December 23/25, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Advent

CHRISTMAS DAY

“And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy.”
—LK 1:43-44

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means God with us.”

Matthew 1:23

Father Greg Skowron, Father Michael Kearney and the Parish Staff wish all a safe and blessed Christmas.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR’S MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASSES. DEC. 24
3:30 pm Family Mass in Church
Children’s Choir, Bagpipes and Festival Brass
Barb A. Masters, Director

4:00 pm Family Mass in Valentino Center
Jack and Krystyna Miuccio, Susan Salgado, Cantors
Harp and Brass; James Brown, Pianist

5:30 pm Mass in Church
Christmas Choir, St. Gabriel Brass,
Barb A. Masters, Organist-Director

CHRISTMAS MASS AT MIDNIGHT
Prelude begins at 11:30 pm
Visitation Adult Choir and Festival Orchestra

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES, DEC. 25

8:15 am Mass in Church
Barb A. Masters, Organist; Megan Drahos, Cantor

10:00 am Mass in Church
Visitation Adult Choir and Festival Orchestra

11:30 am Mass in Church
Jack and Krystyna Miuccio, Cantors, Festival Orchestra

***No 6:00 pm Mass

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26 Dec</td>
<td>WED</td>
<td>MANNA</td>
<td>Parish Center</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Dec</td>
<td>THUR</td>
<td>Prayer for Priests</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>8:45 AM</td>
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<td>28 Dec</td>
<td>FRI</td>
<td>MANNA</td>
<td>Parish Center</td>
<td>2:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Dec</td>
<td>SUN</td>
<td>RCIA</td>
<td>Parish Center</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Dec</td>
<td>SUN</td>
<td>Children’s Liturgy of the Word</td>
<td>Parish Center</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Greetings of Love and Peace from Father Ben Chinnappan
How are you? I am very grateful to the people of Visitation Parish, Father Greg and Deacon Tony for all of your support and love. I am slowly settling in San Diego. I will never forget your timely help for my school children as well as your generous outreach to all those who were devastated by the flood in India. Here is my address in San Diego:
REV. BENJAMIN CHINNAPPAN
P.O. BOX 178995, SAN DIEGO, CA 92177

2018 DIOCESAN AUDIT
The Diocese of Joliet conducts an audit (a review of all parish financial dealings) every two years. We are pleased that the 2018 Audit is completed and our parish will continue to implement the recommendations.

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP
December 16, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Previous Week E-Give</th>
<th>Weekly Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>$9,056.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUNDAY WEEKLY</td>
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<td>10:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Collection</td>
<td>$27,163.75</td>
<td>$167,749.00</td>
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SABBATICALS
According to diocesan policy, all diocesan priests ordained at least 15 years (with seven years of service in the diocese) are eligible for a sabbatical. Priests are also eligible for another sabbatical 10 years after the first.

DEFINITION OF SABBATICAL LEAVE FOR DIOCESAN PRIESTS
For a priest in parish ministry (or in any other diocesan ministry), the sabbatical is a period of time away from his regular assignment for the purpose of ministerial, personal, spiritual and theological development and enrichment. A sabbatical IS NOT the same as a Leave of Absence.

Dear Visitation Parishioners,
On January 1, 2019, I will begin a three-month sabbatical. This will be my first sabbatical in nearly 30 years of priesthood. I will be using this time for the purpose of rest, study, reflection and renewal.

In my absence, Fr. Michael and Fr. Milota will be responsible for overseeing the day to day operations of Visitation.

Please pray for me during this time and be assured that I will be praying for you all as well.

Yours in Christ,
Father Greg Skowron, Pastor

2018 Catholic Ministries ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: $136,900.00
Amount Pledged: $170,394.00
Amount Paid: $167,749.00
Donor Count: 421

Thank you to all who have responded to the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal. We are most grateful for your generosity and will keep you in our prayers.
THIS WEEK’S FOCUS:
MAKING ROOM

“Let ev’ry heart prepare him room.” This is a message not only in these final days before Christmas, but for every day.

FIRST READING
From Bethlehem Ephrathah shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel (Micah 5:1-4a).
This reading is a classic example of a prophet saying more than he even realized. When Micah the Prophet pronounced these words, he was referring to events occurring in his own days. Micah thought of the dynasty of ruling Jerusalem as so corrupt that it could not be salvaged. He was hoping that God would raise up a new king and a new dynasty that would have small town values (which is the reason for predicting that it would come from Bethlehem and not from Jerusalem). The Holy Spirit took his words and gave them a new meaning in the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Jesus is the true Good Shepherd who would bring peace to the whole world.

SECOND READING
We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:5-10).
There are two ideas in this reading that give us an indication of why it was chosen. First, it speaks of the fact that Christ came into the world. The second theme is that Christ came in the flesh. God did not send a messenger to communicate his good will toward us. Rather, God took on our flesh and came to dwell among us. This consecrates all that we are and all that we do, for it means that we do not have to reject our humanity to be God-like. Rather, we must be like Jesus who embraced humanity and made it a full expression of God’s love.

GOSPEL READING
Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled (Luke 1:39-45).
The Gospel recalls what happened to Mary between the time that she agreed to be the mother of the Son of God and the actual birth of Jesus. Mary proved her generosity by forgetting her own problems and traveling to the home of her cousin Elizabeth, who was also with child, so that she might help her. Even before a word is spoken, the baby in Elizabeth’s womb, John the Baptist, recognizes the presence of Jesus and leaps to greet him. (The first person to recognize Jesus’ presence in the world was an unborn child.) Elizabeth greets Mary with great respect because the Holy Spirit had revealed the truth to her that Mary was now the mother of her Lord. The entire scene is filled with a sense of awe and joy.

REFLECTION
A favorite Advent song tells us to “Proclaim the joyful message that our God is coming to earth.” These words by James Marchionda, OP, is expressed in the First and Second Readings. However, John’s responses to the questions posed in the Gospel challenge us more than they leave us feeling joyful. Why? Because whatever our life situation, we are to be and do more: share what we have, take only what we require or need, speak truth, live without extortion, and grow satisfied with what we have. How countercultural in a world that more often tries to impress by giving more than we can afford, or putting on a show for others; a world in which what we receive is more important than what we give, and what we give often comes with a price — people needing to work on Thanksgiving, or working double shifts, or using monies needed elsewhere to purchase gifts or provide entertainment. This may seem to dampen the joy of the season, especially on “Gaudete Sunday”, or seem judgmental about the natural desire to want “the best” at this time of year. But what really is “the best?” Pope Francis recently said that the temples of our hearts are best safeguarded through service (Homily, 11/24/17). Jesus makes clear that what is “best” can be found in our hearts, where his Spirit dwells. There we can find freedom from anxiety, joy in gratitude, and the peace that comes from sharing, inviting, speaking truth, and discerning what we really need. When we discover that Emmanuel, God-with-us, dwells in our hearts. Christ comes again, we rejoice, our lives continue to “Proclaim the joyful message that our God is coming to earth.”

READINGS FOR THE WEEK [December 24-30]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
MASS INTENTIONS

PLEASE NOTE:
2019 MASS INTENTION OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE

■ MONDAY, DECEMBER 24 [CHRISTMAS EVE]
3:30 PM
enschaft Edward Grebin
4:00 PM
Intentions of the Celebrant
5:30 PM
chaft Georgina Resillez

■ TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25 [CHRISTMAS DAY]
8:15 AM
chaft Tom Pezza
chaft John Pezza
chaft Joan Pezza
10:00 AM
Intentions of Fr. Ben Chinnapan
11:30 AM
Intentions of the Celebrant

■ WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26
8:15 AM
chaft Cornelius Flynn

■ THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27
6:15 AM
Intentions of Fr. Michael Kearney
8:15 AM
chaft Ted and Dorothy Orlech
chaft Patrick Clancy

■ FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28
8:15 AM
chaft Ted and Dorothy Orlech
chaft Patrick Clancy

■ SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29
8:15 AM
Intentions of Fr. Greg Skowron

To take the gifts up at Mass, please see an Usher.

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY

For the Sick
Please pray for all the sick and their families:
Elizabeth Gory    Susan Reetz
Pauline Palgin    John Rossi

Due to privacy issues we only honor prayer list requests by you or a family member. Names remain on list for two weeks. Please call the office to add a name or to have the name continued for two additional weeks.

For the Deceased
Jaqueline Senato    Elaine Michalek
"Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them."

CHURCH VIGIL CANDLE INTENTIONS

Vigil candles burn for requested intentions before our church statues of Our Lady and St. Joseph, To have a candle lit, please call the Parish Office at 630-834-6700.

Salvatore Raimondi

FLAMES OF FAITH

Candles will burn perpetually this week before the Blessed Sacrament in the Adoration Chapel of Our Lady, Mother of the Eucharist, for the following intentions:
— For Gene, Husband & Father. We pray for the repose of your soul.
— In honor of my brother who died at the age of five [12/14/1948].

OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED

Celebrated on December 9, 2018:
MICHAEL CHARLES
Son of Kelley Marie (Flodan) and Nicola Michelle Fasano

KAYLEIGH MARIE
Daughter of Jason Joseph Kiolbasa and Sarah Elizabeth (Greenberg)

ARMED FORCES PRAYER LIST

We remember in prayer our military as they serve in our Armed Forces and pray for God’s protection.

U.S. Air Force — MSGT Kevin James (Ramstein AFB, Germany)
chaft AMN Natalee Arbo (Wright Paterson, OH)
chaft AMN E2 Jacob Neimanas (Travis AFB, CA)
chaft AMN Eric E. James (DYESS AFB, Abilene, TX)
chaft SSGT Christopher Lenz (Tinker AFB, OK)
chaft CPT Joseph Doyle (ID)
chaft MAJ Patrick Leen (IL)
chaft 1LT Timothy Drahokoupil (Fort Campbell, KY)
chaft LT Joseph D. Frost (Kandahar, Afghanistan)
chaft CPT Nicholas Keller (Fort Knox, KY)
chaft 2LT Thomas J. Diwisch (Fort Bragg, NC)
chaft PVT Stephen J. Taylor (Fort Eustis, VA)
chaft LCDR Robert Aranha (United States)

U.S. Army — CPT Joseph Doyle (ID)
chaft MAJ Patrick Leen (IL)
chaft 1LT Timothy Drahokoupil (Fort Campbell, KY)
chaft LT Joseph D. Frost (Kandahar, Afghanistan)
chaft CPT Nicholas Keller (Fort Knox, KY)
chaft 2LT Thomas J. Diwisch (Fort Bragg, NC)
chaft PVT Stephen J. Taylor (Fort Eustis, VA)
chaft LCDR Robert Aranha (United States)

U.S. Coast Guard — CPO Patrick Kirby (TX)
chaft U.S. Marine Corps — PVT Nicholas Acevedo (CA)
chaft 1 LT Kurt P. James (Darwin, Australia) SGT David Byrne (Japan)
chaft CPL Conor Croci (MCAS Miramar, CA)
chaft LCPL Eric E. Gibas (Camp Pendleton, CA)

To add a name to this list, please call 630-834-6700.
2018 Visitation Catholic Church

Donations
Mrs. Margaret Mary Bradley
Mr. & Mrs. J. Terrence Grisim
Mr. Jeff Bronge
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bronge
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Leali
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Falcone
Ms. Amy Ross
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Vogt
Mr. Jeff Lorenz
Mr. Francis Guelstolise
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Bennett
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Shurba
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Horn
Mrs. Theresa Ryan
Mrs. Sarah Galvin
Mrs. Helena Jordan
Nadine Dillon
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Lavin
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Hitzler
Mr. & Mrs. Boguslaw Lyczewski
Mr. & Mrs. Grant Mulvey
Mr. & Mrs. Graydon Megan
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Murphy
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Robbins
Mr. & Mrs. William Poole
Dr. & Mrs. Eraci
Mr. & Mrs. William Kretz
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Mondi
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Prinske
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Murphy
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Melone
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Rawlish
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Stallmann
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Ahern
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Curtin
Mr. E. Depasque
Mr. & Mrs. John Sliwa
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Krajewski
Laura Stephen
Sloan Family

Mrs. Lucille Naughton
Mr. & Mrs. Pat A D Alessandro
Mr. & Mrs. David Hoechbauer
Laura Vargas
Mr. & Mrs. John Pezza
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Leopold
Mr. Robert Smrstik
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Thomas
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Colandrea
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Wilczewski
Mr. & Mrs. Vincenzo Liotta
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Malinowski
Mr. & Mrs. John Gearen
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Harrison
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Calkins
Mr. & Mrs. Todd Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hickey
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Hill
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Herald
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Meagher
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Province
Mrs. Noreene Damolars
Mr. & Mrs. James Kinsella
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Larson
Mrs. Sarah Galvin
Mrs. Theresa Ryan
Mrs. Helena Jordan
Nadine Dillon
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Falcone
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bronge
Mr. & Mrs. Marlan J. Schreiner
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Adamski
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Verdone
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Opal
Mr. & Mrs. William Higgins
Mr. & Mrs. Abel Sandoval
Ms. Tagumpay Fabicon
Mrs. Dolores Hanover
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Luptak
Evelyn Miko
Mr. & Mrs. Craig Ostling
Mr. & Mrs. Phil Pekron
Mr. & Mrs. David Sholtis
Mrs. Mark Monroe
Mr. & Mrs. Ruben Bautista
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Dalrymple
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Stefely
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Reedy
Mr. & Mrs. John Szuberla
Mr. & Mrs. Craig Heiss
Mr. & Mrs. William Pransky
Mr. & Mrs. Brendan Keating
Ms. Geraldine Sczygiel
Mr. & Mrs. Jason Scheuneman
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Carey
Mrs. Patricia Lazanich
Mr. & Mrs. James Stanfa
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Mallaney
Mr. & Mrs. Thaddeus Augelli
Dr. & Mrs. Brian Reardon
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin O’Reilly
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Dolan
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Moreau.
Mr. & Mrs. James Conway
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Hajek
Dcn. & Mrs. Anthony Spatafore
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Gofron
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Woznica
Ms. Grace Rossi
Sandra Feffer
Mazzula Family

In Memoriam
Blanche Reburn
Arline Fiala
Jasan & Bud Kroeger
Richard & Shirley Borel
Betty & James Dunne
Mike Majewski
Betty Herman
Charles A. and
Catherine A. Lindblade
Joan Allman
Hans & Anna Wagner
Stanley & Josephine O’Brien
Daniel O’Brien
Kramer & Carnivale Families
The DuRocher Family
Sylvester & Dolores Adamski
Raul Ryan Castellano
Peter Pasij
Christine & Gerald Campbell
Dave VanHoose
Christmas Flowers Donations

In Memoriam (continued)

Daniel Riley
Arthur Borsa
Ed & Loretta Machnikowski
Jalinda & Hickey Families
James Cervone
Pat Calcagno
Julia Calcagno
Vincent Arbino
Dennis Doyle
Rich & Barb Mitacek
John A. Muehleis
Antoinette Wilkin
McMahon, Bollfrass and Kendzior Families
Walenta & Kuczynski Families
A. Tommy Olivi
Walden Family
Luscombe Family & Friends
For All Faithful Departed
John Kapriva
Dan & Mary Laurino
Nicolas & Adela Zamar
Fr. Kevin McGonigle
Reda Family
Ehmann & Lowery Families
Ruben Matos
Konopacz & Sweeney Families
Francis Patalak
Bill & Bobbie Prendergast
Jack Regan
Loretta Eaker
Osinski, Miller and Damolos Families
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Drewno
Dane VanHoose
Pencyla & Udovich Families
John & Edith Leonard
Bobby Pullia
Louise Rohrick
Raul Alatorre
Al & Albina Bender
Jim Bauernfeind
Deacon Dominic Cuzzone
Rose Cuzzzone
Herb Klotter
Antoinette Klotter
Reda & Desists Family
Dom Ferrara
Rita Rice
James Haefling
Ralph Alfini
Russell Konrath
Bob Spahn
Jozef Kaleta
Mario Simbolino
William Phelan
Ginie & Cronin Families
Kotarba Family
Damon Ward
Barbara & Thomas Honan
Elmer Pagnusat
Aranha Families
Tom Loftus
Violet Larson
Paul & Sherry Morris
Novak & McGlynn Families
Cwiklik & Ryba Families
Mike Majewski
Betty Herman
Janan & Bud Kroeger
Richard & Shirley Borel
Betty & James Dunne
Dan O'Shaughnessy
Velia Cipriani
Judy & Richard Moore
Bastone Family
Clarence Miller
Jackie McMillan
Irene Barbato
Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Nalepa
Walter Synowiec
Rosalie Synowiec
Lisa Byrne
Peter Byrne
Martin, Celia & Wayne Sunder
James F. Waldon
Emil & Jean Gregory
Flynn & Carroll Families
Deacon Dominic & Rose Cuzzzone
Eugene & Bernice Marek
Francis Heiberger
Barbara Hilan
Allen Ryan
Judith Haggerty
Ostling & Deak Families
Carmen Romeo
Havanna Suarez
Harold Ostling
James & Sophia Carter
Richter Family
Clery Family
Ann & Louis Pentis
Olaes Family
Frank Borta
John Korpan
Bob Campagnolo
Difatta Family
Dr. Sal Nigro
Belaski & Yudyk Families
Jim Montgomery
Burke & Schulze Families
Marueen Cox
Jeanne Tierney
Gloria Kari
Anded Evans
Frank Cavallaro
Olin & Helen Kennedy
Ira & Edith Jackson
Caroline Grace Hannigan
Kevin Osgood
Martin Anderson
Thomas Tremback, MD
Joseph B. Tremback
James & Barbara McGue
Edward McEllin
Metod Zerdin
Bernice & Steve Ruff, Sr.
Adeline & Lyle Johnson
Harry Schroeder
Deckert & Eastham Families
Ann Hipeliu
Zudora Davidson
Paul & Sherry Morris
Judy Haggetz
By Father Michael Kearney

**I consider myself a pragmatist.**

I like to be a realist, take practical and proven techniques when applying things to both my daily life, and to my spiritual life as well. I think I tried being an engineer by study. That being said — in my own life — I need to remind myself how God sometimes doesn’t always work in the pragmatic way. God sometimes works contrary to my own ideas and actions. The main contrary way the Lord works is in the simple and small ways!

God reveals in the first reading that the great Israelite ruler will come from an insignificant town of Bethlehem. The Israelites found this in their history. The great King David was discovered as a young boy while he was shepherding; not as some great warrior on the battlefield. Likewise, in the fulfillment of David’s line, it is Jesus, who is God that comes into the world as a tiny infant, who then becomes a quiet carpenter, only to begin his ministry at the age of 30 years old — and will later become the King of Kings.

*It brings to light this truth: sometimes God works in the smallest and unexpected ways!*

My own vocation toward the priesthood is made up of simple encounters with the Lord: from the confessional, to receiving the Eucharist, picking up the Bible, etc. Nothing super glorious when looking from the outside in, yet each experience has a tremendous impact.

I hope as this Advent season comes to an end we can all come to this great conclusion: the Lord works in small and simple ways.

*Never hesitate to open your heart to those small moments to encounter God. When we do that, this Christmas day could change our lives!*

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**YOUNG ADULT RETREAT**

**A Door Into the World of Man**

Discovering God in Literature

Retreat led by Fr. Andy Davy, MIC and Fr. Michael Kearney

Friday, Jan. 11 (beginning at 5pm) to Sunday, Jan. 13 (concluding at 12 Noon)

Dickson Valley Retreat Center

8250 Finnie Road, Newark, IL

Cost: $125

For information/to register please contact Fr. Michael Kearney: frmike@visitationcc.org

Space is limited. Financial Assistance available.

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**Did You Know?**

Rosary Makers is a not for profit ministry and all proceeds support Pro-Life via Knights of Columbus as well as rosary donations to those who cannot afford one. We sell rosaries that include: ladder, single chain, rear view mirror, bracelets, key chains, baptism, saints, St. Patrick, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Knights of Columbus, Christmas, and Divine Mercy. We sell pyxes, burses, Advent calendars, prayer cards, medals, rosary cases/holders, single decade chaplets and school color rosaries. We use beads such as Czech crystal, tiger eye, hematite, mother of pearl, and heart shaped beads? We have How to Pray the Rosary for Children brochures and one for teens. We collect broken/unwanted rosaries to repair/redistribute as part of our Rosary Rescue Mission. Look for us in January after all Masses for FREE rosary repair and purchases on the first weekend of every month! Special orders welcome!
Advent and Christmas are one of my favorite times of the year. Every year I look forward to opening the door to the Adoration Chapel and seeing the Nativity set up beneath Our Savior, Jesus, in the Blessed Sacrament. You can certainly feel the warmth of the Holy Family — Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, when you step inside the Chapel after coming in from the bitter cold. I also feel that my prayer life is probably the most fruitful at this time of year as well. At this sacred time of year, it is easier for me to meditate upon the lives of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Whenever I go to the Adoration Chapel, my eyes are always drawn to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, but I remember a few years ago, I experienced something different during the Christmas season. At first, I was feeling a little unfocused and should I say “guilty” for not keeping my eyes on the Blessed Sacrament, but I began feeling drawn to something as if a very strong force was pulling my eyes in a different direction.

My eyes gazed upon the Nativity statue of Our Blessed Mother. I thought how different matters would have been without her “yes” and total trust and submission to God. Then I prayed: "Dear God, may I be more like Mary, obedient and trusting and always say "yes" to Your will."

My eyes then drifted towards the statue of Joseph. I have always felt that sometimes we forget or ignore his important role in the whole Nativity story. Maybe this is because Joseph was such a humble man. But yet, he was given the graces of faith and strength to be able to endure everything that was put in his path. He was the ultimate protector of his family. Then I prayed: "Dear God, may I be more like Joseph, humble in my ways, but yet filled with great faith and strength to endure any adversities given to me. Help me to protect my family."

My eyes then gazed upon the statue of the Baby Jesus. He who possessed both His Mother’s and stepfather’s blessed gifts of grace. He was humble, yet strong and faithful just like Joseph. He was also obedient and trusting of His Father’s Will just like Mary. Then I prayed, “Dear God, may I be more like Jesus, in every way.”

My eyes were lifted up to His Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament. Then I visually and spiritually can see God’s plan right before my eyes. Jesus, the Son of God was made flesh as a baby, and as I look upward, He then became our spiritual nourishment in the Eucharist at the Last Supper.

Then I gazed up to the Blessed Sacrament. I see Jesus’ ultimate gift of love for all of us; being crucified, suffering, and dying on the cross to save us from our sins.

I looked upward again to the light above the crucifix. I can see the brightness of the heavens and I visually and spiritually can see God’s plan for Jesus’ life right before my eyes; Jesus’ birth, Jesus becoming Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Eucharist, His Crucifixion, and my mission, being with Him, the Light of the World, in Heaven for eternity!

There are many hours that need partners at the Adoration Chapel. Come out of the cold and feel the warmth of the Adoration Chapel. You, too, can experience Heaven on Earth with the Holy Family.

Please call Mary Lewis 630-941-9173 or Joan Taylor 630-530-8963 today!
Win at the 2019 Visitation Gala Raffle
$10,000 CASH PRIZE
Drawing January 26, 2019, at 7 pm
$20 per ticket — Only 5,000 sold!
Ask a Vis student, buy a ticket after any of the Sunday Masses, visit biddingforgood.com/visitation, or contact Lindsay Cibelli at lnzcibelli@gmail.com for raffle tickets!

‘TIS THE SEASON TO GIVE THANKS...
We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping to make Thanksgiving memorable for approximately 115 families from our community. We rely on the generosity of Visitation Parish each year to fulfill the large numbers of families who need food. Due to your overwhelming generosity, we were able to provide food and grocery gift cards, as well as a turkey, to those in need. Our names are received from our own food pantry, Greencastle Senior Housing, Transitional Housing and Catholic Charities. We have had difficulty obtaining what we need through the Northern Illinois Food Bank due to their decrease in food donations and with your help, we were also able to restock our food pantry. We would not be able to accomplish this outreach without your continued support. Our parish family will pray for you during this holy season of Christmas. May the Christ child bless you and may the generosity that you show to others be returned to you one hundred fold.

Pam Stefik, Director of Christian Ministry
Immaculate Conception Church

CATHOLIC SCRIPTURE STUDY PRESENTS
HEBREWS
Sessions for this 16-week DVD study will be held in the Hospitality Room of the Parish Center Wednesdays, beginning January 9, from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM
Hebrews is a masterfully written biblical work with a fascinating premise: the New Covenant of Jesus Christ perfectly fulfills the Old Covenant. Even more impressive, however, is the fact that only the New Covenant can free us from sin. The news was so shocking, so radical, that it literally shook the world, beginning with the earthquake at Calvary and thundering down to us, 2,000 years later. This DVD study with Scott Hahn, Mark Shea and Fr. Mitch Pacwa takes us through this theological piercing letter. In 16 powerful lessons, you will learn:
— Why the New Covenant fulfills, without destroying, the Old.
— How Jesus relates to and far surpasses the angels.
— What it means to be a priest ‘in the line of Melchizedek.’
— How the first Christians made crushing sacrifices to guard and preserve our Faith.

Study Guides, although not required, greatly enhance the understanding of each session, are available for $30. For more information/to register and order a Study Guide, please contact Pauline Scharres at pmscharres@att.net or 630-257-2693.

‘TIS THE SEASON TO GIVE THANKS...
We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping to make Thanksgiving memorable for approximately 115 families from our community. We rely on the generosity of Visitation Parish each year to fulfill the large numbers of families who need food. Due to your overwhelming generosity, we were able to provide food and grocery gift cards, as well as a turkey, to those in need. Our names are received from our own food pantry, Greencastle Senior Housing, Transitional Housing and Catholic Charities. We have had difficulty obtaining what we need through the Northern Illinois Food Bank due to their decrease in food donations and with your help, we were also able to restock our food pantry. We would not be able to accomplish this outreach without your continued support. Our parish family will pray for you during this holy season of Christmas. May the Christ child bless you and may the generosity that you show to others be returned to you one hundred fold.

Pam Stefik, Director of Christian Ministry
Immaculate Conception Church

“Wills and Trusts: Which is better for you?”
Anyone interested in protecting their family from the confusion, complications and legal fees of an incomplete estate plan should attend the educational program, “Wills and Trusts — Which is better for you?” on Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2019, at 6:30pm, in the Visitation Hospitality Room, with guest speaker, Ted Kuczek, of the Law Firm of Kuczek and Associates.
PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

The Prayer Quilt Ministry would like to encourage all parishioners to let us know about those who are going through a significant difficulty and who may benefit from the prayers of our congregation and the tangible evidence of those prayers in the form of prayer quilts. The recipients of the prayer quilts may be going through a health issue, facing surgery, be in the military (or just returned from military duty), dealing with grief, emotional concerns, etc. They do not have to be member of Visitation Parish or Catholic.

Anyone may offer a prayer quilt to anyone you feel might benefit and appreciate being covered by our prayers. The recipient MUST agree to accept the prayer quilt.

If you would like to request a prayer quilt for someone, please complete the form below, place it in the collection basket or drop it off at the Parish Office and someone from the Prayer Quilt Ministry will get in touch with you to obtain additional information.

CHRP News

My sister-in-law and a friend asked me to join them on a CRHP weekend last year. It was the best experience I have had. I met wonderful women who continue to inspire me today.

Please join us for an amazing CRHP weekend next month, on January 26 and 27. It will definitely encourage you in your spiritual walk with God. My Catholic faith and trust in God’s plan grows stronger everyday. — LAM

Friday, Jan. 11 6:30 pm (7 pm start)
Visitation Gym, $10 person
Teams are max of 8 people
B.Y.O. Nibbles and Drinks

Send your team name for this fun and challenging night to courtney@braafhart.net. Money is due Wednesday, Jan. 9 (Drop off at the Frost home, 875 S. Chatham) or if you have a student at Vis (Send to Brandy Frost via Peter Frost, Room #128). For more information contact Courtney, courtney@braafhart.net or Brandy, bfrost0616@yahoo.com.

VISITATION PARISH
CASSEROLE MINISTRY
TIN DISTRIBUTION: DECEMBER 29/30
CASSEROLE COLLECTION: JANUARY 12/13

CCW Trivia Night

PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

REQUEST FOR A PRAYER QUILT

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### CHRISTMAS EVE/CHRISTMAS DAY LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

**MONDAY, DEC. 24 [3:30 PM MASS]**
- Lector: Ramona Osgood
- Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers: Daniel Fogarty, Sr., Catherine Shea, NOT FILLED-2
- Altar Servers: Rachael Bricker, Aidan Hill, Grace Sletten

**MONDAY, DEC. 24 [4:00 PM MASS]**
- Lector: Rose Krajewski
- Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers: Helen Krajewski, Erin Radcliff, NOT FILLED-3
- Altar Servers: NOT FILLED-3

**MONDAY, DEC. 24 [5:30 PM MASS]**
- Lector: Tony Cuzzone
- Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers: Dianne C. Carter, Colleen Costello Rauen, NOT FILLED-3
- Altar Servers: Luke Tardiff, Ellie Tardiff, NOT FILLED-1

**CHRISTMAS EVE MIDNIGHT MASS**
- Lector: Bob Kaminski
- Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers: Karen Stuefen, and NOT FILLED-9
- Altar Servers: NOT FILLED-4

**TUESDAY, DEC. 25 [8:00 AM]**
- Lector: Laura Kern
- Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers: NOT FILLED-5
- Altar Servers: NOT FILLED-3

**TUESDAY, DEC. 25 [10:00 AM MASS]**
- Lector: William G. Burke
- Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers: NOT FILLED-5
- Altar Servers: NOT FILLED-3

**TUESDAY, DEC. 25 [12 NOON MASS]**
- Lector: Bob Kaminski
- Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers: NOT FILLED-5
- Altar Servers: NOT FILLED-3
Welcome to Visitation Catholic Church

Love and Service to Others

779 S. York Street ● Elmhurst, IL ● 60126 ● www.visitationparish.org

**Daily Mass:** Monday-Friday, 6:15 am, 8:15 am
**Saturday Reconciliation:** 4:00-4:45 pm
**Saturday Mass Hours:** 8:15 am, 5:00 pm
**Sunday Mass Hours:** 7:00 am, 8:15 am, 10:00 am, 11:30 am, 6:00 pm

**VISITATION PARISH MISSION STATEMENT**

Visitation Parish, a Roman Catholic Community in the Diocese of Joliet-in-Illinois, seeks to draw all to Jesus Christ, revelation of the Father and font of the Holy Spirit, by celebrating the Sacraments, educating people of all ages in the Truths of the Catholic Faith, and reaching out to those who are physically, emotionally, or spiritually in need.

**PARISH AND PASTORAL STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Parish Office Hours:** [MON-THUR] 8:30 am-4:30 pm  [FRI] 8:30 am-12 Noon  *Phone: 630-834-6700  *Fax: 630-834-6711  
Email: welcome@visitationcc.org  *Parish Website: WWW.VISITATIONPARISH.ORG  
Deanery Website: easterndupagedeanery.org

**PASTORAL STAFF**
  Frgreg@visitationcc.org
- *Rev. Michael Kearney,* Parochial Vicar, 630-834-6700  
  Frmike@visitationcc.org
- *Deacon Anthony Spatafore,* Pastoral Associate, 630-834-6700  
  aspatafore1@comcast.net
- *Deacon Jay Janousek,* 630-834-2863
- *Deacon James Eaker,* 630-530-7596
- *Deacon Mike Izzo,* 630-567-4700, mike.izzo@outlook.com
- *Deacon Michael O’Ryan,* 630-530-2954  
  VisDeaconMikeO@gmail.com
- *Marek Latocha,* Business Manager, 630-834-6700, x202  
  marek@visitationcc.org

**PARISH FAITH FORMATION/RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**
- *Matthew Pozen,* 630-279-7058, x502

**YOUTH MINISTRY**
- *Jake Barkley,* Youth Minister, youthministry@visitationcc.org

**MUSIC**
- *Barbara Masters,* Parish Music Director, 630-834-8190  
  b.masters@visitationparish.org

**OFFICE STAFF**
- *Suzanne Noonan,* Secretary, 630-834-6700
- *Teodora Kulikowska,* Admin. Asst. 630-834-6700, x206

**VISITATION CATHOLIC SCHOOL**
- *Carrie Mijal,* School Principal, cmijal@visitationelmhurst.org
- *Katie McVey,* School Assistant Principal  
  kmcvey@visitationelmhurst.org

**BISHOP OF JOLIET**
- *Most Rev. R. Daniel Conlon,* J.C.D.  
  WWW.DIOCESEOFJOLIET.ORG

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