

VISITATION CATHOLIC CHURCH - ELMHURST, IL - DECEMBER 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of
ADVENT





WELCOME TO VISITATION CATHOLIC CHURCH

Love and Service to Others

779 S. York Street • Elmhurst, IL • 60126 • www.visitationparish.org

Daily Mass: Monday-Friday, 6:15 AM, 8:15 AM

Saturday Reconciliation: 3:00-3:45 PM

Regular Saturday Mass Hours: 8:15 AM, 4:00 PM (Vigil)

Regular Sunday Mass Hours: 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM, 6:00 PM

VISITATION PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Visitation Parish, a Roman Catholic Community in the Diocese of Joliet-in-Illinois, seeks to draw all to Jesus Christ, revelation of the Father and font of the Holy Spirit, by celebrating the Sacraments, educating people of all ages in the Truths of the Catholic Faith, and reaching out to those who are physically, emotionally, or spiritually in need.

PARISH AND PASTORAL STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: [MON-THUR] 8:30 AM-4:30 PM [FRI] 8:30 AM-12 Noon • Phone: 630-834-6700

Fax: 630-834-6711 • Email: welcome@visitationcc.org • Parish Website: www.visitationparish.org

Deanery Website: easterndupagedeanery.org

VISITATION PASTORAL STAFF

- Rev. Greg Skowron, Pastor, 815-791-6073 (cell)
frgreg@visitationcc.org
- Rev. Tomy Chellakandathil, Parochial Vicar
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- Dcn. Anthony Spatafore
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- Dcn. James Eaker, 630-530-7596
- Dcn. Mike Iozzo
630-567-4700
mike.iozzo@outlook.com
- Dcn. Michael O'Ryan [St. Peregrine Ministry]
630-530-2954
visdeaconmikeo@gmail.com

PARISH FAITH FORMATION/RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- Matthew Pozen, 630-279-7058, x502
matt.pozen@visitationcc.org

MUSIC

- Barbara Masters, Parish Music Director
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barbara.masters@visitationcc.org

OFFICE STAFF

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- Teodora Kulikowska, Accounts Payable
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VISITATION CATHOLIC SCHOOL Website:

www.visitationelmhurst.org

Phone: 630-834-4931/Fax: 630-834-4936

- Carrie Mijal, School Principal,
cmijal@visitationelmhurst.org
- Katie McVey, School Assistant Principal
kmcvey@visitationelmhurst.org

ST. PETER CANISIUS | FEAST DAY DECEMBER 21

Born in Holland, St. Peter Canisius (May 8, 1521 – December 21, 1597) was a preacher, teacher, and writer throughout his whole life. At the age of 19, he received a master's degree from the university at Cologne. Soon afterwards, St. Peter met Peter Faber, the first disciple of Ignatius of Loyola, who influenced him so much that he eventually joined the Society of Jesus. St. Peter Canisius founded colleges and seminaries, served as a missionary, cared for the sick or imprisoned, and wrote close to eight volumes of letters — many about St. Cyril of Alexandria and St. Leo the Great. A man blessed with many talents, St. Peter Canisius is a wonderful example of a man who developed his talents to further God's work here on earth.

Holiday Liturgical Schedule

CONFESSIONS

Wednesday, December 22
6:00- 8:00 PM

MASSES

Friday, December 24
Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 25
Christmas Day

3 PM in the Church
Children's Choir and Festival Orchestra

7:30 AM in the Church
Cantor and Barb Masters, organ

3:30 PM in the Valentino Center (Gym)
Jack and Krystyna Miuccio, Cantors, Jim Brown, piano, brass and harp

9:30 AM in the Church
Visitation Adult Choir and Festival Orchestra

5:30 PM in the Church
High School Ensemble and Festival Orchestra

11:30 AM in the Church
Cantors and Festival Orchestra

No 4:00 PM Mass

Midnight Mass in the Church
(Prelude begins at 11:30 PM)
Visitation Adult Choir and Festival Orchestra

Masses for the Solemnity of Mary
Holy Day of Obligation
Friday, December 31, 6:00 PM Vigil
Saturday, January 1, 9:00 AM

Lift Your Voices in Song **CHRISTMAS 2021!**

This season we are able to celebrate beloved Christmas Songs and Liturgies after the silence of 2020. I hope you will be lifting your voices in the Congregation as there is nothing so stirring as singing in the midst of hundreds of voices ...even with our masks on! Only you can step away from your shyness and make Visitation the strongest singing Catholic Church in Chicago land.



SING OUT WITH ALL YOUR HEART!



The Rectory Office will close for the Christmas Holiday at noon on Thursday, December 23rd and will be closed all day on December 24th. The office will reopen at 8:30 AM on Monday, December 27.

Please join us in praying for our priests. We meet each Thursday in the church at 8:45 AM.

Contact Deacon Jim with any questions: 630-915-8920

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Please keep these parishioners in your prayers,
and all the sick and their families:

**Fr. Miroslaw Stepien, Christina Wallace,
Alice Walent, Carla Tinebro
and Carol Shields**

If you or a member of your family is ill or hospitalized and would like to be placed on our Prayer List, please call the Rectory office and let us know. The sick will be listed here, and prayed for by name at Sunday Mass. Names of the sick will remain on the list for two weeks, unless notified.

PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

Please pray for all of those who have died, especially

Beverley Barnes and Leo Carr

“Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them.”

BAPTISMS

GAVIN CHARLES

son of Marin and Allison (Schnase) Manion

NOAH TITUS

son of Randall and Kima (Wysong) Spaulding

ROMAN TROOPER

son of Randall and Kima (Wysong) Spaulding

Spiritual Adoption Campaign SPIRITUAL ADOPTION—40 WEEKS—2021

Week 39—December 18-19, 2021

“Oh my, I hope this is the last week! I am in here upside down, and this week something strange happened. My little body dropped down and my head is resting firmly against my mother’s pelvis. It’s pretty uncomfortable and I’m guessing from what I can hear that she’s not very comfortable either! I think that was the last thing that needed to happen before my birthday. It is going to happen any time now. Thank you God, for the blessing of this life you have given to me. My life is a miracle.”

Spiritual Adoption Prayer

Lord Jesus, you said, “let the children come to me.” (Matthew 19:14)

Therefore, with deep trust in your infinite mercy, I bring _____, the child that I have spiritually adopted and who is at risk of being aborted, to your Sacred Heart this day. Please grant that the parents of this child may quickly come to the realization that this new life is not an inconvenience or a burden, but a child; their child, their own flesh and blood. Give them the courage, strength and guidance they need to embrace this child and to choose life! *Amen.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

Adult Music Ministry	6:30 PM	C
CRHP	7:00 PM	PC

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

Simbang Gabi	7:00 PM	C
Adult Choir	7:00 PM	MP

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

Faith Study	9:30 AM	PC
Children’s Choir	3:00 PM	C
Advent Confessions	6:00 PM	C

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

Prayer for Priests	8:45 AM	C
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PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR JESUS

When was the last time you received Reconciliation? Was it recently? In the past year? A while ago? You are invited to prepare your heart and soul for Christmas. There is ONE MORE opportunity for confession before Christmas. Please come.

Visitation Reconciliation Service

Wednesday, December 22, from 6 PM – 8 PM

CONTRIBUTE TO A MOVEMENT
Participate with over 10,000 people to MARCH from Federal Plaza in Chicago.

All adults and families are invited to join a group of from Elmhurst to experience a powerful day of fellowship your pro-life faith.
Cost is \$15 per individual or \$40 per family
To register on-line, go to eventbrite.com and search IC Elmhurst or visit <http://bit.ly/30j77g0>.
To register in person, visit IC Parish office:
134 Arthur Street, Elmhurst, IL 60126 630-530-8515

Questions? Contact:
Tess Hill 630-732-1129 t.hill@Lwreedy.com

Schedule for the day:
11:50 pm Depart from Immaculate Conception
12:50 pm Arrive in Chicago
1-3 pm Rally & March: Beginning at Federal Plaza
3:00 pm Board bus to return to Elmhurst
4:00 pm Arrive at Immaculate Conception

There is a second bus specifically for high school students (\$5 per ticket)—details and registration materials available at <http://bit.ly/30j77g0>.

ARMED FORCES PRAYER LIST



We remember and pray for the protection of our military as they serve in our Armed Forces.

U.S. Air Force

- MSGT Kevin M. James** (Andrews AFB, MD)
- AMN E2 Jacob Neimanas** (Travis AFB, CA)

U.S. Army

- PFC Michael Perrone** (Germany)
- MAJ Patrick Leen** (IL.)
- 1 LT Joseph D. Frost** (Ft. Knox, KY)
- CPT Nicholas Keller** (Ft. Knox, KY)
- 1 LT Thomas J. Diwisch** (Fort Bragg, NC)
- SPC Stephen J. Taylor** (Incirlik AB, Turkey)
- 1 LT Francesca Cervone** (Fairbanks, AK)
- 1 LT Nathaniel A. Greenberg** (Ft Leonard Wood, MO)
- CPT Kathleen M. Donofrio** (Fort Sheridan, IL)

U.S. Army National Guard

- PVT Christopher J Slowinski** (Ft. Leonard Wood, MO)
- MAJ Joseph Doyle** (ID)
- CPL James Kotowski** (Afghanistan)

U.S. Coast Guard

- CPO Patrick Kirby** (TX)

U.S. Marine Corps

- PVT Nicholas Acevedo** (CA)
- CPT Kurt P. James** (Okinawa)
- SGT David Byrne** (Sicily)
- PVT Dominic Tosto** (San Diego, CA)
- PVT Skylar Stafford** (Parrish Island, SC)

United States Navy

- LCDR Robert Aranha** (United States)

WEDDING BANNS

II Okoye Miller and Meredith Davis

Save the Date!
11th Annual Bags for Wags



Bean Bag Tournament
Saturday, February 12, 2022
Visitation Valentino Center

Please visit our website for Rules and Registration at <http://BrianEWagnerFund.org>

2021 Filipino Simbang Gabi Advent Mass

The Visitation Parish Simbang Gabi Advent Mass will be celebrated on **December 21, 2021 Tuesday at 7pm**

It will be only mass celebration, our traditional after mass friendship gathering is on hold.

Let us welcome the coming of the Lord and Rejoice.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

YTD Sunday Collection December 12, 2021

Mass	4:00	\$7,267.50
	7:30	\$4,514.92
	9:30	\$4,978.80
	11:30	\$5,363.00
	6:00	\$3,211.00
TOTAL COLLECTION MASS		\$25,335.22
e-Giving		\$7,972.00
TOTAL		\$33,307.00
Weekly Budget		\$29,750.00
YTD Budget		\$714,000.00
YTD Collection		\$661,622.11
2nd COLLECTION		\$5,386.38

Your gift to the CMAA makes a difference

	2021	2020	Inc/Dec	2020 (Final)
Goal	\$136,300	\$136,100	\$200	\$136,100
Amount Pledged	\$165,872	\$144,713	\$21,159	\$147,033
Amount Paid	\$165,492	\$143,728	\$21,764	\$146,583
Balance Due	\$380	\$985	(\$605)	\$450
Donor Count	377	373	4	380
2021 Rebate	\$20,434			

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

6:15 AM

Intentions of Matthew John
+Eduardo Dela Fuente

8:15 AM

+Sam and Molly Guistolise
+Roberta Sobieraj

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

6:15 AM

+Nick Burriesci
+Elizabeth A. Wong

8:15 AM

+Joseph Gaumont
+Marie Ponticelli

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

6:15 AM

+Eleanor Burriesci

8:15 AM

+Fr. William Kirk
+Michael Guistolise
+Joseph Guistolise

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

6:15 AM

+Kevin Barron
+James Grisolano

8:15 AM

+Dolores Vanco
+Peggy Woltzer

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

3:00 PM

+Frank and Carmela Scarlato

3:30 PM (Gym)

+Edward Grebin

5:30 PM

+Carmen Tosto

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

MIDNIGHT

Intentions of Mark Scarlato

7:30 AM

+Julia Rose Clements
+Deceased members of the Terrado Family

9:30 AM

+Deceased members of the Skuteris and David Families
+Dolores Conley

11:30 AM

+Mary Flynn
+Tracey Ward

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

7:30 AM

Intentions of Mark Frerichs
+T.J. Arland

9:30 AM

+Charles Lindblade
People of Visitation

11:30 AM

+John O'Hare

6:00 PM

+Elizabeth A. Wong

CHRIST, DEPENDENT ON YOU?

In 2021, as your freedoms are being taken away daily by those in "authority", it is easy to identify with the helplessness and dependence of Christ.

By His own will, Christ was dependent on Mary during Advent. He was absolutely helpless; He could go nowhere but where she chose to take Him; He could not speak; her breathing was His breath; His heart beat in the beating of her heart.



Today, Christ is dependent upon you. He wants you to carry Him to the sick and dying and take Him into the prisons and hospitals. By the priest's hands, in the Blessed Sacrament, He is given to you during the Liturgy of the Eucharist at Mass, reserved in the Tabernacles and placed in the Monstrance in our Adoration Chapel to be adored by you. (adapted from The Reed of God)

As the Advent Season comes to a close and beyond, take Christ to wherever He wants to go, but first He wants you to adore Him for the wonderful gift He has given you, **HIMSELF!**

He is depending on **YOU! WON'T YOU HELP?**

To those who stepped forward and Registered for an Adoration hour last weekend, we give a big **THANK YOU!**

We are always in need of new Registered Adorers and there are still many Adorers who are requesting partners to help share the load.

Sunday 7-8 am, Sunday 2-3 pm,
Monday 5-6 am,
Tuesday Midnight -1 am,
Wednesday 4-5 pm,
Friday 6-7 pm, Friday 7-8 pm, Friday 8-9 pm,
Saturday 5-6 pm, Saturday 7-8 pm.

To sign up for an hour please email us at VisitationAdorationChapel@gmail.com or contact Joan Taylor at 630-530-8963 or Owen & Gail Hilding at 630 573 0033 to register.



GOSPEL

When Mary visited Elizabeth, they were both waiting for their babies to be born. Elizabeth's baby would grow up to be John the Baptist. Mary's baby would grow up to be Jesus our savior. Mary and Elizabeth were excited to see each other, not only because they loved each other, but also because they both loved God very much. It makes God happy when we love our relatives and friends, just like Mary and Elizabeth did.

PRAYER

Dear God, help me to love you. Take care of my family, my cousins, and all my relatives at Christmastime and always. Amen.



HELP US MAKE HISTORY AT VISITATION AS WE RETURN TO CHRISTMAS MUSIC AS USUAL IN 2021!

Choirs have returned to semi-normal wearing masks and distanced and we are welcoming experienced singers and instrumentalists to join in our Christmas liturgies. Singers, wind and string players please consider joining our Music Ministry to help us celebrate Christmas. Adult Choir rehearses Tuesdays 7 PM, High School rehearses Wednesdays at 8 PM, Children's Choir grades 3rd-8th rehearses Wednesdays after school. Contact Music Director Barb Masters if you want to join us for the season. barbara.masters@visitationcc.org



GIVE A SPECIAL, LASTING CHRISTMAS GIFT THIS YEAR!



Donate a New Missal/Hymnal as a family gift or in honor or memory of a loved one

Would you like to donate a missal as a family gift or in honor or memory of a loved one? Visitation will be getting new hardcover Gather missals/hymnals soon. A special bookplate will be adhered to the inside front cover of each donated hymnal.

If you'd like to donate one or more hymnals, please fill out the form below, or visit our website at www.visitationparish.org and click the button for hymnal donation on the homepage.

The form below can be brought to the rectory with your donation of \$25 to cover the cost of the missal/hymnal.

Please print the acknowledgement you wish to appear on the bookplate below:

Gift of (person or family making the donation):

Phone number _____

Email Address: _____

Circle one: IN MEMORY OF, IN CELEBRATION OF, IN HONOR OF

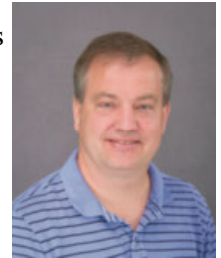
Example: Gift of The Jones Family, In Celebration of Thomas Jones & Lisa Smith



The History of the Papacy --- Article 12

By Matt Pozen – Director of Faith Formation

Last week we began to look at the earliest list of the bishops of Rome, given by Irenaeus, the bishop of Lyons (France) from 177 to 202 AD. In his great work titled “Against Heresies”, written to refute various “gnostic” ideas corrupting the faith in the 2nd century, Irenaeus emphasized the notion of “apostolic succession” as the surest guide to authentic Christian teaching and leadership. According to this developing doctrine, true leaders and teachers of the faith must be able to trace their appointment and ordination back to the apostles. To illustrate this, Irenaeus gives us the earliest list of the bishops of Rome up to his own time: Linus, Cletus, Clement, Evaristus, Alexander, Sixtus, Telesphorus, Hyginus, Pius, Anicetus, Soter, and Eleutherus. We’ve already discussed Clement, Pius, Anicetus, and Soter in connection with some other early Christian writings in the 2nd century, so let’s focus on other aspects of Irenaeus’ list.



First of all, notice he does not place Peter as the first bishop of Rome, for he and Paul were considered primarily as traveling APOSTLES rather than resident bishops. Secondly, notice that Irenaeus lists a total of TWELVE bishops of Rome from the beginning up to his own time, and the sixth is named Sixtus. Many scholars believe that Irenaeus may have adapted and expanded an earlier list recorded by the church of Rome itself in order to create a parallel between the first twelve bishops of Rome and the twelve apostles. The first two names, Linus and Cletus, had never been mentioned before Irenaeus, so where did he get this info? We don’t really know, but at the end of Paul’s 2nd Letter to Timothy in the New Testament, a certain Linus is mentioned by Paul as being with him in Rome shortly before his martyrdom (circa 65 AD). Is this the same Linus who would become the first bishop of Rome after Peter’s martyrdom? Possibly. It’s interesting that while Cletus is not mentioned in the New Testament, the next name on the list, Clement, is mentioned by Paul in his letter to the Philippians (4:3) as being one of his missionary co-workers, so this may be the same man.

Recall the evidence we explored in previous articles that the early church in Rome was led by a council of presbyters, and that it probably didn’t adopt the single-bishop model until the mid-2nd century. By listing the “bishops” of Rome from its beginnings, Irenaeus seems to be retrojecting into an earlier period the more developed Roman hierarchy of the late 2nd century. Given the rapid growth of the Christian population in the city of Rome, it is understandable why the church there shifted to a more centrally organized model of leadership. Scholars estimate that by the year 200 AD there were about 50,000 Christians in the city, out of a total population of about 1,000,000 (that’s about 5%). While the Emperor Nero conducted a local persecution of Christians in Rome circa 65 AD (in which Peter & Paul were martyred), that was because he saw them as an easy scapegoat for the fire that devastated the city at that time. After Nero, most of the subsequent emperors tolerated Christians, though local persecution did sometimes occur. Even some prominent members of the upper-class nobility in Rome became Christian, and the church gained some influence in the city. In the year 195, Bishop Victor convinced the emperor’s mistress, Marcia, herself a Christian, to use her influence to secure the release of some fellow Christians imprisoned on the island of Sardinia. It wasn’t until the middle of the 3rd century, circa 250 AD, that the first empire-wide persecution of Christians was decreed by an emperor. It was then that the church had to function in a more secretive way in Rome, meeting and worshipping “underground” in the catacombs (which were burial chambers for the dead.)

During the reign of the next bishop of Rome, Zephyrinus (199-217), a presbyter named Gaius mentions that believers came from all over to visit the “trophies” (or monuments) of Peter and Paul. This is probably the earliest reference to some type of shrine built on or near the spots where these two great apostles were buried. The shrine of Peter was built on the slope of Vatican Hill, which at the time was on the outskirts of the city, while the shrine of Paul was on the southern edge of the city. Interestingly, when Pope Pius XI died in 1939, workers refurbishing the papal crypts under St. Peter’s Basilica uncovered what looked like a small niche or shrine. Since this was directly under the high altar of the church above, it seems that when the church was rebuilt in the 1500’s the architect (Michelangelo for a time) took great care in locating the altar where it is. The obvious explanation for this is that the ancient shrine directly under the altar was that of none other than St. Peter himself. Workers also uncovered some bones near the shrine, and after years of secretive study Pope Paul VI declared them to be the very bones of St. Peter, “identified in a way that we consider convincing”. Many archeologists dispute this claim and the Vatican has never allowed a public examination of the evidence, though in 2013 Pope Francis displayed for the first time to the public the case which holds the bone fragments.

Readings for the week of December 19, 2021

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
Monday: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45
Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66
Friday: *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79

Saturday: *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18
or 1:1-5, 9-14
Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

PARISH DIRECTORY

Adoration Chapel

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Joan Taylor 630-530-8963

Altar Servers

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Kathy Best 630-832-7673

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Email: ccwvisitation@gmail.com

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CRHP

Mary McCann 630-605-8817

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Crypt of the Saints

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Helping Hands Ministry

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Vikram & Caroline Prahbu 630-607-4777

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Tom Russell (Grand Knight) 630-697-7608

Joe Ross (Deputy GK) 708-987-2175

John Dwyer (KC Squires) 847-280-1985

Ladies Bowling

Sharon Bresnanhan 630-530-1053

Ladies Golf League

Lynn DeFilippis 630-834-5290

Men's Bowling

Paul Steik 708-562-2796

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Email: elizabethgk@att.net

Prayer Quilt Ministry

Karen Verner 630-834-6700

Right-to-Life Committee

Paul Esposito

espo382@comcast.net

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ShopWithScrip

Mindy Hosler 630-536-9996

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"Vis" Seniors

Mary Ann Kramer 630-617-2550

Vocation Committee

Pam Gaudio 630-833-8812

Joan Taylor 630-530-8963

Women's Volleyball

Tracy Nelson

Email: mtnelson95@yahoo.com



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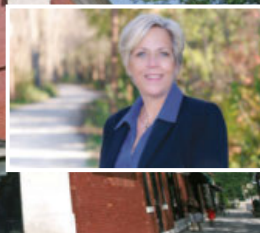
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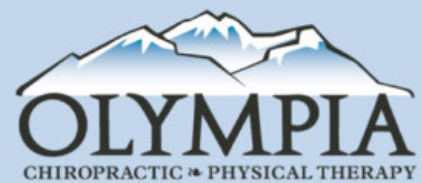
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