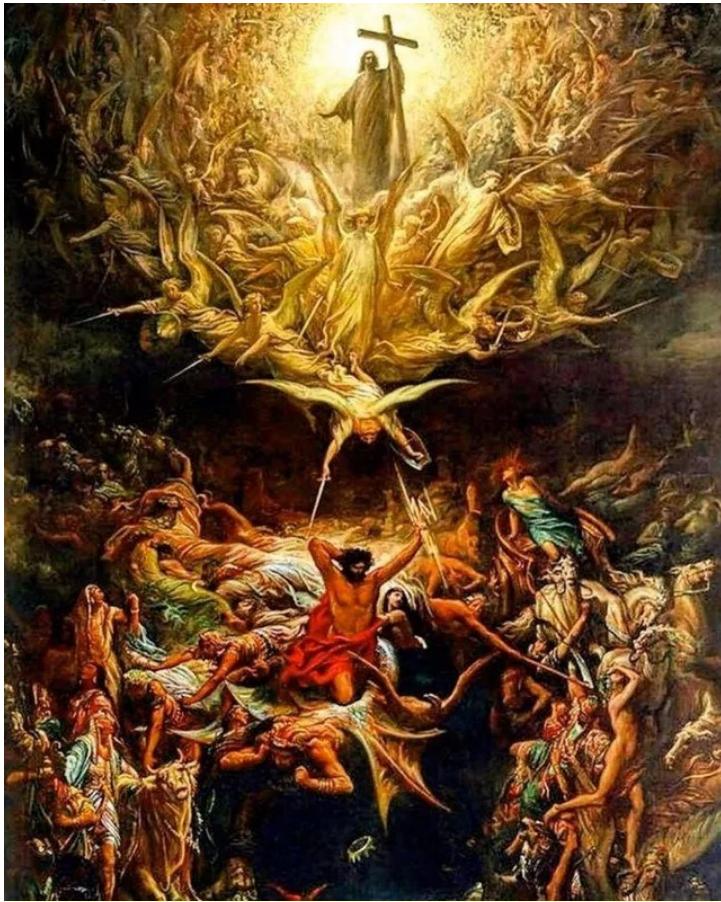


JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

CHURCH OF THE HOLY GHOST



WHY DIDN'T JESUS SPEAK EXPLICITLY ABOUT PURGATORY?

Understanding Divine Revelation and Mystery from a Catholic Perspective

INTRODUCTION:

The absence of explicit references to Purgatory by Jesus in the Gospels has often puzzled many believers.

As you mentioned, this has led to misunderstandings, misrepresentations, and divisions within Christianity.

However, from a Catholic perspective, the reason why Jesus did not speak explicitly about certain theological doctrines, such as Purgatory, lies in the nature of divine revelation, the gradual unfolding of God's plan, and the role of the Church in interpreting and teaching these truths over time.

1. THE NATURE OF DIVINE REVELATION

Explanation: The Catholic Church teaches that divine revelation is God's self-disclosure to humanity, which occurs through both Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.

God reveals Himself progressively and does not disclose every detail all at once.

This is a gradual process that unfolds according to God's wisdom and timing.

- **Progressive Revelation:** God's revelation is progressive, meaning it builds upon itself over time.

In the Old Testament, God revealed Himself gradually to the people of Israel, preparing them for the coming of the Messiah.

With the incarnation of Jesus Christ, God's revelation reached its fullness, but even then, it did not include every explicit detail of theological doctrine.

- **Jesus' Teaching Style:** Jesus often used parables, metaphors, and teachings that required contemplation and discernment. He did this to engage the listener's free will, intellect, and desire for truth.

Jesus' teachings were meant to draw people into a deeper relationship with God, rather than provide an exhaustive theological manual.

Biblical Reference: - John 16:12-13:

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth."

Here, Jesus indicates that not all truths were revealed during His earthly ministry, and some would be understood more fully through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

2. THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN UNFOLDING TRUTH

Explanation: The Catholic Church believes that while Jesus Christ is the fullness of revelation, the understanding and articulation of divine truths continue to unfold through the Church, guided by the Holy Spirit.

This is particularly true for complex doctrines like Purgatory.

- **The Church as the Custodian of Truth:** According to Catholic teaching, the Church, established by Christ and led by the apostles, is entrusted with the deposit of faith.

The Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, is responsible for interpreting, explaining, and teaching the truths of faith, including those not explicitly mentioned by Jesus.

- **Development of Doctrine:** The Catholic Church believes in the development of doctrine, which means that the understanding of certain teachings can grow and become more explicit over time.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The doctrine of Purgatory, for instance, developed through theological reflection on Scripture and Tradition, as well as through the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the Church's magisterium (teaching authority).

Biblical Reference: - Matthew 16:18-19:

"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

This passage highlights the authority given to the Church to bind and loose, interpret, and guide believers in matters of faith and morals.

3. THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S WISDOM AND HUMAN UNDERSTANDING



Explanation: From a Catholic perspective, not all truths of faith are immediately comprehensible or even fully revealed during Jesus' time on earth because they are part of the divine mystery.

God's wisdom often surpasses human understanding, and His ways are not always our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9).

- God's Mysterious Ways: The Catholic Church teaches that God's plan is often mysterious and that humans are called to trust in God's wisdom even when all answers are not immediately clear.

The lack of explicit mention of Purgatory does not negate its truth but rather invites the faithful to deeper contemplation and reliance on the Church's guidance.

- Encouragement of Faith and Trust: By not revealing every detail, Jesus encouraged His followers to exercise faith and trust in God and His Church.

This mystery invites believers to explore their faith more deeply, guided by the Church and the Holy Spirit.

Biblical Reference: - Romans 11:33:

"Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!"

This verse acknowledges the profound mystery of God's wisdom and knowledge, which often transcends human understanding.

4. PURGATORY IN SACRED SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION

Explanation: While Jesus did not explicitly mention Purgatory, the concept is rooted in Scripture and Tradition,

which the Catholic Church uses to understand and teach this doctrine.

- Scriptural Foundations: Passages in Scripture suggest a process of purification after death for those who die in God's grace but are not yet fully purified.

For instance, 1 Corinthians 3:13-15 speaks of a person's works being tested by fire after death, and Matthew 12:32 implies that sins can be forgiven in the age to come.

- Tradition and Church Teaching: The early Church Fathers, such as St. Augustine and St. Gregory the Great, wrote about a post-death purification process.

Over time, this understanding developed into the doctrine of Purgatory, which was formally articulated by the Church at the Councils of Florence and Trent.

Biblical References: - 1 Corinthians 3:13-15:

"Each man's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire."

This passage suggests a purification process that aligns with the Church's teaching on Purgatory.

- Matthew 12:32: "And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come."

This suggests that some sins can be forgiven in the next life, which the Church interprets as evidence of the purifying process of Purgatory.

5. THE PURPOSE OF HIDDEN TRUTHS:

An Invitation to Seek and Discover

Explanation: Jesus' teaching methods and the Church's role in doctrinal development encourage believers to seek and discover deeper truths about their faith.

The absence of explicit details in Jesus' teachings serves a greater purpose in God's plan.

- An Invitation to Study and Pray: Jesus often spoke in parables and left certain mysteries unexplained to encourage His followers to seek understanding through prayer, study, and reliance on the Holy Spirit and the Church.

This ongoing quest for truth deepens faith and fosters a closer relationship with God.

- A Test of Faith and Trust in God's Church: The journey of understanding doctrines like Purgatory tests believers' faith in the Church's authority to teach and guide.

It challenges Catholics to trust that the Holy Spirit is active in the Church, leading it into all truth, as promised by Christ.

Biblical Reference: - Matthew 13:10-11:

"Then the disciples came and said to him, 'Why do you speak to them in parables?' And he answered them, 'To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.'"

Jesus' use of parables and hidden truths invites His followers to seek deeper understanding through faith and commitment.

CONCLUSION:

Faith, Mystery, and the Role of the Church

In summary, the Catholic perspective on why Jesus did not explicitly mention Purgatory or other specific doctrines is rooted in the understanding of divine revelation, the role of the Church, and the nature of human faith and understanding.

God's revelation is progressive, and not all truths were fully disclosed during Jesus' earthly ministry.

Instead, the Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, unfolds these truths over time, helping the faithful understand and embrace them.

The lack of explicit mention of Purgatory by Jesus is not an oversight but an invitation for believers to trust in God's wisdom, engage deeply with their faith, and rely on the Church for guidance.

This process of seeking, understanding, and believing fosters a deeper relationship with God and a greater appreciation of the mysteries of faith.



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



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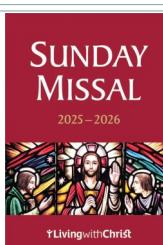
Every gift card you purchase from the SCRIP program benefits Holy Ghost with no additional cost to you. Skip the mall, save your gas and your mileage by buying SCRIP!

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



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



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

A Pastoral Letter for the People of the Diocese of Joliet
(continued)

Bishop Hicks writes "...if we are to grow as a thriving, vibrant Church, one serious about Passing on the faith to future generations, we must move from maintenance to mission"

In our November and December Newsletters, we shared what Holy Ghost Parish is currently doing in the areas of Catechesis and Evangelization. The Discipleship Team also looked at the area of Faith into Action.

The Bishop writes "Finally, having fallen in love with Jesus, we are impelled by a sense of mission to share His unfathomable love with everyone we meet and to serve others. He now sends us to put our faith into action."

At Holy Ghost, we found a number of ministries doing this:

- Core: Gift cards for the holidays to those in need
 - Advent Giving Tree
 - Holiday Meal Support
 - One Time Utility Assistance
 - Supporting the Wood Dale/Bensenville Food Pantry
- Coffee and Donut Sundays
- Outreach to the Radcliffe Nursing Home
- Ministers of Care bring Holy Eucharist to the homebound
- CCW Service Projects
- Hallow App
- Knights of Columbus Service Projects
- Faith Formation Family Service

IF we have missed some ministries, please feel free to call me to let me know what we is missed....630-860-3691.

The Discipleship Team also brainstormed other ways we might consider growing the area of Faith in Action. Some ideas shared:

- High School Outreach
- More outreach through technology
- Discipleship Team more visible on Sundays and Parish events.
- Prayers for the whole community each Sunday
- Bring a friend who has been absent to "church day"

What additional ideas do you have for the parish to put our faith in action?

"These three paths – catechesis, evangelization and faith into action – guide us toward fulfilling our mission and help us understand how each of us is to live out our faith."

Any ideas shared were from brainstorming and not yet evaluated as we hope YOU will add to the list. Perhaps God is already calling you to put your Faith into Action. How?

"Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph Guardian of the Redeemer, and our patron, St.

Francis Xavier, may we as a Church be strengthened and inspired by the Holy spirit to engage ever more fully in Christ's Mission to make disciples."

Susan Tutaj -Coordinator of Discipleship
stutaj@holyghostparish.org 630-860-3691

Prayer Partners Needed

Members of the Discipleship Team went down to the diocese for a meeting about the Bishop's Pastoral Letter: MAKE.

We decided that the first order of business for us was to put together a Prayer Team.

Currently, our parish does have a prayer team that meets Monday through Thursday at 7am for Adoration. If you would like to join them, please let me know so I can pass on your contact information.

In addition to a Prayer Team on campus, we would also like to invite anyone who is home bound or is unable to attend on weekday mornings to pray for the needs of the parish daily from home. If you would like to be part of that group, please contact me.

I will need your name, phone and email address.

Blessings,
Susan Tutaj, Coordinator of Discipleship
stutaj@holyghostparish.org
630-860-3691

UPCOMING COLLECTIONS



Rainy day fund for repairs
C.O.R.E (Catholic Outreach)
Flowers & Plants
Church in Latin America

Second collections can be made online at we share on our website holyghostparish.org or by scanning the QR code.



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 or search your phone's app store for myparish.



FAITH FORMATION

As we begin another year and we are looking at resolutions there is only one that needs to be on our list. **We need to make God the center of our life.**

Parents you need to make certain that God is also the center of your children's lives. What are some ways we accomplish this? Going to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is a prerequisite. Per Catechism of the Catholic Church 1068 "For it is in the liturgy, especially in the divine sacrifice of the Eucharist, that "the work of our redemption is accomplished," and it is through the liturgy especially that the faithful are enabled to express in their lives and manifest to others the mystery of Christ and the real nature of the true Church." CCC1324 The Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian Life." CCC2181 "The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (such as illness). Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin." **It is a grave sin to deliberately miss Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation.**

Daily prayer is also essential. Prayer can take on many forms. Be sure your daily prayer contains blessing and adoration, thanksgiving, and praise along with your prayers of petition and intercessions. CCC2204 "The Christian family constitutes a specific revelation and realization of ecclesial communion, and for this reason it can and should be called a domestic church. It is a community of faith, hope and charity; it assumes singular importance in the Church, as is evident in the New Testament." CCC2205 "The Christian family is a communion of persons, a sign and image of the communion of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit. In the procreation and education of children it reflects the Father's work of creation. It is called to partake of the prayer and sacrifice of Christ. Daily prayer and the reading of the Word of God strengthen it in charity. The Christian family has an evangelizing and missionary task. **Individuals and families must pray daily and read the Word of God.**

CCC2013 "All Christians in any state or walk of life are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of charity. All are called to holiness: "Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." In order to reach this perfection, the faithful should use the strength dealt out to them by Christ's gift, so that...doing the will of the Father in everything, they may wholeheartedly devote themselves to the glory of God and to the service of their neighbor. Thus, the holiness of the People of God will grow in fruitful abundance, as is clearly shown in the history of the Church through the lives of so many saints." **We are all called to live holy lives in the service of our neighbors.**

In Luke 21:25-38,34-36: Jesus said to his disciples: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand. "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man." Only God knows when this day will occur or if we will be alive when it does. Either way we need to be ready for our Last Judgement. Therefore, don't delay in making God the center of your life and your children's. **Do not let that day catch you by surprise like a trap.**

May everyone have a blessed and Happy New Year!

Nancy Siemers
Director of Faith Formation

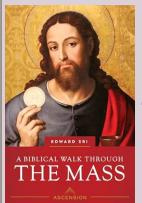


DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES

DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES



Happy New Year! While we want to savor Christmas in our hearts for a few days I would like to give you time to think about how you want to enhance your Lenten journey because Lent begins early this year....Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday, February 18, 2026. Plan on joining us for one of the following courses by signing up on SignUpGenius which can be found on the parish website: holyghostparish.org. Contact Susan: 630-860-3691 or stutaj@holyghostparish.org with questions.



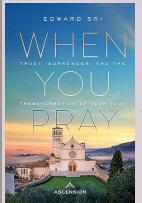
BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH MASS: Sunday 7pm Virtual (starts 2/22; Monday 10am Room 9 (starts 2/23) ; Wednesday 7pm Room 9 (starts 2/25)

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!



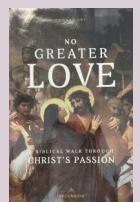
THE RESCUE PROJECT: Monday 7pm Room Koinonia Room (starts 2/23) Tuesday Noon Room 9 (starts 2/24)

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.



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.



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.

Susan Tutaj
Coordinator of Discipleship
stutaj@holyghostparish.org
630-860-3691

Mary, the Holy Mother of God This solemnity is a rather recent addition to the cycle of seasons, Sundays, and feasts in our liturgical year. We have Pope Paul VI to thank for the 1974 enshrining of the devotion to Mary into our calendar on January 1. It is also a day in our calendar as a World Day for Peace.

Let us pray... God of heaven and earth, you came to us and took our earthly flesh through the gift of Mary's yes. She is our Mother in faith, as she is your earthly mother.

We are thankful beyond our ability to thank you for the gift of her Son as our brother and savior. Through her self-giving, we have been reconciled to you.

Bless us as we begin this New Year and endow us with the desire and ability to create a world of peace. We ask all this, through the intercession of Mary to you, one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

WITH JOYFUL HEARTS,
WE WELCOME OUR
NEWLY BAPTIZED.

JAXON MICHAEL JARZEBSKI
MICHAEL ANGELO ZAMORA, JR.
ENZO JOSHUA CORSO
MARIO RUSSELL

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

IN LOVING MEMORY

DEARLY DEPARTED

DAVID GEORGE HOFFMANN
4/15/1943 - 11/17/2025

MARIA DE LA LUZ YANEZ-SANTOS
7/20/1937 - 11/21/2025

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 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

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 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

LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Cathy Alcozer
Bianca Marie Borowski
Michael Brann
Micah Casey
Ady DeLargarza
Alegunda Diego
Thomas Franzen
Izcoatl Garcia Gonzales
Sarah Kasab
Jeraid 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.

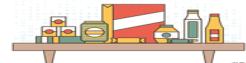
Military and Prayer List

Please email:
hgbulletin@holylghostparish.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 be closed on Monday, January 19.

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.



A Prayer to Come Home to Mass

Loving God, You never stop calling us to be close to You. Open our hearts to hear Your gentle invitation to return to Your table. Heal whatever keeps us away, and remind us that there's always a place for us in Your house. May we find peace, hope, and belonging as we gather again in the celebration of the Mass. Amen.