



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

church of st. mary - lake forest

## NOVEMBER 22, 2024

### A NOTE OF THANKSGIVING...

This time of year naturally gives each of us an opportunity to reflect on the many blessings from God. As we pause in this season of thanksgiving, we offer our heartfelt gratitude for the privilege of walking in faith alongside our wonderful families, catechists, and volunteers. We give thanks for the opportunity to be a part of the spiritual formation of your children, witnessing their growth as disciples of Jesus. Each step they take in faith is a testament to the love, guidance, and prayerful support that surrounds them.

We pray for continued blessings on all of our families, catechists, and volunteers that they may be a source of strength and love for one another, and that the seeds of faith planted today will grow into lasting discipleship tomorrow.

With gratitude and prayer,

*Joy and Liberty*

Your Religious Education Team



### IN THE CLASSROOM



### COMING UP...

#### NOVEMBER 24TH (SUNDAY):

- 9:30AM-11AM KINDERGARTEN-5TH GRADE [PGC]

#### NOVEMBER 26TH (TUESDAY)

*FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN FAMILY*

*VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY (SIGN-UPS CLOSED)*

- 5:00PM-6:30PM
- 7:15PM-8:45PM

#### NOVEMBER 27TH (WEDNESDAY)

- OFFICE CLOSURES AT 12PM

#### NOVEMBER 28TH-29TH

PARISH & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE  
CLOSED

### SUNDAY GOSPEL READING: FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

John 18:33b-37

*Sunday Connection*

As you gather as a family, recall that this Sunday is the last Sunday in the Church year and on this Sunday we celebrate the feast of Christ the King. Talk together about what it means to be a king or queen. How do those who are subjects behave toward royalty? Invite children to role-play what one does in the presence of royalty. Read today's Gospel, John 18:33b-37. Ask your family to discuss these questions: Does Pilate treat Jesus like royalty? (No.) What does Jesus say about his kingdom? (It is not of this world.) Talk about how your family shows honor and obedience to Christ our King. Pray together the Lord's Prayer and ask God to help your family act in ways that show you recognize and honor Christ as King. -Loyola Press

## Faith in the Family

### THANKSGIVING PRAYERS

As we prepare to gather around the table with family and friends, it is a wonderful opportunity to include a prayer of thanksgiving for the blessings in our life. Following are some prayers that could be shared at your Thanksgiving celebration:

#### Children's Thanksgiving Prayer:

*Thank you, God, for this past year, Thank you, God, for family here, Thank you, God, for this delicious food, Thank you, God, for all that's good! Amen.*

#### Family Thanksgiving Prayer:

*Heavenly Father, we gather together today with hearts filled with gratitude. This meal we share reminds us of the endless blessings You've bestowed upon us. We pray in thanksgiving not only for this food we share, but in all the ways You've shown us Your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

#### Remembering Our Deceased Loved Ones Thanksgiving Prayer :

*Heavenly Father, we come to You today with grateful hearts, recognizing the many gifts You've given us that have allowed for this special meal to come together. Still, we acknowledge our sadness that our gathering today feels incomplete. We lift up to You our dearly departed, [Say names of deceased loved ones] and ask You to bless them as you bless us. We're comforted by the promise of Your Kingdom and look forward to one day sharing together in a heavenly feast with all those who are not with us today. In Your name, we pray. Amen.*



### 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 @cosmta25
- Tuesday Evening Session or text @cosmte25



## NOVEMBER|DECEMBER CALENDAR

24th, Sunday: 9:30am-11am RE Kindergarten-5th (PGC)  
26th, Tuesday: No Classes  
Feed My Starving Children Service Opportunity  
5:00pm-6:30pm OR 7:15pm-8:45pm  
27th, Wed: 12pm Parish & RE Office Closes at Noon  
28th, Thursday: Parish & RE Office Closed (Thanksgiving)  
29th, Friday: Parish & RE Office Closed

### DECEMBER

1st, Sunday: No Classes  
3rd, Tuesday: 4:15pm-5:45pm RE 1st Year-6th, 8th (UGC)  
7:00pm-8:30pm RE 6th-8th (UGC)  
8th, Sunday: 9:00am-11:45am Intensives 6th-8th (UGC)  
9:30am-11am RE Kindergarten-5th (PGC)  
10th, Tuesday: 4:15pm-5:45pm RE 1st Year-6th, 8th (UGC)  
7:00pm-8:30pm RE 6th-8th (UGC)  
*Reconciliation Prayer Service during classes*  
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



## Religious Education Annual Baby Shower for Jesus

### WISH LIST:

### 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



*Bring donations December 8th-17th to RE Class*



*around the classrooms and the parish*

# GIVE Thanks

**Please join us as Mass is offered on  
Thanksgiving Day, November 28,  
at St. Mary's at 9:00am.**

*(Please note that there is no 7:30am Mass that day.)*

## CHRISTMAS SHARING TREE

Support families in need this Christmas through:

**Most Blessed Trinity Food Pantry &  
Catholic Charities of Lake County**



Ways to participate:

- Choose ornament and purchase requested gifts
- Donate cash or check in red envelope
- Scan QR code to donate online



Monetary donations due by 12/1. Gift drop-off before 5pm Mass, 12/7, through after 12pm Mass, 12/8.

Thank you to **St. Agnes and St. Catherine of Siena Circles** for organizing!



[WWW.RELIGIOUSEDUCATION.CHURCHOFSTMARY.ORG](http://WWW.RELIGIOUSEDUCATION.CHURCHOFSTMARY.ORG)

*around the classrooms and the parish*



# COR SUMMER SERVICE TRIP

JUNE 24-29, 2025 | KANSAS CITY, MO

open to incoming 9th graders  
through graduating 12th graders

REGISTRATION &  
INFORMATION



Register by February 17

*limited spots available*

*first come, first serve (literally)*



## Baby Jesus Birthday Party

Saturday, December 7th

10:00-11:30am

SCHOOL OF ST. MARY UPPER GRADE CENTER



A special event for young children and families to celebrate the birth of baby Jesus. Join us as we share the Nativity story, fun crafts, and refreshments during this heartwarming gathering.

**Please register online  
by November 24th!**



Thank you to **St. Colette Circle** for organizing this event!





## LEARN MORE ABOUT GENERATION TO GENERATION: ANSWER THE CALL FOLLOW UP WEEKEND

### GENERATION TO GENERATION: ANSWER THE CALL

Dear Parishioners,

As we prepare to celebrate our 150th anniversary in 2025, the Church of St. Mary is participating in the *Generation to Generation: Answer the Call* campaign, along with every parish across the Archdiocese of Chicago. This campaign is an opportunity to celebrate the anniversary of St. Mary's and support the broader Catholic community in the Archdiocese by spiritually renewing our parishes, supporting our priests, and assisting parish communities in need.

I am fully supportive of this campaign and encourage your participation to join with the faithful from across the Archdiocese of Chicago who are helping to ensure our local Church is strong and vibrant for generations to come. In celebration of our 150th anniversary, our campaign projects include interior revitalizations to our church, improvements to our Parish Center, and caring for future generations.

Please take a moment to review the impact of the *Generation to Generation: Answer the Call* campaign. I encourage your participation to join with the faithful from across the Archdiocese of Chicago who are helping to ensure our local Church is strong and vibrant for future generations. Your pledge will make a significant impact within our parish, the Archdiocese and local Catholic parishes. As your pastor, I am grateful for your thoughtful consideration of this request, and I ask you to pray for the success of our campaign.

God Bless you!

Fr. Mike Nacius



#### Revised Parish Goal:

**\$4,425,000**

#### Parish Share:

**\$2,877,000**



[WWW.RELIGIOUSEDUCATION.CHURCHOFSTMARY.ORG](http://WWW.RELIGIOUSEDUCATION.CHURCHOFSTMARY.ORG)

*around the classrooms and the parish*

NILES METROPOLITAN CHORUS AND MUSICA LUMINA ORCHESTRA  
MAREK RACHELSKI, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

11TH ANNUAL D-I-Y

# HANDEL'S MESSIAH



Des Plaines Theater, 1476 Miner Street, Des Plaines, IL 60016

**7:30 PM TUESDAY DECEMBER 3, 2024**

TICKETS at [WWW.DESPLAINESTHEATRE.COM/EVENTS/](http://WWW.DESPLAINESTHEATRE.COM/EVENTS/)

Church of St. Mary, 175 E. Illinois Rd., Lake Forest, IL 60045

**7:30 PM FRIDAY DECEMBER 6, 2024**

TICKETS at [WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM](http://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM) (search for Niles Metropolitan Chorus)



*Des Plaines*

#### Starring

Desirée Hassler, Soprano; Corinne Wallace-Crane, Alto;  
Jonathan Weyant, Tenor; Aaron Wardell, Bass;  
Marek Rachelski, Conducting from the harpsichord



*Lake Forest*



[www.nilesmetropolitanchorus.com](http://www.nilesmetropolitanchorus.com) (224) 585-3768

**Kick Off the Holidays  
with this Timeless Classic!**