


Dec.
21,
2025

St. Mary Nativity Catholic Parish Holy Cross Mission


Deeply Committed. Christ at Heart.



 706 N. Broadway St., Joliet, IL 60435

 815-726-4031

 info@stmarynativity.org

 Monday-Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Friday 8:00—3:00pm

 <https://stmarynativityholycross.com>

 <https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Giving/st706296>

 www.facebook.com/SMNandHC/

Welcome!



Mass Schedule

St. Mary Nativity Church

Saturday - 4:00 pm

Sunday - 7:00 am

11:00 am 12:30 pm
5:30 pm

Weekday -

Tuesday 8:30am

Wednesday (School Mass)
8:30am

Thursday 8:30am

Holy Cross Church

Saturday - 4:00 pm English
and 7:00 pm Polish

Sunday - 9:00 am English
and 10:30 am Polish

Weekday - Monday and
Friday 8:30 am English

Tuesday 8:30 am Polish

Monday Wednesday

Thursday Friday
7:00 pm Polish

St. Mary Nativity
and Holy Cross Confessions:

Saturdays
3:15pm to 3:45pm
or by Appointment.

Also 30 minutes before all
Polish Masses at Holy Cross



**706 North Broadway Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435**



**830 Elizabeth Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435**

Parish and School Centers

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Meet Our Staff...

Father Clive Otieno, Pastor

frclive@stmarynativity.org

Father Tomasz Sielicki, Parochial Vicar

sielicki59@gmail.com

Father Gerald Nicholas, OSA, Weekend Associate

Tony Brandolino, Director of Music

Mariusz Madej, Polish Organist

Mary Nemanich, Business Manager

mnemanich@smnccs.com

Susan Mammosser, Parish Secretary

smammosser@stmarynativity.org

Craig Mazur, Director of Faith Formation

cmazur@stmarynativity.org

Allen Kramerich, Facilities Manager

facilities@stmarynativity.org



st. mary nativity
CATHOLIC CHURCH



HOLY CROSS CHURCH

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday

8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Friday - 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Parish Office (815) 726-4031

Parish Fax (815) 727-4393

**Faith Formation Office
(815) 726-4031**

Office Hours



**Find us on:
facebook®**

Visit us at www.stmarynativityholycross.org

DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE

**Submit Articles by
Monday no later than
2 pm for the upcoming
Sunday Bulletin.**

**Please send all articles
for the bulletin to
smammosser@stmarynativity.org
Thank you for your
cooperation!**



The Sacrament of Baptism

For Baptisms at St. Mary Nativity Church, please call the Faith Formation Office for more information. Baptisms are scheduled on the third Sunday of the month after the 12:30 PM Mass. Baptism preparation classes are scheduled upon need.

For Baptisms at Holy Cross Mission, contact Fr. Tomasz Sielicki



The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony (Marriage)

Please call the Parish Office before setting a date for your wedding. The diocese requires a six month preparation prior to the wedding.



The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

Contact the parish office if you or someone you know are in need of the sacrament.

Funerals

Call the Parish Office before placing any obituary notices.



St. Mary Nativity Catholic School

702 North Broadway Street Joliet, Illinois 60435

(815) 722-8518 www.stmarynativity.org

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

Dr. Elias Alonzo, School Principal

elonzo@stmarynativity.org

Christina Hinojosa, School Secretary

chinojosa@stmarynativity.org

**Polskiej Szkoły im.
Świętego Krzyża
w Joliet**

Barbara Szuba,

Polish School Principal

polskaszkolajoliet@gmail.com

3 From the Pastor

PRAISE GOD FOR THE GIFT OF JESUS!

**We rejoice in His birth!
His coming is a message of hope, peace, joy,
and love with the promise of our salvation.
Let the joy of Christmas fill our hearts and souls.
With gratitude for all you have done to grace our
parishes. We hold you in our hearts and prayers.**

We wish you a Blessed Christmas!

*Father Clive, Father Tomasz,
and the Parish Staff*



Saint Mary Nativity (SMN) and Holy Cross (HC)

Advent and Christmas Schedule 2025-2026

SMN Advent Reconciliation

December 23 (Tuesday): 9:00 - 10:00 am,
12:00 - 1:00 pm, 5:00 - 6:00 pm

HC Advent Reconciliation

December 22 (Monday), December 23 (Tuesday)
30 minutes BEFORE all Polish Masses, plus AFTER evening masses,
as needed, up to 9:00 pm

December 24 (Wednesday): Last Day of Advent English and Polish Masses
8:30 am - English at SMN
8:30 am - Polish at HC

December 24 (Wednesday) CHRISTMAS VIGIL

SMN Masses 3:00 pm
11:00 pm at SMN with Christmas Prelude Music starting at 10:30pm
HC Masses 3:00 pm in English

December 25 (Thursday) CHRISTMAS DAY

SMN Masses 7:00 am 11:00 am 12:30 pm (There is NO 5:30pm Mass)
HC Masses 12:00 am Polish Pasterka Midnight 9:00 am in English
10:30 am in Polish

December 27 and December 28: Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph -
Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God Octave of Christmas

December 31 (Wednesday)
SMN - 4:00 pm Vigil Mass
HC - 6:00 pm Adoration Confessions; 6:45 pm OLD YEAR Thanksgiving Service
7:00 pm Vigil Mass in Polish

January 1 (Thursday) New Year

SMN - 11:00 am Mass HC - 9:00 am English Mass 10:30 am Polish Mass

January 3 and January 4: Epiphany - Regular Sunday Schedule

January 3 (Saturday): Family Oplatek Ball 6:30 pm at Crystal Grand Banquets, Lemont
(NO Polish Mass at Holy Cross at 7:00 pm)

January 11 (Sunday): Baptism of the Lord - Regular Sunday Mass Schedule -
Christmas Season Ends



Saturday - December 20

4:00 pm Mass (HC)

† Bob Jaskowiak by Family

4:00 pm Mass (SMN)

† Deceased Members of Zdunich Family

† Veronica Mahalik by Family

† Bob Kozar by Art Paul

7:00 pm Mass (HC)

† † Ewa, Helena i Wacław Sędaccy

† Maria Klikszwian (6. rocznica śmierci)

† Pelagia Stawicka (w rocznicę śmierci)

Sunday - December 21

7:00 am Mass (SMN)

For the People of the Parishes

9:00 am Mass (HC)

† † Dorothy & Joseph Pasdertz by Family

10:30 am Mass (HC)

† † Józefa i Jan Dubernas

11:00 am Mass (SMN)

† Delores Bebej by Andrea McIntosh & Family

† The Sepich & Skrtich Families by Michael Sepich

† Terry Lin Kart & Velda Gilmoure by Judy Hintze

12:30 pm Mass (SMN)

James Jennings Jr. by The Mazur Family

5:30 pm Mass (SMN)

For the People of the Parishes

Monday - December 22

8:30am Mass (HC)

† Bishop Joseph L. Imesch "Anniversary" by The Lambert Family

7:00 pm Mass (HC)

O ochronę i poszanowanie dla życia ludzkiego od poczęcia do naturalnej śmierci

Tuesday - December 23

8:30am Mass (SMN)

† Phillip "Tony" Keating by Larry & Laurie Pottorff

8:30am Mass (HC)

O liczne nowe i święte powołania do kapłaństwa i życia zakonnego

Wednesday - December 24

8:30am Mass (HC)

† Ewa Sędacka (w rocznicę imienin)

8:30am Mass (SMN)

For the People of the Parishes

3:00 pm Mass (HC)

For the People of the Parishes

3:00 pm Mass (SMN)

† The MacZura Family by George MacZura

† † Raymond & Elizabeth Marso by Edward & Deborah Marso

† Andy Orosco by The Martinez Family

11:00pm Mass (SMN)

† Deceased Members of the Lakota & McDermott Families

Thursday - December 25 Christmas Day

12:00am Mass (HC)

† Maria, Stanisław i syn Józef Janik, +Władysław Skolarus, +Helena i Józef Waliczek oraz Maria Waliczek

† Emily Remiasz, + Janina Kasperek oraz + Jan Sieczka

† † Helena i Józef Piorun

† Stanisława Mossoń

7:00 am Mass (SMN)

For the People of the Parishes

9:00 am Mass (HC)

For the People of the Parishes

10:30 am Mass (HC)

† † Danuta Mąka

† Mariusz Mucha (w rocznicę urodzin)

† Stanisław Mrowca

11:00 am Mass (SMN)

† † Martin, Stephen & Irene Chinderle by The Chinderle Family

† † Albert W. & Catherine P. Hochevar by The Al Hochevar Family

† † Joseph & Cecilia Wolf by Marianne Wolf-Astrauskas

12:30 pm Mass (SMN)

† † Ray & Sophie Levek by Family

† Irene Sparazynski by Family

NO 5:30pm Mass

Friday - December 26

8:30am Mass (HC)

† John Klen by The Dan Lajcin Family

7:00pm Mass (HC)

† Jan Pawlak (2. rocznica śmierci) oraz + Henryk Suliga (w rocznicę śmierci)

Saturday - December 27

4:00 pm Mass (HC)

For the People of the Parish

4:00 pm Mass (SMN)

† Patricia Gudac by The Gudac Family

† John R. Depratt by Family

Deceased Members of the George Glad Family by Doris & Mike Warren

7:00 pm Mass (HC)

O Boże błogosławieństwo dla wszystkich uczestniczących w Duchowej Adopcji Życia Poczętego

Sunday - December 28

7:00 am Mass (SMN)

For the People of the Parishes

9:00 am Mass (HC)

† Bishop Daniel Ryan by The Dan Lajcin Family

10:30 am Mass (HC)

O Bożą Opatrzność i dar uzdrowienia dla Shannon Nestorowicz i jej rodziny (*God's Providence and healing for Shannon Nestorowicz and her family*)

† † Adam i Lucyna Bluj (rocznica śmierci)

† Danuta Mąka

† † Natalia i Feliks Bartnik

11:00 am Mass (SMN)

† Rosamaria & Richie Ochotorena

12:30 pm Mass (SMN)

Dorothy Fischer by Family

5:30 pm Mass (SMN)

For the People of the Parishes



December is the month of The Divine Infancy

"On this Holy Night, adoration of the Child Jesus becomes Eucharistic adoration. We adore you, Lord, truly present in the Sacrament of the Altar, the living Bread which gives life to humanity". John Paul II



THE NINE MONTHS OF THE CHILD, JESUS IN THE WOMB OF MARY

This is the last in a series of nine monthly reflections on the development of Jesus in the womb. Our parish began the series on March 25 when we celebrated the Feast of the Annunciation. Soon we will celebrate the wonderful Feast of the Birth of Jesus at Christmas. *You and your baby's names will be lovingly framed and placed near the nativity scene at each parish as a birthday gift to Jesus.*

THE NINTH MONTH - NOVEMBER 25 TO DECEMBER 25

Bolstered by provisions and buoyed upon a cushion of carpets, Mary perches upon their patient donkey as she and Joseph start their journey. The trip to Bethlehem should take four days, but Mary's pregnancy forces them to travel slowly. Do they perhaps fall behind their fellow travelers? Soon they will be entrusted with the life of God made man. How must they reflect on this awesome responsibility as they journey toward their destiny? At nine months, the baby is posed head down for its descent into the world. At birth, approximately 280 days from conception, a baby normally weighs from 6-9 pounds; it may be 19-21 inches long. Its tiny heart pumps 300 gallons of blood per day.

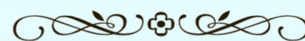
How can this not be a child? Give prayerful thanks to God for his most precious gift to humanity—Jesus Christ, his only son.



December 24th
Happy
Birthday
Fr. Clive Oleno



May God's Love and Peace
be with you always!



**Our Thank You to all who spiritually
adopted a baby as a Christmas gift to
our Lord this year!**

Never before in history, nor ever again, will anyone exist who is exactly like your spiritually adopted baby.

Your prayers saved her/his life. Thank you on behalf of all of the little babies and their mothers for your loving prayers that helped to bring them to birth "so that they

might have life and have it to the full!"
-from stmichaelstillwater.org

You and your baby's names will be lovingly framed and placed near the nativity scene at each parish.

Note: If you requested an ornament for your baby this year and have not yet picked it up, the parish office will have them available through January 15th.



Please Keep in Your Prayers Those Serving in the Military

Pfc. Paul Roder, USMC
Sgt. FC Jay R. Martin, Army
Jacob Gregurich, USMC
Kathleen Sullivan, Navy
Lt. Alex Aguilera, USMC
SRA Michael Wilson Arellano
2nd Lt Kevin A'Hearn
CPL. Christopher Wesley
Captain Marcos Aguilera, USMC
Alexander Gregurich, PFC
First Sgt. Christina Romero, USMC
Justyn Moot
Cpt. Anthony Gutierrez, USMC
Brent Moot
Jeremy M. Close, Army
Pfc. Michael McCallister, Army
David Walters, Army
Joe Miller, USMC Sgt
Tommy Hanks, USMC
Sgt. Christina Hanks, USMC
Jonathon Schroll, USMC Special Forces
Petty Officer 1st Class Tyler Hintzsche, Navy
Airman Jack Maurer, Air Force

Heavenly Father, we pray for...

Ann	Janet Horvath	Gliceria Nunez
Bill	Jacqueline H.	Parnell
Mary Bellos	Violet Hyndman	Patricia Phinney
Vietta Bews	Harriet Kazlauskas	Phyllis Popek
Sheri Bokholdt	Cathy Koenig	Ronald Pruss
Christopher Borsom	James Kozar	Armando Rodriguez
Denise Boudreau	Dan Kramerich	Father Pete Rossa
Stephanie Cavanagh	Bernadette (Lajcin)	Kimberly Schlegel
Tyler Centorbi	Marilyn Lajcin	Steve Senisais
Dianne Cerpen-Verlare	Jerry Lakota	Ashly Smith
Bob DeLach	Don Legerski	Scott & Adam
Anthony Deredita	Kathleen Lepacek	Elizabeth Mary Sobolak
John Drnek	Darlene Likar	Mary Suarez
Gerald Drobick	Ann Marie Linko	Thomure Family
Bob Eberhard	George MacZura	Joseph Trubich
Dosseh Houseaj Elise	Gerald L. Mahalik	Jim Thompson
Mark Fumagalli	Phil May	Margaret Thompson
Kelly G.	Alex McKeel	Sister Elaine Teders
Anthony Gregory	Charlene Molnar	William Treasure
Anthony Harmes	Robert Nasenbenny	Susan Ward
Alba Hensley	Raymond John Nickel	
Janet	Paul Norris	

Need prayers or know someone who does, please call
Pat Weiskop 815-723-7141



Donations for Christmas Flowers were made by the following people to beautify St. Mary Nativity Church in celebration of Jesus' birth this Christmas Season.

In Memory of ...

August R. Juricic Family
Ben Kant
Loretta Lundstrom
Joseph Lundstrom
Debbie Slucki
Charles Lundstrom
Thomas Briddick
Richard D. Horwath
Albert Minarich
Thelma Minarich
Alta Unland
Joseph Hibler
Mathew T. Mammoser
Ernie & Janet Hintz
Ben & Marie Tekel
Norm & Marilyn Nemanich
Kathy Giaudrone
Connie Mazur
Bernard Cassiere
Cynthia Powers
Ruthie Cassiere
Peg Flannagan
John Furlong Family
John & Elizabeth Spreitzer
John Horvat Family
Emma & Louise Spreitzer
Christine Herbert
Anthony Kaye
William & Anna Budzinski
Gaspar & Mary Dorich
Joseph & Sophia Budzinski
Judy Ristau
Kelly Ann Ristau
Phillip Torres
Joseph & Cecilia Wolf
Charles & Anna Gecan
Anton & Theresa Gecan
Earl L. Poole
Mr. & Mrs. William Krok
William F. Krok
Casimir & Julia Prybysz
John Tomac Family
John Picha Family
Kathy Yack
Bob Baldigo
Bill Crook
Willard J. Brown
Josephine R. Brown
Susan A. Brown
William A. Ohara
Patricia Ohara
Edward Smrekar
Elizabeth Smrekar
Velma Parker
Sue Guzman
Archey Family
Hernandez Family
Adam Behun
Mel & Ellyn Himes
Jen & Cory Long
Linda Himes
Cindy Himes
John & Ann Stofko
John & Vera Senffner
Mary Ann Fajfar
Dennis Fajfar
Richard Shaw

Perisich & Zanella Families
Carl & Norma Pottorff
Rosendo Rosas
Herculana Hernandez
Rosas Family
Marge Cassani
Chuck Cassani
Joe Cassani
Ethel Cassani
John & Agnes Lawnzak
Ed & Frances Weeditz
Robert & Joel Jaskowiak
Ed & Marge Rachor
Joseph & Grace Rachor
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ursich
Dominick Confiliano
Laverne Confiliano Lisdero
Joan Confiliano Morse
Don Confiliano
Robert Mueller
Joseph & Dorothy Pasdertz
Walter & Catherine Mueller
Pedro Garcia
Jose J. Garcia
Nadhia Y. Rojas
Roberto Aguilar
Josefina Garcia
Ray Page
Andrew & Mary Jenco
Ann Marie (Jeriha) Zigrossi
Robert & Bernice Jeriha
Shirley Cable
Jim & Linda Randich
Ted & Lillian Juricic
Tony & Dolores Valek
Stephanie Schronski
Bob Rymsza
Kris Toberg
Mom & Dad Aguilera
The Legerski Family
The Sterle Family
The Cresto Family
Deceased Priests and Religious
James D. Kozar
Britz, Kozar & Krause Families
Marie Cherven
Mathew Thomas Wilson
Wilbur Powers Jr.
Mary Ann Clennon
Garland, Lakota & Kukla Families
Ronald Pawlowski
Mr. & Mrs. J. Szczepaniak
Mr. & Mrs. B. Pawlowski
Ed Surma
Kookie Sellars
Patricia Gudac
John F. Gudac III
Martin Ledezma Jr.
Cruz Candelario
Karina Andrade
Nick & Richie Pervan
Donald & Teresa Johnson
Jonn Minier III
Andrew Tomac Sr.
Frances Tomac
Robert Buldak
Brian Buldak
Troppe & Shepich Families

Frank & Joyce Ozella
Leo & Veronica Keigher
Ray & Anita Klein
Joe & Josephine Ozella
Sarah Weber
Fr. Joe
James D. Kozar
Carol J. Kozar
Robert J. Kozar
Joan D. Kozar
Anton Kozar
Marguerite F. Zlogar-Nelson
Albin C. & Margaret Zlogar
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Miller
Tiller Buldak
Antone Wicevic Family
Ben Waldvogel Family
Nick & Margaret Kirincich
Dick Boban
Kris Ragusa
Kathy Jones
Papesch, Perkins & Weiskop Families
Ron, Fran & Ron Jr. Zola
Agnes Sefcik
Paul Sefcik
Charles H. Kalb
Martin Lepacek Sr.
Margaret Lepacek
Martin Lepacek Jr.
Joanne Lepacek
Stanley Angus Jr.
Ryan Angus
Margaret Hinz
Robert Hinz Sr.
Robert Hinz Jr.
Haggerty, Omotta & Paul Families
Daniel Harvey
Joseph Harvey
Elizabeth Morman
Edward & Ann Buldak
Joseph & Josephine Costello
The Mueller Family
Catherine & Walter Mueller Jr.
Norma & Dale Olson
Peter A. Tomasic
Mary C. Tomasic
Peter J. Tomasic
Thomas W. Tomasic
David Hann Sr.
Marilyn Campus
Norman & Gloria Borman
Andrew & Helen Mikuska
Mary Jachinowski
Raymond Robinson
Mom & Dad

In Honor of

Don Legerski
Pete Waszak
Dan Hopkins
Cristine Clark

In Gift of ...

Karen McCormack
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Divecchio
Mr. Richard Luzbetak
Mrs. Margaret Zanella
Mr. & Mrs. John Elder
Marshia Kaye
Barbara Westphal
Jerilyn Brisick
Jean A. Brereton
Denise Boudreau
Lois Furlong
Mrs. Helen Zolecki
Mr. & Mrs. Victor Biasetti Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hafner
Ms. Virginia Kurtz
Miranda/Mikowski Family
Mr. Michael A. Tomac
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Estes
Jim Smith & Mom
Mr. & Mrs. John Mihelich
Mrs. Thomas Briddick
Genell Verklan
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Bixenmann
Mary Ann Roark
Sally Takacs
Joe & Paula Jamrosz
Mrs. Phyllis Thompson
Mr. Joseph Wilabay
Ofelia G. Ramos
Dave & Cindy Monahan
Ms. Dorothy Kuk
Mrs. Carol Maloney
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Rickmon
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Pluth
Mr. & Mrs. Dale O'Connell



Donations for Christmas Flowers were made by the following people to beautify Holy Cross Mission in celebration of Jesus' birth this Christmas Season.

In Memory of ...

Robert Pluth
Stanley & Elizabeth Widlowski
The Pluth Family
Sophia M. Mahalik
Stephen L. Mahalik
Gary E. Mahalik
Marian Yasko
Marge Range
Wallace & Julia Jerzycki
Janina Gawlik
Marian Gawlik
Helena Fedorowicz
Mieczyslaw Fedorowicz
Maria Janik
Stanislaw Janik
Wladyslaw Skolarus
Helena & Jozef Piorun
Zofia & Stanislaw Sykala
Teresa & Antoni Stafinski
Mariusz Mucha
Veronica Mahalik
Gary Mahalik
Louis & Sophia Mahalik
Roman & Mary Kurator
The Kunke Family
The Sherry Family

Diana Fritz

Janet Grenchik
Jozek Kikuslowia
Teresa & Wladyslaw Zapotoczny
Aniela & Wincenty Haber
Robert & Joel Jaskowiak
Edward & Frances Weeditz
Andrew & Catherine Jaskowiak

In Honor of...

Zofia & Stanislaw Sykala

In Memory of ...

Susan Koizumi
Kathy Auman
Gene Koren
Ewa, Helena Wactaw Sedacey
Joseph Ludrovec
Mary Ludrovec
Angela Lewandowski
Lawrence Lewandowski
Mary Ludrovec
Ludwig Ludrovec
Bryce McElroy

In Gift of ...

Mr. & Mrs. Cholewa Wojciech
Mr. & Mrs. Marcin Tulak
Mr. & Mrs. Adam Hajnos
Mr. & Mrs. Jozef Pasek
Mr. & Mrs. Franciszek Dlugosz
Mr. Thomas Hylka
Betty Peterson
Ronald Kapala
Peggy Spolnik
Mr. & Mrs. Witold Jarosz
Mr. & Mrs. Wladyslaw Jandura
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Binda
John Edward Gorski
Mr. & Mrs. Dariusz Kulon
Mr. & Mrs. Janusz Poznanski



O Holy Night

Silent Night

thank you

Dziękuję!

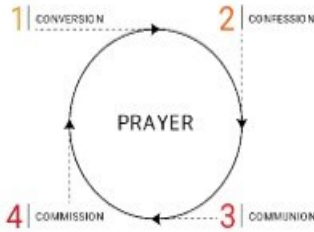




A Pastoral Letter for the People of the Diocese of Joliet



MAKE is a call to action — rooted in Catechesis, Evangelization, and Faith into action — to follow Jesus' Great Commission: Go and make disciples.



4. COMMISSION

Every Eucharistic celebration concludes with a sending. In fact, the word Mass derives its meaning from the Latin word *missa*, meaning “dismissal.” The liturgy does not simply come to an end. Those assembled are sent forth to bring the fruits of the Eucharist to the world: “Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life!” This sending at the end of Mass is, for each of us, our personal participation in the disciple-making mission of the Church.

For helpful resources, please visit:
<https://make.diojoliet.org/#commission>

FORMED®

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.



O Holy Night, The King is Born: What Christmas Is About

Celebrate the wonder and joy of Christmas with Brother Francis in this heartwarming presentation of the birth of God's Son! Witness the moving submission of Mary, Joseph, and others as they make way for our Savior.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.
Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.



Catholic Kids Column Quiet Strength

St. Joseph is often in the background. He doesn't say a single word recorded in the Bible, but his choices speak louder than words. He shows us what real strength, faith, and love look like.

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear the story of how Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant. They were engaged to be married. Back then, that was already a serious commitment. So when Joseph hears that Mary is going to have a baby, and he knows the child isn't his, he must have felt confused, hurt, maybe even heartbroken. That kind of news would shake anyone up.

But look at what Joseph does. He doesn't yell. He doesn't shame Mary. He doesn't try to get even. The Bible tells us that Joseph was a just man. That means he wanted to do the right thing. He decided to quietly end the engagement. He thought that would protect Mary from embarrassment or worse. That shows us a man who cared about doing good, even when he was hurting. He chose kindness over revenge. He chose mercy over pride.

Then something happens that changes everything. An angel appears to Joseph in a dream. The angel tells him that the baby is from the Holy Spirit. The angel says, "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife." Joseph could have brushed it off. He could have doubted the dream. But he didn't. He trusted God. He got up and did exactly what the angel told him to do. Joseph didn't care about what others thought. He cared about doing God's will. He protected Mary. He took care of Jesus. He gave them a safe home. He followed the path God gave him, even when it was hard.



Joseph never tried to be famous. He didn't need attention. He wasn't loud. But he was strong in a different way. He was strong in faith. He was strong in love. And he was strong in doing what was right. That kind of strength doesn't show off. It doesn't brag. It just shows up every day and does what needs to be done.

That's the kind of strength we're called to have. You don't have to be the loudest person in the room to be brave. You don't have to be perfect to be faithful. What matters is choosing to trust God, even when things are confusing or scary. What matters is standing up for what's right, even when no one else sees it.

So here's something to think about: Can we be like Joseph? Can we listen to God and do what He asks, even when it's not easy? Can we be kind when we've been hurt? Can we choose quiet strength instead of anger or pride?

With God's help, the answer is yes. We can be people of faith like Joseph. We can trust God with our lives. And we can let our actions speak louder than our words. That's what Joseph did. And we can too.

Young-catholics.com



The Faith Formation Phone number has been deactivated. Craig Mazur can still be reached via email: cmazur@stmarynativity.org, or by leaving a message with the parish office: 815-726-4031.

9 Stewardship



Scan now
to donate!

Scan here

With the simple click of a button from your computer or smart device, you can securely set-up one-time or recurring donations.

You can also donate by visiting our website at <https://stmarynativityholycross.com>

**Due to early submission,
the counts for December 21st
will be in next week's bulletin.**



Qualified Charitable Distribution

A Qualified Charitable Distribution is a transfer of funds from your IRA donated to a qualified charity. These funds can be considered toward satisfying your required minimum distributions (RMDs) for the year. There are certain guidelines that apply, but your RMD, as a charitable contribution, will exclude that amount from your adjusted-gross income for the year and you might get tax advantaged savings. The IRS requires withdrawals from IRA's based on age. The funds must come out of your IRA by your RMD deadline which is usually December 31.



*Thank
you*

Please consider making your
Qualified Charitable Distribution
to St. Mary Nativity or Holy Cross.
Both are 501(c)(3) organizations
eligible to receive
tax-deductible contributions.

You should consult your
financial advisor and tax preparer
when making this distribution.



*We are grateful to our parishioners and friends of
St. Mary Nativity and Holy Cross
for their continuing faithful support.*



Parish Office Hours:

The office will close on
Tuesday, December 23rd
at 4:00 pm and reopen on
Monday, January 5th
at 8:00 am.

**Church will be open
for 8:30am Mass on
Friday, December 26th
until 4:00pm
There will be
NO ADORATION
on that day.**

November 2025 Maintenance

	Donations	Expenses	Account Balance
Holy Cross	\$11,302	\$0	\$11,818
Saint Mary Nativity	\$11,281	\$1,674	\$15,167
Rectory Boiler		\$598	
Cafeteria Dishwasher Booster		\$400	
Water Treatment for Boilers		\$130	
Church Skylight		\$546	

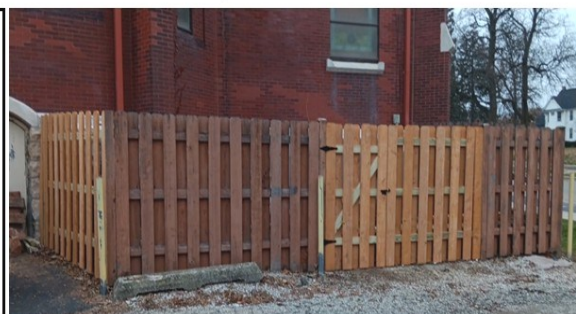
The Maintenance Fund collection
will be next weekend
December 13 and 14.

*May the grace
of the Lord
be with you all !*

Our parishes are very appreciative for those
who generously do many repairs at "No Charge!"

Holy Cross wood fence repair around HVAC unit.
Thank you Derek Kulon and Adam Trzebunia!

St. Mary Nativity is grateful to Aaron Murr
who does many repairs around campus.
Most recently, a new heater and thermostat
in the tutor room and first floor school
panel box cleaned with breakers upgraded.



The Week Ahead**Monday, December 22**

Advent Reconciliation - HC Church (See page 3)
 Winter Break thru January 2- SMN NO SCHOOL

Tuesday, December 23

Advent Reconciliation - HC Church (See page 3)
 9:00am Advent Reconciliation - SMN Church
 9:30am Bible Study - SMN Nativity Room
 12:00pm Advent Reconciliation - SMN Church
 1:00pm Rosary - SMN Church
 5:00pm Advent Reconciliation - SMN Church
 7:00pm Christmas Choir Rehearsal - SMN Church

Wednesday, December 24

8:30am Mass - St. Mary Nativity
 8:30am Mass - Holy Cross
 3:00pm Christmas Vigil Mass - HC Church (English)
 3:00pm Christmas Vigil Mass - SMN Church
 11:00pm Christmas Vigil Mass - SMN Church
 (Christmas Prelude Music at 10:30pm)

Thursday, December 25 Christmas Day

12:00am Polish Pasterka Midnight - Christmas Mass - HC Church
 7:00am Christmas Day Mass - SMN Church
 9:00am Christmas Day Mass - HC Church (English)
 10:30am Christmas Day Mass - HC Church (Polish)
 11:00am Christmas Day Mass - SMN Church
 12:30pm Christmas Day Mass - SMN Church
 (NO 5:30pm Mass at SMN)

Friday, December 26

NO Eucharistic Adoration
 5:00pm NO POLISH SCHOOL - Christmas Break

Saturday, December 27**Sunday, December 28**

9:15am NO Religious Ed Class

Holy Cross - Celebrating 125 Years of the Dedication of the New Church

We are looking for pictures of the church or various events that took place through the years at Holy Cross Church as we celebrate this milestone next year. Contact the Parish Office with any questions. All pictures can be dropped at the Parish Office.

Save the Date - September 13, 2026

**Sunday, January 11th in the Nativity Room
after the morning masses.**



Non Perishable items may be dropped off at
 St. Mary Nativity Church vestibule on
 January 3rd & 4th Thank you!



PRAYER GROUP



**Join us every Thursday morning for coffee
and donuts after the 8:30am mass in
the Nativity Room.**

All Are Welcome



SPEND TIME WITH JESUS

**Eucharistic Adoration of the
Blessed Sacrament
at Saint Mary Nativity
every Friday - Noon to 3:00pm
All are welcome!**

Both regular adorers and substitutes
are needed for these times.

**The church is open for personal prayer Monday - Thursday 8:00 am to
4:00 pm and Friday 8:00am to 3:00 pm.**



Pro-Life Rosary Every Month Third Sunday

Holy Cross before the 9 am Mass, starting at 8:35 am
St. Mary Nativity before the 11 am Mass,
 starting at 10:35 am.

**The next meeting of the St. Mary Nativity
Pro-Life Committee:**

Next date to be determined.

We are thankful for your continued help and look forward to your participation in our events from now until that date. For questions or for more information, contact Mike Hansen at 815-212-3661 or mikehansen@mikehansenlaw.com



Merry Christmas! Christ is the reason for the Season. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter can help you make your marriage Christ-centered. Learn how on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experiences

on February 13-15 in Geneva, IL or
 April 10-12 at St. Mary's in Lemont.

For more info go to: wwme.org
 or call (888) 574-5653



If you like to sing, then we invite you to consider joining the St. Mary Nativity Choir. The choir meets for rehearsal every Sunday from 10am to right before the 11am Mass which is the Choir Mass. The Choir also sings for special and Holy Day Liturgies. We meet from the First Sunday of September to the Last Sunday of May and break for the months of June, July and August. We currently have approximately 12 members and would like to double that to about 20.

If you are interested in joining, please contact
Tony Brandolino at 815-531-9257.



MAKE

A Pastoral Letter for the People
of the **Diocese of Joliet**

Learn How to MAKE Disciples!



Join us for a conversation with Bishop Ron Hicks as he unpacks the details of his pastoral letter, MAKE, and discusses how to make disciples for Jesus in the Diocese of Joliet.

MAKE is a call to action—rooted in Catechesis, Evangelization, and Faith into Action—to follow Jesus' Great Commission: Go and make disciples

Where: Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 36 N. Ellsworth St., Naperville, IL (630) 355-1081

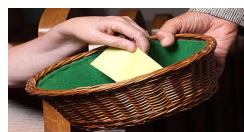
When: Tues., January 20th, 6:30-8:00 pm

Learn more about the bishop's pastoral letter, MAKE, by visiting: make.diojoliet.org

2026 CALENDAR

2026 Parish
Calendars are here!

Calendars are available at both parishes in the back of church. Please feel free to take one home.



Monday Morning Counters are needed. Please call the parish office if you are interested.
(815) 726-4031



The Christmas wafer tradition began because the word "Bethlehem" means "House of Bread." The Oplatki reminds us of this symbol of communion as well as in a fuller way the Eucharistic meal that Catholics participate in at each Mass. Available the weekend of December 14th & 15th in back of church.



Save the Date!!!
**10th Annual
Trivia Knight 2026**
**Saturday,
February 21st**
**Join us for an
Awesome Evening
of Fun!**

Anyone interested in purchasing tickets,
please stop by the Parish Office.

All tickets are due by Tuesday,
December 29th. Thank you!

St. Mary Nativity Catholic School
150 DAYS OF WINNING
CALENDAR RAFFLE ~ January to May 2026

\$11,500

in Total Payouts

All Tickets Can Win More Than Once

Every Weekday	\$20
Every Saturday	\$40
Every Sunday	\$150
1st Day of the Month	\$200
Last Day of the Month	\$200

SPECIAL DAYS

Each Month win \$150
on the 20th and 26th!

Jan. 1st	New Year's Day	\$500	Mar. 29th	Palm Sunday	\$500
Jan. 6th	Epiphany	\$50	Apr. 2nd	Holy Thursday	\$100
Jan. 19th	MLK Jr. Day	\$40	Apr. 4th	Holy Saturday	\$200
Feb. 2nd	Groundhog Day	\$40	Apr. 5th	Easter Sunday	\$500
Feb. 14th	Valentine's Day	\$500	Apr. 6th	Easter Monday	\$50
Feb. 16th	President's Day	\$40	May. 5th	Cinco de Mayo	\$50
Feb. 18th	Ash Wednesday	\$100	May. 10th	Mother's Day	\$200
Mar. 17th	St. Patrick's Day	\$40	May 16th	Fr. Clive's Anniversary	\$500
Mar. 19th	St. Joseph's Day	\$40	May 25th	Memorial Day	\$200

Tickets drawn daily*

*Weekends and holidays will be drawn the next business day.
There will be no drawing on 4/3/2026 Good Friday

**\$20
per Ticket**



Offering
Envelopes

ATTENTION!!!

Offertory Envelopes for the Entire Year
(2026) are available for pick up in the
Nativity Room, and back of church at
Holy Cross.

Your boxed set will include all Sundays, Holy Days
and second collections.

If you do not find yours, please contact the parish
office for a boxed set for the year.

**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DEPAUL
ST. MARY NATIVITY HOLY CROSS CONFERENCE**



SENIOR ASSIST TOILETRIES DRIVE

December 27 - 28

WE NEED:

**Shampoo &
Conditioner
Liquid Body Wash
Deodorant
Boxed Kleenex
Disposable Wipes
Paper Towels**



PLEASE DROP OFF IN THE NATIVITY ROOM
during normal business hours, before &
after all Masses or at HOLY CROSS before
and after all Masses

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