Holy Trinity

The Catholic Community in Fairview Heights

Most Reverend Michael G. McGovern, Bishop

"Forming Faith through Communal Worship, Offering Service through Ministries, and Growing through Stewardship."

Welcome!

Pastor
The Very Reverend James M. Nall, JCL
frjim@holytrinityil.org

Deacons
Rev. Mr. Art Hampton
Rev. Mr. Tom Powers

Parish Office
(618) 628-8825
office@holytrinityil.org
www.holytrinityil.org

Business Manager
Yvonne Siebert
Office Manager
Angi Klohr

Holy Trinity School
(618) 628-7395
www.htcs.org
Mrs. Kristy Frawley, Principal

MASS SCHEDULES

Holy Trinity
Regular Mass Schedule

Saturday Evenings: 4:00pm
Sunday: 7:30am, 10:30am
Wednesday & Friday 8:10am
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturdays 3:00 - 3:30pm

St. Stephen
901 S. Main, Caseyville, IL
Regular Mass Schedule
Sunday 9am English
12:00pm Spanish
Mon –Tue-Thu 8:00am
Wednesdays 6:30pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation Sundays 8-8:30am

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." - Lk 1:41-42

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

OFFERTORY	11/21/2021	11/29/21	12/05/21
Our Weekly Needs	$14,462	$14,462	$14,462
Total Contributions	$8,102	$10,968	$15,774
WE NEED your support	$6,360	$3,494	$ 1,312

Additional Ministries			
School Support	$ 47	$ 215	$ 270
School Annual Fund	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
Sister Parish	$128	$ 50	$ 68
St. Vincent dePaul	$ 0	$ 60	$ 540
Campaign for Human Dev	$360	$ 0	$ 0
All Saints	$ 10	$ 0	$ 0
Thanksgiving	$ 297	$ 482	$ 42
Retired priests	$ 0	$ 20	$ 260
Diocesan Needy	$ 0	$ 20	$ 110
Christmas Flowers	$ 0	$ 135	$ 403
Christmas	$ 0	$ 40	$ 200
Immaculate Conception	$ 0	$ 10	$ 270
Mission Sunday	$ 0	$ 0	$ 10
Solemnity of Mary	$ 0	$ 0	$ 20
Total Additional Ministries	**$ 842**	**$ 1,032**	**$ 2,193**

Parish Construction Loan			
Our weekly needs	$11,888	$11,888	$11,888
Your contributions	$ 9,210	$ 2,635	$ 8,402
WE NEED your support	$ 2,678	$ 9,253	$ 3,486

Parish Calendar

Saturday, December 18th
6:30am TMIY

Sunday, December 19th
4th Sunday of Advent
9am Adult Bible Study
YFF

Wednesday, December 22nd
9am Wednesday Breakfast Club
9am Quilting
7pm Knights of Columbus meeting

Thursday, December 23rd
6:15pm Yoga

Friday, December 24th
4pm Christmas Eve Mass
10pm Christmas Eve Mass

Saturday, December 25th
9am Christmas Day Mass

Sunday, December 26th
Feast of the Holy Family
7:30am Mass
10:30am Mass

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING
Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!

New to our parish? We pray that you may find warmth, encouragement and spiritual growth in our parish and look forward to getting to know you in the weeks and months ahead. May God bless you and your family!
You can register on-line through our website at www.holytrinityil.org anytime

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 19, 2021

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

Monday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56

Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

Friday: *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79

Saturday: *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 19, 2021

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent

Tuesday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Thursday: St. John of Kanty, Priest

Friday: Christmas Eve

Saturday: The Nativity of the Lord

Next Sunday: The Holy Family

LIVE THE LITURGY

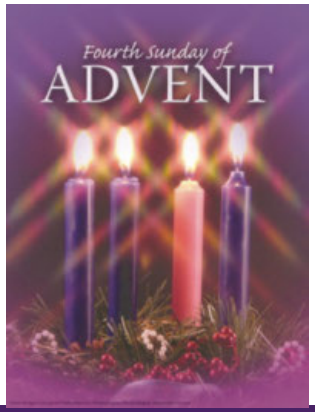
Inspiration for the week

Did you ever find yourself wishing that God would just step in and fix all that is wrong with the world? After all, how much longer can all of this go on? There is so much inequity in life. Our world's political, economic, and environmental systems do not always serve the best interests of people. We read stories about injustice, disregard for human life, greed, heartache, and people being hurt and deprived every day. People are still starving and there is often little regard for human life. This is not the way God intended it to be. Realizing that we have caused most of these problems ourselves, we look to God for an answer and a way out of the difficulties we have created. Taking responsibility for our actions is not something that comes easily. What we fail to see is that God has already sent the answer in the person of Jesus Christ. God did fix our problem! Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of Justice to come into the world. We need to do the same. It is only by believing in, listening to, and acting upon what God has spoken that true peace will ever come to be, and God's fix be made known.

Dear Parishioners,

In preparation for Christmas, the Church prays the "O Antiphons" at Vespers or Evening Prayer from the 17th to the 23rd. These are various titles of Jesus and also used in the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." The titles in order are: Wisdom, Lord, Root of Jesse, Key of David, Dawn, King of Nations, Emmanuel. In Latin the titles are Sapientia, Adonai, Radix Jesse, Clavis David, Oriens, Rex Gentium, Emmanuel. Our brothers and sisters of the Middle Ages took the titles a step further with making the titles a word puzzle. If you take the first letter of the Latin title, working backwards from the 23rd to the 17th, two Latin words emerge— EROS CRAS. These words mean TOMORROW, I WILL BE (THERE). In preparation for Christmas, take a moment to reflect on and pray on these various titles of Jesus. Or, perhaps, even come up with other titles and invent your own word puzzle.

Peace,
Fr. Jim



BABY JESUS' WISH LIST

Odds are you've got a Christmas list going by now — gift ideas for everyone from your nephew to your goddaughter to your mailman. But what about the birthday boy? What's the gift Jesus gets from you this Christmas?

If you've ever read the Book of Leviticus, you know all about the sacrifices God asks of the Israelites, referred to in the reading from Hebrews today. Leviticus can be a chore to read — a little repetitive, a little intimidating. There's a lot of very specific actions that God asks His Chosen People to complete to make up for whatever they have done wrong. In essence, it's a bit of a wish list for gifts.

But it's a wish list that can really confuse you. What's God going to do with a cereal offering? The kidneys of an animal? If you look closely, what God is doing here is beautiful. He's customized his wish list to only those things He knows the Israelites can give. It's God saying, in what amounts to theological baby-talk for folks who barely know of Him and His ways, exactly how they could be stewards. "Do this, but don't do that. If you do that, do this and you will find My mercy."

Our guide to stewardship — the Gospels of Christ — is less precise because by the time of Christ, God's people have grown in understanding of love and mercy and relationship with the divine. Through Christ, we find out that God's real wish list didn't really consist of cereal offerings and the kidneys of various animals. It's far simpler, but luckily, it's something we still have on-hand. All He wants is our whole heart.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

BESIDES THE WISE MEN, WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT ABOUT THE EPIPHANY?

Epiphany means "manifestation," or public display. The feast is usually celebrated January 6. In the US, it is celebrated on the Sunday nearest to January 6. It originates from a story unique to Matthew (2:1-12). Magi from the East come to offer homage to the newborn King, presenting him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

This part of Matthew's infancy narrative differs from Luke's account of the birth of Jesus. In Luke there are no Magi, star, nor gifts. Luke has Jesus being born in a stable after Mary and Joseph's long travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Matthew seems to have the family living in a house in Bethlehem, where the Magi find them.

Why these differences? They stem from the needs and concerns of the audience the authors were addressing, as well as the theological stance of each author. Knowing the original intention helps get at the correct interpretation of the text.

Since Matthew was writing primarily to a Jewish community, his concern was to show that Jesus did not come just for Jews, but for Gentiles as well. From his very birth, Jesus not only manifests himself to Jews, but also to Gentiles, who are prominently included in the manifestation, symbolized by the Magi and their journey. This is the most significant aspect of the feast of Epiphany. How do you manifest Jesus to all with whom you come into contact?

FROM DEACON ART

Come, Lord Jesus: Lord Jesus, come into our weakness.
Come into our fears.
Come into our anxieties.
Come into our failures.
Come into our divisions.
Come into our grieving.
Come into our loneliness.
Come into our darkness.
Come into our doubting.
Come into our despair.
Come into our poverty of heart.
Come into our searching.
Come into our joys and hopes.
Come into our dying.
Come. Lord Jesus, come.

MASS INTENTIONS

SAT 12/18
4pm Elton Rothkegel
Phil & Jason Goodreau
Lawrence & Lucille Martin
Shirley Korobey

SUN 12/19
7:30am For our parish

10:30am Stanley Myrda
Dan Noel (for healing)
Walter Marvich
Vincent & Arlene Fohne

WED 12/22
8:10am Mary Sue Newell
David Abell

FRI 12/24
4pm Laura Bigham
10pm Betty Ellis
Bernard & Mildred Trotter
Pat & Doris Wade

SAT 12/25
9am For our parish

SUN 12/26
7:30am Bergkoetter/Behrmann families

10:30am Richard Hearn
David Hearn
David Abell

Remember your loved ones or a special intention by offering a Mass. Masses are a $10 donation each and available in the church office

Vocations Corner

The vocation of Jesus Christ was to be born and incarnate to our world, humbling Himself from eternity into the temporal of our world. In the same way, our vocation calls us to humble ourselves and enter into the unknown to be stretched beyond what we can normally do in our human capacity. We celebrate this Christmas as a model for our own call to service and gift, knowing that the way won't be easy. Mary and Joseph sacrificed much in their "yes" to vocation to allow Jesus to redeem the world. We are called to that same "yes" for Jesus!

Upcoming Masses and Special Services

Christmas Eve	**Dec 24th**	**4pm & 10pm**
Christmas Day	**Dec 25th**	**9am**
New Year's Eve	**Dec 31st**	**5:30pm**
New Year's Day	**Jan 1st**	**4pm**
Epiphany	**Jan 2nd**	**7:30am & 10:30**

St. Vincent DePaul members would like to pray for your intentions!

Simply write your intention on the card and drop it in the box, both located in the back of church near the doors.

Heavenly Father, we pray for . . .

Tom Elfrink	Erin Ruiz	Dan Noel
Norma Rensing	Bill Trent	Paul Anderson
Margaret Hampton	Sue Schey	Jean Ann Brophy
Chrissie Cissell	Patrick Guest	Sharon Davidson
Linda Anderson	Ben Waymeier	Beth Rehg
Maria & Hubert Link	Virginia Clementi	Fern Clementi

We also pray for their loved ones and caregivers.
May they never lose sight of the love of God.
Call the parish office to submit a name for the list

Winter Adult Bible Study Begins Sunday, January 13th

8 week session meets from 9 -10:15am.

Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother is an extraordinary pilgrimage that reveals Mary's unique role in God's kingdom and in our lives. Filmed on location in the Holy Land, this study will place you in the midst of the powerful drama of her earthly life, taking you through her joys … and her sorrows. You will learn how she works in our lives today, drawing us ever closer to her divine Son. Seeing Mary in this way will change you forever. Mary will become a part of your daily life, and in your daily life, you will become more like Christ.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

WE ARE GOD'S INSTRUMENTS

St. Augustine tells us that a "Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps." As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life's necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world's ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes.

Why doesn't God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that he would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world's ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as his mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God's vessel so that God's greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God's fix for the world's difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God's instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be.

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We are so very thankful for the generous gifts we have been receiving for our Tuition Assistance Program at Holy Trinity. When you select an angel from our tree and return a gift, I hope you will think about what a blessing you are to a family working to provide their child with a Catholic Education. During the pandemic, we have seen more temporary need with tuition assistance than normal. Your gifts allow us to help a family that is experiencing a short-term financial need. Thank you for sharing your treasure with our community.

The Althoff Catholic High School application is open now for the 2022-23 school year!

Apply today & sign up for the first placement test on 12/5.
Benefits for taking the December 5 placement test include:

- Qualify for select academic scholarships
- Early Admission decision
- Early course selection for next year

Visit althoffcatholic.org to fill out the online application & sign up for the test on your checklist!

Althoff students from Mr. Frazier's class visited our students to read them Christmas stories, play trivia, and answer questions about Althoff. We love the opportunity to connect with our local Catholic High School students!

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