



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

The Nativity of the Lord

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
Deacon Joe Kayser
Deacon.....815-236-3803
Business Mgr. ..Jeanine Nowakowski
Jeanine.....815-790-3643
Bldg & GrdsMatt Weidner
Sacristan.....Ray Wagner
Keyboardist.....Braedon Sullivan
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!



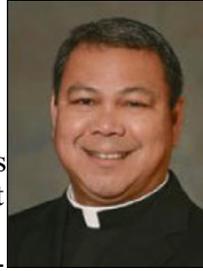
Nativity of the Lord

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Disciple Stewardship: For unto us is born this day a Savior! In response to so great a love, only a gift of my whole self will do. You have given us Yourself, dear Lord; in love and thanksgiving, I commit myself afresh to you.

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Christmas gives us the most opportune time to recapture glimpses of our childhood's sacred memories. There is an element of timelessness in the image of a new born child on a manger that is forever imprinted in our hearts and mind. As we gaze into the crib we come face to face with the truth that God came down from heaven and dwelt among us as a helpless infant. Today's Gospel tells us that at the City of Bethlehem on a calm and silent night the Son of God was born. A burst of heavenly light startled the shepherds as the angels sang "Glory to God and peace on earth." It's the simplicity of this story that captures endlessly our imagination.



But Christmas is more than a story that happened over two thousand years ago. It's about a birth that brings heaven and earth together. It is about God becoming human so that the human can become divine. It is about God becoming one of us so that in this world we never have to face our perils alone. Christmas is about love removing the barrier between Creator and creature and flooding our sinful world with Grace that alone gives eternal value to our lives. God, through the event of Christmas, has given us the gift of reaching beyond ourselves and discovering the joy that this world would never be able to give us.

As we bend our knees before the crib, we pray for the grace of vision during this short life of ours to see things and people in our lives the way God sees them. It is only when we see things through the lens of a loving God that transformation can take place in our lives. At the same time we pray for the strength and courage to act according to His will. Christmas means something only in so far as we welcome the Lord as He comes to us in the wonder of every human being and as He reveals Himself in the value and dignity of every person with whom we live and work. Christmas is about kindness, about giving and returning of love for love. Cherish in a special way the exchange of love that exists among you and your family and friends for it is God's most precious gift. And then, let us pray that this exchange will forever continue and that the spirit of Christmas will always be in our hearts and not just during this season. I pray that your Christmas be a holy one. Because if it is, it will be truly be a merry one.



We are still taking up collections for our local food pantry! On the third Sunday of each month donations may be left in the back of the church near or in the wicker basket. St Patrick's needs one or two people to represent us on the board of the Woodstock Food Pantry. They meet once every other month on Tuesday morning, you must be vaccinated for Covid. If you are interested in serving on this board please call Allie Thompson at. 815 382-8998. Thank you!!



Our annual Right to Life campaign has shifted gears and is offering lawn signs and decals to display. There is no cost for either item. If you would like to make a donation, there are envelopes in the back of the church that you may drop in to any Sunday collection. Your tithe is appreciated and will make a difference to those in need. Thank you!

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.

Vocation Corner: Christmas!

Today we celebrate the greatest gift of all, the birth of Jesus, God's gift of Himself to us all! Of course we know that the reason why He did this was because of His immense and limitless love for each of us. Had He wanted, Jesus could have stayed in heaven, never had to have suffered, and have everything set up just right for all eternity. I think that sometimes when we plan out our lives or our futures we wish that we could have things go as smoothly as they would have gone for Jesus had He never left heaven! But Jesus, who is infinitely wise, made the choice to come down, to set a seemingly perfect reality aside, in order to enter into a broken world! Why would He do this? Well, He did this out of love for us, for the sake of saving us. We too in considering what God calls us to do day by day, how He asks us to live out our lives, we should be considering what is truly best and what brings others closer to Christ.

Jesus' choice to dwell among us led to His being held lovingly in Mary's arms, being protected by Joseph, being visited by magi who gave His great gifts. It also allowed Him down the road to be surrounded by the Apostles who developed deep friendships with Him. Finally, it allowed Him to be in relation with you and I. In our own lives, let us seek to see the value of saying yes to God's plan rather than clinging to our own personal paradise. Let us live for love because the value of love is the most valuable treasure that we can have.

Merry Christmas!

Remember to pray!



SCRIPTURAL READINGS

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6
Abram and Sarah put faith in the Lord, and gave the name Isaac to their son. Your descendants shall be as numerous as the stars in the heavens.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 205:1-2
The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Second Reading; Hebrews 11:8
The descendants of Abraham and Sarah are "as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore." Abrahams faith was tested.

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40
Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the temple to be consecrated. Simeon, a holy and pious man, took the child in his arms, and Anna, the prophetess, gave thanks to God.



"[W]e are facing an enormous and dramatic clash between good and evil, death and life, the 'culture of death' and the 'culture of life'. We find ourselves not only 'faced with' but necessarily 'in the midst of' this conflict: we are all involved and we all share in it, with the inescapable responsibility of choosing to be unconditionally pro-life."

Pope John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae



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 Draper	Billy Matussek
Barbara Dye	John Ferraro
Wayne Dye	Viola Huff
Steve Fitzgerald	Paul Kries
Mary Watson	Melissa Rath
Dennis Gallagher	Philip Weidner
Mary Gillis	Jeremy Scully
Nancy Golbeck	Geraldine Slarai
Gaye Johnson	Derrick Verona
	Rita Hagenbruch

Please let Jeanine know if someone should be removed from or added to



Mass Intentions

Sunday December 26th

8:00 a.m.: People of the Parish

10:15 a.m.: Alois & Maria Volmer
Requested by Marlyn Volmer



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. Mt 2:19-21



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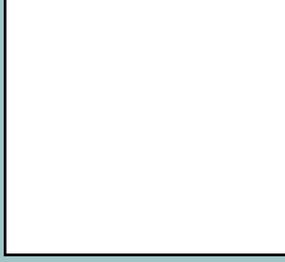
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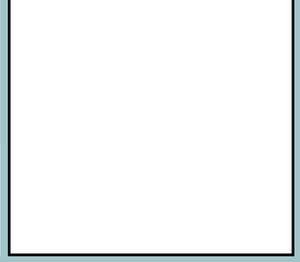


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