

# ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Rev. Tuan Van Nguyen, Pastor



Sunday, January 2, 2021

**Contact Information:**

**P.O. Box 456**

**Minooka, IL 60447**

**Parish Office: 815-467-2233**

**Parish Email: [stmarysminooka@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stmarysminooka@sbcglobal.net)**

## STAFF

### Fr. Tuan Van Nguyen- Pastor

815-467-2233 ext.106 [stmarysminooka@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stmarysminooka@sbcglobal.net)

### Deacon Fred Ban- Director of RE

815-467-2769, [deaconfredstmarydre@yahoo.com](mailto:deaconfredstmarydre@yahoo.com)

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### Mary Mogensen - Bookkeeper/ Foundation for Faith

815-467-2233 ext. 101, [stmarysbusiness@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysbusiness@gmail.com)

### Kaleigh Mattson- Director of Music/Website/Social

**Media Coordinator** 815-467-2233 ext 109

[Kaleigh.stmarysmusic@gmail.com](mailto:Kaleigh.stmarysmusic@gmail.com)

## MASSSES

### **Weekend Masses-**

Saturday- 5:00pm

Sunday- 7:30am, 9am Livestream and 11am

### **Weekday Masses-**

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri- 8:30am

### **Communion Service- Confession-**

Wed- 8:30am

**Saturday's 4pm-4:45pm in the Church**

### **Anointing of the Sick-**

Fr. Tuan is available for personal anointing at home, nursing home, hospice etc. Please call the rectory 815-467-2233.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### **Parish Rectory Office-**

Mon-Thurs-8am-4pm

Fri- 8am-12pm


### **Rectory Phone-**

815-467-2233

### **Website-**

[www.stmarysminooka.com](http://www.stmarysminooka.com)

## ST. MARY'S COMMISSIONS

Administration- John Jun <a href="mailto:Drjohnedd@aol.com">Drjohnedd@aol.com</a>	Education- Mary Kimble <a href="mailto:mtk2553@aol.com">mtk2553@aol.com</a>	Prayer Squares Group- Peg Francisco <a href="mailto:stmarysminooka@sbcglobal.net">stmarysminooka@sbcglobal.net</a>	Parish Council- Anne Schrishuhn <a href="mailto:ponzovista@gmail.com">ponzovista@gmail.com</a>
Adult Choir/Children Choir- Kaleigh Mattson <a href="mailto:Kaleigh.stmarysmusic@gmail.com">Kaleigh.stmarysmusic@gmail.com</a>	Eucharistic Ministers- Fr. Tuan <a href="mailto:stmarysminooka@sbcglobal.net">stmarysminooka@sbcglobal.net</a>	Prayer Tree- Peg Francisco <a href="mailto:stmarysminooka@sbcglobal.net">stmarysminooka@sbcglobal.net</a>	Youth Ministry- Joanne Ban <a href="mailto:joban4smym@yahoo.com">joban4smym@yahoo.com</a>
Bible Study- Cathy Fouts <a href="mailto:cathyfouts@comcast.net">cathyfouts@comcast.net</a>	Finance Committee- Dan Friant <a href="mailto:daf1852@gmail.com">daf1852@gmail.com</a>	Protecting God's Children -Deacon Fred Ban <a href="mailto:Deaconfredstmarydre@yahoo.com">Deaconfredstmarydre@yahoo.com</a>	ProLife- Kathy Glover (815)467-2233
Building and Grounds- Dave Clark <a href="mailto:chiefengin@sbcglobal.net">chiefengin@sbcglobal.net</a>	Fishers of Men- Kevin Pullara <a href="mailto:kevinapullara@gmail.com">kevinapullara@gmail.com</a>	Quilters- Carole Fremarek <a href="mailto:cfremarek@sbcglobal.net">cfremarek@sbcglobal.net</a>	Religious Education - Deacon Fred Ban <a href="mailto:deaconfredstmarydre@yahoo.com">deaconfredstmarydre@yahoo.com</a>
Children's Liturgy- Karen Resar <a href="mailto:karenresar@yahoo.com">karenresar@yahoo.com</a>	Funeral Luncheon- Anne Schrishuhn <a href="mailto:ponzovista@gmail.com">ponzovista@gmail.com</a>	Worship Commission- Chris Gregory <a href="mailto:cskgreg@msm.com">cskgreg@msm.com</a>	
Children's Mass Coordinator- Melinda DiLorenzo <a href="mailto:dilofam5@gmail.com">dilofam5@gmail.com</a>	Greeters- Fr. Tuan <a href="mailto:stmarysminooka@sbcglobal.net">stmarysminooka@sbcglobal.net</a>	RCIA- Deacon Fred Ban/ Kate Ross <a href="mailto:deaconfredstmarydre@yahoo.com">deaconfredstmarydre@yahoo.com</a>	
Christmas Giving Tree- Kathy Williamson 815 941-4419.	Knights of Columbus- Brian Flanigan <a href="mailto:briankflanigan@yahoo.com">briankflanigan@yahoo.com</a>	Welcoming Committee- Doris Boehm <a href="mailto:wdb Boehm@att.net">wdb Boehm@att.net</a>	
Council of Catholic Women- Jeanne Rapp <a href="mailto:Jeanchuck73@gmail.com">Jeanchuck73@gmail.com</a>	Lectors- Kathy O'Hagan <a href="mailto:stmary3@sbcglobal.net">stmary3@sbcglobal.net</a>		

# MASS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>MASS INTENTION</u>	<u>FROM</u>
<b>The Rosary will not be said before 8:30am morning Mass starting January 1st for the winter months.</b>			
Friday, Dec. 31	8:30am	Fr. Tuan's Parents	Fr. Tuan
Saturday, Jan 1 (Because New Year's Day fell on a Sat. it Is not a Holy Day of Obligation)	5:00pm	William Stafford Tom Fabek	Virginia Mysliwiec The Family
Sunday, Jan 2	7:30am	Dan Caruso	Bob & Virginia Guertin
	9:00am	Sanctity of Life	
	11:00am	Lorraine Davidson	Joe & Carol Schmitz
Monday, Jan 3	8:30am	Parishioners	
Tuesday, Jan 4	8:30am	Communion Service	
Wednesday, Jan 5	8:30am	Communion Service	
Thursday, Jan 6	8:30am	Communion Service	
Friday, Jan 7	8:30am	Communion Service	
Saturday, Jan 8	5:00pm	Bill Stafford	Chuck & Pam Shepherd
		Anita Chiovero	John & Patti Gretz
Sunday, Jan 9	7:30am	Dan Caruso	JoAnn Dollinger
	9:00am	Jerry Hannon	George Smego
		Sanctity of Life	
	11:00am	Clementina Jimenez	Maria Atilano

## This week candles were lit for :

- Tom Fabek
- Police & Firefighters
- An end to the Corona Virus
- Sanctity of Life from Conception until Natural Death

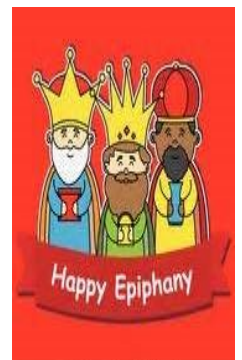
If you would like a candle lit outside for a special intention, please call the Parish Office at 815-467-2233.

## Parish Sick List

Denise Tonarelli  
Kimberly Gaydula  
Dylan Pickett  
Paul Thien Phu  
Fr. Jim Lennon  
Deidra Hogan  
Lonnie Barutello  
Jerry Davidson  
Kevin McEvilly  
Lorenzo Benitez  
Marlena Benitez  
Kelly McCormick  
Rosalie Jostes  
Lou Tapella

Taryn Schrader  
Dominic Boblak  
Robyn Bumgarner  
Pat Olsen  
Jay Beshoar  
Al Soley  
Judy Stafford  
Tim Beshoar  
Special Intentions  
Sara Lovell  
Elaine Troutman  
Cindy Thompson  
Roger Dollinger

Arturo Esquivel  
Gerald Boucher  
Ken Zbacnik



© Can Stock Photo

# From Fr. Tuan

Dear Parishioners,

Here is a reflection for this weekend's readings:

"Epiphany" means manifestation. And the "Epiphany of the Lord" is Jesus' manifestation not only to these three Magi from the East, but it's also a symbolic but real manifestation of the Christ to the whole world. These Magi, traveling from a foreign and non-Jewish nation, reveal that Jesus came for all people and all are called to adore Him.

These Magi were "wise men" who studied the stars and were aware of the Jewish belief that a Messiah was coming. They would have been versed in much of the wisdom of the day and would have been intrigued by the Jewish belief in the Messiah.

God used what they were familiar with to call them to adore the Christ. He used a star. They understood the stars and when they saw this new and unique star over Bethlehem they realized that something special was happening. So the first lesson we take from this for our own lives is that God will use what is familiar to us to call us to Himself. Look for the "star" that God is using to call you. It's closer than you may think.

A second thing to note is that the Magi fell prostrate before the Christ Child. They laid their lives down before Him in complete surrender and adoration. They set a perfect example for us. If these astrologers from a foreign land could come and adore Christ in such a profound way, we must do the same. Perhaps you could try literally lying down prostrate in prayer this day, in imitation of the Magi, or at least do so in your heart through prayer. Adore Him with a complete surrender of your life.

Lastly, the Magi bring gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These three gifts, presented to our Lord, show that they acknowledged this Child as the Divine King who would die to save us from sin. Gold is for a King, frankincense is a burnt offering to God, and myrrh is used for one who would die. Thus, their adoration is grounded in the truths of who this Child is. If we are to adore Christ properly, we must also honor Him in this threefold way.

Reflect, today, upon these Magi and see them as a symbol of what you are called to do. You are called from the foreign place of this world to seek out the Messiah. What is God using to call you to Himself? When you discover Him, do not hesitate to acknowledge the full truth of who He is, lying prostrate before Him in complete and humble submission.

*Lord, I love You and adore You. I lay my life before You and surrender all. You are my Divine King and Savior. My life is Yours. (Pray three times and then prostrate yourself before the Lord) Jesus, I trust in You.*

Love and Prayers,



Fr. Tuan



# RE NEWS

Dear RE Families,

Happy New Year from the Religious Education Department!!

Hope everyone is well rested and ready for the new year and the second half of our RE Year!!

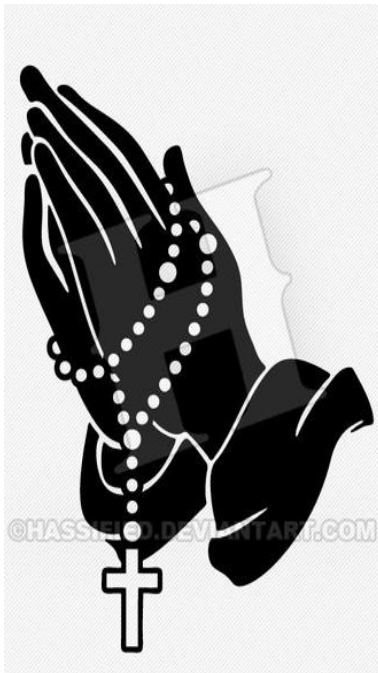
Looking forward to seeing everyone back next week.

God Bless,

Deacon Fred Ban  
Director of Faith Formation



## Daily Rosary



Due to the possibility of cold and/or snowy weather in January, it has been decided to suspend the recitation of the rosary before daily Masses from **Jan. 3rd until further notice**. Praying the Rosary in church in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament brings many graces. We sincerely intend to continue this ministry as soon as possible if the weather cooperates. Please watch the bulletin for updated information. For those of you who cannot attend Mass in the morning, there are many resources for praying the Rosary with others. Relevant Radio broadcasts the Rosary at 7:00 pm nightly and can be listened to at 930 AM on the radio, or through Facebook or on the free Relevant Radio app. With this format, you can also call in with prayer intentions or send intentions by email or on Facebook. If you have access to EWTN on TV, you can also pray along with Mother Angelica at 8:30 pm nightly.

Thank you to all who have joined us in prayer these last seven months. Please pray for a mild winter and good health for all so we can continue to honor our Blessed Mother and Jesus in prayer.

# Question of the Week

For the Feast of the Epiphany, what do we know about the Magi or Three Wisemen?

The traditional belief that there were three wise men is a development based on the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh recorded in Matthew 2:11. The identification of the wise men as kings may have developed from a reading of Psalm 72 that says, “May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him” (Psalm 72:11).

Most Nativity scenes include the Magi, but we know from Scripture that they did not arrive until later. Some Bible scholars suggest that this may not have occurred until up to a year and a half later, based on King Herod’s command in Matthew 2:16:

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men.

The fact that Herod had all the male children up to two years old killed suggests that some time had passed before he ascertained the age of the Christ child from the Magi. In any case, Matthew does not tell us exactly how much time had elapsed between the birth of Jesus and their arrival.

## The Magi and Mythicism

According to the website [religoustolerance.org](http://religoustolerance.org), “The Egyptian God Horus was born of the virgin Isis; as an infant, he was visited by three kings.” Of Hercules, Osiris, Bacchus, Mithras, Hermes, Prometheus, Perseus, and Horus, the site claims all of them had been “visited by ‘wise men’ during infancy.” In classic popular mythicist fashion, there are of course no primary source citations to back up these claims.

As I have already pointed out, Matthew’s Gospel is silent on the number and political status of the Magi. These are later developments in Christian tradition and not a matter of Gospel record. Because we know these traditions arose from biblical inferences, we can say with confidence that they have nothing to do with pagan mythology.

Furthermore, of the pagan deities mentioned above, none of them were visited by three wise men or kings. The burden of proof is with the mythicists, and they will be hard-pressed to deliver anything credible.

## A Star in the East

Some mythicists will also claim that, like Jesus’ birth, the births of certain pagan gods were heralded by a star in the east. Mythicist author and blogger D. M. Murdock writes, “Rather than representing a ‘historical’ event surrounding the birth of a Jewish messiah, the star at the coming of the savior can be found in the myths of Egypt.”

Of the Magi, Pope Benedict XVI explains that it is possible these men could have been part of a Persian priesthood, or they could have been something else (cf. *Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives*, p. 94). Whoever they were, they were probably not Jewish. This point is significant, because even if there were a parallel here with some pagan god and the birth of Jesus, it makes sense that the Magi would recognize a sign familiar to them and respond to it. But there are no pagan parallels.

Some mythicists attempt to connect Sothis—a star that the ancient Egyptians believed to be significant—to the birth of Horus; however, this can be achieved only through a series of rigorous mental gymnastics.

The Egyptians most often connected the rising of Sothis (a.k.a. Sirius) to the rising level of the Nile River, which was very important to them. The flooding of the Nile brought with it fertile soil necessary for farming (cf. *Oxford Guide to Egyptian Mythology*, p. 256). In the astral realm, the goddess Isis was sometimes identified with Sothis, and her husband, Osiris, identified with the constellation Orion. Their sexual union was said to have produced Horus (ibid., p. 171). Even if Jesus were an astrological deity as some mythicists claim, there is still no parallel here.



**The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass  
The Liturgy of the Eucharist  
Led by Fr Burke Masters**

**January 18-April 17, 2022**

**BE  
FORMED**

- Monthly online large group nights of reflection
- Weekly small group gatherings
- Zoom or in-person options
- Weekly videos emailed directly to your inbox
- Prayer Partners
- No previous participation necessary
- Groups for men, women, and couples

Register by  
December 12th!



Sponsored by the  
Diocese of Joliet  
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Formation

For more information visit:  
[www.dioceseofjoliet.org/beformed](http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/beformed)

## Help Wanted

Full-Time Database and  
Systems Specialist – Diocese of  
Joliet, Crest Hill, IL

The Diocese of Joliet in Crest  
Hill is seeking to hire a full-time  
Database and Systems

Specialist. This person is responsible for supporting,  
implementing and training software/systems  
including Microsoft 365, Microsoft Teams, Microsoft  
SharePoint, and other technologies. In addition, this  
position will support MS-Access databases and report  
writing. Proficiency with core Microsoft products  
including Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Teams,  
SharePoint, and Forms. Three (3) years' experience in  
MS-Access, SQL, and report writing required.

Experience with computer graphic and multimedia  
design. A Bachelor of Science

Degree in Information Technology or related field  
preferred. If interested in this amazing opportunity,  
please send a cover letter and resume to the Human  
Resources Department at

[humanresources@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:humanresources@dioceseofjoliet.org)



## SAINT OF THE WEEK

Our Saint this week is Saint Andre Bessette:

When Alfred Bessette came to the Holy Cross Brothers in 1870, he carried with him a note from his pastor saying, "I am sending you a saint." The Brothers found that difficult to believe. Chronic stomach pains had made it impossible for Alfred to hold a job very long and since he was a boy he had wandered from shop to shop, farm to farm, in his native Canada and in the United States, staying only until his employers found out how little work he could do. The Holy Cross Brothers were teachers and, at 25, Alfred still did not know how to read and write. It seemed as if Alfred approached the religious order out of desperation, not vocation.

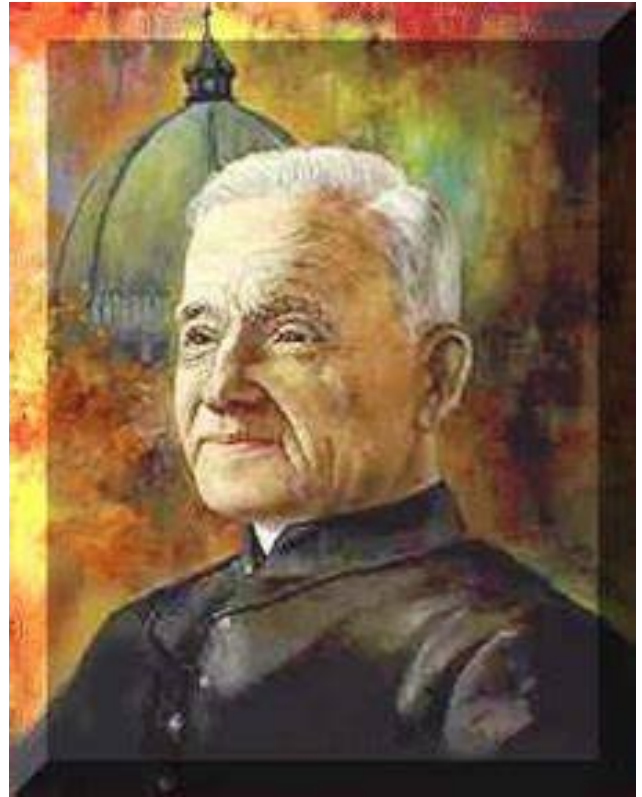
Alfred was desperate, but he was also prayerful and deeply devoted to God and Saint Joseph. He may have had no place left to go, but he believed that was because this was the place he felt he should have been all along.

The Holy Cross Brothers took him into the novitiate but soon found out what others had learned -- as hard as Alfred, now Brother Andre, wanted to work, he simply wasn't strong enough. They asked him to leave the order, but Andre, out of desperation again, appealed to a visiting bishop who promised him that Andre would stay and take his vows.

After his vows, Brother Andre was sent to Notre Dame College in Montreal (a school for boys age seven to twelve) as a porter. There his responsibilities were to answer the door, to welcome guests, find the people they were visiting, wake up those in the school, and deliver mail. Brother Andre joked later, "At the end of my novitiate, my superiors showed me the door, and I stayed there for forty years."

Despite financial troubles, Brother Andre never lost faith or devotion. He had started to build a basilica on the mountain but the Depression had interfered. At ninety-years old he told his co-workers to place a statue of St. Joseph in the unfinished, unroofed basilica. He was so ill he had to be carried up the mountain to see the statue in its new home. Brother Andre died soon after on January 6, and didn't live to see the work on the basilica completed. But in Brother Andre's mind it never would be completed because he always saw more ways to express his devotion and to heal others. As long as he lived, the man who had trouble keeping work for himself, would never have stopped working for God.

On December 19, 2009, Pope Benedict XVI promulgated a decree recognizing a second miracle at Blessed André's intercession and on October 17, 2010, Pope Benedict XVI formally declared sainthood for Blessed Andre.





**Thank you so much for your financial support to St. Mary's. It's people like you that have made this Parish what it is today!**

Collection Totals for the Weekend of:

Dec 11/12, 2021

	Collected	Online	Total
Weekly Offering	\$11,478.00	\$2,089.25	\$13,567.25
Foundation for Faith	\$50,402.81	\$85.00	\$50,487.81
Major Maintenance	\$1,035.00	\$40.00	\$1,075.00
Needy in Community	\$571.00	\$240.00	\$811.00
Immaculate Conception	\$895.00	\$82.00	\$977.00
Retired Religious	\$2,234.00	\$183.00	\$2,417.00
All Saints	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$20.00
Christmas Flowers	\$843.00	\$0.00	\$843.00
YTD Weekly Offering Collected	\$209,799.00		
YTD Weekly Offering Needed	\$202,352.88		

# Welcome to St. Mary's Church!

**Would you like to become a Registered Parishioner?**

We are so blessed to have you with us today and everyday! Our liturgies are made better by your presence and participation. We hope that you find the experience here at St. Mary's to be a warm and inspiring experience of the Eucharist and the faith that we profess.

If you are not registered and would like to be, please fill out the form below and mail it to the Parish office at St. Mary's, P.O. Box 456, Minooka IL 60447.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



**CHURCH NAME & NUMBER —**

Saint Mary #512192

**ADDRESS —**

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Minooka, IL 60447

**PHONE —**

815-467-2233

**CONTACT PERSON —**

Mary Blatti  
Fr. Tuan Van Nguyen

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