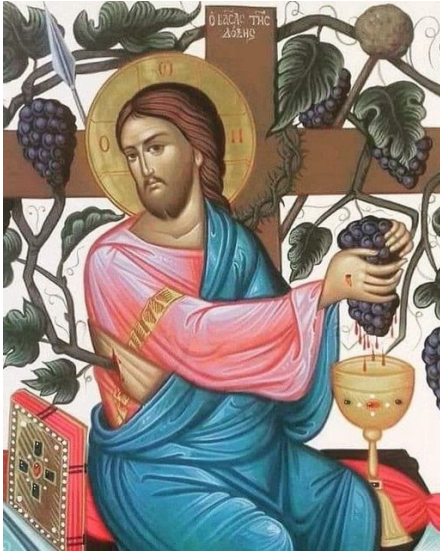


# DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

## CHURCH OF THE HOLY GHOST



### CATHOLIC METAPHORS:

Exploring Rich Symbolism in Catholic Thought and Tradition

Catholicism is steeped in rich metaphorical language and symbolism, which permeates its theology, liturgy, scripture, and devotional practices.

These metaphors serve to deepen the understanding of divine mysteries and

help the faithful connect with the spiritual realities they represent.

Here is an in-depth exploration of key Catholic metaphors, their meanings, and their significance, along with examples.

### 1. THE BODY OF CHRIST

- Meaning: The metaphor of the "Body of Christ" refers to several interconnected concepts within Catholic theology:

- The Eucharist: The bread consecrated during Mass becomes the actual Body of Christ, a central belief in Catholicism. Jesus instituted this sacrament at the Last Supper, as recorded in the Gospels (e.g., Luke 22:19-20).

- The Church: The Church is described as the Mystical Body of Christ, with Christ as the head and all believers as its members (1 Corinthians 12:12-27). This metaphor emphasizes unity, diversity of gifts, and the communal nature of the Church.

- Examples: - In the Eucharist, Catholics believe they partake in the real presence of Christ, which nourishes them spiritually.

- The metaphor of the Church as Christ's body encourages believers to work together, recognizing that each person has a role to play in the life of the Church.

### 2. THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES

- Meaning: In John 15:1-8, Jesus uses the metaphor of the vine and the branches to describe the relationship between Himself and His followers. He is the vine, and believers are the branches. This metaphor emphasizes the necessity of remaining connected to Christ to bear spiritual fruit.

- Examples: - Catholics understand this metaphor as a call to remain in communion with Christ through prayer, the sacraments, and adherence to His teachings. A life detached from Christ is spiritually unproductive, much like a branch severed from a vine withers and dies.

### 3. SHEPHERD AND SHEEP

- Meaning: Jesus is often depicted as the Good Shepherd, and believers as His sheep (John 10:11-16). This metaphor conveys care, guidance, and the protective relationship between Christ and His followers.

- Examples: - The image of the Good Shepherd is invoked in pastoral care, where priests are seen as shepherds of their congregations, leading them in spiritual matters, just as Christ leads the Church.

- The Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:3-7) uses this metaphor to illustrate God's joy in bringing back a sinner who repents.

### 4. LIGHT AND DARKNESS

- Meaning: Light and darkness are powerful metaphors throughout Scripture and Catholic tradition. Light represents truth, goodness, and the presence of God, while darkness symbolizes sin, evil, and ignorance.

- Examples: - Jesus is referred to as the "Light of the World" (John 8:12), signifying that He is the source of spiritual illumination and guidance. Catholics are called to be "children of light" (Ephesians 5:8) by living righteous lives that reflect Christ's teachings.

- During the Easter Vigil, the Paschal Candle is lit as a symbol of Christ's resurrection, bringing light to the darkness of sin and death.

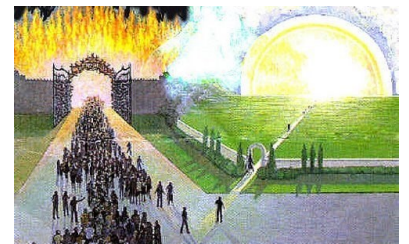
### 5. THE NARROW GATE

- Meaning: The metaphor of the "narrow gate" comes from Matthew 7:13-14, where Jesus teaches that the path to eternal life is difficult and requires discipline, whereas the path to destruction is broad and easy.

- Examples: - This metaphor is used in Catholic teachings to encourage believers to strive for holiness, often against the easier, more tempting paths offered by the world. It underscores the importance of moral vigilance and the challenges of living a Christian life.

### 6. LIVING WATER

- Meaning: In John 4:10-14, Jesus speaks of "living water," a metaphor for the grace and eternal life that He offers. Unlike physical water, which quenches



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

thirst temporarily, the living water from Christ satisfies the deepest spiritual needs eternally.

- Examples: - The sacrament of Baptism, which involves water, symbolizes the washing away of sin and the infusion of divine life into the soul. The "living water" also points to the Holy Spirit's indwelling in the believer.

## 7. SALT OF THE EARTH

- Meaning: Jesus calls His followers the "salt of the earth" in Matthew 5:13, highlighting their role in preserving goodness and adding flavor to the world through their witness.

- Examples: Catholics are encouraged to be "salt" by living lives that reflect the values of the Gospel, influencing society positively, and preserving moral integrity in a world prone to corruption.

## 8. THE ROCK

- Meaning: The metaphor of the "rock" is multifaceted in Catholicism:

- Peter as the Rock: Jesus declares Peter the "rock" upon which He will build His Church (Matthew 16:18). This metaphor signifies stability, strength, and the foundation of the Church's authority.

- Christ as the Cornerstone: Christ is also referred to as the cornerstone, the essential foundation of the Church and the faith (Ephesians 2:20).

- Examples: The Pope, as the successor of Peter, is seen as the "rock" that ensures the Church's unity and faithfulness to Christ's teachings.

- The Church is often described as a "rock" of stability in a changing world, offering enduring truth and guidance.

## 9. THE ARMOR OF GOD

- Meaning: In Ephesians 6:10-18, Paul uses the metaphor of armor to describe the spiritual defenses Christians must "wear" to stand against evil. The armor includes the belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, and sword of the Spirit.

- Examples: This metaphor encourages Catholics to be vigilant in their spiritual lives, using prayer, scripture, and the sacraments as tools to resist temptation and evil influences.

## 10. THE WEDDING FEAST

- Meaning: The metaphor of the wedding feast is used by Jesus to describe the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 22:1-14). It symbolizes the joyous and intimate union between God and His people, often represented in the imagery of a bride and groom.

- Examples: The celebration of the Eucharist is sometimes likened to a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, where the faithful are united with Christ in a profound communion.

- Marriage itself is seen as a sacramental reflection of Christ's love for the Church, with the husband and wife representing Christ and the Church, respectively (Ephesians 5:25-32).

## 11. THE POTTER AND THE CLAY

- Meaning: The metaphor of the potter and the clay, found in Isaiah 64:8 and Romans 9:21, represents God's sovereignty and the believer's submission to His will. God, as the potter, shapes and molds the clay (human beings) according to His divine purpose.

- Examples: This metaphor teaches Catholics to trust in God's plan and to be open to His shaping influence in their lives, even in difficult circumstances. It emphasizes the need for humility and surrender to God's will.

## 12. THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

- Meaning: In Matthew 13:45-46, Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a merchant seeking fine pearls, who sells everything to buy the pearl of great price. This metaphor illustrates the incomparable value of the Kingdom and the sacrifices one must be willing to make to attain it.

- Examples: This metaphor is used to inspire Catholics to prioritize their spiritual lives over worldly pursuits, recognizing that the ultimate treasure lies in a relationship with God and eternal life with Him.

## 13. THE MUSTARD SEED

- Meaning: The mustard seed, described by Jesus in Matthew 13:31-32, represents the Kingdom of God. Though it starts as the smallest of seeds, it grows into a large tree. This metaphor highlights the seemingly small beginnings of God's work and its eventual, expansive impact.

- Examples: Catholics are encouraged to have faith, even if it seems small or insignificant, trusting that God can use it to accomplish great things. This metaphor also speaks to the Church's growth from humble beginnings to a global community.

## CONCLUSION:

Catholic metaphors provide a rich tapestry of imagery that helps believers understand and live out the mysteries of faith.

These metaphors, drawn from scripture and tradition, connect the spiritual with the tangible, making complex theological concepts accessible and meaningful.

Whether through the image of the Body of Christ, the light and darkness, or the mustard seed, these metaphors invite Catholics to deepen their relationship with God and live out their faith in practical and transformative ways.



## DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES



### DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES

MAKE: A Pastoral Letter for the People of the Diocese of Joliet: Evangelization

Last month we looked at Bishop Hicks' first point in his letter: Catechesis. This month we will look at Evangelization.

Bishop Hicks writes: "As we deepen our knowledge of Jesus, we also discover His invitation to enter into a loving, personal relationship with Him. This is evangelization, which opens our heart to His love and intimate friendship." This definition of evangelization might be different than you thought. Think about it, it is really quite beautiful.

At Holy Ghost, your discipleship team has named that our parishioners find opportunities to grow in their personal relationship with Jesus through:

- \* Daily and Sunday Masses
- \* Holy Eucharist
- \* Adoration
- \* Holy Hour
- \* Prayer Services
- \* Rosary
- \* Reconciliation
- \* OCIA: Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy Eucharist, Confirmation
- \* Retreat Opportunities
- \* Sacraments

What have we missed that has offered you the opportunity to truly know the presence of Jesus in your life?

Bishop Hicks writes: "I want you to love Jesus too! This is a deep desire of all who accept the Lord's invitation to go and make disciples."

Ask yourself: "In what ways can I lead others to an encounter with God?"

Please reach out to me with your ideas and please pray for the Discipleship Team and Fr. Sam as we put the Bishop's Pastoral Letter into action.

Susan Tutaj  
Coordinator of Discipleship  
[stutaj@holyghostparish.org](mailto:stutaj@holyghostparish.org)  
630-860-3691



**MAKE**

A Pastoral Letter for the People  
of the Diocese of Joliet

## FAITH FORMATION

During this busy Christmas season let us always remember the reason for the season. We celebrate Jesus Christ coming into the world because of His love for us; and it is a time to not only adore our Savior but to spread God's love to others. Jesus expects us to care for the poor and those in need. What will you do during Advent to reach out to those in need? Here are a few suggestions.

Bring non-perishable food for the Wood Dale Food pantry and place the items in the bins in the gym. This greatly impacts people in our community and is a direct way to "feed the hungry."

**Faith Formation families will be making "blessing bags" for those in need and we are collecting \$10.00 gift cards for fast food places such as McDonalds, Burger King, Wendy's, Taco Bell or Dunkin Donuts. We are also looking for gloves, hats, socks, tooth brushes and toothpaste, travel size toiletries and nutritious breakfast bars such as granola, etc. All donations should be directed to the Faith Formation office on or before January 18, 2026.**

During Advent let us also remember Blessed Mother Mary, the mother of Jesus. She was conceived without sin; she remained a virgin throughout her life and was assumed body and soul into heaven. Mary is also our spiritual mother. She is Queen of heaven and earth.

*"Mary, then, is Queen, but Queen in the way of a mother, serving all her children, guiding them in their most personal and intimate life, not so much by law and precept as by kindly prompting and persuasion, with an affectionate smile on her countenance as she goes about bestowing a mother's tender care on all her children, on the lowliest no less than on the more fortunate. In fact, the more humble and lowly her children, the more mother she is to them. And the more we put ourselves in Mary's guiding care, the more quickly she leads us up to God." - St. Therese of Lisieux*

May everyone have a very holy and blessed Christmas!

Nancy Siemers  
Director of Faith Formation







## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Holy Ghost Council 10325 is offering Achatz pies for Christmas. ACHATZ Pies are rated by the Food Network as "Best Handmade Pies in America." If you enjoyed an Achatz pie at Thanksgiving, tell your friends. Make your Christmas special with a delicious pie and support the charitable work of the Knights.

Fill out the form at the Holy Ghost Welcome Center  
pay by cash or check payable to: K of C #10325. Order online with credit/debit card with the QR code



All orders must be received by Noon, Wednesday, Dec. 10.

Pies will be ready for pick up Tuesday, Dec. 23 between 3pm and 6pm.



### Stay Connected This Advent!

Advent is just around the corner! Be sure to follow our parish on social media for updates on upcoming events, reflections, and ways to prepare your heart for Christmas. Don't miss important announcements—check our Facebook, website and future bulletins for all the latest Advent information.

## UPCOMING COLLECTIONS



Rainy day fund for repairs  
C.O.R.E (Catholic Outreach)  
Christmas Flowers  
Immaculate Conception  
Retirement for Religious  
Christmas Day  
Mary Mother of God



Second collections can be made online at we share on our website [holyghostparish.org](http://holyghostparish.org) or by scanning the QR code.



# Fannie May

PREMIUM CHOCOLATIER SINCE 1920

## FUNDRAISING 2025

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Faith Formation Fannie May fundraiser. As a reminder, **Pick up is Sunday, December 14.**

We're grateful for your continued support.



OUR PARISH'S  
GIVING TREE

### The Giving Tree – Share the Joy of Christmas!

If you took a tag, please return your **wrapped gift with the tag attached by December 6 & 7.** Your generosity helps bring the light of Christ to families who might otherwise go without. Together, we can make this Advent season one

of hope, love, and joy for others.

Thank you for being part of this beautiful tradition of giving!

## CORE (Christian Out Reach Effort)

Three days after Thanksgiving and the First Sunday of Advent is upon us. Fitting that these two themes occur so close together.

A way to express or show our gratitude for what we have is to share with those in need. This attitude is evident at Holy Ghost Parish. Our monthly CORE collection gives us a reminder of this attitude, as well as an opportunity to put it into practice.

With Advent comes our practice of the Giving Tree and the practice of outreach to those who need help putting food on the table. This past Easter you helped six-two families. That is a lot of people who were helped to have food for their Easter celebration. Because of you we can again help at Christmas.

In the Gospel we read, "What you have done to others, you have done to me." And in Sirach 7:32, "To the poor also extend your hand, that your blessings may be complete"

Thank you, Thank you.

**MYPARISH APP** Stay connected with our parish throughout the week with instant notifications, an easy-to-access event calendar. Also enjoy a bunch of additional features like prayers, daily readings, helpful reminders to silence your phone before Mass or Confession, and much more.

Download our app today at [myparishapp.com](http://myparishapp.com) or search your phone's app store for myparish.



## ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE AT HOLY GHOST CHURCH

DECEMBER 2: THE ANNUNCIATION

DECEMBER 9: THE VISITATION

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

### Christmas Day Prayer

Today marks the end of the Advent season and the beginning of the Christmas season. We have lighted four candles these past four weeks and asked God to help us be present to our neighbors and friends. Now in the Christmas season we are called to be Christ in the flesh to our world.

Let us pray...

God,  
you became human through the obedience  
of a simple young woman named Mary.  
Mary is our model of faith.  
May we be faithful to your word as Mary was.  
Give us the courage to face each day  
with the yes that Mary gave to you.  
We ask this through the incarnate God,  
who comes to us again during this Christmas season.  
Amen.



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS®

### Join the Knights of Columbus

- ◆ We have more than 2,100,000 men in more than 16,900 councils headquartered in Catholic parishes around the world.
- ◆ Knights put their faith into action every day to make life better in their parishes and communities.
- ◆ We offer men the opportunity to grow in their faith while helping others and supporting the Church, and to become better Catholics, husbands and fathers.
- ◆ The Knights of Columbus annually contributes nearly \$190 million to worthy charitable causes around the world, and our members donate nearly 47 million hours of their time.
- ◆ Our founder – Blessed Michael McGivney – has been beatified by the Church. People around the world seek his intercession through prayer.
- ◆ All practicing Catholic men 18 years or older are invited to join.
- ◆ Call Grand Knight Warren Wawczak for more info. 630-487-7925



## ShopWithScrip®

Every gift card you purchase from the SCRIP program benefits Holy Ghost with no additional cost to you. Skip the mall, save your gas and your mileage by buying SCRIP!

We carry hundreds of stores, and we also have VISA gift cards with NO ACTIVATION FEE! There are order forms in the vestibules of the church or stop by the parish office.

For more information call the parish office at 630-860-2975 or email: [hgsecretary@holyghostparish.org](mailto:hgsecretary@holyghostparish.org)



You can buy online at <https://www.raiseright.com/enroll/> and use enrollment Code: 59555D1L5432

**SUNDAY  
MISSAL**

2025 – 2026



†LivingwithChrist

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



# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2025

ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE  
7:00PM in church

December 2: The Annunciation  
December 9: The Visitation  
December 16: The Nativity

HOLY GHOST ADVENT TEA

SPONSORED BY THE COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

December 12 at 6PM

Featured Speaker: Fr. Tony Pizzo

Please register by December 1.

\$20 per person

Please make your check to:  
Holy Ghost Catholic Council of Women

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

(Holy Day of Obligation)

December 8

8:30 AM Mass

7:00 PM Mass

Immaculate  
Conception



**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.**



RECONCILIATION

SATURDAYS

3PM to 3:45PM

EXCEPT DECEMBER 20



ROSARY

9:00 AM MONDAY-THURSDAY

7:00 PM THURSDAYS



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

**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)**



WITH JOYFUL HEARTS,  
WE WELCOME OUR  
NEWLY BAPTIZED.

KHLOE SOPHIA BAIN-MARTINEZ  
CARTER VIERA  
IVY MAE MICHELSON

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

## IN LOVING MEMORY

### DEARLY DEPARTED

GREGORY FRANCIS BRONSBURG  
9/5/1948 - 9/25/2025

RAMON SALVADORE GARZA  
9/1/1929-11/8/2025

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
and may the perpetual light shine upon  
them. May the souls of all the faithful  
departed, through the mercy of  
God, rest in peace.

### Prayer for Christmas Visitors

God bless us all this Christmas season,  
those who enter and exit our home,  
those near and far away, those who  
will visit and those who cannot. Fill our  
lives with the peace that comes from  
You. Amen.

### ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,  
I believe that You are present  
in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen.



### 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, and Holy Days of Obligation.  
No other intentions will be taken  
for the Masses on these days.

### 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  
THE KNIGHTS OF  
COLUMBUS  
TO PRAY THE ROSARY  
AFTER THE 10:30 AM  
MASS ON SUNDAY, JAN 11, 2025



PLEASE JOIN US  
TO PRAY THE ROSARY  
MONDAY THROUGH  
THURSDAY  
AT 9 AM AND ON  
THURSDAY  
EVENINGS AT 7PM.

Lord, we ask you to bless all those who  
serve; grant your heavenly protection to  
these brave men and women. Please give  
them and their loved ones strength and  
peace. 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 Petrbo  
A1C Ryan Leider  
A1C Nicholas Pfeifer

### 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

### LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

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

**And for those listed in our parish  
book of prayers.**

### Military and Prayer List

Please email:

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

**Thank you!**



The parish office will close at  
noon on Tuesday, Dec 23 and  
will reopen at 8:00am Monday,  
January 5, 2026

### 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.