

Oct.
11,
2026

St. Mary Nativity Catholic Church Holy Cross Mission

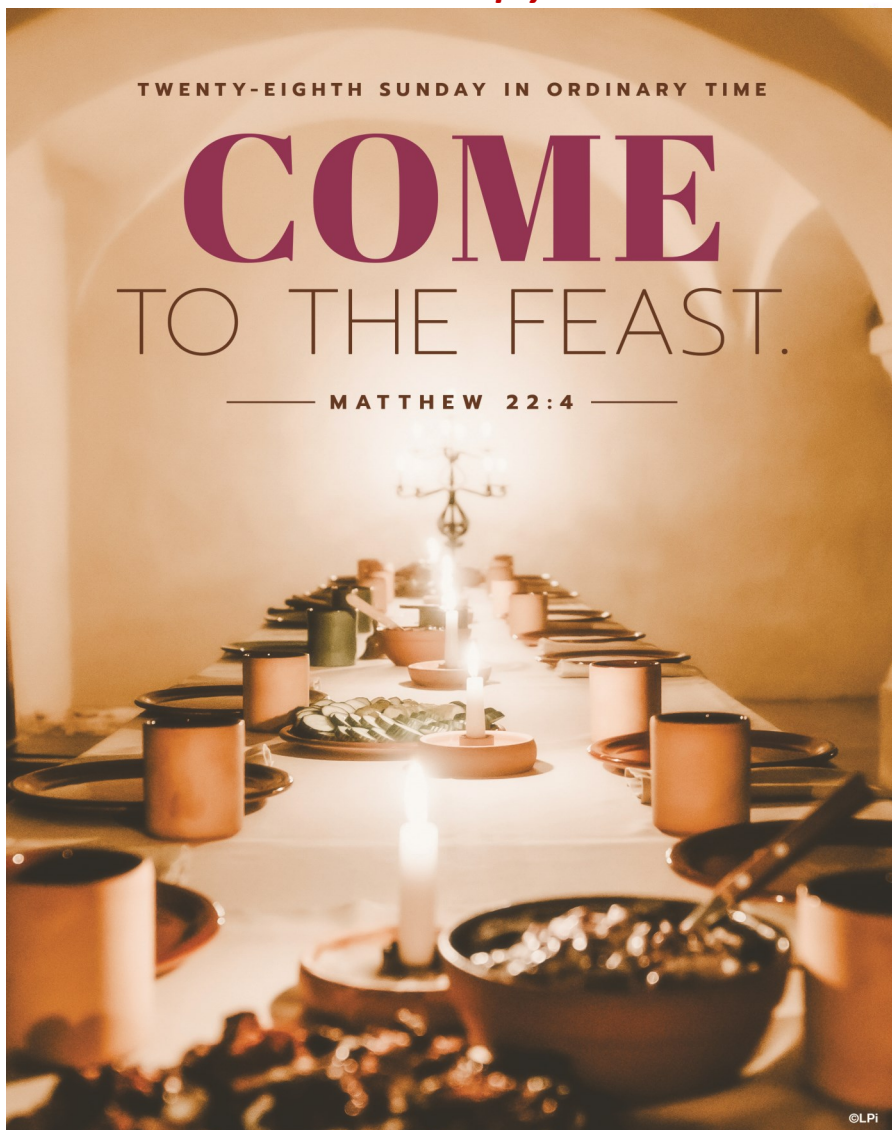
Deeply Committed. Christ at Heart.



TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

COME TO THE FEAST.

— MATTHEW 22:4 —



St. Mary Nativity Catholic Church
706 N. Broadway St.
Joliet, IL 60435

info@stmarynativity.org
Parish Office: (815) 726-4031
Parish Fax: (815) 727-4393
Faith Formation (815) 726-4073

Parish Office Hours:
Monday - Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm

Holy Cross Mission
830 Elizabeth St.
Joliet, IL 60435

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>

Scan now to
donate!



Find us on:
facebook®

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 5:30 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

Confessions:

Saturdays
3:15pm to 3:45pm
or by Appointment.
Also 30 minutes before all
Polish Masses at Holy Cross

Eucharistic Adoration:

St. Mary Nativity
every Friday from
Noon to 3:00pm

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





From Fr. Clive

Greetings Family and Friends,

As stated earlier, I've been mobilized for active duty status and will be away till May 2027. As you may already know, I've been a USAF Chaplain since 2021 under the Reservists component. That means I can be mobilized into active duty status anytime, and that's why I've been doing my UTA (Unit Training Assembly) or popularly known as drill weekends once every month. It's been rough doing all that while remaining faithful as your pastor and ministering to all, but I've done it with grace and with your support and understanding. Thank you!

You may not know but there's a huge shortage of Catholic priests chaplains who serve our men and women in uniform. Most priests serve in secluded areas and most times when activated, they can be the only priests serving a whole region or country. This takes sacrifice and we pray for them as they minister to those in uniform and bring the light of Christ in situations where most young people serving, are away from home for the first time, and may need spiritual and moral support. Keep them in your prayers!

We're also grateful to our Bishops for their support and understanding of the "call within a call" of priests serving in uniform. It shows their commitment to Christ the Good Shepherd that all sheep belong in one fold and that none should be lost. Pray for them as it is not easy decision with the shortage of priests!

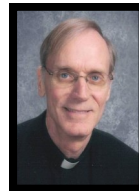
While temporarily away, Fr. Chris Groh, has graciously accepted to be the administrator of both SMN and HC. His acceptance to be activated into ministry again from retirement shows what great love he has for Christ and our communities which he has previously served as pastor. Give him a warm welcome and thank him for his generosity. Please read his message to all! Also, Fr. Tomasz our current parochial vicar will continue working with him to minister to both SMN parish and HC mission.

Finally, I'm grateful to all of you for your understanding, encouragement and support. It takes sacrifice and together we're doing it for Him by lending me away to where he wants me now. I look forward to keeping you updated with my deployed ministry when I can, and for a speedy return.

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that brings good tidings, that publishes peace." Isaiah 52:7

Peace of Christ and love,

Fr. Clive



From Fr. Chris Groh

Dear Friends,

When asked about his future career plans in 1995, NBA legend Michael Jordan responded with a famous response, "I'm back."

I doubt that this column will make the same coast-to-coast headlines, but, yes, I am back at St. Mary Nativity and Holy Cross as Parish Administrator. On September 30, Fr. Clive Otieno began training and preparation for his anticipated deployment next month. For the next few weekends, he plans to be back home to celebrate Mass. Please keep him in prayer as he readies for active duty.

I look forward to the responsibilities as your Parish Administrator. Although it has been 15 years since my departure from St. Mary Nativity and Holy Cross, I have continued to keep in touch with many parishioners. Realistically, I know it will be difficult to maintain the same pace as before. I no longer have the same energy level as in 2011. With your help, we can keep things moving forward during Fr. Clive's absence.

There is one focus I wish to offer during my time with you, "Go, therefore, and make disciples..." (Mt. 28:19). This is the theme of Pastoral Letters written by Bishop Daniel Conlon and Bishop Ronald Hicks. Jesus spoke this great commission to the eleven disciples at the conclusion of the Gospel of Matthew.

As Missionary Disciples, nourished each Sunday in word and in Sacrament, we have been entrusted by Jesus to bring his redemptive message into the world. Through hospitality and welcome; and by example and invitation, each of us is called to live this great commission every day. Don't hesitate. "Go and Make disciples!"

May God bless you,

Fr. Chris Groh

Administrator, St. Mary Nativity and Holy Cross

Meet our Parish Staff...

Father Clive Otieno, Pastor

frclive@stmarynativity.org

Father Chris Groh, Administrator

Contact Parish Office 815-726-4031

Father Tomasz Sielicki, Parochial Vicar

sielicki59@gmail.com

Father Gerald Nicholas, OSA, Weekend Associate

Deacon Emmanuel Eklou

deacon@stmarynativity.org

Mary Nemanich, Business Manager

mnemanich@smncs.com

Susan Mammosser, Parish Secretary

smammosser@stmarynativity.org

Christine Goba, Director of Faith Formation

faithformation@stmarynativity.org

Allen Kramerich, Facilities Manager

facilities@stmarynativity.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

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, Barbara Szuba, Polish School Principal

polskaszkolajoliet@gmail.com



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.

The Week Ahead**Monday, October 12****Columbus Day - NO School - Parish Office Closed****Tuesday, October 13**

Teacher Diocese Institute - SMN NO School

9:30am Bible Study - SMN Nativity Room

1:00pm Rosary - SMN Church

Wednesday, October 14**Thursday, October 15**

9:15am Coffee and Donuts - SMN Nativity Room

1:00pm Rosary in Spanish - SMN Church

7:00pm When You Pray Session 2 (Adult Study)

SMN Nativity Room

Friday, October 16

12:00pm Eucharistic Adoration - SMN Church

5:00pm Polish School - SMN School, Church

Saturday, October 17

10:00am Confirmation Parent Meeting - SMN Nativity Room

12:30pm Wedding - HC Church (Mucha/Bednarz)

Sunday, October 18

8:35am Monthly Pro-Life Rosary - HC Church

9:15am Religious Education Class - SMN Church and School

10:35am Monthly Pro-Life Rosary - SMN Church




**Parish Office
and School will be
CLOSED
ON
COLUMBUS
DAY
October 12, 2026**

Calendar Raffle Tickets will be available soon!

St. Mary Nativity Catholic School

150 DAYS OF WINNING

CALENDAR RAFFLE ~ January to May 2027

\$12,000
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 27th!*

Jan. 1st	New Year's Day	\$500	Mar. 21st	Palm Sunday	\$200
Jan. 6th	Epiphany	\$100	Mar. 25th	Holy Thursday	\$150
Jan. 18th	MLK Jr. Day	\$50	Mar. 27th	Holy Saturday	\$250
Feb. 2nd	Groundhog Day	\$50	Mar. 28th	Easter Sunday	\$500
Feb. 10th	Ash Wednesday	\$200	Apr. 1st	April Fool's Day	\$500
Feb. 14th	Valentine's Day	\$500	Apr. 22nd	Earth Day	\$50
Feb. 15th	President's Day	\$50	May 5th	Cinco de Mayo	\$50
Mar. 16th	Day 75 - Halfway Home	\$250	May 9th	Mother's Day	\$300
Mar. 17th	St. Patrick's Day	\$100	May 16th	Fr. Clive's Anniversary	\$250
Mar. 19th	St. Joseph's Day	\$100	May 28th	Last Day of School	\$50
			May 31st	Memorial Day	\$500

Tickets drawn daily*

*Weekends and holidays will be drawn the next business day.
There will be no drawing on 3/26/2027 Good Friday

**\$20
per Ticket**



**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 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

(MT 21) "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." Accept God's ways of marriage. Strengthen, renew, and rekindle your marriage sacrament by attending an upcoming 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

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St. Mary Nativity
Choir!

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Music Director at 815-531-9257.

**St. Vincent de Paul
St. Mary Nativity and
Holy Cross Conference
Please call 815-779-4878**



For a listing of DOJ Events,
please visit

<https://www.diojoliet.org/events>



Saturday - October 10

4:00 pm Mass (HC)

- † † Bern & Sis Olszta by Kathy Laken
- † Ray Page "65th Wedding Anniversary" by Wife, Jean

4:00 pm Mass (SMN)

- † Joseph R. Kararo by Family
- † Gerald Bebar by Wife, Carol
- † Nora Tierney by Family
- Christopher Dorval by Mom Dania

7:00 pm Mass (HC) Polish

- † ks. Kazimierz Świątliński SChr (rocznica śmierci)
- † br. Stefan Faryna SChr (rocznica śmierci)

Sunday - October 11

7:00 am Mass (SMN)

- † Marie Rodawold by Family

9:00 am Mass (HC)

- † Helena Warmuz by Godson, Stanislaw & Family
- † † Peggy & Paul Bartolotta by Tony and Patty Torres

10:30 am Mass (HC)

Dziękczynna i z prośbą o dalsze Boże błogosławieństwo dla rodziny Szopińskich

- † Edward Styrzula
- † † Aniela i Józef Długosz
- † Aniela Matyga

11:00 am Mass (SMN)

- † Rutilio Suarez by Family
- † Delores Bebej by Andrea McIntosh & Family
- Faith Formation by the Parish
- † Tim Gruber "Anniversary" by Family

12:30 pm Mass (SMN)

For the People of the Parishes

5:30 pm Mass (SMN)

For the People of the Parishes

Monday - October 12

8:30 am Mass (HC)

For the People of the Parishes

7:00 pm Mass (HC) Polish

O zdrowie i Boże błogosławieństwo dla Mateusza

Tuesday - October 13

8:30 am Mass (SMN)

- † Kevin Hansen by Mike & Beth Hansen
- † † Anna & John B. Gorski by Son, Jack

8:30 am Mass (HC) Polish

- † Stanisław Pietrusza

Wednesday - October 14

8:30 am Mass (SMN)

- † Charlie Kirk by The Pottorff Family
- † Patricia C. Scotkovsky by SMN/HC SVPD Conference

7:00 pm Mass (HC) Polish

- † Józef Kulon

Thursday - October 15

8:30 am Mass (SMN)

- † Charles Kramer by Frank LaBuda & Daughter, Caryn

7:00 pm Mass (HC) Polish

- † ks. Florian Berlik SChr (rocznica śmierci)

Friday - October 16

8:30 am Mass (HC)

- † Charlotte Kane by Mother

7:00 pm Mass (HC) Polish

- † Mikołaj Mroczek

Saturday - October 17

4:00 pm Mass (HC)

- † Sean Fordonski by Family

4:00 pm Mass (SMN)

- † Ronald Bebar by Family
- † Ann E. Shepich "Anniversary" by Susan & Dan Sameck
- † Ann Jeriha-Zigrossi by Robert & Ann Jeriha

7:00 pm Mass (HC) Polish

- † Hr. Aniela Potulicka (rocznica śmierci)

Sunday - October 18

7:00 am Mass (SMN)

For the People of the Parishes

9:00 am Mass (HC)

- † Bruce Gruben by The Pottorff Family

10:30 am Mass (HC)

O łaskę wiary dla syna Jana i wybór drogi życiowej zgodnie z wolą Bożą

- † Mirosław Szociński oraz + Stanisław Szociński
- † Mikołaj Mroczek

11:00 am Mass (SMN)

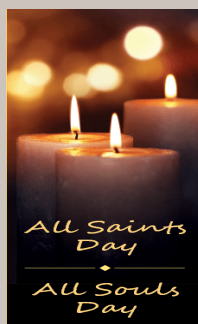
- † Kenneth Hrusosky by Family
- † Ann Jelinek "Anniversary" by Family
- † Marilyn Tarizzo by Marge & Jean Zanella

12:30 pm Mass (SMN)

- † Carmen DeNardis by Kevin Rutkowski

5:30 pm Mass (SMN)

For the People of the Parishes



All Saints Day Mass
Sunday, November 1, 2026
Regular Mass Schedule

All Souls Day
Monday, November 2, 2026
7:00pm Mass
St. Mary Nativity and Holy Cross
Candlelight Memorial Mass

5 Stewardship and Prayer

<u>October 4, 2026</u>	<u>St. Mary Nativity</u>	<u>Holy Cross</u>
Sunday Offertory	\$9,333	\$3,026
Sunday Offertory Budget Need	\$9,215	\$2,843
YTD Sunday Offertory	\$120,941	\$34,593
YTD Budget Need	\$129,010	\$39,802
Overage/(Shortage) Amount	(\$8,069)	(\$5,209)
Annual Budget (July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027)	\$470,000	\$145,000
Average Weekly Shortage	(\$576)	(\$372)

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

Maintenance

September 2026

Saint Mary Nativity

Donations \$7,986.00 Expenses \$7,053.00

Holy Cross

Donations \$2,818.00 Expenses \$1,478.00

*We are grateful for your contributions
to our maintenance fund which helps us
preserve and improve our campuses.*



Saint Mary Nativity

2026 Goal \$39,800
Amount Pledged **\$41,950**
Amount Paid \$39,830
Balance Due \$ 2,120
Donor Count 141
2026 Rebate \$21

Holy Cross

2026 Goal \$13,700
Amount Pledged **\$17,808**
Amount Paid \$17,338
Balance Due \$ 470
Donor Count 57
2026 Rebate \$2,547

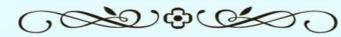
Thank You!



October 15th
Happy
Birthday
Fr. Jerry Nicholas



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



Wedding Congratulations!

The Sacrament of Marriage is an
understanding that holds the promise
of many joyful years together.

Mr. & Mrs. Pawel Swiatkowski

October 3, 2026, 2026
at Holy Cross Church



Please Keep in Your Prayers Those Serving in the Military

Pfc. Paul Roder, USMC
Jacob Gregurich, USMC
Lt. Alex Aguilera, USMC
2nd Lt. Kevin A'Hearn
Brent Moot
David Walters, Army,
Tommy Hanks, USMC
Amn. Jack Maurer, Air Force
1st Sgt. Christina Romero, USMC
Cpt. Marcos Aguilera, USMC
Jonathon Schroll, USMC Special Forces
Petty Officer 1st Class Tyler Hintzsche, Navy

Fr. Clive Otieno, USAF Chaplain
Sgt. FC Jay R. Martin
Kathleen Sullivan, Navy,
SRA Michael Wilson Arellano
CPL. Christopher Wesle
Jeremy M. Close, Army
Joe Miller, USMC Sgt
Sgt. Christina Hanks, USMC
Amn. Josh Maurer, Air Force
Pfc. Michael McCallister, Army
Cpt. Anthony Gutierrez, USMC

Heavenly Father, we pray for...

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

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



There is still time to register!



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.

The Next Class is Oct. 22 at 7:00 in the Nativity Room.

For more information email Christine at

Faithformation@stmarynativity.org Scan code below to Sign up.

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! For more information, email Christine at Faithformation@stmarynativity.org Scan code to Sign up.



"It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas!"

Coming soon...
Holiday Greenery Sale!!!

Faith Formation

6

Faith Formation Catholic Kids Column 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's readings we hear about feasts and banquets, big parties with lots of food and fun. God loves us so much that he wants to share good things with us in abundance, and he especially wants to share Jesus with us. God invites us to come to Mass each week so that we can have a meal together—a very special meal with the bread and wine that Jesus gives us. God calls each of us to accept His invitation and to live in a way that makes us prepared to accept such an important invitation. From LTP Sourcebook

No
Class
On

COLUMBUS DAY



Religious Faith Formation will not meet on October 11 and 12 in observance of Columbus Day.

Thanks to all who participated in the Stuffed Animal Blessing!



Confirmation Parent Meeting

There is a Confirmation Parent Meeting scheduled for Saturday, October 17, at 10:00am in the Nativity Room. Parent of all student preparing to receive Confirmation May of 2027 are asked to attend this informational meeting.

First Communion & First Reconciliation Parent Meeting

There is a First Communion and First Reconciliation Parent Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 28, at 7:00pm in the Nativity Rm. Parent of all student preparing to receive these important sacrament this school year are asked to attend this informational meeting.



Classes Begin September 20/21

Help your child meet their Best Friend



Register Now for Religious Education Classes



Is God Calling you?

Catechists and Helpers are needed for the 2026—2027 school year.

Email Christine at faithformation@stmarynativity.org



September Students of the Month - Virtue: Patience



Fr. Clive visits with the 6th Grade Class



My name is Debbie Grace, and I have been teaching Math at St. Mary Nativity for 26 years. This year I will be the instructor for 5th through 8th grade Math, 8th Grade ELA, and 8th Grade Homeroom. I attended Joliet Junior College, Eastern Illinois University, and Governor's State University. I am originally from Joliet, but I currently live in Lemont with my husband of 28 years and my daughter.



My name is Sue Mazur. My husband Craig and I are parishioners of St. Mary Nativity. I have been teaching religion/ELA for almost 40 years. This is my 3rd year teaching at St. Mary, though not consecutively. I will be the religion teacher for the 5th - 8th graders. Being Catholic is at the core of who I am, and it is a privilege and a blessing to prepare the junior high students for the Sacrament of Confirmation. I am also the 7th grade homeroom/ELA teacher, and am passionate about reading and writing, and hope the students will come to see the importance of those subjects. This summer, my husband Craig and I celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary with a cruise to Alaska! I am so looking forward to meeting or reconnecting with all of you. I can't wait for the 2026-2027 school year to get underway.



My name is Mrs. Fleming, and this is my 16th year teaching at St. Mary Nativity. I teach Music, Art, and P.E. I have two degrees from Illinois State University: one in Music Performance and the other in Music Education.

When I'm not at school, I'm with my family watching our daughter compete in tennis and track and field as a shot put and discus competitor. I can't wait to start this new school year!



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back at
St. Mary
Nativity
School**

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EJB-19325-A-E-DA-2



> edwardjones.com

Love More
Family Support

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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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