



MARY QUEEN OF HEAVEN

426 West Ave., Elmhurst, IL 60126

Phone: 630-279-5700

Email: parish.office@maryqueen.org

Website: <http://www.mqhelmhurst.org>

Pastor Rev. Sławomir "Sławek" Ignasik

**DECEMBER 22,
2024**

**FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT &
CHRISTMAS**

*Inspired by the Holy Spirit and nurtured by our sacramental life,
Mary Queen of Heaven Catholic Church provides a welcoming
and inclusive parish home. We bear witness to the Gospel of Christ
through prayer and worship, catechesis and spiritual growth,
and outreach and social action.*

Fourth Sunday of **ADVENT**



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses

Saturday

4:30 pm

Sunday

8:30 am and 10:30 am

Weekday Masses

Monday Communion Service

8:30 am

Tuesday to Saturday Masses

8:30 am

Rosary

Monday to Saturday

8:00 am

Eucharistic Adoration

1st Friday of each month

from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

with Benediction at 7:00 pm.

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation

Saturday 9:00 am

Baptism

1st and 3rd Sundays of the
month at 12:00 pm.

Required Baptismal
preparation on the 2nd
Thursday at 7:00 pm.

Call Parish Office to register.

Marriage

Please contact the Pastor at
least 6 months in advance.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Phone: 630-279-5700

Monday to Thursday

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Friday

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

CONTACTS**CLERGY**

**Pastor Rev. Sławomir
"Sławek" Ignasik**
Pastor@MaryQueen.org

Deacon Alex Grozik
Baptismal Coordinator and
Vocations
deaconalex@maryqueen.org

Deacon Tim Taylor
OCIA/Right-to-Life
timasintaylor@att.net

PRESCHOOL

Genet Pinkerton
Director of Preschool
Website:
www.mqhpreschool.org
630-833-9500
mqhpreschool@maryqueen.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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Director of Faith Formation
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Heather Raffe
RE Administrative Assistant

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Mimiot_mqh@hotmail.com

Minister of Bereavement
Mary Ann Reed
Maryann.reed@icloud.com

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER SLAWEK

Praise be Jesus Christ... Now and Forever.

In four days, with great love and joy, we will celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our Messiah has been born who is the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

Jesus Christ was born because of God's immeasurable love for us and our need of reconciliation with Him. He is always with us and is present in all aspects of our lives; in good times and especially in difficulties when we need him the most. He is present wherever there is love. Every moment of our lives, the decision is whether we bring love into the world or not. It truly is a conscious decision. Jesus Christ is present in the offer of a smile and kind word to someone having a terrible day. He is present in the gratitude given to someone who has performed a well-done service for us. He is in the daughter or son watching over and taking care of aging parents and in the single mom and dad who struggle with having to do things themselves while putting their children's needs before their own. Jesus Christ is present in the ill and infirm who offer up their limitations for the good of another.

He is also truly present - body, blood, soul and divinity in the Holy Eucharist. God gives us Himself as Jesus at each and every Holy Mass. At each Mass, we are given the grace and strength for all we encounter in the upcoming week. If we are struggling in any way, it is the Holy Mass that refreshes the soul. Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, is all around us. We need to take the time to notice, love, honor and give him thanks for the everyday miracles of life. The Holy Mass is the most perfect prayer we have to give God and that God has given to us.

Especially at Christmas, I would like to offer a blessing in addition to acknowledging and thanking, on behalf of the parish staff and myself, all of the wonderful parishioners of Mary Queen of Heaven. The genuine and sincere care of each other is just one of the beautiful ways that Jesus Christ is manifested in our troubled world. He is present in the parishioners' generous response whenever there is a need and the sharing of talents. Truly the presence of the Lord is in our parish.

To all who are visiting us for Christmas, I would like to welcome you to our parish family and wish you all a very blessed Christmas. The parishioners of Mary Queen of Heaven and I hope you will come back soon to join or visit us again. If there are any who have been away for an especially long time, we are especially happy you are with us once again.

To one and all, may the Lord Jesus Christ reign in our hearts and in our lives throughout this Christmas season and coming year.

Have a very merry and blessed Christmas week.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Sławek





Bishop Hicks' Column December 2024

Sacred Steps: Exploring Pilgrimages Near and Far



Have you ever made or wanted to make a pilgrimage to a holy site? Before answering that, let's establish the difference between a vacation and a pilgrimage. A vacation is a leisure trip for a "getaway," usually focused on relaxation, entertainment, and exploration. A Catholic pilgrimage, on the other hand, is a spiritual journey to a sacred site with the purpose of deepening one's faith, seeking divine grace, or fulfilling a religious vow. While vacations prioritize personal enjoyment, pilgrimages emphasize not only some personal enjoyment but also spiritual growth and devotion.

The foundation of a pilgrimage is found throughout both the Old and New Testaments. Examples include Abraham's journey of faith and St. Paul's missionary journeys with and for our Lord. Even the Gospels provide accounts of pilgrimage: each year, Jesus' parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover. In His adult life, Jesus continued this tradition, journeying throughout the Holy Land and ultimately returning to Jerusalem to face His suffering, death, and resurrection.

One of my favorite pilgrimage sites is the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico. Because I worked in Mexico and lived in close proximity to the sanctuary, I have visited many times and have brought friends and family to this holy site. The basilica and grounds are stunning and reflect vibrant cultural expressions of faith and devotion. This inspirational site is where countless people bring their hopes, struggles, and gratitude. Standing before the image of the Virgin, you can palpably feel the love and trust people have placed in her for centuries.

As we approach the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12, I am certain that many of you would love to travel on a pilgrimage to Mexico to visit her. However, because of distance, time, expense, or other constraints, that possibility may be out of reach. Let me offer some ideas for making a more local pilgrimage, particularly to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

This past October, I had the opportunity to join the Knights and Dames of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher. Their investiture Mass took place at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin. It is just a short four-hour drive from the Joliet area. Completed in 2008, this Marian shrine invites pilgrims and visitors to an extraordinarily beautiful place of prayer and devotion. With a variety of chapels and gardens, the 70-acre site evokes similar feelings of love for Our Lady and her Son, Jesus, as I have felt while visiting the shrine in Mexico.

If La Crosse still feels too far to travel, consider "El Cerrito" in Des Plaines, IL. This Sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe includes life-sized statues depicting the apparitions of the Virgin Mary to Saint Juan Diego. These statues are part of a dedicated space within the sanctuary, offering visitors a chance to pray and reflect on this sacred moment.

Perhaps your holiday travels this season unexpectedly bring you close to a shrine. It's convenient to locate various shrines on-line at sites such as www.catholicshrines.org or www.catholicpilgrimagesites.wordpress.com/sites-by-state.

If you prefer staying closer to home for your pilgrimage, consider doing a Visitation of the Seven Churches in your local community during Holy Week. In this Catholic tradition, pilgrims visit multiple churches on the evening of Holy Thursday to reflect, pray, and meditate on Christ's Passion and sacrifice. It may not be a pilgrimage of long distance, yet it certainly embodies the spiritual journey of faith and devotion.

Several priests in the Diocese of Joliet from time to time offer Catholic pilgrimages to various sacred sites around the world. One priest recently shared with me his motivation for leading pilgrimages: "Pilgrimages provide an opportunity to broaden our horizons as the past comes into contact with the present, and we are changed by this interaction. Every pilgrim is called by Jesus to go on a journey of encounter where He introduces us to our larger family as we meet the saints who wait for us at each holy site."

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, remember that shepherds, kings, and even angels made their pilgrimage to worship and adore our Savior at His birth. As we walk our own journeys of faith and life, may God bless you abundantly as, together, we as a Church continue to make our pilgrimage to our final destination: the heavenly Jerusalem.



The Nativity of the Lord

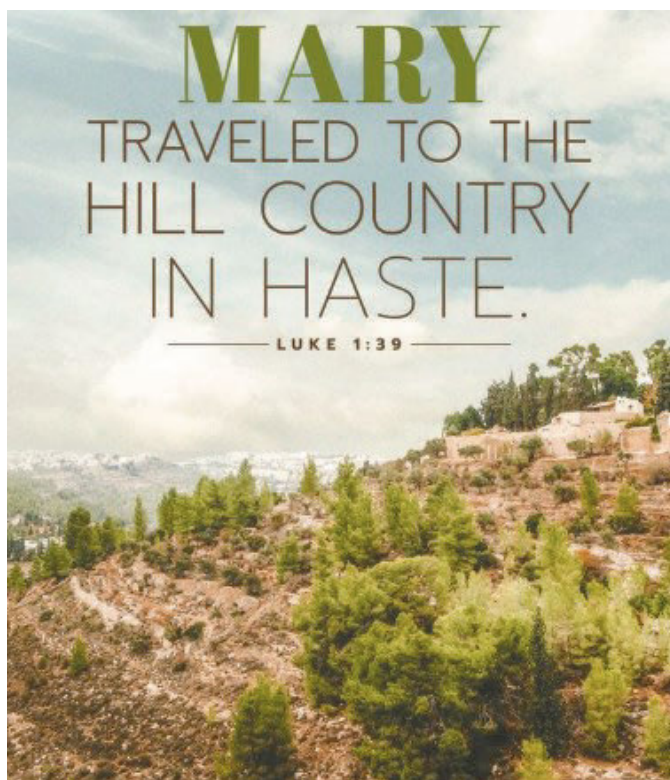
CALENDAR OF MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS WEEK

12/21/24 SATURDAY
 8:30am Mass
 9:00am Reconciliation
 4:30pm Mass



12/22/24 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 8:30am Mass
 10:30am Mass

12/23/24 MONDAY
 8:30am Communion Service



12/24/24 TUESDAY
 3:00pm Vigil Mass
 6:00pm Vigil Mass



12:00am MIDNIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE MASS



12/25/24 WEDNESDAY
 8:30am CHRISTMAS DAY MASS
 10:30am CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

12/26/24 THURSDAY
 8:30am Mass

12/27/24 FRIDAY
 8:30am Mass

12/28/24 SATURDAY
 8:30am Mass
 9:00am Reconciliation
 4:30pm Mass

12/29/24 SUNDAY
 8:30am Mass
 10:30am Mass

The parish office will be closed beginning 12/23/24 and will reopen on 1/6/25.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS
MARY GLAUDELL, DIRECTOR

Merry Christmas from the Faith Formation Office

A Christmas Prayer

Loving Father,

Help us remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of angels, the gladness of shepherds, and the worship of wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

by Robert Louis Stevenson

"For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace." (Luke 2:10-12)



REMINDER:

**Faith Formation resumes with Family Faith Formation (K-6th) on January 5th
Wednesday Faith Formation on January 8th**

PARISH NEWS

Women – Give Yourself a Gift!

Women's CRHP Weekend Feb 22-23, 2025

Do you sense that something's missing from your life?
Do you feel that if you weren't so busy you would be happier, more fulfilled, healthier, and maybe even a better person?
Gift yourself a gift.

**Prayerfully consider coming the next Women's
CRHP Weekend, February 22-23, 2025.**

Take a break from the craziness of life and connect with other women from the parish. This weekend has changed lives and brings you closer to Jesus and each other.

For more information contact Karen Sutkus, Spiritual Director, at 630-935-1153 or kustkus1@comcast.net or Joan Bajda, Lay Director at 630-660-1747 or jlajda@gmail.com.
Registration forms will be available soon.

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW...

If you would like to be included in notifications of funerals and deaths in the parish, please send your email address to Deacon Matt Novak: businessmanager@maryqueen.org.

Be sure to indicate that you wish to be placed on the list specifically for bereavement notices.

We understand that it is important for people to know about deaths in the parish, and with the inclusion now of so many parishioners from St. Charles Borromeo parish, it is a good time to update our email lists. So, even if you have given your email address when you registered for the parish, or for any other reason, you **MUST** indicate that you wish to be on the list for Bereavement Notices. Thank you, and may you have a blessed Christmas and New Year! (Mary Ann Reed, Bereavement Minister, maryann.reed@icloud.com)

On Black Friday, MQH Faith Formation families and other parishioners gave up their afternoon to help others by packing "Manna Pack" meals at Feed My Starving Children. As a group we packed 154 boxes consisting of 33,264 meals and we had a whole lot of fun too.



PRESCHOOL NEWS
GENÉT PINKERTON, DIRECTOR



PROGRAM DETAILS

Serving children ages 2-5 yrs. old.

2's classroom for T/Th or M/W 8:15-10:15

3's classroom for MWF or M-F 8:15-11:45

4's classroom for MWF or M-F 8:15-11:45

Enrichment option for 3's and 4's 11:45-2:45

What makes us amazing and different?

2's Program:

- 2 or 4 mornings available.
- We help your kids become bathroom independent.

Registration for Fall 2025-26
begins Jan. 2025

3's Program:

- We meet the learning benchmarks while maintaining a play-based environment.

4's Program:

- We facilitate a bus pick-up to Madison Early Learning Center for our students.

Afternoon Program:

- Follows a daily themed curriculum for the children to continue playing and learning.

All Programs:

- Open-ended curriculum to meet children at all levels of development.
- Safe and secure learning environment.
- Large playground and an indoor recess space.
- Balanced program of play, academics, arts, and religion.
- Specific activities designed to develop physical and social skills.
- All are welcome at Mary Queen of Heaven.

Open House Dates:

Sunday Jan. 12th 11:30am-3:30pm

Tuesday Jan. 14th 4:30 - 6:30pm

To learn more about our parish community, visit www.mqhelmhurst.org



*"Free to play, explore,
and imagine."*

442 N. West Ave
Elmhurst, IL 60126
mqhpreschool@maryqueen.org
(630)8339500

Our winter resale was a huge success. Last year we sold toys only which made us about \$1500. This year we added clothes, costumes, shoes, and baby gear. Thanks to Kat Cary, the awesome sale coordinator and a host of very efficient and dedicated volunteers, we made \$2411. The proceeds go directly to our Preschool scholarship fund. It takes many hours to collect, sort, and organize the bounty of donations that we acquired.

Thank you for your support of this amazing event.

Spring Resale: Sat. April 26th 2025

8:00am – 2:00pm



The unsold items all found new homes also. 20+ bags of clothes and 10+ boxes of toys were dropped off to St. Vincent DePaul resale shop. 2 large bags of stuffies went to a school in Chicago, 2 boxes of sensory toys went to a school in Dist. 45, 2 bags of "prize" toys went to the Britten school in Westmont, and 6 boxes of books went to Book Driver donation center.



Mom's Play Group

We have a wonderful mom's play group for children 3 and under. The coordinators have put together a list of monthly craft dates. Please email the group for play times beyond the listed dates.

Hope to see you there! :)

1/13 - New Years craft
2/10 - St. Valentine's craft
3/17 - St. Patrick's craft
4/14 - Easter craft

mghmomandtoto@gmail.com

Readings of the Week

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 22, 2024

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday: *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday: *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 *Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 *Day:* Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18

Prayer REQUESTS

Rolando Padillo
Herminia Cagalpin
Erlinda T. Sarvida
Olympia G. Sarvida
Antero Sarvida
Peter & Martha Wabol
Jean & Hank Schousen
Eugene M. Godawa Sr.
Rose Brogen
Karl Schmidt
Dent Joyce

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Moore
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Moore
Mollie Ferrari
Philip Ferrari
John Ferrari
William Kulpacka
James Inandiro
Nick DePaul
Wally Bassi
Pete Loutous
Carl & Marie
Kandlbinder
M. E. Wilson

Alex & Lillian Karpy
Grocke Family
Nasca Family
Clyde Todd
Daniel White
Brigid White
Patrick White
Aileen White
Al Fuchsen
Betty Wozniak
Ray Wozniak
Edna Wozniak
Rose Bier
Rose Brogan
Maria Lirio Ubungen



December 22

Seminarian Jonathan Hernandez

December 23

Deacon Gary Wooley
Deacon Duane Wozek

December 24

Deacon Ronald Yurcus
Deacon Robert Ziomek

December 25

Sister M. Yvonne Weidner OSF
Sister Vivian Whitehead OSF

December 26

Deacon Guadalupe Villarreal
Deacon Francis Vonesh

December 27

Sister M. Joan Clare Wisner OSF
Sister Irene Yosick OSF

December 28

Father Gerald Cole
Father Karl Langsdorf SPS

December 29

Sister Dolores Zemont OSF
Sister M. Margaret Ann
Zimmerman OSF

December 30

Sister Lucille Adelman OSF
Sister Janet Tucci OSF

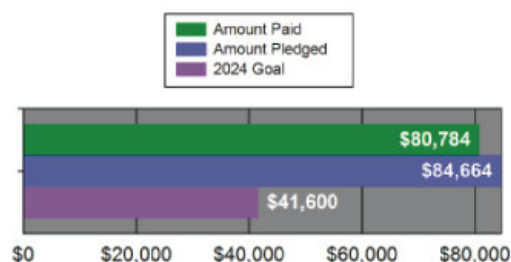
December 31

Sister Dorothy Clare Zuleski OSF
Sister Helen Zulka OSF

2024 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal through 12/8/2024



	Parish #	157		
	Parish Name	Mary Queen of Heaven Parish - Elmhurst		
	2024	2023	Inc/Dec	2023 (Final)
Goal	\$41,600	\$37,800	\$3,800	\$37,800
Amount Pledged	\$84,664	\$64,880	\$19,784	\$66,134
Amount Paid	\$80,784	\$63,721	\$17,063	\$65,772
Balance Due	\$3,880	\$1,159	\$2,721	\$362
Donor Count	212	179	33	183
2024 Rebate	\$27,429			



WEEKLY OFFERINGS REPORT Week of December 1, 2024

Sunday	\$ 5,913.00
Mail in	\$ 190.00
Electronic	\$ 6,690.00
TOTAL	\$ 12,793.00

**Saturday, December 21, 2024**

8:30am Ruben

4:30pm † Ronald Nasti

Sunday, December 22, 20248:30am For the Parishioners of MQH
† Mary Stanko

10:30am † Ronald H. Stefani Sr.

Monday, December 23, 2024

8:30am Communion Service

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

3:00pm † Gene and Georgiann Los

6:00pm † Victor and Andrew
Poludniewski

12:00am † Kathleen Reiter

Wednesday, December 25, 20248:30am † Virginia and Anthony
Carlevato

10:30am Kathy Anselmo

Thursday, December 26, 2024

8:30am Margaret Malloy

Friday, December 27, 2024

8:30am † Ann Holub

Saturday, December 28, 2024

8:30am Ann McNamara

4:30pm † Michael Durdil

Sunday, December 29, 20248:30am For the Parishioners of MQH
† Elida Vargas
† Devin Newcombe
† Angelita Gonzalez
† Priscilla Garcia and
Baby Joaquin
† Bridget Garry
† Giovanni Mancera
Ignacio Campos
10:30am † Kathleen Anselmo

† indicates person is deceased

CHRISTMAS - LECTOR SCHEDULE**3:00pm**
CHRISTMAS EVE
Marie McCall**6:00pm**
CHRISTMAS EVE
Dan Harrington**12:00**
MIDNIGHT MASS
Randy Styka**8:30am**
CHRISTMAS DAY
To Be Assigned**10:30am**
CHRISTMAS DAY
Pat Naples**CHRISTMAS - EUCHARISTIC MINISTER SCHEDULE****3:00pm**
CHRISTMAS EVE
Deacon Tim
B. Lawlor-C
D. Justus
A. Locascio
K. Vicary
W. Woollard**6:00pm**
CHRISTMAS EVE
T. Sabel-C
J. Eichorst
S. Harrington**12:00**
MIDNIGHT MASS
Deacon Alex
M. Grozik-C
R. Baguilet
R. Sytka**8:30am**
CHRISTMAS DAY
Deacon Alex
J. Weigel-C
J. DeZur
M. Grozik
M. Mooney
A. Weigel**10:30am**
CHRISTMAS DAY
Deacon Tim
P. Twardowski-C
P. Delaney
J. Naples
P. Naples
G. Pozen*C-indicates the captain***MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

Saturday, December 28 & Sunday, December 29

LECTORS**SATURDAY**
4:30pm
Kay Passarelli**SUNDAY**
8:30am
Ken Sutlus**SUNDAY**
10:30am
Randy Styka**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS****SATURDAY**
4:30pm
Deacon Alex
K. Passarelli-C
S. Harrington**SUNDAY**
8:30am
Deacon Alex
A. Weigel-C
N. Sietsma**SUNDAY**
10:30am
Deacon Alex
G. Pinkerton-C
M. Alcorn
R. Baguilet
K. Carambot
L. Frank*C-indicates the captain***EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**To view complete job descriptions of open positions
within the Diocese and contact information, please visit:
[The Roman Catholic Diocese of Joliet in Illinois.](https://www.roman-catholic-diocese-of-joliet.org/)**Armed Forces Prayer List** We remember and pray for the
protection of our military as they serve in our Armed Forces.**U.S. Marine Corps** SGT Ethan Zielinski, Camp Pendleton, CA
U.S. Navy Kevin Caskey, JapanPlease contact the parish office by calling 630-279-5700 if you would
like to add a name to our ongoing prayer list for our active duty loved ones.

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