

St. Patrick, Kankakee ~ A Viatorian Parish

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 7, 2025



For Peace-filled Hearts

The 2nd Sunday of Advent points us to something new.

The Prophet Isaiah speaks of
a branch growing from Jesse's stump.
It is a sign of hope. God is doing something fresh.
The old ways are ending.
A peaceful king will come.
Justice and peace will grow again.

St. Paul reminds us that God is faithful to his promises.
Jews and Gentiles are both part of God's plan.
We are called to live in peace with one another.

In the Gospel, John the Baptist appears.
John's words challenge the proud
and comfort the humble.
He tells the people to repent. Turn around.
Get ready. Someone greater is coming.

The one to come will bring the Holy Spirit and fire.
John reminds us that real faith shows in our actions.
We must bear good fruit.

Today is about getting ready in the right way.
It is not just about waiting, but encourages reflection and readiness.
We are reminded to live with hope, repentance, and peace as we await the Savior.
And so, we pray ...

Lord, help us to prepare our hearts for your coming.
Guide us to live with justice, repentance, and peace.
Give us courage to follow true leaders and to be leaders who bring hope.
May we bear good fruit and reflect your love in all we do.
Amen.

Young Catholics

We think we can find God
by ignoring the realities of our world.
If we are to know shalom,
we need to change how we do things.

We must allow ourselves to be driven
to the risky acts of *listening, dialogue,*
hospitality, service, justice, and compassion.

Then, as we give of ourselves to create shalom ...
not just for ourselves but for others,
we discover that shalom finds us,
and God's reign is truly within us.

John van de Laar



**Thank You to our
Bulletin Sponsor of the Week:**



**Please remember
the FOOD PANTRY!**



Be with them, Lord, and keep them safe!

Katie Benoit	Will Benoit
Sean Contreras	Scott Riegel
Daniel Ryan	Erik Schultz

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Reflection

♦ What steps can I take to live in peace with others? ♦ How can I work for justice and peace in my community? ♦ Who are the leaders I follow, and do they promote peace and justice? ♦ How can I prepare my heart for Christ this Advent? ♦ What areas of my life need renewal?

Stewardship Report **Sunday, November 30, 2025**

Envelopes – 48	\$4,143.00
Loose cash and checks	\$ 763.50
Online Giving – 17 families	\$ 968.50
Total collection	\$5,875.00
Amount needed each week to have a balanced budget:	\$ 8,135.00

***Thank you for your
generous and consistent support.***

Stewardship *All things are possible with God*



Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
St. Patrick Parish ~ Kankakee

NOVENA
3RD - 11TH OF DECEMBER
AT 7:00 PM

MAÑANITAS
with Mariachi Music
12TH OF DECEMBER
AT 5:00 AM

MASSES
12TH OF DECEMBER
Spanish
AT 6:00 AM
Bilingual
AT 6:00 PM



La Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
Iglesia San Patricio ~ Kankakee

NOVENA
DEL 3 AL 11 DE DICIEMBRE
A LAS 7:00 PM

MAÑANITAS
con Mariachi
EL 12 DE DICIEMBRE
A LAS 5:00 AM

MISAS
EL 12 DE DICIEMBRE
Español
A LAS 6:00 AM
Bilingüe
A LAS 6:00 PM



Experience some old (or new) customs! Come pray together!

The Giving Tree

is in place in the church, and, as in past years, you are asked to:

**PLEASE TAKE A TAG – OR TWO.
PLEASE PURCHASE THE GIFT CARD.
RETURN THE GIFT CARD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!**

Gift Cards will be available for purchase
after Masses on December 6, 7, 13, and 14.



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God's
invitation
with us.

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**Ep. 25:
Roundtable on
Religious Brotherhood**
with Br. Rob and Br. Peter



**Ep. 8:
Rural Parish Life**
with Fr. Dan



**Ep. 19:
Being a
Viatorian
Pastor**
with Fr. Jason



**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.



**Encontrando Esperanza Tras las Rejas:
Convertirse en Discípulos que Forman Discípulos en lugares Inesperados**

Celebramos el Adviento y la Navidad como estaciones de luz y alegría, pero a veces la esperanza más brillante aparece en los lugares que menos esperamos. A lo largo de los años, he descubierto que ministrar a quienes están en prisión es una de las formas más inesperadas de vivir el llamado de mi carta pastoral HACER de ser discípulos que hacen discípulos.

Mi primer encuentro con el ministerio penitenciario se remonta a mi año de voluntariado en México, en 1989. Una catequista me invitó a acompañarla a una prisión grande. Recuerdo la sorpresa de entrar con apenas controles formales y sentirme un poco desconcertado y nervioso sobre cómo saldría. Sin embargo, lo que más se quedó conmigo fue su simple recordatorio: *"Todos tienen nombre. A menudo se olvidan, pero si te haces sacerdote, recuerda que existen. ¡Mira el rostro de Cristo en ellos!"*

Años después, como seminarista que acompañaba al cardenal Bernardin a la cárcel del condado de Cook para la misa de Navidad, vi ese mismo espíritu de discipulado. No tenía familia en Chicago, pero encontraba alegría en llevar la Eucaristía a quienes a menudo eran olvidados. Me mostró que el ministerio en prisión no es simplemente un deber, sino un momento de gracia. Es una oportunidad para ser discípulo que lleva la esperanza de Cristo a los demás.

Alguien me dijo una vez que uno de los aspectos humildes de ministrar en las prisiones es que las personas a las que sirves nunca podrán pagarte. Lo haces simplemente porque Cristo nos llama a reconocer Su presencia en ellos. En ese acto puro de servicio, sembramos silenciosamente semillas de fe en los corazones que la sociedad a menudo pasa por alto.

Hace dos semanas, tuve el privilegio de celebrar los Sacramentos del Bautismo, la Confirmación y la Primera Comunión para cuatro internos en el Centro de Detención de Joliet. Su profundo deseo y reverencia me recordaron de nuevo la sabiduría de esa mujer de hace años. Tienen nombres, existen y son igual de dignos de la gracia de Dios. Tras la misa, cada recién nombrado católico ofrecía un testimonio, agradeciendo a quienes

que les trajeron a Cristo y compartieron lo perdidos que se sentían antes de ser presentados a Dios y a la Iglesia. Su deseo de aferrarse a la esperanza y vivir su nueva fe me inspiró profundamente mientras nos reuníamos en esa improvisada capilla de prisión.

Permítanme destacar el ministerio del creciente número de laicos, diáconos y sacerdotes en nuestra Diócesis que están viviendo este llamado y llevando el amor de Cristo a los encarcelados. Y lo hacen sin ningún alarde. De verdad, nadie les escribe notas de agradecimiento ni les envía regalos para su ministerio. Como Iglesia y como Diócesis, deberíamos sentirnos orgullosos de que tantos pongan su fe en acción a través de este ministerio.

En la doctrina social católica, defendemos la dignidad de cada ser humano, incluso de aquellos que han pecado o han sido rechazados por la sociedad. Como dice Jesús en el Evangelio de San Mateo: *"Todo lo que hiciste por uno de los más pequeños de estos, lo hiciste por mí."* Este es el corazón de nuestra misión. Ver a Cristo en el prisionero, el hambriento, el sediento, el no nacido, el inmigrante, la persona con discapacidad, el forastero y todos los necesitados. Es una verdadera esperanza cristiana. Es la convicción de que Cristo está siempre con nosotros y que cada persona merece ser vista, conocida y amada en Su nombre.

En unas semanas, celebraré la Misa de Navidad en el Centro Correccional del Condado de DuPage. Mientras me preparo para esa misa, por favor, sepan que llevaré conmigo vuestras intenciones en oración. Además, únase a mí en oración mientras juntos llevamos esa esperanza no solo a las prisiones, sino a todos los lugares donde la luz de Cristo sea más necesaria. Nuestros hogares, nuestras parroquias, nuestros lugares de trabajo, nuestros barrios y todos los rincones ocultos de nuestras vidas y nuestro mundo.

Que nunca pasemos por alto los lugares inesperados donde la gracia, la esperanza y la luz de Dios están esperando para romper y transformarnos a todos. Porque cuando vemos el rostro de Cristo en cada persona que conocemos, cumplimos la misión de ser discípulos que HACEN discípulos.

JOY IN JANUARY 2026

Saturday, January 3
at the Kankakee Country Club
Tickets are \$38.00 / Person
11 a.m. Registration 12 Noon Luncheon

Envelope Number 119
Paid Pre-registration
is due in the Rectory Office
by Friday, December 10!
Checks should be made payable to
St. Patrick C.C.W.



Find Your Envelope Number!

Read the Bulletin each week. If you find your number, call the Rectory Office at (815) 932-6716 – during regular Office hours (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) – and win a prize.



¡Y es **GRATIS** para ti! No te pierdas las oportunidades que te ofrece FORMED.

INSCRÍBETE AQUÍ:
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Find ADVENT offerings here!

<https://stpatrickkankakee.formed.org>



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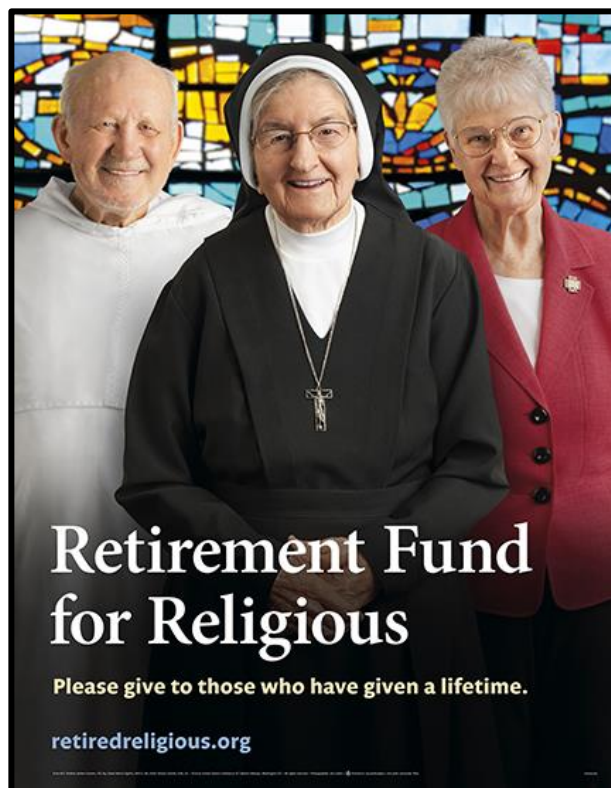
For more information and to register,
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Please visit:

<https://www.sscm-usa.org/Workshops-Retreats.html>

Please pray daily for vocations to the
priesthood and to vowed religious life!

Next Sunday is the
Annual Retirement Fund
for Religious Collection.
We know you will be as generous
as you are able!



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Liturgical Ministers Schedule. Please arrange for a substitute if needed.

DEC. 13 / 14	4:00 P.M.	7:00 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	4:00 P.M. (Spanish)
CANTORS	J. Veers		A. Schneider / Choir	Coro
SERVERS	K. Johnson A. Arrocha B. Bean		L. Flageole O. Mayer Z. Niba	
LECTOR	E. Capriotti	L. Born	D. Raiche	E. Lopez M. Velázquez-Palma
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	A. Arrocha J. Wesoloski M. Spilsbury	C. Olofsson J. Boyd	A. Purcell M. Purcell J. Purcell	A. Chaca V. Carmona E. Dominguez
WEEKDAY LECTOR: Dec. 8 -12	M. Suprenant			
SACRISTANS: DECEMBER 12	J. Conway	A. Palma	M. Lorenzo	

*Please pray for the sick and the dying, and for all those who mourn the loss of a loved one.
Also, let us remember in prayer the homebound, those in nursing homes or hospitals,
and those who have asked for our prayers!*

Prayer Line ... please call (815) 932-9423.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 8

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

7:15 John Boris *(by Linda Born)*

6:00 Parishioners and Benefactors

Tuesday, December 9

7:15 George Rodghero (Ann.)
(by Rodeghero Family)

Wednesday, December 10 ***Our Lady of Loreto***

7:15 Raymond Mulholland *(by KVCC)*

Thursday, December 11

7:15 Elaine Ziemer *(by Ziemer Family)*

Friday, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

6:00 a.m. (Spanish) Parishioners and Benefactors

7:15 a.m. Jack Purcell and Gene Riberdy
Best Friends (by Joanne Riberdy)

6:00 p.m. (Bilingual) Parishioners and Benefactors

Saturday, December 13 ***St. Lucy***

4:00 Kay Lindner (Birth. Ann.)
(by Lindner Family) /
Ardis Dupuis *(by Mike and Linda Born) /*
Tony Lambert (Ann.) *(by Nola Lambert)*

Sunday, December 14 ***Third Sunday of Advent***

7:00 Mabel Saffer (Ann.)
(by John and Judy Surprenant, Jr.)

10:00 Mose Arseneau *(by Dolores Arseneau)*
Art Yonke *(Sue Hodak)*
Patrick O'Brien *(by O'Brien Family)*

4:00 (Sp.) Ashur Toma *(by Toma Family)*



MEMORIAL CANDLES

The Blessed Sacrament Candle
burns in memory of the Lower Family
(by Judy Bourland).

The Holy Family Candle
burns in memory of Raymond Mulholland
(by Kankakee Vally Construction Company).

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve Mass at 3 p.m. (English)

Christmas Eve Mass at 5 p.m. (Bilingual)

Christmas Day Mass at 10 a.m. (English)





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Parish Website stpatrickkankakee.com

CLERICS OF ST. VIATOR

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In Residence..... Fr. John N. Peeters, CSV
Fr. Patrick Render, CSV

Administrative Assistant..... Denise Schiel
Pastoral Associate Marilyn Mulcahy
Director of Music Amy Schneider
Youth Ministers Ken & Michelle Barrie
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Director of Religious Education Eileen Gregor
(815) 932-6716

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily..... 7:15 a.m.
Saturday 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Spanish Mass Sunday 4:00 p.m.
Reconciliation Saturday 3:00-3:30 p.m. and by appt.

Appointments..... Please call to schedule appointments
Reconciliation Please call for an appointment
Baptism..... Parent Session required
Please call for an appointment
Marriage Appointment should be made at least
six months prior to desired date of wedding



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