

## Welcome

Welcome to Our Lady of Lourdes and Immaculate Conception! We are glad you are here with us today. If you would like to join our Faith Community, please contact our parish office or stop by any time.

### Our Lady of Lourdes

Established - 1875  
534 N. Wood Street  
Gibson City, IL 60936

### Mass Schedule

Saturday 5 pm  
Sunday 7 am & 10:30 am  
Monday 8 am  
Tuesday 8 am  
Thursday 6:30 pm  
Friday 8 am  
Holy Days: 7 am & 7 pm

### Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday 8:30-9:30 am  
Thursday 7-8 pm

### Confession

Saturday 4:30 pm (OLOL)  
Any time by Appointment



### Immaculate Conception

202 E. Green Street  
Roberts, IL 60962

### Mass Schedule

Sunday 8:30 am

### Confession

Sunday 8:15AM (IC)



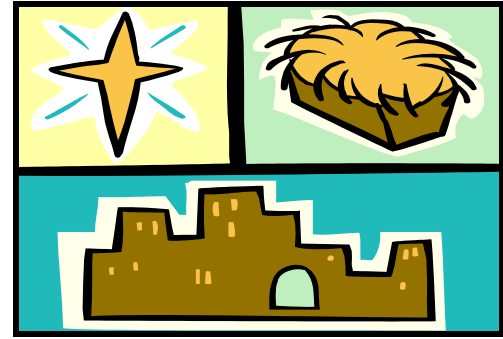
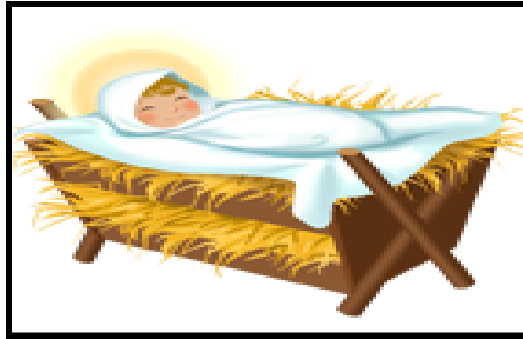
### Parish Office

Phone & Fax:  
(217) 784-4671  
General Information  
pastor@ololgc.org  
Address:  
534 N. Wood St.  
Gibson City, IL 60936

### Website

www.ololgc.org

# December 21, 2014 Fourth Sunday of Advent



## THE TRADITION OF THE BLESSING OF THE CHRISTMAS BAMBINO

The Nativity scene, a beloved part of Christmas decorations the world over, can be traced to the love for and devotion to Christ felt by St. Francis of Assisi. It should be recorded and held in reverent memory what St. Francis of Assisi did in the town of Greccio, on the feast day of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, three years before his glorious death. In that town lived a certain man by the name of John (Messer Giovanni Velitta) who stood in high esteem, and whose life was even better than his reputation. Blessed Francis loved him with a special affection because, being very noble and much honored, he despised the nobility of the flesh and strove after the nobility of the soul. Blessed Francis often saw this man. He now called him about two weeks before Christmas and said to him:

"If you desire that we should celebrate this year's Christmas together at Greccio, go quickly and prepare what I tell you; for I want to enact the memory of the infant who was born at Bethlehem, and how He was deprived of all the comforts babies enjoy; how He was bedded in the manger on hay, between an ass and an ox. For once I want to see all this with my own eyes."

When that good and faithful man had heard this, he departed quickly and prepared in the above-mentioned place everything that the Saint had told him. The joyful day approached.

The brethren (Franciscan friars) were called from many communities. The men and women of the neighborhood, as best they could, prepared candles and torches to brighten the night.

Finally the Saint of God arrived, found everything prepared, saw it and rejoiced. The crib was made ready, hay was brought, the ox and ass were led to the spot.... Greccio became a new Bethlehem. The night was made radiant like the day, filling men and animals with joy. The

crowds drew near and rejoiced in the novelty of the celebration. Their voices resounded from the woods, and the rocky cliff echoed the jubilant outburst. As they sang in praise of God, the

whole night rang with exultation. The Saint of God stood before the crib, overcome with devotion and wondrous joy. A solemn Mass was sung at the crib.

The Saint, dressed in a deacon's vestments, for a deacon he was, sang the Gospel. Then he preached a delightful sermon to the people who stood around him. And this is how a popular tradition was born!



Let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us....  
Psalm 90:17

**Pastor**

Rev. Thomas Theneth, CMI  
(630)639-0502  
TTheneth@ololg.org

**Deacon**

Jeff Volker

**Parish Secretary**

Patti Meunier

**Religious Education**

Alyce Hafer

**Youth Ministry**

Bruce Killian

**Musicians**

Michele Fackler  
Corey Fields

**Parish Council  
President**

Matt Doran (OLOL)

**THIS WEEK'S INTENTIONS**

If you wish to have a Mass intention for a loved one, anniversary or other occasion, please contact the parish office. Mass intentions are

<b>MON</b> Dec 22	8:00AM	Briggs Family Aubry Family
<b>TUE</b> Dec 23	8:00AM	Gene, Geary & Marty Gardner
<b>WED</b> Dec 24	OLL 4:00PM	Our Lady of Lourdes Alt Family
<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	IC 6:00PM	Immaculate Conception
	OLL 10:00PM	Our Lady of Lourdes
<b>THU</b> Dec 25	9:00AM	OUR LADY OF LOURDES
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>		
<b>FRI</b> Dec 26	8:00AM	NO MASS
<b>SAT</b> Dec 27	5:00PM	Kathleen Bitner Family Robert Bittner Family
<b>SUN</b> Dec 28	7:00AM(OLOL)	Bode Family Boyce Family
	8:30 AM (IC)	Tom Schwarz Family
	10:30 AM (OLOL)	Rich Baillie Family Beyers Family

**Thank You  
For Your Gifts  
OLOL**

Envelopes \$2095.00

Loose \$454.00

**Imm. Conception**

Total \$181.00

Feel free to pick up a  
**2015 CALENDAR**  
from the back table! Thank  
you Day Drainage

**CMAA Goals**  
**OLOL: \$16,228**  
Goal: (\$11,786)  
**IC: \$1,385**  
(Goal: \$1,149)

**MINISTRY SCHEDULES**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>	<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Euch. Minister</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Homebound Ministry</u>
Wed, Dec. 24 4:00PM	Hannah & Haven Hathaway	Patti Huppert Marj Brown	Deacon Jeff		
Wed, Dec 24 10:00PM	Hannnah & Molly Kollross	Jack Kollross Lisa Volker	Deacon Jeff		
Thurs, Dec 25 9:00AM	Nathan & Ethan Garard		Deacon Jeff		
Sat, Dec 27 5:00PM	Andrew & Aiden Laughery'	Jim Meyer		Leo Chapman Stan Alt	Frank Titus
Sun, Dec 28 7:00AM	Ben Freehill	Jim Freehill			
Sun, Dec 28 10:30AM	Joe Baillie Joe Allen	Paul Sarantakos	Deacon Jeff	Rob Schmitt Tim Fackler	



The **2015 Offertory envelopes** are available to pick up in the back of the church. If you have not registered with the parish, please contact the office. (217)784-4671.

Also, please let us know of address or other contact information changes.



**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**  
(ALSO FOUND ON THE BACK OF YOUR CHRISTMAS CARD)

**CHRISTMAS EVE MASS**  
4:00PM OUR LADY OF LOURDES  
6:00PM IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
10:00PM OUR LADY OF LOURDES

**NEW YEARS EVE MASS**  
4:00PM OUR LADY OF LOURDES

**NEW YEARS DAY MASS**  
10:30AM IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

**CHRISTMAS DAY MASS**  
9:00AM OUR LADY OF LOURDES

**THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT-December 21, 2014**

The Lighting of the Fourth Candle: The candle of LOVE

Today we focus on the coming of the Son—the son of Mary, the Son of God! The angels announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only son to earth to save us, because he loves us! "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:16-17)



**During the Advent Season, as we make our spiritual preparation for the birth of Christ, in addition to the regular schedule, the sacrament of Reconciliation will be available as follows:**

- **Any time during Adoration hours**  
**Tuesday mornings from 8:30AM-9:30AM**  
**Thursday evenings from 7PM-8PM.**
- **After morning Masses Monday and Friday**
  - **Any time by appointment**

Last week when Deacon Jeff said in his sermon that 60% of the seniors in our Town are in need of food, I was really shocked. I spent the next days pondering over this.

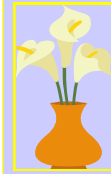
Recently as you know I went to Rome to attend the canonization ceremony of our founder St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara. When he was the Apostolic Vicar for the St. Thomas Christians in our state, he gave the order to start schools with every parish. People raised funds, offered their time and talent and the schools were built. At that time, only the high cast people were allowed to study, but his order was to admit children from ALL casts. The lower cast people found it difficult because they had to send their kids to work in order to feed the family. St. Chavara, at that point asked Catholics to feed those children, because we are obligated by our Lord to "feed the hungry," quoting from St. Matthew (25:32-46). He proposed an easy method. In our state the main food of the people is rice. Every family will cook, rice at least twice a day. Each time when they take rice to cook, he asked that they grab a fist-full and put it aside and on Sundays as they go to the Holy Mass, take it with them to church. It will be more or less two pounds of rice and with 500-1000 families contributing, there will be 1000-2000 pounds of rice every week, which is enough to feed the children in the school.



I thought we could do something similar in our situation. If every FAMILY set aside a quarter of a dollar a day from their food expenses, it would be a dollar and seventy-five cents a week (those who can afford it \$2 would be wonderful, and those who cannot \$1 a week or what you can afford). Bring it to church every Sunday or every month and we will use it to feed our needy people in Gibson City.

I ask you to think about this idea, share it with your friends and family members. If you think it is a good idea, express your ideas about how we can put this into practice. Some suggestions were to have something to remind us, like a container to keep the coins, etc., I look forward to hearing others. To begin, I think we need to make a pledge, so that it makes a FIRM commitment. The donations will go to the newly formed Gibson City Food Pantry. If this idea is acceptable, I will ask the Parish Council to think of ways to execute with the help of Deacon Jeff.

**PARISH EVENTS**



Sign up sheet for altar flowers for 2015 will be in the back of the church. Flowers are provided by County Market and are \$30.

You may have already signed up for a permanent date--if you wish to make any changes, please note them on the sheet.

**Pray for the Sick & Homebound**

Tony Coons  
Mary Cothorn  
Jesse Cervelli  
Vicky Stuckey  
Dick Walter  
Doris Benter  
Penny Campbell  
Loretta Bode  
Rita Benefiel  
Chuck Kemmer  
Vivian Geurts  
Mardella Duffy  
Joanne Baker  
Don Hahn  
Dennis Stack

If you wish to add the name of a loved one who is sick, please contact the parish office at 217-784-4671 or [pastor@ololgc.org](mailto:pastor@ololgc.org).

**SAINTS OF THE WEEK**

**Monday, December 22**  
**Blessed Jacopone de Todi**  
**Tuesday, December 23**  
**St. John Kanty**  
**Wednesday, December 24**  
**Christmas at Greccio**  
**Thursday, December 25**  
**Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord**  
**Friday, December 26**  
**St. Stephen**  
**Saturday, December 27**  
**St. John the Apostle**  
**Sunday, December 28**  
**Holy Innocents**



# dear Padre

December 21, 2014

## Was Jesus actually born December 25?

How do we know the date of Jesus' birth? I've checked my Bible, and I can't find any mention of the date.

**You're right:** The Bible doesn't say Jesus was born December 25. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke are the only Scriptures to give much detail about Christ's birth and infancy. They name the key political figures of the day, but not much else (Luke 1:5 and 2:1-2). Neither evangelist included specific information about the dates.

Dates were apparently not important to the earliest Christians. Besides, the first few generations of Christ's followers were far more interested in celebrating Christ's resurrection each Sunday, and eventually on Easter, than they were in celebrating his birth.

Christians started to associate December 25 with Christ's nativity centuries after the fact: the year 336, according to the earliest evidence.

The most popular theory is that the Church chose to replace a popular pagan Roman sun festival celebrating the winter solstice (December 21 or 22) with a Christian feast that could overtake the pagan festival and use its sun imagery to speak of Christ as the unconquered "Sun of Righteousness."

FR. MATTHEW ALLMAN, CSsR  
[sundaybulletin@liguori.org](mailto:sundaybulletin@liguori.org)

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### Monday

December 22  
*Advent Weekday*  
1 Sm 1:24-28  
Lk 1:46-56

### Tuesday

December 23  
*Advent Weekday*  
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24  
Lk 1:57-66

### Wednesday

December 24  
*Advent Weekday*  
2 Sm 7:1-5,  
8b-12, 14a, 16  
Lk 1:67-79

### Thursday

December 25  
*Nativity of the Lord*  
(*Christmas*)  
Is 52:7-10  
Heb 1:1-6  
Jn 1:1-18 or  
1:1-5, 9-14

### Friday

December 26  
*Saint Stephen,*  
*The First Martyr*  
Acts 6:8-10;  
7:54-59  
Mt 10:17-22

### Saturday

December 27  
*Saint John, Apostle*  
*and Evangelist*  
1 Jn 1:1-4  
Jn 20:1a, 2-8

### Sunday

December 28  
*Holy Family of Jesus,*  
*Mary, and Joseph*  
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or  
Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3  
Col 3:12-21 or  
3:12-17 or  
Hb 11:8, 11-12,  
17-19  
Lk 2:22-40 or  
2:22, 39-40

# Good News!

December 21, 2014

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 / Rom 16:25-27 /  
Lk 1:26-38

In the whole of the New Testament, Mary appears only a handful of times. She is, of course, present at the birth of Jesus and at his death. She comes looking for her son in the temple when he's twelve and again when he's preaching. She lets him know that the time has come for his first miracle when he's in Cana.

She has more to say in this story of the annunciation than in any of the others, and in this one story we get more than a glimpse of the woman she would become in our memory—called on by millions, revered by all—an example of unparalleled obedience and openness to the movement of God in her life.

It strikes me that, along with being the mother of God (the Orthodox Church uses the word *theotokos*, which means "God-bearer"), Mary is our example of the best response to the presence of God. We let him in; we show God hospitality in our very being; we allow God to change our lives in ways we cannot even imagine yet.

The reality for most of us, though, is that in many times and places we *have* had the chance to welcome God in. Instead, we've shut God out because we thought something else was more important. Maybe it was power or wealth. Perhaps God was challenging us to move on a particular path, and we didn't want to.

Maybe our question for the week is, *what would happen if I do as God asks?*

With four days left before Christmas, let us practice saying yes to God—for in doing this, we honor the mother of us all.

Mary Katharine Deeley  
[sundaybulletin@liguori.org](mailto:sundaybulletin@liguori.org)

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