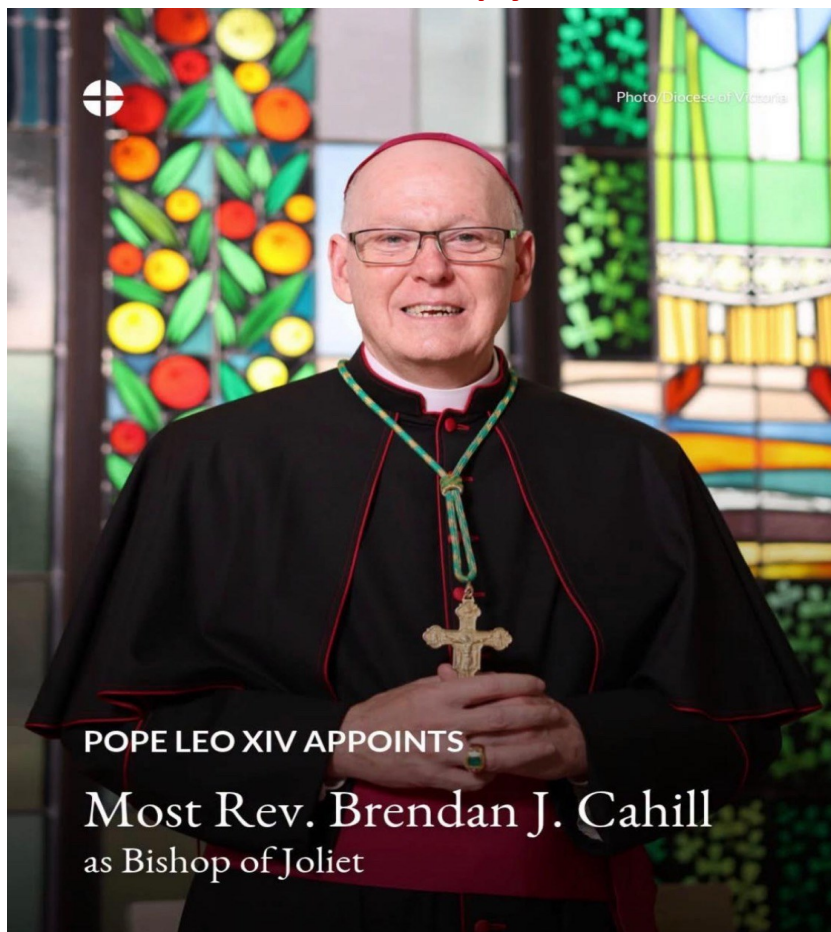


Sept.
27,
2026

St. Mary Nativity Catholic Parish Holy Cross Mission

Deeply Committed. Christ at Heart.



POPE LEO XIV APPOINTS

Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill
as Bishop of Joliet

 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

2

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@smnacs.com

Susan Mammosser, Parish Secretary

smammosser@stmarynativity.org

Christine Goba, Director of Faith Formation

faithformation@stmarynativity.org

Allen Kramerich, Facilities Manager

facilities@stmarynativity.org

Deacon Emmanuel Eklou

deacon@stmarynativity.org

St. Vincent de Paul St. Mary Nativity and

Holy Cross Conference 815-779-4878



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) 726-4073

Office Hours



**Find us on:
facebook®**

Visit us at www.stmarynativityholycross.org

**DON'T MISS
THE DEADLINE**

Submit Articles by Monday no later than 12 pm for the upcoming Sunday Bulletin. Send all articles to smammosser@stmarynativity.org

**Advertiser
of the
Week**

Love More
Family Support
Free support for life hardships.
When: Monday Nights: 7:00-8:30 pm
Where: Crossroads Christian Church
Address: 2312 Essington Rd, Joliet, IL
For more information please call:
(815) 725-7125



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.



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

Ms. Catherine Scotkovsky, School Principal

cscotkovsky@stmarynativity.org

Bianca Mata, School Secretary

bmata@stmarynativity.org

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

Barbara Szuba,

Polish School Principal

polaskaszkolajoliet@gmail.com



Fr. Clive Otieno

Born: Nairobi, Kenya

Ordained: May 16, 2015



PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY

Gracious and loving God,
We thank you for
the gift of our priests.

Through them, we experience your
presence in the sacraments.

Help our priests to be strong
in their vocation.

Set their souls on fire
with love for your people.

Grant them the wisdom,
understanding, and strength
they need to follow
in the footsteps of Jesus.

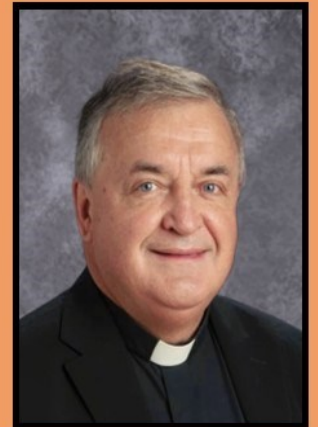
Inspire them with the vision
of your kingdom.
Give them the words
they need to spread the Gospel.

Allow them to experience
Joy in their ministry.

Help them to become instruments
Of your divine grace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ
who lives and reigns as our
Eternal Priest

Amen.



Fr. Tomasz Sielicki

Born: Poznan, Poland

Ordained: May 22, 1980



Fr. Gerald Nicholas

Born: Chicago, IL

Ordained: November 21, 1966



Fr. Johnus Cherunilath

Born: India

Ordained: April 8, 1994



Flame of Faith Frances & Joseph DePodesta



Mass Intentions

4

Saturday - September 26

4:00 pm Mass (HC)

For the People of the Parishes

4:00 pm Mass (SMN)

† Mary Ann Clennon by Family

† Deceased members of Dzulich Family

† Jerry Lakota by Annette & Ray Koncar

† Sharon Gutierrez by Family

† Dolly Parton (Month's Mind)

7:00 pm Mass (HC) Polish

O Boże błogosławieństwo dla Grażyny i Józefa z okazji 39. rocznicy ślubu

Sunday - September 27

7:00 am Mass (SMN)

† Marie Rodawold by Rick & Janice Rodawold

9:00 am Mass (HC)

† Lawrence Sekula by Larry & Laurie Pottorff

10:30 am Mass (HC)

† † Józef i Maria Oleś

† Władysław Dziadkowiec (18. rocznica śmierci)

† Danuta Łowisz

11:00 am Mass (SMN)

† Janet Reddy Schalk by Karen McCormack

† Juan Montoya "Birthday" by Family

† Delores Bebej by Andrea McIntosh & Family

† † Daniel & Stephen Mahalik by Brother, Lawrence

12:30 pm Mass (SMN)

For the People of the Parishes

5:30 pm Mass (SMN)

For the People of the Parishes

Monday - September 28

8:30 am Mass (HC)

† Kevin Hansen by Elizabeth A. Hansen

† Bishop Daniel Ryan by The Dan Lajcin Family

7:00 pm Mass (HC) Polish

† † Dusze w czyśćcu

Tuesday - September 29

8:30 am Mass (SMN)

† Asuncion Triunfo by Rosamaria Ochotorena

8:30 am Mass (HC) Polish

W intencji Wojciecha: o nawrócenie i pojednanie z rodzicami

Wednesday - September 30

8:30 am Mass (SMN)

† Patricia C. Scotkovsky by SMN School Staff

7:00 pm Mass (HC) Polish

O Boże błogosławieństwo dla Danuty Stawickiej z okazji imienin

Thursday - October 1

8:30 am Mass (SMN)

† Michaeline LaBuda by Frank LaBuda & Daughter Caryn

7:00 pm Mass (HC) Polish

† ks. Piotr Biolik SChr (rocznica śmierci)

Friday - October 2

8:30 am Mass (HC)

† † Edwin & Rose Stock by Friend

7:00 pm Mass (HC) Polish

Dziękczynna za dar naszych Aniołów Stróżów

Saturday - October 3

4:00 pm Mass (HC)

† Leonard Fordonski "Birthday" by Family

† † Edward & Ann Buldak by Family

† † Josephine & Joseph Costello by Family

4:00 pm Mass (SMN)

Faith Formation by the Parish

† Denise Boudreau by Deanna Serdar

† Diane Zanella by Marge & Jean Zanella

7:00 pm Mass (HC) Polish

O zdrowie i Boże błogosławieństwo dla Krzysztofa z okazji urodzin

† Józef Niejadlik

Sunday - October 4

7:00 am Mass (SMN)

† Jerry Lakota by Fred & Diane Hafner

† Bud Miller by Marge Lakota and Family

9:00 am Mass (HC)

† William Henning by Larry & Laurie Pottorff

† Richard Vanderlinden by Patty & Tony Torres

10:30 am Mass (HC)

† Danuta Mąka

† Ewa

† Barbara Lazarowicz

11:00 am Mass (SMN)

† Merle Hoebling by The Salas Family

† George Reader & Alison Halpin by Judy & Bob Hintze

† Fr. John Doyle by The Salas Family

† Karen Kuban by Tom & Bobbi Hafner

12:30 pm Mass (SMN)

For the People of the Parishes

5:30 pm Mass (SMN)

For the People of the Parishes

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.

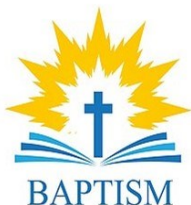


October is the month of the Most Holy Rosary

The Blessed Virgin Mary has given us a great weapon in the rosary. Pray it. Live it. Amen!

"O Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, I would like to be filled with love for Thee; keep me closely united with Thee, may my heart be near to Thine. I want to be to Thee like the apostle John. O Mary of the Rosary, keep me recollected when I say these prayers of thine; bind me forever, with thy rosary, to Jesus of the Blessed Sacrament. Blessed be Jesus, my love. "

(Pope John XXIII, Journal of a Soul)



Congratulations To Our Newly Baptized!

Abel Owens

Mary Frances Stratton

**at St. Mary Nativity Church
on September 20, 2026**

May Jesus, who loves all children, bless them with His love and grace as they grow close to Our Lord throughout their lives.



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

Each year on December 25th we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. For centuries the Church has also celebrated his conception on March 25, the feast of the Annunciation.

Our parishes have once again begun our 'Spiritual Adoption' program. Each month we will be keeping you up to date with the development of your baby.

THE SEVENTH MONTH – SEPTEMBER 25 TO OCTOBER 25

Mary and Joseph knew in advance that their baby would be a boy. And although Jesus was not his biological child, Joseph eagerly anticipated his birth. By the seventh month, the baby's hands grip strongly. His eyelids open and close as he surveys his increasingly cramped surroundings. The baby is now 15 inches long and weighs 2-3 pounds. The infant Jesus listens intently for his mother's recognizable voice. A child of seven months would survive birth. Four to 20 couples wait to adopt each available child. The average abortion takes 5-10 minutes. The average wait for adoption is 2-10 years.

Pray for all adoptive parents who provide the loving care and nourishing environment which every child deserves, and for foster parents who lend their hearts and homes to those whose fates hang in the balance.



Please Keep in Your Prayers Those Serving in the Military

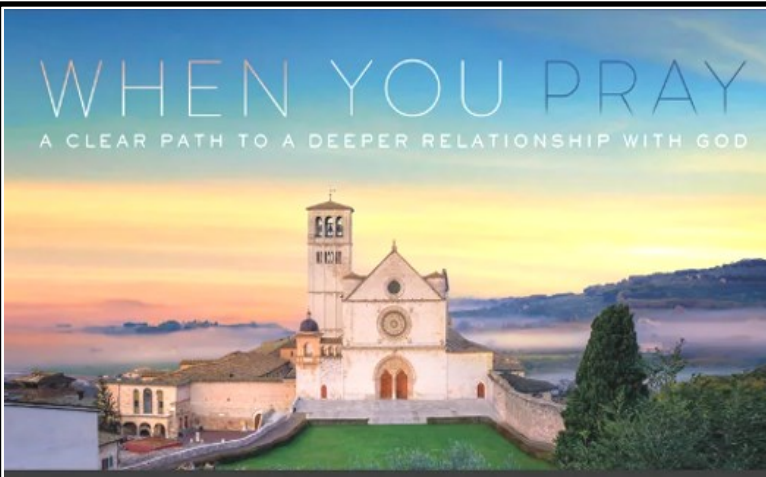
Pfc. Paul Roder, USMC
Sgt. FC Jay R. Martin, Army
Jacob Gregurich, USMC
Kathleen Sullivan, Navy
Lt. Alex Aguilera, USMC
SRA Michael Wilson Arellano
2nd Lt Kevin A'Hearn
CPL. Christopher Wesley
Captain Marcos Aguilera, USMC
Alexander Gregurich, PFC
First Sgt. Christina Romero, USMC
Justyn Moot
Cpt. Anthony 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
Airman, Josh Maurer, Air Force

Heavenly Father, we pray for...

Ann	Jacqueline H.	Phyllis Popek
Bill	Violet Hyndman	Ronald Pruss
Mary Bellos	Harriet Kazlauskas	Armando Rodriguez
Vietta Bews	James Kozar	Father Pete Rossa
Sheri Bokholdt	Dan Kramerich	Lesa Ruth
Christopher Borsom	Bernadette (Lajcin)	Kimberly Schlegel
Stephanie Cavanagh	Marilyn Lajcin	Steve Senisais
Tyler Centorbi	Don Legerski	Terri Shepherd
Yolanda Costa	Darlene Likar	Ashly Smith
Dianne Cerpen-Verlare	Ann Marie Linko	Scott & Adam
Bob DeLach	George MacZura	Elizabeth Mary Sobolak
Anthony Deredita	Phil May	Mary Suarez
John Drnek	Alex McKeel	Thomure Family
Gerald Drobick	Charlene Molnar	Joseph Trubich
Linda Eck	Robert Nasenbenny	Jim Thompson
Dosse Houseaj Elise	Raymond John Nickel	Margaret Thompson
Kelly G.	Paul Norris	Sister Elaine Teders
Anthony Gregory	Gliceria Nunez	Tommy Turner
Anthony Harmes	Parnell	Susan Ward
Alba Hensley	James Partak	
Janet	Patricia Phinney	
Janet Horvath		

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





Do you want to grow deeper in your relationship with God through prayer?

When You Pray: A Clear Path to a Deeper Relationship with God, a seven-session study designed to help transform your prayer life. Through each session, you will learn simple and powerful steps for prayer, gain tools to overcome distractions and discouragement, and discover how God desires to draw you into a deeper relationship with him. This adult study is open for all to join for one session or all sessions at St. Mary Nativity at 7pm to 8:15 in the Nativity Room.

For more information contact Christine at 815-726-4031 or by email at faithfomation@stmarynativity.org

**Join us for When You Pray:
A Clear Path to a Deeper
Relationship with God**

Session One – “I Thirst”

Sept. 24

Session Two – The Battle for Prayer

Oct. 15

Session Three – Trust and Surrender

Oct 29

Session Four – Meeting God in the Valley

Nov. 5

Session Five – The Living Flame of Love

Nov. 19

Session Six – In the World, Not of the World

Dec. 3

Session Seven – Radiating Christ

Dec. 17

Tacos, Guaraches & Quesadillas **Fundraiser**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

St. Mary Nativity School Cafeteria
702 N. Broadway
Joliet, IL 60435

*All
proceeds
to benefit
the Feast
of Our
Lady of
Guadalupe.*

Menu

TACOS: \$3
Steak or Al Pastor
GUARACHES: \$5
Steak or Al Pastor
QUESADILLAS: \$5
Cheese or Steak or Al Pastor
Cilantro, onions, green or red
salsa available upon request.



**PLACE YOUR ORDER TODAY! Call: (815)919-6016.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Blessing of the Animals

St. Francis Feast Day
is Sunday, October 4th .

We will host the

BLESSING OF PETS

ON Friday, October 2nd at 2:30pm

**in the Parking Lot
at St. Mary Nativity.**

**Please make sure your pet will be safe,
contained and comfortable
when you visit. Use a leash,
carrier or crate as appropriate.**





RELIGIOUS FORMATION

We are glad to support your family on its faith journey. The Religious Formation Office works to help your child build a personal, grace-filled relationship with Jesus. Religious Formation partners with families to pass on the Catholic faith through a structured program tailored to each child's developmental stage, from kindergarten through eighth grade. For more information, contact Christine at faithformation@stmarynativity.org.

Sacrament Reminder

Don't forget if your child is planning to make a sacrament that the Diocese of Joliet requires that children **complete a minimum of two consecutive years of religious formation** before receiving sacraments.

Adult Sacrament & OCIA Classes



- If you have been interested in the Catholic Faith
- If you are missing a Sacrament like Communion, Reconciliation or Confirmation
- If you are a non-Catholic married to a Catholic who has wanted to share in your family's religious life more completely.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

OCIA is designed for those who are considering joining the Catholic Church through celebrating the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil. The process welcomes adults who have never been baptized and those who have been baptized in another Christian tradition.

Adult Confirmation Classes!

It is never too late to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation! If you missed it when you were a teenager, you are invited to participate in our Adult Confirmation program.

The Catholic Church welcomes you and looks forward to you becoming a full part of our family of faith!

Classes Begin in September, for more information email Christine at Faithformation@stmarynativity.org
Scan code to Sign up.



Faith Formation Catholic Kids Column 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's readings we hear it is really hard to do the right things. Sometimes we say or do something that we shouldn't, and when we mess up, we make God sad. But the Good News is that God loves to give us second chances, and when we go back to him and say we are sorry, he will always forgive us and let us try again. God never gives up on us! This is truly Good News. From LTP Sourcebook



Religious Faith Formation Open House

Thank you to all the Parents and Students who joined us for the Faith Formation Open House. It was great seeing everyone and joining together in prayer and enjoying activities.

Altar Servers are Called to be Young Friends of Jesus

St. John Paul II

BECOME AN ALTAR SERVER

4th graders and up are invited to serve in this important ministry at St. Mary Nativity

Join the St. Mary Nativity Altar Server Ministry
Contact Christine at faithformation@stmarynativity.org

Classes Begin September 20/21

Help your child meet their Best Friend

Register Now for Religious Education Classes

Fun, Friendly, Flexible Times
(Now Sunday, Monday or online)

St. Mary Nativity
815-726-4031





Can you lend a hand?

Is God Calling you?

Catechist and Helpers are needed for the 2026-2027 school year

Call Christine at (815) 726-4031
For more information




The Week Ahead

Monday, September 28

Tuesday, September 29

9:30am Bible Study - SMN Nativity Room

1:00pm Rosary - SMN Church

Wednesday, September 30

8:30am Mass - SMN Church



Thursday, October 1

1:00pm Rosary in Spanish - SMN Church

4:00pm Volleyball Games - SMN Gym

7:00pm OCIA Class - SMN Joann Room



Friday, October 2

2:30pm Pet Blessing -

SMN School Gym Parking Lot



12:00pm Eucharistic Adoration - SMN Church

2:30pm Mum Sale Pickup - SMN Gym

5:00pm Polish School - SMN School

7:00pm First Friday Mass - Holy Cross in Polish - SMN Church

Saturday, October 3 Food Pantry Collection - SMN

1:00pm Wedding - HC Church (Pasek)



4:30pm Mum Sale Pickup - SMN Gym

Sunday, October 4 Food Pantry Collection - SMN

9:00am Our Lady Guadalupe Fundraiser -

(Tacos and Quesadillas) Cafeteria

9:15am Religious Education Class -

SMN Church and School



Non Perishable items may be dropped off at the SMN Church vestibule on October 3rd & 4th Thank you!

Sunday, October 11th in the Nativity Room after the morning Masses.



(MT 21) "Complete my joy by having the same understanding, holding to the same charity, being of one mind, with the same sentiment. Strengthen, renew, and rekindle your marriage sacrament by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on October 9-11 in Rockford or December 4-6 in Lemont.

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



Parish Events

8



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, please contact Mike Hansen at 815-212-3661 or mikehansen@mikehansenlaw.com



Join the St. Mary Nativity Choir!

SMN MUSIC MINISTRY CALLING ALL SINGERS & INSTRUMENTALISTS!

The St. Mary Nativity Music Ministry is welcoming new members as we begin the

2026-2027 year on Sunday, September 13, 2026. The choir, cantors and instrumentalists participate at the 11:00 am Sunday Masses and for all other special Liturgies throughout the year. Practice is on Sunday from 10:00 am until 10:50 am. We sing from September through the end of May and take the Summer months of June, July and August off. Please consider joining and helping us build the Kingdom of God!

Call Tony Brandolino, Music Director at 815-531-9257.

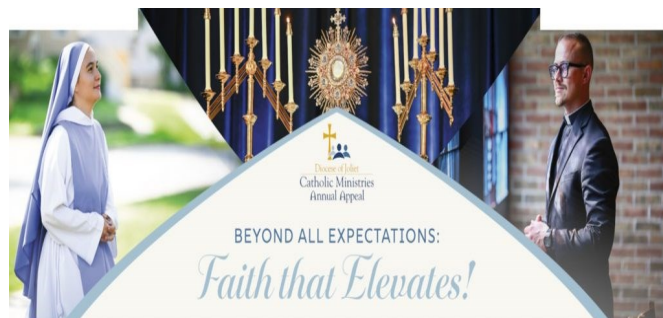


Scan now to donate!

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>



September 20, 2026	St. Mary Nativity	Holy Cross
Sunday Offertory	\$9,888	\$2,307
Sunday Offertory Budget Need	\$9,215	\$2,843
YTD Sunday Offertory	\$104,045	\$29,211
YTD Budget Need	\$110,580	\$34,116
Overage/(Shortage) Amount	(\$6,535)	(\$4,905)
Annual Budget (July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027)	\$470,000	\$145,000
Average Weekly Shortage	(\$545)	(\$409)

Saint Mary Nativity

2026 Goal	\$39,800
Amount Pledged	\$41,850
Amount Paid	\$39,188
Balance Due	\$ 2,662
Donor Count	141
2026 Rebate	\$0

Holy Cross

2026 Goal	\$13,700
Amount Pledged	\$17,808
Amount Paid	\$17,158
Balance Due	\$ 650
Donor Count	57
2026 Rebate	\$2,421

Thank You

Once our parishes reach their goal in paid pledges, 70% of the amount over goal will be returned to the parishes.

*Thank you for attending. Thank you for serving.
Thank you for giving.
Thank you for growing with us.*

Congratulations to Holy Cross Mission and St. Mary Nativity Church for reaching their goals for the 2026 CMAA.

PLEASE NOTE

Due to rising costs, our 12 page bulletin will no longer be free of charge. As a result, starting November 1, 2026 we will be switching to an 8 page bulletin.

Please be aware that space will be limited, and refer to the week ahead and the monthly schedule for upcoming events at St. Mary Nativity and Holy Cross. Deadline to submit for bulletin will still be on Monday. Thank you!



She wasn't alone when she became principal

When Colleen Carroll stepped into her second year as principal of St. Jude Catholic School in New Lenox, she wasn't walking the path alone. Through the Emmaus Mentor Program, supported by your gifts to the CMAA, Colleen was paired with veteran principal Carol Albreski, giving Colleen support and a person to reach out to with the everyday challenges of a first year in the principal's office.



Watch the video and see the good your donation to the CMAA brings to our community



Bishop Dennis Spies
Diocesan Administrator

Are You Being Called to the Permanent Diaconate?

The Diocese of Joliet is in the process of inviting men to discern the call to the next diaconate class of formation.

If the thought of becoming a deacon has whispered to your soul, I encourage you to contact the diaconate office for more information.

Office for the Diaconate
815-221-6174

vocations.diojoliet.org/start-a-conversation



WHAT IS A
Calling
FROM
GOD

Happy Birthday Blessed Virgin Mary

10



11 Remember and Honor our First Responders



**PRAY FOR
FIRST RESPONDERS
EVERYWHERE**



Croatian Cultural Club
1503 Clement St., Joliet, IL 60435
Friday Fish Frys • Monthly Ethnic Dinners
Open Daily @ 2pm
Dine in, Carry out • All Welcome
www.croatianculturalclub.com
815/723-3154

BEST IMAGE DENTAL
Dr. Mary Cavitt, DDS
625 Plainfield Rd.
Joliet, IL
(815) 727-9903

Love More
Family Support
Free support for life hardships.
When: Monday Nights: 7:00-8:30 pm
Where: Crossroads Christian Church
Address: 2312 Essington Rd, Joliet, IL
For more information please call:
(815) 725-7125

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Contact Julie Blanford
jblanford@4LPi.com
(800) 950-9952 x2141

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Financial Advisor
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708-478-3060
Parishioner
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