



*God mounts  
his throne to  
shouts of joy:  
a blare of  
trumpets for  
the Lord.*

*Psalm 47*

## 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

**MAY 17, 2026**

## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

### OUR MISSION

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



# PRAY WITH US



## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

**Saturday, May 16**

4:30 pm Mother's Day Novena

**Sunday, May 17– The Ascension of the Lord**

8:00 am People of Holy Spirit Catholic Church

9:30 am Mother's Day Novena

11:00 am Mother's Day Novena

**Monday, May 18– St. John I**

9:00 am + Wilfredo Carreon

**Tuesday, May 19**

9:00 am + Cindy Jacobsen and + Jennie Izzo

**Wednesday, May 20– St. Bernardine of Siena**

9:00 am + Christopher Mathew

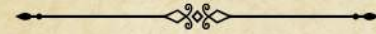
**Thursday, May 21– St. Christopher Magallanes & Co.**

9:00 am + John Skrip

## FAREWELL RECEPTION

for

**Fr. John Sponder and Fr. Richard Smith**



**Saturday, June 20 and Sunday, June 21**

**After all Masses**



*Please join us to thank Fr. John and Fr. Smith for their service at Holy Spirit and to wish them well in their new assignment!*

## BOOK CLUB



*Join us for a surprise message from the author!*

Join us for our next evening book club as we read *Braving the Thin Places* by Julianne Stanz. Come ready to discuss together in May.



**Thursday, May 21**



**7-9pm**



**Holy Spirit Catholic Church**

## Get Involved!

*Our parish is inviting those who feel called to share in the ministry of hospitality at Mass.*



### Greeters

This essential ministry is the welcoming first face our parishioners and visitors encounter, offering a warm smile and a friendly presence so that all who enter feel truly at home here at Holy Spirit. Greeters also help distribute the collection baskets throughout the church.



### Mass Coordinators

Mass coordinators are responsible for setting up/cleaning up the sacred vessels and preparing for Mass. An essential role that makes our Masses the beautiful and sacred liturgies where people come to meet Jesus.

**Contact**  
**Roberta Balsewicz**  
**Director of Evangelization & Liturgy**

[rbalsewicz@hsccl.us](mailto:rbalsewicz@hsccl.us)

*No experience is needed. Training will be provided. In these simple but meaningful ways, you help create a space where all feel welcomed and can encounter Christ.*





# COMING UP AT HOLY SPIRIT

## Monday, May 18

6:00pm K of C Council Mtg., Multipurpose Room

## Tuesday, May 19

12:30pm Parish Leadership Team, Gathering Place

## Wednesday, May 20

9:30am Bible Study, Gathering Place

7:00pm Adult Choir Rehearsal, Church

## Thursday, May 21

9:45am Gathered in Prayer, Multipurpose Room

7:00pm Book Club, Multipurpose Room

## Saturday, May 23

7:00am Men's Ministry, Multipurpose Room

## Tuesday, May 26

12:30pm Parish Leadership Team, Gathering Place

## Wednesday, May 27

9:30am Bible Study, Gathering Place

## Thursday, May 28

9:45am Gathered in Prayer, Multipurpose Room

## Friday, May 29

7:00pm Young Adult Group, Multipurpose Room

## Saturday, May 30

7:00am Men's Ministry, Multipurpose Room

9:00am Hooked on the Spirit, Gathering Place

## Saturday, May 31

12:00pm Rosary, Church

## Job Opening at Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit Catholic Church is seeking a part-time (20 hours per week) bookkeeper to support our parish financial operations.

This is an on-site position with a flexible schedule, ideal for someone who has a finance or accounting background and enjoys meaningful work in a faith-based Catholic environment.

To apply, please submit your resume, cover letter, and a brief note of interest to Danielle Plotke at [dplotke@hsccl.us](mailto:dplotke@hsccl.us)

Join The Holy Spirit  
Young Adult Group  
(18-35)

Friday, May 15th  
7:00pm

Come share your favorite saint!

Friday, May 29th  
7:00pm

Food with Fiat! Bring your favorite food to share.

MAKE Someone SMILE!  
THIS MAY!

TOOTH PAIN IS REAL. YOU CAN BE THE RELIEF.

For people experiencing homelessness:

- 54.6% report oral pain in the last 6 months
- 28.9% are unable to eat due to oral pain
- 20.9% are unable to sleep due to oral pain

PLEASE DONATE:

TOOTHBRUSHES FLOSS TRAVEL-SIZE TOOTHPASTE  
(NEW & UNOPENED ITEMS ONLY, PLEASE!)

DROPOFF: Holy Spirit in the blue bin marked SMILE!

BY: May 31

ONE SMALL ITEM CAN MEAN A FULL NIGHT'S SLEEP, A REAL MEAL, A REASON TO SMILE.


Together, we can bring relief and restore smiles.



Give yourself a relaxing summer!

Register NOW for RE!

You can register by scanning the QR Code




**FROM THE AMAZON to our RAINFOREST!**

HELP US BRING THE ADVENTURE TO LIFE!

We're heading into the *Rainforest Falls* for VBS and need a little help from our amazing community to make it unforgettable! ♥

EVERY ITEM HELPS CREATE A WEEK OF FAITH, FUN & MEMORIES!

We've created an *Amazon wishlist* with all the supplies we need to bring our rainforest to life!

**CAN YOU HELP?**

Take a peek, pick an item (or two!), and help us build something *truly wild & wonderful* for our kids! ♥

**SHOP OUR AMAZON WISHLIST!**



[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/df/72E2D044PQWB0?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/df/72E2D044PQWB0?ref_=wl_share)

Please drop off to church in the blue bins marked VBS Rainforest Falls by May 18

THANK YOU FOR HELPING OUR RAINFOREST GROW! ♥



Step Up. Be Present. Pass it on.  
*Help lead the next generation in their faith.*

We are looking for faithful, dependable, and responsible volunteers to teach our students in 1st to 8th grade. You will receive training, lesson plans, crafts and anything needed! This is a practical way to make a lasting impact on our church.

Sunday 3pm	Sunday 5pm	Sunday 7pm	Tuesday 5pm
3-1st Grade Catechists	2-1st Grade Catechists	1-5th Grade Catechist	1-3rd Grade Catechist
4- 2nd Grade Catechists	1- 2nd Grade Catechist	2- 6th Grade Catechists	1- 7th Grade Catechist
2- 3rd Grade Catechists	2- 6th Grade Catechists	2- 8th Grade Catechists	2- 8th Grade Catechists
1- 4th Grade Catechist			

We also need Hall Monitors at each session to keep everyone safe.

Contact Lauren for Grades 1-5 at [lnelson@hsc.us](mailto:lnelson@hsc.us) or Kim for Grades 6-8 at [kkroeze@hsc.us](mailto:kkroeze@hsc.us)

May 17, 2026

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

# The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11 | Eph 1:17-23 | Mt 28:16-20

## **GROW AS A DISCIPLE** | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

This year, I cannot help but notice how kingdom-centric the readings for the Solemnity of the Ascension are. In our first reading, Jesus appears to his disciples for forty days after his resurrection and speaks to them about the kingdom of God. Our psalm beckons us to rejoice that God is mounting his throne – another kingdom image! Our second reading tells us that God has given Christ authority over “every principality, power, and dominion” – a clear sign that he is the one reigning over all. These references seem to be telling us that today’s feast is Jesus’ “coronation day” – the day he takes his rightful place at the right hand of the Father. From the moment Jesus ascends to heaven, he is reigning. What a consoling thought for us, who may at times find ourselves discouraged by our lives or the state of affairs around us. We have hope because we know that despite appearances to the contrary, Jesus reigns, and it is only a matter of time until the Father puts all things beneath Christ’s feet.

## **GO EVANGELIZE**

### **PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples – and us – to “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.” It’s a tall order – bringing every nation under the reign of Christ. But we needn’t be intimidated. The Ascension offers us hope, for – as the *Catechism* reminds us – “Jesus Christ, having entered the sanctuary of heaven once and for all, intercedes constantly for us as the mediator who assures us of the permanent outpouring of the Holy Spirit.” (667) Jesus ascended into heaven and now is constantly interceding for us before the Father, constantly pouring out his Spirit on us! In all our efforts to evangelize, we have that constant support and grace being sent our way to equip us for this work.

## **REFLECT**

Oftentimes, we think of the Ascension as Jesus leaving us after the end of his earthly ministry. But Jesus promises that he does not leave us, but rather, that he is always with us, “until the end of the age.” Spend some time this week reflecting on the ways that, having taken his seat at the right hand of the Father, Jesus is now ever-more present, pouring out his grace and his Spirit upon us at every moment.






Announcing the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual  
*Wedding Anniversary*  
*Mass*

AUGUST  
SUN **30** 1:00 PM  
2026

604 N Raynor Ave., Joliet, IL 60435

Couples celebrating anniversaries of 25 years, 50 years, and more than 50 years are welcome to attend. Bishop Dennis Spies will celebrate the Mass at St. Raymond's Cathedral and will lead all couples in a special renewal of wedding commitment.

**Deadline to register: August 10, 2026**

Questions? Contact Deacon Doug McIlvaine:  
815-221-6136  
dmcilvaine@dioceseofjoliet.org




It's time to get your marriage in shape!  
In just one short weekend you can learn a technique for communication that will keep your marriage on the right track to be healthy.

Sign up for an upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on June 12-14 at Holiday Inn Express NW in Arlington Heights or July 10-12 at St. John Neumann in St. Charles (2 day non-residential).

For more information visit our website at: [wwme.org](http://wwme.org) or call (888) 574-5653  
Early registration is highly recommended.

## ~ Singles Late 50s & Above ~



Looking for a deeper relationship with God and a renewed sense of purpose for your journey through life's transitions? Connect with others and recharge your spiritual batteries on a RENEW retreat!

The next weekend is on June 12-14, 2026 at the Carmelite Spiritual Center in Darien, IL (southwestern suburb of Chicago).

For more info, go to [www.RenewRetreats.org](http://www.RenewRetreats.org), or call (773) 849-3719.

## SACRED VOICES CONCERT

*Featuring Singers from the Vatican & Roman Choral*

**Saturday, June 20**  
**7:30 pm**

**St. Raphael Church**  
1215 Modaff Road, Naperville

*Experience this extraordinary, one-night-only event and the choir's only appearance in the Diocese of Joliet!*



This 40-member choir features singers from leading Roman and Vatican musical institutions. Under the direction of Pontifical Cantore Adriano Caroletti, they will be accompanied by Josep Solè Coll, organist of the Pope and St. Peter's Basilica.

The program highlights the richness of the Catholic Church's musical tradition, featuring works by Palestrina (known as the "Prince of Music") along with compositions by Perosi and Bartolucci, both former directors of the Pope's Choir. These timeless works have accompanied papal liturgies in the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica and showcase some of the Church's most beautiful music. The Sacred Voices Choir also had the honor of performing for Pope Leo XI.

Tickets available at:  
[bit.ly/sacredvoicesnaperville](http://bit.ly/sacredvoicesnaperville)  
or scan the QR code  
Premium Seating (front of the church): \$75  
General Admission: \$40



## STAFF DIRECTORY

### Pastor

Rev. John Spender  
frjohn@hsc.us

### Parochial Vicar

Rev. Richard Smith  
frsmith@hsc.us

### Permanent Deacons

Deacon Eric Alvarez  
deaconeric@hsc.us

Deacon Steve Boffa  
deaconsteve@hsc.us

Deacon Tim Roberts  
deacontim@hsc.us

Deacon Mike Ryba  
deaconmike@hsc.us

### Music Director

Christina Eubank, ext. 8  
ceubank@hsc.us

### Adult Choir Director

Debbie Dujsik, ext. 8  
ddujsik@hsc.us

### Youth Choir Director

Sadie Wynne, ext. 8  
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### Director of Evangelization & Liturgy

Roberta Balsewicz, ext. 7  
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### Religious Education Coordinator Grades K-5

Lauren Nelson, ext. 61  
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### Religious Education Coordinator Grades 6-8

Kim Kroeze, ext. 62  
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### Business Manager

Danielle Plotke, ext. 91  
dplotke@hsc.us

### Administrative Assistant

Kathy Mackowiak, ext 92  
kmackowiak@hsc.us

### Parish Administrative Assistant

Mary Beth Owens, ext. 93  
mbowens@hsc.us

### Maintenance

Victor Velazquez  
maintenance@hsc.us

## PARISH STEWARDSHIP

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

Monthly Offering	#of Donors	Mar. 2026
WeShare Online Giving:	171	\$15,252
Electronic Funds Transfer:	156	\$17,548
Envelopes & Loose Cash:	189	\$61,171
<b>Total March Collection:</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>\$93,971</b>

### Year-to-Date July 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026

Sunday Offering:	\$860,956
Fiscal Year Budget:	\$803,400
Surplus:	\$57,556
Easter Offering:	\$37,475
Easter Budget:	\$34,000
Surplus:	\$3,475

### Special Offerings - March 2026

Building & Maintenance Fund:	\$21,565
Catholic Relief Services:	\$1,558

### *Consider Electronic Giving!*

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

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



“I AM PRAYING  
FOR THEM...”

JOHN 17:9

Prayer is the foundation of our Faith and the foundation of Stewardship. Prayer is always the first best option in any situation - not just our last resort. Pray for friends and family, and especially for those that don't treat you very well. Pray to give praise, to thank, and to ask God for help. Pray to see what God wants you to do with the gifts He has given you. Teach others how to pray. It has been said that teaching someone how to pray is the best gift you can give someone.

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