

ST. MARIA GORETTI PARISH

*St. Maria Goretti Parish was established on August 17, 2020.
The parish was created by the merger of
St. John the Baptist, St. Sebastian and St. Albert the Great Parishes.*

Making sense of the senseless: Seeking God in the midst of the Oxford tragedy

By FR. STEPHEN PULLIS Dec. 1, 2021 Voices



One of the tragic marks of our modern world is stories of senseless violence. We have seen acts of tremendous violence leave scars on different communities throughout our country, especially when they are done to young people. As men and women of faith, we have responded with our prayers and acts of solidarity and support. When the worst of our human nature is on full display, we often find the strength to be our best.

We mourn with the families whose lives have been ruined by the shooting at Oxford High School. We know that nothing we say or do can take away the pain of losing a child, especially violently at the hands of another young person. It is an unspeakable sadness.

We also mourn with the families who will be forever scarred by what happened on Nov. 30: the students who saw their close-knit school turned into a place of chaos, with kids running for their lives; the faculty and staff who, fearing for their own lives, showed great courage and composure to help so many young people escape; the police and other first responders who put their lives in danger to save countless others. All of these men and women have scars that will last a lifetime.

I know Oxford. I spent two years of my priesthood serving the faithful in Oxford and Lake Orion, sharing their joys and sorrows, watching football games, celebrating graduations, running into neighbors at Meijer — the place that served as the rendezvous point for parents and students after the school was evacuated — and praying with them. Oxford is a community that prays. Along with the other Christian communities, St. Joseph Parish is filled with men and women from Oxford who pray together. They don't just pray on Sunday; they pray at daily Mass, in small groups, and most especially in the Holy Family Perpetual Adoration Chapel in the parish. Around the clock, this community is in prayer.

But prayer can be hard at times like this. It can be tempting to turn away from the Lord in the midst of tragedy. It is normal to ask, "*Where was God? Why didn't he prevent it? How could a good, loving God allow this to happen?*" These are not easy questions, but we should not be afraid to ask them. In times of senseless violence, it is not uncommon to see atheists use these questions to puncture or mock the faith of believers. But we disciples of the crucified Lord cannot be afraid to hear or ask these questions. How can we respond?

Our first response is to remember that the God we profess is a crucified Savior. The cross has become a normalized image for us, but 2,000 years ago, it was a sign of unspeakable violence and cruelty. And it is the cross that God uses to demonstrate His love for us. In the cross, God shows that His love for us is steadfast and constant. On the cross, Jesus poured out every ounce of blood from his body. He took on our human flesh precisely so that he could lay down his life for us. The God we profess was not afraid of suffering and even of death. He knows the sorrow, the pain, and the loneliness that they bring. He knows your sorrow and confusion. He is not afraid of your anger, hurt, fear, or sadness. He wants you to give them to Him.

Our God does not give us a reasoned response to tragedies such as what happened at Oxford High School. There is no reasoned response that would suffice. This violence is a great sin, and sin is not reasonable. So how does He respond? With His love.

He gives us His love that is stronger even than death. He gives us His love not *in spite of* the tragedies of this world, but *precisely because of* these tragedies. Jesus knows the depth of the sadness that comes with our journey through this world and its valley of tears. He gives us a love that is unconquerable; a love that nothing in this world can overcome. No tragedy — however horrific and senseless — is not covered by the love of Jesus Christ. God's response to evil is love. To some, this is not enough. To others, this is weakness. But to those who believe, His love is the only thing worth clinging to in this world. (*cont'd bottom of page 3*)

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, Dec. 11 Pope St. Damasus I

4 pm +Ted Jaskot by Denise Holuta

Sunday, Dec. 12 Third Sunday of Advent

8 am +People of the Parish

10 am +Stanley & Bernice Filipowski by family

+Thaddeus Filipowski by family

Spec. Int. Michael D. Wall by family

Dec'd Members of the Smiatacz family by Deacon

Regis & Ann Buckley

+Joyce Babosh by St. Sebastian Choir

5 pm +Mary & Feliks Turek by sons

+Lee Caldwell

+Elaine Goebel by family

Monday, Dec. 13 St. Lucy

8 am Special Intention

6:30 pm +Kathleen Pressey by family

Tuesday, Dec. 14 St. John of the Cross

8 am +Bernice Waskevich (ann.) by daughters

Wednesday, Dec. 15 Advent Weekday

8 am +Robert Favot by M/M Tim Hernandez

Thursday, Dec. 16 Advent Weekday

8 am Spec. Int. George & Alice Kontos

Friday, Dec. 17 Advent Weekday

8 am +Ignacy Zabik by Lorraine Witkowski

Saturday, Dec. 18 Advent Weekday

4 pm +Craig Stephens by Mrs. Labadie

+Geraldine Wszola 1st ann. by Parish

+Doris Zemaitis by Bob Nichols

+Robert Buhl by family

Sunday, Dec. 19 Fourth Sunday of Advent

8 am +People of the Parish

10 am +Stanley & Bernice Filipowski by family

+Thaddeus Filipowski by family

Spec. Int. Michael D. Wall by family

Dec'd Members of the Buckley Family by Deacon

Regis & Ann Buckley

+Linda Reynolds by family

5 pm +James Majewski by family

+Beverly Platko 1st ann. by Parish



Christmas Mass Schedule

Eve: 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.

Day: 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

There will be NO 4 p.m. Mass on Christmas

PLEASE NOTE: A CHANGE IN THE WAY ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TO BE MADE

About two years ago the Archdiocese informed the parishes that the IRS requires that donations to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul **should be made out directly to them and not to the parish.**

You are asked NOT to combine your SVdP contribution in the same check you make out to the parish for your parish offertory contribution. Any SVdP donations, whether cash or check, will still be given to SVdP.

Your generosity in assisting their care for the needy is commendable and a sign of our parish's active expression of Gospel charity and solidarity.

3rd Sunday of Advent Luke 3:10-18



Blessed Advent!

Remember last week where we read about this crazy man John "crying out in the desert"? Well, this week we read about what the people of his time won-

dered about him. They all asked him "What should we do?"

The crowds were asking, the tax collectors were asking, the soldiers were asking. And he answers each of them according to the temptation of their particular state in life. To the crowds he says, share of your abundance. To the tax collectors he says, stop taking more money for yourselves. Only collect from the people what is proscribed. To the soldiers he says, stop extorting money.

And so, what must we do to prepare? I ask myself if I am sharing from even the little that I think I have. Do I charge more than a fair price for my work? If I lend money to anyone, do I expect too much more in return?

I challenge myself this week, and I challenge you, to take some time and think about how we are preparing for the coming birth of Christ, in history, in today's world, and in the future when he will come to bring all of creation back to the Father.

GOSPEL MEDITATION— 3rd Sunday of Advent

“From silly devotions and sour-faced saints, good Lord, deliver us!” St. Teresa of Avila

We’ve all heard the adage, “Laughter is the best medicine.” In many ways, it really is. When was the last time you really laughed? The gift of imagination allows us to see possible things that are yet to be. Imagine a world filled with laughter. We take life too seriously sometimes. Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of the joy needed for laughter. God never promised us an easy road, and we do have to take the course of our lives seriously. However, there is a balance to be sought and a possible joy that can be brought even to the darkest and most challenging of encounters.



St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us that, “Joy is not found in the material objects surrounding us but in the inner recesses of the soul. One can possess joy in a prison cell as well as in a palace.” Falling in love with God, who is present in all of creation, allows us to bring a depth of understanding to everything we do and experience. We can more easily see above and beyond things while pursuing the only One who can truly satisfy our hearts. When we realize that God, the king of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We can celebrate the wonder and beauty of God’s gift of joy. It is no wonder that many saints radiate joy and have no reservations expressing laughter.

They are happy because they have found a pearl of great price.

We celebrate with joy today with hearts filled with expectation, wonder, awe, and beauty as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. If you haven’t laughed in a while, why? Something is preventing you from expressing the magnificence of your soul and the presence of God who dwells within. God’s power and presence within us assures us that we are loved and kept in that presence. What more is really needed? Rejoice and laugh in the presence of God! It really is the best medicine and a most perfect way to convince others that God is really with us. “Go ahead, laugh! Live your life with joy and serve the Lord with laughter! Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter.” (St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina) ©LPi

(Continued from page 1):

In Advent, we set our eyes and our hearts on the coming of Jesus. He broke into history two millennia ago as a newborn child in an out-of-the-way town on the outskirts of Jerusalem. But we know that he will come again, in power and majesty, to right all wrongs and to deliver his merciful justice. His love is hidden and mysterious here and now, but it is real. It is more real than the snow on the ground or the computer I am using to type.

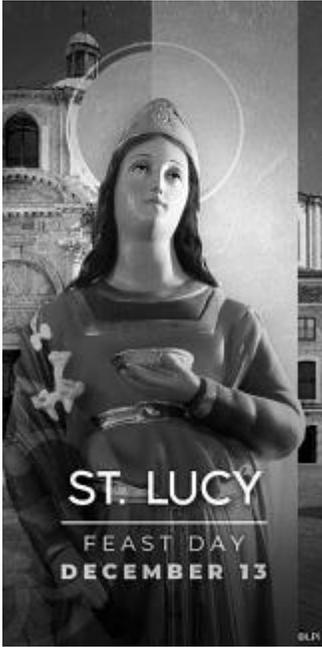
Jesus wants us to participate in this love. We are called not simply to receive it for ourselves or to be bystanders of Jesus’ love to a hurting community. “*I no longer call you servants but my friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. Love one another as I have loved you.*” He wants you and me to be his hands and feet, his tears and hugs to a suffering community. He shows his love to this world through the members of his Church. It is for this reason that we are called the Body of Christ on earth. (continued on page

We cannot make sense of the senseless. But we can respond in faith and love: faith in a God who knows our suffering, love for those who are suffering.

Lord Jesus, I trust in you. I trust that somehow, some way, you can bring good from this tragedy and that the horrific violence at Oxford High School can be redeemed by the power of your Cross. Lord Jesus, use me to show your love to hurting community and a broken world. Give me the strength to participate in the love you want to pour out to those in need.

Fr. Stephen Pullis is director of graduate pastoral formation at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. He formerly served at St. Joseph Parish in Lake Orion and as director of the Archdiocese of Detroit's Department of Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship.





A name that means “light,” **St. Lucy** (283 – 304) is the patron saint of those blind or suffering with eye trouble. Not much is known about her life, except that she was determined to remain a virgin and thus refused marriage. History tells the story of a frustrated suitor who eventually accused St. Lucy of being a Christian (at crime at the time), and she was executed in Syracuse, Sicily, in the year 304.

Today, we celebrate a number of traditions that incorporate symbolic meaning of St. Lucy as the “bearer” of light in the darkness of winter. This is particularly seen in Scandinavian countries, with their long dark winters. There, a young girl dressed in a white dress and a red sash (as the symbol of martyrdom) carries palms and wears a crown or wreath of candles on her head. In Denmark, Norway and Sweden, girls dressed as Lucy carry rolls and cookies in procession as songs are sung. ©LPi

You might ask, “What’s with the rose vestments and rose candle this



A MINUTE OF YOUR TIME

Deacon Regis

week? I thought the color for Advent was purple!” Well, it’s Gaudete Sunday! The color is actually designated by the Church as rose rather than pink. That brighter color signifies joy in the midst of what is otherwise traditionally considered a somber penitential season. (Unfortunately, the secular culture around us tends to treat the weeks leading up to Christmas as an extended party time instead.)

Gaudete is Latin for Rejoice. In today’s liturgy, Gaudete is the first word of the Entrance Antiphon of the Mass for today, which reads in Latin: Gaudete in Domino semper, iterum dico, Gaudete. ... Dominus prope est. These words come from St. Paul’s exhortation to the Philippians: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, rejoice. ... Indeed, the Lord is near” (Philippians 4:4–5). One of my favorite Advent songs is a medieval Latin chant, “*Gaudete*”. *Check it out on You Tube, I think you’ll love it.*

So, how’s your Advent going? Two more weeks and He’ll be here! It’s not too late to prepare! I have a gift for you today. I ran across this poem of Mother Teresa’s several years ago and it struck me as profound, especially the last line. I actually included it in last year’s Gaudete bulletin article. I thought I’d share it with you again as we get ready for His coming.

*People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered;
Forgive them anyway.
If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;
Be kind anyway.
If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;
Succeed anyway.
If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;
Be honest and frank anyway.
What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;
Build anyway.
If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;
Be happy anyway.
The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;
Do good anyway.
Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;
Give the world the best you've got anyway.
You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and your God;
It was never between you and them anyway.*

Have a joyous Gaudete Sunday and a fruitful two weeks of Advent!
God Is Good All the Time!
All the Time God Is Good!

Don’t forget, join us this Friday and every Friday at 3PM to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet on ZOOM. See the ad in our bulletin or on the parish website for details on how to join in. Hope to see you there!

**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE
GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**
The Well That Never Dries Up

Depending on how your mood is today, the words of Paul will hit you differently. “Rejoice always,” he tells us. Well, if your football team is poised to win this weekend or next, maybe you’re really feeling this



vibe. But if you’ve got a long slog at work ahead of you this week and a to-do list that only seems to grow and never shrink, it may make you grumble. “Rejoice always? Always? When I’m tired? Cranky? When I’m sick of doing and giving? Thanks, Paul.

I’ll be sure to scribble that phrase on a Post-It and stick it to my dashboard for when some entitled punk inevitably cuts me off on tomorrow’s morning commute.”

When we feel this way, we know it’s time to head back to the well. Think of all the places in Scripture where God compares His love, His mercy, His salvation to water. And not just any water — living water, water that moves. God’s strength is not a stagnant puddle sure to evaporate and disappear. It’s water you can keep coming back to. It’s water that never dries up.

Which is good news for us, because we never stop failing to do what we should, never stop failing to feel the joy and the compassion and the selflessness we are called to. We need a source of living water if we are going to ‘rejoice always.’ To be everyday stewards, we need a well that never empties.

The fountain of salvation never dries up. There is always more there for us to draw from. It’s a sign of His commitment — so let us, in turn, be committed to Him. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



Please remember in your prayers the souls of **Helen Petroski** and **Eileen Wencel** who were buried from our parish this week. May the Risen Lord welcome them to Paradise. May their families be consoled in the hope of the resurrection.



**QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - REFLECT AND
RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE**

First Reading: The words of the prophet Zephaniah focus on hope for a new beginning of the Lord’s presence in their midst. How has the season of Advent thus far brought you spiritual renewal?

Second Reading: As his letter draws to a close, Paul encourages the Philippians to be a community that rejoices in the Lord. How would you rate your own spiritual happiness?

Gospel: John the Baptist exhorted the crowds, tax collectors, and soldiers to live a moral and other-centered life within the parameters of their day-to-day work. What would this look like for you in your current station in life? ©LPi

**WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE
EXPLAINED**

Question: What is holy water and how do I explain the reason that it is placed at the entrances of churches to my non-Catholic friends?

Answer: Holy water is a sacramental, a reminder of the life of the Church expressed and celebrated through the sacraments. God’s grace is mediated through word and gesture (the outward signs). This comes to us through Jesus (instituted by Christ) as he entrusts to the Church his saving mission (to give grace). In turn the Church, through the sacraments, shares that grace and mission with us.

On Ash Wednesday, we receive ashes on our foreheads to remind us of our origins, humbly created from the dust. But by blessing ourselves with holy water, we are reminded of our destiny!



We are baptized sons and daughters of God. This is also a call to conversion, to live more fully our baptismal call to live as disciples of Jesus.

We see holy water whenever we renew our baptismal promises. This will occur during the Easter liturgy as well, reminding us that we are indeed on a journey of faith and renewed in Christ. Blessing ourselves with holy water reminds us that we are baptized into a community faith, and always in need of turning from sin and toward God. Holy water is a visible sign of our baptism! ©LPi

Please
Pray
for...



Norm Abramczyk
Louise Ames
Anna Axe
Joyce Babosh
Harry Bacalia
Sue Bacalia
Norma Bak
Violet Barrette
Bob Behmer
Bob Bellottie
Jim Bellottie
Vincent Bellottie
Judy Bennett
Sharon Bieniek
Cynthia Blaha
Marilyn Block
Evelyn Boettger
Aaron Boyless
Thomas J. Brennan, Jr.
Ken Butler
Joan Buzo
Jacob Cassar

Michaeline Chwastek
Richard Cline
Zoe Cossin
Betty Ann Crawford
Sylvia Cyncewicz
Tina Doney
Jason Dull & Family
Marsha Farmer
Geraldine Filippi
Cecil Fernandez
Tina Fernandez
Lisa Foster
Rose Fraley
Duane Glossa
Roseann Gomez
Bob & Lori Gonzales
Gary Graham Jr
Abigail Graves
Jennifer Hanna Green
Charlotte Gutierrez
Eileen Halpin
Annie Hapunowicz
Ronald Hetner
Tina Hovis
Sue Jagodka
Joanne Kacher
Norman Kaletto
Brenda Kaletto
Jeanine Kemp
Fr. Terry Kerner
Phyllis Kinnell

Evelyn Kisell
Joan Klimchalk
Chris Kovac
John Kovac
Jenene Kozinski
George Kramar
Patrica Lacopelli
Jennifer Lasky & Family
Joseph Lasky
Henry Lemmens
Guadalupe Madrigal
Phyllis Mareck
Donald Martin
Erin Martin
Patricia MCoy
Larry & Carol McGrew
Frank & Jane Mellnick
Linda Molek
Steven Monroe
Pat Mozdzen
Suzanne Nicholas
Gigi Novak
Daniel O'Connor
Diane Owens
John Palmer
Mary Pellegrini
Helen Petroski
Jimmy Piche
Kathleen Pietras
Mary Pike
Jeff Pingilley

Jess Pingilley
Linda Pingilley
Robert Pingilley
Sam Pingilley
Wayne Pingilley
Carol Regnier
Whitney Regnier
Noemia Reid
Linda Robb
Richard Roberts
Laura Salazar
Fred Sanscrainte
Matt Sanscrainte
Joann Sanscrainte
Dennis Scanland
Darlene Shannon
Phil Shannon
Rose Shannon
Jaxon Shubik
Margaret Smith
Jimmy Stecki
Gerald Stevens
Jim Tokarczyk
Laurie Trupp
Michael Wheelock
Eileen Winnie
The Wirick Family
Frank Wojcik
Stephen Zelle



Air Force

Matthew Thornton, Nicole Thornton,
Michelle Thornton, Brittany Mack,
Tiffany Kay Smith (Ladd), husband, Don Smith

Army

Josh Harpster, Zachary Robbins,
Robert Truchan, Anthony Lemieux,
Bryce Bieniek, Tony Pernicano, Jacob Grzebienik,
Matthew Hapunowicz

Marines

Joseph Krawzyk, 1st Lieutenant, Joseph McGinnis,
Corporal, Andrew Clark, 1st Lieutenant,
Cody S. Pratt, Luke Cohen, PFC 1st Class

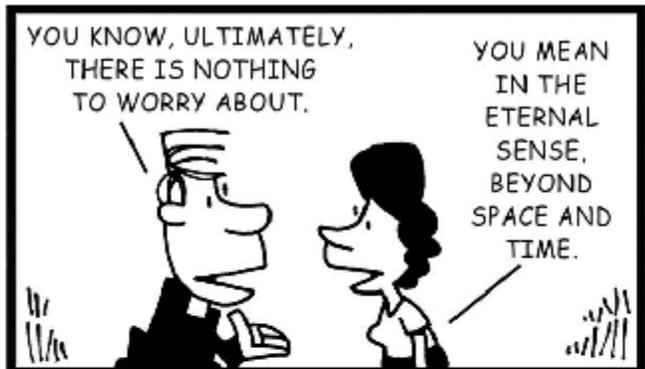
Navy

Ryan Detlor, Patrick Hanosh

Army National Guard

Vincent Nowak, Michael Dunne

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Throughout Advent, the Church invites us, especially through the liturgy, to meditate on the faithfulness of God to his promise of salvation and presence. In the final seven days of Advent, the rich Scriptural images used to reveal the Messiah are used at Evening Prayer, and are called the “**O Antiphons**” that ask God to send the long awaited deliverer into our hearts, the Church and the world, in a new and recreating way so that the Mystery of Christmas may truly be reborn in all.



O Wisdom (Dec. 17) pleads for the ancient wisdom of God to come and help us. God’s wisdom existed always (Prov. 8:22-36) and is the perfect mirror of divine activity (Wis.7:22-30) and orders all things (Wis. 8:1). This wisdom helps us to distinguish right from wrong as Solomon desired (1 Kgs. 3:9); she leaves her throne to come and save God’s people as in the Exodus (Wis. 18:13) and took flesh in Jesus (John 1:1-4) who presides at the new Creation (1 Cor. 1:24, Heb. 1:3).



O Adonai (Lord) and Ruler of the House of Israel (Mt. 2:6) (Dec. 18) who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush (Ex. 3:2) and gave the Law on Mt. Sinai (Ex. 20). In strength he comes to redeem God’s people as the Master (Jer. 32: 21). The term **Adonai** is translated as “Lord,” and is used in place of “Yahweh,” the Lord’s name that is not spoken out of reverence for his holiness and power. To speak his name renders him present, with his power.



O Root of Jesse (Dec. 19) as a symbol for all humanity (Is. 11:0) yet all kings shall be silent before him and all nations shall turn to him (Is. 52:15). As king, his presence safeguards the Covenant and manifests faithful service to God (2 Sam. 7:8-9) . He will comfort and restore all who are lost.



O Key of David and Scepter of the House of Israel (Dec. 20) with God’s power that none can oppose, he opens and closes with authority (Is. 22:22). He alone can deliver those imprisoned by darkness and death (Ps. 107:10). This is fulfilled in Christ’s death and Resurrection when sin was conquered and the Gates of Paradise, formerly shut to a fallen humanity, were opened. Christ’s grace assists us to overcome sin and temptation. The infidelity of David’s line (of kings) is transformed.



O Rising Dawn and Radiance of Light Eternal (Hab. 3:4) (Dec. 21) **and Sun of Justice** (Mal.3:20) On the shortest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, the Church cries out for the splendor of Divine Light to shine even in the darkness of the tomb (Lk. 1:78). No unworthy person (Ps. 27:1-13) can enter into the Light of God (Is. 9:1, Mic. 7:8) , for God alone judges light and dark, good and evil. His light will bring purification and healing (Lk. 1:78). From this day forward the light increases until the feast of John the Baptist (June 24), who said of Christ, “He must increase, I must decrease.”



O King of the Gentiles and Desire of All Nations (Hag. 2:8)/ **O Keystone** (Dec. 22) He alone unites Jews and Gentiles into one community (Ephes. 2:20). As the New Adam, he comes to save impoverished man whom he has fashioned from the clay of the earth (Gen. 2:7). Christ is the rock, the cornerstone upon which the salvation of humanity will be accomplished (Ps. 118; Is. 8:14, 28:16; Acts 4:11; 1 Pt. 2:4-7; Mk. 12:10). The Church asks the King of Glory to come and rule with justice and peace, and therefore to establish a new order where all will live according to God’s ways.



O Emmanuel (Dec. 23) **Our King and Lawgiver** (Gen. 49:10; Ezek. 21:32) **the Expected of Nations and their Savior** (Is. 33:22) whom the Church beseeches on behalf of all humanity to come and save us. Though God is always present to his Creation (Ps. 119, 148; Wis. 11:25) he comes in a new and profound way—in our flesh (Jn. 1:14). His coming was foretold (Is.7:14) and fulfilled by the Holy Spirit in Mary’s womb (Mt. 1:21; Lk. 1:28, 35). This presence abides with the Church (Mt. 28:20) until he returns in power and majesty as Judge of the Living and the Dead. As both God and man, he alone can set us free; in him, we see man fully alive, so that God may be all in all!

St. Vincent de Paul



Food Pantry

St. Maria Goretti Parish

Please drop off your donations on Mondays and Wednesdays between 12:00 and 2:00pm or call Matt at 313-595-1317

Here is the current list of needs for our pantry:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Coffee | Paper Towels and Toilet Paper |
| Canned Pears | Mixed Vegetables |
| Boil a Bag Rice | Spinach |
| Scalloped and Au Gratin Potatoes | |

Here we are, all rushing around for the holidays. Please do not forget your neighbors in need. We are in need of help at the Pantry. We're looking for a couple of people for Mondays and 2 for Wednesdays. We just keep growing. If you are able to help, please call Matt at 313-595-1317 for details. Thank you and a Merry Christmas to all.

Thank you so much for all you do. Monetary donations are always welcomed and needed as some of our neighbors are homeless. Thank you and God bless you and your families.

DAILY MARRIAGE TIP (from www.usccb.org)

- Shorter days in the winter can make people feel sluggish or even depressed, with negative effects on family life. Try to spend some time outdoors on sunny days and keep your home well-lit and cheerful this St. Nicholas Day.
- "Although they go forth weeping...They shall come back rejoicing." (Ps 126:6) Every marriage faces times of sorrow and weeping. Trust in the Lord's care for you as you await the promised time of rejoicing.

SIMPLY GIVE PROGRAM THROUGH MEIJER IN ALLEN PARK

Once again it's time for our **Simply Give Program** at Meijer. Beginning NOW thru January 1st, you can go to the Meijer Store on the hill in Allen Park, pick up a **Simply Give** donation card



located at every other register and donate a minimum of \$10.00 which Meijer will MATCH. On December 11th Meijer will DOUBLE your donation.

Please help us keep our shelves stocked and your neighbors fed throughout the year. We have seen quite an increase and surely could use your help.

This is the holiday season and we thank you for thinking of others in need.

— St. Maria Goretti's St. Vincent de Paul Pantry

ST. MARIA GORETTI LECTOR SCHEDULE				
	4:00pm	8:00am	10:00am	5:00pm
Dec. 11/12	Chris Bergeron	Pat Wallace	Pat Woodby	Betty Cayley
Dec. 18/19	Marge Taylor	Tom Koselka	Kathy Munoz	Francis Tofil

BULLETIN EDITOR
** bulletin@smgoretti.com **

All submissions are due 10 days before publication date.

The deadline for bulletin submissions is **2:00pm on Thursday, 10 days before the bulletin date.**

Exceptions occur when the bulletin is required to be sent early due to holidays.

Please plan ahead as submissions received past the deadline will be published in the following week's bulletin.

Submissions should be sent as a Word document (single spaced), PDF or photo format (JPEG, TIFF, GIF, PNG), attached to or in the body of an email

give online

Online giving makes it easy to give! You never have to bring envelopes, cash or checks to church. Giving electronically also helps the church save money and plan its budget.

There are no fees for on-line giving.

- ★ Visit the St. Maria Goretti website at www.stmariagorettiparish.com
- ★ Click on the Online Giving link on the left side of the home page.
- ★ Complete the registration form

Please feel free to call the Parish Office if you should have any questions or want to know more about Online Giving.

Your donations are vital to the success of our Parish community.

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

with Deacon Regis

Join us on

*Fridays at 3:00pm to pray the
Divine Mercy Chaplet on ZOOM.*

*To connect by computer use this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85478055945>*

*To connect by smart phone call
1 (312) 626 6799*

PARISH COMMISSIONS, COUNCILS AND GROUPS

Parish Council

Chairperson: Richard Fron

Co-Chairperson: Chris Bergeron

Secretary: Thomas Koselka

Members at Large: Barbara Balnius Mario Ferrante
Pat Wallace David Griswack Valerie Koselka
John O'Callaghan Marge Taylor Sandy VanAssche
Linda Wielkopolan

Worship Commission: David Griswack

Education/Formation Comm: Marge Taylor

Christian Svc. Commission: Cathy Nagle

Finance Council: Dianna Dunne

Ushers President: Dave Griswack
313.999.5144

ST. MARIA GORETTI PARISH DIRECTORY

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WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday: 4 p.m.

Sunday: 8 a.m., 10 a.m. & 5 p.m.

DAILY MASSES:

Monday through Friday: 8 a.m.

Monday Evening: 6:30pm

First Friday: 8 a.m. & 12 Noon

First Saturday: 8 a.m.

CONFESSIONS Saturday: 3 - 3:30 p.m. or by request

HOLIDAYS TIMES TO BE DETERMINED

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT Each Monday,
beginning at Noon, ending prior to 6:30pm Mass

BAPTISMS Contact Parish Office for arrangements.
Pre-Baptism Class required.

MARRIAGES Please contact Parish Office at least six (6)
months in advance.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

*Calls after hours should be limited to emergencies
only.*

Monday - Thursday: 9 am - 4 pm

(The office is closed daily for lunch Noon - 1 pm)

Friday: CLOSED for the time being

If you need to contact the parish office,
please call during regular business hours.
You can also reach the parish office by email:
parishoffice@smgoretti.com



Sunday, Dec 12, 2021 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Queen of Mercy, watch over us Often, we seek guidance, wondering like those around John the Baptist: What should we do? The answer's a simple one: show mercy. Our adversaries, family members, and we ourselves may be in need of such compassion. When La Virgen Morena (the Brown Virgin) appeared to Juan Diego in Mexico and left her image on his cactus-fiber cloak, her promise of mercy to all who appealed to her was sealed on the Americas. Our Lady of Guadalupe, now patroness of Mexico and empress of the Americas, extends her reign across two continents and around the globe. Respond with mercy today. **TODAY'S READINGS:** Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18 (9). "The crowds asked John the Baptist, 'What should we do?'"

Monday, Dec 13, 2021 MEMORIAL OF LUCY, MARTYR I can see clearly now In these darkening days of December, the Scandinavian festival of light held on Saint Lucy's feast day is a cheerful sight to brighten spirits. In these countries—and wherever Scandinavians are found—girls dress as Lucy in long white gowns with wreaths of candles on their heads, carrying sweets in procession as songs are sung. Similar practices can be found in Italy and Croatia. Whether you belong to those ethnicities or not, why not incorporate the festival into your family holiday traditions? Saint Lucy is the patron and protector of eyesight—ask her to help you focus yours, to see more clearly the coming of the radiant king. **TODAY'S READINGS:** Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27 (187). "By what authority are you doing these things? And who gave you this authority?"

Tuesday, Dec 14, 2021 MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH Carried by love Saint John of the Cross was named a doctor of the church for his profound, poetic writings on Christian mysticism. As a spiritual phenomenon, mysticism is difficult to explain. Central ideas, though, connect love and suffering. Today, pause to remember the tragic school shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary and contemplate this meditation by John and remember to love: "I saw the river over which every soul must pass to reach the kingdom of heaven, and the name of that river was suffering. And I saw a boat which carries souls across the river, and the name of that boat was love." **TODAY'S READINGS:** Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32 (188). "Then will I remove from your midst the proud braggarts, and you shall no longer exalt yourself."

Wednesday, Dec 15, 2021 ADVENT WEEKDAY Jesus, our justice and our peace The coming of Jesus into the world was ultimately the coming of true justice and peace. In today's psalm, these two virtues are said to have "kissed" when the Messiah arrived on Earth. What an incredible image! Every promise of God finds its yes in the One who frees us from sin and death. In the gospel reading, Jesus proves by his miraculous love that he is the long-hoped-for Messiah. Today, remember that as we anticipate Christmas, the fulfillment of all our hopes and dreams is the justice and peace of Jesus. Perhaps not what we expected, but what we need! **TODAY'S READINGS:** Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Luke 7:18b-23 (189). "Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven."

Thursday, Dec 16, 2021 ADVENT WEEKDAY Differently blessed Today's first reading refers to an idea repeated many times in the Bible: that children are a blessing from God. Catholic teaching on situations where bearing children is not possible is not the inverse, however. The church has never taught that infertility or any other limitation is a punishment or "curse" from God. To the contrary, Catholic tradition emphasizes that persons in every situation or condition deserve our full attention, respect, and caring concern. How can you practice empathy toward those whose family life has taken a less common direction? **TODAY'S READINGS:** Isaiah 54:1-10; Luke 7:24-30 (190). "Among those born of women, no one is greater than John; yet the least in the Kingdom of God is greater than he."

Friday, Dec 17, 2021 ADVENT WEEKDAY (O WISDOM) Make the wise choice Today the church begins to sing the O Antiphons to accompany the Advent evening prayer of Mary's Magnificat. These short, sung phrases remind us of our need for salvation and our desire to embody the divine characteristics of our Savior. Today we pray for knowledge. This is not the knowledge that wins arguments around the dinner table, but the knowledge that shines a light on who we are, where we came from, and what we are called to do. It is the knowledge that comes with discernment and brings us peace. May wisdom be our teacher. **TODAY'S READINGS:** Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17 (193). "O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation

with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!"

**LIVE THE LITURGY -
INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**

Saturday, Dec 18, 2021 ADVENT WEEKDAY (O SACRED LORD) Walk each other home The theme for this year's International Migrants Day is "Reimagining Human Mobility." U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres calls upon citizens of the world to "seize the opportunity of the recovery from the pandemic to implement safe, orderly, and regular migration and enable migrants to build more inclusive and resilient societies." Today's O Antiphon recalls the migration of Israel from Egypt to Palestine and asks God to guide the movement of peoples. Because we all can trace our ancestry back to migrating people at one time or another, it is appropriate today to pray for people on the move seeking new homes and new lives in new lands. TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25 (194). "And they shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God with us.'"

Shout for joy! When was the last time you ever felt like doing that? Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of joy. We can never predict what life will bring. As unsettling as that can often seem, life's unpredictability is also the very thing that allows it to be exciting and adventuresome! We know that life can be difficult, and it is unrealistic to expect it to be otherwise. God never promised an easy road. But, when a person truly falls in love with God and discovers the peacefulness and assurance of God's presence, then a depth of understanding will be brought to everything they do and experience. Nothing will be able to rob them of joy! When we realize that God, the King of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We celebrate the beauty and wonder of God's gift of joy today as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. There is a power and presence within us, our God, who has made us, who loves us and who will keep us. What more do we need? Rejoice! ©LPi

Come Lord Jesus and do not delay!

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