

St. Rita

Catholic Church



6254 VALLEY KNOLL DRIVE • ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61109
815.398.0853 • www.stritarockford.org

The Baptism

OF THE LORD



"I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I is coming.
I am not worthy to loosen the
thongs of his sandals. He will
baptize you with the Holy Spirit
and fire." - Lk 3:16bc

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

January 8-9

The Baptism of the Lord

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

Tuesdays6 - 7 pm
Saturdays 8:45 - 9:30 am and
3:30 - 4:15 pm

Adoration

M - F 3 - 8 pm (Chapel)
Tuesday 6 - 7 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

CHRISTMAS QUIZ ANSWERS



- Q1. Answer is False – The Eastern Church used to celebrate Christmas on Jan 6.
 Q2. Answer is a. Bethlehem
 Q3. Answer is e. we don't know. Scripture doesn't state how they travelled.
 Q4. Answer is True – At the time of the Incarnation, Mary and Joseph were *betrothed*. Unlike an engagement which sets an intention to marry, a *betrothal* ceremony requires the couple to commit to marry. During the ceremony, a man and a woman pledge themselves to a future union. ... The church still regards the betrothal as a contract, an agreement spelled out and mutually agreed on by both parties. *They were still, however, considered married.*
 Q5. Answer is True - Mary and Joseph were *betrothed* to each other at the time of Christ's birth but had not yet consummated their relationship. *They were still, however, considered married.*
 Q6. Answer is True – *Mary was a virgin who conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit.*
 Q7. Answer is d. we don't know. Scripture doesn't state that the innkeeper said anything.
 Q8. Answer is d. we don't know. Scripture doesn't state where He was born.
 Q9. Answer is c. A manger is a trough in which feed for livestock is placed.
 Q10. Answer is e. we don't know. Scripture doesn't state what animals were present.
 Q11. Answer is g. only C and E. *a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.*
 Q12. Answer is d. we don't know. Scripture doesn't specify how the Holy Spirit revealed.
 Q13. Answer is c. The wise men from the East (aka the three kings)
 Q14. Answer is False – The Bible does not state exactly when the star first appeared.
 Q15. Answer is c. Little Child - Where is the child?

The Incarnation

(Luke 1:26-27) In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin *betrothed* to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. (Luke 1:34-35) "*How will this be,*" Mary asked the angel, "*since I am a virgin?*" The angel answered, "*The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called[b] the Son of God.*"

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

(Matthew 1:18) Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 1:16) and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

(Luke 2:1-7) In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

(Luke 2:8-20) In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "*Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.*"

cont'd

...Cont'd

The Wise Men and the Child Jesus

(Matthew 2:1-2) In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, *'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'*

(Matthew 2:7-11) Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, *"Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."* When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

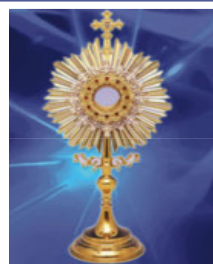
The Massacre of the Infants

(Matthew 2:16) When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.

The Presentation in the Temple

(Luke 2:21-38) Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.



STAY TUNED FOR EXCITING NEWS REGARDING EUCHARISTIC ADORATION!

We are in the process of transitioning how we do Eucharistic Adoration here at St. Rita's! This is exciting news!

The Pre-K room in the old Narthex is in the process of being converted to a Perpetual Adoration Chapel.

Our hope is to have the Chapel up and running in the New Year. Please stay tuned to the bulletin in the weeks ahead for more information.

Monday, January 10• Weekday

8:15am † Marion Roghair (Honzel Family)

Tuesday, January 11• Weekday

8:15am † Darlene Ruefer (Lindquist Family)

Wednesday, January 12• St. Marguerite

8:15am † Karen Carlson (Mary Kinney)

Thursday, January 13• St. Hilary

8:15am † Kristin Carroll (Barb Vogel)

First Friday, January 14• Weekday

8:15am † Joanne Conley (S.V.D.P.)

First Saturday, January 15• Weekday

8:15am † Karen Carlson (Ginger Shives)

Vigil for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30pm † Joey & Cristina Roxas

† Julieta Fitzgerald and

† Elisa Hendricks (Reyes Family)

† Patrick & Elizabeth Brady

† Nancy Bedral and

† Brian Hogan (Maureen Rosenberg)

Sunday, January 16• 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am † Sheila Trowbridge (Betty Rutlin)

9:30am People of St. Rita

11:00am † Maria Dal Pra (Marietta Henry)

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 **Jan. 9 - 15** are being offered for:

Chapel: † Steve Osborne (Family)

Church: † Gerry & Joe Selchow (Carol & Gene)

St. Rita: † Tim LaBore (Family)



Readings for the week of January 9, 2022

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/ Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/ Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/ Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/ Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/ Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/ Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/ Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 [3]/ 1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

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

We are a Stewardship Parish

Contributions for Christmas Eve / Day

Christmas (223).....	\$18,535.00
All Saints (1)	\$5.00
Immaculate Conception (1)	\$5.00
Flowers (1)	\$25.00
Solemnity of Mary (1)	\$5.00

Contributions for December 26

Stewardship of Treasure (147).....	\$13,011.00
Loose Collection	\$426.00
Electronic Transfers (18)	\$775.00
Flowers (19)	\$472.00
Solemnity of Mary (5)	\$170.00
Mission Appeal (1)	\$300.00

Contributions for January 1-2

Stewardship of Treasure (122).....	\$6,731.00
Loose Collection	\$544.00
Electronic Transfers (18)	\$775.00
Flowers (6)	\$115.00
Christmas (26)	\$5,120.00
Solemnity of Mary (8)	\$205.00
Mission Appeal (2)	\$115.00

St. Rita Calendar Raffle 2021

December 20	June Bratina	\$25
December 21	Mark & Nelly Burrow	\$25
December 22	Ken & Mary McGinn	\$25
December 23	Susan Verace	\$25
December 24	Mary Gubbe lee	\$25
December 25	Rosa Lo Bianco	\$500
	<i>(Christmas Day)</i>	
December 26	Tim Haug	\$50
December 27	Pete & Abby Stankiewicz	\$25
December 28	Pam Weberski	\$25
December 29	Michael Mc Garry	\$25
December 30	John Polnow	\$25
December 31	Ed & Amy Phillip	\$25

Congratulations to all our 2021 Winners!

2022 Calendar Raffle Tickets are now on sale!

There is still time to buy your raffle tickets. These make wonderful holiday gifts and are a great way to help our school. Completed ticket stubs and donations may be returned to the church office, placed in the weekly collection basket, or mailed to the church office. Please direct calendar raffle questions to: Nikki Collins (815)621-7808,



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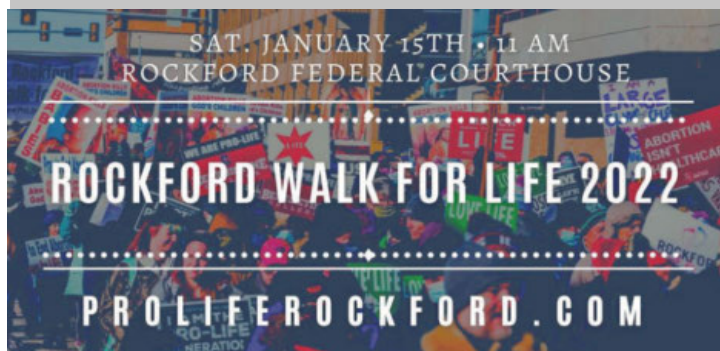
svdp@stritarockford.org

All calls are confidential

After Jesus was baptized He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and a voice was heard "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." As we give to the poor, we also can hear these same words.

With your continued generosity to St. Vincent de Paul, know in your heart the truth of the words, "you are my beloved with whom I am well pleased. Thank you.

Our first meeting of the new year is this Tuesday, January 11 at 6:30 in the lower level meeting room of the Church. Come see what we are all about.



Join fellow Pro-Lifers and St. Rita parishioners at the Rockford March for Life January 15, 2021 at 11 am **Start** the day with **8:15 Mass** at St. Rita **followed by coffee and rolls** in Wahl Hall. **Wear** your beanie from last year or pick up a matching beanie to identify us as a group. You may carpool if you wish to minimize parking issues.



Knights of Columbus have volunteered to host "Donut Sunday" on January 16, in Wahl Hall after all Masses.


Many of our parishioners have requested that we resume "**Donut Sunday**" at St. Rita's. This can only happen if we can get volunteers to help host this social hour once a month. If you are willing to volunteer, please call the Church Office to sign-up. Thank you.

MAGNIFICAT SUBSCRIBERS


Your **JANUARY** issue of the Magnificat is available for pick-up in the Church Narthex. They are in the black box which is on the wooden bench. All issues are labeled and organized alphabetically by last name.

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

RISE UP
YOUTH MINISTRY



**TUESDAY
HANG OUT**



**MIDDLE
SCHOOL**

**3PM - 4:30PM SNACKS & DRINKS,
GAMES, AND FELLOWSHIP!**

BL. CHIARA ROOM

RISE UP
YOUTH MINISTRY

**HIGH
SCHOOL**



**TUESDAY
HANG OUT**

**7PM - 8:30PM SNACKS & DRINKS,
GAMES, AND FELLOWSHIP!**

BL. CHIARA ROOM

BOYLAN



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REGISTER AT BOYLAN.ORG/SHADOWDAY

**HIGH SCHOOL
PLACEMENT EXAM**
SATURDAY, JANUARY 22 / 8:00AM- 11:30AM
CHECK-IN: 7:45AM @ STUDENT ENTRANCE (DOOR D)

Incoming freshmen for the 2022-2023 school year can register now for Boylan's High School Placement Test to help determine best course placements.

REGISTER AT BOYLAN.ORG/HSPT

Questions? Contact Emily Schubert at eschubert@boylan.org or by phone at 815-877-0531 x226

Two Weeks to Celebrate Christmas

by Rev. Francis J. Hoffman

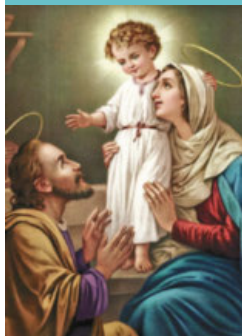
Do you remember when the Apollo 11 astronauts returned to earth? I know, that was 50 years ago, but everyone's still talking about it. That celebration lasted for weeks, with ticker-tape parades all over the country.

Hi, this is Fr. Rocky with another Advent Inspiration. Sending three men into the heavens and bringing them back to earth was really something, but sending God to earth as a man and then back to heaven was even bigger! That's why we celebrate Christmas every year for at least two weeks, from Christmas Day, December 25, until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on the Sunday after Epiphany. And those Twelve Days of Christmas when your true love gave something to you? Go ahead and count them: they are the 12 days from Christmas to Epiphany, January 6.

So how do we celebrate? Easy. Parties, good food, fine wine, singing, movies, games, sledding, tobogganing, fireworks, air horns, visiting relatives, and visiting Jesus in the most Blessed Sacrament at your local Church for twelve days just to say thank you!

And ... is it possible to over-celebrate? Yes. If you put on more than twelve pounds in those twelve days, you overdid it. But don't worry, Lent will be here soon enough.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I.



TUESDAY ROSARY JANUARY The Holy Name of Jesus

This month we celebrate the Feast of Mary the Mother of God. Join us on Tuesday nights at 5:30 PM in the Church to pray the Angelus, Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet. Let us also remember that in January we pray for all those affected by the passing of Roe vs.

Wade especially on Tuesday, January 18, four days before the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. We will pray for all infants who have lost their lives due to an abortion.

Pope Francis's intention for January is:

For true human fraternity: We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

Consider staying after the Rosary to spend time of prayer in Adoration of Our Precious Lord.

PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK AND HOSPITALIZED

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

Kathy Kindstrom, RoseMary Hillmer, Kermit Nyen, Gloria Martelin, Bob & Sandy Harms, Larry McConnell, Valerie Guyer

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.

St. Elizabeth Center Monthly Collection



For the month of January we will be concentrating on collecting new or gently used linens (sheets, towels, blankets, pillows, etc.). But as you know, they will accept most anything. Remember paper/plastic grocery bags as well as metal clothes hangers are always needed. Thank you for continuing to support this worthy charity that touches the lives of so many people.

NEED PRAYER ?

Please call our Prayer Line
(815) 226-4376



If you forgot your bottle or box you can drop it off at the Church Office. This year the money collected from the Advent Baby Bottles will be donated to Rockford Crisis Pregnancy Care Center. Thank you.

John the Baptist



John the Baptist was born through the intercession of God to Zachariah and Elizabeth, who was otherwise too old to bear children. According to scriptures, the Angel Gabriel visited Elizabeth and Zachariah to tell them they would have a son and that they should name him John.

Zachariah was skeptical and for this he was rendered mute until the time his son was born and named John, in fulfillment of God's will.

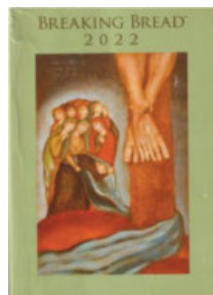
When Elizabeth was pregnant with John, she was visited by Mary, and John leapt in her womb. This revealed to Elizabeth that the child Mary carried was to be the Son of God.

John began public ministry around 30 AD, and was known for attracting large crowds across the province of Judaea and around the Jordan River. When Jesus came to him to be baptized, John recognized him and said, "It is I who need baptism from you." Jesus told John to baptize Him anyway, which he did, whereupon the heavens opened, and the Spirit of God was seen like a dove. The voice of God spoke, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

John instructed his followers to turn to Christ, calling Him the "Lamb of God" and these people were among the first Christians. Following the baptism of Christ, John's popularity grew so much that he alarmed King Herod. Herod ordered him arrested and imprisoned.

John spoke with Herod on several occasions and condemned his marriage to his half-brother's wife.

This condemnation would be his downfall as King Herod promised to grant a wish to his daughter. In revenge for John the Baptist's condemnation of her mother's scandalous marriage to Herod, she asked for John's head. King Herod reluctantly obliged. John the Baptist died sometime between 33 and 36 AD.



2022 BREAKING BREAD BOOK

We have re-ordered 30 more Breaking Bread books. They will be available for the purchase price of \$10 in the Church Office. If you want to own your own Breaking Bread Book, please call the Church Office and sign-up for your book.

SAINT RITA DIRECTORY

PASTORAL STAFF

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 Emaillamhunter@comcast.net
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Cheryl Hochstetler 815-721-3130
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Parish Secretary

Jean Peterson..... 815-398-0853
 Emailparishoffice@stritarockford.org

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 Emailschooloffice@saintritaschool.org

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Athletics, Joe Sutherland..... 815-222-7808
Catholic Women's Fellowship, Janine Pigue..... 815-262-4813
Finance Council, Todd Hughes..... 815-670-1654
Knights of Columbus #7624, Jason Sturges.....
grandknight7624@gmail.com
Pastoral Council, Mike Peck 815-494-8968
Homebound Ministry, Dan Burd 815-222-8261
Respect Life, Mary Kinney..... 815-519-7066
Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Laura Ortiz..... 815-262-0206

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St. Rita Catholic Church, Rockford, IL

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