



*The desert and the parched land will exult;
the steppe will rejoice and bloom.
They will bloom with abundant flowers,
and rejoice with joyful song.*

Isaiah 35:1-2

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 14, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

OUR MISSION

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

From the Pastor's Desk: Advent Reflections Third Sunday of Advent

✦



"Christmas will never come to this house," I complained to my father one day during Advent. After arguing and fighting with my siblings the night before, very typical, I guess, in a large family, it is all I could think of to say.

"Christmas will come if you let it come," my father replied. And he was right. Christmas did come that year, but we had to stop all of the arguing and instead find kindness and forgiveness. Or to put it another way, find JOY. What a perfect image for this Third Sunday of Advent!

And so I repeat what I said last year:

Despite the stresses of life and the many challenges that come, in society, in our communities, our jobs, our families and our own life, we need to remember to smile and be joyful. The Scriptures shout it out: "Rejoice in the Lord always, I shall say it again: Rejoice! Your kindness should be known to

all. The Lord is near."

On this Gaudete Sunday as the pink candle is lit in the Advent wreath, we are reminded that Christmas is coming. Even better yet, Christ is coming. And that is something to be joyful about! In the midst of our everyday struggles and challenges, in the midst of sickness and other worries, the Advent season reminds us to not be without hope. Christ is coming. The answer to our worries, doubts, fears and struggles. With the sights and sounds of the seasons to help us, let us prepare our hearts with some joy, let go of our fears and remember to smile. The Lord is near!

Perhaps by remembering this every year, Christmas will always come home!!

Happy Advent!

-Fr. John

JOY



MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday, December 13

4:30 pm + Michael Kolberg

Sunday, December 14– Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 am + William Corrigan

9:30 am People of Holy Spirit Catholic Church

11:00 am + James Richardson

Monday, December 15

9:00 am + Charles Walton, Jr.

Tuesday, December 16

9:00 am + Josie Kocher and Azucena Mendez

Wednesday, December 17

9:00 am + Jonathan Trevino

Thursday, December 18

9:00 am + Michael Rutherford

Music to Celebrate Christmas

Christmas Eve

3:00 PM Mass

Members of the Youth Choirs and Families 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 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



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

Thursday, December 18, Simbang Gabi
7:30 pm

Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve
3:00 pm* (Church & Gathering Place), 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.*

Christmas Altar Flower Remembrances



If you would like to make a donation toward the Christmas altar flowers in honor or in memory of your loved ones, please use the Christmas Flower Offering envelope in your envelope packet, pick up an envelope from the Narthex, or donate online using the QR code. Thank you for your generosity!





COMING UP AT HOLY SPIRIT

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 8:00pm, 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.



Breakfast with Santa

Sunday, December 21st
After All Masses
HSCC Gathering Place

The Knights of Columbus invite all to a free pancake breakfast with Santa.

Stop by for breakfast and a photo with Santa as the parish prepares to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!



JOIN US FOR A CHRISTMAS EVE CONCERT OF SACRED MUSIC

We warmly invite you to begin your Christmas celebrations with us at our Christmas Eve Concert of Sacred Music. Through beloved carols and timeless hymns, our choir will help lead us into the joy and peace of Christ's birth.

Join us on Christmas Eve beginning at 9:15pm in the Church.

This special concert is a beautiful way to pause, reflect, and enter the Christmas liturgy with hearts renewed. We hope you and your family will join us for this uplifting and faith-filled celebration. All are welcome!



Our Seasons of Hope Bereavement support group recently created beautiful Memorial wreaths to remember their loved ones.

The Seasons of Hope Bereavement support group offers a sacred space for individuals to share their journey of loss, anchored in faith and surrounded by the love of a caring community. We seek to bring comfort, companionship, and Christ's presence to those who are grieving. Our Lord promised that those who mourn are blessed and will be comforted—this ministry is a way to help fulfill that promise. Through prayer, shared stories, and spiritual reflection, we walk alongside one another toward healing and renewed hope.

For more information about Seasons of Hope, please contact Bernadette Beyer at beyerbh@gmail.com.



Our high school Teen Group and Seasoned Spirits gathered for a special Advent Service Project.

Filled with the spirit of the season, they assembled Christmas stockings for the children at Hesed House, thoughtfully packing each one with care and compassion. Their joyful commitment to sharing Christ's love in this season of hope is a beautiful reminder of what Advent is all about.

Please keep the families at Hesed House in your prayers this holiday season.

Christmas Stockings for Hesed House Children



Thank you
Parishioners
for your
generosity in
providing
items for the
stockings!



Bishop Hicks' Column December 2025



Finding Hope Behind Bars: Becoming Disciples Who Make Disciples in Unexpected Places

We celebrate Advent and Christmas as seasons of light and joy, yet sometimes the brightest hope appears in the places we least expect. Over the years, I have found that ministering to those in prison is one of the most unexpected ways to live out the call of my pastoral letter **MAKE** to be disciples who make disciples.

My first encounter with prison ministry goes back to my volunteer year in Mexico in 1989. A female catechist invited me to join her in visiting a large prison. I remember the surprise of walking in with barely any formal checks and feeling a bit baffled and nervous about how I would get out. Yet what stayed with me most was her simple reminder: *"They all have names. They are often forgotten, but if you become a priest, remember they exist. See the face of Christ in them!"*

Years later, as a seminarian accompanying Cardinal Bernardin to the Cook County Jail for Christmas Mass, I saw that same spirit of discipleship. He had no family in Chicago, yet he found joy in bringing the Eucharist to those often forgotten. He showed me that prison ministry is not simply a duty but a moment of grace. It is a chance to be a disciple who brings Christ's hope to others.

Someone once told me that one of the humbling aspects of ministering in prisons is that the people you serve can never repay you. You do it simply because Christ calls us to recognize His presence in them. In that pure act of service, we quietly plant seeds of faith in hearts that society often overlooks.

Two weeks ago, I had the privilege of celebrating the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion for four inmates at the Joliet Detention Center. Their deep desire and reverence reminded me again of that woman's wisdom from years ago. They have names, they exist, and they are just as worthy of God's grace. After the Mass, each newly minted Catholic offered a testimonial, thanking those who brought Christ to them and sharing how lost

they felt before being introduced to God and the Church. Their desire to cling to hope and live out their newfound faith inspired me deeply as we gathered in that makeshift prison chapel.

Let me highlight the ministry of the growing number of laypeople, deacons, and priests in our Diocese who are living out this call and bringing Christ's love to the incarcerated. And they do it with no fanfare. Truly, no one is writing them thank you notes or sending them gifts for their ministry. We as a Church and as a Diocese should be proud that so many are putting their faith into action through this ministry.

In Catholic social teaching, we uphold the dignity of every human being, even those who have sinned or been cast aside by society. As Jesus says in Matthew's Gospel: *"Whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me."* This is the heart of our mission. To see Christ in the prisoner, the hungry, the thirsty, the unborn, the immigrant, the person with disabilities, the stranger, and all in need. It is a true Christian hope. It is the conviction that Christ is with us always and that every person is worth seeing, knowing, and loving in His name.

In a few weeks, I will celebrate Christmas Mass at the DuPage County Correctional Facility. As I prepare for that Mass, please know that I will carry your intentions with me in prayer. Also, join me in prayer as together we carry that hope not only into the prisons but into every place where Christ's light is most needed. Our homes, our parishes, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, and all the hidden corners of our lives and our world.

May we never overlook the unexpected places where God's grace, hope, and light are waiting to break through and transform us all. For when we see the face of Christ in every person we meet, we fulfill the mission of being disciples who **MAKE** disciples.



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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
Total November Collection:	484	\$88,807

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

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**"YOU TOO MUST BE
PATIENT. MAKE YOUR
HEARTS FIRM, BECAUSE
THE COMING OF THE
LORD IS AT HAND."**

JAMES 5:8

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule; we like things to be convenient. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer God reveals to us what He wants us to do with the gifts He has given us. We are able to better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

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