

December  
17  
2023

# St. Irene Catholic Parish



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28W441 Warrenville Rd., Warrenville, IL 60555



630-393-2400



parishoffice@st-irene.org



**Regular Hours:** Monday-Thursday 8:30am-4:00pm  
Friday 8:30am-3:00pm



[www.st-irene.org](http://www.st-irene.org)



<https://st-irene.churchgiving.com>



[www.facebook.com/StIreneChurch](https://www.facebook.com/StIreneChurch)



[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmMeIs6ydHjTJD98ZZb\\_VcA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmMeIs6ydHjTJD98ZZb_VcA)

## Welcome!

### Join us for Mass!

#### Weekday Mass

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday | 7:00am  
Wednesday | 12:00pm

#### Weekend Mass

Saturday | Vigil 5:00pm  
Sunday | 8:00am, 10:00am

#### Confessions

After any Mass, by Appointment, or on the  
Third Thursday of the Month at 6:30pm

#### Church Open for Visiting

Mon. & Wed. 8:30am-4:00pm, Tue. & Thu.  
7:30am-4:00pm, Fri. 7:30am-3:00pm

## STAFF DIRECTORY

**PASTOR:** Rev. Fr. Clive Otieno x113 -  
[fr.clive@st-irene.org](mailto:fr.clive@st-irene.org)

#### DEACONS:

Brad Hentz x130 - [brad\\_hentz@yahoo.com](mailto:brad_hentz@yahoo.com)  
Joe Urso x130 - [joe@st-irene.org](mailto:joe@st-irene.org)

#### PARISH LIFE AND LITURGY

##### COORDINATOR:

Pamela Keating x120 - [pamela@st-irene.org](mailto:pamela@st-irene.org)

#### DIRECTOR OF SACRED MUSIC:

Ellen Coman x123 - [ellen@st-irene.org](mailto:ellen@st-irene.org)

#### BUSINESS MANAGER:

Fred Schlick x114 - [businessmanager@st-irene.org](mailto:businessmanager@st-irene.org)

#### OFFICE MANAGER (Habla español):

Yvonne Aranda x119 - [yvonne@st-irene.org](mailto:yvonne@st-irene.org)

**ADMIN. ASSISTANT:** Pat Jackowiak x110 -  
[parishoffice@st-irene.org](mailto:parishoffice@st-irene.org)

#### DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Craig Mazur x122 [craig@st-irene.org](mailto:craig@st-irene.org)

#### RE ADMIN. ASSISTANT AND PARISH REGISTRAR:

Julie Duquette x116 - [julie@st-irene.org](mailto:julie@st-irene.org)

#### MAINTENANCE: call Parish Office

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# Prayer & Worship

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, December 16, 5PM**

†Bob Keshko / Carl & Alexandra  
†Pedro Ruiz / Aranda Family

**Sunday, December 17, 8AM**

St. Irene Parish Family  
†Jan Palys / Berning & Siele Families

**Sunday, December 17, 10AM**

†Mark Bond / Keating Family  
†Pedro Aranda / Family

**Tuesday, December 19, 7AM**

†Ted Mlsna / Joanne

**Wednesday, December 20, 12PM**

†Anita Masters / Family  
†Tim Sulima / 1st Anniversary

**Thursday, December 21, 7AM**

†Anthony Nilges / Cathy Kott

**Friday, December 22, 7AM**

†William Baker / Family

**Saturday, December 23, 5PM**

†Craig Farmer / Joy Farmer  
†Bob Farmer / Family

**Sunday, December 24, 8AM**

St. Irene Parish Family  
†JJ MacPhee / Papa & J

**Sunday, December 24, 10AM**

†Pedro Aranda / Aranda Family

*Contact the Parish Office for submitting Mass intentions.*

† = Deceased



## WEEKLY READINGS

**Monday:** Jer 23:5-8/

Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/

Mt 1:18-25

**Tuesday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/

Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/

Lk 1:5-25

**Wednesday:** Is 7:10-14/

Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/

Lk 1:26-38

**Thursday:** Sg 2:8-14 or

Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3,

11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

**Friday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/

1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/

Lk 1:46-56

**Saturday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/

Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/

Lk 1:57-66

**Sunday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12,

14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27,

29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/

Lk 1:26-38

## HEAVENLY FATHER, WE PRAY FOR...

Patti (Conley) Kras  
Mary Ann True  
Augie Juricic, III  
Ken Di Julio  
Chuck Detwiler  
Rosemary Maher  
Rebecca Aranda

Jean Roe  
Gina LaRocco Goddard  
Terri Juricic  
Connie Dyas  
Marco Inserro  
Jennifer Wingelnik  
Fr. Jim Antiporek

Dcn. Bob True  
Augie Juricic, Jr.  
Katie Kennedy  
Rachel Jarasius  
Diane Kroll  
Bob Mudge  
Liam Kracky

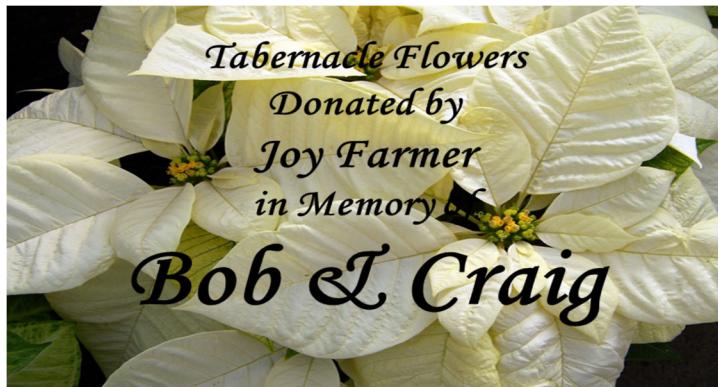
\*\*Names will remain on the list for 3 months; please notify the parish office to add or remove names.

## OBSERVANCES for the Week of Dec 17

**Thursday:** St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

**Saturday:** St. John of Kanty, Priest

**Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve





## A Constant Companion

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

As Christians, we are called to a life of prayer. This is not just during seasons like Advent, but all year long. When we talk about being prayerful everyday stewards, we are speaking about cultivating an awareness of God being with us at all times. Each day we begin by offering God the entirety of our day. Each night we rest in Him and hope that the hours that passed gave Him glory.

During this busy time of Advent, it is hard to cultivate this life of prayer, but without it we can too easily lose sight of the reason for the season. It is during this time of year we need to heed the words of St. Paul more than ever when he wrote to the Thessalonians,

“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.” This is how we will be able to avoid the pitfalls of consumerism and secularism and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Bring Jesus with you into the office Christmas party. Take him with you shopping for gifts in the department store. Be aware of him when you sit down to watch television specials you have seen every year of your life. Give him all your time and let his presence fill your every moment. By striving to be connecting with Jesus at all times, you will bear greater fruit and the joy you experience will be much greater than you could imagine. You might even spend a few less dollars and spend more time with those you love, particularly the one who loves you the most, the Incarnation himself.

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## Eucharistic Revival at St. Irene



### First Communion Timeline!

See the display in the Narthex celebrating the history of our parishioners' first communions. Please share a photo of your first communion and we will add it to the timeline.

**First Communion Timeline** display in the Narthex, send us your pictures! ([yvonne@st-irene.org](mailto:yvonne@st-irene.org))

**December - Enhanced Adoration - See Flames of Faith article on page 5**

**November 26-December 25 - Eucharistic Art Exhibit**

**Stay tuned for other events!**



### Eucharistic Art Exhibit

Between Christ the King (November 26) and Christmas, 2023, St. Irene will be holding an art exhibit featuring parishioners' original works that reflect the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and our unity as the body of Christ.

# Bishop Hicks' Column

December 2023

## EUCARISTIC 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 JOLETT

# 4

# Parish Community



Our New Parish Family:  
Joe and Lisa Veronico



Sign up to light the  
Advent Wreath!  
Also sign up to bring up  
the gifts for Advent and  
Christmas too!

Sign up by the reception desk in the  
Narthex

## Bereaved Holiday Season Bill of Rights

*As a grieving person, you have certain inalienable rights that cannot be taken away from you by those who may not understand.*

*When grieving during the holiday season, you have the right to:*

1. Feel what you feel and be politely honest with others about it. If you do not feel merry, cheerful, or otherwise festive, then say so.
2. Reserve your feelings. If you would rather say, "I am fine," that is okay.
3. Avoid parties or family gatherings where your loved one and your grief are not welcome.
4. Take time for yourself, whether this is a walk alone, a day in bed, or some other momentary escape.
5. Cry when it hurts, laugh when something is funny, and smile when you are happy. Don't feel guilty about any of it.
6. Have your loved one remembered in a way that is meaningful to you.
7. Change your mind repeatedly during any get-together, event, or party. You may not know what you can or cannot handle until faced with it.
8. Change traditions when necessary or desired. Traditions are supposed to bring comfort, not distress.
9. Enjoy your holidays. Your loved one is going to be celebrating with you. It doesn't mean that you have forgotten or are being disrespectful. Living life is a wonderful way to honor them.
10. Try again next year if this year does not turn out the way that you want.



The Prayer Shawl Ministry  
is looking for people who knit or crochet and  
would like to make prayer shawls.

If you need any patterns,  
we have them available.

For more information please contact  
Paula Peterson 630-319-3998  
[ppeterson1085@gmail.com](mailto:ppeterson1085@gmail.com)

or

Cathy Kott 630-393-9543 [cakott1210@att.net](mailto:cakott1210@att.net)



**Knights of Columbus  
Newsletters are  
available at:**

[https://st-irenekofc.org/  
index.php/monthly-newsletter-archive/](https://st-irenekofc.org/index.php/monthly-newsletter-archive/)



## SCAMMERS ARE AT IT AGAIN!

Please remember that neither  
Fr. Clive nor the staff will ever  
ask for financial help, gift cards,  
Square Account, etc.  
through email or text.

## NEW PARISHIONERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Call the Parish Office or register on-line on our website.

**BAPTISMS:** Call Craig Mazur on x122.

**SICK CALLS:** Call the Parish Office.

**MARRIAGES:** Call the Parish Office to arrange preparation at least 6 months in advance.

**FUNERALS:** The Pastoral Staff works with families to plan the Funeral Mass, call the Parish Office.

**CRISIS PRAYER CHAIN:** Contact Deacon Joe Urso at 630-853-2070 or at [joe.urso@outlook.com](mailto:joe.urso@outlook.com).

## Catholic Kids Column

In the old Latin liturgy, today was known as Gaudete ("Rejoice!"") Sunday. We light two purple and one rose (pink) candle on our Advent wreath, and the priest wears rose colored vestments. Our readings remind us to "rejoice," and that the source and cause of that rejoicing is the presence of the Lord in our midst.

In today's gospel the Jewish leaders question John about whether or not he is the messiah. John the Baptist makes it clear that he has been sent by God to prepare the way for the one who is to come. The people hear from John that he isn't the light. John points to the one in their midst, whom they do not recognize.

In family life, we learn to trust other people for protection and care. This experience of trust within the family enables us to believe our parents when they testify about their faith in Jesus. John the Baptist was believed by those who heard him because he helped them to recognize Jesus in their midst. In our family life, we hope and pray that we lead one another to recognize Jesus' presence in our world.

As you gather as a family, recall that during the Advent season we are invited to pay particular attention to the signs of Jesus' presence in our world.

[loyolapress.com](http://loyolapress.com)



## WELCOME OUR LADY OF FATIMA INTO YOUR HOME

*Even if you've hosted our Lady in the past, you may welcome her again.*

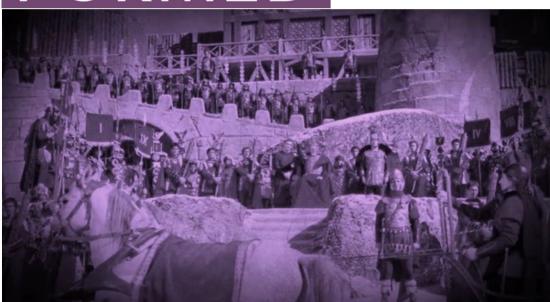
*Sign up at [www.st-irene.org](http://www.st-irene.org)*

**Our Lady is at the home of Veronica Gonzalez. Please pray with her for peace and personal intentions.**

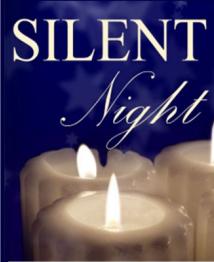


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## Encounter Night

Amidst the busyness of the season, plan to step away from the noise and bustle for a bit to be with our Lord. Come to a special evening which will include a Holy Hour of silent Eucharistic Adoration.

**Thurs., December 21,  
6 PM—8 PM**

- ◆ 6 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Silent Holy Hour
- ◆ 6:30 PM The Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- ◆ 7 PM The Holy Rosary

### Flames of Faith Intentions

A votive candle may be placed on the altar with the Blessed Sacrament during evening Adoration labeled with your specific intention. To request an intention, return one of the envelopes found on the information table in the Narthex to the parish office or in the Sunday collection with your donation (suggested \$5). Candle intentions will be published in the bulletin on December 24. Due to early bulletin deadlines, some intentions may be published on December 31.



**Wed. December 20, 2023**

**11 AM—10 PM**

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### ST. IRENE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are raising funds to send a group to the Joliet Youth Day in June of 2024, and to be able to offer other programs to our Religious Education families. Show this flyer or simply mention the fundraiser to your server to have your sales counted. More information is at [www.st-irene.org](http://www.st-irene.org)

**Red Robin**

**28260 Diehl Rd.,  
Warrenville, IL**

**THANK YOU!**

## Watch & Pray by Dr. Edward Sri

With the many distractions that bombard us daily, how can we stay focused and watch for Christ during Advent? This study explores the Nativity narrative in Luke's Gospel that serves as a vivid example of how to prepare our hearts with true humility so that "watching" for Jesus is an active reality.

Presented by Dr. Edward Sri.



Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup) and select our parish. Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.

## 6

# Stewardship & Liturgical Life

## Stewardship of Treasure Week of November 27– December 3 (Includes on-line contributions)

Sunday Offertory	Building/Maintenance Fund
\$ 16,704.08	\$ 1,035.00



Did you know you can make your donations automatically? You can enroll at <https://st-irene.churchgiving.com> or by contacting Fred Schlick at 630-393-2400 x114 [businessmanager@st-irene.org](mailto:businessmanager@st-irene.org) or by clicking on the QR Code.



Thank you for supporting our Parish!



## Johnson Family Connection Meal

December 21

The dinners have been cancelled – Thank you for your help!

We are looking for volunteers, set up and

If you are interested in this ministry and would like to sign up for information or contact Pamela Keating at [pamela@st-irene.org](mailto:pamela@st-irene.org) or 630-393-2400 x120.



## Retirement Fund for Religious

Our women and men religious offer gratitude. A sister shares, "I thank the Lord for all who give. I don't think we would make it without them." Thank you for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious last week. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious. To learn more about how your gift helps, visit <https://retiredreligious.org/>

## Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA) Update Through Dec 3 2023



Thank you for your support. Please contact the Diocesan Development Office with any questions you may have about your pledge at 815-838-8515.



## St. Irene's Annual Gingerbread House Campaign

The Gingerbread House Campaign is one of our annual fundraisers to raise funds to continue the work of Bridge Transitional Housing Committee at St. Irene. The Gingerbread House Campaign has a specific goal to help fund our Education Fund which was started in 2021. The Education Fund helps those families who may need assistance with tuition, educational debt relief, or tuition/fees for their dependent children. Every dollar that is donated from the Education Fund to the family will be matched by the family, dollar for dollar.

Our most recent recipient states it best: "I felt like I had been carrying a monkey on my back for so many years... I am very grateful right now I'm in tears as I think about this blessing".

Please join us as we work to assist future families. Every penny donated goes to the families in need. Donations can be made online, by mail, or dropped in the collection basket. Checks should be made payable to St. Irene, please note Bridge Education Fund in the memo section. You can also use WeShare Online Giving to make a donation, choose Bridge Education Fund to donate.

## Giving Tree



Tags are on the trees in the vestibule. Please attach tag to the gift and bring back by December 17.

# Upcoming Events

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## December 17 | 10:00am

**Children's Liturgy of the Word:** Join us for Liturgy of the Word for Children at 10:00am Mass.

## January 13-14 | All Masses

**Birthday/Anniversary Masses & Hospitality:** Do you have a birthday or anniversary in January? Contact the Parish Office and indicate which Mass you will be attending.

## January 13 | SAVE THE DATE

**St. Irene Trivia Night:** Join us for raffles, games and plenty of music - it's part of the trivia! Doors open at 6:00pm and Trivia begins at 6:30pm. Contact Kevin Druley at [kevin.druley@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.druley@gmail.com) or 314-973-8670 to reserve your table or spot!

## January 21 | 10:00am

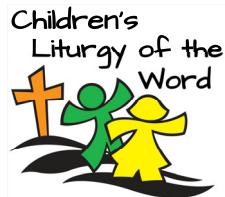
**Children's Liturgy of the Word:** Join us for Liturgy of the Word for Children at 10:00am Mass.

## February 11 | SAVE THE DATE

**Super Bowl Raffle:** The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring their 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Super Bowl Raffle in the ACL starting at 2:00pm.

## February 17 | SAVE THE DATE

**Chili Cook-off:** Join us for the 33rd Annual Chili Cook-Off! If you are interesting in the planning of this fun event, contact Pamela Keating at [pamela@st-irene.org](mailto:pamela@st-irene.org).



Join us for  
**Liturgy of the Word  
for Children**  
**December 17,  
10:00AM Mass**

Interested in volunteering, contact  
Pamela Keating - [pamela@st-irene.org](mailto:pamela@st-irene.org)

## Christmas Schedule

December 24 Christmas Eve:

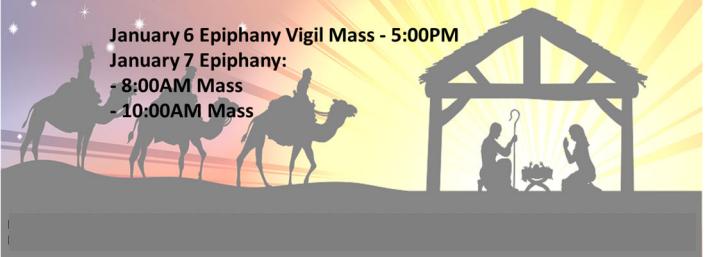
- 5:00pm Family Christmas Eve Mass
- 10:00pm Christmas Night Mass beginning with Carols & Anthems

December 25 Christmas Day:

- 8:00AM Mass
- 10:00AM Mass

January 1 Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God:  
- 9:00AM Mass

January 6 Epiphany Vigil Mass - 5:00PM  
January 7 Epiphany:  
- 8:00AM Mass  
- 10:00AM Mass



**St. Irene TRIVIA NIGHT**  
**Saturday, January 13, 2024**  
**in the ACL**

**6:00pm: Doors open    6:30pm: Trivia begins!**

Raffles, games and plenty of music – it's part of the trivia!

Reserve your table or spot today!  
Email: [kevin.druley@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.druley@gmail.com)  
call/text: 314.973.8670

**Trivia night benefits our parish.**

**Note: Parish Offices will be closed for the holiday from December 25 - January 1.**

