

## 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 24, 2017

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### A PRAYER FOR THE Fourth Sunday of Advent

Jesus, you are constantly coming to your people,  
even when we fail to see you.  
In each and every moment that we are blessed  
to recognize you here and now,  
give us the courage to leap with joy at your coming.  
Amen.



www.archtoronto.org

## JOY TO THE WORLD BOOK

Please take a JOY TO THE WORLD BOOK from the table at the back of church as a Christmas gift from the parish! Scott Hahn is a wonderful author...  
ENJOY!

### THE HOLY INNOCENTS

December 28

The feast of The Holy Innocents commemorates the boys slain instead of Jesus by King Herod the Great (Mt 2:16-18) to eliminate the threat to his throne from the newborn king. In contrast to the Magi's welcome, Herod's murderous rage foreshadows the opposition that Jesus will later meet, culminating in his crucifixion by the Romans. To escape Herod's massacre, the holy family became refugees in Egypt. This unique episode also echoes Moses' rescue from the slaughter of the Hebrew children by the Pharaoh (Ex 2:1-10). Like a new Moses, Jesus will lead his people on a new exodus journey into God's promised kingdom. May we do all we can to lessen the suffering of children and refugees.

*What might I do to help innocent children who are neglected, abandoned, beaten and killed today?*



**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**  
 Michael Smith (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 \$10.

<b>MON</b> December 25	9:00AM	
The Nativity of the Lord		
<b>TUE</b> December 26	8:00AM	NO MASS
St. Stephen		
<b>WED</b> December 27	8:00AM	+Donald, Ruby & Marvin Kemmer
St. John		
<b>THU</b> December 28	5:30PM	+Michael & Carolyn Weber
The Holy Innocents		
<b>FRI</b> December 29	8:00AM	Parsons Family Pearson Family
<b>SAT</b> December 30	5:00PM (OLL)	+Luella Koopman
<b>SUN</b> December 31	8:00AM (IC) 10:30AM (OLL)	Parish Family +Loretta Bode
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph		

**Thank You  
 For Your Gifts  
 OLOL**

Sunday Total	\$2347.50
Capital Imp.	\$210.00
Food Pantry	\$17.00
December Total	\$137.25
Yr to Date FP	\$3267.27

**Imm Conception**

Sunday Total	\$255.00
Capital Imp.	\$0

When we meet our CMAA Goals! OLOL and IC will get back **70%** of every dollar received above our goals. Reaching our goals is a great achievement, and continuing to give is even greater!

**2017 CMAA Goals**  
**OLOL: \$14625**  
 (Goal: \$13,255)  
**IC: \$1620**  
 (Goal: \$913)

**MINISTRY SCHEDULES**

Date	Altar Servers	Lectors	Euch. Minister	Ushers	Homebound Ministry
Sun, December 24 8:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE	NEEDED Walter Smith	Marj Brown	Marj Brown	NEEDED NEEDED	
Mon, December 25 9:00AM CHRISTMAS DAY	NEEDED Spencer Kleist	NEEDED		NEEDED Dan Kleist	
Sat, December 30 5:00PM	Alex Killian Daxter Chaddock	Marj Brown		John Carlson Joe Allen	Jean Wilhelmi
Sun, December 31 10:30AM NEW YEARS EVE	Aidan Laughery Haven Hathaway NO EVE MASS	NEEDED	Paul Sarantakos	Greg Laughery Andrew Laughery	
Mon, January 1 9:00AM NEW YEARS DAY	NEEDED	NEEDED			

**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 .



**IN SEARCH OF....**

I am looking for the woman that had her jacket mistakenly taken from the hall following the Turkey Dinner...I have misplaced her contact information and hope that someone can help me to find her. Please call me at (217)784-4671. If I am not in the office, please leave the information on the answering machine. My thanks in advance!

Patti Meunier

# The Word From Father Thomas

## ENCLOSED IN A WOMB

He who encloses the world is enclosed in a womb; the Author of nature is born; the Creator of human beings and of periods of time becomes the Firstborn of humanity; the Treasure of heaven is clothed with the swaddling clothes of the indigent; he who makes thunderbolts fly gives an infant's cry; in a manger lies the One to whom all creation lies subject.



O man, do you not realize by what means Christ pursues you in order to call you back? He enters the womb in order to refashion you in the womb; he is born in order to make you reborn to immortality; he becomes the Firstborn in order to offer you a share in the divine lineage. Therefore, Christ is laid in a manger, and is placed before the very mouths of beasts, that they recognize their Creator by his fragrance, as it were. And so he is laid in a manger, that the words of the prophet be confirmed: *The ox knows its owner, and the ass its master's manger.* And likewise confirming what the Psalmist said: *Human beings and beasts you will save, O Lord.* For human beings are called beasts, since Christ says to them: *Take my yoke upon you, since it is easy; and my burden, since it is light.*

~ Saint Peter Chrysologus

## PARISH CALENDAR



**No Staff or Parish Council  
in December**



Tom McCall (12/25)  
Braden Roesch (12/26)  
Janet Townsend (12/26)  
Joyce Hutchcraft (12/26)  
Andrew Killian (12/29)



## CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

### Sunday, December 24

4:00PM at Immaculate Conception

8:00PM at Our Lady of Lourdes

### Monday, December 25

9:00AM at Our Lady of Lourdes

## NEW YEARS MASS SCHEDULE

### Sunday, December 31

NO MASS NEW YEARS EVE (this is not a holy day)

There will be regular Sunday Mass at 8AM at Immaculate Conception

And 10:30AM at Our Lady of Lourdes

### Monday, January 1

9:00AM at Our Lady of Lourdes

## THE GIFT OF LIGHT ON CHRISTMAS DAY

*The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.—John 1:9*

At the climax of John Steinbeck's *The Winter of Our Discontent*, Ethan Hawley teeters on the brink of isolated despair, "It isn't true that there's a community of light, a bonfire of the world. Everyone carries his own, his lonely own." Christmas is God's antidote to the darkness that threatens to envelop us. The true light of the world carries in a dark and lonely time with the warmth and brilliance of a bonfire big enough to gather all God's people together. Once we are assembled, the Lord invites us to form a community of light so that no one should ever again feel cold or lost or abandoned. In the end, that responsibility of being a light for others pulls Ethan back from the brink to save his daughter, "else another light might go out." Christmas is the dawn of our winter contentment. We confidently let our lights shine this day to give hope to everyone in God's house.

**Activity:** Gather a circle of votive candles around one large lighted candle. Then have each member light one small candle.

**Prayer:** Light of the world, today we gather around you as a community of light to give hope and joy to the world.

## Pray for the Sick & Homebound

Donovan Gaines  
Jeff McGuire  
Linda Ellington  
Greg Delost  
Steve Heavilin  
Dale Enghausen  
Bob Mardis  
Brian Sullivan  
Tony Perkins  
Emma Davis  
Marilyn Fischer  
Terry Hutchcraft  
Pam Aubry



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).

# Dear Padre

DECEMBER 24, 2017

**An antiphon in the Christian breviary states, "The angel Gabriel was sent to the Virgin Mary, who was engaged to be married to Joseph" (December 20). Was she married or not when Jesus was conceived?**

Much of the confusion is due to what constituted marriage at the time of Jesus.

Mary was betrothed to Joseph when she was found to be pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. During the usual betrothal period of a year, the woman remained with her family. However, the bond between the couple was already as permanent as marriage. That's why Mary was legally known as Joseph's wife, even though they didn't yet live together or have all the rights belonging to a husband and wife. In fact, the arrangement during betrothal was so binding that it could only be terminated in divorce.

Moreover, in that patriarchal society, a betrothed woman who had sexual relations with anyone other than her husband was accused of adultery. Had Joseph ended this betrothal in disgrace, Mary would have been deprived of marriage for the rest of her life and dependent on her extended family upon her father's death. But Joseph was an upright man who intended to divorce her quietly without publicly stating the reason, in order to spare Mary and her family's reputation. That's when an angel appeared to him in a dream and told him to have no fear about taking Mary as his wife, for the Child was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:20).

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR

## December 25

*Christmas*

Is 52:7-10

Heb 1:1-6

Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5,  
9-14

## December 26

*St. Stephen,  
The First Martyr*

Acts 6:8-10;  
7:54-59

Mt 10:17-22

## December 27

*St. John, Apostle  
and Evangelist*

1 Jn 1:1-4

Jn 20:1a, 2-8

## December 28

*The Holy Innocents,  
Martyrs*

1 Jn 1:5-2:2

Mt 2:13-18

## December 29

*Fifth Day in the  
Octave of Christmas*

1 Jn 2:3-11

Lk 2:22-35

## December 30

*Sixth Day in the  
Octave of Christmas*

1 Jn 2:12-17

Lk 2:36-40

## December 31

*The 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

# Good News!

December 24, 2017

*Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)*

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

Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38

King David wants to build God a home! He had first built his own palace and afterward realized that he hadn't built a space for God—a place of worship and family communion.

It is admirable that David wants to give back, but do we have to take care of God or, rather, is it God who cares for us? Obviously, God doesn't need David to build him a house. The whole world is his. Didn't God build up David all along, bringing him to a place where he might consider offering God something in return? It is like children who want to give their parents a gift. First they ask a parent for money or a gift idea. On their own, they cannot give.

God turns the tables on David, saying that God will build David a house—an everlasting lineage to rule over the people. God will build something much bigger than anything David had ever dreamt of. He will build David a kingdom that will become a nation and give birth to a worldwide universal Church.

In the painting, Mary stands in front of an ornate house. She stands like us, at the entrance, welcoming God's coming. It was her yes that allowed the master builder to enter into our world to begin building this house, which became a Church.

Like Mary, we await Jesus. With her, let us say yes to him, celebrating the one who has established that house where we celebrate today!

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC