

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 28, 2014

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



The Origin of the Twelve Days of Christmas

The Christian Season of Christmas actually begins Christmas Eve and lasts 12 days ending January 6. Many families leave their Christmas decorations up until January 6 to celebrate what is historically known as "Little Christmas". "The Twelve Days of Christmas" song was written to represent this season during a time when it was a crime to be Catholic!

You're all familiar with the Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" I think. To most it's a delightful nonsense rhyme set to music. But it had a quite serious purpose when it was written.

It is a good deal more than just a repetitious melody with pretty phrases and a list of strange gifts.

Catholics in England during the period 1558 to 1829, when Parliament finally emancipated Catholics in England, were prohibited from ANY practice of their faith by law - private OR public. It was a crime to BE a Catholic.

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written in England as one of the "catechism songs" to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith - a memory aid, when to be caught with anything in *writing* indicating adherence to the Catholic faith could not only get you imprisoned, it could get you hanged.

The songs gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, much in memory of the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldst not have it so..."

The other symbols mean the following:

- 1 Partridge in a Pear Tree = Jesus Christ, Son of God
- 2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments
- 3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues
- 4 Calling Birds = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists
- 5 Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.
- 6 Geese A-laying = the six days of creation
- 7 Swans A-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments
- 8 Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes
- 9 Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- 10 Lords A-leaping = the ten commandments
- 11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles
- 12 Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.

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

MON Dec 29	8:00AM	Brown Family Steve Brucker Family
TUE Dec 30		NO MASS
WED Dec 31	OLL 4:00PM	OUR LADY OF LOURDES
NEW YEARS EVE		
THU Jan 1	10:30AM	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
NEW YEARS DAY		
FRI Jan		NO MASS
SAT Jan 3	5:00PM	
SUN Jan 4	7:00AM(OLOL) 8:30 AM (IC) 10:30 AM (OLOL)	

Thank You For Your Gifts OLOL

Envelopes \$2226.52
Loose \$552.00
Capital Imp. \$118.00

Imm. Conception

Total \$43.00

Feel free to pick up a
2015 CALENDAR
from the bookcase in the
vestibule! Thank you Day
Drainage

CMAA Goals
OLOL: \$16,323
Goal: (\$11,786)
IC: \$1,430
(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. 31 4:00PM	Giles Volker Liam Killian	Marj Brown			
Sat, Jan 3 5:00PM	Andrew & Aiden Laughery	Patti Huppert	Lisa Heap		Deacon Jeff
Sun, Jan 4 7:00AM	Ben Freehill	Michelle Rosenbaum			
Sun, Jan 4 10:30AM	Hannah & Haven Hathaway	Denis Fisher	Deacon Jeff		

Volunteers are always needed for our parish ministries. For more information on how to join, contact the parish office.

Baptism

Call the Rectory at least four weeks before the baptism. Baptismal 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 or Deacon Jeff at (217) 781-8238.

**2015 FLOWERS**

There are still available dates to sign up for altar flowers for 2015. The sign up sheet is at 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.



This has been the declared the Year for Consecrated Life. We ask you to pray daily for vocations to priesthood and religious life.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O dearest Jesus, Son of the eternal Father and Mary Immaculate, grant to our boys and girls, the generosity necessary to follow Your call, and the courage required to overcome all obstacles to their vocation.

Give to parents that faith, love and spirit of sacrifice which will inspire them to offer their children to God's service and cause them to rejoice exceedingly, whenever one of their children is called to the religious life.

Let Your example and that of Your Blessed Mother and St. Joseph, encourage both children and parents, and let Your grace sustain them.

I felt it necessary to run this again to reach out to anyone that missed it!

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.

Reflection on the celebration this Sunday of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

The pressures of secularism and modern life have again reduced the significance of family life in the lives of most people. Busy schedules, increased alienation from each other and the inability on the part of some to keep up with the fast pace of life mean that families eat fewer meals together. Prayer before meals is a thing of the past since families very rarely have a meal together. For many, family life is restricted to socially required ceremonies at births, weddings, and funerals. The result has been that God has receded from the awareness and experience of everyday family life. Many assume that God is found only in certain places, in sacred buildings, in holy books, or in observances led by holy persons. Their lives, on the other hand, move in a secular realm devoid of the presence of the holy. Daily experiences are reduced and impoverished. They have no meaning beyond themselves, no opening to transcendence. Little room for mystery remains in the everyday life as it becomes increasingly subject to secularism and technology.

Reflection on the readings and the feast of the Holy Family challenge us to look at ourselves and our family life anew. We are called to rediscover the simple joys of being together, of everyday experience thorough shared meals and simply spending time with each other. We need to learn that even as individuals we are not islands, but relational beings. We have come into this world because of family and it is through family that we can continue to sustain ourselves in the world. What is the quality of family? How can your improve it?



Emily Bucks (12/30)
Charley Ulrich (12/30)
Mark Andreae (1/1)
Sophie Hafer (1/1)

Tannie Smith (1/1)
Steve Killian (1/1)
Kerry Tredennick (1/1)
Margaret Carey (1/2)



Gene & Regina Johnson (1/2)

PARISH EVENTS



Sun. January 11

- **CCD Pancake Breakfast**

Wed, January 14

- **K of C Meeting 7PM**

Wed, January 28

- **Parish Council Meeting 7PM**

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.

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

Monday, December 29

St. Thomas Becket

Tuesday, December 30

St. Egwin

Wednesday, December 31

St. Sylvester

Thursday, January 1

Mary, Mother of God

Friday, January 2

St. Basil the Great

Saturday, January 3

Most Holy Name of Jesus

Sunday, January 4

St. Kurikose Elias

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

dear Padre

December 28, 2014

How do I teach my children about the works of mercy?

I've been trying to teach my children about the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Any suggestions?

It's easy to teach young children about the works of mercy as long as you keep it simple and call their attention to what they're doing.

When they set the table and pour drinks, tell them they're feeding the hungry and giving drink to the thirsty. When they bring homework to a sick classmate, they're visiting the sick. If they go to a funeral, they're helping bury the dead.

When they make up with their siblings after a fight, they bear wrongs patiently and forgive all injuries. Siblings who help each other with their homework are instructing the "ignorant."

Children who soothe someone who's been hurt comfort the sorrowful. Praying for anyone, living or dead, is a spiritual work of mercy.

Listening when someone confides in them is counseling the doubtful. Talking a friend or sibling out of doing something wrong is admonishing the sinner.

As your children get older, volunteer as a family with organizations that build homes for low-income families and help the children of prisoners.

Performing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, whether for each other or with each other, will bring you closer as a family as well as closer to God.

FR. RICK POTTS, CSsR
sundaybulletin@liguori.org

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Monday
December 29
Octave of Christmas
1 Jn 2:3-11
Lk 2:22-35

Tuesday
December 30
Octave of Christmas
1 Jn 2:12-17
Lk 2:36-40

Wednesday
December 31
Octave of Christmas
1 Jn 2:18-21
Jn 1:1-18

Thursday
January 1
Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Nm 6:22-27
Gal 4:4-7
Lk 2:16-21

Friday
January 2
Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
1 Jn 2:22-28
Jn 1:19-28

Saturday
January 3
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:29-3:6
Jn 1:29-34

Sunday
January 4
Epiphany of the Lord
Is 60:1-6
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6
Mt 2:1-12

Good News!

December 28, 2014

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 Heb 11:8, 11-12,
17-19 / Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

When we were married, my husband and I gradually worked out and grew in our relationship. Four of the characteristics St. Paul mentions in today's reading from Colossians were particularly helpful for us: patience, forgiveness, love, and gratitude. They helped us overcome the challenges of building a life together, and each of our children gave us ample opportunity to practice them over and over again.

By God's grace and with hard work, we've been together more than thirty years. Sometimes I think, "How did we do it?" We did it together, and we did it with God, and I'm so grateful for my husband and for two wonderful daughters who come back home at Christmas and call just to say hello.

So it makes sense that we dedicate one Sunday to the Holy Family. We don't know a lot about Jesus' childhood, but today's gospel tells us that, as unusual as the circumstances were, Mary and Joseph worked with each other and with God to do the right thing for Jesus. They followed the prescribed law, they listened carefully to the prophecies and rejoicing of Anna and Simeon, and they raised God's Son to adulthood—when he showed the world who he was.

Even after that, Mary was with him, loving and grieving for him even at the end. What parent would have done less?

The Holy Family undoubtedly practiced love, patience, forgiveness, and gratitude with one another, even as the Lord taught us to do. We honor them by doing the same.

Mary Katharine Deeley
sundaybulletin@liguori.org

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