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

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

Tuesday.....8:30 AM-3:30 PM

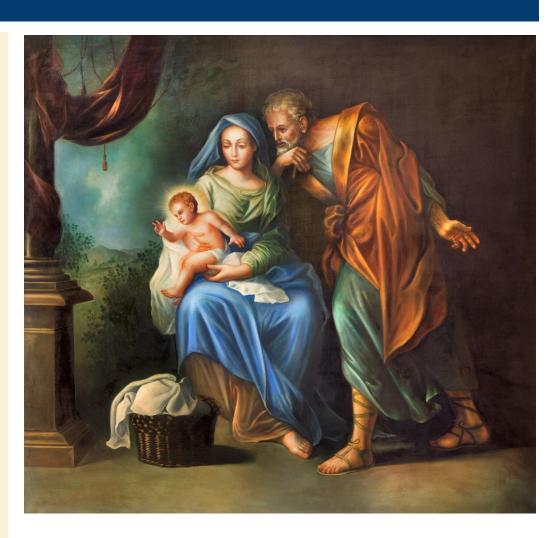
Mass Schedule—see page 2

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday......9:00 AM Sunday8:00 AM

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday...... 9:00 AM-10:00 AM



Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph

December 28, 2025

Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop



www.dioceseofjoliet.org

Blanchette Catholic Center 16555 Weber Rd. Crest Hill, Illinois 60403

18 de diciembre de 2025

Queridos amigos: La paz esté con ustedes.

Hoy, 18 de diciembre de 2025, se anunció oficialmente que seré instalado como el 11.º Arzobispo de la Arquidiócesis de Nueva York el viernes 6 de febrero de 2026.

Quiero comenzar expresando mi más sincero agradecimiento al Papa León XIV por este nombramiento. Al haber crecido en los suburbios del sur de Chicago, a solo unos pasos de donde él creció, y tras haber pasado parte de mi sacerdocio en trabajo misionero en América Latina, siento una profunda conexión con él. Su liderazgo es una luz que me guía, y acepto esta nueva responsabilidad con humildad y con el corazón abierto.

También agradezco al Cardenal Christophe Pierre, nuestro nuncio apostólico, por su confianza. Cuando me llamó para compartir esta noticia, le dije que simplemente deseo hacer la voluntad de Dios. Recibir su llamada telefónica en la fiesta de San Juan Diego es un recordatorio de que, a veces, Dios nos llama a cosas que parecen ir más allá de nosotros, pero con gracia y fe podemos responder que sí.

Quiero también ofrecer un sincero agradecimiento al Cardenal Timothy Dolan por sus más de 17 años de liderazgo en Nueva York. Me ha conmovido profundamente su apoyo y su aliento tan generosos.

Estos últimos cinco años en Joliet han sido una verdadera bendición para mí. Me he sentido agradecido, feliz y profundamente bendecido al servir como su obispo. Juntos hemos catequizado, evangelizado y puesto nuestra fe en acción. Las relaciones que hemos construido, la fe que hemos compartido y el camino que hemos recorrido juntos son tesoros que llevaré conmigo a Nueva York.

Mientras continúan leyendo, compartiendo y acogiendo mi carta pastoral, "MAKE", les pido que permitan que siga guiándolos. Por favor, no la dejen en un estante acumulando polvo. Más bien, continúen implementándola como un llamado vivo y dinámico a ser discípulos que HACEN discípulos.

Tengo mucho que aprender en Nueva York, y serviré allí como he servido aquí: con todo mi corazón. Confío en la voluntad de Dios y cuento con sus oraciones. Sepan que, así como ustedes oran por mí, yo oro por ustedes, con inmensa gratitud y amor.

Con mis mejores deseos, que Dios los bendiga en este tiempo de Adviento, mientras nos preparamos para celebrar el nacimiento de Jesús.

Mientras permanezco — Sinceramente suyo en Cristo, Monseñor Ronald A. Hicks

+ Lonald a. Hichs

Obispo de la Diócesis de Joliet y Arzobispo designado de la Arquidiócesis de Nueva York

Office of the Bishop

815.221.6100 | 815.722.6632 (f) | officeofthebishop@dioceseofjoliet.org

Diocese of Joliet Office of the Bishop



www.dioceseofjoliet.org

Blanchette Catholic Center 16555 Weber Rd. Crest Hill, Illinois 60403

December 18, 2025

Dear Friends, Peace be with you.

Today, December 18, 2025, it was officially announced that I will be installed as the 11th Archbishop of the Archdiocese of New York on Friday, February 6, 2026.

I want to begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to Pope Leo XIV for this appointment. Growing up in the south suburbs of Chicago, just a stone's throw from where he grew up, and having spent part of my priesthood in missionary work in Latin America, I feel a deep connection to him. His leadership is a guiding light for me, and I accept this new role with humility and an open heart.

I am also grateful to Cardinal Christophe Pierre, our apostolic nuncio, for his trust. When he called to share this news, I told him I simply wish to do God's will. Receiving his phone call on the feast of Saint Juan Diego is a reminder that sometimes God calls us to things that feel beyond us, but with grace and faith, we can answer yes.

I also want to offer a heartfelt thank you to Cardinal Timothy Dolan for his more than 17 years of leadership in New York. I have been touched by his gracious support and encouragement.

These past five years in Joliet have been a true blessing for me. I have felt grateful, happy, and deeply blessed to serve as your bishop. Together we have catechized, evangelized, and put our faith into action. The relationships we have built, the faith we have shared, and the journey we have walked together are treasures I will carry with me to New York.

As you continue to read, share, and embrace my pastoral letter, "MAKE," I ask you to let it keep guiding you. Please do not let it sit on a shelf, gathering dust. Instead, continue to implement it as a living, breathing call to be disciples who MAKE disciples.

I have much to learn in New York, and I will serve there as I have served here, with all my heart. I trust in God's will and count on your prayers. Know that as you pray for me, I am praying for you, with immense gratitude and love.

With good wishes, may God bless you this Advent season as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

As I remain --Sincerely Yours in Christ.

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks

+ Lonald a. Hichs

Bishop of the Diocese of Joliet and Archbishop designate of the Archdiocese of New York

Office of the Bishop

815.221.6100 | 815.722.6632 (f) | officeofthebishop@dioceseofjoliet.org

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 27

4:30 PM • St. Liborius

Secondo & Theresa Santilli, Marylin 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

Frances Cicale & the People of the Parish

12:30 PM ● St. Boniface (Spanish)

The People of the Parish

Monday, December 29

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

8:30 AM ● St. Boniface—Communion service

Tuesday, December 30

8:30 AM • St. Boniface

Dave Kwasigroch (D) Req. by Mike & Julie Shaughnessy

7:00 PM • St. Liborius

Lila Felton

Wednesday, December 31

8:00 AM ● St. Liborius—the Souls in Purgatory

4:30 PM ● St. Liborius—For World Peace

Thursday, January 1—Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

8:00 AM ● St. Liborius—For World Peace

8:30 AM ● St. Boniface—For World Peace

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

12:00 PM ● St. Liborius—For World Peace

12:30 PM ● St. Boniface (Spanish)—the Souls in Purgatory

Friday, January 2

8:00 AM • St. Liborius

Intentions of Jesus & Isabell Melgoza (anniversary)

8:30 AM ● St. Boniface—Communion Service

Saturday, January 3

8:00 AM • St. Liborius

Sherill Lehman

4:30 PM ● St. Liborius

Eleanor Lemere

Sunday, January 4—Epiphany of the Lord

8:30 AM ● St. Boniface

Dolores Brown (D) Req by Barb Mitchell

10:30 AM ● St. Liborius

Deceased Members of the Carlsson Family & People of the Parish

12:30 PM ● St. Boniface (Spanish)

For the Souls in Purgatory

Scripture Readings

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

Thursday, January 1—Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Num 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Thursday, January 1—Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Liturgical Ministries Schedule

Due to early bulletin printing deadlines we were not able to include the Liturgical Ministries schedule. We will resume printing it in the January 11 bulletin.

Our Stewardship

Week ending December 14:

St. Liborius

Sunday Offertory......\$6,422.00 Children's envelopes.....\$2.37

Week ending December 7:

St. Boniface

Sunday Offertory......\$1,969.20 Spanish Mass.....\$530.22

Due to early bulletin printing deadlines, the Sunday Offertory for the weekend of December 20/21 will appear in the January 4 bulletin.

Please remember St. Liborius Parish & St. Boniface Church as you consider your end-ofvear 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!



From Our Pastor

Dear Saint Liborius parish and Saint Boniface church,

Mary, the Mother of God - January 1st

"Oh...that New Year Feast Day! We are supposed to go to Mass." We may remember that we need to go to Mass on New Year's Day; however, many of us probably think the reason is the New Year. Although there is nothing wrong with wanting to turn over a new leaf and dedicate our new year to the Lord, this is not actually the reason the Church asks us to go to Mass on New Year's Day.

The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, falls on the first day of the year and it is not simply another Marian Feast. The origin of this teaching of the Church goes all the way back to the year 431...even before I was born...and one of the most contentious episodes in Church history. Is Mary the Mother of Christ or the Mother of God? Why not both? Nestorius, Archbishop of Constantinople (Istanbul) and Saint Cyril (Archbishop of Alexandria) were the primary protagonists, but the controversy would come to embroil the entire Christian world including the Emperor, governors, politicians, hundreds of bishops, the rich and the poor. A council was called in the city of Ephesus in Turkey to resolve the matter.

To make a really...really...long story a lot shorter, (please forgive my lack of detail and precision) the issue did not simply concern Jesus' mother. It concerned Jesus himself. What we, Catholics, believe is that Jesus possesses two natures (human and divine) in one divine person, the 2nd person of the Holy Trinity. Jesus is not two separate persons but one. He is also truly divine and truly human. Jesus' two natures exist in complete unity without mixture, change, division or separation (Council of Chalcedon).

This all seems soooo...theoretical...except for one thing. This abstract concept defends the authentic source of our hope! Mary is the Mother of God, because Jesus is not separated into pieces. He is God and He is man. The sacrifice He made on the cross is eternal and infinite, because of this unity. The Grace of Christ's Paschal Mystery communicated to us in the sacraments, par excellence, in the Eucharist possesses the power to raise us from our fallible human state and unite us to the One True God.

Yes. This affects our understanding of the Eucharist! This is what we celebrate at Christmas. This is what makes the New Year worth living. The source of our life and our hope. Jesus, God and man, truly comes to us in the here and now in the Eucharist.

Praise God for the strong intellectual tradition of our Catholic Church! If we seek what is true...and not just what feels right to us, the "truth will set you free."

By the way, Saint Cyril got it right.

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@mtcacademy.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 Rachel Dombrowski, Don & 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, Bill Moran, 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, Kenyada Wilson, 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

Consecration to the Holy Family

O Lord Jesus, you lived in the home of Mary and Joseph in Nazareth. There you grew in age, wisdom and grace as you prepared to fulfill your mission as our Redeemer.

We entrust our family to you.

O Blessed Mary, you are the Mother of our Savior. At Nazareth you cared for Jesus and nurtured him in the peace and joy of your home.

We entrust our family to you.

O Saint Joseph, you provided a secure and loving home for Jesus and Mary, and gave us a model of fatherhood while showing us the dignity of work.

We entrust our family to you.

Holy Family, we consecrate ourselves and our family to you. May we be completely united in a love that is lasting, faithful and open to the gift of new life. Help us to grow in virtue, to forgive one another from our hearts, and to live in peace all our days. Keep us strong in faith, persevering in prayer, diligent in our work, and generous toward those in need. May our home, O Holy Family, truly become a domestic church where we reflect your example in our daily life. Amen.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!







Closing Mass of the Jubilee Year 2025

On Sunday December 28 throughout the world Catholics will gather at their Cathedral Churches to celebrate the closing of the Jubilee Year of Hope 2025. The Diocese of Joliet will celebrate the closing of this Jubilee Year at the 10:30 am Mass on December 28 at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus in Joliet. Everyone is invited to this very special Mass as a worldwide celebration of the Jubilee Year of Hope 2025 ends. This has been a very special time for the Church and we now gather to give thanks for all the blessings received during this Jubilee Year of Hope throughout the Diocese. Mark your calendar to be present at the 10:30 am Mass at the Cathedral on Sunday December 28 and join all Catholics throughout the world celebrating the closing of the Jubilee Year of Hope 2025.



Learn How to MAKE Disciples!



Join us for a conversation with Bishop Ron Hicks as he unpacks the details of his pastoral letter, MAKE, and discusses how to make disciples for Jesus in the Diocese of Joliet.

MAKE is a call to action—rooted in Catechesis, Evangelization, and Faith into Action—to follow Jesus' Great Commission: Go and make disciples

Where: Bishop McNamara Catholic School Gymnasium, 324 E. Marsile St, Bourbonnais, IL 60914

When: Thurs., April 30, 6:30-8:00 pm

Questions? Email Make@dioceseofjoliet.org

Learn more about the bishop's pastoral letter, MAKE, by visiting: make.diojoliet.org







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.

Thank you for helping bring hope and joy to our neighbors this Christmas. God bless you!

Community Outreach

Giving Tree Review 2025



Thank you formally, for a very successful Giving Tree again this year.

You provided thoughtful gifts for 110 residents of Beecher Manor, and 10 gifts designed for those who might have become residents after the list was given to us. Whether you shopped for the gift or trusted us to do it for you with your monetary donation, every person received a gift at their Christmas Party on December 23.

Those gifts for Misericordia are so very different, but are necessarily very specific. We have been told that St Liborius alone remembers them and their needs, so we need to understand that those they serve are intellectually and/or emotionally challenged. To serve them, our gifts are not to individuals, but for the use of individuals and groups. Color, motion and sound affect them. Some are able to do very specific activities. To help us shop for their needs, we are sent a list with websites for us to purchase exactly what they need. If that was confusing to you, your monetary donations allowed us to make the purchases for you. Our tags centered on different groups this year, aimed for their sport and theater programs.

Outreach Pantry children no longer have tags because gifts you purchased were not being picked up for the children and the children were not being brought to the party planned for them and to give them their gifts. So very sad. Hopefully, you felt the same joy purchasing the gifts for those at Misericordia.

Thank you again, for your show of love and support for this gift-giving project. Your generosity to those at both Beecher Manor and Misericordia meant merriment and joy to not only them, but must have given you the same. God bless you all.

You are the Spirit of Christmas.



Discerning? We can help you foster your vocation to priesthood . . . Because God Still Calls.





Scan the QR code or use the link to learn more and register!
https://tinyurl.com/yp7262vx

If you know of a young man 17+ that you'd like to nominate, please refer him to the link on the QR code: February 12-14, 2026



For questions:

vocations@dioceseofjoliet.org Phone - 815-221-6170

Saint John Vianney College Seminary (St. Paul, MN) is the largest collaborative college seminary in the United States, representing 18 dioceses throughout the nation with more than 100 undergraduate men in formation this year. The event is free of charge.

