

CHURCH OF THE HOLY GHOST

A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF FAITH

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

#1116

Pastoral Staff

Fr. Sam Conforti
Pastor

Deacon Robert A. Lasica
Permanent Deacon

Boguslaw Kowalski
Permanent Deacon Candidate

Parish Staff

Tammy Campeotto
Business Manager x123

Joanne DeZur
Receptionist x120

Frances Hargadon
Funeral Ministry/Event Director x121

Kelly Scardina
App & Web Manager x122

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 its own Facebook page?

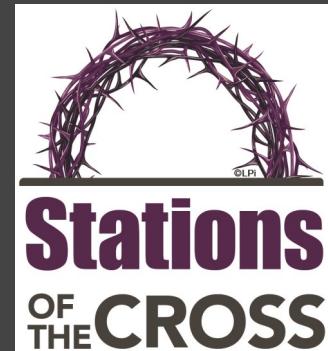
 Follow us to get information on upcoming events and more.



1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." - Mt 4:3

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPi

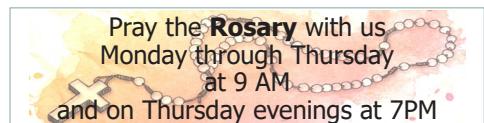


6pm on Fridays in Lent

February 27
March 6
March 13
March 20
March 27



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



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

February 22, 2026

First Sunday of Lent

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 21

4PM Mass

+Margie Skalski
+Ronald Skalski

Sunday, February 22

8AM Mass

+Horzy Stanislaw

10:30AM Mass

+Joseph DiCiolla

For the Parishioners of Holy Ghost Parish Living & Deceased



8:30AM Mass

Monday, February 23

+Laura Gniech

Tuesday, February 24

+Norine Pace

Wednesday, February 25

+Geri & Ron West

Thursday, February 26

+Margaret P. Gisburne

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 hbulletin@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

February 4 — February 10, 2026

Sunday Collection \$10,377.77

YTD Budget thru January 2026
\$312,083.35

YTD Actual thru January 2026
\$295,660.08

YTD Difference thru January 2026
-\$16,423.27



Catholic Ministries
Annual Appeal

Diocese of Joliet

	2026
Parish Goal	\$54,200
Amount Pledged	\$0
Amount Paid	\$0
Balance Due	\$0
Donors	0
2026 Rebate	\$0

Updated 2/9/2026

Pledge your gift to the CMAA

The 2026 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA) is a powerful way to put our faith into action.

This year's theme is Beyond all Expectations: Faith that Elevates! When we care for those in need, we answer this call. Our parish joins with other parishes to serve the vulnerable, grow children in faith, and strengthen vocations. We cannot foster these ministries alone. This is a diocese-wide effort.

We receive 70% of any amount raised over our goal to reinvest in our parish.

Please prayerfully consider your gift and help our parish reach \$54,200. Complete and return a pledge envelope in church today.

Thank you for your support!

UPCOMING 2ND COLLECTIONS

Feb 18 —Church in Central/Eastern Europe
Feb 21 —CORE

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.





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
MAJ 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

Pray for the Sick

Cathy Alcozer
Bianca Marie Borowski
Michael Brann
Micah Casey
Ady DeLargarza
Aldegunda Diego
Thomas Franzen
Izcoatl Garcia Gonzales
Mike Kaiser
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@holylghostparish.org or call the parish office at 630-860-2975 to add or remove a name from the list.
Thank you!

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.



Newly Baptized

We welcome Vincent James Mitura who was recently baptized into the family of God and into the faith community of Holy Ghost.

Please pray for him and his family.

PRAYER & WORSHIP

February 22, 2026

First Sunday of Lent

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 John Santoro

From Elisa Santoro

Please include your choice of date from the list below.

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

March 14/15, 28/29
April 11/12, 18/19, 25/26
May 2/3, 9/10, 16/17, 23/24, 30/31

(*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:

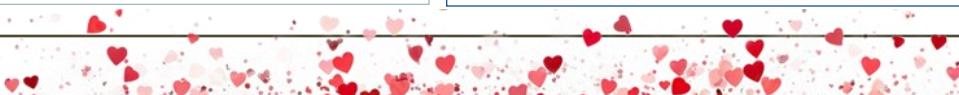
Holy Ghost Church
at 254 N Wood Dale Road,
Wood Dale IL 60191



In Memory of Evelyn & Joe Frontier

From Art & Pam Artman

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





SHARPENING FOCUS AS A SPIRITUAL SEEKER:

A Catholic Perspective
In the journey of spiritual seeking, sharpening one's focus is crucial to deepening one's relationship with God and aligning life with divine will.

From a Catholic perspective, this involves cultivating a disciplined spiritual life, being attentive to God's presence, and living out one's faith in concrete ways.

Here's an in-depth exploration of how to sharpen focus as a spiritual seeker, with examples and Biblical references.

1. CULTIVATING A HABIT OF PRAYER

Prayer is the foundation of the spiritual life and the primary means of communication with God. To sharpen focus as a spiritual seeker, one must cultivate a consistent and disciplined prayer life.

- Daily Prayer Routine:

Establishing a daily prayer routine, such as morning and evening prayers, the Rosary, or the Liturgy of the Hours, helps maintain a constant connection with God. For example, St. Francis of Assisi emphasized the importance of regular prayer to remain close to God (Luke 5:16, where Jesus often withdrew to pray).

- Meditation and Contemplation:

Meditating on Scripture or contemplating the mysteries of the Rosary can sharpen spiritual focus by directing the mind and heart toward God. The Ignatian practice of imaginative prayer, where one places themselves in the Gospel scenes, can deepen this focus.

- Eucharistic Adoration:

Spending time in Eucharistic Adoration allows one to focus entirely on the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. This practice sharpens spiritual awareness and fosters a deeper connection with God (Matthew 26:40).

2. ENGAGING WITH SACRED SCRIPTURE

Scripture is the living word of God and a powerful tool for spiritual growth. Engaging deeply with the Bible sharpens focus by providing spiritual nourishment and guidance.

- Lectio Divina:

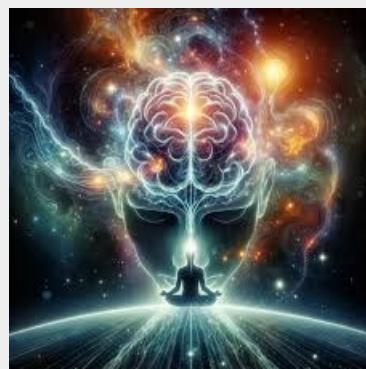
This ancient practice involves reading, meditating, praying, and contemplating Scripture. It sharpens focus by helping one to listen to God's voice in Scripture and apply His word to daily life (Psalm 119:105: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path").

- Biblical Study Groups:

Participating in or leading Bible study groups fosters a communal approach to understanding Scripture. Discussing and reflecting on passages with others can reveal deeper insights and strengthen one's focus on spiritual truths.

- Scripture Memorization:

Committing key Bible verses to memory allows for meditation throughout the day, keeping one's mind centered on God's word (Psalm 1:2: "But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law, he meditates day and night").



3. PRACTICING DISCERNMENT

Discernment is the process of seeking God's will in decision-making. Sharpening focus as a spiritual seeker involves developing the ability to discern God's voice amidst the noise of daily life.

- Ignatian Discernment:
St. Ignatius of Loyola's Spiritual Exercises provide a framework for discernment, focusing on recognizing movements of consolation and desolation in

one's heart. This helps sharpen focus on God's will in various circumstances (1 John 4:1: "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God").

- Seeking Spiritual Direction:

Regular meetings with a spiritual director can guide one in discerning God's voice and help sharpen spiritual focus. A spiritual director provides counsel and accountability in the pursuit of holiness.

- Examination of Conscience:

Practicing a daily examen, where one reflects on their thoughts, words, and actions, helps identify areas where they need to realign their focus with God's will (Psalm 139:23-24: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts").

4. LIVING THE SACRAMENTAL LIFE

The sacraments are vital encounters with God's grace that strengthen and sustain the spiritual seeker.

- Frequent Reception of the Eucharist:

Regularly receiving the Eucharist nourishes the soul and keeps the focus on Christ, who is the source of all spiritual life (John 6:56: "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them").

- Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Regular confession helps remove spiritual obstacles and sharpens focus by ensuring one's heart is purified and ready to receive God's grace (James 5:16: "Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed").

- Anointing of the Sick:

For those struggling with illness, the Anointing of the Sick provides spiritual healing and strength, helping to maintain focus on God's presence even in suffering (James 5:14: "Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord").

5. EMBRACING A LIFE OF SERVICE

Service to others is a tangible way to express one's love for God and neighbor, which sharpens spiritual focus by putting faith into action.

- Corporal Works of Mercy:

Engaging in acts of mercy, such as feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, or sheltering the homeless, sharpens focus on living out the Gospel in daily life (Matthew 25:35-40: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink...").

- Volunteering:

Volunteering at parish ministries, such as visiting the elderly or working with the poor, keeps the focus on serving Christ in others

(Matthew 20:28: "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many").

- Living the Beatitudes:

Striving to live according to the Beatitudes sharpens focus on the values of the Kingdom of God, such as humility, mercy, and peacemaking (Matthew 5:3-12).

CONCLUSION:

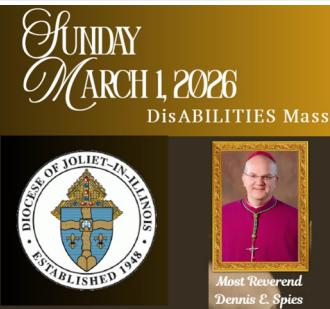
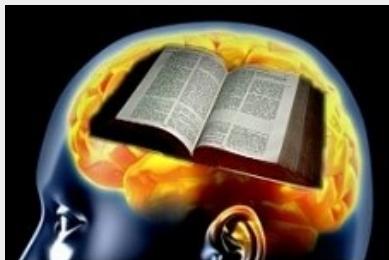
A Focused Pursuit of God

Sharpening focus as a spiritual seeker in the Catholic tradition is a multifaceted journey that involves prayer, Scripture, discernment, sacramental life, and service.

Each aspect contributes to aligning one's life more closely with God's will, fostering a deeper relationship with Him, and enabling a clearer vision of the path

He calls each person to walk.

Through consistent and intentional practice of these spiritual disciplines, Catholics can sharpen their focus on God, becoming more attuned to His presence and more faithful in their daily walk with Christ.



I Thirst

A Guided Meditation with Mother Teresa



When Jesus said, "I thirst" on the cross he wasn't talking about wanting water. He was talking about thirsting for you! Please come to our CCW sponsored Holy Hour based on the Reflections of St. Mother Teresa and her meditations on Jesus' great love for us.

Lenten Holy Hour and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at 7 PM
in the Church

Followed by an "Evening of Fellowship" sponsored by the Holy Ghost Council of Catholic Women. Light Refreshments will be provided.

We will be electing the CCW Woman of the Year.
Please join us.



NEWS & EVENTS

February 22, 2026

First Sunday of Lent

DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES



Ash Wednesday begins on February 18, 2026. In addition to the Biblical Walk Through the Mass and The Rescue Project, we have two more courses for you to consider.

Go to SIGNUPGENIUS on the parish website: holylghostparish.org or contact Susan: 630-860-3691 or stutaj@holylghostparish.org with questions or help.

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!"

Eastern DuPage Deanery of the Joliet Diocese Liturgical Enrichment Day

Eucharistic Revival in our Deanery

All those who participate in liturgical ministries, including ExtraOrdinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, Musicians, Greeters, and Ushers are invited.

Please register at easterndupagedeanery.org

Saturday, March 7th

Ascension of Our Lord Parish

1S314 Summit Avenue, Oakbrook Terrace

Mass will be celebrated from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

9:00 – 9:50 Check-in will continue with Continental Breakfast

**Mass Presider and presentation by
Rev. Brian Geary**

Final Blessing will be at 12 Noon

To register, visit easterndupagedeanery.org Or scan the QR code



CCW & MORE

February 22, 2026

First Sunday of Lent

CCW Chair Exercise Class February 10, 2026

Lead by Dawne Morong, PiYo Instructor
14 ladies had a great time in class.



Prayer for Lent

Dear Jesus,
This is the first Sunday of Lent, and I want to commit myself more deeply to you this season. Inspire me with the Lenten penances you most desire, the ones that help me to grow ever nearer to you. Amen.

©LPI

CCW Blood Drive on February 15, 2026.

First time donor Thomas Lasica, 16, with his dad Deacon Robbie Lasica. Sara had just finished giving Blood. It was a success with 20 units of Blood being collected. Thank you to the Holy Ghost Community for their generous donations!



Please join Pope Leo in praying his February 2026 intention:
Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.



Holy Ghost Church
Is proud to celebrate the
Feast Day of St. Joseph
with a **St. Joseph Table**

Celebrate a Wonderful Tradition with Us

Sunday March 15th, 2026

Celebration Starts at 8:00am and ends at 12:30pm

We are in the planning stages of this event. If you would like to be a Volunteer, Sponsor or make a monetary or food donation, please call us at:

Nancy @ 630-673-7906

or

Antoinette @ 630-802-5535

Monetary and Food donations will also be accepted on the day of the event at the door.



COOK eat taste drink IT'S A POTLUCK
Holy Ghost Church
Presents

International Potluck Lunch

Sunday February 22nd, 2026

Celebration Starts at 11:30am and ends at 1:00pm

Celebrate your culture and bring a dish!

If you would like to be a Participant, Volunteer or to make a monetary donation, please call:

Frannie 630-860-2975 ext 121

Or email: fran@holyghostparish.org

Food donations will also be accepted on the day of the event at the door.

We are looking forward to your participation. Please be aware that our potluck dishes are homemade



LENT/EASTER 2026



Rosary:

Weekdays at 9:00AM
Thursdays at 7:00PM



Stations of the Cross:

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

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 Service:

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

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.

NEWS & EVENTS

February 22, 2026

First Sunday of Lent



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS®

BECOME A MEMBER!

Fr. Sam and Deacon Robbie urge you to join the Holy Ghost Knights of Columbus. Be a part of the world's largest Catholic fraternal organization.

Over the last year, we welcomed more than 96,000 new Knights of Columbus. And all told, we now have more than 2,100,000 members. They are spread across 17,000 councils in North America, Europe, and Asia.

You can join online at
<https://www.kofc.org/get-involved/join-kofc/>
or call Warren Wawczak 630-487-7925

SPECIAL CAMPS

Counselors who volunteer will:

Have fun alongside campers!

Earn 100 volunteer hours!

Attend for FREE!

Participate in activities including:
archery, canoes & kayaks, crafts, sports & field games, swim, drum line lessons, yoga, zip line, dance parties, high ropes course, talent show

SpecialCamps.org

Colleen McDonald: 630-690-0944

26710 Nippersink Rd.
Ingleside, IL 60041

Adults Week: June 7-12 with campers age 23+
Kids Week: June 14-19 with campers age 8-22

Volunteers Needed for Special Camps

We are also looking for additional **camp volunteers**. An **experience you'll never forget!** There's a reason our Volunteers call this their favorite week of the year. So much, love, so much joy, tons of fun activities going on constantly, with enough belly laughter and hugs to last you until you want to return the next summer. Our volunteers always want to return, that's why many of them have been volunteering for #20+ years. Time commitment of one week (Sunday morning - Friday afternoon).

An opportunity you'll never forget... full of love, enthusiasm, pure joy and sooo many great activities. Play side by side with our amazing campers.

Dates

June 7 - 12 for our adult campers
June 14 - 19 for our youth camp

Location: Camp Red Leaf in Ingleside. Beautiful campground. Stay in nice dorms with attached bathrooms.

