

St. Liborius Catholic Parish

71 W. 35th Street • Steger, IL 60475
708-754-1363 • www.stliborius.org

St. Boniface Catholic Church

5304 W. Main Street • Monee, IL 60449
708-534-9682 • www.stbonifacemonee.org

Pastor

Fr. Thomas Milota

fathermilota@outlook.com

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Frank Pusateri

fatherfrank@stliborius.org

Deacons

Frank Ciscato

Mark Otten

David Prete

Administrative Assistant

Kathy Short

office@stliborius.org

Accountant

Mary Ann Wegrzyn

accountant@stliborius.org

Coordinator of Faith Formation:

Katie Canty

faithformation@stliborius.org

708-754-3460

Coordinator of Sacred Music

(St. Liborius)

Chris Prete

mcp.stliborius@gmail.com

Maintenance

Allen Guziejka

Ministry of Care

office@stliborius.org

St. Liborius Catholic Parish

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday,

Thursday 8:30 AM—3:30 PM

Mass Schedule—see page 2

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 8:30 AM and 3:30 PM

Friday 7:00 AM

Eucharistic Adoration

Friday 8:30 AM—9:30 AM

St. Boniface Catholic Church

Office Hours

Tuesday 8:30 AM—3:30 PM

Mass Schedule—see page 2

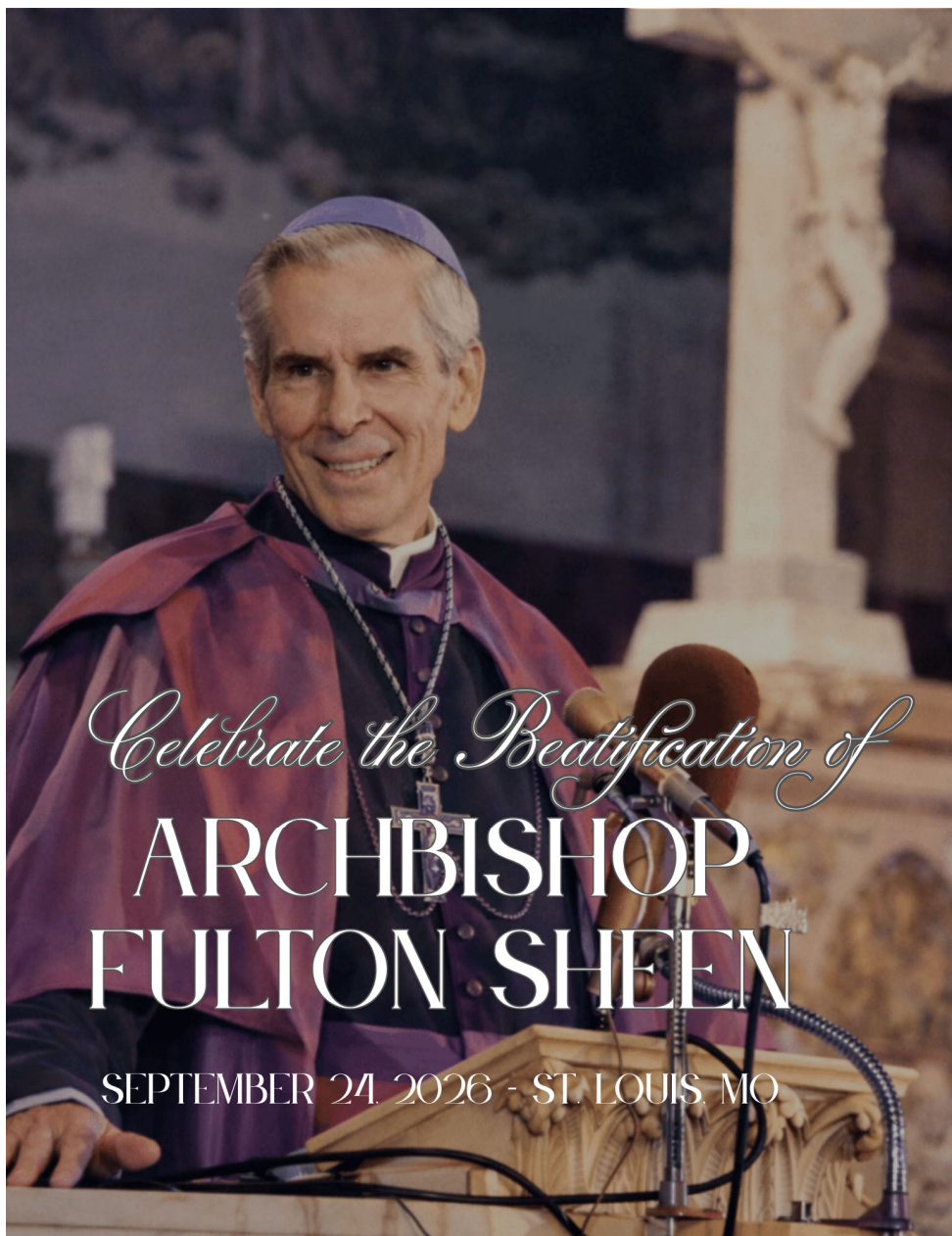
Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday 9:00 AM

Sunday 8:00 AM

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday 9:00 AM—10:00 AM



Celebrate the Beatification of
**ARCHBISHOP
FULTON SHEEN**

SEPTEMBER 24, 2026 - ST. LOUIS, MO



Give to St. Liborius Parish

Saint Liborius parish and Saint Boniface church have electronic giving. Scan the QR code with your camera and you will be taken to our electronic giving page.



Give to St. Boniface Church

Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 19, 2026

4:30 PM • St. Liborius—Robert Gromala Sr. & the People of the Parish

Sunday, September 20—25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM • St. Boniface

Robert & Eleanore Kurowski (D) *Req by Bogs family*

10:30 AM • St. Liborius

Anna Ciaccio (D) *Req by Bob & Ann Marie Gavenda*

12:30 PM • St. Boniface (Spanish)

For Vocations to the Priesthood

5:00 PM • St. Liborius

Joseph Frankowski (D) *Req by Sally Frankowski*

Monday, September 21—St. Matthew, apostle & evangelist

8:00 AM • St. Liborius—David Dillard (D)

8:30 AM • St. Boniface—Communion service

Tuesday, September 22

8:30 AM • St. Boniface—Dr. Carlos Diaz-Albertini (D) *Req by Bogs-Haser family*

7:00 PM • St. Liborius—Rosemary Clinkert (D) *Req by Thompson family*

Wednesday, September 23—St. Pio of Pietrelcina

8:00 AM • St. Liborius—Bernie Kargol (D)

Thursday, September 24

8:00 AM • St. Liborius—Lou Ann Brennock (D) *Req by Therese Short*

8:30 AM • St. Boniface—Communion service

Friday, September 25

8:00 AM • St. Liborius—For Vocations to the Priesthood

8:30 AM • St. Boniface—Communion service

Saturday, September 26—Ss. Cosmas & Damian

8:00 AM • St. Liborius—Girard Durbin (D) *Req by Therese Short*

4:30 PM • St. Liborius—Frank & Helen Casmer & family *Req by Char Reimer*

Sunday, September 27—26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM • St. Boniface

Leonard & Eleanor Ebert (D) *Req by Lenore Bocinsky & the People of the Parish*

10:30 AM • St. Liborius

Audrey Paris (D) *Req by Diane Brzycki & the People of the Parish*

12:30 PM • St. Boniface (Spanish)

Las almas del Purgatorio *Req by Lourdes Capetillo*

5:00 PM • St. Liborius

Margaret Rivera (D) *Req by Bridgette, Barry, Nancy B., & Alberto Rivera*

Scripture Readings

September 20—25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 55:6-9; Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a

September 27—26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Phil 2:1-11; OR Phil 2:1-5; Mt 21:28-32

Liturgical Ministers

St. Boniface • September 27

Lector

Darlene Clark

Eucharistic Minister

Tracy Sheehan

Ministers of the Cup

Deacon Mark Otten, Donald Domke, Phyllis Huske

Altar Servers

Therese Bogs-Haser, Wayne Haser

St. Liborius • September 26/27

Lector

4:30pm—Jim Betourney

10:30am—Ted Kulma

5:00pm—Jeanette Dargert

Eucharistic Minister

4:30pm—Dave Rudofski, Bob Baumgartner, Debbie Ledford, Chuck Gromala

10:30am—Art LeMere, Jill Raymond, Debbie Denton, Rudy Martinez

5:00pm—Jeanette Dargert, Maureen Faletti, Jamie Smart

Altar Servers

4:30pm—*Experienced volunteers needed*

10:30am—Danilo Perez, Lia Rivera

5:00pm—*Experienced volunteers needed*

“Christianity, unlike any other religion in the world, begins with catastrophe and defeat. Sunshine religions and psychological inspirations collapse in calamity and wither in adversity. But the Life of the Founder of Christianity, having begun with the Cross, ends with the empty tomb and victory.”

— Fulton J. Sheen, Life of Christ



From Our Pastor

Dear Parishioners of Saint Liborius parish and Saint Boniface church,

Even though it is good to take a moment to assess the status of our parish, this year takes on special importance as we enter our 125th year. The last 15 months have been a pivotal and extraordinary period, because of the consolidation of parishes, the closing of Saint Mary in Park Forest and the revitalization of Mother Teresa Catholic Academy.

Background

Hopefully, you remember that beginning on July 1, 2025, Bishop Hicks decreed that the territory formerly encompassing Saint Liborius parish, Saint Mary parish and Saint Boniface parish would become **one parish: Saint Liborius parish. Saint Boniface parish would become a “worship site” in this one parish. Mother Teresa Catholic Academy** would be the exclusive parish school of Saint Liborius parish. **Saint Mary parish** would be closed.

How the Catholic Church is organized.

Prior to giving the State of the Union, perhaps it is good to review the perspective of the Catholic Church in such matters. The Church is divided into territories much like the civil government is. Instead of cities or counties or states, the Church is divided into Dioceses and parishes. Territorial Parishes are formed for the purpose of caring for the souls of the people living in a specific geographic region under a Pastor who is an ordained priest. This priest has the care of souls, “cura animarum,” within this region. This applies even if these souls don’t want to be cared for, attend another parish or aren’t even Catholic.

Our Parish.

In our situation, the geographic region of our parish is no longer limited to the Village of Steger but now extends not only down to Park Forest but all the way down to the southern tip of Monee and everything in between. We are no longer Saint Liborius in Steger...we are Saint Liborius in Steger, Crete, Park Forest, Monee, Green Garden, portions of Beecher, and so on...

During the course of this last year, what has been going on?

Saint Mary parish/church

Saint Mary in Park Forest was formally closed on June 30, 2026. We empathize with the parishioners who lost the parish where they had celebrated so many important and sacred occasions: the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass each day, Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, First Communions, Confirmations and so much more. The Chancery Office of the Diocese of Joliet facilitated the sale of the property of Saint Mary in May 2026. The gross sale price of the property was \$582,206. The monies actually received were considerably less, because closing costs, appraisals, maintenance costs, insurance costs, etc. are all taken from this gross amount. The remaining balance will be used to restore many of the liturgical items removed from Saint Mary and the construction of a small shrine including the large marble statue of the Blessed Mother which formerly enshrined on the front of

Continued on page 5...

Sacraments

Sacrament of Baptism

All parents asking for their children to be baptized must attend a Baptismal Prep class. Classes are held on the third Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. @ St. Liborius in the Church, with a reminder notice in the parish bulletin. If a child has already been baptized here no need to attend class again.

Please register for the class by calling the St. Liborius Parish Office at 708-754-1363. Godparents are also encouraged to attend the class. Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays immediately following the 10:30am Mass. Families and attendees of the Baptism are encouraged to attend Mass as the Baptisms will commence immediately after Mass.

Sacrament of Marriage

Marriage preparation must begin a minimum of six months prior to the actual wedding date. Contact the parish office—St. Liborius (708-754-1363) or St. Boniface (708-534-9682) to begin the process.

Anointing of the Sick

Anointing of the Sick is the sacrament that is received by those who are ill or suffering. By the sacred anointing and the prayer of the priest, the whole Church commends those who are sick to Christ.

Due to the Privacy Act, hospitals can no longer inform us when a parishioner is admitted to the hospital. A close relative needs to call either Parish Office—St. Liborius (708-754-1363) or St. Boniface (708-534-9682) to request an anointing.

Our Parish School:

Mother Teresa Catholic Academy
24201 S. Kings Rd., Crete.
Phone: 708-672-3093
www.mtcacademy.org

Mrs. Felice Hybert, Principal

All parishioners of St. Liborius / St. Boniface are invited to attend the weekly school Masses at Mother Teresa Catholic Academy on Thursdays at 9:45am when school is in session.

Upcoming School Masses:

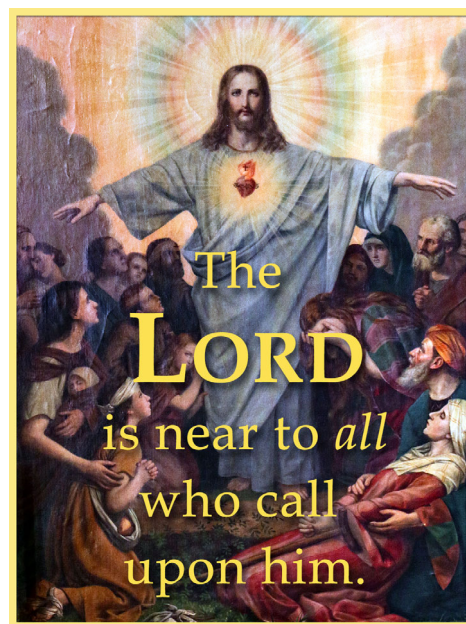
September 24

Please Pray For...

John Alessia Sr., Jerry Bernar, Jr., Donald Bugelli, Kathy Call, Bob Carreras, Barbara Gromala, Lisa Imperio Mancari, Louise Kopaczewski, Patti Koopman, Patti Staniec, Sharon Vestal, RW,

Rest in Peace

Fr. John Doyle, Mary Owen



Our Stewardship

Thank you for your generosity!

St. Liborius weekend of September 6, 2026:

Sunday Offertory.....\$7,806.00
Children's envelopes.....\$3.39

St. Liborius weekend of September 13, 2026:

Sunday Offertory.....\$6,939.00
Children's envelopes.....\$1.86

St. Boniface weekend of August 30, 2026

Sunday Offertory.....\$1,794.00
Spanish Mass.....\$640.00

St. Boniface weekend of September 6, 2026

Sunday Offertory.....\$3,167.00
Spanish Mass.....\$544.86

From Our Pastor

...continued from page 3

Saint Mary's building. We hope to have the Saint Mary shrine at the main entrance of Saint Liborius completed before winter.

Thank you to Mike Walsh for his invaluable help on this project. Many items have already been sent for restoration and the main altar of Saint Mary is already enshrined here in Saint Liborius church as the side altar near the baptismal font. **Please be patient with all these projects as I am only one person and all these things take money, time and planning.**

Some of the items from Saint Mary have been used to establish a chapel within the present school building at MTCA. This allows the school children to worship in a sacred place instead of a gymnasium. The remaining funds from the sale of Saint Mary will be used to accomplish some of the deferred maintenance projects at Saint Liborius. Saint Liborius has an estimated \$2.5 million dollars in deferred maintenance projects to be done including buildings, tuckpointing, and structural issues with the old school building, etc.

Prior to the sale of Saint Mary's, we invited the Saint Mary parishioners to come to the church and remove some items as a memento. Saint Liborius Knights of Columbus helped one day to remove reverently the liturgical items from the church.

More information in the email...

Next week, those of you who are signed up for the email blast available at the parish will receive an even more detailed explanation of the statue of our parish and plans for the future and ways that you can help. Please notice that this more detailed email will **NOT** be contained in the bulletin as it is too lengthy.

Please look for that email and take some time to read through it. If you are not on the email list, you might want to sign up by emailing your email address to: connections@stliborius.org.

May Almighty God bless you and keep you.

Prayers.

In Christ,
Fr. Thomas Milota

Parish Bulletin deadlines:

Please send items for publication in the parish bulletin or weekly Flocknote to: connections@stliborius.org

Items must be submitted to the bulletin editor by no later than Thursday (**ten days prior to the publication date**). We reserve the right to edit or re-format content as space allows.

Acceptable formats for text are MS Word or Publisher. Images or graphics must be in jpg or png files.

The Spiritual Legacy of Archbishop Fulton J Sheen



Watch this 30-episode series on EWTN.com

Historian Fr. Charles Connor gives an in depth look at the life and teachings of the Emmy winning bishop of the airwaves.

Knights of Columbus Intellectual Disabilities Fund a.k.a. **Tootsie Roll Drive** at St. Liborius Parish



Saturday, September 19
after the 4:30pm Mass
& Sunday, September 20
after the 10:30am Mass

Missed the drive, but want to participate? Use the QR code to donate online




Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth!

Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

Psalm 100

Rehearsals are now taking place on
Thursdays at 6:30pm
and then every Thursday unless otherwise notified.

The St. Liborius choir sings at Sunday Masses and rehearsals take place every Thursday unless otherwise notified. All voice types are needed as well as **experienced cantors!** Please come and sing with us! If you are interested or would like to find out more, please contact the Coordinator of Music, Chris Prete, at 708-420-8369 or mcp.stliborius@gmail.com.



LECTIO DIVINA ESTUDIO BIBLICO

 Cada Lunes, empezando el 28 de septiembre

 7:00 PM

 San Bonifacio
Salón Parroquial

Únete a nosotros para aprender Lectio Divina, la antigua tradición de rezar con las Escrituras.

¿Preguntas? Puede contactar a Padre Frank en fatherfrank@stliborius.org




¡Celebramos
1 año
de la Misa en Español!

San Bonifacio de Monee

20 de septiembre

 Convivio después de misa

 Todos están invitados

Acompáñanos a dar gracias a Dios por este primer aniversario.



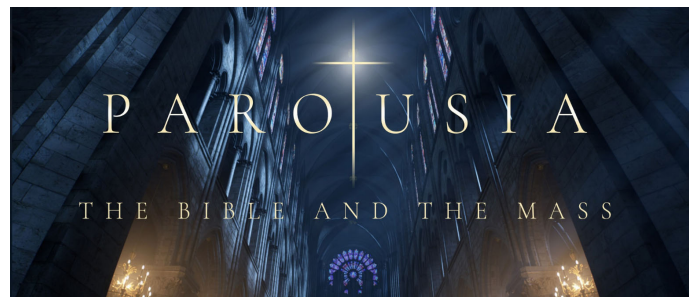
ST. LIBORIUS/ST. BONIFACE YOUNG ADULT GROUP

WHAT Grow in Faith and Friendship with other young adults (ages 18-35)!

WHEN Every Tuesday after 7pm Mass (Beginning September 22nd)

WHERE St. Liborius Rectory (71 W. 35th St. Steger, IL)

 Questions? Email Fr. Frank at fatherfrank@stliborius.org



PAROUSIA

THE BIBLE AND THE MASS

*Join us for an
INSPIRING
BIBLE STUDY*

WHAT
A 10-Week Bible Study

WHEN
Mondays at 7pm beginning
September 28

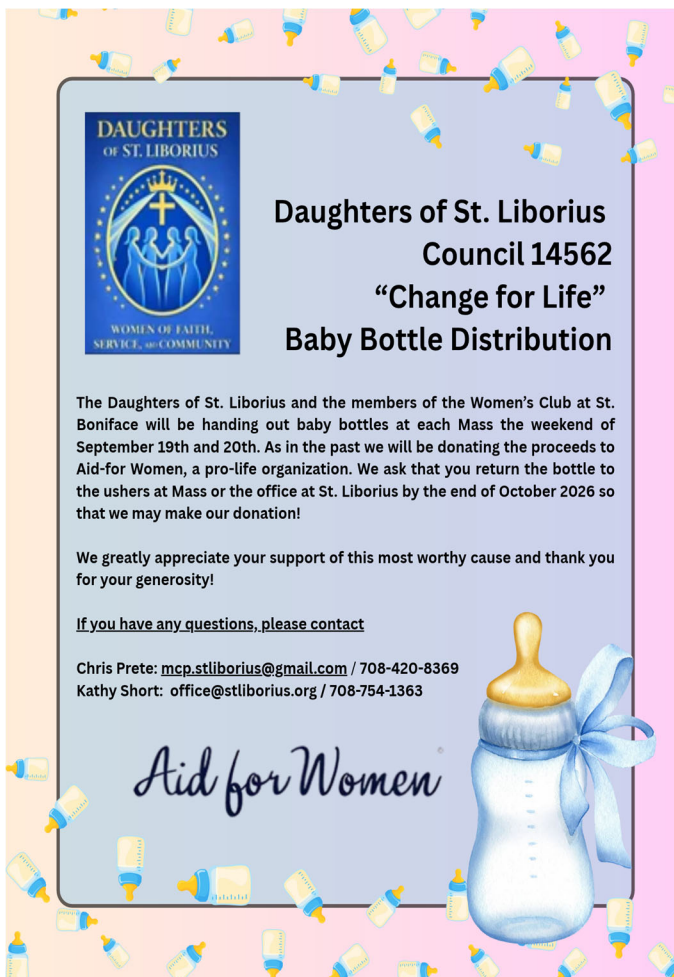
WHERE
St. Liborius Parish Hall

SIGN-UP AND QUESTIONS
Call the Parish Office at
708-754-1363 or email Fr. Frank at
fatherfrank@stliborius.org

**DISCOVER YOUR PLACE
IN THE
STORY OF SALVATION**

- ✝ See the liturgy in Scripture and the Scriptures in the liturgy
- ✝ Experience the Mass as heaven on earth
- ✝ Learn the deeper meaning of "Parousia"

BROUGHT YOU BY THE ST. PAUL CENTER
JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE
JOURNEYTHROUGHSCRIPTURE.COM



Daughters of St. Liborius Council 14562 "Change for Life" Baby Bottle Distribution

The Daughters of St. Liborius and the members of the Women's Club at St. Boniface will be handing out baby bottles at each Mass the weekend of September 19th and 20th. As in the past we will be donating the proceeds to Aid-for Women, a pro-life organization. We ask that you return the bottle to the ushers at Mass or the office at St. Liborius by the end of October 2026 so that we may make our donation!

We greatly appreciate your support of this most worthy cause and thank you for your generosity!

If you have any questions, please contact

Chris Prete: mcp.stliborius@gmail.com / 708-420-8369
Kathy Short: office@stliborius.org / 708-754-1363

Aid for Women



Video Series by
 Dr. Bob Schuchts
 Sr. Miriam James

Healing the Whole Person

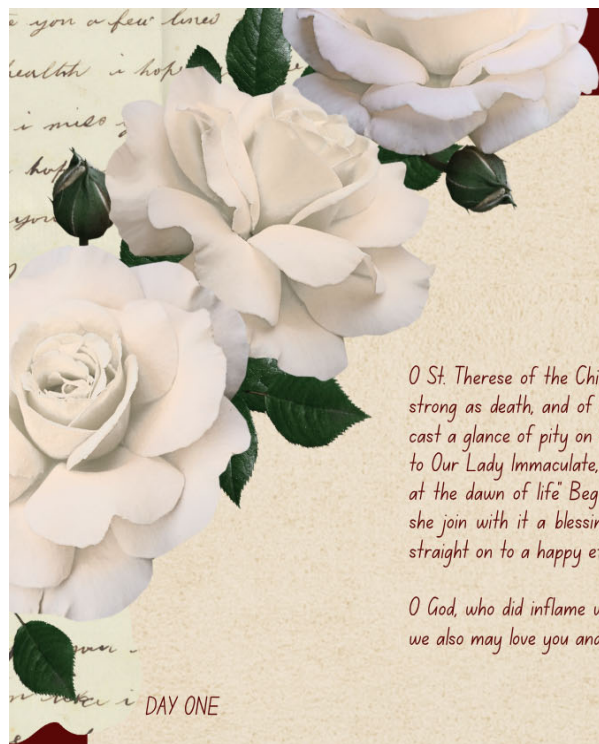
Encounter Christ's love through the transformative teachings of Dr. Bob Schuchts.
Journey through 5 videos and discover the healing God deeply desires for you.

THURSDAYS
OCT 22, 29; NOV 5, 12, 19
6:30-8:00PM
5-Week commitment

BEGIN HEALING HERE

- This teaching is for anyone desiring wholeness, freedom, and an encounter with a loving Creator.
- If you're looking for a deeper understanding of God's love and the healing of your own story, you'll fit right in.

More information at
www.saintmaryplano.com/healing
or email Joanne Janota at joannejanota@gmail.com



Novena in Honor of St. Therese of Lisieux

O St. Therese of the Child Jesus, who during your short life on earth became a mirror of angelic purity, of love strong as death, and of wholehearted abandonment to God, now that you rejoice in the reward of your virtues, cast a glance of pity on me as I leave all things in your hands. Make my troubles your own, speak a word for me to Our Lady Immaculate, whose flower of special love you were -- to that Queen of Heaven who smiled on you at the dawn of life. Beg her powerful intercession the grace I yearn for so ardently at this moment...and that she join with it a blessing that may strengthen me during life, defend me at the hour of death, and lead me straight on to a happy eternity. Amen.

O God, who did inflame with the Spirit of Love, the soul of your servant Therese of the Child Jesus, grant that we also may love you and make you much loved. Amen.

DAY ONE

O Therese of the Child Jesus, well beloved and full of charity, in union with you, I reverently adore the majesty of God, and since I rejoice with exceeding joy in the singular gifts of grace bestowed upon you during your life, and your gifts of glory after death, I give Him deepest thanks for them; I beseech you with all my heart's devotion to be pleased to obtain for me (...mention request here). But if what I ask of you so earnestly does not tend to the glory of God and the greater good of my soul, do you, I pray, obtain for me that which is more profitable to both these ends. Amen.

St. Therese of the Child Jesus, pray for us.

DAY TWO

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts, who did will that Blessed Therese, being watered by the heavenly dew of your guiding grace, should bloom in Carmel with the beauty of virginity and patience in suffering, grant that I your servant may go forward in the order of her sweetness and may be found worthy to become a devoted and loyal follower of Christ. Amen.

St. Therese of the Child Jesus, pray for us.

DAY THREE

O Therese of the Child Jesus, lily of purity, ornament and glory of Carmel, I greet you, great saint, seraph of divine love. I rejoice in the favours our Lord so liberally bestowed on you. I humility and confidence I ask you to help me, for I know God has given you love and pity as well as power. Tell Him, now, I beseech you, of the favour I seek in this novena... Your request will crown my petition with success and bring joy to my heart. Remember your promise to do good here on earth. "I shall spend my heaven doing good on the Earth After death I shall let fall a shower of roses.

St. Therese of the Child Jesus, pray for us.



DAY FOUR

O Little Flower of Jesus, who at an early age had your heart set on Carmel and in your brief earthly life did become the mirror of angelic purity, of courageous love and of whole hearted surrender to Almighty God, turn your eyes of mercy upon me who trusts in you. Obtain for me the favour I seek in this novena...and the grace to keep my heart and mind pure and clean. O dear saint, grant me to feel in every need the power of your intercession; help to comfort me in all the bitterness of this life and especially at its end, that I may be worth to share eternal happiness with you in heaven. Amen.

St. Therese of the Child Jesus, pray for us.

DAY FIVE

O Little Flower of Carmel, Almighty God endowed you, consumed by love for him, with wondrous spiritual strength to follow the way of perfection during the days of your short life. Sickness touched you early but you remained firm in faith and prayer was your life. O pray for me that I may benefit by your intercession and be granted the favour I ask in this novena...

St. Therese of the Child Jesus, pray for us.

DAY SIX

O Little Flower of Jesus, you have shown yourself so powerful in your intercession, so tender and compassionate toward those who honour you and invoke you in suffering and distress, that I kneel at your feet with perfect confidence and beseech you most humbly and earnestly to take me under your protection in my present necessity and obtain for me the favour I ask in this novena...Vouchsafe to recommend my request to Mary, the merciful Queen of Heaven, that she may plead my cause with you before the throne of Jesus, her divine Son.. Cease not to intercede for me until my request is granted.

St. Therese of the Child Jesus, pray for us.

DAY SEVEN

Therese of the Child Jesus, most loving Saint, in union with you I adore the divine Majesty. My heart is filled with joy at the remembrance of the marvellous favours with which God blessed your life on earth and of the great glory that came to you after death. In union with you, I praise God, and offer him my humble tribute of thanksgiving. I implore you to obtain for me, through your powerful intercession, the greatest of all blessings -- that of living and dying in the state of grace. I also beg of you to secure for me the special favour I seek in this novena...

St. Therese of the Child Jesus, pray for us.

DAY EIGHT

O glorious St. Therese, who, burning with the desire of increasing the glory of God, invariably attended to the sanctification of your soul by the constant practice of prayer and charity so that, becoming in the Church a model of holiness, you are now in Heaven the protector of all those who have recourse to you in faith, look down upon me who invokes your powerful patronage and join your petition to mine that I be granted the favour I seek in this novena...

St. Therese of the Child Jesus, pray for us.

DAY NINE

O St. Therese, seraphic virgin, beloved spouse of our Crucified Lord, you who on earth did burn with a love so intense toward your God and my God, and now glow with a bright and purer flame in paradise, obtain for me, I beseech you, a spark of that same holy fire which shall help me to put things of the world in their proper place and live my life always conscious of the presence of God. As I conclude my novena I also beg of you to secure for me the special favour I seek at this time...

St. Therese of the Child Jesus, pray for us.



**Mensaje del Domingo Catequético
del Obispo Dennis E. Spies**
20 de septiembre de 2026



¡Feliz domingo catequético a todos!

Comenzamos la preparación para nuestro año escolar y, a medida que aprendemos la catequesis, que es la transmisión de nuestra fe a la generación más joven, nosotros mismos podemos crecer en nuestra comprensión de nuestra fe—y al hacerlo, por favor, enseñemos a nuestros hijos.

Y quiero ofrecer gratitud a los Directores de la Educación Religiosa de cada parroquia—gratitud y agradecimiento a todos los profesores de todas las edades que enseñan nuestro catecismo semana tras semana tras semana. Es algo hermoso ver cómo los diferentes niveles de edad aprenden sobre su fe y la aprenden a su propio nivel.

Todos estamos llamados a ser santos, y una de las formas en que aprendemos a serlo es aprendiendo los caminos del Señor, aprendiendo las enseñanzas de la Iglesia. La mejor manera de crecer a imagen y semejanza de nuestro Señor Jesús es conocerlo todo, todo lo que hizo, dijo y enseñó. El ejemplo que tuvo de crecer en una familia—darse cuenta de que todos estamos creciendo en una familia—y conectar lo que aprendemos en clase con nuestra vida en casa.

Así que, padres, por favor, sigan preguntando a sus hijos qué están aprendiendo y contesten sus preguntas. Si no lo saben, pidan que pregunten a sus maestros, pregunten a su pastor cuando lo veán y permitir que sus hijos aprendan y reflexionen sobre el Señor Jesús y su crecimiento en su vida.

Otra cosa que quiero asegurarme de compartir es que podemos aprender mucho sobre Jesús, pero la parte realmente importante de nuestra catequesis, de transmitir nuestra fe, es aprender a orar—darnos cuenta de que Dios está disponible para sus santos siempre que le llamemos. Enseñe a sus hijos a orar. Enséñeles a orar y muéstreles el corazón de la oración en unión con nuestro Señor Jesús tal y como oró a su Padre.

+Dennis E. Spies

Atentamente en Cristo,

Obispo Dennis E. Spies

Administrador Apostólico para la Diócesis de Joliet



**Catechetical Sunday Message
from Bishop Dennis E. Spies**
September 20, 2026



Happy Catechetical Sunday, everyone!

We begin the preparation for our school year, and as we learn our catechesis, which is the passing on of our faith to our younger generation, we ourselves can grow in our understanding of our faith—and as we do, please teach it to your children.

And I want to offer gratitude for Directors of Religious Ed in every parish—gratitude and thanks to all the teachers of every age level that teach our catechism week after week after week. It's a beautiful thing to see the different age levels learning about their faith and learning about it at their own level.

We are all called to become saints, and one of the ways we learn how to become saints is to learn the ways of the Lord, to learn the teachings of the church. The best way to grow in the image and likeness of our Lord Jesus is to know all about him, all that he did and that he said and that he taught. The example he had of growing up in a family—realizing that we are all growing up in a family—and to make the connection of what we're learning in class to our life at home.

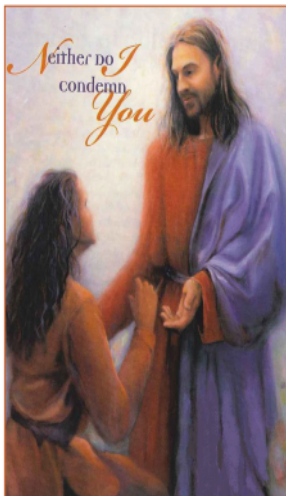
So, parents, please continue to ask your children what they're learning and answer their questions. If you don't know, ask them to ask their teachers, ask your pastor when you see them and allow your children to learn and reflect about the Lord Jesus and growing up in his life.

One other thing I want to make sure I share is we can learn a lot about Jesus, but the really important part of our Catechesis, of handing on our faith, is learning how to pray—realizing that God is available to his saints whenever we call upon him. Teach your children to pray. Teach them how to pray and show them the heart of prayer in union with our Lord Jesus as he prayed to His Father.

+Dennis E. Spies

Sincerely in Christ,
Bishop Dennis E. Spies

Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Joliet



**MERCY, COMPASSION,
FORGIVENESS...**

If you are suffering from grief after having had an abortion, remember that God always offers forgiveness. Nothing is unforgivable and the Church is the hospital of healing. Just as the father ran to the prodigal son when he came home, so too is God waiting with open arms to receive you back home!

2026 Retreat Dates

May 1 - 3

Oct. 2 - 4

Our Lady of the Angels Retreat Center
at Sisters of Mt. Assisi - Lemont, IL

**Rachel's Vineyard Retreats
for Healing After Abortion**

Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreats offer a beautiful opportunity for healing to any woman or man who has struggled with the emotional or spiritual pain of an abortion.

The retreat is a chance to get away from the daily pressure of work and family, to focus on a painful time in life, and to begin healing through a supportive and non-judgmental process.

Many preconceived fears of condemnation are transformed into blessings; memories of abandonment, pain, and confusion are replaced by reconciliation, grace and peace.

Spiritual exercises focusing on God's forgiveness, compassion, and mercy are shared through psychological exercises that help participants work through repressed grief and anger that may exist.

The retreat concludes with a Memorial Service. The weekend will help your soul find a voice and transform the pain of the past into love and hope.

Information, prayer, registration contact:

815-370-8118 or 815-634-3796

www.diojoliet.org or

www.rachelsvineyard.org

Do not continue to live in the shame, fear or numbness – call the Rachel's Vineyard toll-free national hotline at

877 HOPE 4 ME (877-467-3463)



REBOOT
A LIFE-CHANGING EVENT

This high-energy, 2-hour event with internationally acclaimed speaker **Chris Stefanick** will awaken your faith, reignite your joy, and equip you with tools to live the life God created you for: A life of JOY!

It will help you rediscover the JOY you were created for, and is perfect for everyone... even friends, family, and children (12+) who may not be actively practicing their faith.

REGISTER NOW!

**Wednesday, November 18, 2026
7:00 - 9:30PM**

St. Mary Immaculate Parish
15629 Illinois Rte 59, Plainfield, IL



SCAN QR CODE TO SECURE YOUR SPOT OR GO TO:
[HTTPS://BUYTICKETS.AT/REALLIFECATHOLIC/2049095](https://buytickets.at/reallifecatholic/2049095)

OPERATION ANDREW DINNER



Young men and their fathers are invited to **join Bishop Dennis Spies and several area priests** for dinner, conversation, and testimonials about their own vocation stories.

There will be opportunity for a question-and-answer session and meeting other young men open to the priesthood.

Queen of Apostles Parish
18 Woodlawn Ave
Joliet, IL 60435

OCT | 1 | 6PM

Open to high school and young adult age
men and their fathers

SCAN ME

