

# FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

## CHURCH OF THE HOLY GHOST



### WHY MOTHER MARY CAN'T BE GIVEN THE TITLE "CO-REDEMPTRIX": A Catholic Perspective

The debate over whether Mary, the Mother of Jesus, should be given the title "Co-Redemptrix" has been discussed for centuries within Catholic theology. While Mary holds a unique and exalted place in the Catholic Church's teaching due to her role in salvation history, the title "Co-Redemptrix" presents theological difficulties that have led to hesitation in officially endorsing it.

Here's a comprehensive exploration of **why** Mary cannot be given the title "Co-Redemptrix":

#### 1. CHRIST IS THE SOLE REDEEMER

At the heart of Catholic theology is the teaching that Jesus Christ is the **sole Redeemer** of humanity.

This doctrine is central to the Catholic faith and is grounded in Scripture, such as 1 Timothy 2:5, which states, "For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus."

Christ's death and resurrection uniquely accomplished the redemption of all humanity.

The title "Co-Redemptrix" could imply a **shared equality** in the redemptive work between Jesus and Mary, which contradicts the Church's teaching that Christ alone carried out the work of redemption through His sacrificial death on the cross.

•Supporting Scripture:

- **Romans 5:19** – "For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous."
- **Hebrews 9:12** – "He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves



but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption."

#### 2. CO-REDEMPTRIX COULD BE MISINTERPRETED AS EQUALITY WITH CHRIST

The prefix "Co-" in "Co-Redemptrix" comes from the Latin word "cum," meaning "with." Theologically, this could be interpreted as Mary working **alongside Christ** in a way that suggests equal status or shared responsibility in the act of redemption.

This interpretation could easily lead to misunderstanding, as it might imply that Mary, in her human capacity, shares the same redemptive power as Christ, who is both fully divine and fully human.

The Church teaches that while Mary cooperated in a unique and extraordinary way with God's plan of salvation, she did not and could not **participate** in the redemptive sacrifice in the same way that Jesus, the Son of God, did.

•Catechism of the Catholic Church:

- **CCC 613**: "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.'"



#### 3. MARY'S ROLE IS MEDIATIVE, NOT REDEMPTRIVE

While the Church honors Mary as the **Mediatrix of All Graces**, her role is understood as one of **intercession**, not redemption.

As Mediatrix, Mary prays for humanity and distributes the graces obtained through Christ's redemptive act, but she does not generate those graces herself. She is a channel, not the source, of divine grace.

The title "Co-Redemptrix" might obscure this distinction, leading to confusion about her role in salvation history.

Mary's role is indeed special, but it remains subordinate to and dependent upon Christ's unique redemptive work.

•Supporting Scripture:

- **John 19:26-27**: At the crucifixion, Jesus gives Mary to John (and symbolically to the Church) as mother, showing her mediative role in the spiritual life of Christians.

•Vatican II Teaching:



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- **Lumen Gentium, 62**:

"Mary's maternal duty towards men in no way obscures or diminishes this unique mediation of Christ, but rather shows its power. For all the salvific influence of the Blessed Virgin on men originates, not from any inner necessity, but from the divine pleasure."

#### 4. POTENTIAL FOR CONFUSION AMONG THE FAITHFUL

The title "Co-Redemptrix" is not commonly understood by the laity in its nuanced theological sense. Many might interpret "Co-Redemptrix" as meaning that Mary played a **role equal to Christ** in the redemption of mankind, which would contradict the core tenet of Christianity—that only Christ is the Redeemer. Given the importance of clarity in Church teaching, using a title that could easily lead to misunderstanding would not be pastorally wise.

##### •POPE FRANCIS' POSITION:

Pope Francis has expressed reservations about the term "Co-Redemptrix."

During a public audience in 2019, he stated, "Mary is a mother, and she should not be reduced to titles of this kind," suggesting that such titles can overshadow Mary's true mission, which is to lead us to her Son, Jesus Christ.

#### 5. MARY'S ROLE IS ONE OF COOPERATION, NOT CAUSATION

Mary's role in the plan of salvation is one of **active cooperation** with God's will, not as the **cause** of salvation. Her "yes" (the Fiat) to the angel Gabriel's announcement in Luke 1:38 initiated her role as the Mother of God and opened the way for the Incarnation. However, while she cooperated with God's redemptive plan, she did not cause salvation.

This distinction between cooperation and causation is crucial.

Christ alone, through His divine nature and sacrifice, is the **cause of salvation**.

Supporting Scripture:

- **Luke 1:38** - "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

Mary's humble acceptance of God's plan shows her cooperative role, but not a causative one in the act of redemption.

#### 6. SALVATION IS THE WORK OF DIVINE GRACE, NOT HUMAN ACTION

Catholic theology emphasizes that **salvation is solely by God's grace**, not human effort. While human beings, including Mary, cooperate with grace, they do not cause or produce it.

Mary's cooperation is an essential part of the economy of salvation, but her role remains entirely dependent on Christ's redemptive act.



The title "Co-Redemptrix" might obscure this critical theological point, suggesting that Mary contributed to redemption through her own merit or work, rather than as a recipient of and participant in God's grace.

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

- **CCC 1996**:

"Our justification comes from the grace of God. Grace is favor, the free and undeserved help that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God, adoptive sons, partakers of the divine nature and of eternal life."

#### 7. THE CHURCH HAS NEVER OFFICIALLY ENDORSED THE TITLE

Despite the long theological discussion surrounding the title "Co-Redemptrix," the Catholic Church has **never officially proclaimed it**.

While the Church holds Mary in the highest regard, titles such as "Mother of God" (Theotokos) and "Mediatrix of All Graces" have been given greater attention.

The lack of official endorsement reflects the Church's caution in avoiding titles that might cause theological confusion or undermine the unique role of Christ in salvation.

#### CONCLUSION:

Honoring Mary's True Role  
In conclusion, while Mary is venerated as the Mother of God and holds a unique place in the Church's life, calling her "Co-Redemptrix" risks misunderstanding the **uniqueness** of Christ's redemptive work.

The Catholic Church recognizes Mary as a model of faith, the New Eve, and the **Mediatrix of Grace**, but maintains that Christ alone is the Redeemer of humanity.

Her cooperation in God's plan of salvation is profound, but it remains **subordinate** to Christ's singular and all-sufficient sacrifice.

Therefore, while Mary's role is critical and exalted, it does not extend to **co-redeeming** in the way that only Christ can.



# LENT/EASTER 2026



## Ash Wednesday:

Wednesday, February 18  
Mass with Ashes 8:30AM  
Ash Distribution 12PM—1PM (no Mass)  
Mass with Ashes 7:00PM



## Rosary:

Monday-Thursday at 9:00AM  
First Friday at 9:00AM  
Thursdays at 7:00PM



## Stations of the Cross:

Fridays 6:00PM  
February 20, 27  
March 6, 13, 20, 27

### **Lenten Disciplines of Fasting & Abstinence**

Catholics in good health ages 18 to 59 are required to fast and to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting consists of eating only one meal, with the possibility of two smaller snacks that do not add up to a single full meal.

Catholics age 14 and older are to abstain from meat on all Fridays in Lent.



## Reconciliation:

Held at: Immaculate Conception Church  
132 Arthur St., Elmhurst  
630-530-8515

Saturday, March 21, from  
8:00AM to 3:00PM.

(Instead of individual parishes having penance services, this Deanery Reconciliation event is offered for you to attend.)

There will be no confessions at Holy Ghost on Saturday, March 21.

## Holy Week:

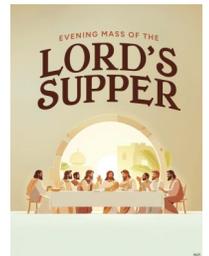
### Palm Sunday Mass:

March 28 Mass 4:00PM  
March 29 Masses  
8:00AM and 10:30AM



### Holy Thursday:

April 2  
7:00PM - Mass  
8:00PM - Midnight  
Adoration of the Blessed  
Sacrament (Emmaus Room)



### Good Friday Services:

April 3 3:00PM



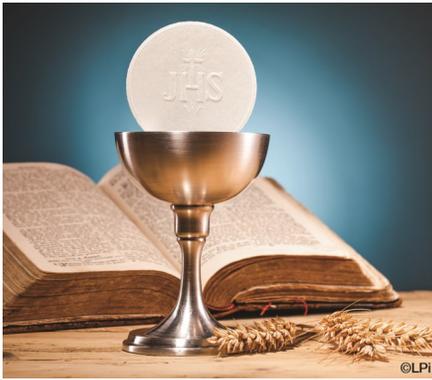
### Holy Saturday:

April 4  
10:00AM - Basket Blessing  
7:00PM - Vigil Mass

### Easter Sunday:

April 5 Masses  
8:00AM and 10:30AM





# Mass INTENTIONS

## Mass Intention Guidelines (Effective January 1, 2026)

The practice of requesting a Mass to be offered for loved ones, living or deceased, is a beautiful and meaningful part of our Catholic tradition. In our parish, we have many requests for scheduling such Mass intentions. We try to honor these to the best of our ability and in accordance with the Code of Canon Law for the Universal Catholic Church. As such, the following guidelines are being implemented to accommodate the numerous requests in a reasonable and fair manner. **Any mass intentions already in the books will still be honored this year. We will not be removing anyone.**

### Requesting a Mass:

*Anyone may request a Mass Intention for:*

A person who is living or deceased, Catholic or non-Catholic.

Intentions for a particular person/people.

Intentions for members of a particular family/families.

A special intention appropriate to the celebration of the Eucharist e.g.: World Peace, Vocations, Respect for Life, etc. These intentions should be general and not specific to an individual.

Mass intentions will be honored in the parish office on a first-come, first-served basis, in order in which the request is received.

*We begin accepting new intentions only a few months at a time.*

Currently accepting intentions thru June 2026

July 2026 & August 2026 we will begin accepting in April 2026

September 2026 & October 2026 we will begin accepting in May 2026

November 2026 & December 2026 we will begin accepting in June 2026

January 2027 & February 2027 we will begin accepting in July 2026

March 2027 & April 2027 we will begin accepting in September 2026

May 2027 & June 2027 we will begin accepting in November 2026

July 2027 & August 2027 we will begin accepting in January 2027

September 2027 & October 2027 we will begin accepting in March 2027

November 2027 & December 2027 we will begin accepting in May 2027

*Intentions can be accepted over the phone.*

When requesting a Mass Intention please use the Mass Intention Request Form found on our Parish website, at the Parish Office or the vestibules in the church. You can drop off request forms in person, or send by mail or email to the parish office at [hgsecretary@holyghostparish.org](mailto:hgsecretary@holyghostparish.org)

**Each household or group may request a maximum of four (4) Mass Intentions at one time.**

A \$10 stipend is suggested per Mass Intentions. A Mass offering may be more than the suggested stipend.

Please write checks payable to Holy Ghost Church.

Mass intentions will be published in the parish bulletin and announced at each Mass.

### Changes & Cancellations:

If a Mass is cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, the intention will be rescheduled on the next available date.

The pastor reserves the right to reschedule a Mass intention due to unforeseen parish conflicts.

This information is also on our website under the Mass Intention tab.

# FAITH FORMATION

As we get close to Valentine's Day it is a good time to remember we are all called to love and take care of one another and to live in peace. Jesus expects us to care for the poor and those in need. We use the Spiritual (having to do with the soul) and Corporal Works (having to do with the body) of Mercy to help us in our endeavors, and all of us are encouraged to continuously "live" the Works of Mercy.

## Spiritual Works of Mercy

*Forgive Offenses*  
 Comfort the afflicted  
 Bear wrongs patiently  
**Instruct the ignorant**  
 Counsel the doubtful  
**ADMONISH SINNERS**  
*Pray for the living and the dead*

## Corporal Works of Mercy

*Feed the Hungry*  
 Give drink to the thirsty  
*Shelter the Homeless*  
 CLOTHE THE NAKED  
*Visit the sick*  
**VISIT THE IMPRISONED**  
 Bury the dead

Please keep our OCIA Candidates (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) in prayer as they continue to learn more about the Catholic Faith and as they go through the process of sacramental initiation into the Roman Catholic faith. All Holy Ghost parishioners are asked to please prayerfully support the candidates as they are discerning God's invitation to embrace life in the Catholic Christian community as a follower of Jesus. May the candidates know we are Christians by our love and support.

Let us all rejoice in the Lord always,  
 Nancy Siemers  
 Director of Faith Formation

"I need nothing in this world in order to be happy. I only need to see Jesus in Heaven, Whom I now see and adore on the Altar with the eyes of faith."  
 St. Dominic Savio

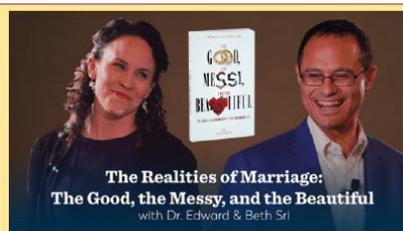
"The first end I propose in our daily work is to do the will of God; secondly, to do it in the manner he wills it; and thirdly to do it because it is His will."  
 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton



# 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



## Marriage Ministry Workshop with Dr. Edward & Beth Sri

Come all who are interested in supporting marriage ministry across the Diocese of Joliet. This workshop is for all who want to help with marriage preparation, marriage enrichment or any ministry to marriages and families. We will begin with a presentation by the Sris followed by an introduction to specific offerings for marriage and family ministry. Leave with resources you can put into place at the local level, inspired with others who want to do the same!

**Wednesday, 2/4/26**  
**3pm to 4:30pm**

**Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church**  
**701 S. Eola Road, Aurora, IL 60504**

Register for FREE at <https://forms.office.com/r/uRuS8wARba> or by scanning the QR code.



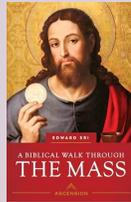
**MAKE**  
 A Pastoral Letter for the People  
 of the Diocese of Joliet

## DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES



Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday, February 18, 2026. Plan on joining us for one of the following Lenten courses by signing up on SignUpGenius today which can be found on the parish website: [holyghostparish.org](http://holyghostparish.org). Contact Susan: 630-860-3691 or [stutaj@holyghostparish.org](mailto:stutaj@holyghostparish.org) with questions.

### **BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH MASS: Sunday 7pm Virtual (starts 2/22; Monday 10am Room 9 (starts 2/23) ; Wednesday 7pm Room 9 (starts 2/25)**



This course is a scriptural tour through the prayers, hymns and rituals of the Mass. Almost every part of the Mass finds its inspiration in Scripture. The more we understand the biblical background, the more we will be able to enter into all we do and say at Mass. No matter your age, I guarantee you will learn something new!

"Everyone would benefit from experiencing this course to deepen their understanding of the mass."

"The videos were great, very energizing, very informative."

"This course has caused me to think more about all that is happening during the Mass and to participate more fully. It would be wonderful if all parishioners understood the significance of the actions and prayers in the Mass."

### **THE RESCUE PROJECT: Monday 7pm Room Koinonia Room (starts 2/23)**



### **Tuesday Noon Room 9 (starts 2/24)**

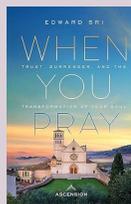
All adults and teens are invited to join us in discovering their faith story. The Rescue Project is led by Fr. John Riccardo. Each video session is followed by reflection questions that can be discerned by the group or privately. The Rescue Project makes the gospel repeatable and accessible; calls out the enemy; that Jesus is unconquerable; integrates the Sacraments in the context of the gospel; clarifies the mission of Jesus and His disciples; and is rooted in early Church preaching.

"Do it, you'll love it!"

"The videos were very informative and engaging, The discussions in class felt open, honest and authentic and not at all intimidating which made it easy to participate."

"Rescued People Rescue People"

### **WHEN YOU PRAY: A Clear Path to a Deeper Relationship With God Monday 7pm Room 9 (starts 2/23)**



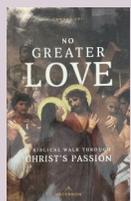
When You Pray meets 7 weeks and includes a familiar format for those who have been in courses facilitated by Edward Sri previously. Included in this study are session summaries, engaging discussion questions, Talk Notes for the videos and short home reading assignments. The 30 minute videos are recorded in Italy by Dr. Sri. They provide comprehensive teaching and commentary on Catholic Prayer.

"First time in a group. The group has been calming for me. Inspired by the Holy Spirit to sign up."

"Brought me deeper into richer prayer."

"Reminded me to listen and ask God directly what he wants me to know. Focusing on silence helped me to go deeper."

### **NO GREATER LOVE: A BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH CHRIST'S PASSION Tuesday 7pm (starts 2/24)**



If you missed this class last year or want to take it again, be sure to sign up this year! It will greatly enrich your Lenten journey. This course begins with Jesus in Gethsemane and ends 5 weeks later with the Seven Last Words of Jesus. This is a scripture based course assisted with a video for each session.

"No Greater Love brought the passion and death of Our Lord and Savior to life for me. The videos gave me the experience of walking the Way of the Via Dolorosa."

"I loved the series and the book reflections!"

WITH JOYFUL HEARTS,  
WE WELCOME OUR  
NEWLY BAPTIZED.

REID BENNETT HOBAN  
TRACE JACKSON MULLEN  
BRYSEN COLE MULLEN  
EVAN BENJAMIN RIMKUS  
SOPHIE COLLETTE VAZQUEZ

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

IN LOVING  
MEMORY

**DEARLY DEPARTED**

ROBERT ALLEN PAUSS  
8/6/1933 - 12/14/2025

DONALD LESMEISTER  
7/6/1929 - 12/24/2025

LOUISE CAPUANI  
4/11/1935 - 1/3/2026

JOHN SAM PETTINEO  
4/8/1939 - 1/8/2026

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.



**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, FEB 8, 2026



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  
MAJ Jeremy Shimanek  
1st LT Joshua Jalowiec  
SSGT Robert W. Dones  
SSGT Timothy Latvis  
SRA Randall Petrbock  
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

**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  
Michael Malek  
Jose Joaquin Negrete Paz  
Cindi Shea  
Frank Staggs  
Holly Staggs  
Nancy Townsend  
Larry Venere  
Feliciano Vero  
Gloria Villanueva  
Salvatore Vivo  
Joe Vocino  
Matt Vocino  
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!**

**Prayer for the Sick**

For those in pain and in sorrow,  
God be their comfort.  
For caretakers and medical staff,  
God give them grace.  
Surround those afflicted with Your  
love, care, and mercy, You who are  
our healing and our hope. Amen.  
©LPI



The parish office will be closed  
on Monday, February 16.

Thank you for your continued support  
of our ongoing food drive. Non-  
perishable canned, boxed and bagged  
items may be placed on the shelving  
unit in the gym.

