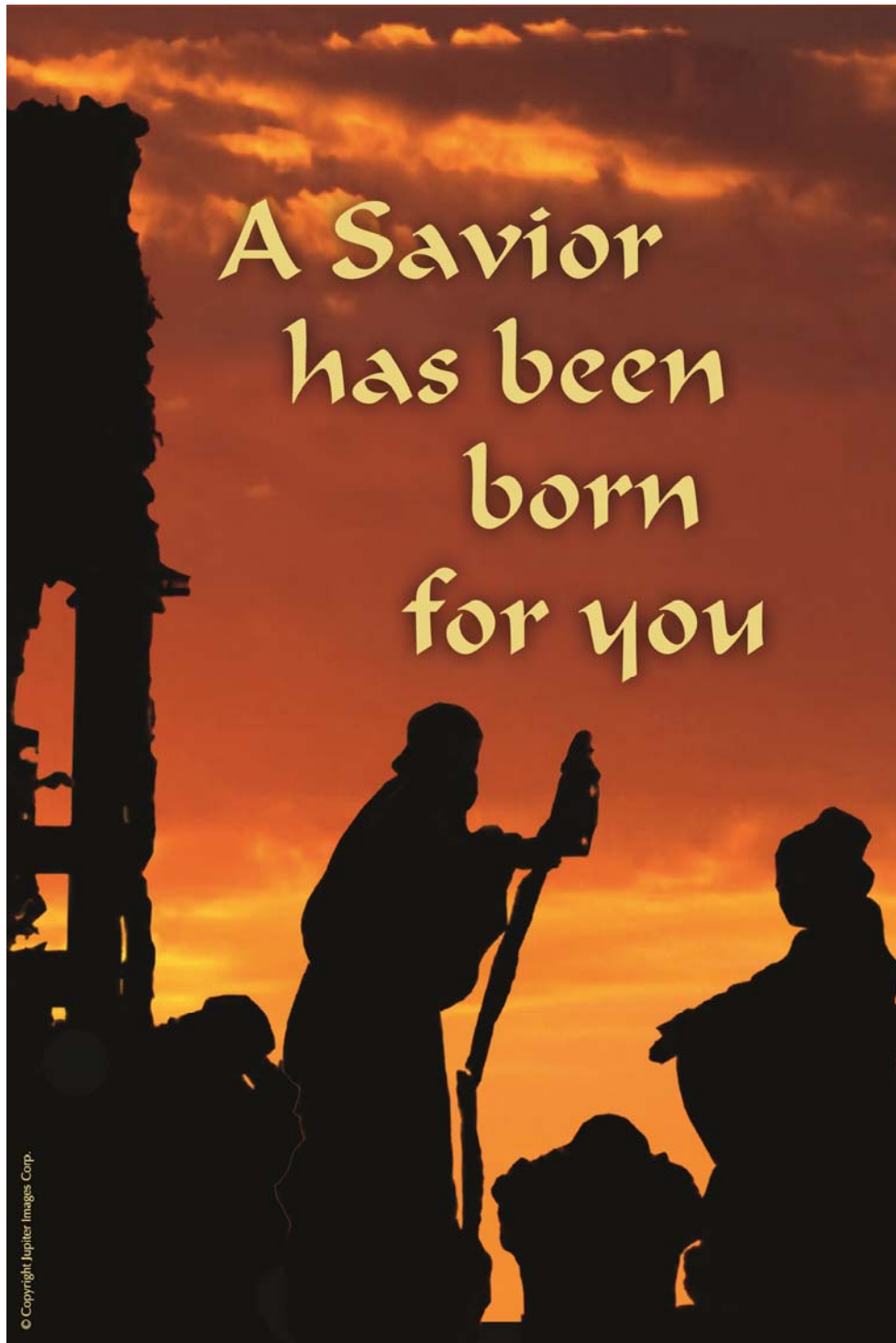




December 25, 2011
The Nativity of the Lord





Reflections From the Pastor

In the Tridentine Liturgy (before Vatican II), the gospel twice was proclaimed. The second proclamation came at the very end of the Mass and was known as the last Gospel. While the first gospel changed each Sunday, the second gospel remained the same. It was the prologue to the Gospel of John.

On Christmas Day the Church, as it celebrates the grand mystery of the Incarnation, proclaims the prologue to the Gospel of John. It is worth noting that for Christmas there are four separate liturgies with four different sets of readings: the Vigil of Christmas, Midnight Mass, the Mass at Dawn, and the Mass of the Day. Each Mass uses a different Gospel text. But what needs noting is that the various texts crescendo to the reading of St. John's Prologue, a meditation on the wondrous mystery of the Word of God becoming flesh among us.

The Second Vatican Council in the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy speaks of two moments in the Mass when one is invited to experience communion with and in the Lord: the celebration of His Word and the celebration of the Eucharist. For the Church, there is an essential link between the two that brings to the Mass its unity.

It is sad that all too often the feast of Christmas is cheapened by sentimentality. For some, it is reduced to simply the notion of a birthday. Then, there is the statue of Santa Kneeling at the crib of Baby Jesus. Somehow the sense of awe is lost—awe at the marvelous surprise that God (who has brought and continues to bring, all that is into existence by His Word) now, through that very Word, visits His people in the person of the Christ, the Word, Jesus of Nazareth.

Each and every time one comes to the Table of the Lord at Eucharist, one is called to enter into the awesomeness of the Incarnation, to truly experience a communion in the Lord—body, soul and divinity. I think it's no accident that a few pages into the Gospel of John (6) one comes to the "Bread of Life" passage that follows Jesus feeding the multitude. It is Jesus, Word made flesh, who now tells us "to eat of His flesh and drink of His blood". John tells us that many who had walked with Jesus as His disciples found these words of the Master too difficult to accept. As many who find these words difficult and troubling, as many also find difficult the mystery of the Word of God being enfleshed in our humanity in the person of Jesus. Beautiful and meaningful the song: "Ave Verbum, corpus natum de Maria, virgine!" (Hail Word of God, flesh born of Mary, the Virgin).

- Fr. Bill Conway

En la Litúrgia Tridentina (antes del Concilio Vaticano II), el evangelio fué proclamado por segunda vez. La segunda proclamación se dió al final de la Misa y se conocía como el último evangelio. Mientras que el primer Evangelio cambiaba cada Domingo, el segundo evangelio quedaba igual. Era el prólogo para el Evangelio de San Juan.

En el día de Navidad, la Iglesia, mientras celebra el gran misterio de la Encarnación, proclama el prólogo del Evangelio de San Juan. En Navidad, nada vale más la pena que, haya cuatro liturgias por separado con cuatro diferentes lecturas: la Vigilia de Navidad, Misa de Medianoche, la Misa de Alborada y la Misa del Día. Cada Misa usa un texto del Evangelio diferente. Pero lo que no necesita nada es que los variados textos en orden se dirigen a la lectura del Prólogo de San Juan, una meditación sobre el maravilloso misterio de la Palabra de Dios, que se vuelve carne entre nosotros.

El Segundo Concilio Vaticano, en la Constitución de la Sagrada Litúrgia habla de dos momentos en la Misa cuando se nos invita a experimentar la Comunión con y en el Señor: la celebración de Su Palabra en la celebración de la Eucaristía. Para la Iglesia, han sido un eslabón fundamental que le dan a la Misa su unidad.

Es triste que muy continuamente, la fiesta de Navidad se inunda de sentimentalismo. Para algunos se reduce simplemente a la noción de un cumpleaños. Entonces se tiene la idea de Santa arrodillándose en la cuna del niño Jesús. De alguna manera, el sentido de conciencia se ha perdido – conciencia de lo maravilloso que Dios nos ha traído y continúa dándonos a través de nuestra existencia con su Palabra, y en esa palabra Cristo nos visita en persona, la Palabra, Jesús de Nazareth.

Cada vez que venimos a la Mesa del Señor para recibir la Eucaristía, se nos invita a entrar en la conciencia de la Encarnación, para experimentar verdaderamente una comunión en el Señor – cuerpo, alma y divinidad. Yo creo que no es accidental que en algunas páginas del Evangelio de San Juan (6) llegamos al pasaje llamado “Pan de Vida” que sigue a Jesús alimentando a la multitud. Es Jesús, la Palabra hecha carne, quien nos dice “coman de Su carne y beban de Su sangre”. Juan nos dice que muchos de quienes han caminado con Jesús como Sus discípulos, encontraron estas palabras del Maestro, muy difíciles de aceptar. Así como muchos que encuentran esas palabras difíciles y problemáticas, también encontramos dificultad en el misterio de la Palabra de Dios, siendo encarnado en nuestra humanidad en la persona de Jesús. Hermoso y lleno de significado el canto: “Ave Verbum, Corpus natum de Maria, virgine!” (Santa Palabra de Dios, carne nacida de María, la Virgen)



SMALL TALK
By Rosemary Bleuher

KEEPING CHRISTMAS

Several years ago, I received a beautiful Christmas gift, a book written by Caroline Kennedy, “A Family Christmas”. There are many treasures throughout filled with poetry, prose and scriptural passages drawing on diverse authors. But each year I return to my favorite short story, Keeping Christmas, written by Henry Van Dyke. I want to gift you with just a part of this story today. I hope that it will enrich your heart and mind with the spirit of Christmas, as it has mine through the years.

“It is a good thing to observe Christmas Day. The mere marking of times and seasons when we agree to stop work and make merry together is a wise and wholesome custom. It helps one to feel the supremacy of the common life over the individual life. It reminds each of us to set our own little watch, now and then by the great clock of humanity.

But there is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day, and that is keeping Christmas.

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people and to remember what other people have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you and to think what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background and your duties in the middle distance and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your fellow men are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life; to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness—are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world – stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death – and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas.

*And if you keep it for a day, why not always?
But you can never keep it alone.”*

Christmas Blessings! May we all continue
KEEPING CHRISTMAS...



**Women's
Nite Out**

SAVE THE DATE!!

**READY OR NOT . . . 2011
WOMEN'S NITE OUT IS
“AROUND THE CORNER”**

**Monday, January 23rd
at 6:30 p.m. in the Pastoral Center**

We will be “Hoisting Our Sails” with Joan Murphy, R.N., Ph.D. Tickets will be sold after January 1st (\$20 for dinner and the evening).



Religious Formation News

The Religious Formation staff wishes all of our students and their families a very MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

As a reminder, the Religious Formation Office is closed until Tuesday, January 3rd. Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 4th. Have a wonderful winter break, students!



Reflecting on the Word

The RCIA team, sponsors, and catechumens continue on their spiritual journey of acceptance, conversion, and initiation. During this Advent Period, we have been carefully examining each Sunday's readings to discern what Scripture reveals about the coming of the Messiah. Like John the Baptist, we seek to "Make ready the way of the Lord, clear him a straight path". We invite the parish community to pray for our team and those journeying toward Christ and full acceptance into his Church. If you wish to journey with us, call Deacon Paul Newey at (630) 969-1532, ext.25.

Tuesday, January 3: *"Reflection on the Word"*

Presenter: Art Leamy

Joliet Area Young Adult Ministry Presents:

SEMI FORMAL NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE

A Party for Young Adults
in their 20s & 30s



Saturday, December 31st 8 pm
St Isaac Jogues Hinsdale IL
306 W. 4th Street Hinsdale 60521
Tickets: \$25 online, \$30 at the door
Dancing, mingling, food, beer & wine
Details and tickets available soon
<http://catholicyac.net/>



FOOD DRIVE

DECEMBER 31/ JANUARY 1

Our next food collection will take place the weekend of December 31/January 1 and will benefit the FISH food pantry. Their needs include canned meat products, peanut butter, soups, jello, canned fruits and vegetables, as well as formula and diapers, laundry and cleaning products, bar soap, and personal care items.

Thank you for your generous support of our monthly food drives!



Sunday, December 11 -
Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration—
Mass and Fiesta—2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 14 -
 Advent Penance Service—1:00 p.m.
 Advent Penance Service—7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 21 -
 Simbang Gabi Celebration—7:30 p.m.



*Christmas
 & New
 Year's
 Worship
 Schedule*

Saturday, December 24—Christmas Eve
 4:00 p.m.—Family Mass
 6:30 p.m.—Spanish Mass
 9:30 p.m.—Christmas Choir Concert
 10:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Mass

No Confessions
 No 5:00 p.m. Mass

Sunday, December 25—Christmas Day
 8:00 a.m.—Mass
 10:00 a.m.—Mass
 11:30 a.m.—Mass

Saturday, December 31— Eve Mary, Mother of God
Not a Holy Day of Obligation
 5:00 p.m.—Mass
 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.—Adoration of the
 Blessed Sacrament
 No Confessions



Saturday, December 10—3:30 p.m. to 4:40 p.m.

Wednesday, December 14 -
Penance Service—1:00 p.m.
Penance Service—7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 17—3:30 p.m. to 4:40 p.m.
 No Confessions on December 24th and 31st

**Sunday, January 1—Mary, Mother of God, New
 Year's Day**
 8:00 a.m.—Mass
 10:00 a.m.—Mass
 11:30 a.m.—Mass
 1:00 p.m.—Spanish Mass



**Christmas
 Office Hours**

The Parish Offices will be closed from Saturday, December 24th through Monday, January 2nd. We apologize for any inconvenience. The offices will re-open for regular hours on Tuesday, January 3rd. Thank you for your understanding.





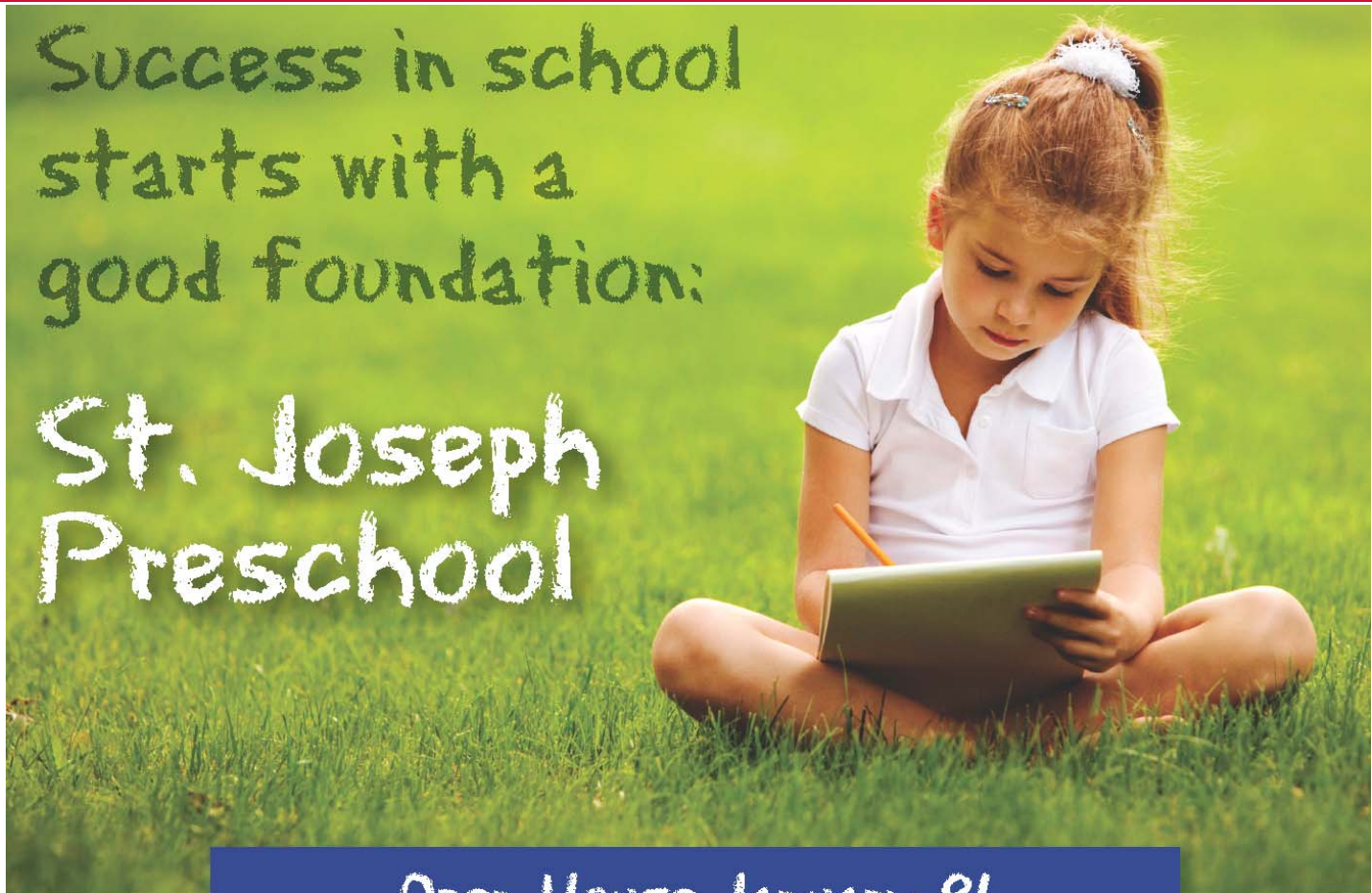
Diocese of Joliet
425 Summit St.
Joliet, IL 60435

FAMILY VOCATION NIGHT – The Diocese of Joliet Vocation Office, Bishop Conlon and St. Joseph Parish invite you to an evening entitled “The Family: Seedbed of Vocations” at St. Joseph Parish (4801 Main Street, Downers Grove). All people of all ages are invited to this wonderful event. Bring your entire family for an engaging evening to talk about God’s will in our lives.

- **Friday, January 6, 2012**
- 5:30pm Mass celebrated by Bishop Conlon, followed by light refreshments.
- After Mass there will be a panel discussion with seminarians, seminarian parents, and priests, followed by a talk by Fr. Burke Masters on the Holy Priesthood – Spiritual Fatherhood.
- Please RSVP to Antonia Summers at 630-964-0216 or antoniasummers@gmail.com so that we have enough refreshments.
- There is no cost for the event, but a free will offering can be made to support the seminarian formation programs.
- We will discuss the following questions:
 - Why would I want my son or daughter to be a priest, brother or sister?
 - What is it like for a parent to have a son in the seminary?
 - How do we hear God’s voice in this noisy world?

HOLINESS RETREAT – The Diocese of Joliet and the Archdiocese of Chicago are co-sponsoring a retreat entitled “Men Seeking Holiness” for men ages 18-35 (single or married) from **December 27 (5:00 pm) until December 29 (noon), 2011**. This is not just a vocation retreat, but for all young men who desire to grow in holiness and their relationship with Jesus Christ. Cost is \$30.

The retreat will be held at the St. Charles Borromeo Pastoral Center in Romeoville at the corner of Route 53 and Airport Road. Men will have the opportunity to hear talks about growing in holiness, prayer and discerning their vocation. There will be plenty of time for personal prayer as well as sharing with other men seeking to grow in holiness. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Burke at frburke23@aol.com or 815-834-4004. Registration deadline is December 26, 2011.



Success in school
starts with a
good foundation:

St. Joseph
Preschool

Open House January 8!

Our preschool curriculum is based on the idea that children learn best in a fun, engaging and faith-building environment. Providing opportunities for exploring and discovering through hands-on activities is an important part of the learning process. Both teacher-directed and child-initiated activities are used to cover all areas of development, including:



- Motor skills
- Language arts
- Reading
- Math
- Art and music
- Science
- Religion
- Social activities

Now Enrolling!
2012-2013 CLASSES

Pre-K for three-year-olds:
Tuesday & Thursday, 8:30 - 11:00 am

Pre-K for four-year-olds:
Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 8:30 - 11:00 am

Please call Colleen White at 630-916-9718 to learn more or schedule a tour.



4801 Main Street, Downers Grove
630-969-4306

www.stjosephdg.org/preschool



Year-To-Date Goal	\$346,200.00
Actual YTD Contributions	308,062.65
Contributions Dec. 11, 2011	
Envelopes	10,364.00
Loose	1,296.74
E-Giving	<u>1,118.00</u>
Total Tithe Contributions	12,778.74
Blue Envelopes Dec. 11, 2011	564.00

Please remember the good works of our Parish in your will. Contact Fr. Conway for information on how you can accomplish this.



PRAY FOR OUR

MILITARY

If you have family members currently serving in any branch of the Armed Forces overseas, we would like to include their names in our weekly bulletin so that parishioners could include them in their prayers. Please submit their names with branch of service to bulletin@divinesavior.net. Please notify us when the service person returns home.

WE PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS:

- ★ Greg Jablonski—Army, Iraq
- ★ Jeremiah Curtis—Taji, Iraq
- ★ Gerardo Serriteno—Army, Afghanistan
- ★ David Blazina—Army, Qatar
- ★ Janene A. Marshall-Gatling—Army, Afghanistan
- ★ Jerry Koltz—Army, Afghanistan
- ★ Christopher Welch—Army, Afghanistan
- ★ Kristopher Bosi—Marines, Afghanistan

Today we celebrate anew the birth of Jesus. He is the Son of God, the Word of God, through Whom all things were created. Let us rejoice in the Lord and be glad.

			
Saturday, December 31 5:00 PM			
Sunday, January 1 8:00 AM			
Sunday, January 1 10:00 AM			
Sunday, January 1 11:30 AM			
Sunday, January 1 1:00 PM (Spanish Mass)			

PLEASE SIGN
 UP IN BACK
 OF CHURCH
 FOR ALL
 MASSES

***Vocations are born
in the family. The priests,
sisters and brothers
of tomorrow are
being born in our local
hospitals and playing
in our own backyards.***



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
- Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Mt 2:13-18
- Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
- Friday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]
- Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18
- Sunday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Mass Intentions



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Monday, December 26-Saint Stephen, first martyr

8:30 AM— † Priscila Cubacub

Tuesday, December 27-Saint John, apostle and evangelist

8:30 AM— † Innocenza Ledonne

Wednesday, December 28-The Holy Innocents, martyrs

8:30 AM— † Ann Antkowiak
† Rita Mary Walsh

Thursday, December 29-The Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas

8:30 AM— † Una Walters

Friday, December 30-The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

8:30 AM— † Joseph Kosin

Saturday, December 31-Vigil: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

5:00 PM— For the People of God

Sunday, January 1-Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

8:00 AM— For a Blessed New Year
10:00 AM— For a Blessed New Year
11:30 AM— For a Blessed New Year
1:00 PM— For a Blessed New Year

Monday, December 26, 2011

Office Closed

Tuesday, December 27, 2011

Office Closed

Wednesday, December 28, 2011

Office Closed

Thursday, December 29, 2011

Office Closed

Friday, December 30, 2011

Office Closed

Saturday, December 31, 2011

Food Drive [FISH]		N
AA Meeting	6:30 AM	PC
Adoration following 5:00 p.m.		
Mass until 10:00 p.m.		C

Sunday, January 1, 2012

Food Drive [FISH]		N
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KEY: A=Away; C=Church; CR=Conference Room; G=Grounds; M=Mass; MSR=Mother Seton Room; N=Narthex; PC=Pastoral Center; RB=Rectory Basement



Contacting the Parish

The Parish Office is open Monday-Wednesday from 8:00 AM - 8:30 PM (closed 12:30 to 1:00), Thursday from 8:00 AM - 2:30 PM (closed 12:30 to 1:00), Friday 9:00 AM—1:00 PM. Closed on Saturday and Sunday.

PARISH OFFICE: 6700 Main Street
Downers Grove, IL 60516-2799
630-969-1532
FAX: 630-969-1724
e-mail - Parish@divinesavior.net

Fr. William J. Conway, Pastor, ext. 24

FrBillConway@divinesavior.net

Fr. Robert E. Pietras, Pastor Emeritus

Fr. John Tapper, Weekend Associate

Deacon Paul Newey, Pastoral Associate, ext. 25

DeaconPaul@divinesavior.net

Rosemary Bleuher, Director of Adult Enrichment, ext. 28

Rosemary@divinesavior.net

Janet Alikpala, Associate Director of Music, ext. 34

Janet@divinesavior.net

Daniel Garcia, Custodian, ext. 21

Parish@divinesavior.net

Susan Hartig, Business Manager, ext. 23

Sue@divinesavior.net

Tracy O'Brien, Parish Secretary, ext. 21

Tracy@divinesavior.net

Gloria Pirkins, Evening Secretary, ext. 21

Gloria@divinesavior.net

Dee Sinclair, Facilities Manager, ext. 21

Dee@divinesavior.net

The Religious Formation office is open Monday—Thursday 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. and during class times on Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION OFFICE:
630-969-1673
FAX: 630-969-0201
e-mail - ReligiousEd@divinesavior.net

Mark Hoffmeyer, Director of Religious Formation, ext. 32

Mark@divinesavior.net

Linda Burke, Administrative Assistant/Registrar,— ext. 31

Linda@divinesavior.net

Cathi Loris, Program Coordinator, Grades 1-8—ext. 30

Cathi@divinesavior.net

Cheryl Steed, Program Preschool Coordinator—ext. 29

Cheryl@divinesavior.net

ADDITIONAL E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Office: Parish@divinesavior.net
Bulletin: Bulletin@divinesavior.net
Religious Ed: ReligiousEd@divinesavior.net
Lectors: Lectors@divinesavior.net
Eucharist Min.: EM@divinesavior.net
Servers: Servers@divinesavior.net

WEB SITE:
<http://www.divinesavior.net>

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8:30 AM
SATURDAY: 5:00 PM
SUNDAY: 8:00 AM
10:00 AM
11:30 AM
1:00 PM (Spanish Mass)

HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Check website or call Parish Office for Mass times

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION SCHEDULE

SATURDAY: 3:30-4:40 PM and by appointment

PARISH REGISTRATION

Stop in the Parish Office during regular business hours to register as a Divine Savior Parishioner.

BAPTISMS

Once a month at Sunday Mass. Arrangements must be made two months in advance. Parental preparation requires registration in the Parish, active Saturday or Sunday participation in Parish Worship and attendance at Baptismal Preparation meetings. Please call the office to make arrangements.

MARRIAGES

Arrangements for celebration of marriage must be made with the Pastor at least six months in advance. Weddings are not scheduled on Sundays.

COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Ministers of Care are available to bring Communion to the homebound. Please call Parish Office.

RCIA

Anyone seeking information about becoming a fully participating member of the Catholic Faith should contact the Parish Office. Classes begin in September.