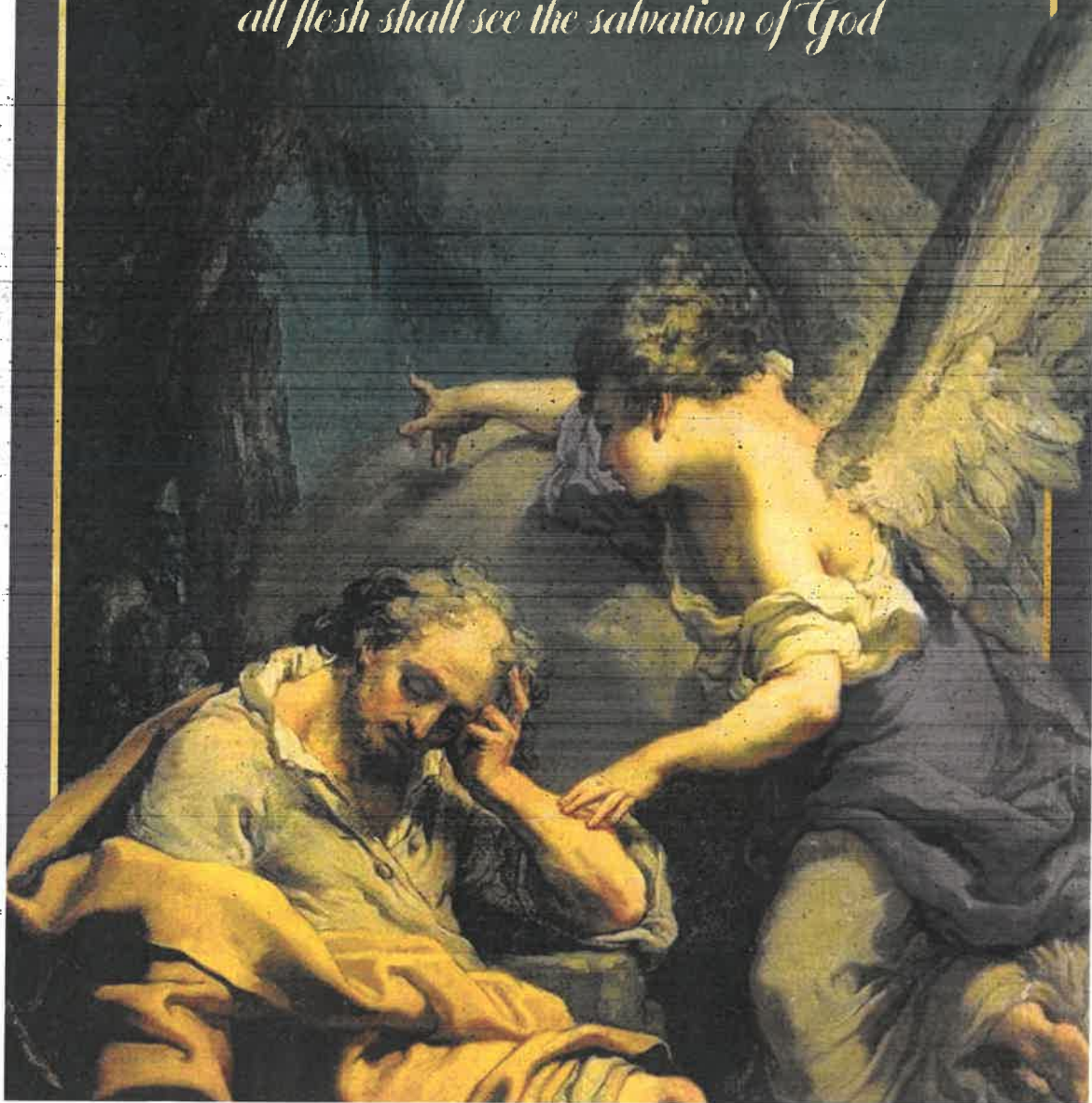


PEACE

all flesh shall see the salvation of God





ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

14936 W. Wilmington - Peotone Rd.

Manhattan, Illinois 60442

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 6 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. 6	4:00pm	+Jerry & +Vicky Phelan req. by Ed & Judy Phelan Gladys Meyer req. by The Family Parish Family of St. Patrick
Dec. 8	5:00pm	+Gladys Meyer req. by The Family +Grace Niemiec req. by The Family +Eleanore Price req. by Steve Niemiec
Dec. 13	5:45pm	+Gladys Meyer req. by The Family +Grace Niemiec req. by The Family Parish Family of St. Patrick
Dec. 20	5:45pm	+Jim & +Rita Phelan req. by Ed & Judy Phelan +Gladys Meyer req. by The Family Parish Family of St. Patrick

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Minister</u>
Dec. 6	Sherrie Ashley	L. Cakora
Dec. 8	Linda Cakora	L. Cakora
Dec. 13	Jerry Kinsella	C. Kinsella
Dec. 20	Mark May	P. Engler

SERVERS & USHERS

Please volunteer at the Mass you are attending

Please Remember our sick;

especially: 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

**Scripture Readings
For the Week of December 7, 2025**

Sunday Second Sunday of Advent Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rm 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

Monday Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Gen 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

Friday Zech 2:14-17 or Rev 11:19a; 12-1-6a, 10ab; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Saturday Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday Third Sunday of Advent Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11



**CHRISTMAS FLOWER
REMEMBERENCES NEED TO BE
RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 13 TO BE
PUBLISHED IN THE BULLETIN**



**WEEKLY OFFERING FOR
11/30/2025**

On Line Giving Only - \$425.00

Maintenance - \$50

Our weekly budget goal is \$1,211.54

THANK YOU For your faith - filled support



**During the Month of
Our Blessed Mother Candle
Is burning for
GRACE NIEMIEC
Req. by The Family**



**Our St. Joseph Candle
Is Burning for
ELEANORE PRICE
Req. by Steve Niemiec**



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

December 8, 2025

**IS NOT AN OBLIGATION THIS YEAR
MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED AT 5:00PM**

"Hail Mary, full of grace". For thousands of years, millions of times per day the Virgin Mary is greeted by the faithful with the greeting of the Archangel. The sons of the Church learn from the words of the Archangel Gabriel that the fullness of the mystery of God's grace was realized in Holy Mary. St. Paul the Apostle teaches us that the Father made all fullness dwell in His Incarnate Son (c.f. Col 1:12-20), which overflows from Christ's head and spills out on His Mystical Body that is the Church. Before descending in Body, Christ's fullness was spread in a unique and unrepeatable way on Mary, predestined from eternity to be the Mother of God.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 12, 2025

The word awesome has lost its zing. "Webster's dictionary defines awesome as 'anything that leaves you in awe and wonder.' Like winning the lottery - twice," comedian Bill Engvall once said. "That would be awesome. Getting a phone call from the IRS saying you've been audited and they owe you \$50,000. That would be awesome." Know what else would be awesome? Seeing an apparition of Mary, then having her grow roses in the middle of winter to prove it to the archbishop, then converting 9 million Aztecs within seven years. That would be - wait - that was awesome.





**Finding Hope Behind Bars:
Becoming Disciples Who Make Disciples in Unexpected Places**

We celebrate Advent and Christmas as seasons of light and joy, yet sometimes the brightest hope appears in the places we least expect. Over the years, I have found that ministering to those in prison is one of the most unexpected ways to live out the call of my pastoral letter **MAKE** to be disciples who make disciples.

My first encounter with prison ministry goes back to my volunteer year in Mexico in 1989. A female catechist invited me to join her in visiting a large prison. I remember the surprise of walking in with barely any formal checks and feeling a bit baffled and nervous about how I would get out. Yet what stayed with me most was her simple reminder: *"They all have names. They are often forgotten, but if you become a priest, remember they exist. See the face of Christ in them!"*

Years later, as a seminarian accompanying Cardinal Bernardin to the Cook County Jail for Christmas Mass, I saw that same spirit of discipleship. He had no family in Chicago, yet he found joy in bringing the Eucharist to those often forgotten. He showed me that prison ministry is not simply a duty but a moment of grace. It is a chance to be a disciple who brings Christ's hope to others.

Someone once told me that one of the humbling aspects of ministering in prisons is that the people you serve can never repay you. You do it simply because Christ calls us to recognize His presence in them. In that pure act of service, we quietly plant seeds of faith in hearts that society often overlooks.

Two weeks ago, I had the privilege of celebrating the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion for four inmates at the Joliet Detention Center. Their deep desire and reverence reminded me again of that woman's wisdom from years ago. They have names, they exist, and they are just as worthy of God's grace. After the Mass, each newly minted Catholic offered a testimonial, thanking those

who brought Christ to them and sharing how lost they felt before being introduced to God and the Church. Their desire to cling to hope and live out their newfound faith inspired me deeply as we gathered in that makeshift prison chapel.

Let me highlight the ministry of the growing number of laypeople, deacons, and priests in our Diocese who are living out this call and bringing Christ's love to the incarcerated. And they do it with no fanfare. Truly, no one is writing them thank you notes or sending them gifts for their ministry. We as a Church and as a Diocese should be proud that so many are putting their faith into action through this ministry.

In Catholic social teaching, we uphold the dignity of every human being, even those who have sinned or been cast aside by society. As Jesus says in Matthew's Gospel: *"Whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me."* This is the heart of our mission. To see Christ in the prisoner, the hungry, the thirsty, the unborn, the immigrant, the person with disabilities, the stranger, and all in need. It is a true Christian hope. It is the conviction that Christ is with us always and that every person is worth seeing, knowing, and loving in His name.

In a few weeks, I will celebrate Christmas Mass at the DuPage County Correctional Facility. As I prepare for that Mass, please know that I will carry your intentions with me in prayer. Also, join me in prayer as together we carry that hope not only into the prisons but into every place where Christ's light is most needed. Our homes, our parishes, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, and all the hidden corners of our lives and our world.

May we never overlook the unexpected places where God's grace, hope, and light are waiting to break through and transform us all. For when we see the face of Christ in every person we meet, we fulfill the mission of being disciples who **MAKE** disciples.

Prepare the Way of the Lord

I remember going to Mass at my parish during Advent and hearing Father sing "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" (from the musical *Godspell*) to start his homily. I was completely confused because the singing felt like it came out of nowhere. But he went on to explain how that song summed up the Advent season. We are preparing the way of the Lord.

In today's Gospel, we see that John the Baptist knew that Jesus's ministry was coming, saying "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire." He was helping people repent so they could be ready for Jesus' world changing ministry. As ridiculous as he might've sounded, the people who listened were able to repent and prepare. Just like actors and actresses practice for the big show, preparing themselves to perform, we need to prepare ourselves for his Second Coming.

This can also apply to modern-day society. While we are preparing for the Christmas parties and all the gift giving, we sometimes forget, myself included, what we are truly preparing for. One thing that helps is remembering to fit in the Sacrament of Reconciliation to repent of my sins and be fully present to celebrate Jesus' birthday.

As we prepare for the Lord, I pray that each of you can truly enjoy the Advent season and the Christmas season. Let's also take time to pray for those who aren't practicing Christians, that this Christmas season can help them see the good that God can do in each one of our lives.

By Ben Hooper