



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

office@holytrinityil.org

Business Manager

Yvonne Siebert

Office Manager

Angi Klohr

Faith Formation

Jenifer Lohmann

Music & Liturgy

Tim Jansen

Holy Trinity School

(618) 628-7395
www.htcs.org
Mrs. Vicki Feldker, Principal

MASS SCHEDULE

Holy Trinity

Wednesday & Friday 8:10am
Saturday Evenings: 4:00pm
Sunday: 7:30am, 10:30am

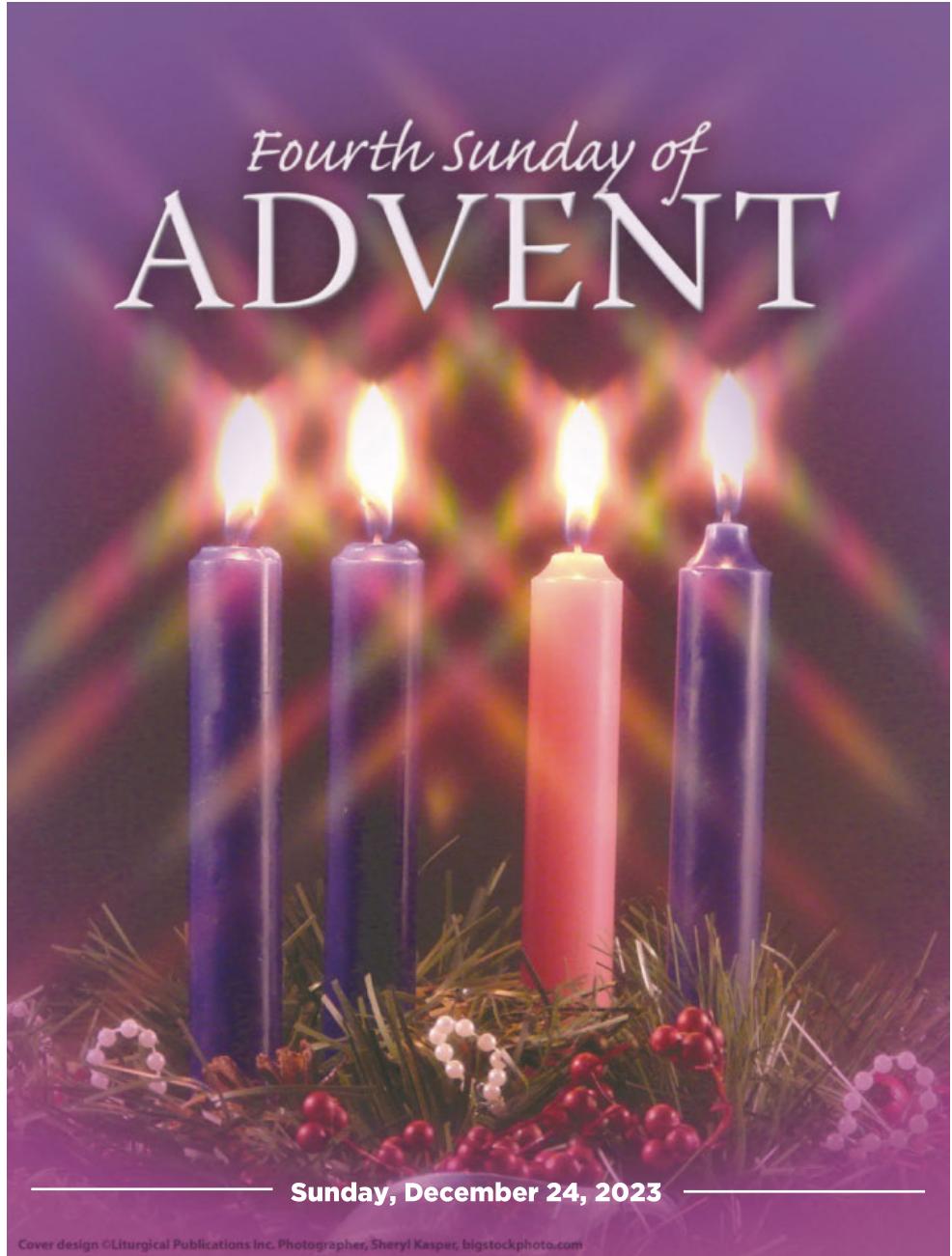
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturdays 3:00 - 3:30pm

St. Stephen

901 S. Main, Caseyville, IL

Mon -Tue-Thu 8:00am
Wednesdays 6:30pm
Sunday 9am English
12:00pm Spanish

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sundays 8-8:30am



505 Fountains Parkway, Fairview Heights, IL

618.628.8825 | holytrinityil.org

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever." (2 Sm 28:16)

Psalm:

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. (Ps 89)

Second Reading:

The revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith. (Rom 16:25-26)

Gospel:

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus." (Lk 1:31)

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Observances for the week of December 24, 2023

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve

Monday: The Nativity of the Lord

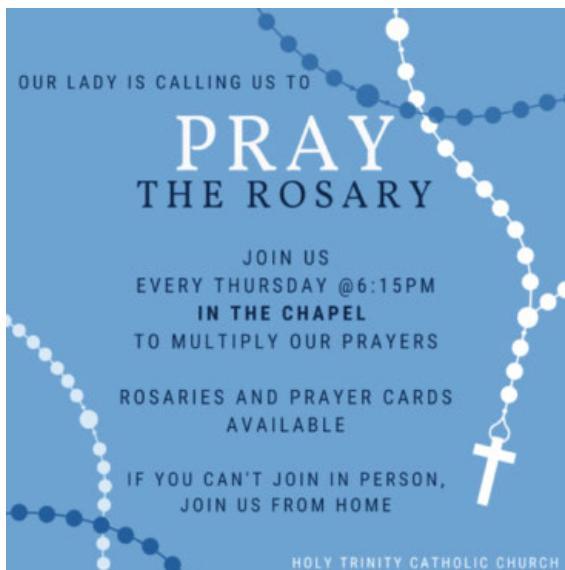
Tuesday: St. Stephen, First Martyr

Wednesday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Thursday: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Friday: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

Next Sunday: The Holy Family; New Year's Eve



Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday, the 4th Sunday of Advent falls on 24 December. The fourth week of Advent begins and ends on the same day. It's ready-or-not time. We're either prepared for the forthcoming festivities or we cut our losses. The Gospel for this Sunday is the story of the Annunciation. Do you think Mary was prepared for a visit by Gabriel? I think not. She was afraid. She did not know what was being asked of her. She had her doubts. Yet, she trusted in the angel's message. She knew that God was not going to let her down and out. She was going to trust that God's will was for her best and the best for all. Mary is here to show us the Way—the Way that is her Son. I pray that all have a Merry Christmas! Enjoy the time with your families and friends.

Merry Christmas, Buon Natale, Feliz Navidad, Joyous Noel, Froliche Weinachten, Wesolych Swiat, Linksmu Kaledu, Vesel Bozic, Maligayag Pasko, Eid Milad Majid, S Rozhdestvom, Feliz Natal, Nollaig Shona!

Peace,

Fr. Jim

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! Please register on-line through our website at www.holytrinityil.org



SUBMITTING INFO FOR THE PARISH BULLETIN

Please email items to news@holytrinityil.org. All submissions may be edited and will be included as space allows. **Deadline for submitting items for the bulletin is: Friday at 5pm one week prior to publication**



Liturgical Life



Christmas Eve is a Sunday!?

The faithful are reminded that Christmas Eve Mass does not fulfill their obligation to attend Sunday Mass



Pick 1 4th Sunday of Advent Mass Times

Saturday, Dec 23rd
4pm

Sunday, Dec 24th
7:30am & 10:30am



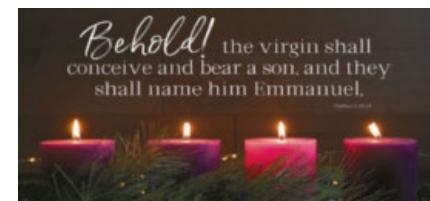
*A Merry and Blessed Christmas
To all
Holy Trinity parishioners!*

*Thank you for all your support
through the year! We are blessed to
serve in this community!
Peace to all! Fr. Jim, Angi,
Yvonne, Connie, Tim, Jenifer
and Bob*

Pick 1 Christmas Mass Times

Sunday, Dec 24th
4pm & 10pm

Monday, Dec 25th
9am



A Christmas Prayer

Lord,
You came upon
A Midnight Clear
To bring
Joy to the World
And draw us near.
It was a **Holy Night**,
When you came from above,
To fill our hearts with
hope and love.

Thank you,
Sweet Jesus Boy,
For clothing us with
Comfort and Joy.

Gospel Meditation

Life is troubling. Who among us has not struggled with anxiety and difficulties, sometimes massive ones? I certainly have, as have many of my loved ones. If we do, does this mean that we don't trust the Lord or just need to toughen up?

I don't think so. How encouraging for us anxious and troubled souls to hear Luke describe the Blessed Mother Mary in these words, "But she was greatly troubled at what was said." An archangel has visited her. An inconceivable promise has been made to her. Her life has become wildly unpredictable, perhaps more so than any person before or since. The first point for us: the Lord is with her *precisely when she is troubled*. Her anxiousness and God's presence are not mutually exclusive. Christianity is not about a trance-like robotic indifference. It's about the presence of divine love. Even in — especially in — troubled circumstances.

Our troubled soul can become our greatest treasure. What seems so troubling at first to Mary becomes the best possible thing, Jesus, the Savior and Lord, is now her son. All the difficulties and troubles remain, and yet her movement into the fullness of God is accelerated. What is troubling you right now? This scripture invites us now, this week, to hear the Lord's messenger say to us what he said to Mary, "Do not be afraid! You have found favor with God."

— Father John Muir ©LPI

Christmas Office Hours

Wednesday, Dec 20th 8:30-12

Thursday, Dec 21st 8:30 - 1:30

Friday, Dec 22nd - Closed

Dec 26-28th 8:30 - 1pm

Friday, Dec 29th - Closed

Monday, Jan 1st - Closed

Liturgical Life

Mass Intentions

SAT 12/23
4pm Cindy Neff
Larry Conrad
Gary Berutti

SUN 12/24
7:30a For our parish
10:30a Stanley Myrda
4pm For our parish

10pm Pat & Doris Wade
Mildred & Bud Trotter
Anita Balding

Mon 12/25
9am David Hearn
Richard Hearn

WED 12/27
8:10a For our parish

FRI 12/29
8:10a Betty Jo Lindsay

Sat 12/30
4pm Maggie Blaies
Charlotte Pensoneau

Sun 12/31
7:30a James Cronin and Family
10:30a For our parish
4pm Doris Bergkoetter

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

Pray for the Sick

for their loved ones, and caregivers

Beth Rehg Sharon Davidson Rex Fangmeyer
Tim Regan Mary Czekanski Ronnie Mouchel
Michael Chance Anthony Kowalczyk
Dan Noel Liz & Carolyn Vogt
Carolyn Switzer Diana Guenther-Legate
Darlene Falk Sinovic Family Marlene Schroyer
Kathy Jackson Tim Thompson Carol Mueller
Fern Clementi Deb Will Patricia Gerlitz

Please also pray for our service men and women deployed and away from their family at this time. May they be reunited safely.

Call the parish office to submit a name for the list

DECEMBER FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

This month, the FVH Food Pantry is making a plea for personal hygiene items like, soap, tooth brushes & toothpaste, men's/women's deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, etc. Drop off in the bin outside the parish office.



Vocations Corner

Today we again hear God's asking of Mary to be the Mother of the "Son of the Most High". Her total self-giving reply of "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" is the greatest example of "listening" to the Lord's call. Do you hear a call from the Lord to be a sister or priest? In this season of giving, "give" some time to quiet reflection and "hear" what the Lord is asking of you.

SEEDS FAMILIES

We will no longer be offering Seeds as a drop off option at the 10:30 Mass. Instead, please allow your 3-5 year olds to dismiss with the older children leaving for Children's Liturgy of the Word. We'll include them in CLW and bring them back at offertory.

The 2023 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal
The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord -
Psalm 15

The true joy of Christmas is in the everlasting love of Christ. May you find His peace, love and joy now and in the coming New Year. With deepest gratitude for your prayers and generosity,
-Bishop Michael McGovern and Ministries and Programs
Funded by The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal



In November, the Invest in Kids Act that provided Empower Illinois tuition scholarships that support some families in our school was not renewed. Last year, we received \$39,450 in scholarship money. In order to be able to continue to support our students financially, we have placed a Tuition Angels giving tree in the gathering space. Please consider taking an angel off the tree and donate one of the given amounts or an amount of your choice. The school and families that need assistance truly appreciate your generosity during this time of year.

Parish Life

DECEMBER

Month of Divine Infancy

Saturday, December 23rd

7am That Man is You

Sunday, December 24th

No events

Wednesday, December 27th

Wednesday Donuts after 8:10am Mass

9am Quilting

Thursday, December 28th

6:15pm Rosary

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN
YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman ©LPI

What Is Your Fiat?

Are you an anxious people-pleaser prone to overcommitting yourself? Welcome to the club! We have slogans, and for your convenience I've listed them here: "Sounds great!" "No worries!" "Absolutely, I can do that, not a problem!"

These are your go-to responses for when someone requests a favor that is a huge inconvenience, but you would rather die than disappoint. It's not exactly disingenuous — it's just a little neurotic. Again, welcome to the club.

You know who doesn't belong to this club? The Blessed Mother. For many reasons, I'm sure, but the biggest one is that she's always completely up-front. Take her response to the Angel Gabriel: "Let it be done."

If there are more powerful words than these, I can't think of them now. And yet, as responses go, this certainly isn't an enthusiastic one. There was never a human creature more willing to obey God than Mary, full of grace, so it makes it all of the more striking that her response to Gabriel is this reserved — and it makes it all the more certain that she means exactly what she says.

Let it be done.

Not: Yes, this is exactly that I asked for!

Not: Nope. This sounds awful. Count me out.

But precisely this: If God is asking, my answer is yes.

The Angel Gabriel visits us all, in a way, at some point or another, bearing news we did not expect. When we can say, in the face of that uncertainty, "Let it be done," we are embracing our calling as disciples. We are becoming like Mary.

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord." — Luke 1:38



OFFERTORY

12/10/23

Total envelope contributions

\$ 18,465

Total on-line contribution

\$ 5,372

Our weekly needs

\$ 37,477



Scan here to start your on-line giving!

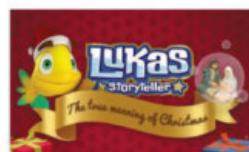
Remember Holy Trinity in your Year End Giving

Even though tax season is still months away, now is the time to think about how you can reduce your income taxes by making a gift to Holy Trinity. Make a donation that benefits you and your parish. Charitable giving is essential for the financial sustainability of Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

Great End of Year Gifts:
Cash Stock IRA Charitable Rollovers



Week of December 24, 2023



The True Meaning of Christmas | Lukas Storyteller

Christmas is coming and our friends Peter, Agnes, Paul and Anna expect to receive many gifts, but when they caught in one of their antics, Lukas and Noah will help them understand the true story of Christmas and how the birth of the Son of God should change our hearts.



Christmas | Sacred Art

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they look at the painting Adoration of the Shepherds by Gerard van Honthorst to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. This famous painting reveals the Christ Child as the light that has come into the world and also depicts the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and the shepherds to be models of adoration to our humble Lord who came as a helpless baby.



The 12 Days of Christmas

We are excited to announce our series of FORMED Now! Christmas and New Year special episodes. In these episodes, professors from the Augustine Institute Graduate School will lead us in reflections throughout the season.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

An offering from the  

More News



*Congratulations to our students receiving
First Reconciliation*

Adelle Andrews
Ainsley Attaway
Elliot Barbieri
Lorel Barud
Benjamin Borawski
Mileena Brindell
Brooks Brodzik
Austin Davis
Jaxon Frawley
Cade Henrichs
Hailey Hoering
Emma Kelley
Carter Klees
Elena Kuchenreuther
Sean Mahoney
Anna McDowell
Chase McIntyre
Quinn McIntyre

Isabella Normansell
Skylar Olenick
Aurelia Pajares
Ryan Prest
Elsie Restall
Landon Rico
Morgan Robinson
Connor Rujawitz
Landon Schaefer
Lillian Schenck
Lorelei Schultz
Stephanie Seck Birhame
Declan Sherrill
Brady Sonnenberg
Ian Souders
Declan Wiwczaroski
Emmett Wiwczaroski



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SCHOOL News

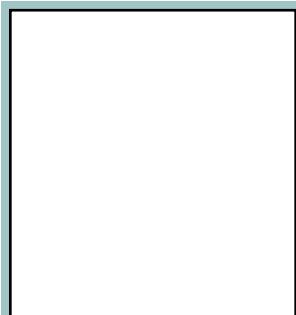


In Grade 2, the girls made wreaths of candles to wear on their heads as St. Lucia did when she brought food to the poor under the cover of darkness. The Swedish tradition is to celebrate St. Lucia's compassionate and generous spirit by delivering treats to family, as our Second Grade students shared treats with each classroom here at Holy Trinity

St. Lucia's Day is sometimes called the Festival of Lights. The boys participate in the celebration as "star boys" and made traditional Swedish star hats to bring hope and light on one of the longest nights of the year.

Fr. Jim challenged students to be like St. Lucy and be a light to the world as Jesus calls all of us to be.

We love how St. Lucia's Day lights up our school community!



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