

DEC 27, 2020

The Holy Family



Our Lady of Lourdes

Catholic Church

... a pilgrim church
coming to know
the kingdom of God
by being Christ
to the world.



THE HOLY FAMILY

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.

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EUCCHARIST:

SAT 5:00 PM

SUN 8:00 AM | 10:30 AM

Capacity limited to 100 people during social distancing. Reservation required to attend Mass.

PARISH DIRECTOR

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FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP UPDATE



Parish Support - December 2020

	ACTUAL <i>as of 12/11/20</i>	BUDGETED <i>for Dec.</i>
Reg. Envelopes	\$38,205.00	\$105,000.00
Offertory.....	\$366.00	\$7,500.00

Budget Updates Fiscal Year: December 2020

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Operating Income.....	\$437,130.26	\$463,210.02
Operating Expenses.....	\$341,450.97	\$435,999.98

Improvement Fund Updates

Beg. Balance 7/1/20	\$69,882.96
Donations	\$ 16,088.65
Expenses	\$ <u>2,027.87</u>
Balance (12/11/2020)	\$83,943.74

THANK YOU!

Our Lady of Lourdes is grateful for your continued support of all our ministries. We are blessed by your generosity!

Help support OLOL every time you shop on [smile.amazon.com!](https://smile.amazon.com/)

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NOTES FROM NANCIE

Some Final Thoughts on 2020

Before we send 2020 packing (don't let the door hit you on the way out, 2020) shall we take a moment to name a few things we've learned? I'll start:

- Never say never (as in, I will never wear a mask in public, or order groceries online, or let someone poke a long stick into my brain...)
- One can never have enough toilet paper. Really?
- Human contact is essential.
- Silence is a gift.
- A return to mealtime prayer is a joy.
- Gathering online for discussions and prayer can be fun; meetings can be interesting.
- Technology is a grace.
- Technology is a curse.
- Frequent short walks that break up zoom fatigue are spiritually enriching.
- I have some great neighbors.
- I enjoy extra time with my husband.
- We have too many distractions—simple is so much better.

These are some of my takeaways from this past year. The list is quite a bit longer, but I thought you might resonate with some of these thoughts. The end of the year is a sacred space in which to do this exercise of recall and reminiscing. I think it is even more important to engage in this year. After all, what else will you do on New Year's Eve this year? Seriously, consider spending an evening in; make a nice meal, if possible; and write, draw, and discuss what you have gained in 2020. It is also a good idea to share the losses as they mark this time as well. This accounting of the time can lead us into prayer and reflection and help us find the courage for the next steps.

May this year close in peace and the new one be filled with grace.

Nancie Chmielewski

SUN 27

MON 28

TUE 29

8:00 am Liturgy Church
RESERVATION REQUIRED
10:30 am Liturgy Church
RESERVATION REQUIRED

Sunday Mass Video on ololmke.org

Building Closed

**Food Pantry Drop-off
12:00 pm–3:00 pm**

Building Closed

**Food Pantry Drop-off
12:00 pm–3:00 pm**

COMMUNITY LIFE

Our Condolences

...to the families and loved ones of Bruce Davie, Catherine "Juleen" Tune, Lucille Maglio, and all others who have died. Please keep them in your prayers.

End of the Year Contributions

You are reminded that contributions for the calendar year 2020 must be dropped in the collection by the weekend of December 26/27 or in an envelope postmarked no later than December 31, 2020. A check dated December 31 or earlier, but not in our possession or in a valid postmarked envelope and received after January 1 is a 2021 contribution.

Parishioners who want to make any contributions in person must have dropped them off in the secure mailbox outside the 58th Street entrance by noon on Thursday, December 31, to receive credit for 2020. We do check this mailbox regularly. Please plan accordingly!

Did you know that your IRA can help Our Lady of Lourdes?

Individuals who are 72 or older may transfer any amount up to \$100,000 to Our Lady of Lourdes or a qualified charity from their IRAs without any tax liability as a "QCD."

To pursue this method of donation or as your pledge, please contact your IRA custodian to begin the process.

FORMATION

GIFT Catholic Social Teaching

Join us on Sunday, January 10, as Dr. Juliana Vazquez Krivsky guides us in a timely discussion of how the four major principles of the Church's social teaching—human dignity, the common good, solidarity, and subsidiarity—can help us love God and love each other more deeply during times of crisis.

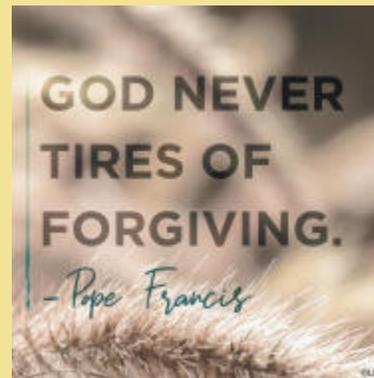
Dr. Juliana Vazquez Krivsky is Assistant Professor in the Department of Dogmatic Theology and Pre-Theology at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois, where she currently teaches philosophy to seminarians.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Peace and Reconciliation

In today's reading Timothy and Paul urge their friends in Colossae to love one another, to show compassion, gentleness, and patience. Their friends are to forgive one another for any grievances. We are to do the same.

We do not forgive others for their sake, but for our own. Forgiving another is to relinquish the desire for revenge. Releasing the anger and hurt helps us to be more at peace within ourselves. It is also to recognize that we cannot control the other. Forgiveness is also not reconciliation. Reconciliation may or may not be possible, depending on availability of the other and their willingness to participate. Reconciliation is the recognition that a harm was done, but that both parties did the hard work to repair the relationship so that the harm no longer matters.



WED 30

**Building Open
9:00 am–3:00 pm**

**Food Pantry Drop-off
12:00 pm–3:00 pm**

THU 31

Building Closed

**Food Pantry Drop-off
12:00 pm–3:00 pm**

FRI 1

Building Closed



WORSHIP

Telling a Story

Luke, the writer of today's Gospel, is one of the great storytellers of all time. He seems to understand at a very deep level that we all love stories because we can place ourselves in them, identify with the characters, and make them our own.

Christmas is the story of how this same God enters fully into our world, and from that moment on, dwells among us, rejoices with us, cries with us, triumphs with us.

In today's Gospel though, Luke takes the story of the birth of Jesus to another level. He introduces Jesus to the community of faith that his parents are a part of.

Luke's story ultimately becomes one that tells the tale of the creation of a whole new spiritual family—the one that we all are a part of. But notice that within the beauty of this story, Simeon, the representative of the entire history of Jewish faith, takes the child Jesus into his arms, turns to Mary and says to her: "You yourself a sword will pierce."

Gone from this scene are the angels singing "Glory to God in the highest." Gone from this part of the story are the shepherds and their wonder and amazement.

Instead a note of darkness enters the story.

A symbol of who Jesus is and what he will bring into the world is now introduced: a sword. The sword represents the decision that each of us has to make in writing the story of our own lives.

Jesus' hope and plea is that we will use this sword in the most positive of ways: as an instrument that will cut through to the very heart of our humanity so that we can be liberated from the slavery of destructive patterns of living.

What that sword can do—that sword is Jesus' own life of love—is give us the ability to bring into our lives a degree of freedom—the freedom to live out those graces that our second reading today emphasizes: "heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience."

Our life is a story that God delights in reading.

Excerpted from Ted Wolgamot, *Celebrations Magazine*.

OUTREACH

From St. Vincent de Paul

Imagine how Mary felt at the birth of Jesus: excited, awed, frightened. Deep faith was her light in the darkness, for Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest.

Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brought light into the darkness surrounding the heart of those living in poverty bringing them the real, lasting, and deep joy of Christmas.

Upcoming Food Pantry Dates: January 19, February 2, 16

Drive-thru pickup for the Food Pantry is in the south parking lot and is open from 3:00 pm–4:30 pm on the above dates. Two prepacked bags will be given to each car.

Food Pantry

Please drop off bagged food at the handicap entrance, Monday–Friday, 12:00 pm–3:00 pm.

Most needed items: pasta; cereal; Knorr sides, both rice and pastas; and canned beets, carrots, and potatoes. Please watch the expiration dates. Non-perishable items only, please. Learn more at ololmke.org/food-pantry.

SAT 2

5:00 pm Liturgy Church
RESERVATION REQUIRED

Sunday Mass Video on ololmke.org

SUN 3

8:00 am Liturgy Church
RESERVATION REQUIRED
10:30 am Liturgy Church
RESERVATION REQUIRED

Sunday Mass Video on ololmke.org



COMMUNICATIONS

SPOTLIGHT

Cancellation and Closing Notifications: Television

We submit cancellation notices to all four major stations: 4, 6, 12, and 58. Please note that our ability to state what has been cancelled is limited to the choices they provide us. Also, as many people are trying to enter closings at the same time to the TV outlets, the stations may not be able to refresh their information crawls as quickly as we might like.

Remember that closings for OLOL on TV are up for a few seconds before they move on with other closings. This is why we encourage you to look to our other means of communication to get this info. If you do not have access to these notices, please connect with someone who does.

Above all, use common sense. If the roads are dangerous, don't go out.

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

DISCIPLESHIP

STAFF EMAIL

For the New Year

As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family, and our friends.

Let us release our grudges, our anger, and our pains, for these are chains that bind us. Let us live each day in the most loving ways. Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race, color, or creed.

Let us keep God in our hearts and praise God's name each day. Let us lead the world from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth, and from wrong to right.

Let us remember that we are all one, embracing all, discriminating against none.

May this new year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. May God's blessings shower upon all of creation and bestow upon all of us a bright, healthy and peaceful new year.

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