

## Mass Intentions

(+Deceased, L-Living)



**February 25—March 2, 2024**

### Sunday, February 25

8am People of Holy Spirit  
Catholic Church  
9:30am + Becky Campbell  
11am + Shirley Zemansky

### Monday, February 26

9am + Connie Raupach

### Tuesday, February 27

9am (L) Nicholas Brancato  
+ Franco Patino

### Wednesday, February 28

9am + Ken Sloup

### Saturday, March 2

4:30pm + Mameltha Hur

## HSCC 2023 Contribution Statements



To receive a 2023 Contribution Statement, please email your request to Kathy Mackowiak at [KMackowiak@hsc.us](mailto:KMackowiak@hsc.us). Your statement will be emailed to you, or you may pick it up at the parish office during regular office hours.

## Please Pray For

**All those who are in our hearts facing illness.**

*We ask our Lord Jesus Christ to bring healing, comfort, and peace to them. Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of His love. Amen*

**All those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith.**

*O Lord, may they find light, happiness and peace in Your presence. Amen.*

**Our Parishioners who serve our country with pride and valor.**

**All first responders and law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line to keep us safe at home.**



**Vocations** (Prayer for Vocations by Pope Francis)

*God our Father, You made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ. We ask that you inspire young people whom You call to priesthood and consecrated life to courageously follow Your will. Send workers into Your great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, and Your people are strengthened by the sacraments. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*



**A new leadership plan, based on THE AMAZING PARISH, is in the making here at Holy Spirit!**

THE AMAZING PARISH is a leadership coaching and consulting organization which assists Catholic leaders in transforming their parishes well beyond maintenance into mission-oriented, thriving faith communities.

Since its founding in Colorado in 2013, The Amazing Parish has been committed to supporting pastors and their leadership teams as they strive to live Christ's great commission to "Go and make disciples of all nations." It is about creating cultures of healthy teamwork, active discipleship and unceasing prayer.

Several Dioceses across the country, including the Diocese of Joliet, and a growing number of parishes are joining this effective model of leadership as an alternative to parish councils.

More information will be in next weekend's bulletin and on the parish website.

We encourage you to visit THE AMAZING PARISH website – [www.amazingparish.org](http://www.amazingparish.org).



## From the Pastor's Desk...

### SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

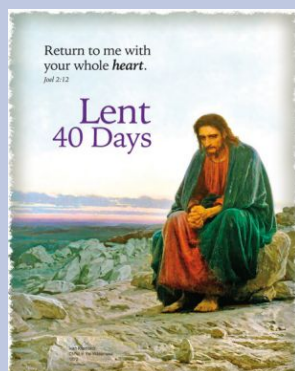
Dear Parishioners:

Once again as we gather on this Second Sunday of Lent, the Gospel today reminds us of the great moment of Transfiguration on Mt. Tabor. We recall the vision of Jesus in his radiant glory! Peter, James and John had witnessed wonderful things so far on their journey with Jesus; healings, miracles, reconciliations, exorcisms. And they heard many powerful teachings that would change their lives forever. But Jesus reminds them that there was still some trial, agony, pain and torture to come in their journey. They would have to go back on their journey and carry their cross, but Jesus would walk with them.

This great moment of the Transfiguration is a wonderful time to remember the Lord is always with us. It is also a time to remember what the Lord's passion and death won for us: victory over sin and death and the gift of eternal life.

I thought this might be a good moment to reflect on some of the practices that we should hopefully remember to do when we gather in the Lord's presence at mass. First, when we enter our sacred space, the Church, we always make the sign of the cross with holy water at the door. This reminds us that we are a follower of Jesus, a baptized follower. And we must remember to be faithful to him and continue to witness to Jesus in all we say and do. Then when we gather to our seat, we always genuflect to the altar and cross in the sanctuary, especially when the tabernacle is in the center. This is a gesture of great humility but also adoration; that we are in the presence of the Lord Most High.....the real presence. For those who can't kneel, a bow is sufficient. Christ suffered, died and rose from the dead; this fact is worthy of every bit of reverence from us. You will notice the priest and deacon too genuflect when approaching the sanctuary and still more they both venerate and kiss the altar at the start of every mass. This is because the altar too is a symbol for Christ. Yes, Christ is all around us, leading us.....guiding us on our journey in faith to the cross, tomb and one day, eternal life! As I pray for you, please pray for me.

Fr. John, Pastor



## Lenten Regulations

- Everyone 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.
- All from the age of 18 years up to the beginning of their 60th year are bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- On these two days of fast and abstinence, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.
- To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is sinful.
- Lent is the principal season of penance in the Church year. Therefore, all of the faithful are strongly urged to develop and follow a program of voluntary self-denial. All Catholics are encouraged to support generously the charitable works of the whole Church, pray and perform works of charity and mercy.
- Those who are sick, pregnant, or nursing, or whose health would adversely be affected by fasting or abstinence, should not consider themselves bound by these norms.



February 28 & 29

**HSCC will be serving dinner on Wednesday, Feb 28 and breakfast Thursday morning, Feb 29, plus provide bag lunches. We are in need of volunteers to provide and/or deliver food, or serve meals. To volunteer scan the QR code below or see the parish website.**

**Bring food donations to the Parish Hall/Meeting space by 4pm, Monday Feb 26.**

For more information, contact  
Danielle Plotke:  
(preferred) text 630-877-7951 or  
email, [dplotke@gmail.com](mailto:dplotke@gmail.com)



### Stations of the Cross

Fridays 7:00pm, February 16– March 22

### Fish Fry Fridays– Knights of Columbus

5pm-7:30pm; March 1 and March 22

### Lenten Individual Confessions

Saturdays 3:30pm– 4:00pm

Sunday, March 17 after the 11am Mass until all are heard. (*Multiple priests will be available.*)

No Confessions on Saturday, March 23 and Holy Saturday, March 30

### Eucharistic Talk– “Presence” (3– Part Series)

Fr. John Sponder & Deacon John Finn

12:30pm-2pm

Sundays: February 25, March 10, March 17



### Lenten Speaker– Fr. Dan Torson, ‘Come to the Feast’

Tuesday, February 27th, 7-8pm; refreshments to follow

**Holy Hour and Adoration** Sunday, March 3, 12:15pm-1:15pm

**Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit** March 8-11 in the Narthex

**Men of Christ Conference** Saturday, March 9, 7am-1pm

**St. Joseph’s Table** Saturday, March 16 after 4:30pm Mass

## Holy Week and Easter

*At Holy Spirit*

**Saturday, March 23** (*Palm Sunday anticipatory*)  
(*No Confessions*) Mass, 4:30 pm

**Sunday, March 24 – Palm Sunday**  
Masses 8am, 10am, 12noon

**Monday, March 25**  
Mass, 9:00am

**Tuesday, March 26**  
Mass, 9:00am + Adoration until 12noon  
Tenebrae Service, 7:00pm

**Wednesday, March 27**  
Mass, 9:00am

**Thursday, March 28 Holy Thursday**  
Mass, 7:00pm  
*Adoration following mass until 10pm in Narthex*

**Friday, March 29 Good Friday**  
Stations of the Cross - 3:00pm  
Celebration of the Lord’s Passion/  
Veneration of the Cross – 7pm

**Saturday, March 30 Holy Saturday**  
Blessing of the Easter Baskets – 10am  
Easter Vigil Mass – 7:00pm  
*No Confessions will be heard on Holy Saturday*

**Easter Sunday Mass Schedule, March 31, 2024**  
8am, 10am, 12 noon



# Bishop Hicks' Column

February 2024

## PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND



**WHAT DO WE DO WHEN WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO?**

Throughout the journey of our lives, we all experience moments of uncertainty, ambiguity, or indecision. We can feel small, inadequate, and almost paralyzed as we face looming problems ranging

from our own personal issues to worldwide crises.

Grounded in faith, Saint Francis of Assisi wisely taught that when we do not know what to do, we should “pray, obey, and love.” Our Catholic tradition reflects his wise counsel.

**PRAY** In the good times and bad, we turn to God in prayer. Through prayer, we realize that we are not the center of the universe, as we raise our hearts and minds to God. As Jesus taught, “For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26).

**OBEY** While prayer is the proper first step, it should not end there. We also need to be obedient to God, always discerning: What is the best response according to God’s command, law, and divine will?

**LOVE** However we respond to problems, our actions should always reflect Christ’s love, specifically following the greatest commandment: “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind... and you shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22: 37–39).

Since October 2023, the conflicts in the Holy Land have escalated into a horrible war. Most of us follow the news with broken hearts and feel helpless.

Recently, I attended a dinner in Chicagoland (*photo above*) at which His Beatitude Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, spoke about the realities in the Holy Land.

Born in Italy in 1965, Cardinal Pizzaballa entered the Franciscan Order. He serves as the Latin Patriarch and Archbishop of Jerusalem. On January 27, 2024, we gathered at a dinner hosted by the Arab American Catholic Community (AACC), which exists to unite and support Catholic Arabs within the United States. In attendance were also many Knights and Dames from the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre. Its mission includes supporting and promoting the Holy Land and protecting the Christian presence there. I am humbled to

belong to this ancient and noble order and am proud to witness the local members’ dedication and commitment to this mission.

Known for his constant efforts to promote solidarity, cultural and historical preservation, interreligious dialogue, and embrace and advocate for peace, justice, and reconciliation, Cardinal Pizzaballa’s 45-minute presentation literally quieted the entire banquet room, as even the waitstaff stopped to listen to his every word. He called for a ceasefire and spoke of the Catholic Church’s boundless efforts to provide food, shelter, housing, healthcare, and spiritual care for those affected by the war.

He also prophetically commented that instead of striving for peace in the current war, both sides unfortunately are fighting only for victory — a victory that clearly delineates a winner and a loser. “Peace is not victory,” said Cardinal Pizzaballa. “It is the willingness on both sides to give something up for the greater good.”

He spent a lot of time laying the foundation for the need for true peace, a peace which is reflected only in Jesus. He reminded us that peace is not the absence of conflict. Instead, it includes the presence of justice, reconciliation, discernment of God’s will, and the desire for the common good.

This Lent, as we prepare ourselves to enter this season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, you might consider donating to a reputable organization or charity that aids and services to those in need in the Holy Land; some suggestions are included at the bottom of this article. Also, on Good Friday, throughout the Diocese of Joliet, a collection will be taken up to support the work of the Franciscans working in the Holy Land.

The Holy Land holds a powerful place in our hearts and in salvation history. It is where Jesus was born, grew up, taught, prayed, performed miracles, suffered, died, and was resurrected. In solidarity, let us join Cardinal Pizzaballa’s call for an end to the violence and for a just and lasting peace in the Holy Land as we turn to God with prayer, obedience, and love.

Jesus, Prince of Peace, pray for us.

### Holy Land Humanitarian Agencies

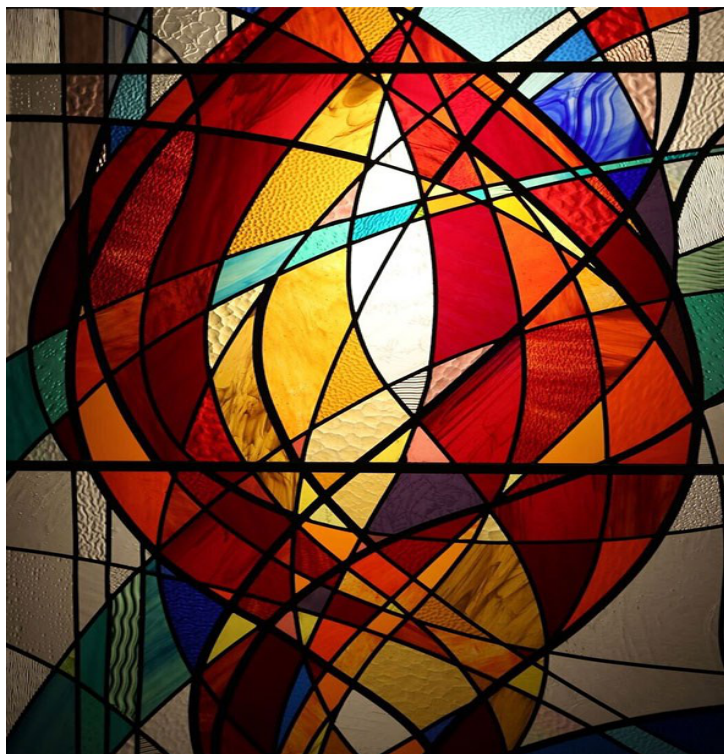
- Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher Humanitarian Fund
- Catholic Relief Services (U.S. arm of Caritas International)
- Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land Humanitarian Programs
- Catholic Near East Welfare Association
- Emergency Holy Land Fund



Scan the QR code for links or visit [diojoliet.org](http://diojoliet.org)

## DIOCESE OF JOLIET





## This Week's Meetings

### February 25—March 2, 2024

#### Sunday, February 25

9:30am OCIA, Multipurpose Rm  
12:30pm Adult Faith Formation/Presence, Gathering Place

#### Monday, February 26

2pm Bible Study Core Team, Gathering Place

#### Tuesday, February 27

7pm Adult Choir, Church  
7pm Adult Faith Formation/Why a Eucharistic Revival, Gathering Place

#### Wednesday, February 28

9:30am AM Bible Study, Gathering Place  
5pm Youth Choir, Church

#### Thursday, February 29

10am Gathered in Prayer, Chapel

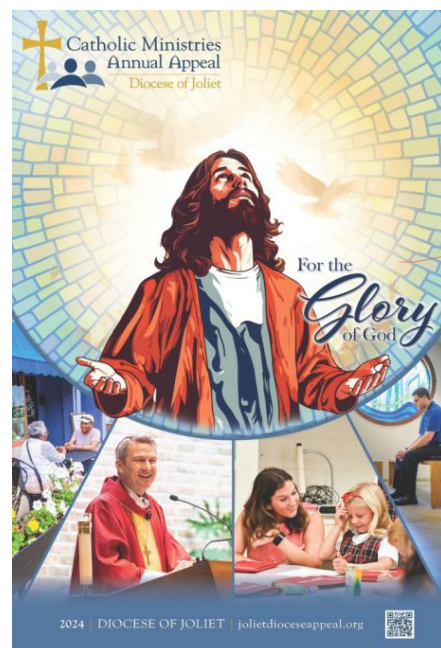
#### Friday, March 1

5pm Fish Fry, Gathering Place  
7pm Stations of the Cross, Church

#### Saturday, March 2

6:30am Men's Ministry, Multipurpose Rm  
7am TMIY, Gathering Place

See the parish website for all upcoming event information; [www.hscc.us](http://www.hscc.us)



## 2024 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal

As the Diocese of Joliet launches the 2024 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA), we are humbly asking all parishioners to pledge their support for this important effort, as together we can make a profound difference.

This year's CMAA theme is *For the Glory of God*. Through our support, we ensure that the mission and ministries of Christ's Church are available to everyone. Together, we can help provide safe shelter for the homeless, feed the physical and social needs of those who are hungry, inspire those discerning a life of vocation, and aid in the education of our next generation of Catholics. Our parish could not accomplish all of this on its own, but together through the appeal we can do so much more.

**Our parish's goal for the 2024 CMAA is \$99,000 and 70 percent of any amount we raise over our goal will be returned to us and used fruitfully within our own parish.**

Please review the materials you receive in the mail from the Diocese of Joliet this month and prayerfully reflect on your gift to this year's annual appeal.

If you do not receive a CMAA mailing, please contact the parish office. Thank you!





# Parish Information

## Mass Schedule

### **Weekdays:**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday... 9am

### **Weekend:**

Saturday...4:30pm

Sunday...8am, 9:30am, and 11am

## Adoration

Tuesdays, following the 9am mass until 12 noon.

## Sacraments

### **Reconciliation**

Saturday, 3:30pm -4:00pm

### **Baptisms**

12:30pm on the 2nd Sunday of each month unless otherwise noted

### **Weddings**

Please contact the parish office

## Parish Office Hours

**Monday - Thursday** 8am to 4:30pm

(closed 12noon-1pm)

**Friday** 8am to 1pm

## Parish Priests

**Pastor**, Rev. John Sponder

frjohn@hssc.us

**Parochial Vicar**, Rev. Richard Smith

frsmith@hssc.us

## Permanent Deacons

Dcn. Eric Alvarez, deaconeric@hssc.us

Dcn. Steve Boffa, deaconsteve@hssc.us

Dcn. John Finn, deaconjohn@hssc.us

Dcn. Tim Roberts, deacontim@hssc.us

## Music Ministry, ext 8

Music Director, Christina Eubank

ceubank@hssc.us

Adult Choir Director, Debbie Dujsik

ddujsik@hssc.us

Youth Choir Director, Sadie Wynne

swynne@hssc.us

## Adult Faith Formation & OCIA, ext 7

Roberta Balsewicz,

rbalsewicz@hssc.us

## Religious Education

Coordinator Grades 1-5

Lauren Nelson, ext. 61

lnelson@hssc.us

Coordinator Grades 6-8

Kim Kroeze, ext. 62

kkroeze@hssc.us

## Business & Administration Office

### **Business Manager**

Leslie Doherty, ext. 91

ldoherty@hssc.us

### **Administrative Assistant**

Kathy Mackowiak, ext 92

kmackowiak@hssc.us

### **Parish Administrative Assistant**

Lisa Brancato, ext 93

lbrancato@hssc.us

### **Maintenance**

Victor Velazquez

maintenance@hssc.us

## Consider Electronic Giving

Interested in moving to electronic donation versus envelopes, and don't know where to start?

For information and to select the option that works best for you, go to the parish website, [www.hssc.us/donation](http://www.hssc.us/donation).



- Automatic Debit or Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)
- WeShare OnLine Giving
- Donating Stock
- QR Code (one time or reoccurring offering)



*It is with grateful hearts, we thank you for your continued support of the parish.*

## Parish Stewardship

Monthly Offering	# of Donors	Jan-24
WeShare Online Giving	106	\$14,511
Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)	159	\$18,018
Envelopes & Loose Cash	176	\$62,558
<b>Total January Collection</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>\$95,087</b>

### **Special Collections - Jan 2024**

Church in Latin America	\$801
Mortgage Donations	\$27,218

HSCC Mortgage	Date	Balance
Original Mortgage Loan	1/1/2005	\$3,590,755
<b>Current Loan Balance</b>	<b>2/25/2024</b>	<b>\$248,203</b>

Diocesan is proud to be printing

# Holy Spirit's Sunday Bulletin

You are invited to help support our Parish!

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