

CHURCH OF THE HOLY GHOST

A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF FAITH

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

#1262

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Sam Conforti
Pastor

Deacon Robert A. Lasica
Permanent Deacon

Parish Staff

Tammy Campeotto
Business Manager x123

Joanne DeZur
Receptionist x120

Frances Hargadon
Funeral Ministry/Event Director x121

Kelly Scardina
App & Web Manager x122

Dennis Bero
Sacristan

John Daily
Buildings & Grounds

Tracy Monteleone
Director of Music

Nancy Siemers
*Director of Faith Formation/
Human Resources x130*

Susan Tutaj
Coordinator of Discipleship x132

Theresa Bero
Veronica Borowski
*Faith Formation Administrative
Assistants 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 it's own Facebook page?



Follow us to get information on upcoming events and more.



23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? ... In the same way, anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." - Lk 14:28, 33

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

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WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

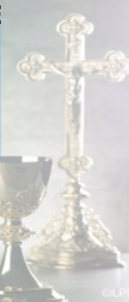
4 pm Saturday
8 am Sunday
10:30 am Sunday

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

September 7, 2025

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Saturday, September 6

4PM Mass

**+Wayne Zieja
+Stan Zwadlo**

Sunday, September 7

8AM Mass

+Janina Krystyna Taborska

10:30AM Mass

+Maria del Rosario Carrillo

**The Parishioners of Holy Ghost
Living and Deceased**



8:30AM Mass

Monday, September 8

+Jacek Lew

Tuesday, September 9

+Fred Bero

Wednesday, September 10

+Bridget McConeghy

Thursday, September 11

+Alejandro Vazquez

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 hgbulletin@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

Sunday Collection
August 21—August 27, 2025
\$10,806.10

YTD Budget thru July 2025
\$44,583

YTD Actual thru July 2025
\$42,176

YTD Difference thru July 2025
-\$2,407



Catholic Ministries
Annual Appeal
Diocese of Joliet

	2025
Parish Goal	\$58,200
Amount Pledged	\$64,371
Amount Paid	\$57,910
Balance Due	\$6,461
Donors	223
2025 Rebate	\$0

Updated 8/24/2025

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION



Holy Ghost Family Faith Formation

Holy Ghost Family Faith Formation Program for children ages 4 through Parish 8 **begins on September 7, 2025**. If you haven't already done so, it is time to register. Forms can be found on the Holy Ghost web site at www.HolyGhostparish.org or on the Welcome Center.

Do you know any older teens or adults that want to learn more about the Catholic faith, or may want to receive the Sacraments of Christian Initiation? If you know anyone needing Baptism, Communion and/or Confirmation have them contact Nancy Siemers at 630-766-4509.



Prayer List Update

As we work to keep our records up to date, **starting September 15** we will be clearing all names currently on the parish prayer list. If you would like a name to remain or be added to the updated list, please contact the parish office.

Thank you for helping us ensure our prayer intentions are current and meaningful.

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
CAPT Jeremy Shimanek
1st LT Joshua Jalowiec
SSGT Robert W. Dones
SSGT Timothy Latvis
SRA Randall Petrbock
A1C Ryan Leider
A1C Nicholas Pfeifer

ARMY:

LTC Robert Bowen
LTC Grace Gallagher
CAPT Elizabeth Gonzales
SFC Zack Cieslak
SPC Marco Garcia
SPC David Patcher
CW4 Anderson Mann
CW2 Carlos Contreras
PVT Steven Badgley
PVT Ian Schauchuk

MARINE CORPS:

CAPT Edward W. Miller
SGT Nicholas Reid
SGT Jack Rowley
LCPL Michele Giuseppe Bottalico
LCPL Vincent Anthony Eltman
PVT Cameron Andresen
PVT Gabriel Leon
PVT Billy Termine

NAVY:

LCDR Nicholas Lucania
Ryan James Ruizol

LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Domenico Albergo

Cathy Alcozer

Hilde Alt

Joan Atkins

Mary Bacci

Ron Bacci

Carrie Baran

Bianca Marie Borowski

Gaetano Bottalico

Michael Brann

Joel Calderone

Ron Catalano

James Cumo

John Davis

Rose Marie Davis

Ady DeLargarza

Bernadine DeMichele

Rosalia DiGirolano

Ryan Fish

Tom Franzen

Phil Goulding

Evelyn Hickman

Michael Hoeing

Special Intention

Mike Kaiser

Sarah Kasab

Kathy Kennelly

Paul Kmiecik

Adam Kocik

Joyce Kordas

Therese Kotecki

John Kwarcinski

Marilyn Lambros

Bill LaPonte

Steven Leeson

Donald Lesmeister

Noel Lopez

Michael Loss

Julie McKay

Ange Mikuls

Robert Pauss

Jose Juaguin Negrete Paz

Gloria Paz

Lisa Perez

Laverne Peterson

John Pettineo

Pat Pitello

Linda Plesh

Rose Powers

William Powers

Joseph Prince

Elvira Prine

Karen Reedus

Sue Robertson

Andrew Rosinski

John Rossi

Paul Runyon

Izzy Santiago

Cindi Shea

Wanda Slupik

Fred Sobieski

Tony Szabelski

Nancy Townsend

Jackie Vanjoske

Diamond Vega

James Paul Vega

Steve Vega

Larry Venere

Tina Wallace

Carol Williams

Blake Wishnow

Jordan Jr—Witold Dudziak

Maria Yanez

Cyndi Zwadlo

Meg

Meaghan

Paolo

And for those listed in our parish book of prayers.

PRAYER & WORSHIP

September 7, 2025
23rd 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.

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.



Please include your choice of date from the list below.

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

November 1/2, 8/9, 22/23, 27, 29/30

December 6/7, 27/28

January 2026 3/4, 10/11, 17/18, 24/25, 31/1

(*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 Tracy Anderson

From Theresa Bero

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



WHAT THE CROSS IS NOT:

Dispelling Misconceptions about the Christian Symbol of Salvation

The Cross is central to Christian faith, representing the ultimate act of love and sacrifice by Jesus Christ. However, over time, various misconceptions have arisen about its true meaning and significance.

Let's explore what the Cross is not to provide a clearer understanding of its profound symbolism and spiritual importance.

1. THE CROSS IS NOT MERELY A SYMBOL OF SUFFERING

While the Cross undeniably represents the immense physical and emotional suffering Jesus endured, it

is not simply a reminder of pain or punishment.

- The Cross signifies redemption, love, and hope.

Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross was a pathway to salvation, not just a display of suffering. Through the Cross, humanity was given the gift of eternal life.

- The pain and suffering of the Cross are only part of the story. It also represents victory over sin and death, with the Resurrection being its fulfillment.

The Cross is not merely a symbol of sorrow but of triumph and ultimate victory.

What it is not: A grim reminder of human suffering without hope.

2. THE CROSS IS NOT A MAGICAL TALISMAN

In some cases, the Cross has been misinterpreted as a talisman or a magical object that can protect or bring good fortune by its mere presence.

- The Cross is a symbol of faith, not a charm.

Its power lies in the sacrifice and love of Christ, not in the physical object itself.

Wearing a Cross or displaying it in your home is a sign of devotion and a reminder of Christ's sacrifice, but it should never be regarded as a magical object that grants protection or blessings simply by existing.

- It is a reminder to live according to Christ's teachings and to embrace the power of His love and grace in everyday life, rather than being a superstitious item.

What it is not: A superstitious object with magical properties.

3. THE CROSS IS NOT A POLITICAL OR CULTURAL SYMBOL

Throughout history, the Cross has been used in various political or cultural contexts, sometimes becoming a symbol of national identity, military conquest, or even cultural superiority.

However, its true meaning transcends these earthly divisions.

- The Cross is a spiritual symbol of universal salvation and should never be reduced to a mere banner for political or nationalistic causes.

It calls for humility, love, and the recognition that Christ's sacrifice was for all humanity, regardless of race, nation, or social standing.

- Using the Cross to justify violence, oppression, or division goes against its true meaning.

Christ's death on the Cross was an act of peace and reconciliation, not a justification for human conflict or conquest.

What it is not: A tool for political or cultural division.

4. THE CROSS IS NOT A SIGN OF DEFEAT

For those who witnessed the crucifixion of Christ, the Cross might have seemed like a sign of defeat.

Jesus, the Messiah, was mocked, beaten, and killed in a brutal and public execution. However, the Cross is far from a symbol of failure.

- The Cross is the ultimate sign of victory, not defeat.

Through His death, Jesus conquered sin and death.

The Resurrection on Easter morning is inseparable from the Cross, as it affirms that death does not have the final word.

- While the Cross initially appears as a symbol of defeat, it is revealed to be the key to eternal life.

Jesus turned the instrument of torture into a gateway to salvation, transforming the meaning of suffering and death.

What it is not: A sign of Jesus' or Christianity's failure.

5. THE CROSS IS NOT A CALL TO AVOIDANCE OF SUFFERING

A common misconception is that faith in Christ or carrying the Cross means avoiding all pain and hardship.

However, the Cross is not a symbol that promises an easy, suffering-free life.

- The Cross is an invitation to share in Christ's suffering, recognizing that suffering can have meaning and purpose. Jesus calls His followers to "take up their cross" (Luke 9:23), meaning that Christians are called to endure suffering and trials in their own lives with faith and hope, just as He did.

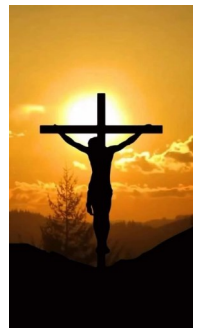
- This does not mean seeking out suffering, but rather

embracing it with trust in God's plan. The Cross teaches that suffering, when united with Christ's, becomes redemptive.

What it is not: A promise of earthly comfort and freedom from suffering.

6. THE CROSS IS NOT MERELY A HISTORICAL EVENT

Another common misconception is viewing the Cross as just a past event—something that happened 2,000 years ago and



remains confined to history.

- The Cross is a living reality, continuing to have relevance in the life of every Christian.

In the Eucharist, Catholics believe that the sacrifice of the Cross is made present again, reminding the faithful that Christ's redemptive act is ongoing.

- The Cross is not just a one-time event but a continuous source of grace and a call to live out its meaning daily, through acts of love, sacrifice, and forgiveness.

What it is not: A distant, historical event with no relevance to the present.

7. THE CROSS IS NOT A SYMBOL OF GOD'S WRATH

Some misunderstand the Cross as merely a sign of God's anger or wrath toward humanity, where Christ had to suffer to appease a vengeful God. This idea distorts the true nature of the Cross.

- The Cross is the ultimate symbol of God's love.

While sin has consequences, the death of Jesus on the Cross is not a punishment but a voluntary act of love and self-sacrifice. God the Father sent His Son not to condemn the world but to save it (John 3:17).

- Jesus' suffering on the Cross was not because God is angry but because God's love is so great that He would go to any lengths to redeem humanity.

What it is not: A sign of divine retribution or vengeance.

8. THE CROSS IS NOT FOR GLORY OR SELF-PROMOTION

In modern times, the Cross has become a fashion statement or a decorative piece for some, divorced from its true meaning. This trivializes its significance.

- The Cross is a call to humility and self-giving love. Christ's death was the ultimate act of humility, and it calls His followers to a life of service, not self-promotion or vanity. The Cross should never be reduced to an empty status symbol or fashion accessory.

What it is not: A symbol for self-promotion or vanity.

CONCLUSION:

Understanding What the Cross Truly Represents

To understand **what the Cross is not** helps to deepen our appreciation of what it truly is.

The Cross stands at the heart of the Christian faith, not as a symbol of suffering alone, but as a sign of hope, love, redemption, and victory.

It is not a magical charm, a political tool, or a historical relic; it is the gateway to eternal life, inviting us to follow Christ in His sacrificial love and to bear our own crosses with faith and trust in God's saving grace.

By recognizing what the Cross is not, we open ourselves to its true transformative power in our lives.



DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES



We have three new courses being offered this Fall. Please check your calendars and save time to attend. Even if you can't make it every week, we are glad to have you join us as you are able! Join us by going to the parish website: holyghostparish.org and register by clicking on SignUpGenius to choose your course and fill in your personal information.

THE RESCUE PROJECT (9 weeks)

Sunday 7pm Virtual (begins October 5)

Wednesday 7pm Room 9 Begins October 8)

The Rescue Project seeks to proclaim the gospel in a compelling and attractive way in a small group format. The goal is to create an opportunity for people to be overwhelmed and be brought to the decision to surrender their lives to Jesus and be moved into mission. Let by the Holy spirit, we will pray, be enriched by a video by Fr. Riccardo and challenged by a series of discussion questions. Delve into how you have been called to be a disciple. Dare to discover how God is calling you.

BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH THE MASS (9 weeks)

Monday 7pm Room 9 (starts October 6)

Monday 7pm Koinonia Room (starts October 6)

This course is scriptural tour through the prayers, hymns and rituals of the Liturgy. 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. Each session includes a small group discussion, a video and some home preparation.

WHEN YOU PRAY (7 weeks)

Monday 10am Room 9 (begins October 6)

"When You Pray: A clear Path to a Deeper Relationship with God" meets over 7 weeks and includes a familiar format for those who have been in courses by Edward Sri previously. Included in this study are session summaries, engaging discussion questions, Talk Notes on 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.

And don't forget the courses back by popular demand: **Discovering Christ** on Sundays 9-10:15am in the Gym and **Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life** on Tuesdays at noon.

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



CORE

The CORE board will be meeting on
Thursday, September 11 at 6:45pm in the Koinonia Room.
Join us! Thank you for your continued support of CORE.

Save the Date

Holy Ghost Parish will participate in the



SEPTEMBER

Sat, 20th & Sun, 21st, 2025

9am—2pm

Want to be a seller?

The cost is \$30 to rent a table

(which includes 1 - 8' table and 2 chairs)

Please contact Frannie @

Phone—630-766-4508

Or text—708-218-6511

Or Email fran@holychurchparish.org



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A ROSARY RALLY
IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA**

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 11, 2025
9AM
HOLY GHOST CHURCH
SOUTH DOORS

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY OF FATIMA HAS ASKED US TO
PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY.

HG CCW FALL MUM SALE



PRE-SALE ORDERS TAKEN THRU SEPT 8
(drop in offering or at parish office)

PICKUP SATURDAY SEPT. 13 10am-11am
and after 4pm Mass AND SUNDAY, SEPT 14 after all
masses

SMALL (4.33" pots) \$6.00 per plant

YELLOW QTY: _____

ORANGE QTY: _____

Total _____ @ \$6.00 = \$ _____

LARGE (8" pots) \$10.00 per plant

YELLOW QTY: _____

ORANGE QTY: _____

PURPLE QTY: _____

WHITE QTY: _____

Total _____ @ \$10.00 = \$ _____



ORNAMENTALS \$6.00 per plant

CABBAGE (Osaka, Red) QTY: _____

KALE (Glamour, Red) QTY: _____

Total _____ @ \$6.00 = \$ _____

TOTAL SALE \$ _____

NAME _____

PHONE/CELL _____

**Holy Ghost Council of Catholic Women
Invites You to**

Bunco Game Night !

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

7:00 P.M. in the Gym

*Bunco is a dice game, easy to learn and loads of fun.
Bring your friends and family to reserve a table, or
come alone. All are welcome!*

**Family Fun! Fellowship! Light
refreshments.**

**Bring an unwrapped White Elephant
Gift to be used as a prize.**

We hope to see you there!





Bishop Hicks' Column
September 2025
The Leo Effect: Reflecting After 100 Days



NEWS & EVENTS
September 7, 2025
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

In the world of leadership, there is a common practice: after the first one hundred days in office, we pause to reflect. What direction is this new leader taking us in? What tone has been set? Where might we be headed?

In these early months, we are beginning to see the kind of shepherd God has given us. The "Leo Effect," as I like to call it, is the fruit of his presence. It is the blessings, the new stirrings, and the hopeful signs already emerging in our Church and in our world.

At a recent Presbyteral Council meeting, one of our Augustinian priests told me that, since Pope Leo is himself an Augustinian, they have noticed a marked increase in young men expressing interest in the priesthood. That is the Leo Effect in action. These are ripples of inspiration that move from Rome all the way to local parishes and communities like ours.

Another question I have been asked many times in recent weeks is this: will Pope Leo XIV choose Chicagoland as the first place he visits? People have wondered if he might return to his roots in the south suburbs, visit his old neighborhood in Dolton, grab a slice of his favorite pizza, or even celebrate Mass at White Sox Park. As wonderful as that would be, and as much as I would personally love to see it, I usually remind people that his first stop is more likely to be a place in urgent need of healing, reconciliation, or peace. Perhaps the Holy Land, perhaps Ukraine, or perhaps another corner of the world that needs his pastoral presence. But who knows? The Holy Spirit guides these journeys, and for now we simply wait in joyful anticipation. People close to Pope Leo have said, "He listens more than he talks." That in itself is part of the Leo Effect. In an age of noise and constant headlines, the witness of a leader who listens deeply is striking. His way of leadership is not rooted in quick soundbites but in steady gestures of closeness and compassion. Early in his pontificate, he celebrated Mass with the homeless and then shared a meal with them. He has spoken often of the "fire of love" that must burn within us, not a fire that remains hidden, but one that spreads outward in compassion, justice, and peace.

Another sign of the Leo Effect is his bridge-building across cultures. Born in the United States, formed as a missionary in Peru, and shaped by the Augustinian spirit of community and humility, Pope Leo embodies the universality of the Church. His very life story unites North and South America, English and Spanish, tradition, and modernity.

Pope Leo has also expressed concern about pressing global issues. He has spoken about the moral

questions surrounding artificial intelligence, reminding us not to allow technology, money, or power to displace God. He has called for peace in conflict zones, urging the world to pursue reconciliation. He has also reminded us that the greatness of the Church is not measured in status or wealth, but in holiness and service. Recently, he approved a new Mass for the Care of Creation, highlighting his commitment to safeguarding our common home and encouraging all believers to pray and act for the protection of God's earth.

At the same time, he has shown deep respect for tradition. When he walked out onto the balcony of St. Peter's, he reclaimed the use of the mozzetta, a traditional papal vestment symbolizing continuity with history. He also revived the ancient practice of personally bestowing the pallium on new archbishops. These gestures remind us that while Pope Leo leads the Church into new challenges, he remains anchored in her history and symbols. His leadership balances continuity with creativity.

Many have also noted his warmth and relatability. He is approachable, enjoys simple pastimes like baseball, tennis, and word games, and speaks plainly from the heart. These touches of humanity remind us that the pope is not a distant figure but a pastor walking with his flock.

The Leo Effect is nothing less than the Holy Spirit reminding us that God is alive and active in His Church. And just as the world pauses after one hundred days to reflect on a leader, let us pause to recognize the Spirit's work through Pope Leo XIV. As we pray for our new Holy Father, let us also commit ourselves to being open to the impact the Leo Effect can have on our own lives, to become people of unity, compassion, and love that set the world aflame.

