

# Holy Angels

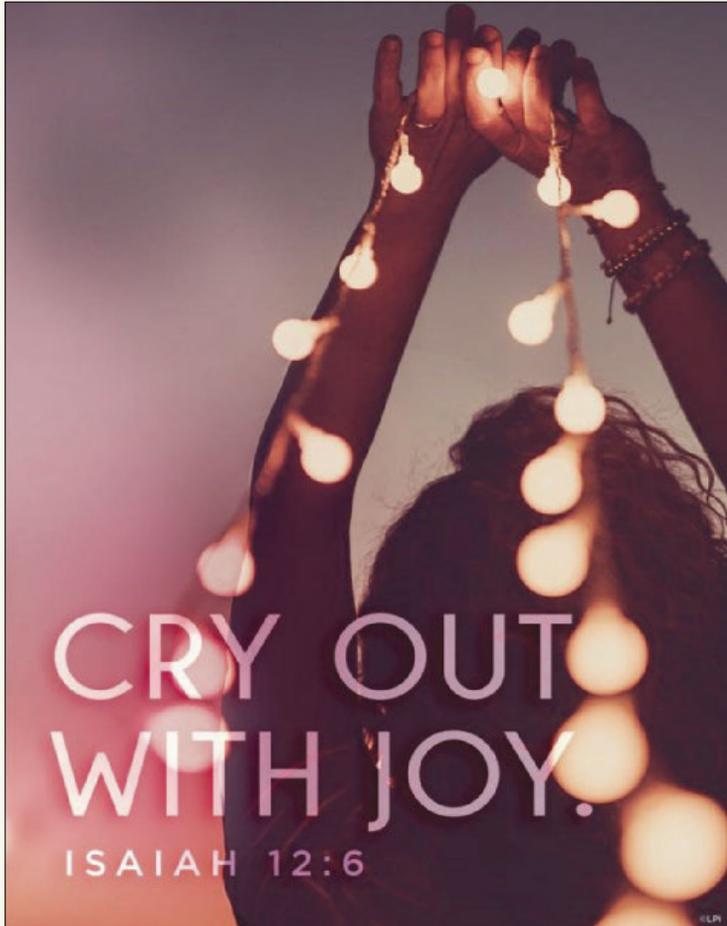
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Corner of Lancaster and Hardin Avenues, Aurora, Illinois



## Holy Angels Parish Mission Statement

Holy Angels Parish is a Roman Catholic Church whose mission is that of Jesus Christ: the conversion of sinners and the salvation of souls. This is accomplished by preaching the Gospel, celebrating the sacraments and evangelizing the world around us.



## CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

*(Holy Day of Obligation)*

### Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m.                      6:00 p.m.

### Christmas Day

12:00 midnight  
8:00 a.m. *(Extraordinary Form)*  
9:30 a.m.                      11:00 a.m.

## NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

*Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God*

### New Year's Eve

5:15 p.m.

### New Year's Day

8:00 a.m. *(Extraordinary Form)* 10:00 a.m.  
4:30 p.m. *(Vigil Mass for Sunday)*

**REMINDER:** The Parish Center will close at 12 noon on Monday, December 20 thru Thursday, December 23. The office will be closed for Christmas, Friday, December 24 and Monday, December 27.

The office will close at 12 noon on Tuesday, December 28 thru Thursday, December 30. For New Year's the office will be closed on Friday, December 31 and Monday, January 3.

## PARISH CLERGY

### Pastor:

Rev. Michael Lavan

### Parochial Vicar:

Rev. Dean Smith

### Deacons:

Dcn. Tim White

Dcn. Tom Hawksworth

Dcn. Jim Hall

### BAPTISM:

In order to have your child baptized, parents must be registered and active members of the parish. They should notify the Parish Center four months before the anticipated

birth and arrange for an interview with Dcn. Tim White. **One other baptismal session is required. Please register by calling 630-897-1194, ext. 166.**

### PLEASE NOTE:

Baptisms are now held on the first and third Sundays of each month at 12:15 p.m.

### MARRIAGE:

Couples planning to be married within the next four to six months must be registered and active parishioners.

Couples should contact Dcn. Tim White, at 630 - 897-1194, ext. 166, to schedule their first meeting.

### NEWPARISHIONER REGISTRATION:

Takes place at 10:30 a.m. on the last Sunday of each month in Connor Lounge.

Please call the Parish Center at 630-897-1194, to reserve a place.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

#### Grades K - 8

Check out our Website, Under Religious Education, <http://www.holy-angels.org>



## GOD'S PEOPLE

### Pray for the Sick:

Diane Abott  
Zelma Albertsen  
Patricia Baroni  
Robert Becker  
Dolores Berenyi  
Joe Berenyi  
Gloria Bessert  
Nicholas Binot  
Beverly Bowman  
Minnie Casey  
Cristina Castellanos  
Linda Cesario  
Pete Clementz, Sr.  
Michael Collins  
Rob Cordes  
Patty Cornele  
Alissa Courtney  
Linda Courtney  
Ben Courtney  
Joe Courtney  
Lois Curry  
Richard Deibel  
Jessica Dennison  
Teresa Dickinson  
Rosemary Diederich  
Steven Di Francesco  
Michelle Dugan  
Chris Durma  
Erin Eldridge  
Michael Eldridge  
Douglas Engel  
Robert Enriquez  
Raphael Esparza  
Karen Espinosa

Heather Franklin  
Carmen Freda  
Carol Fuentes  
Manny Garcia  
Elizabeth Haan  
Alice Hankes  
Alice Mary Heffington  
Carolyn Lange Hendricker  
Emily Herrmann  
Mark Herwaldt  
Gloria Holladay  
Richard Hon  
Chuck Hoscheit  
Joe Houlne  
Stephanie Howland  
Melinda Johnson  
Richard Johnson  
Chuck Jones  
William Joseph  
Pat Karabetsos  
Brian Peter Konen  
Bridget Lachat  
Evelyn Ladroue  
Margaret Lambertson  
Linda Lawson  
Irv Lay  
Leann Leduc  
Joanna LoDestro  
Carolyn Losacco  
John Maglio  
Mary Jane Maglio  
Daniel Malatt  
Geraldine Marrello  
Maria Martinez  
Ramiro Martinez

Diane Mazanec  
Dolores McKeaige  
Kevin McKeaige  
Bernard Moenkemier  
Stephanie Monteleone  
Kitty Morlock  
Eleanor Murphy  
Marguerite Murphy  
Patricia Murphy  
Gerald Nelson  
Mark O'Dell  
Forest Olmstead  
Jaime Perez  
Thomas Prunty  
Maryon Radley  
Debbie Ream  
Amanda Reece  
William Reed  
Nicholas Ribeiro  
Mary Rolfe  
Paige Rossin  
Becky Rozanski  
Norb Rozanski  
Fred Schoenfeld  
Rosenda Schumacher  
Debbie Sherman  
Andrew Scinski  
Patricia Smith  
Robert F. Smith, Jr.  
Ruth Murtaugh Sportiello  
Al Stramel  
Sharon Stevens  
Willie Twig  
James Varney  
Mary Walt

Joseph Warnelis  
Scott Wartenbe  
Jeane Weiss  
Jerry Weiland  
Florence Wish  
Rose Marie Wood

### Our People in Active Duty:

David Aguilar  
Phil Baki  
Hannah Betsinger Mize  
Zachary Betsinger  
Corey Branner  
Matt Brunner  
Neil Eskew  
Christian Gruett  
Jason Jung  
Michael Koppenhoefer  
Robert Koppenhoefer  
Angelo Lucero  
J. David Martin  
Ryan McCabe  
Jacob Nagy  
Shawn O'Connor  
Raymond Ritter  
Robert Ritter  
Megan Conlin Schultz  
Richard Swistara  
Patrick Vogel  
Michael James Witte

### Recently Deceased:

Kenneth Comer

Dear Friends in Christ,

### *Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete.*

This is the Entrance Antiphon for today's Mass. It comes from St Paul's letter to the Philippians and it means, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice." For this reason this, the Third Sunday of Advent is called *Gaudete* Sunday. It is for this spirit of rejoicing that the priest wears Rose colored vestments today. (They are not "pink", they are rose!)

This disposition of rejoicing should be the norm for all of us who have faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Yes, there are many things in our world and in our lives that seem to mitigate against rejoicing. The effects of original sin are real and they are evident in so many ways. If, however, we are unable to rejoice even in the face of this, then we are lacking something in our faith.

The Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, released by Pope Francis begins with:

The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew. In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon



*From the  
Pastor's  
Desk*

a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come.

Pope Francis is not only reminding us that an attitude of joy should be the usual disposition of followers of Jesus Christ. He is telling us that this focus on the joy of the Gospel message is going to be a defining attribute of his papal ministry. He is challenging each of us to open our hearts to the Joy of Christ even as we experience and confront the fallenness of our imperfect world.

He is not being a Pollyanna, mistaking the "real world" for a place of fluffy clouds and fuzzy bunnies. He is intimately familiar with the suffering, pain, and need in the world. He is telling us that despite the faults in the world that we as believers, even as we confront the effects of original sin, should strive to find joy in the Gospel message; that we should seek to experience the Joy of the Gospel. We should choose to rejoice, even if we don't feel like it.

So, on this Gaudete Sunday I join with Pope Francis and echo Saint Paul:

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.*

Sincerely in Christ,  
*Fr Lavan*



## Holy Angels Communal Penance Service

This Monday, December 13  
at 6:30 p.m.

*(Extra priests present for Confessions)*

## EXTRAORDINARY FORM OF THE MASS (IN LATIN)

Sunday, December 19  
4th Sunday of Advent

*Mass Readings and  
Prayers Provided  
in English*



### OUTREACH

## knights of columbus

Cardinal Bellarmine  
Council #4849

### Coat Drive November 13 thru December 12, 2021



**Gently Used or  
New Coats**

**All Sizes Welcome**  
for Men, Women and  
Children



*Serving our Church and  
community.*



## HOLY ANGELS CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS

HOLY ANGELS PARISH CELEBRATES  
CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE ADOPT-A-  
FAMILY PROGRAM.

SEVERAL FAMILIES ARE STILL IN NEED OF  
A SPONSOR—CAN YOU HELP?



The Adopt-A-Family program sponsors families that have been a part of the St. Vincent de Paul program in Aurora. You as a sponsor will purchase gifts for each member of a family, spending about \$40 per person. Your family or group can choose the size family to sponsor.

Please fill out the form below and email to Marian at: [marianmichael@comcast.net](mailto:marianmichael@comcast.net), or email any questions to Marian. The drop off date for the gifts will be December 18, in Connor Lounge in the basement of Holy Angels. Families will pickup their gifts on Sunday, December 19.

Thank you for your consideration of reaching out to those who need assistance this Christmas. If you have any questions, call the parish center, 630-897-1194.

If you would like to help a Holy Angels family in need this Christmas, please consider making a contribution towards their December tuition.

You can help by sending a donation to the Holy Angels School - Guardian Angel Fund. The money you donate, this year, will be allocated to the families at Holy Angels School that are in need of assistance.



*What a wonderful  
Christmas gift to  
give and a  
blessing to the  
family that  
receives it!*

### ADOPT-A-FAMILY COMMITMENT

Name of Individual or group

Contact Person

Phone (home)

Phone (work)

E-mail Address

Address

City / Zip

#of Families requested & preferred family size.  
Example: 1 family of 3 to 5 people

**Remember: You can adopt a family as small as 1 or large as 10.**

**We would like to start back to having Coffee and Donuts on Sunday, January 30th.**

- We will need two servers after each Mass time of 8:00 am, 9:30 am and 11:00 am.
- High school students are welcome to sign up and receive service hours.
- We are in need of help for after the 9:30 am and 11:00 Mass times.

Contact Rose at the parish center for more information, 897- 1194 x160 or email at [rgatze@holy-angels.org](mailto:rgatze@holy-angels.org)



**PLEASE NOTE:**

**There will be no Adult meet-up in December.**

We look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday, January 4th, after the 8:00 Mass.

**F**faith &  
**l**ellowship

**PRO-LIFE CORNER**

*Waterleaf would like to extend a heartfelt “THANK YOU” to the parishioners of Holy Angels for participating in this year’s “Virtual” Baby Bottle for Life fundraising campaign.*



As of October 1, 2021, you have raised \$4, 682! Your support ensures that we can provide the material and emotional support necessary for men and women to

choose life for their babies. Sometimes, just the simple fact that our doors are open, and a woman visits us, rather than an abortion provider, is the difference between life and death.

*We greatly appreciate your support and ask that you keep Waterleaf in your prayers.*

For information about Waterleaf and our programs and services, please contact us at 630-701-6270 or visit us on the web at [www.onechoiceonlife.org](http://www.onechoiceonlife.org).



**Help us to Help Families in Our Area.**

**Patronize our St. Vincent de Paul DejaVu thrift shops:**

—427 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Geneva.  
Open Mon.-Sat. and Sunday 10am-4pm,  
French Market sales. A unique thrift shop experience.  
630-232-6621

—911 Sullivan Road, Aurora.  
Open Wed. noon-4pm,  
Thur. 2-6pm, Friday 9am-3pm,  
Saturday 9am-1pm.  
A great furniture showroom and a bargain basement. 630-397-8555



Visit website  
[[www.dejavuthrift.org](http://www.dejavuthrift.org)] or  
Facebook  
[[www.facebook.com/svdvpdejavu](https://www.facebook.com/svdvpdejavu)]  
for more information.



*“O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free.”*

USCCB, “Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita”

# KEEP THE FAITH

## Holy Water

### Question:

**What is holy water and how do I explain the reason that it is placed at the entrances of churches to my non-Catholic friends?**

### Answer:

Holy water is a sacramental, a reminder of the life of the Church expressed and celebrated through the sacraments. God’s grace is mediated through word and gesture (the outward signs). This comes to us through Jesus (instituted by Christ) as he entrusts to the Church his saving mission (to give grace). In turn the Church, through the sacraments, shares that grace and mission with us.

On Ash Wednesday, we receive ashes on our foreheads to remind us of our origins, humbly created from the dust. But by blessing ourselves with holy water, we are reminded of our destiny! We are baptized sons and daughters of God. This is also a call to conversion, to live more fully our baptismal call to live as disciples of Jesus. We see holy water whenever we renew our baptismal promises. This will occur during the Easter liturgy as well, reminding us that we are indeed on a journey of faith and renewed in Christ.

**Blessing ourselves with holy water reminds us that we are baptized into a community faith, and always in need of turning from sin and toward God. Holy water is a visible sign of our baptism!**

©LPi

As we strive to prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus during this Advent Season, perhaps we can reflect on the following words of encouragement and inspiration from a writing by St. Ambrose, bishop:

*“You are one of God’s people, of God’s family, ..... . When you are in your room, then, at night, think always on Christ, and wait for His coming at every moment. .... . He enters by the open door; He has promised to come in, and He cannot deceive. Embrace Him, the One you have sought; turn to Him, and be enlightened; hold Him fast, ask Him not to go in haste, beg Him not to leave you. The Word of God moves swiftly; He is not won by the lukewarm, nor held fast by the negligent. Let your soul be attentive to His Word; follow carefully the path God tells you to take, for He is swift in His passing.*

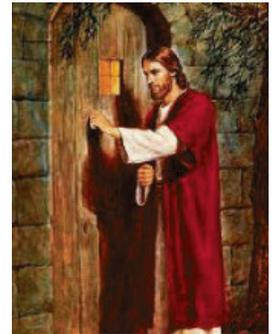
*..... . Do not imagine that you are displeasing to Him although you have called Him, asked Him, opened the door to Him, and that this is the reason why He has gone so quickly; no, for He allows us to be constantly tested. .... . How do we hold Him fast? Not by restraining chains or knotted ropes but by bonds of love, by spiritual reins, by the longing of the soul. If you also, like the bride, wish to hold Him fast, seek Him and be fearless of suffering. It is often easier to find Him in the midst of bodily torments, in the very hands of persecutors. .... .*

*Maintain this house (the deep and secret places of our heart), sweep out its secret recesses until it becomes immaculate and rises as a spiritual temple .... . firmly secured by Christ, the cornerstone, so that the Holy Spirit may dwell in it.*

*Whoever seeks Christ in this way, whoever prays to Christ in this way, is not abandoned by Him; on the contrary, Christ comes again and again to visit such a person, for He is with us until the end of the world.”*

May our hearts be open and receptive to all the Holy Spirit wants to provide us; and may we be alert and attentive to His promptings.

*“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.” —Revelation 3: 20*



### Inspiration Resources:

[www.RenewalMinistries.net](http://www.RenewalMinistries.net) [www.SpiritDaily.com](http://www.SpiritDaily.com)

[www.TheDivineMercy.org](http://www.TheDivineMercy.org) [www.CatholicExchange.com](http://www.CatholicExchange.com)

[www.wau.org](http://www.wau.org) [www.catholic.org/saintsFrburke23.wordpress.com](http://www.catholic.org/saintsFrburke23.wordpress.com)

Msgr. Charles Pope ([log.adw.org](http://log.adw.org))

[VeilofVeronica.blog](http://VeilofVeronica.blog) (A Catholic Mom’s Spiritual Journey)

**Search for:** Gloria Polo . . . . . and read her amazing story of being struck by lightning!

**Listen to:** Relevant Radio at AM 930 and/or AM 950 on the radio dial. Also, consider downloading the APP (Relevant Radio) or listening on-line at [www.RelevantRadio.com](http://www.RelevantRadio.com).

**Pray the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet** for the conversion of sinners, for the Blessed Mother’s intentions, for the souls of those departed, for respect for all life from conception to natural death, for our nation and leaders, etc.

**Read the Bible.**

Deacon Tom Hawksworth

## PARISH DIRECTORY

### PARISH CENTER

180 S. Russell—Aurora, IL 60506  
Telephone (630) 897-1194  
FAX (630) 897-1370  
Web Page:  
<http://www.holy-angels.org>

### PARISH DIRECTORY

#### Priests

Fr. Michael Lavan—Ext. 153  
Fr. Dean Smith—Ext. 166

#### Deacons

Dcn. Tim White—Ext. 157  
Dcn. Tom Hawksworth—Ext. 158  
Dcn. Jim Hall—169

#### Business Mgr

Kelly Limberis—Ext. 152

#### Religious Ed

Rose Gatze—Ext. 156  
Mimi Steinwart—Ext. 156

#### Social Justice

Rose Gatze—Ext. 160

#### Worship

Laura Wright—Ext. 161

#### Music

Jodi Taylor—Ext. 159

#### Bulletin

Cindy Stramel—Ext. 155

#### Food Pantry

Christina Ignatius—897-2478

St. Vincent de Paul—897-8068



## Marmion Academy is pleased to announce the October recipients of the Blessed Columba Marmion Awards.

This award honors a student from each class who demonstrates exemplary Christian leadership by living out the values of Marmion Academy and the Benedictine Hallmarks, serving as a role model for our school community.

Holy Angels alum and current

Marmion sophomore, **Jacob Siener**, received the award for Hospitality.

His nomination reads as follows: *Jacob has been a phenomenal example of hospitality in and out of the classroom. He lives very authentically and serves as a model for his peers. Even if someone is not a close friend, Jacob engages in conversations with them and allows them to be themselves without fear or judgement. He works to maintain a positive community for everyone, even by saying hello or sharing a smile. Jacob is a wonderful testament to how a person does not need to make grand gestures to be hospitable; rather he creates a consistently kind and welcoming environment through his small, everyday actions.*

## HOLY ANGELS SCHOOL

720 Kensington Place  
Aurora, IL 60506  
Telephone (630) 897-3613  
FAX (630) 897-8233  
School Principal—Tonya Forbes



*“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”*

Take time for your marriage by attending the next **virtual Worldwide Marriage Encounter** experience on **Jan. 8-9**; **in person** experiences on **Feb. 11-13** in **Madison, WI** or **April 22-24** in **Brookfield, WI**.

For more info go to: [alifetimeoflove.org](http://alifetimeoflove.org) or call (888) 574-5653.



## CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, December 12

### MONDAY, December 13

Communal Penance Service—CHR  
—6:30 p.m.

St. Vincent dePaul—PC Kit—6:30 p.m.

Scouts BSA—CH—6:30 p.m.

### TUESDAY, December 14

Confessions—CHR—8:30 a.m.

Rosary Prayer Grp.—CHAP—6:30 p.m.

Cub Scouts Wolf Den—CH—6:30 p.m.

Cub Scouts Bears Den—CL—6:30 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, December 15

Adoration—CHR—8:00-12:00 a.m.

Confessions—CHR—6:30-7:00 p.m.

RE 1st Reconciliation Service for

2nd Graders—CHR—6:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY, December 16

Adoration—CHR—12:00-8:00 a.m.

*Father reposes the Eucharist about*

*6:15 a.m. before 6:30 mass.*

Cub Scouts Tiger Den—CL—6:30 p.m.

CSP 326 AOL Den—CH—6:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY, December 17

### SATURDAY, December 18

Saturday Morning Prayer—CHAP

—6:30 a.m.

### SUNDAY, December 19

## NEW EUCHARISTIC ADORATION VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS WELCOME!

Please stop in the Church for a visit any time during the day on Wednesday or before 6:30 a.m. Mass on Thursday.

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
Someone is now needed from 8 to 9 p.m.

If you are able to commit to spending an hour in prayer or could be available as a substitute, please contact **Connie Webber** at **630-892-4880**.



## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Readings for the week of December 12, 2021

**Sunday:** Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

**Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday:** Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23

**Thursday:** Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a, and 13b [2a]/Lk 7:24-30

**Friday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17

**Saturday:** Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

**Next Sunday:** Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

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The Lord is near.

*Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.* (Phil 4:6)

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

## LITURGY / MUSIC MINISTRY

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE

#### December 17

**Fri 8:15 AM--Church**  
**(3)Servers:**  
**Gabriel Knott (N)**  
**Dominic Chilelli (N)**  
**Stephen Dallas**

#### December 18

**Sat 4:30 PM--Church**  
**(1)Lector: Carol Roberts**  
**(4)Servers:**  
**Nick Ragsdale (N)**  
**Tim Ragsdale (N)**  
**Ryan Churchill**  
**Stephen Dallas**

#### December 19

**Sun 6:45 AM--Church**  
**(1)Lector: Steve Gustavson**  
**(4)Servers:**  
**Brie Guthrie**

#### Sun 8:00 AM--Church

**(0)Lector: --**  
**(3)Servers:**  
**Christopher Wiesner**  
**Michael Wiesner**

#### Sun 9:30 AM--Church

**(1)Lector: Allison Kapitanoff**  
**(4)Servers:**  
**Roque Earl (N)**  
**Luke Kararo (N)**  
**Adam Kararo**  
**Paul Kararo**

#### Sun 11:00 AM--Church

**(1)Lector: Margaret Vagnoni**  
**(4)Servers:**  
**Gabriel Knott (N)**  
**Dominic Chilelli (N)**  
**Liam Schwartz**  
**Ryan Vagnoni**

### Lectors

For those interested in becoming a **lector** for Mass, please call the Parish Center and leave your contact information.



### Funeral Choir

We joyfully would like to invite **Funeral Choir** members to begin singing for funerals once again.

Anyone who has thought about committing to a ministry during this past year is most welcome to join us.

#### Please call:

**Liz—630-609-2007 (cell)**  
**Joan—630-859-1625**

### Altar Servers

#### Calling all those in grade 5 and above!

If you are interested in becoming an altar server, call the Parish Center and leave your contact information. You will be contacted to set up a training date.

#### Did you know that Altar serving qualifies for service hours.

Each server fills out a pre-schedule indicating the preferred Masses that which they wish to serve and states which Masses they are not able to serve.

### MASS SCHEDULE

#### Monday-Thursday:

**6:30 & 8:00 a.m.**

#### Friday:

**6:30 & 8:15 am. (Sept.-May)**

#### Saturday:

**8:15 a.m. & 4:30 p.m.**

#### Sunday:

**6:45, 8:00(Extraordinary Form of the Mass in Latin—Weeks 1 & 3)**  
**9:30 & 11:00 a.m.**

**Holy Days:** Check bulletin for details.

### RECONCILIATION

#### Tuesday:

**Follows 8:00 a.m. Mass**

#### Wednesday:

**6:30-7:00 p.m.**

#### Friday:

**Follows 6:30 a.m. Mass until 8 a.m.**

#### Saturday:

**Follows 8:15 a.m. Mass & 3:00-3:45 p.m.**

#### Sunday:

**10:30 a.m.**

### DEVOTIONS

#### 1st Friday

**—Sacred Heart Devotion after 6:30 & 8:15 a.m. Masses**

#### 1st Saturday

**—Rosary after 8:15 a.m. Mass (in the Chapel)**

**—St. Peregrine Devotion at 8:15 a.m. Mass (For Cancer & other illnesses)**

#### 2nd Saturday

**—Divine Mercy Chaplet for pro-life after the 8:15 a.m. Mass.**



### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Monday, December 13

**6:30**  
**+Thomas Stoecker—Phil & Rita Brink**  
**8:00**  
**Living & deceased members of the Ben & Alissa Courtney Family—Family**

#### Tuesday, December 14

**6:30**  
**+Robert Rhea—Ida Rhea**  
**8:00**  
**For the poor souls in Purgatory**  
**+Marty Lyle—JoAnn Daleiden**  
**+Gene Gauer (Anniversary)—Family**  
**Rest of the soul of**  
**+Dorothy Newlands—Carrie Gregory**

#### Wednesday, December 15

**6:30**  
**Marguerite Bryan—Her children**  
**8:00**  
**Peter "Julian" Torres—Diane Francque**

#### Thursday, December 16

**6:30**  
**Living Intentions of Joe Courtney & Family—Family**  
**8:00**  
**+Raymond Kubacki—Karen Kemp**

#### Friday, December 17

**6:30**  
**For the poor souls in Purgatory**  
**+Mario Rivera—Ty & Jane Simmons**  
**Living Intention of Manny Garcia**  
**—6:30 Mass Friends**  
**8:15**  
**+Margaret Gustavson—Kathy Timm**

#### Saturday, December 18

**8:15 a.m.**  
**+Don & Irene Webber—Family**  
**4:30 p.m.**  
**+Robert Brent—Family**

#### Sunday, December 19

**6:45**  
**+Daniel Berenyi—Family**  
**8:00**  
**+Earl Murphy—Ann Murphy**  
**9:30**  
**+Lawrence Garvey—Teresa & Marino Eccher**  
**11:00**  
**Living & deceased members of the Stoecker Family—Terri & John Gaudio**

### Pastoral Council Members:

**Mike Groom**  
**Patricia Housh**  
**Julie Lano**  
**Tom Scales**  
**Greg Taylor**

### Finance Council Members:

**Pat Conlin (Vice-Chairman)**  
**Adrienne Gilla**  
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**Presenter: Sister Linda Hatton, sscm**

**Sponsored By:**

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**WHEN: Thursday, December 16, 2021  
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

**WHERE: One Heart, One Soul Spirituality Ctr  
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**FORMAT:** Zoom virtual meeting

**Sponsored by:**

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**TIME COMMITMENT:** Approximately 3 hours

**WHEN:** Sunday, November 28, 2021  
Sunday, December 5, 2021  
Sunday, December 12, 2021  
Sunday, December 19, 2021

**TIME:** 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

To register, please follow this link:

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For more information about our programming, please contact Susan Amann:  
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**Facilitator:**

**Sr. Myra Lambert, sscm**

Sr. Myra Lambert, sscm, has served her community and the people of God as a teacher, pastoral minister, vocation director, and spiritual director. Sister holds a BA in Education from Mundelein College and an MA in Applied Spirituality from the University of San Francisco. In addition, she has recently completed a two-year course at Oblate School of Theology.



Currently, Sr. Myra is Director of the Delaplace Prayer Ministry, and the Servant Companion and Consecrated Laitry programs. She continues to be extremely active in ministry, serving as Chair of several committees, and she offers Spiritual Direction to 15-20 directees each month.

**Cost for the series is \$5 per session.**

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## GOSPEL MEDITATION

**December 12, 2021—3rd Sunday of Advent**

*"From silly devotions and sour-faced saints, good Lord, deliver us!"* St. Teresa of Avila

We've all heard the adage, "Laughter is the best medicine." In many ways, it really is. When was the last time you really laughed? The gift of imagination allows us to see possible things that are yet to be. Imagine a world filled with laughter. We take life too seriously sometimes. Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of the joy needed for laughter. God never promised us an easy road, and we do have to take the course of our lives seriously. However, there is a balance to be sought and a possible joy that can be brought even to the darkest and most challenging of encounters.

St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us that, "Joy is not found in the material objects surrounding us but in the inner recesses of the soul. One can possess joy in a prison cell as well as in a palace." Falling in love with God, who is present in all of creation, allows us to bring a depth of understanding to everything



we do and experience. We can more easily see above and beyond things while pursuing the only One who can truly satisfy our hearts. When we realize that God, the king of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We can celebrate the wonder and beauty of God's gift of joy. It is no wonder that many saints radiate joy and have no reservations expressing laughter. They are happy because they have found a pearl of great price.

We celebrate with joy today with hearts filled with expectation, wonder, awe, and beauty as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. If you haven't laughed in a while, why? Something is preventing you from expressing the magnificence of your soul and the presence of God who dwells within. God's power and presence within us assures us

that we are loved and kept in that presence. What more is really needed? Rejoice and laugh in the presence of God! It really is the best medicine and a most perfect way to convince others that God is really with us. "Go ahead, laugh! Live your life with joy and serve the Lord with laughter! Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter." (St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina)

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# The Twelve Days of Christmas

By FR. WILLIAM SAUNDERS

I had heard that the Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written to help teach children catechism. Do you know anything about it?

Beginning with the reign of Queen Elizabeth I of England in 1558, the Roman Catholic Church and any practice of the faith was strictly forbidden. Some of the various penal laws against Catholicism included the following: The Mass was outlawed. Priests were expelled from the realm, and threatened with the charge of high treason with the punishment of being hung, drawn, and quartered for returning and offering Mass. Any Catholic harboring a priest in the home or allowing him to offer Mass was subject to the same penalty. Catholic citizens were not allowed to vote, to hold property, to be witnesses in court, or to have weapons. Anyone who did not attend Protestant services was fined and imprisoned for repeated offenses. All Catholic schools were closed and instruction in the faith was forbidden. Anyone appointed to a civil office had to take an oath denouncing the Pope and the belief in transubstantiation, thereby in effect preventing any Catholic from such positions. These laws remained in effect until April, 1829 when King George IV reluctantly signed the Emancipation Bill, granting political and religious freedom to Catholics. However, to this day the King or Queen of the United Kingdom cannot be a Roman Catholic.

Please note that these same penal laws were enforced in Virginia until the time of the Revolutionary War. Also, the intensity of enforcement of these laws depended upon the particular reign: for example, during the time of the Commonwealth under Oliver Cromwell (1642-60), the Puritan Parliament even outlawed the celebration of Christmas.

Therefore, the song The Twelve Days of Christmas was written in England using seemingly secular images or symbols to help catechize children in the faith. The "true love" mentioned in each stanza does not refer to an earthly suitor, but to Almighty God. The "me" to whom the gifts are presented refers to any baptized Catholic. The purpose of the repetition is not only for the sake of pedagogy, but also emphasizes God's continual renewal of His gifts to mankind.

**The partridge in a pear tree is Christ.** In nature, a mother partridge will feign injury to lure predators away from her defenseless nestlings. In the same way, our Lord protects us, vulnerable human beings, from Satan. The pear tree symbolizes the salvation of mankind, just as the apple tree symbolizes Adam and Eve's Fall from Grace.

**Two turtle doves represent the Old and New Testaments.**

Also, Jewish couples of modest income offered two turtle doves instead of the customary lamb as a sacrifice to God when they presented their newborn child in the Temple. Interestingly, our Blessed Mother Mary and St. Joseph offered a sacrifice of two turtle doves for the presentation of our Lord (cf. Luke 2:22-24).

Known for their beauty and rarity, the **three French hens signify both the gifts of the Magi** (gold, frankincense, and myrrh), **and the three theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity.**

**The four calling birds are associated with both the four evangelists and their gospels'** Saints Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John; and the four major prophets' Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel.

**Five golden rings has a two-fold significance. A ring, or a circle, has no beginning or end but is continuous. Thereby, the ring reminds us of both God's eternity,** His permanent, faithful, and continuous love for us and the circle of faith God's love for us, our love for Him, and our love for our neighbors. **The number five also signifies the first five books of the Old Testament the Pentateuch or Torah** (the books of law for the Jewish people).

**The six geese a-laying represent the six days of creative work recounted in Genesis.**

However, in Judaism, seven was a number of perfection. **The seven swans a-swimming continues the Genesis theme, reminding us that God's plan included not just the six days of creating but also the seventh day of rest;** we in turn must not forget to make Sunday a holy day by worshipping God at Mass, spending time with our loved ones, and relaxing. Moreover, the seven swans a-swimming refers to the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven corporal works of mercy, the seven spiritual works of mercy, and the seven deadly sins.

**The eight maids a-milking signifies the eight beatitudes** and, at that time in our Church, the eight times during the year prescribed for the faithful to receive Holy Communion.

**The nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit and the nine choirs of angels.**

**The Ten Commandments are represented by the ten lords a-leaping.**

**Eleven pipers piping are the eleven faithful apostles at the time of the resurrection and ascension.** (Remember that Judas, one of the Twelve, betrayed our Lord and committed suicide.)

**Finally, the number twelve for the Jewish people represented completion and fullness.** Therefore, the twelve drummers drumming are the twelve minor prophets, the twelve precepts of the Apostles Creed (still the structure of the first part of the Catechism), the twelve apostles (particularly the original 11 plus St. Matthias who replaced Judas), and the twelve tribes of Israel. As we draw closer to Christmas, we should keep in mind the significance of this carol. Actually, I used to find the repetition and lengthiness somewhat irritating until I learned of its historical and religious significance. A good practice would be for parents to teach the carol in light of the history of persecution and the catechesis presented.



## Acknowledgement

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This article is reprinted with permission from *Arlington Catholic Herald*.

## The Author

Father William Saunders is dean of the Notre Dame Graduate School of Christendom College and pastor of Our Lady of Hope Parish in Sterling, Virginia. The above article is a "Straight Answers" column he wrote for the *Arlington Catholic Herald*. Father Saunders is also the author of *Straight Answers*, a book based on 100 of his columns and published by Cathedral Press in Baltimore.

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