

St. Mary's Church

4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas Bulletin

December 24/25, 2023



Fra Angelico, *The Adoration of the Magi*, 1440 - 1460AD, National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.

MASSES:

Saturday- 5:00pm
Sunday- 7:30am (simple chant)
9am and 11am
Weekday - daily at 8:30am

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon-Wed 8am-4pm
Thurs- 10:30am-4:00pm
Fri- 8am-12pm

OFFICE PHONE: (815) 467-2233

NEW PARISHIONERS:

St. Mary's Parish warmly welcomes

everyone to our community. Please call
the Parish office to register at
815-467-2233 or
Office@stmarysminooka.com

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays at 4:00pm - 4:45pm
And upon request

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

Thursdays - 7:30am-8:30am
Saturdays - 4:00pm-5:00

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:
2nd & 4th Sunday of each Month

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

*Six months preparation required.
Visit the website for more information.*

SICK, HOMEBOUND AND HOSPITAL VISITS:

Contact the parish office if you would like
communion, if you would like someone
from St. Mary's to visit you in the hospital,
or if we can help you in any other way.
Privacy policies do not permit the hospital
to contact us directly.

ANNOINTING OF THE SICK - Please
call the parish office 815-467-2233.

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Fra Angelico, Annunciation, 1420 AD, The Convent of San Marco in Florence, Italy

Meditations on Sunday Readings and Famous Art with Fr. John

- This image was chosen because the Gospel for the Fourth Sunday in Advent is the Annunciation. In the Annunciation, the Angel Gabriel announces to the Blessed Virgin Mary the good news that she will be the mother of the Messiah. Upon her "Fiat" ("Let it be done to me according to thy word") the eternal, all-powerful, infinite God becomes a fragile human being in the womb of Mary. This is the conception of Jesus.
- The hands of God the Father can faintly be seen in the top left corner sending the Holy Spirit (symbolized in the dove inside the beam of light, in between Mary and the angel's head) towards the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the Church's tradition, Mary is seen as Daughter of God the Father, Mother of God the Son and Spouse of God the Holy Spirit.
- Adam and Eve are seen on the left side of the image being ushered out of Paradise by an angel. They are small, dim and dead-looking as they have entered a state of sinfulness which will be handed on to their decedents. They have introduced sin and death to the world through their disobedience. By contrast, Mary is big, colorful and full of life in her obedience to God. Symbolically, this communicates that obedience to God brings us majesty, illumination and life.
- Mary is the obedient new Eve in contrast to the disobedient old Eve. Mary's obedience is communicated in her physical posture and the scriptures laying on her lap which she was presumably reading prior to the angel's appearance. Her bowed head, bent frame and crossed arms represent submission to God's plan.

St. Mary's Catholic Church Minooka, IL
Advent & Christmas Schedule 2023

Recurring Events

Weekend Mass every Saturday @ 5pm & Sunday @ 7:30am, 9am, and 11am

30-minute Daily Mass every M-F @ 8:30am

Adoration and Confession every Thursday @ 7:30am - 8:30am

Adoration and Confession every Saturday @ 4pm – 4:45pm

Advent

Sun. 12-17-23 @ 8:00am-1:00pm: Breakfast with Santa

Tue. 12-19-23 @ 6:00pm-7:00pm: Confessions @ St. Ann's in Channahon (5 priests present)

Sat. 12-23-23 @ 5pm Vigil Mass: 4th Sunday of Advent Mass

Sun. 12-24-23 @ 8am: 4th Sunday of Advent Mass

Sun. 12-24-23 @ 11:00am: 4th Sunday of Advent Mass

Christmas Mass Schedule

Sun. 12-24-23 @ 3pm: Christmas Eve Mass (Children's Play in Parish Center),
10pm: Christmas Midnight Mass

Mon. 12-25-23 @ 8am & 11am: Christmas Day Masses

Christmas Season Continued

Sat. 12-30-23 @ 5:00pm: The Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph Mass Vigil Mass

Sun. 12-31-23 @ 7:30am, 9:00am, 11:00am: The Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph Mass

Christmas Letter from Fr. John Honiotes

Christmas 2023

Merry Christmas!

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as the new pastor of St. Mary's in Minooka. It's been a joy to get to know so many of you in these past five months. As we approach Christmas, the prophetic words of the late Pope Benedict XVI resonate with me.

"Is contemporary humanity still yearning for a Savior? Many seem to perceive God as detached from their personal concerns, operating as though they can navigate existence without His presence. Some live as if He is an impediment to their self-fulfillment, dismissing His relevance. Even within the realm of believers, there are those swayed by alluring doctrines promising facile routes to contentment. Nonetheless, amidst the myriad contradictions, concerns, and tragedies, there exists a profound search for renewal and deliverance in today's humanity. Often unnoticed, there is an unconscious anticipation for the arrival of a Savior who can rejuvenate both our world and individual lives—a hope for the advent of Christ, the sole Redeemer of mankind and the entirety of human existence." - Pope Benedict XVI, General Audience December 20, 2006 . -Pope Benedict XVI, General Audience 12.20.06 (paraphrased)

In an era marked by unprecedented abundance and technological prowess, the message of Christmas may seem irrelevant to the average American. Nevertheless, I am more convinced than ever that Jesus is the remedy for the afflictions of our times. Surveys on social well-being reveal that Americans are more depressed, anxious, and lonely than ever. Our high standard of living, technological advancements, and diverse forms of entertainment can sometimes distract us from the ache at the core of our being. This ache, often referred to as the God-shaped hole in our humanity, can only be addressed by the person of Jesus Christ.

On Christmas we celebrate the long-awaited arrival of the God-man. God became man to bridge the gap between man and God. It is only through Jesus that we find the deepest healing and, indeed, the deepest joy. May Jesus bless you and your families abundantly during this Advent and Christmas season!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. John Honiotes". The signature is stylized with a large, bold "J" and "H".

Fr. John Honiotes
Pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Minooka, IL
Diocese of Joliet

Bishop Hicks' Column

December 2023

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL AND SYNODALITY, TOGETHER



ARE YOU A CUBS FAN? OR ARE YOU A WHITE SOX FAN? If you have any roots in Chicagoland, you instinctively understand that you must declare one or the other. It is common practice to choose one team — one is never a fan of both!

During these past two years, throughout our country and within the Catholic Church, that same principle seems to have been applied to the National Eucharistic Revival and the Synod on Synodality. As you know, the Eucharistic Revival is a three-year initiative of the Church to enkindle a living relationship with Jesus Christ in the holy Eucharist. The Synod on Synodality is an international, multiyear undertaking during which Catholics give feedback and deeply listen to each other — so, as a Church, we can all discern together where the Holy Spirit is leading us.

Curiously, many people seem to be taking sides; they are in favor of one, but not the other.

The week before Thanksgiving, I joined over 250 bishops in Baltimore for a week of meetings hosted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. We began the meetings with prayer, adoration, benediction, and Mass. The first address to the assembly was given by Cardinal Christophe Pierre, the Papal Nuncio. When it comes to the Eucharistic Revival and the Synod, he encouraged us to move away from an “either/or” approach, and to instead embrace and promote both. The special connections between the Eucharistic Revival and the Synod prevailed through our week of meetings.

At one point, Cardinal Pierre beautifully reflected on the road to Emmaus story from the Gospel of Luke (24: 13–35). Along their journey, the disciples debated their theological points of view while Jesus listened to them. “Listening, corresponds to the humble style of God,” said the cardinal, quoting Pope Francis. “God loves humanity: that is why he addresses his word to them, and why he ‘inclines his ear’ to listen to them.”

You see, *listening* is essential for a synodal Church because it is a dimension of love. Through this Emmaus moment, Jesus accompanies, listens, and discerns with His disciples. Then, their hearts were set on fire because they recognized His true presence in the Eucharist. After this Eucharistic encounter, they go

back to the other disciples and proclaim that Jesus is alive and — with missionary zeal — are committed to sharing the risen Christ with the world.

Cardinal Pierre concluded his presentation with these moving insights: “Our people need us to be adventurers for the Lord. They need us to be united with one another. They need to see how our diversity, harmonized, displays the beauty of the Church and of the Catholic faith. They need to be reminded that salvation comes not from one idea or another, but through a shared encounter with the living person of Jesus, who is love.”

Most of us can agree we are a stronger Church when we both listen *and* keep the Eucharist as our source and summit. Let’s look for ways to stay united with each other and with Christ.

From the onset, I announced that the Diocese of Joliet was going to participate in both the National Eucharistic Revival and the Synod on Synodality. Walking in numerous Eucharistic processions and attending many talks about the Eucharist, I am proud of how robustly our clergy and parishioners have promoted and embraced this Eucharistic Revival. I look forward to participating in our continued celebrations of the Eucharist in the Diocese of Joliet, and will joyfully attend the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis in July 2024. That event will launch us into the next phase of the revival by enthusiastically taking the Eucharistic Lord into the world and putting our faith into action as missionary disciples.

At the same time, I am also proud of how we have participated in the Synod on Synodality. For over six months, groups gathered throughout every deanery of our diocese to listen intently to each other. The themes from these listening sessions were gathered and compiled into a report sent to Rome. The first half of the synod concluded in the Vatican this October. With faithful hope, we await the next steps for the second half next October.

As a baseball fan, I am fiercely loyal to my team, while politely ignoring the other. Gratefully, that’s not what our Church does when it comes to the National Eucharistic Revival and the Synod on Synodality. Like you, I love Jesus so much — especially in the Eucharist — *and* at the same time — through Him, with Him, and in Him — I desire a *listening* Church that calls us to be on mission! With faith and trust in God, I look forward to walking on this all-connected journey with you ahead.

DIOCESE OF JOLIET



SAVE THE DATE!

**Sunday, January 28, 2024
Bishop Hicks will come to
the 11:00am Mass to install
Fr. John Honiotes as the
Pastor of St. Mary's Church
Reception will follow in the
Parish Center.**



FISHERS OF MEN GUIDING MEN TOWARD A DYNAMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST



FISHERS OF MEN

Men, are you interested in developing a more personal relationship with Jesus?

"FISHERS OF MEN" equips men of all ages to be committed disciples of Jesus Christ and better husbands, fathers and members of their community.

Come join with other men, banding together as brothers in Christ.

Where:

ST Mary's: Saturday Morning 7-9 AM (Back home in time for breakfast)

St Francis Xavier: Wednesday Evening 7-9 PM (Better than an after dinner nap)

Contacts:

Dave Clark (815)955-2928
Greg Masters (815)666-7786
Ralph Malec (815)931-9506
Chris Wielgos (779)456-9526



Youth Ministry Coming Soon!

Be on the Lookout!

Jr. High grades 6-8
&

High School grades 9-12

will include FELLOWSHIP, FAITH, &
FUN.

Giving Tree

"Our sincerest thanks to St. Mary's Minooka parishioners and community members for the overwhelming response and support to the Giving Tree Project. Because of you 15 families and multiple local agencies will enjoy this Christmas knowing the love and generosity that exists among us."



Thank you

To listen to Sunday Homilies Online!



Man Does Not Live By Bread Alone

Homilies from Fr. John

To listen to Fr. John's weekly
homilies, search "Honiotes" on any major
podcast app, or follow this link:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1373725>

Weekly Mass Intentions

Date	Time	Intention	From
Sat. Dec. 23	5:00pm	+Gloria Maxwell	Al & Pat Smania
		+Larry Nelson	Cheryl Nelson & Family
		+Leonard & Winona Bols	Family
Sun. Dec 24	8:00am	+Russel & Marie Starks	O'Hagan Family
4th Sunday of Advent	11:00am	+Raymond Noel	Family
Sun. Dec 24	3:00pm	Parishioners of St. Mary's	
Christmas Eve	10:00pm	Intention of our Pastor	
Mon. Dec. 25	8:00am	+Francis J. & Josephine Dollinger	JoAnn Dollinger
Christmas Day		+Nobel & Mary Pat Collins	Family
		+Rita Bernardy	Chuck Bernardy
		+Don Ruettiger	Mickey & Bobbie Ruettiger
		+Nick & Della Plain & Lisa Maubach	Family
	11:00am	+Scott Tezak	Family
		+Bob Guedel	Family
		+Don & Eleanor Bersano	Family & Friends
Tues. Dec. 26	8:30am	+Sr. Rosemary Small	
Wed. Dec 27	8:30am	+Fr. Mark Fracaro	
Thurs. Dec 28	8:30am	+Jeff & Dorothy Struna	The Skwarzinski Family
Fri. Dec. 29	8:30am	+Harriet, Mickey & Pat McDonald	
		&+ John Brown	Family
Sat. Dec. 30	5:00pm	+Gloria Maxwell	Cathy McClintock Glover
		+Linda Bradley	Sharon Gaydula
		+Antonio Sifre	Leon Family
Sun. Dec. 31	7:30am	+Timmy Harms Jr	Deb & Bernie Bols
	9:00am	Parishioners of St. Mary's	
	11:00am	+Judy Bremer	Knights of Columbus

Weekly Mass Volunteer Schedule

	Saturday, December 30th 5:00pm	Sunday, December 31st 7:30am	Sunday, December 31st, 9:00am	Sunday, December 31st, 11:00am
Mass Coordinator	Peg & Jim Furto	Lucy Feeney	Chris Gregory	Mike Folsom
Lector	Carolyn Healy	Rose Ruettiger	Mike Schramm	Brenda Rittorf
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Pat Favero Mary Stith	Joyce Danek Nita Caruso	Jon Lamlech Sydney Yunker	Jessica Folsom Jane Spray
Altar Server	Volunteer	Xander Esquivel	Sara Folsom Alex Folsom	Antonio Esquivel



Police & Firefighters
Dennis Trzesniewski
Scott Tezak
Lucy McDonald
Pat & Mickey McDonald
John Brown
Special Intention

If you would like a
candle lit outside for a
Special Intention, please
call the Parish Office
At 815-467-2233.



Please Pray For the Sick of our Parish Family

Denise Tonarelli
Kimberly Gaydula
Paul Thien Phu
Bill Reed
Larry Goodwin
Karen Lombardo

Sara Lovell
Wren Wagoner
Baker Family
Bayley Webb
Aberie Skiba
Kathy Ly
Fred Lotarski

Lorenzo Benitez
Marlena Benitez
Judy Stafford
Ruth Kesselring
Olivia Arenella
Lisa Pelton
Dawn Dempsay

Robert Fonck
Marilyn Wilkens
Gerald Magolan
Paisly Schad
Joe Overbeck
Keith Flatness

Jerry Moreno
Connie Hamilton
Katelyn Latta
Jim Novotny
Paul Pullara
Ralph Westbrook
Phill Wizorek

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

Giving Tree Thank You!

Many thanks to the many volunteers who helped put this project together. As always, St. Mary's exhibited extreme generosity, donated many man hours, and came together to help our neighbors in need. Thank you to our Parishioners and many Community Members. Thank you to Minooka Intermediate School for the huge contribution from your food drive. We served 15 families which included 52 Children. There were over 350 gifts, and the very generous cash donations allowed for extra food gift cards to go to the families. In addition to our families, we also took gifts to Park Pointe, Heritage Woods, Corner Stone, the Pregnancy Resource Center and to the Poor Clares. Thank you and Merry Christmas!



The English- Spanish Group

The English Spanish group broke away from their normal weekly meeting to spread a bit of Holiday Cheer. They gathered at one of the homes to bake Christmas cookies together as a group. Their next meeting will be on January 18, Thursday, at 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. at the parish center. Anyone is welcome.



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

PLEDGE REPORT:
12/17/2023

Please continue to make your 2023 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.

Parish Goal:	\$46,100.00
Pledged:	\$45,730.00
Balance Due:	\$ 1,270.00

Fr. John Honiotes - Pastor

815-467-2233

Pastorsdesk@stmarysminooka.com

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