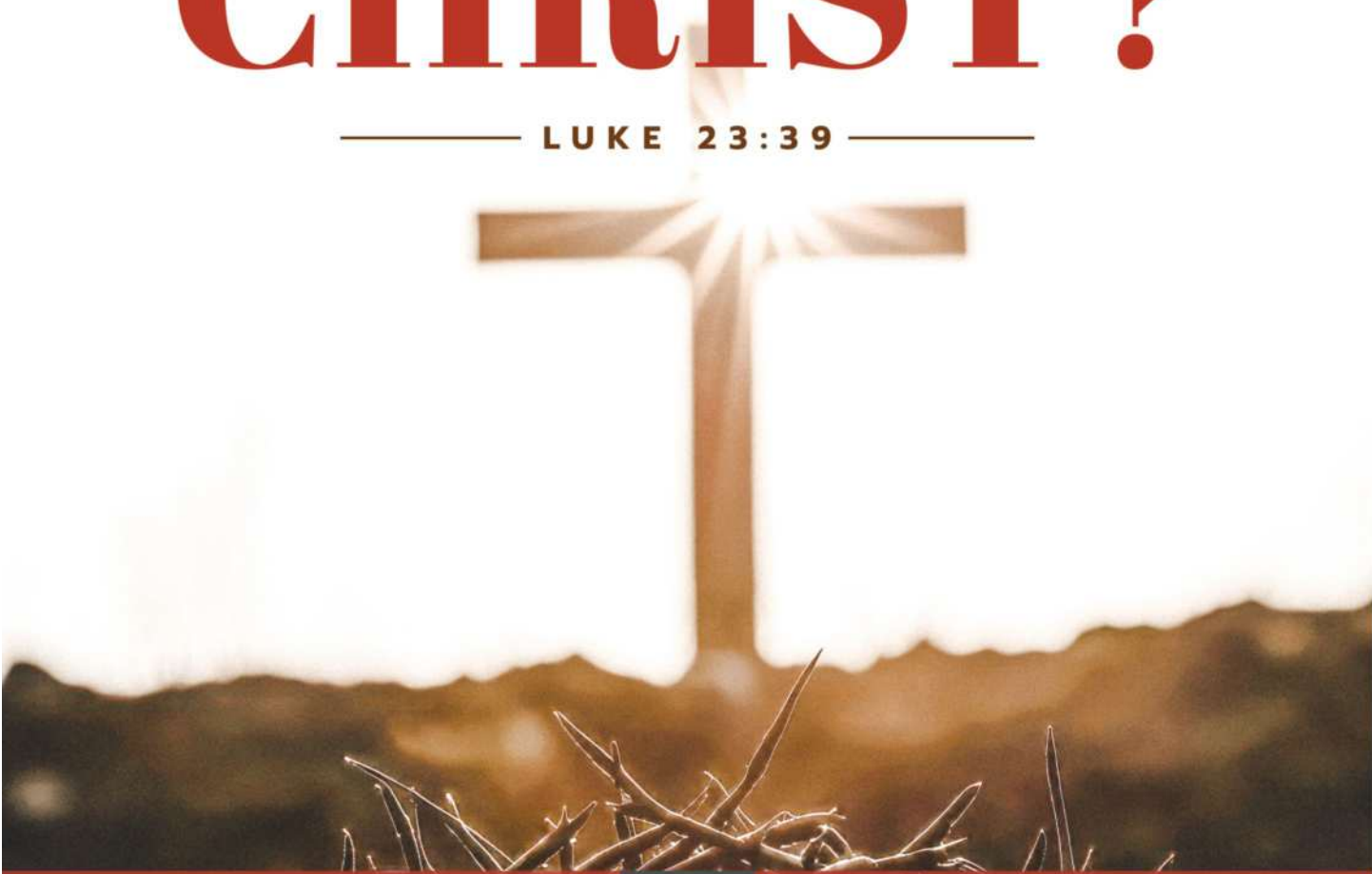


OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

ARE YOU NOT THE **CHRIST?**

— LUKE 23:39 —



ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

COAL CITY - KINSMAN | 195 S. KANKAKEE STREET - COAL CITY, IL | 815-634-4171

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2025

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Coal City

195 South Kankakee Street • Coal City, IL 60416 (815) 634-4171

www.stmaryassumptionparish.org

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Friday - 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Sacred Heart, Kinsman

219 Emmett Street • Kinsman, IL 60437

Pastor	Reverend Joshua Miller	(815) 634-4171 Ext. 2	frjosh@frjosh.org
Family Faith Formation Director & Business Manager	Deacon William Dunn	(815) 634-4171 Ext. 3	ddunn@abvcc.org
Parish Secretary & Bulletin/Digital Editor	Laura Uher	(815) 634-4171 Ext. 1	secretary@abvcc.org
Property Manager	Alex Kuhel	(815) 634-4171 Ext. 10	property@abvcc.org
Music Coordinator	Rita Wise	(815) 634-4110	rwise@abvcc.org

Mass and Confession Times**REGULAR WEEKEND MASS TIMES****Assumption** - Saturday - 4:00 p.m. (*First Saturday of the Month - Additional Mass at 8:30 a.m.), Sunday - 7:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.**Sacred Heart, Kinsman** - Sunday - 9:00 a.m.**REGULAR WEEKDAY MASS TIMES****Assumption** - Tuesday - 6:30 p.m. (*First Tuesday of the Month Mass is followed by St. Peregrine Devotions & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.) Thursday & Friday - 8:30 a.m.**Sacred Heart, Kinsman** - Wednesday - 8:30 a.m.**ROSARY****Assumption** - Tuesday - 6:00 p.m., Thursday & Friday - 8:00 a.m.**CONFESSION TIMES (Different on Holy Days & Holidays)****Assumption** - Tuesday - 6:00 p.m. to 6:20 p.m., Thursday & Friday - 8:00 a.m. to 8:20 a.m., Saturday - 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m., First Sat. Only - 8:00 a.m. to 8:20 a.m.**Sacred Heart, Kinsman** - Wednesday - After 8:30 a.m. Mass, Sunday - After 9:00 a.m. Mass.**Eucharistic Adoration Chapel****Assumption** - The Adoration Chapel is open daily from 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.**Sacraments****ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

Please call the parish office.

BAPTISMS

Parents are required to attend a baptismal preparation meeting prior to the baptism. Please contact the parish secretary to register.

Assumption - Baptisms are ordinarily scheduled for the second and fourth Sundays of the month after 11:30 a.m. Mass.**FUNERALS**

Funeral liturgies are ordinarily celebrated at 10:00 a.m. The funeral director will contact the parish office regarding arrangements.

MARRIAGE

Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance. Marriage preparation classes are required to be completed before the Sacrament of Marriage can be celebrated. Please contact the parish office before making wedding arrangements.

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY November 22	
4:00 PM Mass (A)	†Robet Dvorak (Vince & Marcie Funk) †Jessie Kasher (John & Sharon Gilchrist) †Shirley Boero (Don & Pat Bianchetta)
SUNDAY November 23 Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe	
7:30 AM Mass (A)	People of the Parish †Alvina Halliday (Terry & Carol Halliday) †Carol Williams (Family) †Russ Leman (Laurie & Bob Bianchetta)
9:00 AM Mass (SH)	†Jerry Miller (Joan Miller)
11:30 AM Mass (A)	†Larry Ferrari (Billy & Carol Pohl) †Melinda & Jaxson Cullen (Teresa & Robert Cortez) †Karla Day (Friend) †Norm Hook (Family) †Louis Schmidberger (Harold & Georgette)
TUESDAY November 25	
6:30 PM Mass (A)	†Shirley Boero (John & Teri Jo Boylan)
WEDNESDAY November 26	
8:30 AM Mass (SH)	†Paula Sheedy (John T. Walsh)
THURSDAY November 27	
8:30 AM Mass (A)	†Dennis Murphy (Family)
FRIDAY November 28	
8:30 AM Mass (A)	†Cathy Fleming (Ron & Dianne Marketti)
SATURDAY November 29	
4:00 PM Mass (A)	People of the Parish †Ron Shain (Mom & Dad) †Jeff Keck (Kathie Simons) †Imelda, Yolanda, Cynthia, & Joaquin Romero (Ramona Briones) †Chet Davito (Family) †Ken, Loretta, & Mike Funk (Vince, Marcie, & Family)
SUNDAY November 30 First Sunday of Advent	
7:30 AM Mass (A)	†Anthony Farrero (Ron & Dianne Marketti) †Nancy Jacobek (Peter & Carm Collins)
9:00 AM Mass (SH)	†Pat Walsh (John T. Walsh)
11:30 AM Mass (A)	†Pat Walker (Karen Turner) †Linda L. Jacque (Lestina) (Lestina Family) †Jeff Keck (Meg & Paul Studer) †Albert Paoletti (Madonna & Lucille) †All Deceased Plese Family (Lucille)

Please pray for those serving our country: Sebastian Gasienica, Rhys Lyman, Brady O'Donnell, Zander Posey, Logan Teodoro



Thank you to Matt Baskerville for providing us with beautiful calendars for 2026, which are available for free inside each entrance at Assumption Church.

Weekly Confession Times

TUESDAY (A) - 6:00 p.m. to 6:20 p.m.
WEDNESDAY (SH) - Following the 8:30 a.m. Mass
THURSDAY & FRIDAY (A) - 8:00 a.m. to 8:20 a.m.
SATURDAY (A) - 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. (First Saturday only - 8:00 a.m. to 8:20 a.m.)
SUNDAY (SH) - Following the 9:00 a.m. Mass (Different on Holy Days & Holidays)



This Week's Events

A: Assumption	SH: Sacred Heart
Sunday, November 23	
12:30 pm - Baptism - Assumption Church	
6:30 pm - Evening Adult Bible Study - Madonna Room	
Monday, November 24	
4:30 pm - St. Vincent Meals - Berst Hall	
Coal Food Pantry Open - 815-216-3288	
Tuesday, November 25	
No Events	
Wednesday, November 26 (Parish Office Closed)	
No Events	
Thursday, November 27 (Parish Office Closed)	
Happy Thanksgiving to All Parishioners & Their Families! 	
Friday, November 28 (Parish Office Closed)	
No Events	
Saturday, November 29	
No Events	
Sunday, November 30	
No Events (Today's Evening Adult Bible Study session has been canceled.)	

Catholic Trivia - Apostle Disciple

Question: What's the difference between a disciple and an apostle?

Answer: Disciples are "called," and apostles are "sent."

Please pray for the sick:

Nancy Armstrong & Family, Sharee Beeler, Paula Beshoar, Stacey Brown, Tom Buban, Denise Chally, Ryan Collins, Pam Cruz, Charlotte Curtis, Jan Dunn, Mark & Kay Francisco, Doris Giordano, Dolores Hertenstein, Pat Hudetz, Jim Jacobek, Mary Jo Maland, Gloria Markl, Donna Meyer, Steven Miller, Dan Olson, Jean Peters, Larry Ried, Cecelia Schimandle, Fred & Wanda Singer, Jeff & Danita Stepanek, Helen Talty, Glenn VanDrie, Steve Varsolona, Jake Veronda, Liz Veronda, John T. Walsh

Names will remain on the prayer list for six months. If you would like your name to remain on the list, please contact us.

Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop



Blanchette Catholic Center
16555 Weber Rd.
Crest Hill, Illinois 60403
www.diojoliet.org

November 12, 2025

Dear Friends,

Today the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) issued a powerful and unified "Special Message" on immigration. Deeply rooted in our Gospel tradition of loving our neighbor, this letter affirms our solidarity with all our brothers and sisters as it expresses our concerns, opposition, and hopes with clarity and conviction. It is grounded in the Church's enduring commitment to the Catholic social teaching of human dignity and a call for meaningful immigration reform.

I encourage each of you to take the time to read it, pray with it, and share it with others. Let it be a source of reflection in your homes, parishes, and communities. I hope its message of compassion and justice will influence our thoughts, words, and actions. May it also inspire the work we do together as a Church.

Through the intercession of **Mary, Help of Christians**, may God's light bring peace, justice, and healing to all who need it most.

And may God bless you always.

As I remain—

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Ronald A. Hicks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks
Bishop of Joliet



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

NEWS

Office of Public Affairs
3211 Fourth Street, NE
Washington, DC 20007
202-541-3173
Fax 202-541-3178
www.usccb.org

U.S. Bishops Issue a "Special Message" on Immigration

BALTIMORE, NOVEMBER 12, 2025—As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) gathered for their Fall Plenary Assembly in Baltimore, the bishops issued a Special Message addressing their concern for the evolving situation impacting immigrants in the United States. It marked the first time in twelve years the USCCB invoked this particularly urgent way of speaking as a body of bishops. The last one issued in 2013 was in response to the federal government's contraceptive mandate.

Under the regulations pertaining to statements and publications of the Conference, a "Special Message" may only be issued at plenary assemblies, and they are statements which the President of the Conference, the Administrative Committee, or the general membership consider to be appropriate in view of the circumstances at the time. To show the consensus of the body, a Special Message must receive two-thirds of the Conference members present and voting at the plenary in order to pass. In a vote of **216 votes in favor, 5 votes against, and 3 abstentions**, the bishops overwhelmingly approved the Special Message, with sustained applause of the body following the vote. The full text of the bishops' Special Pastoral Message follows:

As pastors, we the bishops of the United States are bound to our people by ties of communion and compassion in Our Lord Jesus Christ. We are disturbed when we see among our people a climate of fear and anxiety around questions of profiling and immigration enforcement. We are saddened by the state of contemporary debate and the vilification of immigrants. We are concerned about the conditions in detention centers and the lack of access to pastoral care.

We lament that some immigrants in the United States have arbitrarily lost their legal status. We are troubled by threats against the sanctity of houses of worship and the special nature of hospitals and schools. We are grieved when we meet parents who fear being detained when taking their children to school and when we try to console family members who have already been separated from their loved ones.

Despite obstacles and prejudices, generations of immigrants have made enormous contributions to the well-being of our nation. We as Catholic bishops love our country and pray for its peace and prosperity. For this very reason, we feel compelled now in this environment to raise our voices in defense of God-given human dignity.

Catholic teaching exhorts nations to recognize the fundamental dignity of all persons, including immigrants. We bishops advocate for a meaningful reform of our nation's immigration laws and procedures. Human dignity and national security are not in conflict. Both are possible if people of good will work together.

We recognize that nations have a responsibility to regulate their borders and establish a just and orderly immigration system for the sake of the common good. Without such processes, immigrants face the risk of trafficking and other forms of exploitation. Safe and legal pathways serve as an antidote to such risks.

The Church's teaching rests on the foundational concern for the human person, as created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27). As pastors, we look to Sacred Scripture and the example of the Lord Himself, where we find the wisdom of God's compassion. The priority of the Lord, as the Prophets remind us, is for those

who are most vulnerable: the widow, the orphan, the poor, and the stranger (Zechariah 7:10). In the Lord Jesus, we see the One who became poor for our sake (2 Corinthians 8:9), we see the Good Samaritan who lifts us from the dust (Luke 10:30-37), and we see the One who is found in the least of these (Matthew 25). The Church's concern for neighbor and our concern here for immigrants is a response to the Lord's command to love as He has loved us (John 13:34).

To our immigrant brothers and sisters, we stand with you in your suffering, since, when one member suffers, all suffer (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:26). You are not alone!

We note with gratitude that so many of our clergy, consecrated religious, and lay faithful already accompany and assist immigrants in meeting their basic human needs. We urge all people of good will to continue and expand such efforts.

We oppose the indiscriminate mass deportation of people. We pray for an end to dehumanizing rhetoric and violence, whether directed at immigrants or at law enforcement. We pray that the Lord may guide the leaders of our nation, and we are grateful for past and present opportunities to dialogue with public and elected officials. In this dialogue, we will continue to advocate for meaningful immigration reform.

*As disciples of the Lord, we remain
men and women of hope,
and hope does not disappoint! (cf.
Romans 5:5)*

May the mantle of Our Lady of Guadalupe enfold us all in her maternal and loving care and draw us ever closer to the heart of Christ

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"And the LORD said to you,
 'You shall shepherd my people Israel
 and shall be commander of Israel.'" (2 Sm 5:2)

Psalm:

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord. (Ps 122)

Second Reading:

For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell,
 and through him to reconcile all things for him,
 making peace by the blood of his cross
 through him, whether those on earth or those
 in heaven. (Col 1:19-20)

Gospel:

He replied to him,
 "Amen, I say to you,
 today you will be with me in Paradise." (Lk 23:43)

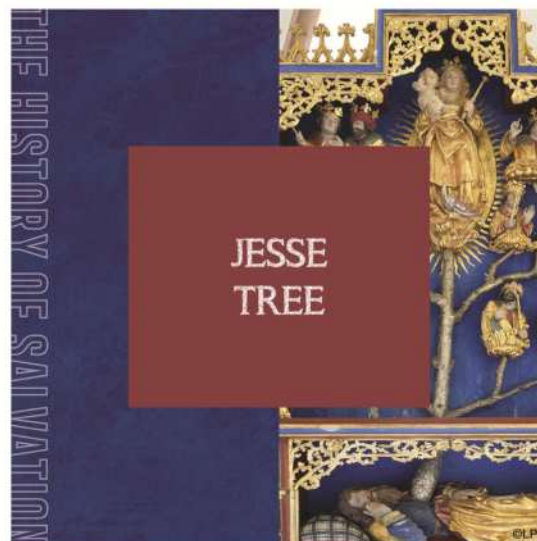
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 The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Our king wears a crown of thorns, not a crown of gold. His glory is not in riches but in suffering. His law is written in his own blood, shed for the love of us. Do we understand the gift that it is, to be subject to such a king?

Observances for the week of November 23, 2025

- Sunday:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Monday: St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs
Tuesday: St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr
Thursday: Thanksgiving Day
Next Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent



Devotions, Explained!

The Jesse Tree is an Advent practice which recounts the history of salvation by tracing the lineage of Christ — the foretold "shoot from the stump of Jesse" who will bring peace and unity to the people of God (Isaiah 11:1).

Jesus is King

Dear Jesus,
 I see the kingdom you love,
 the one full of the broken and forgotten.
 I see the crown you wear —
 thorns out of love for me.
 I pick you as my King.
 Mold my heart to be a worthy
 member of your kingdom.
 Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of November 23, 2025

Sunday:

2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5 (see 1)/
Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43

Monday:

Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/
Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday:

Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61/
Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday:

Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62, 63,
64, 65, 66, 67/Lk 21:12-19

Thursday:

Dn 6:12-28/Dn 3:68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73,
74/Lk 21:20-28

Friday:

Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81/
Lk 21:29-33

Saturday:

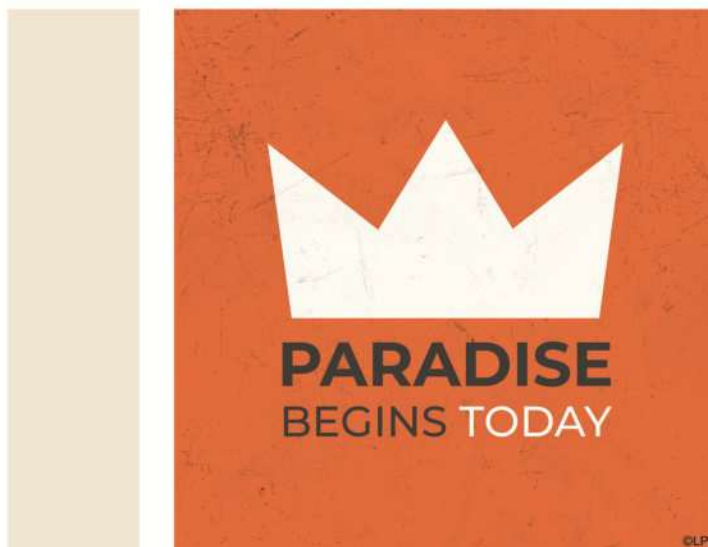
Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87/
Lk 21:34-36

Next Sunday:

Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/
Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Not long ago, I was called to a hospital to anoint a woman in her early 80s. She was dying, and visibly in pain. But what struck me most wasn't her suffering — it was the atmosphere in the room. She had eight children and 30 foster kids, and many of them were gathered around her. You'd expect sorrow, fear, maybe even despair. But the room was filled with something else entirely — a quiet strength, a kind of sweetness. It was as if she was suffering not just with them, but for them. And they, in love, were suffering for her. The pain was real. But so was the peace. I didn't want to run. I felt as if I was in a little paradise, beeping machines and all.

I think of that moment when I hear today's Gospel. Jesus, hanging on the cross, doesn't look like a king. But one of the crucified, dying men beside him sees through the suffering and says, **"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Luke 23:42).** That word — *remember* — literally means to make someone a member again. He's asking to be joined to Christ, to become part of his Body. And Jesus says, **"Today you will be with me in paradise."**

He doesn't say, "I'll take your suffering away." He says, **"You will be with me."**

That's the strange power of Christ the King. He doesn't rule by avoiding suffering. He reigns by entering into it, and transforming it with love.

What are you suffering right now in your life? Likely you want it to stop. But if we are willing to suffer with him — paradise begins even today.

— Father John Muir

Liturgical Life

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: It's taken me a few hundred read-throughs of this Gospel passage to finally understand a painful truth: I am Gestas, "the bad thief." I am as close to Jesus as he was, and I ask for all the wrong things.

The King Who Hangs Beside Us

We love to hate the bad thief.

Ancient Christian tradition has called him by the name "Gestas." In contrast to Dismas, "the good thief" who recognized and repented of his own sins, Gestas goes down bitter and swinging. With his last breaths he taunts Jesus, poking fun at the absurdity of a deity who allows himself to be crucified by mortals. "Are you not the Christ?" he sneers.

But his final words betray an undercurrent of desperation. Of terror. In the end, Gestas just wants Jesus to save him.

It's taken me a few hundred read-throughs of this Gospel passage to finally understand a painful truth: I am Gestas. I hang from my own cross — we all do, in this life. But I'm lucky enough that my cross is right beside Jesus, because the sacraments bring him as close to me as he was to Gestas — closer, even. How unfathomable is the mercy of God.

And yet, I am not grateful. I don't rejoice at my proximity to my Lord, to the flesh and blood that have bought my salvation. I don't do what I should do, and what Dismas does. I don't say, "Wherever you are King, please, let me be your subject. Wherever you are going, please, take me with you."

"Are you not the Christ?" I say instead. And what I mean is exactly what Gestas meant: "Get me down. Take this cross away. I don't want it. I can't take it."

What a tragedy it would be, if all Christ had to offer us was an easier life.

None of this looks like anyone thought it would. The long-foretold Messiah, whose majesty and might would eradicate violence and establish peace. The guy who was going to make everything okay again. The King of the Jews. And here he hangs: bleeding and dying and doing what looks like nothing. Staring at Gestas. Staring at me. Staring at you.

What will you say to him?

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What is Eucharistic Adoration?

Answer:

The practice of Eucharistic Adoration is a centuries old ritual and falls within a broader category of devotions and rituals that are associated with the Sacrament of the Eucharist. In a particular way, Eucharistic Adoration is an extension of the worship and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament that occurs in every Mass.

In a long-standing practice, a period of Eucharistic Adoration often ends with "benediction," the blessing of the faith with the Blessed Sacrament.

Several parishes throughout the United States have introduced the practice of perpetual Eucharistic Adoration, while other communities have the custom of shorter periods of Eucharistic Adoration. Care should always be taken that these periods of adoration respect the instructions outlined in *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass*, the liturgical book that gives the instructions for the proper celebration of Eucharistic Adoration.

Although adoration of the Blessed Sacrament can never take the place of Eucharistic Communion, many Catholics find great comfort and consolation in their prayers before the Eucharist enshrined in the tabernacle or when it is exposed in the monstrance (both are equally valid, as the Christ is not more present in one than in the other). But when we consider our eucharistic devotions, it is always important to remember the fundamental connection these acts of devotion have the celebration of the Eucharist in the Mass and reception of Christ in Communion.



Ministry Schedule November 29 & 30



If you are interested in assisting us at our weekend Masses, please sign up through the volunteer link on our website, which contains the most up-to-date schedule, or call or email Laura at the parish office. Confirmed volunteers for our upcoming services are below:

Saturday, November 29 - 4:00 p.m.

Extraordinary Ministers - **Two volunteers needed**

Lector - **Volunteer needed**

Servers - **Volunteers needed**

Ushers - Ron Henke, Bob Jacovec, Doug Letterly, Bob Schmitt, Fran Schmitt

Sunday, November 30 - 7:30 a.m.

Extraordinary Ministers - Therese Bouvier, **alternate needed**

Lector - Janice Unger

Servers - Pete Collins, Ron Marketti

Sunday, November 30 - 9:00 a.m. (Sacred Heart, Kinsman)

Extraordinary Minister - Carrie Sulzberger

Lector - Brent Sulzberger

Servers - Austin & McKenna Brockman

Sunday, November 30 - 11:30 a.m.

Extraordinary Ministers - Terry Halliday, **alternate needed**

Lector - **Volunteer needed**

Server - **Volunteer needed**

Thank you for sharing your time and talents with us!

Desserts are needed for our Monday night St. Vincent Meals and may be dropped off on Mondays before 2 p.m. at the back kitchen door. Thank you for your help!



Choir rehearsal for the 9 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass at Assumption Church is canceled on Wednesday, Nov. 26. Our weekly Wednesday rehearsals at 7 p.m. will resume on Dec. 3 and continue through Dec. 17.



Children's Handbell Choir



Our Children's Handbell Choir will be honoring and glorifying our Lord with their handbell music at

Assumption's 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass. Practices are on Saturdays from 2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. in the Madonna Room, through Saturday, Dec. 20. Please note that there will be no practice on Saturday, Nov. 29.

For further information, or if your child would like to join, please contact Alex Kuhel at (815) 655-2440. New members are welcome!

Assumption Lectors: Please pick up your free 2026 Lector Workbooks from the counter in the sacristy.

Diocese of Joliet Catholic Schools

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Due to our publisher's early bulletin deadlines, weekly offering figures were unavailable prior to publication. These figures will be published in our future bulletins.



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The City-Wide Choir and Coal City United Methodist Church present

A Thrill of Hope

A Christmas Musical by Joel Raney
with the composer conducting

December 7, 2025
4:00 pm
 Coal City UMC -
 6805 E. McArdle Road

This event is made possible through a Vital Worship, Vital Preaching Grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, Michigan, with funds provided by Lilly Endowment Inc.

Kids Corner

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to forgive my sins, too.

Mission for the Week

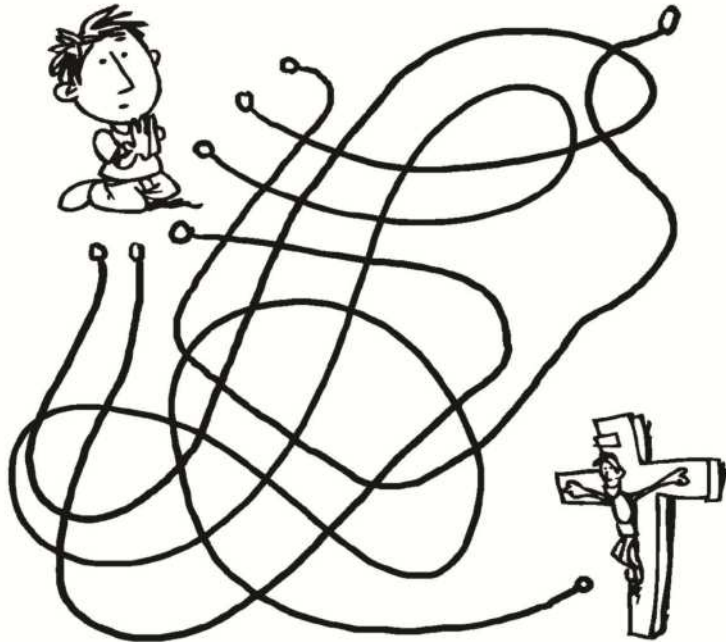
Jesus forgave the people who killed him. He expects you to forgive people who hurt you, too. Think of one person with whom you have been angry. Ask God to help you forgive that person, because Jesus forgives you.

Sharing the Gospel

When the soldiers hurt Jesus, they were only doing their job. They did not understand that they were killing God's Son. Jesus saw into the hearts of those soldiers, and he forgave them. A man next to Jesus on the cross had done terrible things. He knew he deserved to die on a cross, and he was truly sorry. This criminal believed that Jesus was God's Son. Jesus saw into that criminal's heart, and Jesus forgave him, too.

Now color
the picture! →

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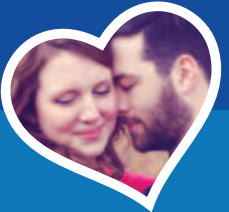


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- Electrophysiology & Cardiology
- New Primary Care providers with expanded hours

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