

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 Piscato
Mark Otten
David Prete

Administrative Assistant

Kathy Short
office@stliborius.org

Coordinator of Faith Formation:

Katie Canty
faithformation@stliborius.org
708-754-3460

Coordinator of Music (St. Liborius)

Chris Prete
mcp.stliborius@gmail.com

Maintenance

Allen Guziejka

Ministry of Care—St. Boniface

Erwin Bogs (ebogs@comcast.net)

St. Liborius Catholic Parish

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday,
Thursday8:30 AM—3:30 PM

Mass Schedule—see page 2

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 8:30 AM and 3:30 PM
Friday7:00 AM

Eucharistic Adoration

Friday 8:30 AM—9:30 AM

St. Boniface Catholic Church

Office Hours

Tuesday8:30 AM—3:30 PM

Mass Schedule—see page 2

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday9:00 AM
Sunday8:00 AM

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday 9:00 AM—10:00 AM

Christmas 2025 & New Year's 2026 Mass & Confession Schedule

Confessions:

Sunday, December 21.....8:00 am (St. Boniface)
.....10:00 am (St. Liborius)
.....12:00 pm Spanish (St. Boniface)
.....2:00 pm (St. Liborius)
Tuesday, December 23.....9:00 am (St. Boniface)
.....6:00 pm (St. Liborius)
Friday, December 26.....7:00 am (St. Liborius)
Saturday, December 27.....8:30 am & 3:30 pm (St. Liborius)
Sunday, December 28.....8:00 am (St. Boniface)
.....10:00 am (St. Liborius)
.....12:00 pm Spanish (St. Boniface)
Tuesday, December 30.....9:00 am (St. Boniface)

Masses:

Christmas Eve:

Wednesday, December 24.....4:00 pm (St. Liborius)
.....4:00pm Spanish (St. Boniface)
.....6:00 pm English (St. Boniface)
.....10:30 pm (St. Liborius)

Christmas Day - the Solemnity of Our Savior's Birth:

Thursday, December 25..... 8:00 am (St. Liborius)
..... 8:30 am (St. Boniface)
.....10:30 am (St. Liborius)
.....12:30 pm Spanish (St. Boniface)

New Year's Eve:

Wednesday, December 31.....4:30 pm (St. Liborius)

New Year's Day 2026 - the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Thursday, January 1 8:00 am (St. Liborius)
..... 8:30 am (St. Boniface)
.....10:30 am (St. Liborius)
.....12:00 pm (St. Liborius)
.....12:30 pm Spanish (St. Boniface)



December 21, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 20

4:30 PM • St. Liborius

James E. & Marie Leech, Helen & Irving Blum, Carol Ann O'Rourke, & the People of the Parish

Sunday, December 21—Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM • St. Boniface

Richard Nicola (D) *Req. by Mary Ann Nicola*, Leonard & Eleanor Ebert (D) *Req. by the Ebert family*, Barbara Beiner (D) *Req. by Tammy Moroney*, & the People of the Parish

10:30 AM • St. Liborius

Leonard & Elsie Keilman, James Keilman, Joseph & Marie Skummer

12:30 PM • St. Boniface (Spanish)

In Thanksgiving

Monday, December 22

8:00 AM • St. Liborius—Sherill Lehman

8:30 AM • St. Boniface—Communion service

Tuesday, December 23

8:30 AM • St. Boniface

Loretta Ivers (D) *Req. by a parishioner*

7:00 PM • St. Liborius

Rev. David Krolczyk (D)

Wednesday, December 24

8:00 AM • St. Liborius—the People of the Parish

4:00 PM • St. Boniface (Spanish) - the People of the Parish

4:00 PM • St. Liborius—the People of the Parish

6:00 PM • St. Boniface—the People of the Parish

10:30 PM • St. Liborius—the People of the Parish

Thursday, December 25

8:00 AM • St. Liborius—Joe Smith

8:30 AM • St. Boniface—the People of the Parish

10:30 AM • St. Liborius—the People of the Parish

12:30 PM • St. Boniface (Spanish)—the People of the Parish

Friday, December 26—St. Stephen

8:00 AM • St. Liborius

David Schritzing

8:30 AM • St. Boniface—Communion Service

Saturday, December 27—St. John the Apostle

8:00 AM • St. Liborius

Daniel Strick

4:30 PM • St. Liborius

Secondo & Theresa Santilli, Marilyn Hoecker

Sunday, December 28—Feast of the Holy Family

8:30 AM • St. Boniface

In Thanksgiving *Req. by a Parishioner*, the People of the Parish

10:30 AM • St. Liborius

Marie Cicale & the People of the Parish

12:30 PM • St. Boniface (Spanish) - the People of the Parish

Scripture Readings

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

Thursday, December 25—Mass of Christmas Day

Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

Sunday, December 28—Feast of the Holy Family

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128: 1-2, 3, 4-5; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Please see page 11 for the Liturgical ministers schedule.

The Parish Offices will be closed:

Wednesday, December 24

Thursday, December 25

Thursday, January 1

The Priests, Deacons and Staff of St. Liborius Parish & St. Boniface Church wish you and your loved ones

Merry
Christmas
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR





From Our Pastor

Dear Parishioners of Saint Liborius parish and Saint Boniface church,

The Birth of the Messiah

Et verbum caro factum est! The word was made flesh and dwelt among us. Although the night was cold, it warms our heart to see the infant in the manger. We can relate to a baby dressed up in His swaddling clothes and, yet, the simplicity of the manger hides a profound reality and the divinity of the only Son of God. We admire the selfless acts of our first responders, soldiers, sailors and airmen, even a parent or spouse who gives their lives selflessly to save the life of another...as we should. Do we realize what Christ did for us? What must it take for Almighty God...the one who created the earth and the stars...not only to become man but to suffer the worst our world has to offer. He did this for us...not because we deserved it but because He loves us.

Merry Christmas and may this new year bring you and yours God's choicest blessings!

Thank you.

We are grateful to all of our parishioners and staff who go the extra mile to help our parish and school. I am grateful for Fr. Frank, our deacons, our staff and all those who work so hard day in and day out. Thank you to our lectors, extraordinary ministers, servers, sacristans, ushers, catechists, outreach volunteers, all our volunteers and those who support our parish financially. We cannot function without you. Special thanks to all those who volunteered to decorate our churches this Christmas to honor the Lord!

Open Houses

The work is never done. Mother Teresa Catholic Academy will be hosting our open houses on January 14th and 27th from 12:15 to 6 pm. If you would like your children educated in a safe, faith-filled and loving environment or you know someone who does, please have them visit us at Mother Teresa for our open houses. Please use the QR code below to reserve your spot at the open house:



Some may think they can't afford a Catholic Education; however, our Diocese, parish and school have increased our scholarship offerings to do all we can to make a Catholic Education at Mother Teresa accessible. Come check us out!

May Almighty God bless you and keep you.

Prayers.

In Christ,

Fr. Thomas Milota

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

Dr. Kevin Burns, PhD, President

Mrs. Annie Murray, Principal
amurray@mtcademy.org

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.

Please Pray For...

Kathy Boswell, Bill Brennan, Joan Cleghorn, Ris Dancer, Rachel Dombrowski, Don & Kathy Dornhecker, Tammy Downen, Liz Greene, Barbara Gromala, Julie Hoyda, Kate Kendrick, Peter Klakow, Terri Koepke, Nancy Koepke, Patti Koopman, Louise Kopaczewski, Tim Kornacki, Dennis and Brenda Lileikis, Amber Mangan, Anthony Mangan, Bethany Mangan, Corrie Mangan, Ivy Mangan, Jeremy Mangan, Maykala Mangan, Nasya Mangan, Jimmy Martin, Brenda McCann, Fr. John McGeean, Angela Mills, Barb Mitchell, Elyse M., Carmin M., John Novak, Fred Nunez, Victoria Nunez-Stuckart, Lloyd Pierce, Nancy Pilotto, Chad Pinnegar, Robert Prete, William P., Eligha Sain, Luis Santiago, Ray Smith, Bob Staniec, Arnie Szudarski, Julie Szudarski, Mary Truss, Bill Wogan, RW, Fred Zagone, SJ, Colleen Zwolinski, Debbie Zwolinski, Raymond A. Zwolinski,

- Crete Police, Detectives, Fire and Paramedic Departments
- Monee Police, Detectives, Fire and Paramedics, and Emergency Management Agency
- Steger Estates Fire and Paramedic Departments
- Steger Police, Detectives, Fire and Paramedic Departments

Rest in Peace

Roy Blakey, Joseph P. Czajka Sr., Eileen Napoli

Our Stewardship

Due to early bulletin printing deadlines, the Sunday Offertory for the weekend of December 13/14 will appear in the December 28 bulletin.

Please remember St. Liborius Parish & St. Boniface Church as you consider your end-of-year charitable contributions.

Donations must be received by December 28th to be included on your 2025 contribution statement. Donations may be mailed or dropped off to the Parish Office or put into the Sunday Offertory.

Thank you for your generosity!

CHURCH DECORATING

We will be gathering at Saint Liborius and at Saint Boniface at 10 am on Tuesday, December 23rd to decorate our churches for Christmas. Please join us to decorate our churches to celebrate our Savior's birth. All are welcome!

**Oplatki packets
are now available.**

**A free-will donation is
appreciated.**

Knights of Columbus Raffle Winners for December

\$150	#99 Darlene Kabas
\$100	#132 Joe Celebucki
\$50	#761 Tony Formato
\$50	#163 Robert Astroth
\$25	#193 John and Tammy Bush
\$25	# 569 Tom Lagigilo

Merry Christmas!! Good luck next month.

Attention St. Boniface Only NEW MINISTRY SCHEDULE!

The current Ministry schedule for Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Servers will end December 28, 2025 and we will need any changes to when you serve, vacation dates, etc. for the next schedule which will begin January 1, 2026 and run until April 26, 2026 if you would like to be a Lector or Eucharistic Minister, or Altar Server, send us your name and phone number, and this info can be dropped in the collection basket, or call the office during hours. Training will be provided. Deadline for any changes (new people, delete your service, etc.) must be in the office no later than December 22, 2025.

Catholic Charities Sponsor an Individual or Family for Christmas

This Christmas season, Catholic Charities invites you to make a meaningful difference through our annual Gift of Christmas program. Your support helps fulfill wish lists for individuals and families served by Catholic Charities.

You may choose to support a specific individual or family by reading their story, or you can make a general gift that will be directed to someone still waiting to be sponsored.

Giving is easy: • Visit catholiccharitiesjoliet.org and click Donate • Call 815-724-1140 to give by phone • Mail a check (please note "Gift of Christmas" in the memo) to: Catholic Charities 16555 Weber Rd. Crest Hill, IL 60403

Questions? Call 815-724-1140 or email msnow@cc-doj.org.



Bishop Hicks' Column, Dec. 2025



**Finding Hope Behind Bars:
Becoming Disciples Who Make Disciples in Unexpected Places**

We celebrate Advent and Christmas as seasons of light and joy, yet sometimes the brightest hope appears in the places we least expect. Over the years, I have found that ministering to those in prison is one of the most unexpected ways to live out the call of my pastoral letter **MAKE** to be disciples who make disciples.

My first encounter with prison ministry goes back to my volunteer year in Mexico in 1989. A female catechist invited me to join her in visiting a large prison. I remember the surprise of walking in with barely any formal checks and feeling a bit baffled and nervous about how I would get out. Yet what stayed with me most was her simple reminder: *"They all have names. They are often forgotten, but if you become a priest, remember they exist. See the face of Christ in them!"*

Years later, as a seminarian accompanying Cardinal Bernardin to the Cook County Jail for Christmas Mass, I saw that same spirit of discipleship. He had no family in Chicago, yet he found joy in bringing the Eucharist to those often forgotten. He showed me that prison ministry is not simply a duty but a moment of grace. It is a chance to be a disciple who brings Christ's hope to others.

Someone once told me that one of the humbling aspects of ministering in prisons is that the people you serve can never repay you. You do it simply because Christ calls us to recognize His presence in them. In that pure act of service, we quietly plant seeds of faith in hearts that society often overlooks.

Two weeks ago, I had the privilege of celebrating the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion for four inmates at the Joliet Detention Center. Their deep desire and reverence reminded me again of that woman's wisdom from years ago. They have names, they exist, and they are just as worthy of God's grace. After the Mass, each newly minted Catholic offered a testimonial, thanking those

who brought Christ to them and sharing how lost they felt before being introduced to God and the Church. Their desire to cling to hope and live out their newfound faith inspired me deeply as we gathered in that makeshift prison chapel.

Let me highlight the ministry of the growing number of laypeople, deacons, and priests in our Diocese who are living out this call and bringing Christ's love to the incarcerated. And they do it with no fanfare. Truly, no one is writing them thank you notes or sending them gifts for their ministry. We as a Church and as a Diocese should be proud that so many are putting their faith into action through this ministry.

In Catholic social teaching, we uphold the dignity of every human being, even those who have sinned or been cast aside by society. As Jesus says in Matthew's Gospel: *"Whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me."* This is the heart of our mission. To see Christ in the prisoner, the hungry, the thirsty, the unborn, the immigrant, the person with disabilities, the stranger, and all in need. It is a true Christian hope. It is the conviction that Christ is with us always and that every person is worth seeing, knowing, and loving in His name.

In a few weeks, I will celebrate Christmas Mass at the DuPage County Correctional Facility. As I prepare for that Mass, please know that I will carry your intentions with me in prayer. Also, join me in prayer as together we carry that hope not only into the prisons but into every place where Christ's light is most needed. Our homes, our parishes, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, and all the hidden corners of our lives and our world.

May we never overlook the unexpected places where God's grace, hope, and light are waiting to break through and transform us all. For when we see the face of Christ in every person we meet, we fulfill the mission of being disciples who **MAKE** disciples.



Misas Especiales

Miércoles, 24 de diciembre de 2025 a las 4:00pm: **La Natividad del Señor**
(Misa vespertina de la vigilia) o Nochebuena— DÍA DE PRECEPTO

Jueves, 25 de diciembre de 2025 a las 12:30pm: **La Natividad del Señor**
(Misa del día) o Navidad— DÍA DE PRECEPTO

Jueves, 1 de enero de 2026 a las 12:30pm: **Solemnidad de María Santísima, Madre de Dios** — DÍA DE PRECEPTO

NB: Cada Misa estará en San Bonifacio Iglesia Católica.



PLEASE JOIN
THE
ST. LIBORIUS
CHOIR AT
10:00PM
DECEMBER
24TH JUST
BEFORE THE
CHRISTMAS
EVE MASS FOR
AN OLD-
FASHIONED
CHRISTMAS
SING ALONG.




GIVING TREE 2025

ALL THE REMAINING TAGS FOR GIFTS GOING TO BEECHER MANOR AND MISERICORDIA ARE ON THE GIVING TREE ALREADY. CONTINUE TO SHOP AND HAVE ALL THE GIFTS RETURNED BY THIS WEEKEND, DECEMBER 20-21 ... INCLUDING THOSE FOR MISERICORDIA

- UNWRAPPED IN OR NEXT TO THE DRUM FOR MISERICORDIA OR
- WRAPPED WITH THE TAG SECURELY ATTACHED, UNDER THE TREE FOR BEECHER MANOR

PLEASE CONTINUE TO HELP US BRING A SMILE TO EACH AND EVERY ONE ON OUR CHRISTMAS LIST BY TAKING ALL THE TAGS AND GETTING THE GIFTS BACK ON TIME. FOR THOSE WHO COULD NOT SHOP, THERE ARE CASH DONATION ENVELOPES ON THE WINDOW SILL BEHIND THE GIVING TREE. PLACE YOUR CONTRIBUTION IN THE ENVELOPE (NO AMOUNT IS TOO SMALL), SEAL IT AND PLACE IT IN THE COLLECTION BASKET. THERE ARE ELVES WHO WILL DO THE SHOPPING FOR YOU.



Scott's-U-Save's Christmas Contest to profit Community Outreach at no cost except for your time ...

The contest runs from November 24 – December 31, 2025, and there's \$6,000 in donations up for grabs. Each charity will earn a portion of the total based entirely on the number of votes they receive. VOTING IS OPEN ONCE PER DAY PER PERSON PER EMAIL ADDRESS !!!

Online, go to:
scottsusave.com


Click at the top on "Holiday Charity Contest 2025"

Click on "Vote now" to go to regional charities

Click on "Vote now" At bottom of "Steger Participants"

Fill in the required information, and be sure COMMUNITY OUTREACH is chosen under "Select a Charity" ... then click on "Cast Vote"

TOMORROW, repeat from the beginning



OPEN HOUSE



A place to learn, grow, and be inspired!

MOTHER TERESA CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Building a Community of Saints and Scholars

January, 14th
January, 27th

12:15pm-6:15pm

24201 S King Road Crete IL.



- ✓ Tour the school
- ✓ Meet teachers
- ✓ Review curriculum
- ✓ Ask questions



For more info:

708-672-3093



Visit us:

www.mtcacademy.org





Recent Highlights from Mother Teresa Catholic Academy

It has been such an exciting time around MTCA! We recently shared with you that we had students sing in the South Chicago Heights Tree Lighting Ceremony on November 19th, but that very same day at school we celebrated our Thanksgiving Feast. This is a fun MTCA tradition that allows our students and staff to pray and enjoy lunch together. We were very happy to have Fr. Milota and Fr. Frank join us too!

Speaking of Thanksgiving... We want to thank the parishioners that participated in our Fasano's pie sale. With your help we sold 180 delicious pies! We hope you enjoyed them at your Thanksgiving dinner.

On December 6th our school walked in the Crete Parade of Lights. We had a blast passing out candy and wishing a Merry Christmas to all the spectators! We have many more exciting celebrations and events coming up in the next few weeks and we will be sure to share those with you too!

Last week our Girls and Boys Basketball Season began at MTCA. We would love you to join us at our games! Please see the schedule for dates and times.

Please don't forget that we will have our Open Houses on January 14th & 27th from 12:15 – 6:00 PM. We hope you will join us and/or share this information with others! Please scan the QR code to register.

We are always thankful for your support.
God Bless!



Liturgical Ministers

St. Boniface • Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Lector

December 24—6:00pm—Darlene Clark

December 25—8:30am—Danita Gerrity

Eucharistic Minister

December 24—6:00pm—John Blazeovich

December 25—8:30am—Tracy Sheehan

Ministers of the Cup

December 24—6:00pm

Deacon Mark Otten, Colleen Domke, Donald Domke

December 25—8:30am

Deacon Mark Otten, John Porpora, David Schmidt

Altar Servers

December 24—6:00pm

Craig Quick, Evelynne Zambrano

December 25—8:30am

Therese Bogs-Haser, Wayne Haser

St. Liborius • Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Lector

December 24—4:00pm—Chuck Gromala

December 24—10:30pm—Jamie Smart

December 25—8:00am—*Volunteer needed*

December 25—10:30am—Christina Boyd

Eucharistic Ministers

December 24—4:00pm

Maureen Burns, Jim Betourney, Chuck Gromala,
Dave Rudofski

December 24—10:30pm

Jeanette Dargert, Dennis Smith, + *2 volunteers needed*

December 25—8:00am

4 Volunteers needed

December 25—10:30am

Art LeMere, Kathy Krebs, + *2 volunteers needed*

Altar Servers

December 24—4:00pm

Isabella Bova, *volunteer needed*

December 24—10:30pm

Fiona Smith, *volunteer needed*

December 25—8:00am

2 volunteers needed

December 25—10:30am

Josh Boyd, Lia Rivera

St. Boniface • Sunday, December 28

Lector

Cindy Clark

Eucharistic Minister

Donald Domke

Ministers of the Cup

Deacon Mark Otten, John Blazeovich, Anita Otten

Altar Servers

Mike Falcioni, Sherwin Jaculbe

St. Liborius • December 27 & 28

Lector

4:30pm—Kate Cummings

10:30am—Dennis Smith

Eucharistic Ministers

4:30pm—Jeanette Dargert, Dave Rudofski, Bob Baumgartner,
Maureen Burns, Jamie Smart

10:30am—Kathy Krebs, Patty Heiss, Barb Herzig, Ted Kulma,
Christian Jimenez

Altar Servers

4:30pm—*Experienced volunteers needed*

10:30am—Slaney Chavez, Isabella Bova

Vent Se Amors
COME IF YOU LOVE

**WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREATS
FOR SINGLE CATHOLIC WOMEN 18-30**

NOVEMBER 7-9, 2025 and MARCH 6-8, 2026

*A weekend away with Jesus to
receive His love more deeply that
you might follow Him more freely...*

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
VOCATIONS@ALTONFRANCISCANS.ORG

SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS OF THE MARTYR ST. GEORGE
Seeking to make His Merciful Love visible

