



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

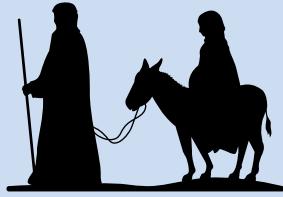
church of st. mary - lake forest



DECEMBER 14, 2024

GAUDETE SUNDAY - REJOICE!

Rejoice! This week we light the "Pink/Rose" Candle on the Advent Wreath. Why do we light a pink candle? Our Church uses pink as a celebratory color - a reminder of hope that we have as we draw closer to Christmas! Rejoice, Christmas will soon be here!



CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS ANGELS & SHEPHERDS

December 25, 2024

4:15pm Mass in the UGC Gym

A lovely tradition at St. Mary's is having our 1st Year/1st Grade children dress as angels (girls) and shepherds (boys) and singing a song to welcome Baby Jesus. It is a sweet way to begin the Christmas season!

IN THE CLASSROOM



COMING UP...

DECEMBER 15TH (SUNDAY): 9:30AM-11AM RE KINDERGARTEN-5TH GRADE (PGC)

PARENTS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS FOR OUR ADVENT WREATH PRAYER IN THE ATRIUM (9:30AM)

DECEMBER 17TH (TUESDAY)

- 4:15-5:45PM RE 1ST YEAR-6TH, 8TH (UGC)
- 7:00PM-8:30PM 6TH-8TH (UGC)

PARENTS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS FOR OUR ADVENT WREATH PRAYER IN THE ATRIUM (4:15PM & 7PM)

ANGEL & SHEPHERDS SIGN-UP DUE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH.

DECEMBER 21ST (SATURDAY): 10AM ANGELS & SHEPHERDS REHEARSAL (UGC GYM)

SUNDAY GOSPEL READING: 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Luke 3: 10-18

Sunday Connection

The theme of the season of Advent is sometimes described as a period of waiting for the birth of Jesus. However, today's Gospel reading suggests something different. John the Baptist did not tell the crowds to wait for the Messiah. He told them to prepare for the Messiah through acts of repentance. If Advent is a time of waiting, it is not the sitting in the doctor's office kind of waiting. It is a busy time of preparation, more like the waiting we might do when preparing for dinner guests. Our challenge is to not make this season a frenzied time, but rather a time of joyful anticipation and making ready for God who comes to dwell among us and changes our lives with the gift of salvation. -Loyola Press

Faith in the Family

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

December 24th

4:00pm (Church)
4:00pm (The Woodlands Academy)
4:15pm (Upper Grade Center Gym)
6:00pm (Church)
10:00pm (Church)

December 25th (All Masses in Church)

8:00am
10:00am
12:00pm

Baby Shower for Baby Jesus Serving Aid for Women in Waukegan

Thank you to all our families who have brought donations to for our Baby Shower for Baby Jesus. All items will be donated to mothers and their babies in our local community. Donations will be accepted until Tuesday, December 17th. There will be donation boxes at the entrance of the buildings on both Sunday and Tuesday. Please see the flyer on the following page for details of items most needed at this time.

Thank you for your family's generosity! This project is coordinated by a few of our RE Alum High School students.



ABSENT FORM

Please let us know if your child will be absent by filling out this form and we will notify their catechist.

[**ABSENT FORM**](#)



HAVE YOU JOINED OUR TEXT MESSAGING GROUP?

If you would like to receive text messages for important matters, please join our Remind Text Groups by clicking on the link or texting the following code to 81010:

- [Religious Ed](#) or text @cosmre25 (general text messages)
- [Intensive Session](#) or text @cosmsi25
- [Sunday Morning Session](#) or text @cosmsun25
- [Tuesday Afternoon Session](#) or text @cosmpta25
- [Tuesday Evening Session](#) or text @cosmte25

around the classrooms and the parish

DECEMBER CALENDAR

15th, Sunday: 9:30am-11am RE Kindergarten-5th (PGC)

17th, Tuesday: 4:15pm-5:45pm RE 1st Year-6th, 8th (UGC)
7:00pm-8:30pm RE 6th-8th (UGC)

21st, Saturday: 10:00am Angels and Shepherds Practice (UGC Gym)

No Classes: December 22nd-January 7th



"I bring you good tidings of great joy."
Luke 2:10

CHRISTMAS AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY

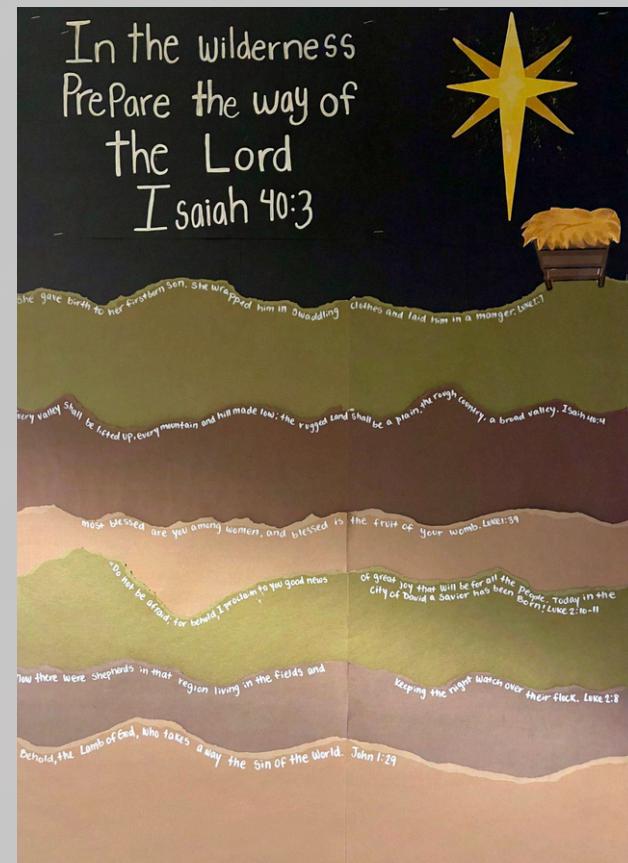
Sunday, December 22, 2024 – 4th Sunday of Advent
8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00 Noon and 5:00pm Masses

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES – Tuesday, December 24, 2024
4:00pm – Church of St. Mary (*Livestreamed*)
4:00pm – Woodlands Academy Chapel
4:15pm – Church of St. Mary – UGC Gym
6:00pm – Church of St. Mary
10:00pm – Church of St. Mary

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES – Wednesday, December 25, 2024
8:00am – Church of St. Mary
10:00am – Church of St. Mary (*Livestreamed*)
12:00 Noon – Church of St. Mary

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY MASSES – Sunday, December 29, 2024
8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00 Noon and 5:00pm Masses

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD MASSES
Tuesday, December 31, 2024 – 5:00pm Mass
Wednesday, January 1, 2025 – 9:00am Mass



BABY SHOWER For Baby Jesus

DONATIONS BENEFIT AID FOR WOMEN
WAUKEGAN PREGNANCY CENTER

Bring Donation to Religious Education
December 8th-December 17th (Sunday or Tuesday)

- Baby Clothing (Boys & Girls) in all sizes up to 18 months
- Diapers in all sizes but especially size 4 and larger
- Baby Wipes
- Receiving Blankets
- Infant Bath Towels
- Baby Toiletries (Shampoo, Lotion, Body Wash)
- Pacifiers
- Baby Bottles
- Board Books
- Gift Cards to Target or Walmart



Donations accepted Sunday (Dec 15th) and Tuesday (Dec 17th)

around the classrooms and the parish



REGISTRATION & INFORMATION



COR SUMMER SERVICE TRIP

JUNE 24-29, 2025 | KANSAS CITY, MO



open to incoming 9th graders
through graduating 12th graders

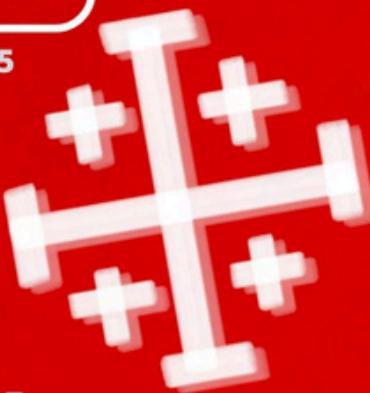
Register by February 17
limited spots available
first come, first serve (literally)

JOIN US FOR KAIROS

JANUARY 10-12, 2025

REGISTRATION
OPEN TO CLASS OF
2025 AND 2026!

St. Francis de Sales
CATHOLIC PARISH
AND
Church of St. Mary
Lake Forest, Illinois



REGISTER BY DECEMBER 13th!

Juniors & Seniors: Join COR Ministry for Kairos in January! Don't wait to sign up. Click this [link](#) or the image to register. Any students who have attended Kairos at school and might be interested in leading should reach out to Chase at chawkins@churchofstmary.org!

This retreat is open to ALL juniors and seniors in high school, so please pass it on to any friends who you think would find this meaningful.

Registration is open until December 13th, so take advantage of the Thanksgiving break and sign-up!



REGISTER AT

TINYURL.COM/KAIROS-20

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, DM US OR EMAIL
DARIZMENDI@STFRANCISLZ.ORG OR CHAWKINS@CHURCHOFGSTMARY.ORG