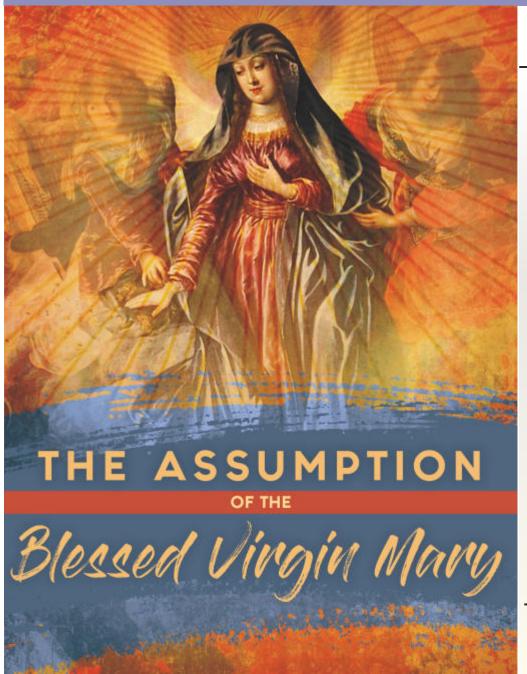


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August 14 -15 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

> Fr. Brian Grady Pastor

Fr. James C. Canova Associate Pastor

Deacon Robert Collins Deacon Kevin Hunter Deacon John Huntley

MASS TIMES

Weekdays

Monday – Saturday8:15am

Weekend

Saturday (Vigil)4:30 pm Sunday ...8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am

Confessions

Adoration

M - F 3 - 8 pm (Chapel) Thursday....... 6:30 - 7:30 pm (Church)

Holy Days: Mass schedule may vary. Please check bulletin, website or call the Church Office

Baptisms/Weddings

Please call the parish office to arrange baptisms and weddings.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Friday 9 to 5 pm CLOSED for lunch 12:30-1:30pm

ILLUMINATION CORNER

Living the Truth of our Creation

Guiding Principles on Human Sexuality
For the Diocese of Rockford
Effective August 6, 2021

We, as Catholics of the Diocese of Rockford believe in the Divine teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ, passed on to us through the Holy Catholic Church. And so, we know and believe that we are creations of God. We know too that God created us-the human person-in His image. The human person is a being at once corporeal and spiritual. (CCC 363)

In His Divine Plan, God gave us the great gift of being created male and female. We understand and believe in the mystery and beauty of being man and woman thus possessing the dignity equal to each other and made to complement each other for the continuation of all humanity.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church so beautifully teaches us what God intended, "Man and woman were made "for each other"-not that God left half-made and incomplete: He created them to be a communion of persons, in which each can be "helpmate" to the other, for they are as equal persons ("bone of my bones...") and complementary as masculine and feminine. In marriage God unites them in such a way that , by forming "one flesh," they can transmit human life: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth." By transmitting human life to their descendants, man and woman as spouses and parents cooperate in a unique way in the Creator's work. (CCC 372)

One of our great challenges as believers and as Catholics in our modern age is to be willing to testify to the truth. Jesus clearly spoke to His followers about the truth telling us, "If you remain in my word you will truly be may disciples, and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free" (Jn 8:31-32)

And in the dark hour of His passion, Jesus said before His earthly judge, "For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth" (Jn 18:37).

It is with this understanding of truth that we are guided in our belief and our practice as human beings made in the image of God.

Therefore, we live the truth of our creation guided by a policy that is committed to spreading the Gospel values and forming the diocesan faithful in Christ's teachings in conformance with the Magisterium.

- 1. The Diocese of Rockford, its parishes, schools, departments, ministries, and facilities will only condone or promote a view of sexual identity that is consistent to the Church's teachings in regard to gender and sexuality. As faithful partners in that teaching, parents, students, legal guardians, and families will be expected to conduct themselves and live in accord with the Gospel values we seek to impart.
- 2. The Diocese of Rockford, its parishes, schools, departments, ministries, and facilities will, at all times, act toward and refer to a person in accordance with his or her biological sex at birth. In all cases we will act in accord with all Christian charity.
- 3. At all times, employees, volunteers, students, and children and youth participating in parish, school, or Diocesan activities, as well as parents or guardians, will conduct themselves in accord with their biological sex at birth.

We must continue to commit ourselves to love all our brothers and sisters with whom we share the earth. And we must do so by reminding ourselves and them of the truth that encompasses every human person. In this case, it is that, as part of God's plan, we are gifted in the identity given each of us by God at birth as being male or female. Because, as the Book of Genesis tell us, "God has looked on all that He made and saw that it was good" (Gn 1:31).

We are a Stewardship Parish

Contributions for July 31 - August 1

Stewardship of Treasure (230)	\$8,772.00
Loose Collection	
Electronic Transfers (17)	
Assumption (5)	\$45.00

St. Rita Calendar Raffle 2021 \$25 26 Larry Gray July Jenna Liskey 27 \$25 July July 28 Mark & Sonia Miller \$25 July 29 Carol Zwierzynski \$25 July 30 Dana Ward \$25 Jan & Mike Zarembski \$25 July 31

Rose LoBianco

August 1

Missionary Co-Op Weekend

\$50

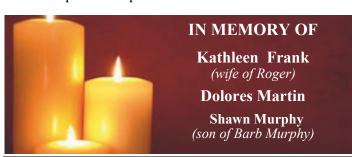
St. Rita will be hosting **Fr. Santhosh** Yohannan, from Scottsburg, IN the weekend of August 28-29. Fr. Yohannan will be speaking on behalf of the Diocese of Quilon in India. This is our

annual opportunity to support the worldwide mission of the Church. Due to COVID, we missed our opportunity for Fr. Yohannan's visit last year. We look forward to his visit and ask you to prayerfully consider your financial support to this mission.



SILVER & GOLD WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Couples celebrating the milestone wedding anniversaries of 25, 50, 55, 60, 65, and 70 or more years of marriage in 2021 are invited to a special Mass in their honor at St. Mary Parish in Huntley, IL, Sunday, August 22nd at 2:30 PM celebrated by Bishop David J. Malloy followed by a cake and punch reception.



Mass Schedule and Intentions

Monday, August 16 • St. Stephen of Hungary 8:15am † Robert Vigna (Russ & Diane Moser)

Tuesday, August 17 • Weekday

8:15am † Rose Honzel (Honzel Family)

Wednesday, August 18. Weekday

8:15am † Kevin Jeras (Mary Kinney)

Thursday, August 19 · St. John Eudes

8:15am † Michael John Tyson (Anastacia Tyson)

Friday, August 20 • St. Bernard

8:15am † Patricia Caliente (Tuesday Rosary Group)

Saturday, August 21 • St. Pius X, Pope

8:15am Special Intention for Julia & Eric Schopen, Jr. (Schopen Family)

Vigil for 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30pm † Wilbert & Julia Dinges

(Judy Bookland & Mary Sue Bergeson)

Sunday, August 22. Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

People of St. Rita 8:00am

9:30am † George Lamoureux, Sr. (Mary Kinney)

11:00am † Jessie Rex Memorando (Janet Memorando)

SANCTUARY LAMP MEMORIALS

Memorial candles are located near the tabernacles and in front of the St. Rita icon. Consider offering a candle in memory of someone special or as a special intention. Candles for the week of August 15-21 are being offered for:

Chapel: †

Church: **Special Intentions** St. Rita: **Special Intentions**



Readings for the week of August 15, 2021

Sunday: Vigil:1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2/Ps 132:6-7,

9-10, 13-14 [8]/1 Cor 15:54b-57/Lk 11:27-28

Day: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Ps 45:10, 11, 12,

16 [10bc]/1 Cor 15:20-27/Lk 1:39-56

Monday: Jgs 2:11-19/Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40,

43ab and 44 [4a]/Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday: Jgs 6:11-24a/Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. 9b]/

Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday: Jgs 9:6-15/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [2a]/Mt 20:1-16

Jgs 11:29-39a/Ps 40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [8a and Thursday:

9a]/Mt 22:1-14

Friday: Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7,

8-9a, 9bc-10 [1b]/Mt 22:34-40

Saturday: Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Ps 128:1b-2, 3, 4,

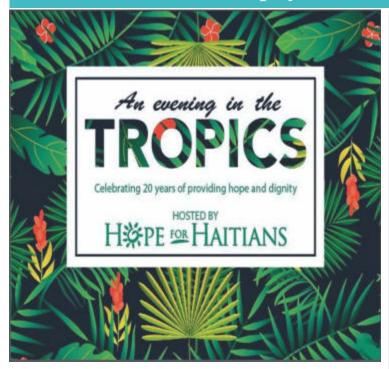
5 [4]/Mt 23:1-12

Next Sunday: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17,

18-19, 20-21, 22-23 [9a]/ Eph 5:21-32 or

5:2a, 25-32/Jn 6:60-69

How can I repay the Lord for His goodness to me?



You Are Invited to Celebrate 20 Years of Hope

On August 28th Hope for Haitians will host "An Evening in the Tropics' at Mauh-nah-tee-see Country Club in Rockford. This annual dinner will celebrate the impact made by Catholic donors over the past 20 years in rural North Haiti. All area Catholics and their guests are invited to attend this dinner. If you have supported this mission personally or though Lenten programs, then this is a great opportunity to see how you have made a difference. The evening will

include a cocktail hour, plated dinner, silent auction, and presentations on how thousands of lives have been changed over the last 20 years. For more information visit https://hopeforhaitians.org/tropics21.

Update Membership Information! Does our Church have YOUR family membership record correct?

It is time for us to update our database with any changes, additions, or deletions that may have occurred in YOUR family over the past year. Phone numbers, addresses, email addresses, children at home are all things we are looking to update. Please let us know of any changes to your important information by calling the Church office.

Thank you for your help.!

MAGNIFICAT SUBSCRIBERS

Your **SEPTEMBER** issue of the Magnificat will now be available for pick-up in the **Church Narthex**. They will be in the black bin located in the Church Narthex on the wooden bench. All issues are labeled with names and are

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Homebound Ministry Needs HELP!

St. Rita Parish is blessed with a Homebound Ministry that serves parishioners that are unable to come to Mass.



Visits are made every Sunday to homes, nursing homes and assisted living facilities within our parish boundaries to bring our parish community to them, since they cannot come to us. As you can imagine, being unable to worship our Lord, receive Him in the Eucharist, and experience fellowship with parishioners, is a difficult cross to bear. The Homebound

Ministry tries to share the burden of that cross and lessen their loneliness.

Our Homebound Ministers visit the homebound on Sundays following the 8:00AM Mass. They take the Holy Eucharist and a bulletin to each visit. The time commitment for a Sunday is generally 60-90 minutes and the minister is scheduled once a month.

The Ministry is in desperate need of help. The pandemic and natural attrition has resulted in a loss of one third of their volunteers. Do you have one hour a month to share with someone that is unable to come to St. Rita? Experience the great joy and gratitude when you bring our Lord Jesus to the homebound and pray with them. If you have personally missed our Church this last year, this is a great opportunity to renew your own spirit while lifting the spirits of others. Please give prayerful consideration to this need the parish has. If you would like to join this ministry, please contact our Homebound Ministry Coordinator,



The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's Name.

We are re-starting all of our ministries and welcoming back all previous liturgical volunteers and inviting new ones to join them (ushers, greeters, lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Sunday hospitality, sacristans and altar servers). Please help us get back to normal. Call the Church Office if you are able to volunteer for any of the ministries listed above.

NOTE Safe Environment Requirements:

ALL volunteers of the parish are required to complete the Safe Environment requirements established by the Rockford Diocese. Please log in to your Virtus account at www.virtusonline.org and update any items in the Required Documents box that appear RED. If you don't have an account or you need assistance, please call Jean Peterson in the parish office. Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who assist at our liturgies and make our parish a vibrant community.

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"Reflections of a Pilgrim"

Please consider following https://ocdspaul.blogspot.com/

a new <u>3-minute daily</u> spiritual reflection blog on the

Gospel reading from the Mass of the day. Our Diaconate candidate Paul Sanderson will be offering reflections that are aimed at informing the reader's perspective and encouraging a truly catechetical, contemplative, and fruitful praying and living out of the Gospel."

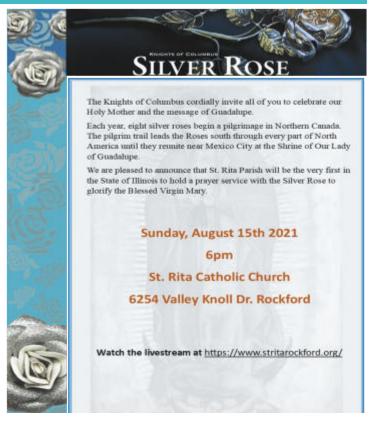
St. Elizabeth's Center August Donations



During August, we will be collecting school supplies and backpacks (new or gently used). Supplies in great need are crayons, pencils, pencil cases, glue sticks, spiral notebooks, markers, all types of paper, colored pencils, scissors, etc. Please bring donations to the old narthex (Devotional Vestibule) and place in the appropriate bin. If you have non school supply items to donate, we will gladly accept those, too!

Always needed are paper/plastic grocery bags for their food pantry as well as clothing hangers.

Thanks to each and every person who donates to St. Elizabeth Center; you touch the lives of so many people.



Men of St. Rita



Men's Cookout Sunday, August 29 5:30 – 7:30pm Wahl Hall Outdoor patio Burgers, Brats, Beer Just time to hang out together



The Fall Session "The Fight of Faith" starts Saturday, September 11. More information will follow soon. Plan to join men helping other men on their spiritual journey. Look for our table in the vestibule starting next weekend.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another" Proverbs 27:17

NEED PRAYER?

Please call our Prayer Line (815) 226-4376



Your servant, Lord, your servant am I.



AUGUST ROSARY Month of The Immaculate Heart of Mary

During the month of August, we celebrate *The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary* on the 15th of the month and then the following week on the 22nd we celebrate her *Queenship of Heaven and Earth.* She invites

you to pray the Family Rosary in her Mary, Mother of Mercy Rosary Walk every Tuesday at 6PM. This month we will be praying for her intercession for your Special Intentions. As the students and teachers return to school the week of August 16 we will also include them in our prayers.

We also include Pope Frances's intention for the month: "The Church: Let us pray for the Church, that she may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel."

Please join us every Tuesday at 6PM in the Mary, Mother of Mercy Rosary Walk. This would be a great family tradition as we approach the start of another school year.



THE BLESSED SACRAMENT IS EXPOSED DAILY

3:00-8:00 pm Monday-Friday IN THE CHAPEL

Thank you to all the Adorers that have signed up to fill all the one hour spots. It is preferable that we have two Adorers for each hour in cases where one cannot be

present. There is a need to fill a few more spots with a second Adorer. If you are willing to spend an hour with our Lord every week, please sign up for one of the remaining open hours listed below:

Monday: 3:00-4:00 PM / 4:00-5:00 PM / 5:00-6:00 PM

Tuesday: 4:00-5:00 PM Thursday: 7:00-8:00 PM

Friday: 4:00-5:00 PM / 5:00-6:00 PM / 6:00-7:00 PM /

7:00-8:00 PM

Please register on our website at: *stritarockford.org* or contact the Church Office: (815) 398-0853.

PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK AND HOSPITALIZED

The current list of our sick and hospitalized are as follows:

Tom Nimmo, Dan Welu, Val Guyer, Joan McCracken, Tony & Anna Sturms, Eisenrich Family

To add or remove the name of a sick person, please call the parish office at: (815) 398-0853 or email: parishoffice@stritarockford.org. To protect everyone's privacy, only names emailed or called in by family members will be added. To keep our list more manageable and open to all, names submitted will remain on the list for one (1) month. If you would like an extra month, please call the parish office so that we may add it back on.



For help call 815-227-9031

All calls are confidential

FRIENDS OF THE POOR WALK COMING SOON

WHO: Rockford St. Vincent de Paul Conferences

WHEN: Saturday, September 18, 2021

TIME: 9:00 Mass, 10:00 Registration/ Refreshments,

10:30 Walk

WHY: To bring awareness to issues concerning poverty in

our community

WHERE: YMCA Log Lodge, 200 Y Blvd., Rockford

YOUR OPPORTUNITY: To sign up to Walk, To be a Spirit Walker, To Volunteer

HOW: Register at www.fopwalk.org/event/2597 or at

Church Aug 28-29/Sept 4-5

QUESTIONS: Call Colette Anderson, 815-243-0317



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

If you are interested in joining the Catholic Church, you need to be Confirmed, or you are already a Catholic just wanting to grow deeper in your knowledge of the Faith, please join us at St. Rita Catholic Church for the RCIA program.

Meetings will be every Wednesday beginning,

Wednesday, September 22nd, 6:45PM-8:15PM

Sessions will be lead by Fr. Canova, Fr. Grady and the RCIA Team To sign up, please call the office (815) 398-0853

Guide Book & Directory Advertising Opportunity!

We are in the process of updating our annual Guide Book & Directory for the church. This book will contain everything pertinent to our parish: various ministries, organizations, committees, activities, functions and events plus a complete directory of members. This book is provided and direct-mailed to each family at no cost to our church, an is again being subsidized by local businesses that advertise. If you own or manage a business and would like to find out about advertising in our book, please call the Church office.

Recent survey results by Guide Book Publishing show that 92.1% of families would rather patronize a Guide Book & Directory advertiser over a non-advertiser. It will "pay" to advertise in our new directory.

SAINT RITA DIRECTORY

PASTORAL STAFF

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Emailbgrady@rockforddiocese.org
Associate Pastor Fr. James Canova815-398-0853 x203
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Catechesis and Evangelization Assistant
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Coordinator of Liturgical Music
<i>Cheryl Hochstetler</i> 815-721-3130
Emailteachflute03@gmail.com

SUPPORT STAFF

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Parish Secretary	
Becky O'Hara815-398-0853	
Emailparishoffice@stritarockford.org	
Parish Secretary	
<i>Jean Peterson</i> 815-398-0853	
Emailparishoffice@stritarockford.org	
School Secretary	
Carrie Petrak815-398-3466 x220	
Emailschooloffice@saintritaschool.org	
PARISH ORGANIZATIONS	
Athletics, <i>Joe Sutherland</i> 815-222-7808	
Catholic Women's Fellowship, Janine Pigue815-262-4813	
Finance Council, Todd Hughes815-670-1654	
Knights of Columbus #7624, Jason Sturges	
grandknight7624@gmail.com	
Pastoral Council, Mike Peck815-494-8968	
Respect Life, <i>Mary Kinney</i> 815-519-7066	
Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Laura Ortiz815-262-0206	

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Dan Hougan Funeral Director







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