



# CHURCH OF THE HOLY GHOST

A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF FAITH

DECEMBER 14, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#1096

## 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:

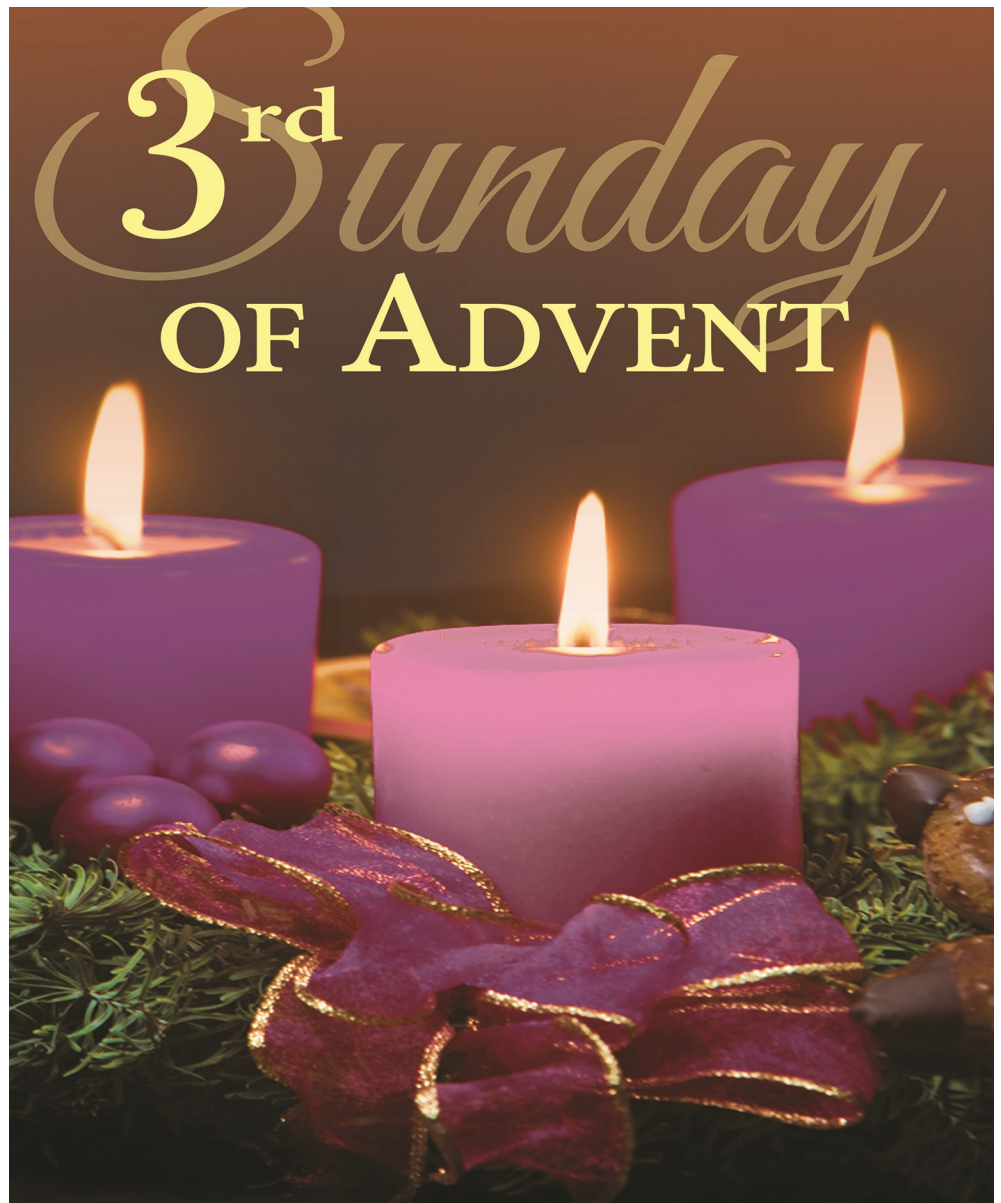
Tues - Thurs 9am - 2pm  
630-766-4509

(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.



## 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.

## WELCOME

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

# MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, December 13**

**4PM Mass**

+John Klit  
+Cecil Means

**Sunday, December 14**

**8AM Mass**

+Michael DiCapua

For the Parishioners of Holy  
Ghost Parish Living & Deceased

**10:30AM Mass**

+Desmond Francis Walsh



**8:30AM Mass**

**Monday, December 15**

+Edward T. Gisburne

**Tuesday, December 16**

+Evelyn Helen Frontier

**Wednesday, December 17**

Health & Blessings for  
Victor Palulis

**Thursday, December 18**

+Robert Fuja

### 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](mailto: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.

### 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.

## THANK YOU

for your generosity

### Sunday Collection

**November 26 — December 2, 2025**  
**\$6,711.51**

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 13/14 —Religious Retirement  
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 14, 2025  
Third 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 Petrbok  
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@holychostparish.org](mailto:hgbulletin@holychostparish.org)  
or call the parish office at 630-860-2975  
to add or remove a name from the list.

Thank you!



Please give generously to the upcoming collection.

## Retirement Fund for Religious

Visit [retiredreligious.org/2025photos](http://retiredreligious.org/2025photos) to meet the religious pictured.  
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**They gave their lives in service—now they need your help.** For decades, women and men religious have cared for others, teaching, praying, and serving those in need. Many now face retirement without sufficient savings. Your support ensures they receive the care and dignity they deserve. Let us now offer them the dignity they have so selflessly granted to others. Your generosity today is not just a donation—it's a way of thanking them for their lifelong service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious.

### 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 Michael DiCapua

From Tina DiCapua

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

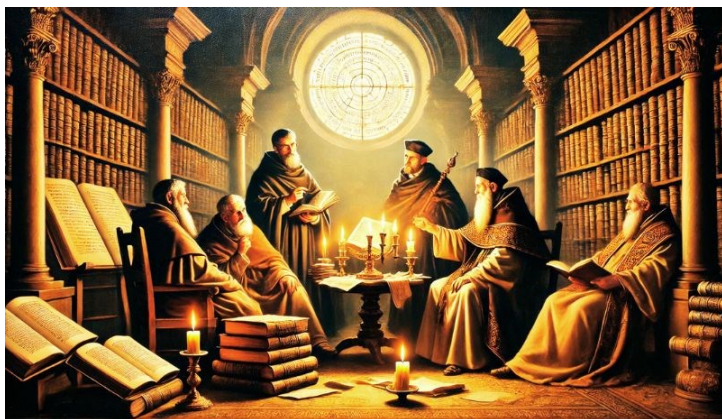


### In Memory of Herb Quist

From the Margaret Rzena

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





### PROLEGOMENA:

Foundations and Preliminary Considerations in Theology from a Catholic Perspective

Prolegomena refers to the introductory study and preliminary considerations necessary for engaging in theological inquiry.

It lays the groundwork for understanding the broader theological framework and addresses fundamental questions about the nature, sources, and methods of theology.

In Catholicism, prolegomena helps define the scope of theological study, establishes the criteria for interpreting divine revelation, and clarifies the relationship between faith and reason.

### THE CATHOLIC UNDERSTANDING OF PROLEGOMENA

In Catholic theology, prolegomena involves addressing key issues that set the stage for systematic theology.

It includes examining the nature of theology itself, the sources of theological knowledge, and the relationship between divine revelation and human understanding.

Prolegomena provides the essential framework within which specific theological doctrines can be studied and understood.

### 1. THE NATURE OF THEOLOGY

Explanation: Theology, from a Catholic perspective, is the study of God and His revelation to humanity.

It involves both faith and reason and seeks to understand and explain the truths of divine revelation as handed down through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.

Theology is a rational discipline that uses human reasoning to comprehend and articulate the mysteries of faith.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 36 states, "Theology is the study of God and of all that relates to God."

Example: The exploration of the nature of God as a Trinitarian being (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) is a central

task of theology.

Understanding how God is revealed in Scripture and Tradition requires careful theological reflection and interpretation.

### 2. THE SOURCES OF THEOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

Explanation: In Catholicism, the primary sources of theological knowledge are Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.

These sources are complemented by the teachings of the Magisterium (the Church's teaching authority).

Sacred Scripture provides the written record of divine revelation, while Sacred Tradition encompasses the oral teachings and practices passed down through the generations.

The Magisterium interprets these sources authoritatively to safeguard and explain the faith.

The CCC 80 highlights this: "The task of giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God, whether in its written form or in the form of Tradition, has been entrusted exclusively to the Magisterium of the Church."

Example: The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception, which teaches that Mary was conceived without original sin, is derived from Sacred Tradition and has been authoritatively defined by the Magisterium.

This doctrine illustrates how theological knowledge is drawn from multiple sources and clarified through Church teaching.

### 3. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAITH AND REASON

Explanation: Catholic theology maintains that faith and reason are complementary rather than contradictory.

Faith involves belief in divine revelation and acceptance of theological truths, while reason involves the use of logical analysis and philosophical principles to understand and articulate these truths.

The Church teaches that faith is illuminated by reason, and reason is enriched by faith.

The CCC 159 asserts, "Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth."

Example: The natural law, which is understood through reason, complements the moral teachings revealed in Scripture and Tradition.

For instance, the moral understanding of human dignity can be approached both through philosophical reasoning and through theological reflection on divine revelation.





#### 4. METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN THEOLOGY

Explanation: The methodology of theology involves various approaches to studying and interpreting divine revelation.

This includes historical, exegetical, systematic, and pastoral methods.

Historical theology examines the development of doctrines over time, while exegetical theology focuses on interpreting Scripture.

Systematic theology organizes and synthesizes theological concepts, and pastoral theology applies these concepts to the life of the Church and the faithful.

The CCC 94 emphasizes, "The Church, in her teaching, is committed to preserving and teaching the whole deposit of faith."

Example: The development of the doctrine of the Trinity involved historical and exegetical methods to understand early Church writings and creeds, which were then systematized into a coherent theological framework.

This process highlights how different methodological approaches contribute to a deeper understanding of doctrinal truths.

#### 5. THE ROLE OF REVELATION IN THEOLOGY

Explanation: Divine revelation is central to Catholic theology. It is through revelation that God discloses Himself and His will to humanity.

Theology is fundamentally concerned with interpreting and understanding this revelation, which is recorded in Sacred Scripture and expressed through Sacred Tradition.

The study of theology seeks to explore the implications of revelation for faith and practice.

The CCC 50 states, "God has revealed Himself to man by gradually communicating His own mystery in deeds and in words."

Example: The revelation of God's covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3) and its fulfillment in Jesus Christ is a foundational aspect of Catholic theology.

Understanding this revelation involves interpreting the historical and spiritual significance of these events and their impact on salvation history.

#### BIBLICAL REFERENCES SUPPORTING CATHOLIC PROLEGOMENA

##### 1. THE NATURE OF THEOLOGY:

John 14:6 - "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

##### 2. THE SOURCES OF THEOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE:

2 Thessalonians 2:15 - "So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter."

##### 3. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAITH AND REASON:

1 Peter 3:15 - "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord."

## NEWS & EVENTS

December 14, 2025

**Third Sunday of Advent**

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."

#### 4. METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN THEOLOGY:

Acts 17:11 - "Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true."

#### 5. THE ROLE OF REVELATION IN THEOLOGY:

Hebrews 1:1-2 - "In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe."

#### CONTEMPORARY RELEVANCE OF PROLEGOMENA

Prolegomena remains crucial in contemporary Catholic thought as it provides the foundational framework for engaging with theology in an increasingly complex world.

Understanding the nature of theology, the sources of theological knowledge, and the relationship between faith and reason helps Catholics navigate contemporary issues and challenges within a coherent theological context.

In a cultural climate where diverse perspectives often challenge traditional beliefs, prolegomena offers essential tools for grounding theological reflection and ensuring that the study of faith remains anchored in the Church's teachings and practices.

It encourages a rigorous, reflective approach to theology that respects both the integrity of divine revelation and the demands of reasoned inquiry.

Ultimately, prolegomena guides Catholics in their theological exploration, fostering a deeper understanding of God's revelation and its implications for faith and practice.

It ensures that theological inquiry is rooted in a sound methodological approach and remains faithful to the rich tradition of the Church.





Please join Pope Leo in praying his December 2025 intention:  
Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.



### Advent 7 Hours of Confession

December 20

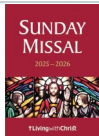
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**St. Peter the Apostle**

551 N Rush St. in Itasca

You are invited to prepare your heart and soul for Christmas.

**There will be no confessions at Holy Ghost on Dec. 20.**



The new Sunday Missals are for sale in the church office for \$5.

## ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE AT HOLY GHOST CHURCH

DECEMBER 16: THE NATIVITY

### TUESDAY EVENINGS AT 7:00PM

The discipleship team invites you, your family, and friends to join us to prepare for the coming of our Lord. Each week builds on the season of Advent.

Centering on Mary this Advent, we will pray together with song; gospel readings; reflection; a reverse collection where you get to take a token of the season from the basket, and end each evening with a litany to our blessed mother. Our prayer service will last less than an hour and support your Advent journey for the remainder of the week.

**Don't let another Advent disappear because of the busyness of presents, tinsel and wrapping paper. Join us!**

**MAKE JESUS AND MARY  
THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!**



©LPi



## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Cookie Walk

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup> 9am - 1pm**

**Come in, choose your box, walk around and choose from tons of different cookies, sweets and treats.**

**Only \$10 per lb.**

**But first we need your help to make our cookie walk amazing!**  
**Donations Needed!**

Cookies, Brownies, Krispy Treats, Mini Cupcakes, any bite sized sweet treats... You decide what to donate homemade or store-bought treats, both are acceptable.

Please drop off donations Thurs 12/11 8am-3pm,  
Sat 12/13 4-5pm or Sun 12/14 7-9am

Contact Frannie for info call/text 708-218-6511 or email  
[fran@holyghostparish.org](mailto:fran@holyghostparish.org)

## Christmas Cupcake Decorating

**Sunday, December 14, 2025 11:30-12:30pm**

**ONLY \$15.00 PER PERSON**

**ALL SUPPLIES WILL BE PROVIDED.**



**Decorate with icing,  
sprinkles and candies.  
Tons of fun and easy!  
Get creative!**

**Containers will be provided for two decorated cupcakes.**

**Walk-ins Welcome...** SUPPLIES and SPACE Permitting

To sign up contact Frannie  
Call 630-860-2975 or text 708-218-6511 or email  
[fran@holyghostparish.org](mailto:fran@holyghostparish.org)

**Children's Bulletins** Weekly Children's Bulletins, containing pictures, puzzles and information about the Sunday Scriptures are available in the vestibles. Children are welcome to take them home each week and Grandparents are invited to pick them up for their grandchildren.





## Bishop Hicks' Column    December 2025

### Finding Hope Behind Bars: Becoming Disciples Who Make Disciples in unexpected Places



## NEWS & EVENTS

December 14, 2025  
Third Sunday of Advent

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.**

## DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES MAKE

A Pastoral Letter for the People of the Diocese of Joliet

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

## Fannie May Faith Formation Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Faith Formation Fannie May fundraiser. As a reminder, **Pick up is Sunday, December 14.** We raised \$1600.00 for the Faith Formation program. We're grateful for your continued support.

