

CHURCH OF THE HOLY GHOST

A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF FAITH

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

#1206

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.



5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"You are the light of the world. A city set on a
mountain cannot be hidden." - Mt 5:14

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

February 8, 2026

The 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 7

4PM Mass

+Ann Vellurattil

For the Parishioners of Holy Ghost Parish Living & Deceased

Sunday, February 8

8AM Mass

+Krystyna Rozponolowska

10:30AM Mass

+David Gniech



8:30AM Mass

Monday, February 9

+Michael J Malek

Tuesday, February 10

+Katazyna Rozponolowska

Wednesday, February 11

+Helen Swansen

Thursday, February 12

+Edward T. 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

January 21 — January 27, 2026

Sunday Collection \$6,476.05
Christmas Collection \$35,740.92

YTD Budget thru December 2025
\$267,499.98

YTD Actual thru December 2025
\$250,054.57

YTD Difference thru December 2025
-\$17,445.41



Catholic Ministries
Annual Appeal
Diocese of Joliet

	2025
Parish Goal	\$58,200
Amount Pledged	\$74,151
Amount Paid	\$73,246
Balance Due	\$905
Donors	240
2025 Rebate	\$10,532

Updated 1/18/2026

The 2026 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal has begun!

The Diocese of Joliet invites all parishioners to support the 2026 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA). Together, we can make a profound difference.

This year's theme is *Beyond all Expectations: Faith that Elevates!* Through the CMAA, we ensure Christ's mission and ministries reach everyone. We provide shelter for the homeless, feed the hungry, support vocations, and educate the next generation of Catholics. Our parish cannot accomplish this alone. As a diocese, we can do so much more.

Our parish goal is **\$54,200**. We receive 70% of any amount raised over goal to use within our parish. Please review your mailing from the Diocese of Joliet and prayerfully consider your gift.

If you do not receive a CMAA mailing, please contact the parish office. Thank you!

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 the Sick



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 Schachuk

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

PRAYER & WORSHIP

February 8, 2026

The 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.

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
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.

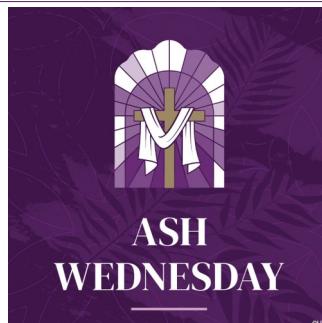
Military and Prayer List
Please email: hgbulletin@holylghostparish.org
or call the parish office at 630-860-2975
to add or remove a name from the list.
Thank you!

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.



Ash Wednesday:

Wednesday, February 18

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



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.

For the Repose of the Soul of Father Hilary Fischer MSC

From Anita

Please include your choice of date from the list below.

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

February 14/15, 28/1

March 14/15, 28/29

April 11/12, 18/19, 25/26

(*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 Joseph Diciolla

From Lene & Paul Sparacio & Family

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





WHAT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS NOT:

Addressing Common Misconceptions

The Catholic Church, with its long history and deep influence on global culture, often faces misconceptions about its beliefs, practices, and purpose.

These misunderstandings can create barriers to both the faithful and outsiders who may not fully understand what the Church stands for or what it opposes.

Addressing these misconceptions is vital to clarifying the true mission of the Church and its role in the world.

Here, we will discuss **what the Catholic Church is not**, providing clarity on misconceptions that often arise.

1. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS NOT MERELY A HUMAN INSTITUTION

One of the most common misconceptions is that the Catholic Church is just another organization created by people with hierarchical leadership structures and rules.

However, from the Catholic perspective, the Church is not a purely human institution; it is **divinely instituted by Jesus Christ**.

The Church teaches that its origin comes directly from Christ, who established it as His Body on earth.

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus says to Peter, "You are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

This foundational statement is key to understanding that the Church is more than just a religious organization; it is a **spiritual body** entrusted with the continuation of Christ's mission to bring salvation to humanity.

While the Church certainly operates within human structures and its leaders are human, it is guided by the **Holy Spirit** and the teachings of Christ, making it something far greater than just a human institution.

The Church's divine origin gives it a unique authority and mission in the world.

2. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS NOT A POLITICAL ENTITY

It is easy to mistake the Catholic Church as a political entity because of its global influence, diplomatic efforts, and moral voice in public affairs.

However, the Church does not aim to function as a political power or align itself with specific political ideologies.

Instead, it sees itself as the **moral and spiritual guide** for individuals and societies.

The **Second Vatican Council** emphasized the Church's role as a **moral conscience** that calls for justice, peace, and the protection of human dignity.

It teaches that while the Church must engage in public life to uphold moral values, it remains separate from political systems or governments.

Pope Benedict XVI made this clear when he said, "The Church is not a political power, nor is she a party, but she is a moral power."

The Church's engagement in politics is driven by its commitment to the common good and the Gospel's message of human dignity, not by any desire to wield political power.

This distinction is important to ensure that the Church's spiritual mission is not confused with temporal ambitions.

3. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS NOT A MONOLITHIC OR STATIC INSTITUTION

Another common misconception is that the Catholic Church is monolithic and unchanging in all aspects.

While the Church holds to timeless truths that it believes have been revealed by God, it is not a static institution incapable of adapting to new cultural and historical contexts.

The Church's core teachings on faith and morals remain constant, but its approach to pastoral care and social issues often evolves.

The Second Vatican Council (1962–1965) is an example of the Church adapting to the needs of the modern world without compromising its foundational beliefs.

During this council, the Church sought to engage with contemporary society by promoting dialogue with other religions, addressing secularization, and renewing liturgical practices.

Moreover, the Church is made up of a rich tapestry of cultures, traditions, and rites that reflect the diversity of its 1.3 billion members worldwide.

This universality, or catholicity, is one of its defining characteristics. While the Church may have a unified doctrine, the expression of that faith is seen in many different cultural forms.

4. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS NOT INFALLIBLE IN EVERY ASPECT

A frequent misunderstanding involves the concept of infallibility.

Many believe that the Catholic Church claims infallibility in all of its teachings or that every statement made by the Pope is infallible. This is not the case.

The doctrine of infallibility, as defined in the First Vatican Council (1870), applies only under specific circumstances.

The Pope, or the College of Bishops in union with the Pope, can speak infallibly only when proclaiming a doctrine on faith or morals as divinely revealed.



CATHOLIC FOUNDATIONS WITH FR. SAM

NEWS & EVENTS

February 8, 2026

The 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

This is often called speaking "ex cathedra" (from the chair) and has been used very rarely, with the most notable example being the dogma of the Assumption of Mary in 1950.

The Pope and Church leaders can still make mistakes in their personal opinions, political stances, or pastoral decisions. Infallibility is limited to preserving the deposit of faith from error in critical matters of doctrine.

The Church also recognizes that its leaders are human and can sin, as evidenced by the practice of the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** even for priests and bishops.



5. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS NOT AGAINST SCIENCE

Another persistent misconception is that the Catholic Church is anti-science, often stemming from historical events like the trial of **Galileo**.

However, this view does not reflect the Church's longstanding relationship with science.

In fact, the Catholic Church has been a patron of the sciences for centuries.

Many of the earliest universities in Europe were founded by the Church, and the Vatican Observatory is one of the world's oldest astronomical research institutions.

Father Georges Lemaître, a Catholic priest, was the first to propose the Big Bang theory, one of the most widely accepted scientific explanations of the universe's origins.

The Church teaches that there is no conflict between faith and reason.

The Church supports scientific inquiry, provided that it is conducted ethically and in ways that respect human dignity and the natural order.

Pope John Paul II famously said, "Science can purify religion from error and superstition; religion can purify science from idolatry and false absolutes."

6. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS NOT EXCLUSIVE OF OTHER CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS OR RELIGIONS

A common misconception is that the Catholic Church believes only Catholics are saved and that it dismisses other Christian denominations or religions.

While the Church firmly believes that it is the one true Church founded by Christ (CCC 816), it also teaches that salvation is possible for non-Catholics.

The Second Vatican Council clarified the Church's stance on other Christians and religions, emphasizing ecumenism and dialogue.

The Church acknowledges that there is truth and grace present in other Christian communities and even in non-Christian religions.

Lumen Gentium, one of the key documents from Vatican II, teaches that "those who through no fault of their own do not know the Gospel of Christ or his Church, but who nevertheless seek God with a sincere heart... may achieve eternal salvation."

This reflects the Church's view that while it holds the fullness of the truth, it recognizes the potential for God's grace to work outside of its visible boundaries.

7. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS NOT OPPOSED TO MODERNITY

It is sometimes said that the Catholic Church is out of touch with modern times and is opposed to progress.

While the Church does stand firm on certain moral teachings that conflict with contemporary culture, it is not opposed to modernity in itself.

Rather, the Church seeks to engage with modernity in a way that upholds human dignity, the common good, and God's natural law.

The Church has been a key voice in addressing modern social issues, such as economic inequality, human rights, and environmental degradation.

Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si' is a powerful example of how the Church engages with pressing modern concerns like climate change and ecological stewardship.

The Church is not anti-modern but instead promotes a critical engagement with modernity, urging society to balance technological and social progress with moral principles that respect the sanctity of life and the dignity of the person.

CONCLUSION:

Clearing the Fog of Misconception

The Catholic Church is often misunderstood, leading to misconceptions that distort its true nature.

It is not merely a human or political institution, nor is it opposed to science, modernity, or engagement with other religions.

At its heart, the Catholic Church is a divine institution rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ, called to guide humanity toward salvation through faith, reason, and love.

Understanding what the Church is not can help clear away misconceptions, allowing for a more genuine engagement with its mission of truth, justice, and mercy.





Call for Nominations for Woman of the Year

The Holy Ghost Council of Catholic Women will be electing their Woman of the Year for 2026 at a future General Membership Meeting.

Please write a short nomination note about your candidate and the reasons why she should be elected Woman of the Year. This woman should have shown outstanding service to Holy Ghost Parish. Seal it in an envelope and give it to Joanne in the Church Office to put into the CCW Envelope. We look forward to your participation in this event. Nominations will be accepted up to February 15th.

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



What is Our Deanery All About?

"Whenever we do something together, something good, something beautiful, everyone changes, all of us change in some way and this does us good." This quote from Pope Francis reminds us that change can be good. Today we find ourselves in the midst of change and so we work together to embrace this change to help us grow closer to God, to our Church and to our parishes. The Eastern DuPage Deanery of the Joliet Diocese consists of 16 parishes that collaborate to provide the best discipleship, evangelization, and charity that we possibly can with our pooled resources. This process of greater collaboration is God's project.

Christian Outreach Effort CORE

Thank you to all the generous CORE donors. This Christmas, your generosity helped many families in need through SCRIP cards.

In total, we received requests for assistance from seventy-five families, serving 188 adults, 49 teens, and 88 children. Because of you, these families experienced the joy and comfort of Christmas cheer.

In addition, the Giving Tree program brought joy to 137 individuals through donated gifts.

As Scripture reminds us, "Whatever you do for others, you do for me" (paraphrase of Matthew 25).

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.



We are in a National Blood Shortage

The next Holy Ghost Blood Drive is Sunday, Feb. 15 after Sunday masses.

Every two seconds, someone in the world needs blood. Whether due to surgery, trauma, cancer treatments, or chronic illnesses, there is a constant need. This is why donating blood is one of the most impactful and selfless acts a person can do. And one donation can help 3 lives!



If, in the past you were told you cannot donate, it's likely you can now!

Certain blood types and genetic markers common in people of European heritage may better match to local patients with similar heritage.

Also you can donate if you have high blood pressure or diabetes, as long as your blood pressure and blood sugar are well-controlled.

Donating blood has health benefits for you, the donor, too. It can provide a free mini health check (automatic cholesterol for free) and foster a sense of community. It's a simple process that only takes about 40 minutes, including the pre-check and rest/snack period after.

Minimum age: 17 years or 16 with parental consent

Minimum weight: 110 pounds. Females, see chart.

You must have a good breakfast, be feeling well, not taking antibiotics, have no fever and a blood pressure under good control. You will be asked several confidential health and lifestyle questions, which protect you as a donor and the recipient of your blood. You will be asked about recent travel, certain medications and vaccinations.

FEMALE HEIGHT	FEMALE REQUIRED WEIGHT
≥ 4'10"	≥ 146
≥ 4'11"	≥ 142
≥ 5'	≥ 138
≥ 5'1"	≥ 133
≥ 5'2"	≥ 129
≥ 5'3"	≥ 124
≥ 5'4"	≥ 120
≥ 5'5"	≥ 115

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:

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



Stations of the Cross:

Fridays 6:00PM
February 20, 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

NEWS & EVENTS

February 8, 2026

The 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.

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: holylghostparish.org. Contact Susan: 630-860-3691 or stutaj@holylghostparish.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"

