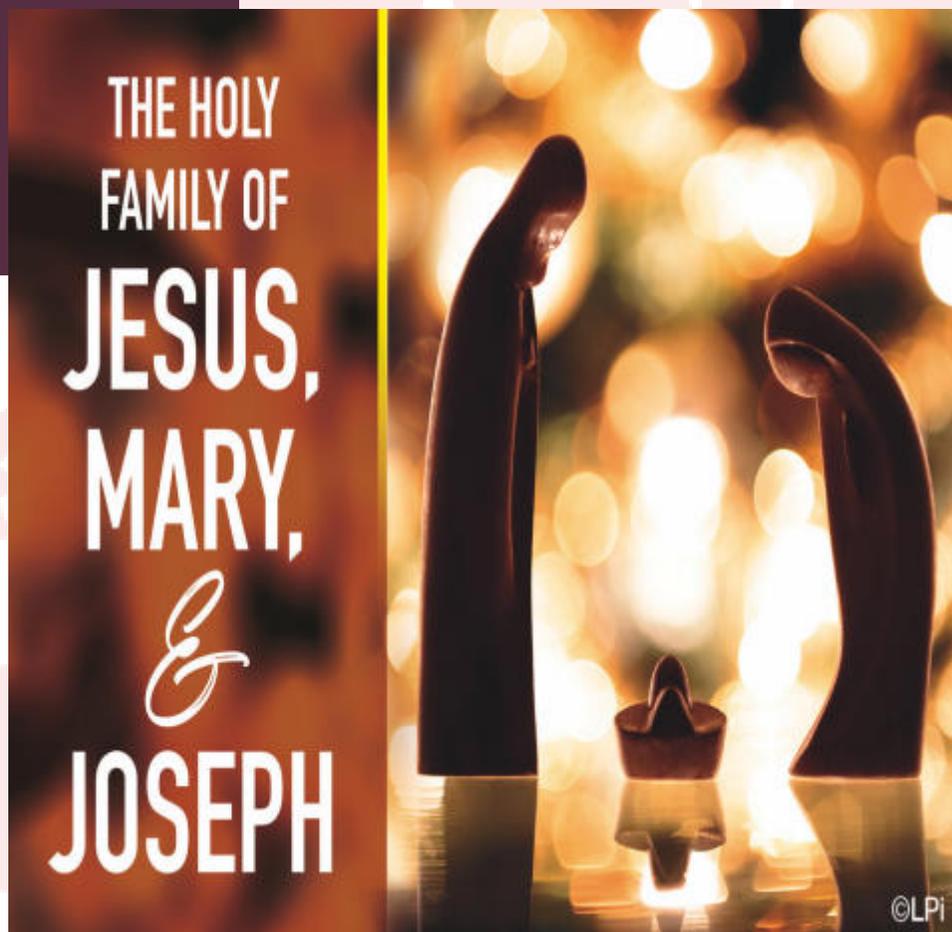


DEC
27
2020

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Catholic Church



WELCOME!

OUR MISSION

We are a Catholic Community whom God has called together through Baptism. As part of Christ's Living Church, we welcome all to:

Worship with us through our Liturgical Celebrations; Learn with us the teachings of Jesus as we expand our discipleship; Serve with us God's people inside and outside Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in a spirit of stewardship; and Gather with us to celebrate Christ's two great commandments of love.

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Mass

Monday-Friday 6:30am
Thursday 2:00pm
(when school is in session)

Weekend Mass

Saturday - Vigil 4:30pm
Sunday - 7:30, 9:30,
11:30am
Spanish Mass 1:00pm

Confessions

Tuesday - 12:00pm
Thursday - 5:00pm
Saturday - 11:00am



3850 Lourdes Drive
Decatur, IL 62526



mfriedel@dio.org
mtrumner@dio.org



Monday - Friday
8:00am to 4:00pm



www.ololchurch.com



217.877.4404



www.ololschool.com
217.877.4408



<https://www.facebook.com/ourladyoflourdeschurchandschool/>

Weekly Readings

Sunday, Dec 27

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Monday, Dec 28

1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

Tuesday, Dec 29

1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

Wednesday, Dec 30

1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

Thursday, Dec 31

1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18

Friday, Jan 1

Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Saturday, Jan 2

1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28

Next Sunday, Jan 3

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



It is wonderful that within the Christmas octave we have the feast of the Holy Family. At Christmas, there are so many aspects of the mystery we can reflect on and still not grasp a fraction of how profound the mystery is. The feast of the Holy Family allows us to reflect on the familial aspect of Christmas. Yes, Jesus who is God became a baby boy. Yes, Jesus lived among us. However, he did that by joining a human family. He didn't have to become a man. Even with him becoming man, he didn't have to be born as a baby boy and grow into an adult. If God wanted to, Jesus could have appeared on earth as an adult. How mysterious and wonderful if it is that he chose to become an infant and slowly grow to maturity!

Jesus acquired a human nature which actually shows how valuable it is to be human. By doing so Jesus elevated the dignity of being human. Human nature was not the only thing he elevated. Jesus also elevated the value and dignity of the human family. To belong to a human family is valuable, because even God himself chose to do so. Jesus lived most of his life directly involved with his home and family life; only a small portion of his life was lived in active ministry. Jesus didn't simply use his family so that he could have a roof over his head and food on the table. He lived a family life because it was so valuable and he wanted to show us how good it is to be part of a family.

While it is true Jesus joined the family of Mary and Joseph, he is inviting us all to be members of his family. Through his Holy Spirit and will,

that is how we join his family, which, according to Jesus, is more close of a connection than biological bonds alone! In Matthew 12:50, Jesus says, "For whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother." How amazing it is that we can call Jesus our brother! It is an easy thing to take for granted. It is a profound mystery that is rarely unpacked completely. Jesus wants us to know that he is a brother to all, but he also entrusts his family to us. We know that Jesus entrusted his mother Mary to John and therefore to all of his disciples (Jn 19:25-27). We believe that the saints in heaven are part of our family as well, St. Joseph included.

The sometimes underwhelming aspect of this mystery is that we do not see Jesus, Mary, and Joseph with our eyes. We do not get to experience them tangibly like we would if we lived in 1st century Nazareth. However, we believe that we still can experience their familial love. St. Joseph can still be a foster father to us and help provide for our needs. He can teach us as he taught Jesus. We believe that Mary still can love us and care for us, providing her maternal intercession for us. Jesus is physically present to us in the Eucharist, but we do not get to see him like we would see members of our own family.

This is where the Christian imagination steps in. We believe that spiritually Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are near. The imagination helps make up for what we do not see. One, we can imagine what it was like for the Holy Family to live their life throughout the years. We can imagine what it would be like to live around the Holy Family as they lived their life. We can imagine how they are present in our lives today. We can still talk to them, and a mysterious way they can communicate with us, even though we cannot audibly hear them. The most important thing is to believe that we are part of the Holy Family and that they are still involved in our lives today!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

If you would like to join the parish or if you are not Catholic and would like to learn about the Catholic faith, please call the Parish Office or visit our website.

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY DEC 28

6:30am | Alice & Ward Smith

TUESDAY, DEC 29

6:30am | Bob Wesselink

WEDNESDAY, DEC 30

6:30am | Alice & Ward Smith

THURSDAY, DEC 31

6:30am | Charles Michael Frey
4:30pm | Emily & Bill Kirkman

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2021

6:30am | Our Lady of Lourdes

SATURDAY, JAN 2

4:30pm | Jim Cavanaugh

SUNDAY, JAN 3

7:30am | Patricia Perry
9:30am | Betty Warmker
11:30am | Donald Troyer

HEAVENLY FATHER, WE PRAY FOR...

Larry Bennett	Hal Himstedt	
Jody Fifer	Jack Frankovich	
Sharon Nolte	Karen Like	
Dick Torgerson	Judy Rooney	
Donna Powell	Roger Hess	Dorothy Arseneault
Adrienne Moore	Tom Dierkes	
Paula Hogan	Sister Jocelyn Serwatka,	
Jean Hunt	OSF	
Rita Davis	Cecilia Kehoe	

Call the Parish Office (see bulletin cover) to submit a name to the prayer list

STEWARDSHIP

December 13, 2020

Sunday Envelopes	\$ 15,704
Loose Cash	\$ 639
Children Donations	\$ 0
Total Collected	\$ 16,343
Year-to-date Goal	\$ 437,000
Year-to-date Collected	\$ 379,088
Difference	\$ - 57,912

We're grateful to those who continue to financially support our parish. God bless you!

Diocesan Collections \$ 55



FIRST READING

The Lord took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be." (Gn 15:5)

PSALM

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever. (Ps 105)

SECOND READING

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go. (Heb 11:8)

Gospel

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. (Lk 2:40)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. ©LPi

4 LITURGICAL LIFE

TIME *Talent* TREASURE

As a new pastor, I'm learning a lot about a lot of things—one of which is how each parish participates in our annual diocesan assessment. For many years, you've probably heard Fr. Rick explain the Annual Catholic Services Appeal (ACSA). This year, things are a little different!

Our Diocese has changed from "ACSA" to a tithing model, which assesses each parish 10% of its parish revenues to help support the Diocese. This program is intended to help us move in the direction of the Biblical ideal of tithing, which asks each of us to strive toward giving 10% back to God. Just as we are all called to support our parish, we as a parish hope to also be good stewards of our Diocese.

By now, all of you have likely received your letter from Bishop Paprocki asking you to

consider an additional donation to help pay our parish's assessment. Our assessment for the 2020-2021 fiscal year is **\$109,385**. This number reflects the fruits of your generous donations prior to COVID-19, and though this pandemic has affected all of us in different ways, I am confident that together we can conquer this goal. In the future, the hope is that our tithing goal will be an assessment in real time, allowing us to budget this assessment monthly. For now, though, I pray that each of you will prayerfully consider a donation to help us make our goal!

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have questions regarding the Season of Stewardship program or our assessment. Let us all respond to God and to our local Church with a spirit of generosity, grateful for our call to be God's stewards!

PLEASE CONSIDER INCREASING YOUR TITHE

Your donations to our community are still needed!



Please participate in a Season of Stewardship initiative that all the parishes in our diocese are conducting. We are to be reminded of our call from God to be generous in giving back to Him with our Time, Talent, and Treasure. Each of us is being asked to consider our commitment to our parish and how we can continue to "make a return to the Lord" with heartfelt gratitude. There is a commitment card to be filled out by you and returned to the parish office, either by mail or by dropping it into the collection baskets.

We have already begun receiving your commitment cards, and I look forward to receiving more as you continue your family's discernment! Thank you to all of you who have responded so quickly. It is such a blessing for me (and I hope for all of you too!) to see your enthusiasm for your Catholic faith and your generous support of our parish family. You are a valued member of our Church and together we will ensure our parish continues to be a vibrant community of faith!



DRIVE-UP TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

Each Wednesday morning at 10am, St. Thomas Church will offer Drive-Up Communion for Parishioners who have chosen not to come to Mass during the pandemic. Remember, our Bishop has excused all the faithful from the obligation of attending Mass. If you would like to receive Holy Communion, come to the church on Wednesday morning and form a car line at the church entrance nearest Angela Hall. Look for the orange traffic cones.

Please remain in your car and wear a face covering.

The Deacon will approach your car to offer you the Body of Christ.

You must receive Communion in your hand; receiving on the tongue is not permitted in this situation.

After receiving Communion, please say a silent prayer in your car for a few moments before driving off.

If you have any questions, please call Deacon Kevin 877-4146 (office) or 620-2032 (cell).

St. Patrick Church on Eldorado street also offers Drive-Up Communion. Sundays beginning at 11:30am. Please enter off of North drive to the west side of St. Patrick Church.

SUNDAY MARRIAGE QUOTE:

“He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted.” (Is 61:1) Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, reminds us of God’s gift of joy (“gaudium” in Latin) no matter what trials we are experiencing in our family.

PARISH CONTACT UPDATE

If you would like to receive parish emails communicating meetings/ classes/events/general information please email your name and email address to: joe@lolchurch.com

WEAR YOUR MASKS

When you attend Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes, we ask that you wear your masks when you arrive and enter the building. If you leave your pew to use the restroom or take your child to the restroom, PLEASE remember to wear your mask and help protect those attending Mass.

PRE-PLANNING YOUR FUNERAL

Preplanning your funeral assures you and reassures family members that arrangements will be made according to your wishes. An electronic version is available to guide you through the scripture and hymn selections, offering excellent suggestions to make your funeral liturgy personalized. Email Jami Snow at jami@lolchurch.com for more information.

Preplanning really can make a difficult situation easier for surviving family members by having your choices in place and eliminating time-pressed or uncertain decisions.

ROSARY

Saturdays | 4:00pm

Sunday | 7:00am, 9:00am in Church

December 27, 2020



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Tragedy and disappointment are inevitable. What sees you through this? There will be challenges, changes, unexpected circumstances,

interrupted plans, hurts, and injustices experienced by every human being at some point in their lives. We will be asked to adjust our plans, change course, and even encounter suffering and death. Where do we learn all of the lessons we need to live life well? Some of them we learn along the way but much of what we bring to life, positive and negative, comes from our early beginnings, our families. This is our early world and provides the blueprint for how we see the bigger, more inclusive world, which unfolds before us.

Our families of origin can be sources of grace, heartache or a combination of both. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication, and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. They can also determine whether we have an accessible and healthy relationship with God. Many of life's challenges can literally bring us to our knees and require that we possess a strength of character that resides well beyond the superficialities of our world. At some point we will all need three coping gifts that can be given to us only by God: faith, hope, and love. Our families help us learn that we are not the ones responsible for their creation, but God!

Our experience of early family life colors all of our relationships and what we expect to achieve from life in general. Resolving conflicts, dealing with difficulty and suffering, celebrating accomplishments, prioritizing our needs, listening to God's call, understanding relationships, understanding disappointment, learning about the virtues and living a centered focused life are all lessons our families either succeed in teaching or do not. To succeed, as God has designed and ordered our world, is to discover his presence and then trust that Presence. The Holy Family can teach even the most dysfunctional family how to best use God's gifts of faith, hope, and love to find him and do his will. Their simple humble example is always before us, showing us the way. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

©LP



Lord, please grant eternal rest to the soul of, MICHELLE R. HANSON, daughter of John, granddaughter of Gloria.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

Flowing from the teaching of the

Catholic Church | Advent 2020 is now behind us. Hopefully, we have reflected on our daily living asking the Holy Spirit to guide us on what we needed to change and that we did rid ourselves of one weakness or improve a relationship. A question to ask ourselves now: Did I really prepare my heart and mind for the "Coming of the Lord" on Christmas and prepare also for the day when the Lord will come to take me home to be with Him? As we celebrate the Christmas season and prepare to make our New Year's resolutions, let's consider this prayer by Howard Thurman (1953) and make a resolution based on a phrase:

"I Will Light Candles this Christmas"
I will light Candles this Christmas; Candles of joy despite all the sadness; Candles of hope where despair keeps watch; Candles of courage for fears ever present; Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days; Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens, Candles of love to inspire all my living; Candles that will burn all year long. When the song of the angels is stilled; When the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and princes are home; When the shepherds are back with their flock; The work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations, To bring peace among others, To make music in the heart. Our Committee wishes everyone a very Happy, Healthy, Holy New Year! Submitted by Sr. JoAn, Temporary Co-Chairperson of the OLOL/St. Thomas Social Justice Committee

Called by Christ to continue his work on Earth, our mission is to speak for those in need, to advocate for justice, and to call one another to action.

INVEST IN KIDS

In 2017, bipartisan lawmakers passed the Invest in Kids Act. This historic law – the first of its kind in Illinois — transforms lives by providing up to \$100 million in scholarships for children from low-income and working-class families in Illinois, while also providing landmark funding for public schools. Empower Illinois' scholarships provide parents with a way to help their children find success!

\$100,000,000 in K-12 scholarships
Scholarships are funded through private donations to scholarship granting organizations (SGOs), like Empower Illinois, who then administer the application and scholarship process. Donations to the scholarship program are eligible for a 75% State Tax Credit.

DONATE TO YOUR FAVORITE SCHOOL – OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Request a Letter ID

Donors can begin the process by registering with mytax.illinois.gov. Approximately 10 business days later, you should receive your Letter ID in the mail.

Activate your account

Once you have your Letter ID, return to mytax.illinois.gov and activate your account.

Reserve your tax credit

Beginning January 1, donors may reserve their tax credit on a first-come, first served basis. Once you reserve your credit, you have 60 days, or by December 31, whichever comes first, to make a donation to Empower Illinois.

DONATE TO EMPOWER ILLINOIS

Visit empowerillinois.org/donate to complete your donation. Individual donors may designate his or her donation to a favorite school or network of schools. Corporate donors may designate **their donation to a region of the state.**

INCREASE YOUR IMPACT

Donors who give to Empower Illinois receive a 75% tax credit for the amount of their gift, up to \$1 million. In addition, any portion of the tax credit may be carried forward for up to five years. Therefore, the tax credit is incentive for a donor to increase the amount they donate in tuition assistance. Donors can QUADRUPLE their impact with no extra money out-of-pocket.



Question: I've seen people hang rosaries over the rear-view mirrors in their cars and a few of them wear them around their necks. Is it OK to do that?

Answer:

The practice of hanging a rosary or a religious medal off of the rearview mirror of one's car is a fairly popular custom across many cultures. While there is no particular rule approving or condemning this practice, we should also be mindful of the respect and reverence due to religious objects and devotional items (i.e. sacramentals).

An important point to consider would be the reason why one chooses to place a rosary or religious medal in our cars. Is it a reminder of the protection and intercession of Mary and the

saints? Does it encourage us to be mindful of God's presence, even in such a mundane task as driving? Is it an outward expression of our more private devotions?

One advantage of having a rosary or religious medal in our cars is that it can also serve as a reminder to pray when we travel, asking for protection for ourselves and for other motorists or commuters. Certainly, invoking the protection and prayers of the saints is a wonderful practice for families, helping to reinforce our belief in the communion of saints and the care and concern we owe to one another.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 29 | 12:00PM

Confessions in St. Anne's Chapel

DECEMBER 30 | 6:00PM

PSR classes on Christmas Break

DECEMBER 31 | 4:30PM

New Year's Eve Mass

JANUARY 1, 2021 | 7:30AM

New Year's Day Mass in the Church, Come and Spend some Time before the Presence of Jesus

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WEEKLY EVENTS

WOMENS GROUP

Wednesday | 1:00pm
St. Therese Intercessory Prayer Group for women meetings will be **POSTPONED** until COVID-19 restrictions subside.
Questions: Linda Clark 875-4215.

ADORATION

NO ADORATION
NEW YEAR'S EVE

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (PSR)

NO CLASS
CHRISTMAS BREAK

RCIA - ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

NO RCIA CLASS
NEW YEAR'S EVE



PSR TEACHER NEEDED

Our Lady of Lourdes PSR is in need of a teacher for the second grade class. There is also a need for substitutes if you do not want to commit to a weekly schedule. Please contact Barbara Hertel at 217-791-3015 if you are interested in sharing your talents by volunteering to teach religion at our Parish grade school. *WEDNESDAY EVENING 6:00 - 7:15PM*

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Gift of Family

What a year it has been! How will we speak of these times a decade from now? As time goes by, our impressions of this past year will certainly change. How we feel today about dealing with a killer virus and all the chaos surrounding that is still fresh for all. I would assume that most of us right now are also holding those we love a little closer and hugging them a little harder. Hopefully, even if the fears and concerns of 2020 dissipate in the future, the way we feel toward our family should never leave us.

Stewardship is certainly about everything. God has given us so much, great and small, profound and common. One of the greatest gifts that all have received is family. Families take all shapes and sizes and some look very different than others. For some, family is a caretaker or temporary guardian. For others it is a friend when everyone else seems to have vanished. The bottom line is that, to quote a song from many years ago, "people need people."

When God gave the world His only Son, the Incarnation did not come on a cloud or with a flash of light. He was born into a family. Jesus understood the gift of family all his life. Do you think that if having a family wasn't important God would have still included this in the plan of salvation?

As this year draws to a close, remember your stewardship many days begins and ends with the people closest to you. Don't misuse or take for granted this precious gift. God gives us gifts on purpose, even to His only begotten Son. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

SCHOOL AND CHURCH CUSTODIAN NEEDED

The school and church are looking to hire a custodian/maintenance person.

If you are interested in applying for this position please call 877-4404.

Gift Cards for Jesus

At the Christmas Eve service, the pastor, quizzing some children about the nativity, asked, "What gifts did the three wise men give the Christ child?"

"Gold!" one child yelled. "Frankincense!" shouted another.; After a pause, a third asked, "Gift cards?"

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

While families come in all shapes and sizes and no two are the same, they all need a common focus and grounding. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with a proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. In addition to all of these things, the axis of every family has to be centered on faith. It is here that we can learn about the virtues and discover the windows to God Himself in His gifts of faith, hope, and love. We can learn, modeling our experience after the Holy Family, how to use these as anchors in our lives so that we can live out the other virtues with greater integrity. Because our human families struggle with weakness and sin, we have to come back to the Holy Family often for inspiration and guidance. In the bond of love that they shared, they clung to the anchor of God Himself and endured challenges far greater than many we will ever face. ©LP

DECEMBER 28

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

DECEMBER 29 | 11:00AM

St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

Decatur Catholic Radio WDCR 88.9/96.5

*Victim Assistance Coordinator for
the Dioceses of Springfield in Illinois*
Alison Smith
217-698-8500

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH STAFF

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Parochial Vicar,

Rev. Michael Trummer

Pastoral Associate,

Sr. JoAn Schullian, O.S.F.

Hispanic Ministry Coordinator,

Sr. Ofelia Quiroz, MAG

Pastoral Care Coordinator,

Jami Snow

Administrative Assistant,

Dorothy Centers

Business Administrator,

Joe Snow



Our Lady of Lourdes School Staff

Principal,

Theresa Bowser | tbowser@ololschool.com

School Secretary,

Dianna Wagner | dwagner@ololschool.com

PHILOSOPHY AND MISSION

The mission of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School is to develop strong values in our students and educate them spiritually, intellectually, culturally, and physically.

Phone: 217.877.4408 | Website: www.ololschool.com



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Fr. Michael Trummer

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Jack Wagner (Chair) 875-2623

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