

CHURCH OF THE HOLY GHOST

A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF FAITH

DECEMBER 21, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#1099

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Sam Conforti
Pastor

Deacon Robert A. Lasica
Permanent Deacon

Parish Staff

Tammy Campeotto
Business Manager x123

Joanne DeZur
Receptionist x120

Frances Hargadon
Funeral Ministry/Event Director x121

Kelly Scardina
App & Web Manager x122

Dennis Bero
Sacristan

John Daily
Buildings & Grounds

Tracy Monteleone
Director of Music

Nancy Siemers
*Director of Faith Formation/
Human Resources x130*

Susan Tutaj
Coordinator of Discipleship x132

Veronica Borowski
*Faith Formation Administrative
Assistant x131*

Parish Office Hours:

Mon - Thurs 8am - 3pm
Closed Friday - Sunday
630-860-2975

Faith Formation Office Hours:

Tues - Thurs 9am - 2pm
630-766-4509

*(Located on the north side of the church
in the Farrell Faith Formation Center)*

Did you know that Holy Ghost Church has it's own Facebook page?



Follow us to get information on upcoming events and more.



CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 PM MASS
10:00 PM MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00 AM MASS
10:30 AM MASS
(Holy day of obligation)

NEW YEAR'S EVE

VIGIL MASS
4:00 PM MASS

NEW YEAR'S DAY

10:30 AM MASS
Solemnity of Mary,
the Holy Mother of God
(Holy day of obligation)

WELCOME

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 20

4PM Mass

+Sandi Sobieski (1st Anniversary of Her Death)

Sunday, December 21

8AM Mass

+Paul DeMichele

10:30AM Mass

+Ernesto D'Amico

For the Parishioners of Holy Ghost Parish Living & Deceased



8:30AM Mass

Monday, December 22

+Edda Klein

Tuesday, December 23

+Donata Bellino

Please see the cover for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass Schedule

Wednesday, December 24

+Robt Pauscher

For the Parishioners of Holy Ghost Parish Living & Deceased

Thursday, December 25

For the Parishioners of Holy Ghost Parish Living & Deceased

Mass Intention Information \$10 stipend per Mass Intention.

Mass Intention requests, in compliance with the Decree on Mass Stipends, began on January 1, 2016: There will be one intention for a Mass. Mass will be offered for all Parishioners in the Parish on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Holy Thursday, Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday, & Holy Days of Obligation.

Parish Membership:

Holy Ghost church welcomes you and your family. Please register by calling, stopping by the office during the week, or download the form from our website and return to the office.

Bulletin Articles:

All articles for the Sunday bulletin must be submitted **at least 10 days before the published Sunday**. This allows time for editing, formatting, and printing. Make sure to plan ahead to meet the deadline and ensure your content is included in the upcoming bulletin! Please email bulletin content for consideration to hgbulletin@holyghostparish.org

Baptisms:

Parents or guardians are required to attend a baptismal preparation class prior to the Baptism. Baptisms are held on the first and third Saturdays. Please call us to register.

Baptismal prep classes:

Our baptismal preparation classes are held on the first Tuesday evening at 7:00pm. **This meeting must be attended before setting the date.** Please call us to register. 630-766-4509

Marriages:

It is necessary that all couples desiring to be married at Holy Ghost Church call the parish office to schedule an appointment with a priest at least six months prior to the date of their wedding and **BEFORE** they set a date with a banquet facility. Please call us to register.

Religious Education:

Our Religious Education Program builds and supports informed, practicing, and faith filled families. The program is held on select Sundays from September through April between 9:00-10:15 AM. Families are then encouraged to attend mass together either at 8 AM or at 10:30 AM Please call us to register. 630-766-4509

Reconciliation, Eucharist & Confirmation

Instruction for children on these sacraments is currently being offered within the religion curriculum in the Faith Formation programs. It is diocesan policy that a person be in the Faith Formation program for two full years before receiving sacraments. For more information and to register please contact the (RE) Faith Formation Office at 630-766-4509.

THANK YOU

for your generosity

Sunday Collection

December 3 — December 9, 2025
\$7,193.40

YTD Budget thru November 2025
\$222,916.65

YTD Actual thru November 2025
\$209,371.84

YTD Difference thru November 2025
-\$13,544.81



Catholic Ministries
Annual Appeal

Diocese of Joliet

	2025
Parish Goal	\$58,200
Amount Pledged	\$71,081
Amount Paid	\$69,398
Balance Due	\$1,683
Donors	235
2025 Rebate	\$7,839

Updated 12/7/2025

UPCOMING 2ND COLLECTIONS

Dec 20/21 –C.O.R.E



Please help. Our food drive is ongoing. Non-perishable canned, boxed and bagged food items may be placed on the shelving unit in the gym.

Your kind support is greatly appreciated.



Initiation Sacraments for Adults:

Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation Through the parish OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) process, adult candidates (individuals who were baptized and now wish to complete their initiation into the Catholic Church) may receive formation in the sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation. At the end of the instructional period, all candidates will complete their full initiation into the Church.

Adult Catechumen (individuals who seek to enter into the Catholic faith for the first time) will receive instruction in Baptism, First Eucharist, and Confirmation. At the end of the process, all catechumen will be fully initiated into the Catholic Church. For more details contact Nancy Siemers at





Pray for the Sick

PRAYER & WORSHIP

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Pray for Our Military

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Amen.

AIR FORCE:

LT COL Anthony Calabrese
LT COL Patty Calabrese
MAJ Mary Dones
CAPT Joseph Piscopo
CAPT Jeremy Shimanek
1st LT Joshua Jalowiec
SSGT Robert W. Dones
SSGT Timothy Latvis
SRA Randall Petrbook
A1C Ryan Leider
A1C Nicholas Pfeifer
A2C James Kochanski III

ARMY:

LTC Robert Bowen
LTC Grace Gallagher
CAPT Elizabeth Gonzales
SFC Zack Cieslak
SPC Marco Garcia
SPC David Patcher
CW4 Anderson Mann
CW2 Carlos Contreras
PVT Steven Badgley
PVT Ian Schauchuk

MARINE CORPS:

CAPT Edward W. Miller
SGT Nicholas Reid
SGT Jack Rowley
LCPL Michele Giuseppe Bottalico
LCPL Vincent Anthony Eltman
PVT Cameron Andresen
PVT Gabriel Leon
PVT Billy Termine

NAVY:

LCDR Nicholas Lucania
Ryan James Ruizol

Cathy Alcozer	Bob Pauss
Bianca Marie Borowski	Jose Joaquin Negrete Paz
Michael Brann	
Micah Casey	Cindi Shea
Ady DeLargarza	Frank Staggs
Aldegunda Diego	Nancy Townsend
Thomas Franzen	Feliciano Vero
Izcoatl Garcia Gonzales	Gloria Villanueva
Sarah Kasab	Salvatore Vivo
Jerad Klint	Joseph Yello
Therese Kotecki	Cyndi Zwadlo
Donald Lesmeister	
Michael Malek	

And for those listed in our parish book of prayers.

Military and Prayer List

Please email: hgbulletin@holychurchparish.org
or call the parish office at 630-860-2975
to add or remove a name from the list.

Thank you!

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

4 pm Saturday
8 am Sunday
10:30 am Sunday

DAILY MASS

8:30 am Mon-Thurs

FIRST FRIDAY

8:30 am

Please join us for **Adoration**
from 7AM to 8AM
before the 8:30AM
weekday morning Mass.



Pray the **Rosary** with us
Monday through Thursday
at 9 AM
and on Thursday evenings at 7PM

Confessions will be
heard on Saturdays
from 3 to 3:45PM.



Homebound:

If you or someone you know is in need of sacraments of Anointing, Reconciliation or Communion please call the office at 630-860-2975 to schedule a priest visit.

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Food for the Banquet

A beautiful way to honor your loved ones, living or deceased, is through providing Food for the Banquet. You may mail your request with your \$50 contribution to Holy Ghost Church at 254 N Wood Dale Road, Wood Dale IL 60191.



In Memory of Nancy Cernauske

From Her Children

Please include your choice of date from the list below.

***The following dates are open for donations:**

January 2026 10/11, 17/18, 24/25

February 2026 7/8, 14/15, 21/22, 28/March 1

March 2026 7/8, 14/15, 28/29

(*Availability subject to possible change once the bulletin has gone to the printer.)

Our Sanctuary Lamp

Our sanctuary lamp is a 7-day candle that is always lit above the tabernacle. If you would like to contribute \$20 to the cost of the weekly candle, we will include an acknowledgement in the bulletin. You are also welcome to make the donation in memory or honor of a loved one.

You may mail your request with your contribution to:

Holy Ghost Church
at 254 N Wood Dale Road,
Wood Dale IL 60191



In Memory of Pat & Edward Meyer

From the Meyer Family

Names will be printed in the bulletin in the order in which they are received.



EVENTS & MORE

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

CATHOLIC FOUNDATIONS WITH FR. SAM



CATHOLIC SOTERIOLOGY: Understanding Salvation from a Catholic Perspective

Soteriology is the study of salvation, derived from the Greek word **soteria**, meaning "deliverance" or "salvation."

Within Christian theology, and particularly in Catholicism, soteriology delves into how humans are saved from sin and its consequences, achieving eternal communion with God.

It encompasses doctrines about redemption, justification, sanctification, and glorification, providing a comprehensive view of God's plan for humanity's salvation.

THE CATHOLIC UNDERSTANDING OF SALVATION

From a Catholic perspective, salvation is both a process and a gift. It is not merely about being saved from sin but also involves a transformative journey toward union with God.

This journey unfolds through various stages, deeply rooted in the life and mission of Jesus Christ and realized through the sacraments, the Church, and personal cooperation with divine grace.

1. ORIGINAL SIN AND THE NEED FOR SALVATION

Explanation:

Catholic doctrine begins with the concept of Original Sin, a state inherited from Adam and Eve's disobedience (Genesis 3).

This sin introduced a rupture in the relationship between humanity and God, necessitating divine intervention for reconciliation.

St. Paul emphasizes this in Romans 5:12, "Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned."

Example:

Original Sin is often explained using the metaphor of a stained glass window that has been shattered.

Humanity retains the potential for beauty (the image of God) but requires restoration to return to its original state.

This restoration is made possible through Jesus Christ, the "new Adam," who opens the path to salvation.

2. THE ROLE OF JESUS CHRIST IN SALVATION

Explanation:

Central to Catholic soteriology is the role of Jesus Christ as the Savior.

His life, death, and resurrection are the definitive acts through which salvation is made available to humanity.



Through His sacrificial death on the Cross, Christ atoned for the sins of humanity, reconciling them to God (1 John 2:2: "He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world").

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 613) states, "Christ's death is both the Paschal sacrifice that accomplishes the definitive redemption of men, through the 'Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,' and the sacrifice of the New Covenant, which restores man to communion with God by reconciling him to God through the 'blood of the covenant, which was poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'"

Example:

During Mass, Catholics remember and participate in the sacrifice of Christ through the Eucharist, which is both a memorial of Christ's Passion and a real participation in the sacrifice of Christ.

The Eucharist is seen as the "source and summit" of the Christian life (CCC 1324), highlighting the centrality of Christ's sacrificial act in Catholic worship and understanding of salvation.

3. JUSTIFICATION AND GRACE

Explanation:

Justification in Catholic theology is not merely a legal declaration by God but involves an actual transformation of the person.

This transformation begins with God's grace, which is a free and unmerited gift that draws individuals toward God and enables them to live a life in conformity with His will. This is highlighted in Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast."

However, Catholics also believe that human cooperation with grace is essential.

As stated in James 2:26, "For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead."

This cooperation is evidenced through faith, good works, and adherence to the sacraments, especially Baptism, which is considered the first step in receiving God's grace and being justified.

Example:

The life of St. Augustine illustrates this process of justification and grace.



Initially, he led a life far from God, but through the grace of God, he was drawn into the Church and transformed into a saintly bishop and theologian.

His *Confessions* provide a narrative of how God's grace worked in his life, illustrating the Catholic understanding of justification as an ongoing process rather than a one-time event.



4. SANCTIFICATION AND THE SACRAMENTS

Explanation:

Sanctification is the process of becoming holy and more like Christ.

In Catholicism, sanctification is a lifelong journey empowered by grace and sustained through the sacraments, which are visible signs of

God's invisible grace.

The sacraments, especially the Eucharist, Reconciliation, and Confirmation, play a vital role in strengthening the believer's relationship with God and the Church, fostering spiritual growth and moral living.

The Catechism states (CCC 2003): "Grace is first and foremost the gift of the Spirit who justifies and sanctifies us. But grace also includes the gifts that the Spirit grants us to associate us with his work, to enable us to collaborate in the salvation of others and in the growth of the Body of Christ, the Church."

Example:

Consider the example of the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Through confession and penance, Catholics seek forgiveness for sins committed after Baptism.

This sacrament is not only about forgiveness but also about healing and sanctification, drawing the penitent closer to God and reinforcing their resolve to live according to Christ's teachings.

5. GLORIFICATION: The Final Fulfillment

Explanation:

Glorification is the final stage of salvation, where believers are fully united with God in eternal life.

This is achieved through the resurrection of the body and life everlasting, as professed in the Nicene Creed.

Glorification entails a complete and perfect union with God, free from sin and death, as promised in Revelation 21:4: "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Example:

The lives of saints who have been canonized by the Church reflect the journey toward glorification.

They serve as models for all believers, demonstrating how a life of faith, cooperation with grace, and adherence to God's will lead to eternal life with Him.

Saints like St. Francis of Assisi or St. Teresa of Avila show the culmination of this journey in a life wholly dedicated to

God, eventually leading to their glorification in heaven.

BIBLICAL REFERENCES SUPPORTING CATHOLIC SOTERIOLOGY

1. Salvation through Faith and Works:

James 2:24 - "You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone."

2. The Necessity of Baptism:

John 3:5 - "Jesus answered, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.'"

3. The Role of the Eucharist:

John 6:53-54 - "Jesus said to them, 'Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.'"

4. Transformation through Christ:

2 Corinthians 5:17 - "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

CONTEMPORARY RELEVANCE OF SOTERIOLOGY

In a modern context, Catholic soteriology offers a comprehensive framework for understanding human existence, purpose, and destiny.

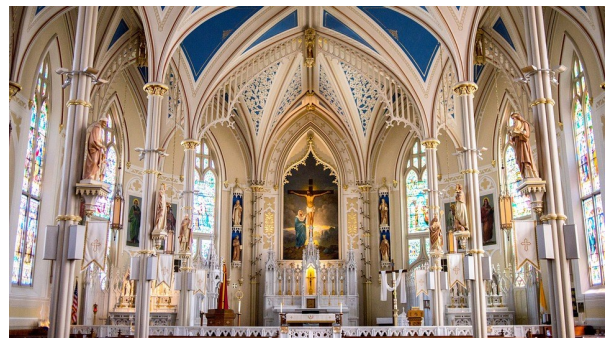
It addresses the fundamental questions of life: "Why are we here?", "What is the purpose of suffering?", and "What is our ultimate end?"

By understanding salvation as a dynamic, ongoing process that involves divine grace and human cooperation, Catholics are encouraged to live a life of faith, love, and service.

It calls for an active engagement with God and the community, promoting not only personal transformation but also the transformation of the world through acts of charity and justice.

Ultimately, Catholic soteriology invites believers to embark on a journey of faith, deepening their relationship with God and moving toward the final goal of eternal life with Him.

This journey is one of hope, sustained by the promises of Christ and the enduring grace of God.



Faith Formation

Supplies are needed for **Service Sunday**. Our Religious Education families will need supplies to assist their Service Sunday event in February.

Please consider donating Blessing Bag supplies which will be given to the homeless. We need monetary donations to purchase snacks and we are looking for **new** adult warm socks, knit hats, gloves, toothbrushes and toothpaste, personal tissue packets, \$5 or \$10 gift cards to McDonalds, Burger King, Wendy's, etc; (you can purchase \$10 gift cards from SCRIP) and a card with words of encouragement. To give dignity to the homeless, we ask that all items are new. Items can be dropped off at the Religious Education Office (door 20) or in the main office.

Thank you.
Nancy Siemers
Director of Faith Formation
630-766-4509
nsiemers@holyghostparish.org



Prayer for Christmas

Dear Lord,
You came to us in humility and silence, setting aside your majesty so that we might approach with wonder. Allow us to grow ever closer to you this Christmas, and always. Amen.

©LPi



DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES MAKE

MAKE: A Pastoral Letter for the People of the Diocese of Joliet (continued)

Bishop Hicks writes "...if we are to grow as a thriving, vibrant Church, one serious about Passing on the faith to future generations, we must move from maintenance to mission"

In our November and December Newsletters, we shared what Holy Ghost Parish is currently doing in the areas of Catechesis and Evangelization. The Discipleship Team also looked at the area of Faith into Action.

The Bishop writes "Finally, having fallen in love with Jesus, we are impelled by a sense of mission to share His unfathomable love with everyone we meet and to serve others. He now sends us to put our faith into action."

At Holy Ghost, we found a number of ministries doing this:

- Core: Gift cards for the holidays to those in need
- Advent Giving Tree
- Holiday Meal Support
- One Time Utility Assistance
- Supporting the Wood Dale/Bensenville Food Pantry
- Coffee and Donut Sundays
- Outreach to the Radcliffe Nursing Home
- Ministers of Care bring Holy Eucharist to the homebound
- CCW Service Projects
- Hallow App
- Knights of Columbus Service Projects
- Faith Formation Family Service

If we have missed some ministries, please feel free to call me to let me know what we missed....630-860-3691.

Susan Tutaj -Coordinator of Discipleship
stutaj@holyghostparish.org 630-860-3691

Closed for the Holiday

©LPi

**THE PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED
DECEMBER 23 AT NOON
THROUGH JANUARY 4.
FR. SAM AND THE HOLY GHOST PARISH
STAFF WISH YOU AND YOUR LOVED
ONES A PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS,
FOLLOWED BY**

**A NEW YEAR
FILLED WITH
GOD'S
BLESSINGS!**





NEWS & EVENTS

December 21, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Church of the Holy Ghost 2024 2025 Financial Report Fiscal year ending June 30, 2025

	Church	Rel Ed	Total
Revenue:			
Sunday Collections	537,591	0	537,591
Other Collections	76,774	0	76,774
Fundraisers	25,227	840	26,067
Tuition and Fees	0	24,148	24,148
Unrestricted Revenue	51,378	0	51,378
Restricted Revenue	17,199	12,473	29,672
Interest Income	12,225	0	12,225
Rental Income	27,880	0	27,880
Total Revenue	748,274	37,461	785,735
Expenses:			
Salaries	256,801	68,571	325,372
Health Ins/Pensions/SS/Medicare/	29,618	6,491	36,109
Repairs & Maintenance	10,596	0	10,596
Services	147,839	20,056	167,895
Materials & Supplies	39,972	5,604	45,576
Insurance Prem-Liab,Prop & Casulty	18,635	2,070	20,705
Utilities	56,759	5,714	62,473
Curriculum Expenditures	438	4,134	4,572
Diocesan Expenditures (Property tax/assessment)	45,684	0	45,684
Other Operating Expense	1,019	0	1,019
Capital Expenditures	14,149	0	14,149
Interest Paid on Parish loans	0	0	0
Investment in education religious education	75,180	(75,180)	
Total Expenses	696,690	37,460	734,150
Net Revenue-Expenses			
Surplus/Deficit	51,584		51,585



Dedicated Funds NOT AVAILABLE for Parish use:

CORE balance 7/1/2024	38,837
Donations to CORE	36,910
Bens/WD Food Pantry	(3,000)
Food Baskets & Gifts	(16,950)
PADS	(1,000)
CORE Other Assistance	(1,927)
CORE balance 6/30/2025	52,870

Restricted Rainy Day Fund Savings Account	125,283
Cash in parish bank	111,073
Parish Savings on Deposit with	384,032
Endowment Fund	265,590

Thank you always to all the parishioners who sacrifice their time, talent and treasure for Holy Ghost Parish.

Fr. Sam Conforti

If you have any questions please call the Parish Office and a member of the Finance Council will return your call.

