

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Fr. Tuan Van Nguyen

Third Sunday of Advent



Sunday, December 11, 2022

Contact Information:
P.O. Box 456
Minooka, IL 60447
Parish Office: 815-467-2233
Parish Email: stmarysminooka@sbcglobal.net

A Message from Fr. Tuan

Dear Parishioners,

Here is a reflection for this Sunday's readings, The Third Week of Advent Year A:

What happened to the John the Baptist we heard last Sunday, so sure of himself, proclaiming the coming of the Messiah? Today he sounds like doubting Thomas, uncertain that Jesus is truly the one. Really? He saw the Holy Spirit descend upon Jesus like a dove when he baptized him! But things have changed. Herod has thrown John in prison. Note how Jesus replies to John's question. He proclaims six kinds of miracles: transforming those who are blind, lame, deaf, and so on. But what about those in prison? What happened to "proclaim liberty to captives," as Jesus read in the synagogue (Luke 4:18) ? We can hardly blame John for wondering why he was languishing in a cell- or why Herod or the Romans had not been overthrown- while the Messiah was working miracles. We, too, sometimes wonder why God seems to have overlooked us or our world, do we not? But Jesus did not come into the world to make everything in it perfect. No, he came into the world to redeem it, to bring new life to it. God's life. In Jesus, God is here with us. No need to look for another.

How do you discern the Lord's presence amid your sorrows and suffering?



Love and Prayers,

Fr. Tuan

Morning Rosary will not be prayed during the cold winter months of January and February. It will resume in the spring.



Christmas Eve Children's Choir!

We are looking for 4th-8th graders to sing during the children's Christmas Eve mass, which is Saturday, December 24th at 4pm. We will rehearse from 10-10:30am on Sunday, December 4th, 11th, and 18th. We will meet in the choir loft for practice. For more information, contact Rebecca Carmack-Regennitter (Music Director) rebecca.stmarymusic@gmail.com

Children for Children's Christmas Play Needed!

We are looking for children to be in the Christmas Eve play. If you are interested, please call Kristin 708-670-4397 or Katrinka 708-369-6216.

We will have our first meeting Dec 14th in between RE classes.



All Women of the Parish are invited

CCW invites all women of the parish to their next meeting on **December 15th, at 6:30 pm, in the Parish Center.** Family Commission will be your hostesses for an evening of:

FOOD. Come sample a "mashed potato bar" with lots of yummy fixings, along with the usual wonderful selection of appetizers, desserts, and beverages.

FUN This year we'll bring back the Christmas ornament or item exchange game. Price limit of \$5.00. Participation is optional but you won't want to miss out on the fun.

MUSIC Christmas music is mandatory!

FELLOWSHIP The party won't be complete without **YOU**. Come celebrate Christmas with your CCW family!

***FUN** This year we'll bring back the Christmas ornament or item exchange game. Please wrap your gift. Price limit of \$5.00. Participation is optional but you won't want to miss out on the fun.*

More quiz questions for you to ponder.
Are you keeping track?

1. Following the death of King _____ in 930 BC, the nation of Israel split into the Northern Kingdom, called _____, and the southern Kingdom, called _____.
2. Of the 12 tribes of Israel, _____ were in the northern kingdom, and _____ were in the southern kingdom.
3. The capital of the northern kingdom was _____, while the capital of the southern kingdom was _____.
4. In 722 BC, the northern kingdom was taken captive by _____.
5. In 587 BC, the southern kingdom was taken captive by _____.
6. The _____ kingdom eventually returned home after 70 years of exile.
7. The _____ kingdom assimilated with pagan countries and was never heard from again.
8. Jesus said that a kingdom _____ cannot _____.
9. According to 2 Maccabees, _____ buried the Ark of the Covenant containing the 10 Commandments in a cave on or near Mount _____.
10. Also according to 2 Maccabees, the long dead prophet _____ appeared to the former high priest Onias and to Judas Maccabees and presented a golden sword to Judas. Onias said



Breakfast with Santa
at the Parish Center

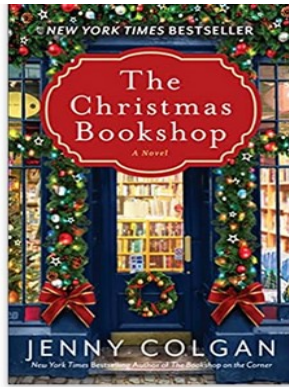
Meet and talk with Santa!
Sunday, December 18, 8am – 1:00

Sponsored By: St. Mary's Parish, Knights of Columbus

Santa's Helpers: St. Mary's Youth Group

Menu: Pancakes, Sausage, Scrambled Eggs
Orange Juice, Coffee, Milk

St. Mary's Book Club



Our next selection is "The Christmas Bookshop" by Jenny Colgan.

This novel is the story of a fractured family who decide to help a client revitalize his old shabby, but undeniably charming, bookshop, in historic Edinburgh. Copies of the book are available at the Minooka Public Library.

Please plan on joining us in our discussion on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Parish Center

All are welcome! Questions? Please call Mary at 815-467-9577



Week 38

"I am ready to enter the world. All of my reflexes are working together. I can move my hands and head and can even tell the difference between light and dark.

My brain is pretty developed now and I recognize sounds and voices. I am running out of things to do in here. My development inside the womb is completed. My lungs are ready for their first breath of air. Now, all I need to do is wait until God decides it's time for my emergence into the world. It will be a life-changing day for me and my family. Please pray for us."



THANKS FOR TAKING A GIVING TREE TAG!

All gifts are to be returned to
the Parish Center

Please **ONLY** buy what is on the tag.

Please secure the tag onto the gift you purchase. **DO NOT** wrap the gifts – we give the families wrapping paper so they can enjoy preparing Christmas for their children

Deadline is Sunday, December 11th

The Parish Center will be open before and after all Masses the weekends of Dec. 3/4 and Dec. 10/11.

There will also be a drop off time on Tuesday, Dec. 6th and Wednesday, Dec. 7th from 4-6pm at the Center when it is open for RE Classes.

ALL GIFTS ARE DUE BACK BY DEC. 11th

If you have any questions, please call Kathy at (815) 941-4419

Bishop Hicks - December Column

'All are welcome in this place'

I love Jesus! And it is always a source of joy and honor to offer the holy sacrifice of the Mass whenever and wherever I am asked to do so. So when I received a request to celebrate a diocesan-wide Mass for individuals with special needs or disabilities and their families and friends, without hesitation, I responded, "Yes!"



On September 18, we gathered as a family of God with our brothers and sisters living with Down syndrome, deafness, amputations and other challenges. The Mass was beautiful. After being nourished by word and sacrament, I enjoyed a post-Mass gathering with attendees, posing for photographs and engaging in conversation. During these delightful interactions, just about everyone expressed gratitude for the Mass and the fellowship. However, I was also struck by a common theme of their not feeling welcomed – not only in many parts of our society, but also in some of our churches. Participants shared experiences of not being acknowledged or recognized, and even feelings of invisibility.

I was surprised, and probably more accurately, shocked by their comments. Honestly, my heart broke and sank as I reflected on some of their experiences of rejection and isolation. As I drove away from our time together, I wondered, "How is it possible that people with disabilities have experienced exclusion in our Catholic churches, where for decades we have sung an entrance hymn with the lyrics, "All are welcome in this place."

Hopefully, it goes without saying that the Church should be a community in which all people experience an unconditional love that reflects God's love. I am sure that most of us never intentionally intend to be noninclusive. Yet during this month when we celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, let me take this opportunity to challenge all of us to reflect on some of our unintentional attitudes and actions, and look for ways to see, welcome and include all of our sisters and brothers with disabilities or special needs. For we should always strive to be a church that lives the words of St. Paul in his Letter to the Galatians 3:26-28: "So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

As baptized Christians, we are all constantly called to a personal conversion that reflects the love of Christ. But it does not end with our own individual attitudes and actions. As an institution, we as the Church also need to embrace persons with disabilities or special needs concretely with our ministries, policies and programs. I am proud to highlight that in the Diocese of Joliet, Renata Cichowicz is providing the lead for pastoral outreach for such ministries through the Department of Catechesis and Evangelization. The diocese also acts as an affiliate of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability. Additionally, St. Raphael Catholic Church in Naperville and several other parishes intentionally serve these communities with programs like REACH: Religious Education Apostolate for Christian Handicapped. REACH provides simplified religious education lessons at a slower pace using a smaller student-to-catechist ratio. This program also prepares students for the sacraments of reconciliation, the Eucharist and confirmation.

I look forward to whenever I have the opportunity to celebrate Mass and gather with our beautiful community of individuals living with deafness, disabilities or special needs. Until then, I enthusiastically echo our Holy Father's words from his 2021 message for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities: "I would like to speak to all of you who live with any condition of disability, to tell you the Church loves you and needs each of you for the fulfillment of her mission."

Prayer to Foster Belonging

Creator God, we are your people. We look to the future with optimism and with faith in You, as we pursue our call to provide justice and fullness of life for all people with disabilities.

We pray that every man, woman and child may develop their potential and meet You in themselves and in one another. May we enjoy a totally welcoming community, with You as our center, joined hand in hand with our sisters and brothers. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

From the National Catholic Partnership on Disability and based on the Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on People with Disabilities.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who came to the Advent Program, "A Festival of Lessons and Carols" and to the reception in the Center afterwards. Thank you to the CCW and Rebecca, our Music Director for providing such a beautiful program. Have a Blessed Advent. If you weren't able to attend the program, it was recorded and is available on St. Mary's Facebook page.



Religious Education

Dear RE Parents,

This is the final week of RE before Christmas Break!!

Classes will resume on Tues Jan 10th and Wed Jan 11th.

Sacraments are right around the corner for our 2nd and 8th Graders, The 2nd graders will be receiving their First Reconciliation on Mon Jan 9th and the First Holy Communion on Sat May 6th and Sun May 7th.

Our 8th graders will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Ann in Channahon with Bishop Hicks on Thurs Feb 9th.

We hope you have a wonderful Christmas Break and look forward to seeing you all back on Jan 10th and 11th.

Peace and Blessings



Daybreak Shelter

Every Month that has a 5th Tuesday, St. Mary's works at the Daybreak Shelter in Joliet helping serve lunch to the homeless. If anyone is interested in helping with this wonderful ministry, please call the Parish Office at 815-467-2233 or notify Debbie Bols. Thank you.



Volunteer Schedule

	Altar Server	Eucharistic Ministers	Lector
Saturday, Dec. 17 5:00pm	Brooklyn Lehner	Pat Favero	Carolyn Healy
Sunday, Dec 18 7:30am	Antonio Esquivel	Carole Fremarek	Ric Offerman
Sunday, Dec 18 9:00am	Molly Schramm	Erica Schramm Sydney Yunker	Mike Schramm
Sunday, Dec 18 11:00am	Keighera Fleming	Jessica Folsom Jane Spray	Bruce Ukockis



Communion For the Homebound

If you or someone you know would benefit from a Communion Visit, please call the rectory at 815-467-2233.



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 every day! 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 _____

- ☐ New Parishioner
☐ New Email
☐ New Address
☐ New Phone Number



MASS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>MASS INTENTION</u>	<u>FROM</u>
Saturday, Dec. 10	5:00pm	Bill Stafford Helen Mackay Ken DelRose	Emma Hozian Mr. & Mrs. John Gianino The Family
Sunday, Dec. 11	7:30am 9:00am 11:00am	Kathy Augsburg Marie Starks Clemintina Jimenez	William & Mindy Collins Gloria Maxwell Maria Atilano
Monday, Dec 12	8:30am	Annmarie Stewart	Peg Francisco
Tuesday, Dec. 13	8:30am	The Nash Family	Friends
Wednesday, Dec 14	8:30am	Communion Service	
Thursday, Dec. 15	8:30am	Communion Service	
Friday, Dec. 16	8:30am	Al & Marianne Keehl	The Family
Saturday, Dec. 17	5:00pm	Lonnie Bartuello	June & Dave Battey
Sunday, Dec. 18	7:30am 9:00am 11:00am	Raymond & Audrey Tierney Francis J. Dollinger Kata Eric Elaine & Stan Wiencek	The Family JoAnn Dollinger John & Kay Brozovich Tammy Wiencek

This week candles were lit for :

- Police & Firefighters
- Olivia Arenella
- Gloria Ziebler
- Angelo Anzalone

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



Please Pray For:

Denise Tonarelli	Sara Lovell	Lorenzo Benitez
Kimberly Gaydula	Wren Wagoner	Marlena Benitez
Dylan Pickett	Sue Burich	Judy Stafford
Paul Thien Phu	Jerry Davidson	Irene Davidson
Deidra Hogan	Linda Bradley	Phyllis Artusa
Robert Fonck	Baker Family	Olivia Arenella

If you would like to add a name to our prayer list, please email st.marysmiinooka@sbcglobal.net or call the parish office at 815-467-2233.

STAFF

Fr. Tuan Van Nguyen- Pastor

815-467-2233 ext.106

stmarysminooka@sbcglobal.net

Deacon Fred Ban- Director of RE

815-467-2769, deaconfredstmarydre@yahoo.com

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Co-Website Editor

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Mary Blatti- Office Manager/Bulletin Editor/

Co-Website Editor

815-467-2233 stmarysminooka@sbcglobal.net

Mary Mogensen - Bookkeeper/

Foundation for Faith

815-467-2233 ext. 101, stmarysbusiness@gmail.com

Rebecca Carmack-Regennitter - Music Director

815-467-2233 ext. 109,

Rebecca.stmarymusic@gmail.com

MASSES

Weekend Masses-

Saturday- 5:00pm

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

Weekday Masses

Mon, Tues, Fri- 8:30am

Communion Service-

Wed, Thurs - 8:30am

Confession-

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

Fax-

815-467-1760

ST. MARY'S COMMISSIONS

Administration- John Jun Drjohnedd@aol.com	Education- Mary Kimble mtk2553@aol.com	Prayer Squares Group- Peg Francisco stmarysminooka@sbcglobal.net	Parish Council- Anne Schrishuhn ponzovista@gmail.com
Rebecca Carmack-Regennitter Rebecca.stmarymusic@gmail.com	Eucharistic Ministers- Fr. Tuan stmarysminooka@sbcglobal.net	Prayer Tree- Peg Francisco stmarysminooka@sbcglobal.net	Youth Ministry- Joann Ban jmb3072@yahoo.com
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Building and Grounds- Dave Clark chiefengin@sbcglobal.net	Fishers of Men- Kevin Pullara kevinapullara@gmail.com	Quilters- Carole Fremarek cfremarek@sbcglobal.net	Religious Education - Deacon Fred Ban deaconfredstmarydre@yahoo.com
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Children's Mass Coordinator- Katrinka Kochanek KKochanek@divfin.com	Greeters- Fr. Tuan stmarysminooka@sbcglobal.net	RCIA- Deacon Fred Ban/ Kate Ross deaconfredstmarydre@yahoo.com	Senior Luncheon Gail Flattness prettynanaofsix@gmail.com
Christmas Giving Tree- Kathy Williamson 815 467-2233	Knights of Columbus- Brian Flanigan brianflanigan@yahoo.com	Welcoming Committee- Doris Boehm wdb Boehm@att.net	
Council of Catholic Women- Jeanne Rapp Jeanchuck73@gmail.com	Lectors- Kathy O'Hagan stmary3@sbcglobal.net	Daybreak Shelter Debbie Bols 815-210-8351	Food Pantry Jean Jun Virginia Guertin 815-467-2233

Thank you for your financial support to St. Mary's



Please Remember St. Mary's in your will or trust

As Catholics. We are called to plan ahead and share the blessings of our lives with our loved ones and future generations. To help you be a steward of everything God has entrusted to your care, the Diocese of Joliet is sharing free, online will writing tools. It is cost-free and takes 20 minutes or less to protect your family and your assets and create a gift to pass the Catholic faith onto future generations.

Get started at FreeWill.com/DioceseofJoliet.



PLEDGE REPORT: 12/04/2022

Thank you for your financial support to the good works of our Diocese.

Parish Goal: \$44,600.00
 Amount Pledged: \$51,034.00
 Balance Due: \$ 2,625.00
 2022 Rebate: \$ 2,666.00

Please continue to make your 2022 pledge payments. Once we have reached our goal in paid pledges, 70% of the additional funds received will be returned to the parish for our use.

Collection Totals for the Weekend of: December 3/4, 2022

		Nov 26/27	Dec 3/4	
	Collected	Online	Online	Total
Weekly Offering	\$26,001.42	\$2,364.00	\$3,171.00	\$31,536.42
Foundation for Faith	\$1,102.78	\$40.00	\$120.00	\$1,262.78
Major Maintenance	\$755.00	\$70.00	\$88.00	\$913.00
Needy in Community	\$5,528.00	\$320.00	\$368.00	\$6,216.00
Campaign for Human Development	\$180.00	\$5.00	\$0.00	\$185.00
Flowers	\$772.00	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$802.00
All Saints	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
Retired Religious	\$115.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$615.00
Immaculate Conception	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Seminarians "I Will Give You Shepherds"	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75.00
YTD Weekly Offering Collected	\$198,847.06			
YTD Weekly Offering Needed	\$196,176.43			

CHURCH NAME & NUMBER —

Saint Mary #512192

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P.O. Box 456
Minooka, IL 60447

PHONE —

815-467-2233

CONTACT PERSON —

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Fr. Tuan Van Nguyen

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS — Please send 400 Bulletins