



A voice of one crying out in the desert,  
'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths.'

Matthew 3:3

## MASS SCHEDULE

### WEEKEND

**Saturday**  
4:30pm

**Sunday**  
8:00am, 9:30am,  
11:00am

### WEEKDAY

**Monday-Thursday**  
9:00am

### CONFESSION

**Saturday**  
3:30-4:00pm

### ADORATION

**Tuesdays**  
9:30am-10:30am

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

**M- Thurs** 8:00am-4:30pm  
**Friday** 8:00am-1:00pm

**DECEMBER 7, 2025**

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### OUR MISSION

Holy Spirit Catholic Church exists to  
bring people into a heartfelt  
relationship with Jesus Christ.



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# From the Pastor's Desk: Advent Reflections Second Sunday of Advent

✦



"I am not getting out of here alive. Prepare Yourself." It is hard to believe, but these were the very words Carlo Acutis told his own mother as she drove him to the hospital for the last time. After a short life of 15 years, Carlo Acutis, who loved the Lord Jesus deeply, eventually succumbed to Leukemia and died. Beatified in 2020, it was with great joy that the Church celebrated his canonization as a saint in October. Carlo was a great witness of faith to all those who knew him, including his own mother, who came back to her faith and to the Church because of him. And through his devotion to the Eucharist through his website documenting Eucharistic miracles throughout the world, Carlo continues to help us in our faith and prepare us one day to meet the Lord ourselves.

The Scriptures today remind us, however, that it was St. John the Baptist who began the time of preparation for the coming of the

Lord. Once again we remember that it was John who cried out to all who would come to him: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." Today, that cry is for us too. Once again, John encourages us to look deep at our lives and way of living and perhaps make changes. Straighten things out. For some this might mean changing some bad habits, or changing words and thoughts we might say or think. In all cases it means getting rid of anything in our life that blocks the way to Christ.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation can help. This year we will offer the sacrament on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> with several priests on hand to help us prepare. If you have been away from confession, perhaps now is a good time to return and "clear the path." For the Lord is coming. And he comes at a moment we do not expect. Prepare and be at your very best!!

-Fr. John





# PRAY WITH US

## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

**Saturday, December 6**

4:30 pm + Minnie Zapolsky

**Sunday, December 7– Second Sunday of Advent**

8:00 am People of Holy Spirit Catholic Church

9:30 am + Charlie Kirk

11:00 am + Joyce Skortz

**Monday, December 8– The Immaculate Conception  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

9:00 am People of Holy Spirit Catholic Church

7:00 pm + Fred Miller

**Tuesday, December 9– St. Juan Diego**

9:00 am + The Deceased Members of the Chinnici  
Family and Intentions of Dominic Gallo

**Wednesday, December 10– Our Lady of Loreto**

9:00 am + Ronald Weimer

**Thursday, December 11– St. Damasus I**

9:00 am + Betty Flach Roark

**Friday, December 12– Our Lady of Guadalupe**

7:00 pm People of Holy Spirit Catholic Church

The Knights of Columbus Council 15037 cordially invites all parishioners to participate in a celebration honoring the Patroness of the Americas.

**FEAST DAY OF  
OUR LADY OF  
GUADALUPE**

**FRIDAY,  
December 12, 2025**

Rosary at 6:30 P.M.  
Mass at 7:00 P.M.

**PRESENTATION**  
Our Lady will receive roses during the Mass.

**PROCESSION**  
All participants will move to the Narthex for a final prayer and fellowship where we will share some refreshments and desserts.

**Holy Spirit Catholic Church**

## HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION MONDAY, DECEMBER 8th

**Monday, December 8, 2025,**

is the Solemnity of the  
Immaculate Conception  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
a Holy Day of Obligation.



**Masses will be celebrated at  
9:00am and 7:00pm.**

*Music to Celebrate Christmas*

**Christmas Eve**

**3:00 PM Mass**  
Members of the Youth Choir, Parents, and RE students join in the celebration of Carols and Hymns to celebrate the birth of Christ  
Accompanied by Piano, Organ, and Strings

**5:00 PM Mass**  
Chris Eubank (Director of Music) and Ed Eubank will lead carols and hymns accompanied by Piano/Organ

**9:15 PM Carol Concert**  
Members of the Adult Choir, Cantors, and the Instrumental Ensemble will perform Carols and Songs before Mass

**10:00 PM Mass**  
Our Adult Choir and Cantors will lead the congregation in glorious hymns to welcome the birth of our Lord  
Accompanied by Piano/Organ and Instrumental Ensemble

**Christmas Day**

**9:30 AM Mass**  
Members of the Adult Choir and the Instrumental Ensemble will lead the congregation in glorious hymns to welcome the birth of our Lord  
Accompanied by Piano/Organ and Instrumental Ensemble

**11:00 AM Mass**  
Music for the Mass will be performed by Piano/Organ, Instrumental Ensemble, and Cantor leading the congregation in glorious hymns for Christmas



# COMING UP AT HOLY SPIRIT

## Monday, December 8

Masses for Immaculate Conception at 9:00am and 7:00pm

## Tuesday, December 9

12:30pm Parish Leadership Team, Gathering Place

1:00pm Seasons of Hope, Multipurpose Room

## Wednesday, December 10

9:30am Bible Study, Gathering Place

5:00pm Youth Choir Rehearsal, Church

7:00pm Adult Choir Rehearsal, Church

## Thursday, December 11

9:45am Gathered in Prayer, Multipurpose Room

## Friday, December 12

7:00pm Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe, Church

## Saturday, December 13

7:00am Men's Ministry, Multipurpose Room

Bambinelli Sunday (after Mass)

## Saturday, December 14

Bambinelli Sunday (after all Masses)

9:00am OCIA, Multipurpose Room

12:00pm Advent Reconciliation Service, Church

## Tuesday, December 16

6:30pm Finance Council, Multipurpose Room

## Wednesday, December 17

5:00pm Youth Choir Rehearsal, Church

7:00pm Adult Choir Rehearsal, Church

## Thursday, December 18

9:45am Gathered in Prayer, Multipurpose Room

7:30pm Simbang Gabi Mass, Church

## Saturday, December 20

7:00am Men's Ministry, Multipurpose Room

7:00am That Man is You, Gathering Place

## Sunday, December 21

Breakfast with Santa (After all Masses)

## Wednesday, December 24

Masses at 3:00pm, 5:00pm, and 10:00pm

## Thursday, December 25

Masses at 9:30am and 11:00am

## Saturday, December 27

7:00am Men's Ministry, Multipurpose Room

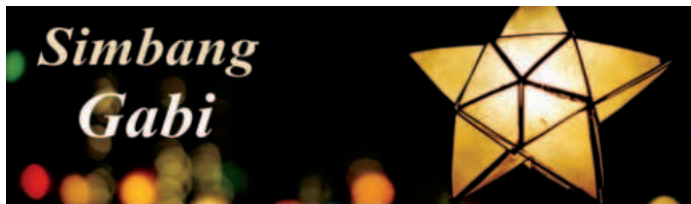
7:00am That Man is You, Gathering Place

## Saturday, December 28

12:00pm Rosary, Church

## Wednesday, December 31

Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary at 4:30pm



**Simbang Gabi**

**Advent Novena Mass at Holy Spirit**  
**Thursday, December 18, 7:30pm**  
 with reception to follow in the Gathering Place

*The Filipino Simbang Gabi celebration is a hallmark of Filipino culture! All Are Welcome to join us for this beautiful tradition!*

*This was introduced by the Spanish friars at the start of Catholic Evangelization of the Philippine Islands more than 400 years ago. This is a 9 day celebration of Advent Novena Masses in preparation for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Unique in the celebration is the use of White Vestment, Singing the Gloria and the Simbang Gabi Ritual in the Advent Masses. This tradition is celebrated in many parishes in the Diocese of Joliet from December 14th to 22nd.*



**Advent and Christmas 2025 Schedule**

**Confessions**

Each Saturday	3:30 pm-4:00 pm
Sunday, December 14	12:00 pm-2:00pm
Saturday, December 20	2:30 pm-4:00 pm

**Mass Schedule**

**Monday, December 8, Immaculate Conception**  
 9:00 am and 7:00 pm

**Friday, December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe**  
 7:00 pm

**Thursday, December 18, Simbang Gabi**  
 7:30 pm

**Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve**  
 3:00 pm\*, 5:00 pm, and 10:00 pm  
 (Christmas Concert 9:15 pm)

**Thursday, December 25, Christmas Day**  
 9:30 am and 11:00 am

**Wednesday, December 31, Solemnity of Mary (Vigil)**  
 4:30 pm

**Thursday, January 1, Solemnity of Mary**  
 9:30 am

\*The 3:00pm Christmas Eve Mass is traditionally our most crowded, and seating often becomes limited. We warmly encourage you to consider attending one of our other Christmas Masses, which will also have beautiful music.





# GET INVOLVED

Be a light to our parish community  
this Advent Season.

We're looking for  
volunteers to light the  
Advent Wreath  
during Mass.

Please scan the  
QR code to sign up.



**Volunteers  
Needed**

Dinner,  
Wednesday  
**December 10th**  
through  
Breakfast,  
Thursday  
**December 11th**

Please bring food  
donations to Holy  
Spirit by Noon on  
Tuesday, December  
9th.

**For Information:**

Contact Danielle Plotke  
at [dplotke@hsc.us](mailto:dplotke@hsc.us)

**SIGN UP ONLINE AT**  
[hsc.us/ministries-  
hesd-house](https://hsc.us/ministries-hesd-house)



## Bambinelli Weekend

December 13 and 14, 2025

*Bambinelli Sunday is a Catholic tradition, held on the  
Third Sunday of Advent, where people bring figurines  
of the baby Jesus ("bambinelli") from their home  
Nativity scenes to be blessed.*

Please bring your Baby  
Jesus for a special  
blessing, which will  
take place during each  
of our weekend Masses.  
Then stop by the  
Gathering Place to see  
beautiful Nativity  
scenes shared by fellow  
parishioners and enjoy  
some cookies.



*If you would like to share  
your family nativity for this  
parish event, please scan the  
QR code.*



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**DID YOU KNOW?**

It takes 64 volunteer ministers  
each weekend to serve our Masses?



Each Mass runs smoothly  
because of our volunteers.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY is one  
way to engage more in the Mass  
you are already attending.

Training is provided.

For more information,  
contact Roberta Balsewicz  
at [rbalsewicz@hsc.us](mailto:rbalsewicz@hsc.us)

### Get Involved

Volunteers needed to serve  
an array of service options.

Mass Coordinator  
Greeters  
Altar Servers  
Lectors

Extraordinary Ministers  
of Holy Communion





# HOW DO WE MAKE DISCIPLES?

As Bishop Hicks has shared, the process of discipleship is deeply personal and unique to each one of us. And yet, our common bond is the person of Jesus Christ. Because of this, we all share a common pathway to this transformative experience. *Learn more by exploring each step of the journey.* **Watch the bulletin each month for more steps!**



## Resources for Personal Growth

- Go to Confession regularly, such as quarterly, monthly, or weekly:
  - ◊ Visit [MassTimes.org](http://MassTimes.org) and select “confession” using the drop-down, then search in your area for times. It is always best to verify these times with your parish using their website, bulletin, or by calling.
- Learn about the lives of saints with a resource such as “The Merry Beggars”
- Read books on the saints, such as “Lives of the Saints”
- Read writings of the saints, such as “Story of a Soul” and “An Introduction to the Devout Life”



## CONFESSION - Step two

Our conversion moves us to a deeper life of faith in Jesus and a desire to shape our lives according to His Gospel. In Jesus, we have a personal Savior who wants to forgive our sins so that we can live freely as beloved children of God.



St. Augustine of Hippo’s *Confessions* offers a powerful depiction of the human struggle with sin and the healing grace found in repentance. As a young man, Augustine was deeply entangled in sins of unchastity, and although he intellectually accepted

the truth of the Christian faith, his will remained weak. His inner conflict reached a turning point when, in a moment of desperation, he prayed for God’s help. It was then that he heard the mysterious voice of a child urging him to “pick it up” and “read it,” prompting him to open a nearby copy of St. Paul’s letters.

When Augustine opened to Romans 13:13–14, the words struck him with transformative force, calling him away from sin and toward life in Christ. He describes this moment as an infusion of divine certainty that illuminated his heart and dissolved his resistance. After years of wandering from God, Augustine was finally ready to embrace the fullness of grace offered through the Church’s sacraments, marking the beginning of his conversion and his lifelong testimony to God’s mercy.



## STAFF DIRECTORY

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## PARISH STEWARDSHIP

It is with grateful hearts that we thank you for your continued support of the parish!

Monthly Offering	#of Donors	Nov. 2025
WeShare Online Giving:	153	\$13,675
Electronic Funds Transfer:	158	\$17,988
Envelopes & Loose Cash:	173	\$57,144
<b>Total November Collection:</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>\$88,807</b>

### Year-to-Date July 1, 2025 - November 30, 2025

Sunday Offering Thru 11/30/25:	\$409,924
Fiscal Year Budget Thru 11/30/25:	\$453,200
Surplus (Deficit):	(\$43,276)

### Special Offerings - November 2025

Building & Maintenance Fund:	\$3,382
Seminarian Education Endowment:	\$3,323
Campaign for Human Development:	\$1,085

### *Consider Electronic Giving!*

For information and to select the option that works best for you, please visit [www.hscs.us/donation](http://www.hscs.us/donation)

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



**Retirement Fund  
for Religious**

**Please give to those who  
have given a lifetime.**

**Weekend of December 13th-14th**  
[www.retiredreligious.org](http://www.retiredreligious.org)



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