



St. Patrick's Catholic Church

AN OLD BORDER TOWN PARISH IN ILLINOIS

119 NORTH MARKET STREET - MOMENCE, IL 60954-1415

☎ (815) 472-2864 - FAX (815) 472-3043 - WWW.STPATRICKMOMENCE.ORG

Have a Blessed Christmas!

Guadalupe Masses (December 12)

6:00 a.m. Mañanitas & 6:00 p.m. Mariachi Mass

Christmas Eve Masses in English at 3:00 & 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day 10:30 a.m. (Engl) 12:00 p.m. (Span)



OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE MOST HOLY EUCHARIST

Monday - Friday
9:15 a.m. *in English*

Friday
7:00 p.m. *in Spanish*

Saturday Vigil Mass
4:00 p.m. *in English*

Sunday Masses
10:30 a.m. *in English*
12:00 p.m. *in Spanish*

ADORATION

Wed-Fri 10:00-11:00 a.m.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays at 3:30 p.m. or by appointment; seasonal services

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (KINDERGARTEN - 8TH GRADE)

Sunday Classes 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)

Sunday Mornings 8:45 - 10:15 a.m.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM / EL SACRAMENTO DE BAUTISMO

Please call the Parish Office for more information. English baptisms normally are held on the 2nd Saturday of the month at noon, Spanish Baptisms on the 3rd Saturday of the month at noon. / Por favor llame a la Parroquia para mas información. Normalmente, los bautismos están celebrando los tercer Sabado cada mes al mediodía.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY (MARRIAGE) / EL SACRAMENTO DEL MATRIMONIO

Please call the office before setting a date for your wedding. The diocese requires a six month preparation prior to the wedding. / Las parejas pueden llamar a la oficina antes de poner una fecha para su boda o de hacer otros compromisos. La Diócesis de requiera un tiempo de preparación de un mínimo de seis meses entre la boda.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK / (UNCIÓN) DE LOS ENFERMOS

Call the Office if you know of someone in need of the Sacrament. / Contacte la Parroquia si alguien en su familia necesita el Sacramento.

FUNERALS / FUNERALES

Contact the Parish Office before placing any obituary notices.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP / ASOCIACIÓN DE PARROQUIA

Registration Forms are located in the Parish Office or in Church. / Las formas de inscripción pueden ser encontrado en la oficina.

December 20-21, 2025: The Fourth Sunday of Advent

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 20-21, 2025



Readings from this week's Mass can be found in #867 of the Journey songs Book

Sunday (4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT) December 21

9:00 A.M. Florence & Sharon Gereg
† Tom Dandurand (Paula Dandurand)

Readings from the Christmas Eve Mass can be found in #870 of the Journey songs Book

Wednesday (CHRISTMAS EVE) December 24

5:00 P.M. † Pam Ellis (Dennis & Maria Birgheim)

Readings from the Christmas Eve Mass can be found in #870 of the Journey songs Book

Thursday (CHRISTMAS DAY) December 25

9:00 A.M. † Carmen & Baby Bijak
(Robert & Bonnie Bijak)

Sunday (THE HOLY FAMILY) December 28

9:00 A.M. † Gen Caise (Bud Caise)
Deceased Members of the
Lennon & Archambeault Families

FR. PETE STILL OFFERS ONLINE MASSES AT
www.stpatricksmomence.org!!!

SUNDAY COLLECTION:

December 7, 2025	\$1,758.00
APPEAL GOAL FOR ST. ANNE'S	\$10,700.00

THANKS TO AN ANONYMOUS DONOR WHO DONATED
\$10,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF THREE HUNDRED
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THE WEEKLY BUDGETED GOAL IS \$2,000 TO PAY OUR
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CONSIDER THIS WHEN MAKING YOUR OFFERING.

PLEASE KEEP ST. ANNE'S CHURCH IN MIND WITH
YOUR WILL OR ESTATE PLANNING. OUR FUTURE
HEALTH DEPENDS ON YOU!!!

ST. ANNE'S CHURCH EMERGENCY PHONE

NUMBER If you know of someone who is sick and in need of the sacraments or wishes a visit at the hospital or care facility, please contact the parish office at ☎ (815) 685-1359.



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK: Eva Bell, Paula Bertrand, Lola Billings, Duane Blanchette, Sue Bonvallet, Cheryl Boswell, June Burns, Patrick Burns, Cindy Capriotti, Ashley & Jesse Childress, Abraham Daily, Aria Dionne, Carol Futch, Raelynn Garrett, Val Lagacy, Pam & Bentley Lottinville, Linda Miramontes, Ruth Sparenberg, Cynthia Vickery, Marie Vickery and John Wojnowski.

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NUMBER If you know of someone who is sick and in need of the sacraments or wishes a visit at the hospital or care facility, please contact the parish office at ☎ (815) 685-1359.



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES



Sunday (9:00 A.M.) December 21

Eucharistic Minister:	B. Miramontes
Lector:	D. O'Connell
Ushers:	C. Stirling & S. Scott Stirling
Altar Servers:	B. Miramontes Tristan, M. Tristan

Counters: Lora & Rick

Wednesday (5:00 p.m.) December 24

Eucharistic Minister:	B. Yeoman
Lector:	C. Sutherland
Ushers:	E. Stirling & S. Stirling
Altar Servers:	L. Bell, F. Villafuerte, C. Foltz

Thursday (9:00 A.M.) December 25

Eucharistic Minister:	G. Polletta
Lector:	F. Hebert
Ushers:	D. Miramontes, J. Sparenberg, G. Polletta

Altar Servers:	C. Chaca, J. Martinez, B. Miramontes J. Martinez, C. Foltz
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Sunday (9:00 A.M.) December 28

Eucharistic Minister:	TBA
Lector:	E. Steppan
Ushers:	G. Polletta, R. Lottinville, F. Blanchette
Altar Servers:	L. Bell, C. Chaca, F. Villafuerte
Counters:	TBA



NEWS & NOTES

FROM FR. PETE JANKOWSKI

Join Fr. Pete's mailing list at
pjankowski@yahoo.com.

A few years ago, I experienced the best gift a priest can offer a person of faith during the Christmas Season. I was thinking about this gift when I offered an anointing for a woman named Carol, who had left the faith a couple of years back but wanted to reconnect with God during her last moments on earth.

In 2023, Christmas fell on a Monday that year, a really difficult day for a country parish priest. On that particular weekend, I remember celebrating three Sunday Masses on the morning of December 24, followed by three Sunday Masses that evening (for those who can add, that amounts to *six* Masses on Sunday, December 24). After the three Masses I celebrated on Monday, December 25 (that would make *nine* Masses celebrated in two days), you had one tired priest at the Border Town Parishes!!!



After the noon Mass on December 25 of 2023, I was heading over to my family's house for Christmas Dinner, a difficult enterprise for a tired priest who drives badly! On the way to Plainfield, I received a call from the Cathedral of St. Raymond, the home parish in the diocese.

During that call, the deacon at the cathedral asked me a favor. It seems that on that particular Monday afternoon, all the bishops and priests from the city had finished their respective Masses and no one was available in the city to offer the Anointing of the Sick to a "level one" parishioner who actively was dying at the local Catholic hospital. Not knowing what to do, the deacon called the Catholic priest from Momence, IL. Does this make sense? How many parishes in the diocese are located between Joliet and Momence, IL?

When I received the call, I was somewhat flustered.

After nine Masses in two days, all I wanted to do was eat, sleep and SLEEP SOME MORE! I was in no condition to offer the Anointing of the Sick on that Monday Christmas afternoon in Joliet, IL

With that detour to Joliet, I started thinking to myself about the meaning of Christmas for an ordained Catholic priest and why God became incarnate in the first place. I thought to myself how *inconvenient* it was (and that certainly is not the proper word) to become incarnate and "to be born to die," as I often say. Why would God endure all of this for our sake? The Nativity Scene looks pretty but the message that underlies that scene literally is deadly serious.

I thought to myself, "What good am I as a priest if I do not model a very small sacrifice that parallels the infinitely more important one we view in that Nativity scene, all the way to the cross and beyond?" I felt embarrassed of myself for even wondering why I *wouldn't* want to go to the hospital for an anointing on Christmas Day.

So I went to the hospital that Christmas Day to anoint a woman in the end stages of life with her family surrounding her in that hospital bed. I spent time with the family, made sure we provided comfort in God's name during her time of need and then went to have dinner at my family's house, followed by a long winter's nap.


The next day when I awoke from my slumber, the daughter of this woman called. The woman died a half an hour after I anointed her.

I have to keep reminding myself why I am a priest... it is because of *you*. God has called me to serve you and to make sure you know we care. Please know this is the best gift I can offer in God's name this Christmas Season. You are all more than worth it. God Bless. – Fr. Pete



ST. ANNE'S PEW & CHURCH

DEDICATION PROGRAM



The concept for our dedication program is simple - we are offering the opportunity to remember a loved one in a memorial dedicated for one of our church or chapel pews (\$2,500).

If you are interested in learning more about the dedication program, contact the parish office at phone ☎ (815) 427-8265 or email us at the address pjankowski@yahoo.com.



Close Enough!

MIGUEL DULICK

It is the fourth Sunday of Advent. When Christmas is this close, one takes that final leap. Isaiah is centuries from Christmas, but he cannot wait! He sees the “sign” as clear as day: “the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son” (Isaiah 7:14). And how about that Son! None other than “Emmanuel” himself—God-With-Us! Paul, too, is bursting at the seams! Inspired by what he calls “the obedience of faith” (Romans 5), he is excited to see the gospel thriving even among the Gentiles. For him, the “Spirit of holiness” is a gift offered to all—Christmas every day, you might say.

Speaking of “obedience of faith,” Joseph is the perfect example. The word “obey” comes from the same root as “to hear,” and Joseph has almost supernatural ears! Matthew, the former tax collector, tells “how the birth of Jesus Christ came about” in today’s gospel reading like a bookkeeper—the Holy Spirit in Column A, Joseph in Column B, with Mary in the middle. But when an angel whispers to Joseph at night, his dream comes true: “he took his wife into his home.” Everything is set for Emmanuel!

So, the Bible is brimming with Christmas, that is, “God-With-Us,” from end to end. And when a virgin can conceive, are any of us exempt from “birthing” Jesus in our midst? Even when a “happy holiday” seems impossible in the midst of war or violence or poverty, when our ears hear only silence, let’s sing Christmas carols every day! ●



SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR
MIGUEL
DULICK

Reflect

How am I at listening? Can I find new insights in old stories that I think I know so well?



The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus.”

MATTHEW 1:20–21

Dear Padre,

I went to confession, and then, months later, my priest was removed for alcoholism and theft. Is my confession still worthy?

Your confession is not dependent on the worthiness or the unworthiness of the priest. Your confession is made to Jesus; the priest is a witness who pronounces the words of absolution that Jesus intended in the sacrament. “From the moment that a sacrament is celebrated in accordance with the intention of the Church, the power of Christ and his Spirit acts in and through it, independently of the personal holiness of the minister” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1128).

The question of the efficacy of the sacrament and the unworthiness of the minister who performs the sacrament in the name of the Church is not new. During the time of persecution, in the early centuries of the Church, some people, including priests and bishops, avoided martyrdom by offering the required oblation to Caesar. Later, they repented and returned to the Christian community, a community that included the surviving family and friends of the men and women who were martyred. The question was asked, and with some animated energy, “How could these ministers who sinned to save their own lives now represent the Church?” The answer, arrived at with patience and discernment, is that the minister is only the representative of the sacrament, not the source of the sacrament. Jesus is faithful, even when his ministers have been unfaithful. ●



Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



I think it is important for all of us to learn how to listen more, to enter into dialogue. First and foremost, with the Lord: always listen to the word of God. Then also listen

to others, to know how to build bridges, to know how to listen without judging, not closing the doors [and] thinking that we have all the truth and no one else can tell us anything.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 11, 2025

Monday

December 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24–28
Lk 1:46–56

Tuesday

December 23
Advent Weekday
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24
Lk 1:57–66

Wednesday

December 24
Advent Weekday
2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16
Lk 1:67–79

Thursday

December 25
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Is 52:7–10
Heb 1:1–6
Jn 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14

Friday

December 26
St. Stephen, the First Martyr
Acts 6:8–10; 7:54–59
Mt 10:17–22

Saturday

December 27
St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
1 Jn 1:1–4
Jn 20:1a, 2–8

Sunday

December 28
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14
Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17
Mt 2:13–15, 19–23

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



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JOURNEYS SONGS
JOURNEYS SONGS
JOURNEYS SONGS



\$25 to Dedicate a Church Hymnal for a Loved One!
Contact St. Patrick's at (815) 472-2864 or St. Anne's at (815) 427-8265 for More Information.

\$1,000,000 to Dedicate St. Patrick's Academy Gym & Community Center!
Call (815) 472-2864 for More Information!



BUY A BRICK FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL

\$100 to Dedicate a Church Brick in our Right to Life Grotto! Contact St. Patrick's at (815) 472-2864 for More Information.

ST. PATRICK'S PEW & CHURCH DEDICATION PROGRAM



If you are interested in learning more about the pew dedication program (\$2,500 a pew), contact the parish office at St. Patrick's Church at ☎ (815) 472-2864 or email us at the address pjankowski@yahoo.com.

ST. ANNE'S PEW & CHURCH DEDICATION PROGRAM



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20-21 Diciembre 2025: El Cuarto Domingo del Adviento

TRADICIONES DE NUESTRA FE

La tradición mexicana de las Posadas se acompaña de las tradicionales piñatas. Aunque hay piñatas de animales y caricaturas, la piñata original es una estrella con siete picos.

La piñata llegó al continente con los misioneros agustinos procedentes de España, mismos que la habían recibido de italianos; y estos, a su vez, la obtuvieron de Marco Polo quien conoció decoraciones de animales coloridos en China. El asociar la piñata con las Posadas viene de la cultura Nahuatl quienes celebraban a Huitzilopochtli (dios de la guerra) del 17 al 26 de diciembre. Estos ponían cazuelas de barro decoradas con listones y plumas sobre palos en el templo. Al romperlas, tesoros y alhajas caían a los pies de su dios.

Los misioneros mezclaron las dos costumbres para la catequesis. La estrella de siete picos representa al diablo y los 7 pecados capitales, mientras que la venda en los ojos es la fe en Cristo. El acto de pegarle a la piñata son nuestros esfuerzos cristianos a pesar de las desorientaciones que trae la vida. Romper la piñata es estar bañado con la gracia del Espíritu Santo y recibir los dones de Dios.

- Fray Gilberto Cavazos- Glz, OFM,
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LLAMADOS DE DIOS

Al acercarse la Navidad, las Escrituras del Adviento nos llevan a un mundo de sueños, señales, maravillas y el milagro del nacimiento de una virgen.

LAS MISAS EN ESPAÑOL

12:00 p.m. los Domingos

7:00 p.m. los Viernes

ROSARIO Y CATECHESIS

7:00 p.m. los Miércoles



Muchas veces dejamos que los grandes relatos de nuestra fe, los que son más conocidos, simplemente nos pasen sin sentirlos. El relato del Evangelio de hoy sobre los acontecimientos previos al nacimiento del Señor parece una telenovela actual. Sin embargo, la valentía de José, aun en medio de una época que debe haber sido increíblemente confusa, nos brinda un modelo a seguir. Cada semana, Dios nos llama a aceptar el camino de la bondad y la verdad por medio de la proclamación de la Palabra sagrada de Dios. Como José, somos llamados a hacer lo que el Señor nos ordena. Mientras estamos en el umbral de la Navidad, tengamos la valentía para estar abiertos a lo que sea, a lo que el Señor requiera de nosotros durante nuestra celebración del milagro de Belén.

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Las cadenas de gracia son fuertes y tan dulces, que, aunque atraen nuestro corazón, ellas no encadenan nuestras libertades. - San Francisco de Sales

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera Lectura - La señal del Señor es que la virgen estará embarazada y dará a luz un hijo varón (Isaías 7: 10-14).

Salmo - Va a entrar el Señor: Él es el Rey de la Gloria (Salmo 24 [23]).

Segunda Lectura - Jesús, descendiente de David biológicamente, fue establecido el Hijo de Dios en poder. (Romanos 1: 1-7).

Evangelio - Maria, la comprometida de José, quedó embarazada por obra del Espíritu Santo (Mateo 1: 18-24).

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: 1 Sm 1: 24-28; 1 Sm 2; Lc 1: 46-56

Martes: Mal 3: 1-4, 23-34; Sal 25; Lc 1: 57-66

Miércoles: 2 Sm 7: 1-16; Sal 89; Lc 1: 67-79

Jueves: Vig: Is 62: 1-5; Sal 89; Heh 13: 16-25; Mt 1: 1-25 Noche: Is 9: 1-6; Sal 96; Tit 2: 11-14; Lc 2: 1-14 Aur: Is 62: 11-12; Sal 9; Tit 3: 4-7; Lc 2: 15-20 Día: Is 52: 7-10; Sal 98; Heb 1: 1-6; Jn 1: 1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Viernes: Heh 6: 8-59; Sal 31; Mt 10: 17-22

Sábado: 1 Jn 1: 1-4; Sal 97; Jn 20: 1a, 2-8

Domingo: Sir 3: 2-6, 12-14; Sal 128: 1-2, 3, 4-5; Col 3: 12-21; Mt 2: 13-15, 19-23



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