



St. Patrick

CHURCH OF HARTLAND-FOUNDED 1837

St. Patrick Parish-Hartland
15012 St. Patrick Road
Woodstock, IL 60098
815-338-7883
www.stpatrickofhartland.org

Office Hours
Tuesday and Thursdays
9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Or by appointment.
815-790-3643

Sunday, December 19th—4th Sunday of Advent

We are a Catholic Faith Community, united in Christ through Sacrament, dedicated to charity, community, service and spiritual growth.

Parish Staff

Pastor.....Fr. Burt Absalon
Associate.....Fr. Sanchez
Marian Spirit. Dr.....Fr. Warren
DeaconJoe Kayser
Deacon.....815-236-3803
Business Mgr. ...Jeanine Nowakowski
Jeanine.....815-790-3643
Bldg & GrdsMatt Weidner
Sacristan.....Ray Wagner
KeyboardistBraedon Sullivan
Keyboardist.....Aron Olivares
Cantors.....Madison Kenyon,
Avery Hill, Jordyn Kratochvil,
Caroline Stumpf and Hannah
McNulty

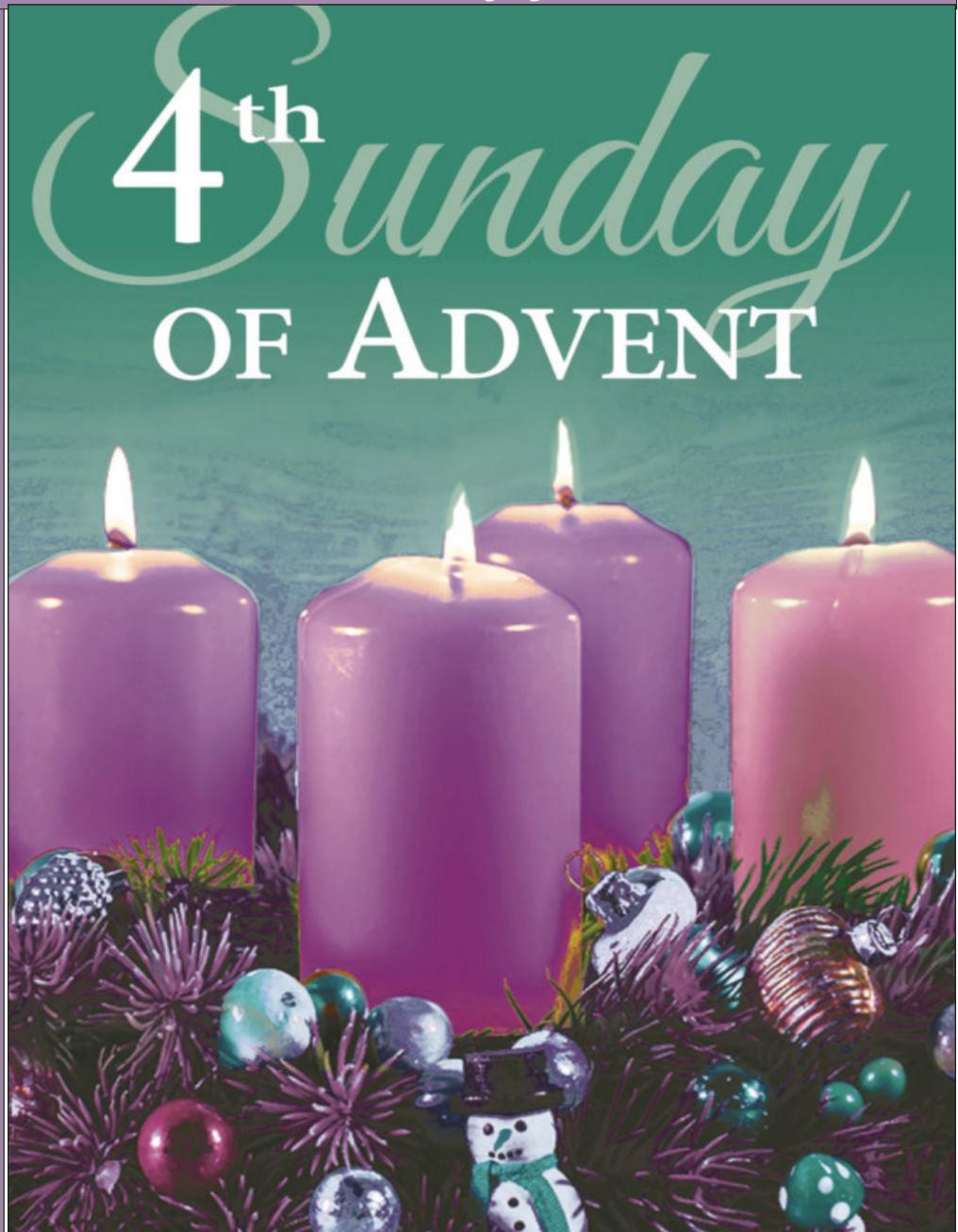
Sunday Masses

8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Confessions

30 Minutes prior to each Mass.

We need your help! If you are able to act as a server for either of our Masses, easy instruction will be provided. Please contact Jeanine at 815-790-3643. Thank you!



Disciple Stewardship: When he discovered that Mary was with child, Joseph resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead the protector of the child Jesus and His mother, Mary.

SCRIPTURAL READINGS

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The Nativity of the Lord

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

The ends of the earth will see God's salvation. Break forth together in song, Jerusalem, for the good news of peace has come. God redeems Jerusalem and gives comfort to all people.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 98:1

All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

"In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways...through the prophets," but now we have God's own heir, the Lord who sustains all things. Let all angels worship God's first born, God heir, God's son.

Gospel: John 1:1-18

"The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory....full of grace and truth." We all have partaken of this fullness: love following love.

St. Patrick Parish Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

5:30 p.m. Mass



Christmas Day

8:00 a.m. Mass

10:15 a.m. Mass

St. Mary Parish Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.— Mass in Church

4:05 p.m. Mass in Gym

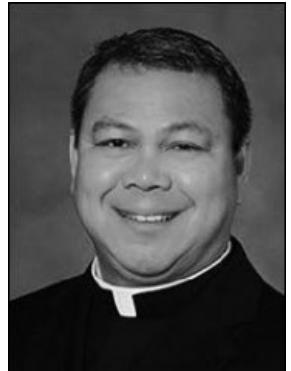
Christmas Day

12:00 a.m., 7:30 a.m. & 9:00 a.m.
—Mass in Church

Dear friends in Christ,

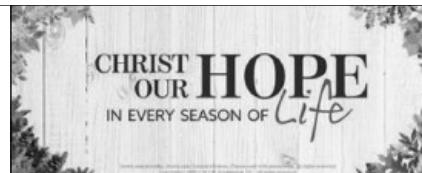
Some years ago, I chanced upon a page of paper that had a story printed on it. I don't know who wrote it but I would like to thank the writer whoever this person is for such a beautiful story. And I find this story worth sharing with you as we celebrate the Fourth week of Advent and Christmas day.

Thus, once there was ... *"a man who simply could not believe in the Incarnation. The idea that God actually became a human being struck him as preposterous. So as his family drove off to attend Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, he stayed home alone, not wanting to be a hypocrite. It started snowing rather heavily that evening, and a group of small birds began thumping into his picture window, seeking refuge from the weather. The man put on his coat and boots, and went outside to try and lead the birds into the warmth and safety of his barn. But the more he tried, the more the birds scattered. And then he realized that they were afraid of him. To them, he reasoned, I am a strange and terrifying creature. If only I could think of some way to let them know that they can trust me, that I am not trying to hurt them, but to help them. But how? Because any move he made tended to frighten & confuse them. They just would not follow. They would not be led or shooed because they feared him. "If only I could be a bird," he said to himself, "and mingle with them and speak their language. Then I could tell them not to be afraid. Then I could show them the way to the safe warm barn. But I would have to be one of them so they could see, and hear and understand." At that moment the church bells began to ring. The sound reached his ears above the sounds of the wind. And he stood there listening to the bells pealing the glad tidings of Christmas. Suddenly he realized "all that Incarnation stuff" was true. He now understood why Jesus came to earth. And he sank to his knees in the snow and prayed."*



As we light the fourth advent candle, conscious that the birth of our Savior, the Light of the world, is here upon us, let us also sink to our knees before this great mystery of God's Incarnation. Jesus Christ enters into our world in order to draw us into His wonderful light. May our Christmas celebration be for us truly a journey from darkness to light, from sin to Grace, from slavery to Sin into the freedom of God's children. May our Christmas be truly merry because we have been enlightened by Him whose light never darkens.

MERRY CHRISTMAS to one and all.



"God's love is generous, sacrificial, life-giving, and forever. As humans made in God's image, we are called to imitate the eternal giving and receiving of love that is the Holy Trinity." USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

"Another Look at Contraception"

For additional information, please consider checking out the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website at : USCCB.org.

Vocation Corner: Time Crunch

I really enjoy reading letters from friends and family. When I know what's going on with them I feel that I am part of their life. I think when our communication improves, our friendship increases. By reading my friend's words on a piece of paper or on the computer screen I experience great joy. I am naturally moved to answer them because affection and friendship deserve an answer, some feedback.

Probably as Christmas is approaching we are receiving some cards, mails, and emails, that will make our celebration more meaningful, besides the messages from family and friends on Christmas we receive a beautiful letter from God. This letter is neither written on an actual piece of paper, nor on an electronic device. It is written in the fragility (innocence) of a child, however it contains the eternal word of God. This letter from God is the most beautiful poem that has ever existed, though it does not have many words, but only one word, The Word. In fact, this letter from God is the word that became flesh. In fact, this letter is God. "In the beginning was the Word: The Word was with God and the Word was God".

This Word of God has come to us as a gift of life, so that those who accept him may become children of God, children of the light. The prophet Isaiah says, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light". And John comments "The Word was the real light that gives light to everyone; he was coming into the world".

Probably during the days of Christmas, you will receive at least one present, or letter, or cards from friends and family. Open all of them and you will feel the presence and the love of your people. Also, I want to invite you to open the most beautiful present you receive on Christmas. The present is coming from God. Do not leave Jesus wrapped like a gift under the Christmas tree. On the contrary explore him. Try to discover him every day more and more. I invite you to know him as Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, and Prince of Peace. Then we may love him and experience the love and the closeness of God, the father to all of us



People of God

Your prayers are requested for the sick;

Casey Porch	Jeff Kruzan
Erwin Arendt	Cindy Kruzan
Lisa Ash	Robert Kutella
Mary Bassett	Barb Lanphier
Emily Davis	Henry Kranz
Renee Biestek	Steve Welch
Rich Biestek	Rick Hoffman
Mary Lou	Billy Matusek
Draper	John Ferraro
Barbara Dye	Viola Huff
Wayne Dye	Paul Kries
Steve Fitzgerald	Melissa Rath
Mary Watson	Philip Weidner
Dennis Gallagher	Jeremy Scully
Mary Gillis	Geraldine Slarai
Nancy Golbeck	Derrick Verona
Gaye Johnson	Rita Hagenbruch



Mass Intentions

Christmas Eve

5:30 p.m.: Frank & Dorothy Klocek
Requested by Ray & Carol Wagner

Christmas Day

8:00 a.m.: People of the Parish
10:15 a.m.: Fr. Gary Hogan
Requested by Ray & Carol Wagner

Sacramental Policies

Baptism: Contact the parish Office to participate in the Sacramental Baptismal preparation program.

First Eucharist: Children will be permitted to approach First Eucharist upon completion of the Parish Religious Education Program required for the reception of Holy Communion.

Matrimony: Rev. Burt Absalon, should be contacted at least one year prior to the anticipated date for the marriage. It is the policy of the Rockford Diocese that those to be married be at least 19 years of age, and will be required to participate in instructional programs: including Pre-marriage and Natural Family Planning Seminars. One of those to be married must be a registered member of the St. Patrick Parish of Hartland.

Confessions: The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available 30 minutes prior to the 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Sunday Masses.

Anointing of the Sick: For reception of the Sacrament of the Sick, and visits, please contact the Parish office at 815-338-7883.

New Members: New members to our community are asked to fill out a registration form found in the back of the church and drop it in the collection, or contact the Parish office.

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