



St. Mary of Perpetual Help All Saints-St. Anthony

December 25, 2021
Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

December 26, 2021
Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Traditional Latin Mass: Sunday within the Octave of Christmas

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Thomas Aschenbrener, Pastor
Rev. Mr. Jake Vercimak, Deacon
Geoff Pautsch, Director of Music and Parish Operations
Mona DiFoggio, Parish Secretary

Web: StMaryOfPerpetualHelp.com
E-mail: stmaryofph@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE

1039 West 32nd Street, Chicago, Illinois 60608
Office: (773) 927-6646
Monday through Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Closed Saturday, Sunday and Holidays

Find us on Facebook and Instagram

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Afternoon 4:00 p.m. (Adoration 3:00 p.m.)
Sunday 8:30 a.m. (Traditional Latin), 10:30 a.m. (English)

DAILY MASS

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday:
5:00 p.m. Adoration; 6:00 p.m. Mass (English)
No Mass on Tuesday
Wednesday: 5:30 p.m. Rosary, Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help and Angelus
First Friday: 5:00 p.m. Adoration;
6:00 p.m. Mass and Anointing of the Sick
First Saturday: 9:00 a.m. Mass

CONFESSION

Monday and Wednesday: 5:00–5:30 p.m.
Saturday: 2:45–3:30 p.m.
First and Third Sunday: 7:45–8:30 a.m.; 9:45–10:30 a.m.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (GRADES 1 TO 8)

Sundays during the school year; 8:45 to 11:30 a.m.

LOCAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: Parishioners who wish a Catholic education should consider St. Therese School (312) 326-6243, St. Jerome School (312) 842-7668, or Bridgeport Catholic Academy (773) 376-6223

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Please contact the church office and speak with one of the priests if you wish to have Holy Communion brought to someone who is sick and homebound.

BAPTISMS AND MATRIMONY: Please contact the church office by e-mail or speak to Father Aschenbrener. Arrangements for Holy Matrimony must be made at least six months in advance. To receive the sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony, one should be a registered parishioner attending Mass regularly, be active within the parish and supporting the parish through the offertory envelopes.



PRAYERS FOR AFTER COMMUNION

I thank You, O Holy Lord, Almighty Father, Eternal God, who have deigned, not through any merits of mine, but out of the condescension of Your goodness, to satisfy me a sinner, Your unworthy servant, with the precious Body and Blood of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that this Holy Communion be not a condemnation to punishment for me, but a saving plea to forgiveness. May it be to me the armor of faith and the shield of a good will. May it be the emptying out of my vices and the extinction of all lustful desires; and increase of charity and patience, of humility and obedience, and all virtues; a strong defense against the snares of all my enemies, visible and invisible; the perfect quieting of all my evil impulses of flesh and spirit, binding me firmly to You, the one true God; and a happy ending of my life. I pray too that You will deign to bring me, a sinner, to that ineffable banquet where You with Your Son and the Holy Spirit, are to your Saints true light, fulfilment of desires, eternal joy, total gladness, and perfect bliss. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer to Saint Michael

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray: and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

ST. MARY OF PERPETUAL HELP / ALL SAINTS-ST. ANTHONY PARISH



WELCOME TO ALL GUESTS AND VISITORS TO ST. MARY OF PERPETUAL HELP/ALL SAINTS-ST. ANTHONY

Are you a visitor to our parish? Have you recently moved into the neighborhood? Are you looking for a spiritual place to call home? **We welcome all visitors and guests** to our church. You can find information about our parish on our website: www.StMaryOfPerpetualHelp.com. If you would like to join our parish, you may register online, use the form in the bulletin, or simply call the church office. Should you feel the need to speak to a priest about a spiritual matter, we encourage you to contact the church office and speak with Father Aschenbrener. **Welcome home to our parish community of faith! You are encouraged to visit www.CatholicsComeHome.org**



**SOLEMNITY OF
MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD
OCTAVE DAY OF CHRISTMAS**
Friday, December 31
4:00 p.m. Mass in English
Saturday, January 1
10:00 a.m. Traditional Latin Mass

ST. MARY'S PERPETUAL GIVEAWAY

Sunday, December 19—\$50 Sunday Drawing
Ticket Number #6060—Kathy Luna

PARISH PRAYER TREE

Our prayer tree is a small group of people quietly praying for our parishioners, their family, and our community. They pray for successful surgeries, medical needs, misfortunes, physical and spiritual challenges and more. If you are in need of prayers, or would like to join the prayer tree, contact Lucie Weir at (773) 908-6046 or by email at lucie_weir@hotmail.com.

Never doubt
the power of
prayer.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO SPREAD OUR CATHOLIC FAITH?

We should all try to find effective ways to reach out to “inactive” Catholics. **What have you done to bring back “inactive” Catholics? Why not make that your Christmas and New Years resolution?**



DOMES LIGHTS

The dome lights were lit on **Sunday, December 26** for the special intention of peace and faith for our world, on **Monday, December 27** in memory of Mary Bebak and daughters, on **Tuesday, December 28** in memory of John Janik, on **Wednesday, December 29** in memory of Rev. Michael Bowler, on **Thursday, December 30** in memory of Ronald Kurczak, on **Friday, December 31** in memory of Elena Espinosa, on **Saturday, January 1** in memory of John Janik. Please keep the above intentions in your daily prayers. If you wish to have the dome lights lit in memory of someone or in honor of a special occasion, please contact the church office or use the Keep the Dome A-Glow envelopes located at church entrances.

ST. MARY'S PERPETUAL GIVEAWAY

Every registered parish family is asked to pick up their set of raffle tickets for this year's 2022 St. Mary's Perpetual Giveaway in the back of the church. If you are not a registered parishioner, but would like a set of raffle tickets, extra sets are available in the back of the church or please contact the church office. Your help in purchasing and selling as many raffle tickets as possible is needed to help keep our church financially solvent. For those of you who worship regularly with us but are not registered parishioners, selling raffle tickets is a good way to express your support for our parish. Where else can you have 58 chances of winning a raffle?



SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY

Thursday, January 6
6:00 p.m. Traditional Latin Mass

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Friday, December 24—Christmas Eve
4:00 p.m. Mass: †Deceased Members of the Altieri and Weir Families, †Deceased Members of the Musolino and Arizzi Families, †Carl S. and †Joanne V. Kolinski
10:30 p.m. Mass: Parishioners of our parish
Saturday, December 25—Christmas Day
8:30 a.m. Mass: †Barbara Aschenbrener, †Epifanio Carreno, †John Janik, †Carl S. and †Joanne V. Kolinski
10:30 a.m. Mass: †Deceased Members of the Bartucci Family, †Brian Bogusz, †Desiree DiFoggio, †Vito and †Frances Grillo, †Genevieve Weissensel
Sunday, December 26
8:30 a.m. Mass: †Rose Hough, †Stella Newman, †Theresa Rosa, †Grazia Zaffarano, Special Intention for Kathleen Rosa
10:30 a.m. Mass: †Walter and †Gertrude Pomierski, †Theodore Popielarski, †Felicia and †Helen Tomaszewski, Special Intention for Anthony Orlando
Monday, December 27—St. John
6:00 p.m. Mass: †Mary Bebak and Daughters, †Gene Weissensel
Tuesday, December 28—The Holy Innocents
Wednesday, December 29—St. Thomas Becket
6:00 p.m. Mass: †Edward and †Julia Ostapowicz, †Mary Popielarski, †Mary Vaccarello
Thursday, December 30—Sixth Day within the Octave
6:00 p.m. Mass: †Edward Gensiorski, †Ronald Kurczak, †Walter Pomierski, Jr.
Friday, December 31—St. Sylvester I
4:00 p.m. Mass: †Elena Espinosa, †George Newman, †Bernyce Petersen, †Theodore Popielarski
Saturday, January 1—The Octave Day of Christmas
10:00 a.m. Mass: †John Janik, In honor of Mary, Mother of God
Sunday, January 2
8:30 a.m. Mass: †Parishioners of our parish
10:30 a.m. Mass: †Beniamino Mazzone, Sr., †Mary Miller, †Josephine Musolino, Special Intention for Marge Bialek





CHICAGO MARCH FOR LIFE

The Chicago March for Life is an annual public event composed of people of diverse ethnic, social, and religious backgrounds dedicated to defending and protecting the gift of every human life. We mark with deep sadness the great tragedy of the legalization of abortion in the United States along with the devastating social, moral, and legal consequences that have followed. Marching together in hope, we call upon religious, civic, and community leaders to renew every effort to build a nation that affirms the authentic dignity of women, the gift of children, and a culture dedicated to protecting life at every stage of development in law and love.

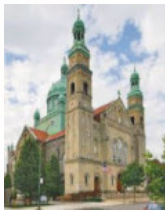
Sunday, January 9 starting at 1:00 p.m.
Starting at Federal Plaza (50 West Adams) with a rally and speakers; then ending back at Federal Plaza with a celebration of life!
<https://marchforlifechicago.org/>

ARE YOU IN NEED? DO YOU NEED HELP IN...

The holidays can be trying times. Are you trying to overcome an addiction to alcohol? kicking a drug habit? deciding what to do with an unwanted pregnancy? trying to get out of an abusive relationship? Call Catholic Charities at (312) 655-7700, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday and ask to speak to a Case Worker.

CHURCH PRESERVATION FUND

We thank those who continue to make generous donations to the preservation of our church building. We ask that every parish family invest in the future of our parish by making regular contributions to the preservation of our historic beautiful church. Please consider giving online through our parish website, using your gold envelope each month in the envelope packet, or donating in the center aisle basket. Thank you for your generosity!



2022 MASS BOOK

Masses are often offered for family, friends and relatives that have died. Praying for the dead is a spiritual work of mercy. Offering a Mass for someone that has died is an especially comforting gesture to the family. Mass can also be offered to commemorate joyful occasions and to give thanks to God for blessings received. You can request Masses by visiting or calling the Church Office during office hours.



MOMS AND TOTS MINISTRY

The Moms and Tots group is a ministry for parish mothers of infants and toddlers. **We meet together on the first and third Tuesday of the month** with our children for prayer, fellowship, and play. Our aim is to help strengthen the Church, our faith, and the faith of our children by supporting each other in our vocation as wives and mothers and in the education of our children. At meetings we share our experiences, offer guidance and love to one another, and enjoy light refreshments. Religiously themed books, games, and activities are provided for the children. Please contact Rachel Unger at momtotSMPH@gmail.com for more information.

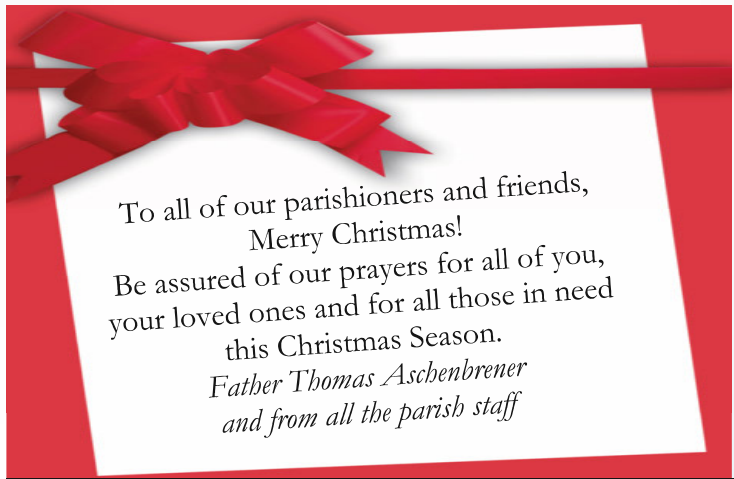
THE MEAL TRAIN MINISTRY

Our parish's new Meal Train Ministry has already provided support through meals for those in need including:



- Families welcoming a new baby
- Someone going through an illness or difficult time
- Families who have suffering a recent loss
- Anyone in need of support during an especially difficult or life changing time

If you would like to be a part of this ministry or know of anyone who would benefit from some assistance, please contact **Gabriela Weikel** at Gabriela.0229@gmail.com or **Christina Vercimak** at cforeman@gmail.com.



To all of our parishioners and friends,
Merry Christmas!
Be assured of our prayers for all of you,
your loved ones and for all those in need
this Christmas Season.
*Father Thomas Aschenbrener
and from all the parish staff*

PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Thank you! It is only because of your generosity that our parish can accomplish its mission to bring Christ to our community! Due to an early publication deadline, the collection for December 19 will be printed in next week's bulletin.

CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Visit GiveCentral.org or our parish website!

PARISHIONER REGISTRATION CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Welcome to St. Mary of Perpetual Help/All Saints–St. Anthony. As a member of the parish, your registration is very important, especially at the time of the Sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony or during an illness or at the time of death. Please fill out the attached form to register with the parish or with any information changes and return the form to the parish office via the collection basket or in the mail.

- New Parishioner (Parishioners will receive monthly envelopes from the parish unless otherwise noted)
- Change of Address/Phone Number
- Moving, please remove from parish mailing list

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION: THE GOD IN A STABLE

Of all the tremendous mysteries of our faith, there is none more stupefying in its reality than the Incarnation. That God would deign to assume human flesh is a staggering fact, and it is one that a thousand different heresies has sought to doubt or deny. And yet, it is a fact so critical to the creed that the whole edifice of Christianity would collapse without its solemn affirmation. We do not genuflect before any other reality. Beyond the theologically dizzying reality of the ground of all Being assuming human nature, there lies an even more startling fact—that he became not just a man, but a baby. For in truth, the eternal Logos could have quite easily assumed the flesh of a mighty man, even the mightiest man. He could have come in physical splendor, fully grown and fearful to behold, with all the attributes we normally associate with beauty and physical prowess. But he did not. No, the Light from Light, true God of true God, descended into the frail helplessness of an embryo in his mother's womb. A more fragile and perilous entrance into the world can scarcely be imagined. As the ancient hymn, the *Te Deum* puts it, he "did not abhor the Virgin's womb." He embraced the weakness of the smallest of beings, the single cell from which we all begin. And if I may say so, it is the very weakness of God made flesh that is the central fact of Christmas. For there is a sense in which God does not delight in the mightiness as we conceive it, but rather takes pleasure in confounding our ideas of strength with his profound weakness. Such is the seeming foolishness of love that overcomes the wisdom of the world. There are indeed some Christians who recoil at the thought of God becoming weak. Their conception of God is one strictly of power, of sovereignty and might. In the minds of such Christians, any human weakness displayed by Christ was very near to playacting or pantomime. It was not *real* weakness or helplessness, for their God could never surrender his dominion over every atom of the universe for a single instant. He could never truly sacrifice himself to helplessness or dependence on his creatures. Yet, such a God of exclusive mightiness is a distortion, a caricature. The God of the manger is the God who empties himself. He is not interested in dominating his creatures and humiliating them into the dust to display his awesome sovereignty. Words like power have no meaning to him who is beyond all such categories. Rather, he strips himself, empties himself, and lays aside all pretense of strength. He *humiliates* himself in a race to the lowest place. If he could have been born in more despicable circumstances, he would have been. He reveals himself as a God of *kenosis*, of love, a love that lays down its life. He is a God who reveals his strength in the frail dependence of an infant. We live in a world that celebrates success and strength. We want our rights. We want power and privilege. We recoil from poverty and weakness and the loss of control that it brings. But for Christians who follow Christ, such grasping at control and self-determination is at complete odds with the spirit of the one we profess to serve. If there is any lesson that the stable of Bethlehem teaches, it is that love strips itself of what it could rightfully claim. The spiritual childlikeness the saints speak of is a descent into dependence. It is a humbling and taking on the form of a servant. The same infant in the stable of Bethlehem grew into a man, but his humility never departed. The Messiah was the rightful heir to the throne of David, and his disciples knew it. They spent three years fighting over who would have the highest place in the Messianic kingdom. Power and prestige were their quest and aim. Yet, on the night in which he was betrayed, their Master literally stripped himself before them in radical humility and washed their feet. The disciples were bewildered, even affronted, and so might we be if we pondered the true import of this act. The God of the cradle is indeed the eternal Logos who upholds all things with his power. He is a burning inferno of holiness, before whom the six-winged angels veil their faces. But he is also the one who laid aside his glory for the love of us. He is the one who was despised and rejected of men, and who had no place to lay his head. He is the God who confounds all our paradigms of power, who emptied himself and took on the form of a servant, the one of whom the angels said, "This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."



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PRAYER BEFORE THE MANGER

Lord Jesus, as I kneel before your manger in adoration, let my first Christmas word be: thank you. Thank you, Gift of the Father, for coming to save me from my sins. Without you I do not know even how to be human. The characteristics of your human body express the divine person of God's Son. And in that wondrous expression, Lord you reveal me to myself. As the Christmas liturgy proclaims, "in Christ man restores to man the gift of everlasting life."



You come as a baby because babies are irresistible and adorable. You come as a baby because you want our first impression of God incarnate to be that of one who does not judge. How I long to be united with you in every way. May I never be attracted to the allurements and charms of the world. May I love you always, at every moment, with all my heart, soul, mind and strength. May the tenderness, the dependency, and the mercy that you reveal in your infancy become the hallmarks of my life.

Newborn Savior, the very silence of your incarnation proclaims that the answer to the misery, the strife, and the meaninglessness of life cannot be found within us. You alone are the Answer. As I kneel before you, eternal King, I surrender to you all my selfishness, self-absorption, self-indulgence, self-righteousness, self-assertion, and self-exaltation.

Word become flesh, you make your dwelling among us. Come and live your life in me. Fill me with your truth, your strength, your fortitude, your purity, your gentleness, your generosity, your wisdom, your heart and your grace. O Emmanuel, may the assurance of your unfailing Presence be for me the source of unending peace. May I never fear my weakness, my inadequacy, or my imperfection. Rather, as I gaze with faith, hope and love upon your incarnate littleness, may I love my own littleness, for God is with us. Endow my life with a holy wonder that leads me ever more deeply into the Mystery of Redemption and the meaning of my vocation and destiny.

From this night on may my life be a dedicated life of faith marked by holy reliance, receptivity, and resoluteness. May I make my life a total gift of self. May my humble worship of the nativity manifest how much I seek the father's kingdom and his way of holiness. This Christmas I renew my trust in God's goodness, compassion, and providence. May your Presence, Prince of Peace, bless the world with peace, the poor with care and prosperity, the despairing with hope and confidence, the grieving with comfort and gladness, the oppressed with freedom and deliverance, the suffering with solace and relief. Loving Jesus, you are the only real joy of every human heart. I place my trust in you. Oh divine Fruit of Mary's womb, may I love you in union with the holy Mother of God. May my life be filled with the obedience of Saint Joseph and the missionary fervor of the shepherds so that the witness of my life may shine like the star that leads the Magi to your manger. I ask all this with great confidence in your holy name. Amen."

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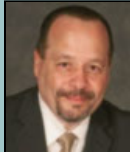


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