

St. Patrick, Kankakee ~ a Viatorian Parish

CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 25, 2016

On the Cover: *The Nativity*

Painted by the Early Renaissance artist, Domenico Ghirlandaio, in 1492.

Ghirlandaio's particular talent was his ability to depict contemporary life and portraits of contemporary people within the context of religious narratives.

This brought him great popularity and many large commissions.

Among the many apprentices that passed through his workshop, the most famous was Michelangelo.

This painting is now located in the Fitzwilliam Museum at the University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.

This Week: * Rectory Closed

Monday, December 26

Tuesday, December 27

Wednesday, December 28

Thursday, December 29

12:00 *Adoration until 5:00 p.m.*

5:00 *Vespers and Benediction*

Friday, December 30

Saturday, December 31

New Year's Eve Mass at 4 p.m.

Sunday, December 25

New Year's Day Masses at 7 a.m. and 10 a.m.

* *The Rectory Offices will be closed* between Christmas and New Year's. Regular Office hours will resume on Wednesday, January 4. As always, any emergency calls will be taken.

Bulletin Sponsors

Thank you ALL for your support!

If you are a Parishioner who has a business or service, you are asked to consider placing your ad or business card in our Bulletin!

For more information on sponsoring our Bulletin, please contact **ADCRAFT PRINTERS**, at (815) 932-6432.

For Reflection ...

• If you want to find God today where might you start looking? • Do you think the shepherds understood what the angels said when they went and found Mary and Joseph and the baby in the stable? • **What enables you to see the divine in the ordinary?**

Pray for These Men and Women Serving in the Military ...

Ryan Barrie, Joshua DesMarteau,
Synthia Dorsey, Dustin Foltz, David Hodak,
Nathan Hornback, Joseph Jordan,
Alex Kregor, Matthew Lanasa,
Troy Martin, Sarah Miller, Justin Phelps,
John T. Raimondo, Scott Riegel,
Daniel Ryan, Andrew Ryan,
Erik Schultz, Gregory Smith, Jessica Smith,
Tom Stanley, and Michael Widhalm.

Be with them, Lord, and keep them safe!

**Many people, right here
in our community,
are hungry.**

**As you shop,
please remember the**

**FOOD
PANTRY!**



**As we celebrate our Christmas Blessings,
we want to say a special *Thank You to Our Sponsors*
who generously provide the support
that covers the cost of our weekly Bulletin!**

Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes
Holohan Heating & Sheet Metal
Pierce-Pristach-Lemenager
Insurance Agency
Martin Whalen Office Solutions, Inc.
Project Place
Judge Kathy Bradshaw-Elliot
HomeStar Bank
Eye Physicians of Kankakee
Stor-Loc
Axxcess Physical Therapy
Richard S. Nicklas, D.D.S.
Rigo's Place

Knights of Columbus
Advantage Copier
Hemza Enterprises
Peoples Bank of Kankakee County
Marquie & Lambert Tire
Joe's Automotive
Catholic Cemeteries
Pray the Rosary
Adcraft Printers, Inc.
2 Rivers Area Credit Union
Riverside Senior Life Communities
Tatro Painting & Decorating, Inc.
Kliest & Cyrier Painting Company



May your
Christmas
be blessed with
God's Gift of Faith
and God's Blessing of Hope
and God's Blessing of Peace!

The Parishioners
of St. Patrick Parish



**Following our
regular weekend schedule,
on New Year's Eve –
Mass will be celebrated at 4 p.m.
New Year's Day –
Masses will be celebrated
at 7 a.m. and 10 a.m.**

THE GIVING TREE RECAP

Thank you St. Patrick Parishioners for your generosity to those in need. There were over two hundred gift tags on the Giving Tree that were taken, purchased, and returned. There were also generous donations of cash and gift cards.

On December 14, CCW ladies gathered to sort gifts and get them ready for distribution the next day.

Families arrived the next afternoon to pick up their gifts. It was a very cold and frigid day, but know that the hearts of the families were warmed by your generosity. Many recipients shared tears and hugs of appreciation. So again, *thank you*.

The following ladies helped with this project: Alicia Parkinson, Jean Skelly, Linda Born, Virginia Wayer, Roberta Renville, Patty Johnson, Sandy Smith, and Joanne Lambert. A special thanks to Judy Conway for her help throughout the whole process.

Karleen Yohnka, Giving Tree Coordinator



A Stewardship Note ... Amidst the beautiful readings at the Christmas Masses is a reading from a small New Testament letter from Saint Paul to his protégé, Titus, read at Midnight Mass. Saint Paul reminds Titus that God has given us a gift in the person of Jesus Christ. This gift represents God's active presence in our lives and in our world. This gift redeems us from evil and death. This gift purifies us as God's people. *This is a gift that also comes with an expectation:* that we receive it with thanksgiving, allow it to transform us into Christ's image; and from it, learn how to live a life "eager to do what is good." Take time the next few days to reflect on the marvelous gift we celebrate at Christmas, and how we might become better stewards of this gift.



The Envelope Number ... will resume Sunday, January 8.

Each week, we randomly select a Parishioner's envelope number and then place that number somewhere in the Bulletin. If a Parishioner finds their number and calls the Rectory Office, they will receive a nice surprise. Watch for your number ... beginning again on January 8!

God's coming into our world, miraculously, is not just to communities, nations, and the whole earth, but also to individuals. In each of our lives we have the opportunity to see God's coming, and we have the responsibility to acknowledge the places where we have resisted or ignored God's desire to enter our lives.

Where we find ourselves growing more aware of God's presence and purpose in our daily routines, where we discover new capacities for compassion, humility, simplicity and joy, where we find ourselves becoming more whole in spite of the struggles of living in this world, we have seen God's coming to us.

Where we remain stuck in destructive attitudes and habits, where we continue to allow our selfishness and fear to break down relationships, where we fail to allow our eyes to be opened to God's image in others, we have failed to welcome the Christ Child into our lives.

Ultimately, what the Incarnation tells us, dramatically and powerfully, is that *Christ came not just to get us into heaven, but to bring heaven to this earth*. To the extent that our lives reflect this heaven – to the extent that we become more Christ-like and just in our own daily lives – we are the blessed ones to whom God has, once again, come.



John van de Laar

Prayer Breakfast Join us as we begin our day in prayerful reflection on relevant topics to our lives. Our next event is set for Thursday, January 5, from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m., at One Heart, One Soul Spirituality Center, Route 113, Kankakee. In this month's presentation, **Sarah Neill, Director of Catholic Charities Community Services** for Kankakee, Ford, and Iroquois Counties, will provide an overview of services offered: *Emergency Service, Homeless Prevention, Supportive Services for Veterans' Families, Hispanic/Latino Services, Transitional Housing for Homeless Families, and Disaster Services*. Free Will Donation - Continental Breakfast will be available. Sponsored by the Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary. To register or for more information, please call Sister Mary Stella at (815) 935-0800.

If everyone were holy and handsome, with "alter Christus" (another Christ) shining in neon lighting from them, it would be easy to see Christ in everyone.

If Mary had appeared in Bethlehem clothed, as St. John says, with the sun, a crown of twelve stars on her head, and the moon under her feet, then people would have fought to make room for her.

But that was not God's way for her, nor is it Christ's way for himself, now, when he is disguised under every type of humanity that treads the earth.

Dorothy Day

Bishop McNamara High School Placement Test

All incoming BMCS freshmen should plan on taking the High School Placement Test (HSPT). The Pre-Placement Test Evening for students and parents of incoming freshmen will take place **Thursday, January 12, at 6:30 p.m.** at the BMCS Kankakee site. The High School Placement Test for incoming freshmen students will take place on **Saturday, January 14, at 8:00 a.m.** at the BMCS Kankakee site. For more information, please contact Emily Skelly at (815) 932-7413 or eskelly@bmcss.org.

Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Apparitions of Fatima

with a pilgrimage to Fatima, Avila, and Lourdes, set for March 23 - April 2, 2017.

\$3195 covers round trip airfare, all tours, first-class hotels, and transportation.

Contact Fr. Doug Hauber at (815) 426-2153 or frdoug.hauber@yahoo.com

or Fr. Chris Haake at (815) 524-5178 or frcjgh@gmail.com.

The St. Patrick's Prayer Line is made up of people who (individually) pray for a person or persons in need of God's graces. Simply call the Prayer Line number (815) 933-6877 with your prayer request, and it will be sent out to Prayer Line Members. The prayer line is a telephone chain. Requests for a person, persons, or situation are received by Lou Byrne at the number above and passed on to our members who, in turn, pray. Names are not necessary, and, although

we do not always hear the end results, we believe that no prayers are left unanswered. ***Will you please help us keep the lines open?*** If you would like to join the Parish Prayer Line to pray for others' concerns, please contact Denise at the Rectory Office by calling (815) 932-6716 or by e-mailing her at stpatkan@ameritech.net.



Never underestimate the power of prayer! Call the Rectory Office to join! Thank You!

The truth we celebrate at Christmas is that God's Spirit permeates throughout all human cultures. It moves men and women to greater depths of cooperation and care and generosity. And it moves all of us to live our lives the best we can, in ways that empower and dignify our neighbors and ourselves.

Once we accept the miracle of God-made-man, then every facet of human life takes on a new dimension ... a Jesus-dimension. Everything is touched by his spirit of love, of peace, of hope.

For a brief moment, we put aside all of the ugliness - the evil of terrorism, the drums of war, the burden of poverty and injustice, the clouds of sadness and sickness - and we move into the silence of Bethlehem, to gaze upon the impossible-come-true. We see the Child-king, the Prince of Peace, the long-awaited Messiah, the Redeemer and Savior ... the Light and the Hope of the world.

Let us, together, be bearers of the Christmas message to all. Let us all proclaim and celebrate Emmanuel, God-with-us ... the God who has always been with us, and who will always be with us!

Joe Cece



ST. PATRICK CHURCH, KANKAKEE, IL. (815) 932-6716.
Liturgical Ministers Schedule. Please arrange for a substitute if needed.

DEC. 31 / JAN. 1 4:00 P.M. 7:00 A.M. 10:00 A.M.

SERVERS

LECTORS

Liturgical Ministers are asked to check the Sign-up Sheets in the Sacristy
and offer your help where needed!

**EUCCHARISTIC
MINISTERS**

USHERS

C. Denault	G. Flageole	R. Hartman	P. Swanson
C. Elsey R. Skelly	P. Holohan	D. Glenzinski	
G. Piatt S. Drassler	B. Grasser	T. Marcotte	
S. Berg A. Parkinson	M. Born	M. Spilsbury	

LITTLE PEOPLE'S CHURCH WILL RESUME ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

SACRISTAN

Shirley Purcell

*Please pray for the sick and the dying, and all those who mourn the loss of a loved one.
Also, let us remember in prayer the homebound and those in nursing homes or hospitals.*

Prayer Line ... Call (815) 933-6877

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, December 26 *St. Stephen*
7:15 Vi Mulcahy (Ann.)
Tuesday, December 27 *St. John the Apostle*
7:15 Diane Macaluso
Wednesday, December 28 *The Holy Innocents*
7:15 Phil & Carol Klonowski
Thursday, December 29
7:15 Tom Sullivan (Birth. Ann.)
Friday, December 30 *Feast of the Holy Family*
7:15 John DesMarteau (Birth. Ann.)
Saturday, December 31
7:15 Parishioners & Benefactors
4:00 Tom Fitzpatrick / Betty Devine /
Ron Renville (1st Ann.) /
Special Intentions of the Schiel Family

MEMORIAL CANDLES

The Holy Family Candle burns
in memory of Jim Lindner.
The Blessed Sacrament Candle burns
for the Special Intentions of the Lower Family.



Sunday, January 1
*Solemnity of
the Blessed Virgin Mary,
the Mother of God*

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES
at 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 A.M.
will be offered for our
Living and Deceased
Parishioners and Benefactors.

We have become so accustomed to the idea of divine love and of God's coming at Christmas that we no longer feel the shiver of fear that God's coming should arouse in us. We are indifferent to the message, taking only the pleasant and agreeable out of it and forgetting the serious aspect, that the God of the world draws near to the people of our little earth and lays claim to us. The coming of God is truly not only glad tidings, but first of all frightening news for everyone who has a conscience.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer