

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 10:30 am

Monday 8 am

Tuesday 8 am

Wednesday 8am

Thursday 5:30 pm

Friday 8 am

Holy Days: 7 am & 7 pm

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday 8:30-9:30 am

Thursday 6-7 pm (except first
Thursday of month-no Adoration)

First Friday of Month 8:30-9:30

Confession

Saturday 4:30 pm (OLOL)

Any time by Appointment



Immaculate Conception

202 E. Green Street
Roberts, IL 60962

Mass Schedule

Sunday 8:00 am

Confession

Sunday 7:45 am (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 18, 2016 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent Daily prayers from Pope Francis for the fourth week of Advent to open our hearts to God's presence by listening more attentively to God's Word in Scripture and to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in our hearts so that when Christmas arrives we can welcome Jesus with joy and make our lives a gift of love and service.

GUIDE US, HOLY SPIRIT

Fourth Sunday of Advent—Luke 21:36

O Holy Spirit, guard our life with your embrace. Bless and strengthen every desire for good. Give new life and nourishment to our faith, sustain and enlighten our hope, awaken and animate our charity, guide us all on the path to holiness.

GATHER US ALL

Monday, Christmas Week—James 4:8

O God, teach us your own special love for the little and the poor, for the excluded and the suffering, for sinners and the wounded of heart. Gather all people under your protection and give us all to your beloved son, Jesus.

HEAR AND FOLLOW ME

Tuesday, Christmas Week—2 Corinthians 1:12

O Jesus, make my heart open to the word of God, make my heart open to goodness, make my heart open to the beauty of God every day, make my heart open to you. You knock at our hearts to enter and grant us peace, peace of the soul. Let us open our hearts to you!

IN YOU IS OUR SALVATION

Wednesday, Christmas Week—Isaiah 9:6

O God, hasten our steps to Bethlehem, to encounter the child who is born for us, for the salvation and joy of all people. Enlighten our hearts, that we may recognize in the infant Jesus, born in Bethlehem of the virgin Mary, the salvation given by God to each one of us, to each man and woman and to all the peoples of the earth. Give us the grace to live by joy of the gospel in our families, at work, in the parish and everywhere. Grant us this grace in these last days of Advent.

HELP US TO BE LIKE YOU

Thursday, Christmas Week—Luke 10:21

We thank you Jesus for revealing yourself not as one who remains on high and dominates the universe, but as the one who bends down, descends to the little and poor earth. Help us to be like you, not putting ourselves above others, but indeed lowering ourselves, placing ourselves at the service of others, becoming small with the small and poor with the poor.

JESUS REVEALS THE FACE OF GOD

Friday, Christmas Week—John 14:9

Let us give glory to God, who is good, faithful and merciful. Today may we all come to know the true face of God, the Father who has given us Jesus, and feel God's closeness, live in his presence, love him and adore him. May we feel God's presence beside us, his mercy and also his help.

MAY WE FIND YOU IN OUR FAMILIES

Saturday, Christmas Week—Ephesians 3:14-19

Holy Family of Nazareth, help us make room for Jesus who is coming, welcome him in our family, in each member: children, husband, wife, grandparents. Grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the gospel and small domestic churches. Jesus is there.

A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Christmas Day—Luke 2:10-12

On this day, illumined by the gospel hope which springs from the humble stable of Bethlehem, I invoke the Christmas gift of joy and peace upon all: upon children and the elderly, upon young people and families, the poor and the marginalized. May Jesus, who was born for us, console all those afflicted by illness and suffering. May he sustain those who devote themselves to serving our brothers and sisters who are most in need. Happy Christmas to all!

PRAYER

O Merciful God, you are love, you are waiting for us, you are our Father, who is good and loves us as a true father loves and always pardons and receives us into your love of forgiveness and mercy. May your Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where all feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live according to the Gospel. Let us give glory to God, who is good, faithful and merciful. Today may we all come to know the true face of God, feel God's closeness, live in his presence, love him, adore him and feel his mercy.

~ Pope Francis



Pastor

Rev. Thomas Theneth, CMI
(217)784-4671
ttheneth@ololgc.org

Deacon

Paul Sarantakos
p.sarantakos@hotmail.com

Parish Secretary

Patti Meunier
pastor@ololgc.org

Religious Education

Alyce Hafer

Youth Ministry

Bruce Killian

Music Director

If interested contact
pastor@ololgc.org

Parish Council President

Eric Rosenbaum (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

MON December 19	8:00AM	+Noble Hutchcraft
TUE December 20	8:00AM	+Bob Fields
WED December 21	8:00AM	Priest Intentions <i>St. Peter Canisius</i>
THU December 22	5:30PM	Kleist Family Kollross Family
FRI December 23	8:00AM	Koopman Family <i>St. John of Kanty</i> Kurtenbach Family
SAT December 24	4:00PM (IC) 8:00PM (OLOL)	Parish Family
SUN December 25	9:00AM (OLOL)	+Donald & Ruby Kemmer <i>The Nativity of The Lord</i>

Thank You For Your Gifts OLOL

Sunday Total	\$2631.00
Capital Imp.	\$125.00
Food Pantry	\$39.00
Dec. Total	\$102.00
Yr to Date FP	\$3539.89

Imm Conception

Sunday Total	\$205.50
Capital Imp.	\$0

When we meet our CMAA Goals!
OLOL and IC will get back 65% of every dollar received above our goals. Reaching our goals is a great achievement, and continuing to give is even greater!

2016 CMAA Goals
OLOL: 15,608
Goal: (\$12,712)
IC: \$1370
(Goal: \$905)

MINISTRY SCHEDULES

Date	Altar Servers	Lectors	Euch. Minister	Ushers	Homebound Ministry
Sat, December 24 8:00PM	Caine Jost Daxter Chaddox	Patti Huppert	Stan Alt	John Carlson Michael Smith	Frank Tltus
Sun, December 25 9:00AM	Andrew & Aidan Laughery	Jack Kollross	Paul Sarantakos	Sam Baillie Nathan Garard	

The first Friday of the month adoration will follow 8AM Mass. The remaining weeks of every month Adoration will be on the usual Thursday evening following 5:30PM Mass and always Tuesday following 8AM Mass.

Baptism

Call the Rectory at least four weeks before the baptism. Instruction for the parents and God-parents is required.

Sick??

If you or a family member is sick or admitted to the hospital or makes a trip to the Emergency Room, please contact Fr. Thomas at (630) 639-0502 .

Marriage

Call the Rectory at least six months before. A six month preparation time is required.



After all bills are paid the final number for the Turkey Dinner is a profit of \$4464.50.

Thank you to Rob Schmitt for being our Turkey Dinner Chairman and to all who helped make the day a success.

Thursday, December 22, there will be a Penance Service offered following 5:30PM Mass in addition to Adoration.



Thank you to everyone that answered the call to help decorate the church. We couldn't have done it without you and it is BEAUTIFUL!

FOOD PANTRY

Our Lady of Lourdes is scheduled to provide volunteers for the Saturday, December 31 Food Pantry date. It is a time of year for giving. Please consider participating in this great community effort.

Set-up Date:	Friday, December 30	Time: TBA
Distribution Date:	Saturday, December 31	Time: 8:30AM

Contact Person: Chuck Aubry Email: caubry55@gmail.com Phone: (217)249-8304

Future Saturday Dates: February 11 & May 27

The Word From Father Thomas



CHRISTMAS

MARY OUR MODEL FOR HOW TO ACCEPT JESUS INTO OUR LIVES

Christmas invites us to fix our gaze of faith and of love on the mother of Jesus. Mary, a girl from Nazareth, a small village in Galilee, in the outskirts of the Roman Empire and on the outskirts of Israel as well. Yet the Lord's gaze rested on her, on this little girl from that distant village, on the one he had chosen to be the mother of his son.

In her, the humble woman of Nazareth, "the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14). Because of this it is impossible to separate contemplating Jesus, the Word of life who has become visible and tangible, from contemplating Mary, who has given him her love and his human flesh.

The mystery of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem took place historically more than 2,000 years ago but occurs as a spiritual event in the "today" of the liturgy. The Word, who found a home in the virgin womb of Mary, comes in the celebration of Christmas to knock once again at the heart of every Christian. He comes and knocks. Each of us is called to respond, like Mary, with a personal and sincere "yes," placing oneself fully at the disposal of God and of his mercy and love. How many times Jesus comes into our lives, and how many times he sends us an angel, and how many times we don't notice because we are so busy, immersed in our own thoughts, in our own affairs and even, in these days, in our Christmas preparations, so as not to welcome him who comes and knocks at the door of our hearts, asking for acceptance, asking for a "yes" like Mary's.

The mystery of this girl from Nazareth, who is in God's heart, is not estranged from us. She is not there and we over here. No, we are connected. Indeed, God also rests his loving gaze on every man and every woman! We too, from all time, were chosen by God to live a holy life, free of sin. In reflecting on Mary, let us also recognize our truest destiny, our deepest vocation: to be loved, to be transformed by love, to be transformed by the beauty of God. Let us look to her, our mother, and allow her to look upon us, for she is our mother and she loves us so much. Let us allow ourselves to be watched over by her so that we may learn how to be more humble, to be more courageous in following God's Word and to welcome the tender embrace of her son Jesus, an embrace that gives us life, hope and peace.

We all have been moved by the wonder of God made child in the grotto of Bethlehem, by the amazement that God's son became, for love of us, Mary's son, making himself small and fragile. We should be vigilant and pray that this insight does not fade and that we can carry in our daily life, in the family and at work, the joy of the faith, which is expressed in charity, in benevolence and in tenderness.

Jesus no longer belongs to the past, but lives in the present and is projected towards the future. God's newness appears to us as a victory over sin, evil and death, over everything that crushes life and makes it seem less human. Let Jesus enter your life, welcome him as a friend, with trust: he is life! If up till now you have kept him at a distance, step forward. He will receive you with open arms. If you have been indifferent, take a risk. You won't be disappointed. If following him seems difficult, don't be afraid, trust him, be confident that he is close to you > He is with you and will give you the peace you are looking for and the strength to live as he would have you do.

I entrust all of you and your families to Mary, the mother of God and our mother too, that she may accompany and sustain you. I bless you and I wish you a peaceful and prosperous new year. And let us pray for one another.

PARISH EVENTS



Thursday, December 22

- Penance Service following 5:30PM Mass

Saturday, December 31

- Food Pantry 9AM-12Noon
HOSTED BY OLL

MESSIAH

If you missed the performance of the Messiah last weekend due to inclement weather, you can hear the performance again on Sunday, December 18th at 6:06PM on WGCY radio. And if you did attend, enjoy the opportunity to hear it



Bill Hartford (12/20)
Jane Lange (12/22)
Donna Ruddy (12/23)
Tom McCall (12/25)



Pray for the Sick & Homebound

Loretta Bode
Mary Cothorn
Mardelle Duffy
Donovan Gaines
Dick Walter
Mary Masco
Jeff McGuire
Judy Schall
Linda Ellington

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@ololg.org.



DON'T SPEND CHRISTMAS ALONE
41st Annual Christmas Day Dinner
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2016
SERVING NOON TO 1PM

American Lutheran Church
905 E. First Street (Rt. 9 East), Gibson City, IL

MENU: Turkey or Ham, & Dressing, Vegetables & Potatoes, Desserts & Beverage

NO TICKETS NECESSARY, Freewill Offering.

Call 217-784-4841 for reservations and leave your name, number in party and phone number.

Dear Padre

DECEMBER 18, 2016

Why is St. Joseph called "the Worker?" Shouldn't he be honored primarily as the father of Jesus?

Devotion to St. Joseph has developed along an interesting path. It was not until the eighth century that Joseph, underneath the title "Spouse of Mary," was even publicly acknowledged—except perhaps as an afterthought or silent participant in the Christmas story. The Church has always acknowledged that Joseph's relationship with Jesus was unique, but there was, and continues to be, reluctance to call him the father of Jesus. We understand the father of Jesus is not Joseph but rather God the Father.

A consensus about Joseph's role in the plan of salvation seems to be in place by the early fourteenth century. In 1870, Pope Pius IX declared Joseph the patron of the universal Church. By the early twentieth century, worldwide devotion had found a home at St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal.

The title of "the Worker" was used most often by Pope Pius XI in his references to Joseph as the patron of the Church's battle against atheistic communism. Pope Pius XII established the May 1 feast in 1955 to emphasize the Catholic teaching concerning the dignity of labor.

Saint Joseph could be summarized best as a man who did the best he could when God's will became clear. This image and model seems the best and most helpful for deepening our understanding of and devotion to him.

*From Dear Padre: Questions People Ask,
Liguori, 2003
sundaybulletin@liguori.org*

Monday

December 19
Advent Weekday

Jgs 13:2-7,
24-25a
Lk 1:5-25

Tuesday

December 20
Advent Weekday

Is 7:10-14
Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday

December 21
Advent Weekday

Sg 2:8-14
or Zep 3:14-18a
Lk 1:39-45

Thursday

December 22
Advent Weekday

1 Sm 1:24-28
Lk 1:46-56

Friday

December 23
Advent Weekday

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24
Lk 1:57-66

Saturday

December 24
Advent Weekday

2 Sm 7:1-5,
8b-12,
14a, 16
Lk 1:67-79

Sunday

December 25
*The Nativity
of the Lord*

Is 52:7-10
Heb 1:1-6
Jn 1:1-18
or 1:1-5, 9-14

Good News!

December 18, 2016

Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)
Is 7:10-14, Rom 1:1-7, Mt 1:18-24

Today's Nativity scene shows the figures set in a golden, eternal background. Details are missing: no landscape, cave, stable, or cattle. Ghirlandaio, Michelangelo's teacher, focuses on the people. The Gospel also refrains from external details and focuses only on the main actors: Mary and Joseph and what is going on in their hearts and minds.

Joseph has to decide how to handle surprising news: His wife is with child and he isn't the father. She claims it was by divine intervention. He had every intention of protecting her while at the same time respecting the law. Luckily his open and honest heart hears indications from an angel. He is to do the unthinkable—take her to himself—because the unimaginable has happened: "It is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived" (Matthew 1:20).

The artist paints Joseph sleeping peacefully because he is the just man who silences his troubled heart in order to hear God's voice. He, like Mary, reflects on things profoundly and grapples with God's will and the amazing vocation placed before him. His struggle in prayer leads him to have faith and trust. Following God's plan will mean pilgrimage, thus the walking stick, water jug, and knapsack.

We are all tempted to flee from the challenges of discipleship. Yet today Joseph shows us how to "man up." He assumes his role as a servant leader, teacher, and example. His dozing is not one of laziness but of silent self-control that leads to attentiveness and obedience to God's voice.

For Reflection

Challenges are opportunities for growth. How do I face the challenges of following Jesus?

Fr. Mark Haydu, LC