

Diocese of Peoria  
**St. Malachy Church and School**

595 E. Ogden Avenue, Geneseo, Illinois 61254

Parish, 309-944-5393 School, 309-944-3230 Fax, 309-944-5319

Email: church@stmalgeneseo.org Website: www.saintmalachy.org

The Fourth Sunday  
 Of Advent  
 December 24, 2023



**Pastor:** Fr. Daniel Gifford.....309-944-5393  
 frdgifford@stmalgeneseo.org

**Deacons:** .....309-944-5393  
 Tom Wachtel Robert O'Rourke Art Ries (SS) Mike Sigwalt  
 Bob Thoene Tom Mattan

**School Principal:**  
 Tim Smith.....309-944-3230  
 tsmith@stmalgeneseo.org

**Administrative Assistant:**  
 Deacon Robert O'Rourke.....309-944-5393  
 rorourke@stmalgeneseo.org

**Office Manager:**  
 Mary Sebastian.....309-944-5393  
 msebastian@stmalgeneseo.org

**Secretary:**  
 Debbie Mattan.....309-944-5393  
 dmattan@stmalgeneseo.org

**Business Manager:**  
 Jennifer Higgins.....309-944-5393  
 jhiggins@stmalgeneseo.org

**Parish Music Director:**  
 Lance Carroll.....309-944-5393  
 lcarroll@stmalgeneseo.org

**Director of Religious Education:**  
 (CCD/Confirmation Prep/MS Youth Ministry)  
 Kimberly Souba.....309-944-5393  
 ksouba@stmalgeneseo.org

**HS Youth Ministry Coordinator**  
 Deacon Bob Thoene.....563-529-0529  
 bthoene@stmalgeneseo.org Remind: @2ag97e

**Parish Nurse:**  
 Cathie Stinson, B.S.N.....309-944-5393  
 cstinson@stmalgeneseo.org

**Ministry Contacts:**  
**Baptism:**.....Parish Office  
**Marriage:** .....Fr. Daniel Gifford

**Hospital Visits:**.....Parish Office  
**Anointing of the Sick:**.....Emergency phone: 309-944-0422

**Pastoral Care:**.....Ed Kemnitz, Deacon Tom Mattan  
**Bereavement:**.....Deacon Art Ries  
**Prayer Chain:**.....Parish Office

**Divorced Ministry:**.....Shannon Carroll

**Weekend Mass Schedule:**

Saturday: 5:00 pm  
 Sunday: 8:15 am and 10:30 am

**Reconciliation:**

Monday & Tuesday 8:45 am; Thursday 5:00 pm  
 Saturdays 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

*For activities in the Quad Cities, go to:*

<http://catholicquadcities.com>

**Traveling?** [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) to find Masses

*We warmly welcome new parishioners and invite them to register at the Parish Office. Individuals interested in becoming Catholic may contact Fr. Daniel Gifford or call the Parish Office.*

# Mass Intentions

**MONDAY, December 25**

9:00 am Bob Reade +

*Nativity of the Lord*

**TUESDAY, December 26**

12:00 pm Edward & Agnes DeSplinter +

*St. Stephen*

**WEDNESDAY, December 27**

8:00 am O'Rourke & Dierickx families+

*St. John*

**THURSDAY, December 28**

8:00 am Mr. & Mrs. Charles VerHeecke & Janet Loveall +

*The Holy Innocents*

**FRIDAY, December 29**

8:00 am Alana Wachtel +

*St. Thomas Becket*

**SATURDAY, December 30**

5:00 pm Anthony & Mary Ellen Abell, Paul Abell, Linda Ole +

*Vigil of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph*

**SUNDAY, December 31**

8:15 am People of the Parish

10:30 am John Poche +

*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph*

**Please Note:** The change in Mass times for Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

There will also be Reconciliation after Mass on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

The office will be closed Monday, January 1, 2024

**Altar Servers: December 30 - 31**

**Saturday: 5:00 pm:** Reese & Connor Schaaf

**Sunday: 8:15 am:** Jaxson Seals, Fritz Bolme

**Sunday: 10:30 am:** Leona Werner, Avery Emmerson

**St. Malachy  
Eucharistic Revival Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
You have made Yourself PRESENT  
to us in every age, through the  
Holy Eucharist.  
Help us to make You more  
widely KNOWN,  
that You may be greatly LOVED.  
Amen.

**Area Church Weekend Mass Schedules:**

**St. Anthony/Atkinson**

4:00 pm Saturday  
9:30 am Sunday

**Sacred Heart/Annawan**

8:00 am Sunday

**OFFICE HOURS:**

**Monday - Wednesday 8:30 am - 3:30 pm,  
Thursday 8:00 am - 3:00 pm, Fridays 8:00 am - 1:00 pm**

*Bulletin articles **MUST** be submitted no later than  
Noon on Tuesdays.*

**Readings for Sunday, December 31, 2023**

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

**1st Reading: Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3**

*Your own issue shall be your heir.*

**Responsorial: Psalm 108**

*R.:/ "The Lord remembers his covenant for ever."*

**2nd Reading: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19**

*The faith of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.*

**Gospel: Luke 2:22-40**

*The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.*



# WEEKLY CALENDAR

## Monday, December 25 Christmas Day

Mass - The Nativity of the Lord 9:00 am

## Tuesday, December 26

Mass 12:00 pm

Chair Soul Core 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Rm A

Nativity Display 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm Hall

Women's Support Group 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Rm C

## Wednesday, December 27

Mass 8:00 am

Nativity Display 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm Hall

Celebration Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

## Thursday, December 28

Mass 8:00 am

Reconciliation 8:30 am

Nativity Display 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm Hall

## Friday, December 29

Chair Soul Core 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Rm A

Nativity Display 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm Hall

## Saturday, December 30

Nativity Display 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm Hall

Reconciliation 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Mass 5:00 pm

## Sunday, December 31

Mass 8:15 am

Mass 10:30 am

Nativity Display 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm Hall



## Joy to the World Nativity Display

Over 250 Nativities will be on display in the Parish Hall.

December 26, 2023 - January 1, 2024

2:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Fee will donations will be accepted

Sponsored by St. Malachy Altar & Rosary



The **Social Justice Committee** would like to thank all those who donated to the Advent Giving Tree this year.

Also, a big thanks to the crew who helped box and deliver the items. **Merry Christmas!**

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.*

*Bob Lopez*

*Of our Parish*

*Lucille Radke*

*Sister of Linda Gillet*

*Sister-in-Law of Julie Weise*



## House Blessing on the Epiphany of the Lord

### January 6

Chalk that has been blessed will be available near the doors of the Narthex December 30-31 weekend. You may also use your own chalk if you are unable to attend church at this time.

Read the following prayer, and then mark the doorframe of the front door to your house with the initials of the legendary names of the three Magi, along with the current year, as follows:

**20 + C(aspar) + M(elchior) + B(althazar) + 24**

(See Picture)

### Prayer:

“Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation: by the guidance of a star You led the Magi to your Son, and by the light of faith You bring us to know Him as Lord, the Messiah You have sent. Bless us as we use this chalk to mark our door in Your honor. May the homes where this prayer is prayed be dwelling places of goodness, humility, self-control, mutual respect for one another, hospitality toward strangers, and loving obedience to Your word.

May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus Christ who is Lord forever and ever. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen



## *A Note From the Pastor*



Dear St. Malachy Parishioners,

*“Beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them what referred to Him in all the scriptures”* (Luke 24:27). We have been using these words as a special theme verse for this Advent Season, since our theme verse (Luke 24:33,35) for this Year of Missionary of Discipleship comes from this same story. Our Advent 2023 theme verse reminds us how Jesus prepared them for the moment when He would make Himself known to them in the breaking of the bread, by first breaking open the Scriptures for them in the Old Testament. As we have seen this Advent, throughout those earlier pages of Scripture, The Lord made Himself known to us as Our Father, Redeemer and Potter, our Patient Comforter and Shepherd, our Healer, Liberator and Vindicator, and as Father to the King, who is our Messiah, our Savior. Now that Advent is coming to an end and we begin to celebrate the birth of our Savior, our hearts are bursting with joy.

### ***Merry Christmas!***

As we welcome the Christmas season, may our hearts be filled with joy that the Savior has come and let that joy overflow into wonder. This is part of the beauty of Christmas. Celebrating His birth is just the beginning. Throughout the season, we continue to wonder at the mystery of the Incarnation.

Once we have seen His face, when He has made Himself known to us in a clear and powerful way, we continue to wonder at all of the ways He had been revealing Himself leading up to that moment. Thus, in this

Christmas Season, I want to invite us to consider another moment of that same story from Luke 24, of the two disciples who met the Risen Jesus on the Road to Emmaus. After they recognized Him in the breaking of bread, Luke tells us: *“Then they said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while He spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?’”* (Luke 24:32). These words will serve as a special theme verse for the Christmas Season in the Year of Missionary Discipleship. I hope they prompt you to reflect upon how the Lord has been stirring your heart, as He revealed Himself to us as our Father, Redeemer, Potter, Patient Comforter, Shepherd, Healer, Liberator, Vindicator and finally the Father of our King, Messiah and Savior.

Now that our Savior is here, let us rejoice. And let us look for opportunities to share that joy with others. Let us shine His Light into a world in desperate need of it. And let us start with one another, with our own families, our own parish and our own community. Part of the beauty of the Incarnation is that it is not an abstract concept. God really entered into a specific time and place, into the concrete reality of people’s lives, beginning with the little family of Mary and Joseph. So also, may we carry the Light of the Christ Child into this time and the specific places to which He calls us.

Please know that it is my prayer for you that you would be filled with His Light and Joy, that you may be a reflection of His glory for your friends, family and neighbors. In short, I hope that you have a safe, happy and holy Christmas Season.

In Christ through Mary,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fr. Daniel P. Gifford'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Fr. Daniel P. Gifford  
St. Malachy, Pray for us!

### Community Christmas Dinner



First Lutheran Church will host a free **Community Christmas Dinner** Christmas Day from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm 114 E Main St, Geneseo

Our mission is to bring our neighbors and friends together to celebrate Christ's birth and to extend this meal as a free gift to our community. We welcome you to join us for this warm Christmas dinner including:

*turkey, ham, mashed potatoes & gravy, stuffing, green bean casserole, salads, and special Christmas cookies.*

**Home delivery** will be provided for to those in Geneseo/Atkinson/Cambridge communities who are unable to leave their home. Home or curbside deliveries can be scheduled by calling the church office at 309-944-3196 by December 23 to reserve meals to be delivered on December 25.

### Needed: Saint Malachy School Secretary

7:30 am - 3:30 pm on all school days and other days as needed over the summer break.

For more information please email:

Tim Smith, Principal [tsmith@stmalgeneseo.org](mailto:tsmith@stmalgeneseo.org)



To be counted in the calendar year, donations need to be to the Church by **Christmas Day.**

We will count the contributions on Tuesday morning.



**Happy New Year!** It is natural at the beginning of each year to look ahead and plan things that we feel will make it a good year.

I have a program with FirstPlace4health. (<https://www.firstplaceforhealth.com>).

For more info:

[saintmalachy.org/ParishLifeParishNurse.aspx](http://saintmalachy.org/ParishLifeParishNurse.aspx)

### JANUARY LAY MINISTER SCHEDULE

#### GREETERS

**5:00 pm** – Mary Ellen Cauwells, Joyce Webb (Front); Mary Ann Peterson, Karen Humbert (West)

**8:15 am** – Ryan & Kristin Wilson (Front); Mike & Kay Croegaert (West)

**10:30 am** – John & Irene Kemmis (Front); Larry & Mary Gillespie (West)

#### USHERS

**5:00 pm** – Barry Hager, Arnie Schmid, Mark Holevoet

**8:15 am** – Morry Atwell, Joseph Pustejovsky, Brice Maertens

**10:30 am** – Willis Andel, Tim Laleman, Ted McAvoy, Dick Taets

#### LECTOR/COMMENTATOR

**5:00 pm** – Chuck LoGiudice (L); Mary LoGiudice (C)

**8:15 am** – Bill Hanford (L); Kathleen Repass (C)

**10:30 am** – Kyle Ganson (L); Michelle Ganson (C)

#### EMHCs

**5:00 pm** – Chris Boelens (Chalice); Steve Emmerson (Chalice); Pat Boelens

**8:15 am** – Debbie Mattan (Chalice); Melanie Rice (Chalice); Kathy Hanford, Julie Atwell

**10:30 am** – Kimberly Souba (Chalice); Elizabeth Hulsbrink (Chalice); Steve Mroz, Mary Beth Peterson



### JANUARY ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

**Saturday, January 6 - 5:00 pm** Samantha Minnaert, Aiden Daly

**Sunday, January 7 - 8:15 am** Fitz & Lenna Bolme **10:30 am** Kate Vorac, Clare Hulsbrink

**Saturday, January 13 - 5:00 pm** Elle Patterson, Camryn Hawkins

**Sunday, January 14 - 8:15 am** Remington Rahmus, Bradlee Larson **10:30 am** Lincoln Anderson, Everett Haars

**Saturday, January 20 - 5:00 pm** Reese & Connor Schaaf

**Sunday, January 21 - 8:15 am** Jaxson & Tucker Seals **10:30 am** Gus & Liam Osborn

**Saturday, January 27 - 5:00 pm** Avery Emmerson, Trace Hager

**Sunday, January 28 - 8:15 am** Garren Boelens, Colton Seals **10:30 am** Everett Haars, Jonathan Freadhoff



**STEWARDSHIP**  
Managing God's Gifts To Us

**Parish Sacrificial Giving:**  
1% donated to:  
**Humility Homes**

Week 25 - December 17, 2023							ADA 2023 (As of November 30th)	
	Weekly Budget	Weekly Actual	Variance	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Variance		
General Collection	\$ 15,000	\$ 26,383	11,383	\$ 375,000	\$ 351,989	(23,011)	<b>GOAL</b>	\$ 105,467
School Endowment	\$ 750	\$ 107	(643)	\$ 18,750	\$ 14,262	(4,488)	<b>PLEDGED</b>	\$ 69,405
Paraclete Fund	\$ 750	\$ 42	(708)	\$ 18,750	\$ 11,792	(6,958)	<b>VARIANCE</b>	\$ (36,062)
Capital Improvement	\$ 750	\$ 77	(673)	\$ 18,750	\$ 13,538	(5,212)	<b>COLLECTED</b>	\$ 58,113
<b>Special Collections</b>							<b>VARIANCE</b>	\$ (47,354)
Immaculate Conception		\$ 135			\$ 460		<b># of FAMILIES</b>	147
Religious Retirement		\$ 385			\$ 1,425			
Christmas		\$ 230			\$ 725			



**Upcoming Cursillo Weekends**

Men's: February 22-25, 2024  
Women's: March 21-24, 2024

For more information visit: <https://nwcursillo.com>



**Upcoming TEC Weekends**

February 17-19, 2024 (Girls)  
April 20-22, 2024 (Boys)  
June 22-24, 2024 (Girls)  
August 3-5, 2024 (Boys)  
October 5-7, 2024 (Girls)  
December 7-9, 2024 (Boys)

For information visit  
[www.northwest-tec.com](http://www.northwest-tec.com)



**DAILY PRAYERS FOR VOCATIONS**  
**Please Pray for these Seminarians**

*John Assaf Ben Schoonmaker*  
*Andrew Belgri Dcn. Nicholas Conner*  
*Justin Ramza JohnPaul Stedwill*

Are you feeling called to serve as a priest or other religious?

If so, contact Fr. Chase Hilgenbrinck:

309-671-1550 or email him: [fr\\_hilgenbrinck@cdop.org](mailto:fr_hilgenbrinck@cdop.org)

*He took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is my body."*

**Fr. Pakula Memorial Food Pantry Collection**

In Memory of Father Pakula, St. Malachy Parish will have a monthly theme to collect items for the Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry.

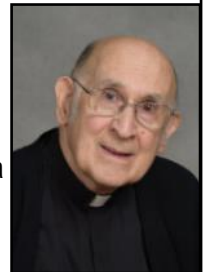
The theme for **December** is:

**"Meal Items"**

**Donations needed:**

Side dishes, potato mixes, rice, pasta  
Hamburger Helper, canned vegetables, creamed soup

Items can be placed on the shelves inside the front doors before entering the Narthex. The current Food Pantry Newsletter can be found on the St. Malachy website, under the heading Parish Life.



# St Malachy Memories

## Mary Gillespie:

I was born in Moline, IL, and attended Sacred Heart School. In the summer of 1966, our family moved to Geneseo, and I and my younger sister enrolled in St. Malachy. That year the new wing of the school was opened. The older school was now occupied by kindergartners through 4th grade, and the new building contained 5th through 8th grades, plus the Principal's Office. St Malachy was different from Sacred Heart in that we did not have to wear uniforms, but like Sacred Heart, no pants for the girls nor shorts were allowed. Another difference was that at St. Malachy, we would switch classrooms for the different subjects. The 5th grade teacher (Mrs. C) taught English, Spelling, and Handwriting. The 6th grade teacher, (a Sister) taught Math. Mr. Lavery, the 7th grade teacher, taught Social Studies/History, and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Sr. Engratia was the principal and also taught Religion. My 5th grade class was very large, and I made a lot of new friends. We enjoyed recess time when we would hang out on Russell Ave. between the Convent and the open lot next to St. Malachy Church.

My 2 older sisters had been cheerleaders at Alleman High School in Rock Island, IL, so I knew a lot of the cheers and we would practice them and make up some of our own.

Each of the teachers had their unique methods of teaching. In 5th grade, we would practice our handwriting using a fountain pen, which was very messy. In our 6th grade class on Friday afternoons, we would move our desks around to do square dancing. Sister really enjoyed teaching us to dance and we all looked forward to Friday's fun. On Monday, Mr. Lavery would do an inspection of our shoes and would choose whose shoes were the cleanest, the girls or the boys. Every Sunday, we would polish our shoes for the next day's inspection. When we got to school the next morning, there would often be a playful battle between the boys and girls, hoping to dirty each other's shoes, which sometimes led to lack of recess.

I enjoyed First Friday Masses. I loved the songs that we sang and the quiet time for prayer. When we got married, my husband and I agreed that we would enroll our children in St. Malachy School and now along with our 6 sons, we have been blessed to have our grandchildren experience the blessings of our St. Malachy school and church.

(Continued on next side)

December 24, 2023

## **Rick Hull:**

I was a student at St Malachy School from the fall of 1958 till the spring of 1966. The St Malachy school building was still the original brick building housing 7 grades with the 5th grade in a section of the old church basement. My teacher in 1st grade and 2nd grade was Sister Naulis, Sister Joesett was 3rd grade and 4th grade, Mary Ellen Buckley was 5th grade, Sister Chabenal and Sister Engratia were 7th and 8th grade, and Sister Latisa was the principal. Joanne Gernant, Mrs. Violet Munson and Sam Morrissey were lay teachers who also taught during this time. The Parish priests were Father George Herbach, Father Robert Creogeor, and Father Robert Ryan who replaced Father Creogeor as Assistant.

My education at St Malachy was very good. My day started with Religion class, Bible reading as well as the Saint Feast Day readings. This was followed by normal subjects like English, Arithmetic, Reading, Phonics, History, Geography, Science, and the day ended with prayer.

A few events left lasting memories. The Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962. Russia had missiles pointed at the southern United States, but President John Kennedy got Russia to pull out with peace talks. The time was very dangerous and students all across the country had to prepare with drills in safe zones like in basements of schools just in case of war. Another event that occurred was the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas, Texas. Both events were very alarming and troublesome.

# *Volunteer Appreciation Dinner*

**Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 6:30 PM**

**Please RSVP by January 5, 2024 to the Church Office**

We would like to invite any and all of our parishioners who volunteer in any way to our first Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, January 20 at 6:30 PM. We encourage you to mark your calendars, your RSVP's can be sent into the parish office. This will enable us to plan the evening meal and entertainment. We hope you can join us. And even now, let us say thank you for all that you do.

<i>Lectors and Commentators</i>	<i>Ushers and Greeters</i>	<i>Communion Ministers</i>	<i>Altar Servers</i>
<i>Musicians and Choir</i>	<i>Livestream and recording</i>	<i>Parish Council</i>	<i>Finance Council</i>
<i>Welcome Committee</i>	<i>Liturgy Committee</i>	<i>Social Justice Committee</i>	<i>Wellness Committee</i>
<i>Building &amp; Grounds Committee</i>	<i>Parish Directory</i>	<i>Knights of Columbus</i>	<i>Altar and Rosary</i>
<i>Children's Liturgy of the Word</i>	<i>School volunteers</i>	<i>SummerFest</i>	<i>Coffee and Donuts</i>
<i>100 Year School Anniversary</i>	<i>Facilitators of Adoration</i>	<i>Funeral Luncheons</i>	<i>Pastoral Care</i>
<i>Facilitators of Adult Studies</i>	<i>OCIA</i>	<i>Seven Sisters</i>	<i>Women at the Well</i>
<i>Support Group Facilitators</i>	<i>Gift Shop</i>	<i>Lawn Care</i>	<i>Parents Club</i>
<i>Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplets</i>	<i>Rosary Makers</i>	<i>Youth Ministry</i>	<i>and so much more...</i>





# St. Malachy School Celebrates 100th Anniversary

You are invited to join us for an open house to celebrate our school's amazing milestone! Open houses will be after the following masses:



Current St. Malachy students form a 100



**SATURDAY, FEB. 3: 5:00 PM**  
**SUNDAY, FEB. 4: 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM**

- Worship at 10:30 a.m. with Bishop Tylka
- Tour the school to see students' special projects, mural & grade level activities
- Join alumni & current students in the church hall for light refreshments
- Enjoy videos of former & current students sharing memories
- Browse the school history timeline with memories, photos & memorabilia

## Share Your Story

We want to know where you are today!  
Send us an update. Please include:



- Name
- Years/grades attended St. Malachy
- Occupation
- Currently living in
- Family
- How St. Malachy influenced you
- Favorite memory, memorabilia, photo
- Current picture

### MAIL TO

St. Malachy School | "100 Years"  
595 E. Ogden Ave. | Geneseo, IL 61254

### E-MAIL

[schooloffice@stmalgeneseo.org](mailto:schooloffice@stmalgeneseo.org)  
Subject line "100 Years"

### IN PERSON

Drop off photos and memorabilia in drop box at church or school office

**All material NON-RETURNABLE**  
**Please send copies only**

*We are a family in Christ*

Scan to follow us  
on Facebook



## ADVENT

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

LECTIONARY 11

**Gospel** - Luke 1:28-33



And coming to Mary, Gabriel said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High...and of his kingdom there will be no end."

**We belong to God, our Father, who sent his only Son Jesus for our salvation. In the preparation for this Christmas season, Mary gives us the first example of discipleship in her radical "yes" to the Angel, Gabriel. This Advent season, we give thanks for the legacy of faith that has formed us, while we prayerfully envision the future vibrancy of our parishes, schools and ministries.**

"In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son, whom he made heir of all things..."

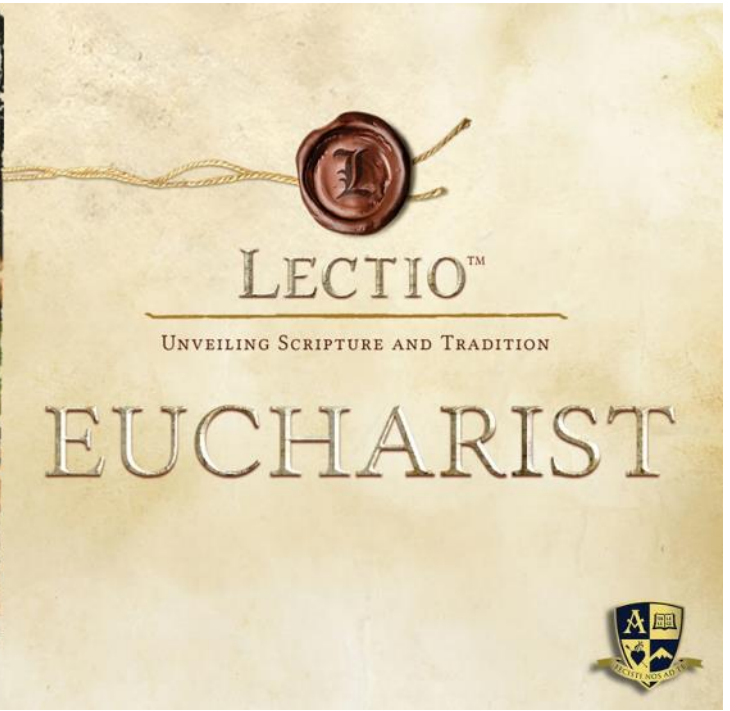
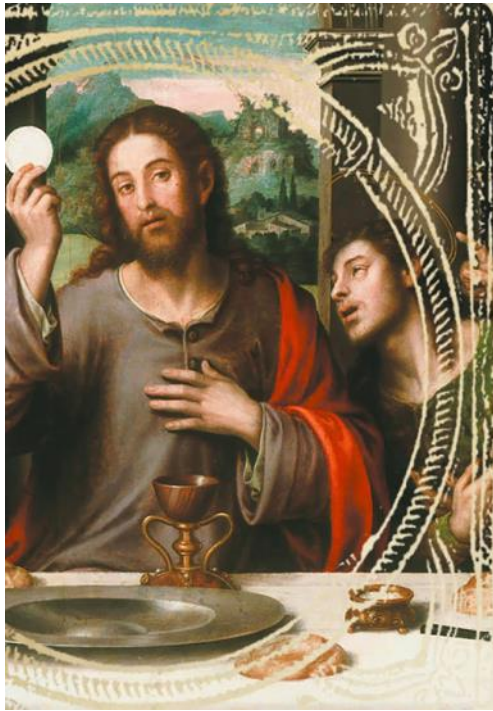
- 1 Hebrews 1:1-2



## CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEORIA



SPALDING PASTORAL CENTER  
419 NE MADISON AVENUE, PEORIA, IL 61603  
PHONE (309) 671-1550 | FAX (309) 671-1579



“The Lamb of God,” “The Bread of Life,” “The Body and the Blood of Christ”... these are phrases we know from the Mass. But do we understand what they mean in the greater and deeper context of Scripture and Church teaching?

Join us to watch the series and discover God’s wondrous plan for our salvation.

#	Description	Tuesdays 9:00 AM	Thursdays 6:30 PM
1	Source and Summit	January 9, 2024	January 11, 2024
2	In the Beginning	January 16, 2024	January 18, 2024
3	Lamb of God	January 23, 2024	January 25, 2024
4	Miracles of the Exodus	January 30, 2024	February 1, 2024
5	Mysteries of the Tabernacle	February 6, 2024	February 8, 2024
6	Miracles of Jesus	February 13, 2024	February 15, 2024
7	Bread of Life Discourse	February 20, 2024	February 22, 2024
8	The Last Supper and the Cross	February 27, 2024	February 29, 2024
9	The Mass	March 5, 2024	March 7, 2024
10	Revelation	March 12, 2024	March 14, 2024

Call the Parish Office (309-944-5393) to sign up for one of our study groups. Or study on your own or with your own small group. All Episodes can be found on FORMED. Study Guides will be available for purchase (\$10 each) through the Parish Office.

# A Joyful Word

January 2024

*Kimberly Souba, Director of Religious Education*

## What's Your Word of the Year

It's that time of year again where many people make New Year's Resolutions. They may choose to exercise more. Eat healthier. Read a certain number of books. Or even pray more.

All of these things are good as they are meant to evoke a positive change in one's life. However, often once February arrives, those resolutions go by the wayside.

Have you ever chosen a personal word of the year to focus on instead of trying to make some other change?

The purpose of choosing a word for the year is that throughout the year, it will come back to you and you can see how God is using it to either make changes in your life and/or to grow closer to him.

Did you choose the word? Or did a word choose you?

I don't choose my word of the year. It comes to me, generally in December or January, and sometimes it surprises me. It's something that's been happening for me for the last six or seven years.

Sometimes I share the word. Sometimes I just hold it inside myself. But it's something that I pay attention to, focus on, pray with, and embrace throughout the year.

It could be tempting to try to choose a word that will "inspire you to be better" or to pick one that's in line with your New Year's Resolution. Maybe you have some favorite words you just love the sound of, or that seem like they describe the kind of person you want

to be, or the kind of life you want to have.

Your most powerful Word of the Year might not be any of that. The one that fills your entire being and permeates your actions might be something you never intentionally thought of.

In order for your personal word of the year to find you, you really have to take some time and intention to feel whatever it is you're feeling.

Ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten you on what it is that the Lord is asking you to focus on this year.

Once you start noticing certain words or themes, try them on as your personal word of the year.

Don't feel like you have to commit to them, and don't worry about them being right or wrong for you. But when a word or concept begins to stand out to you, pray about it daily and then keep your eyes open to see what surprises the Lord has for you. What lessons do you need to learn?

This year, the Holy Spirit has brought the word **openness** to me. Personally, I know there are areas in my life that I need to be more open. Open to the ideas of others. Open to the gifts the Lord asks me to share. And open to see his goodness. I look forward to see how this word will penetrate my being this year.



# Advent Caroling for Parishioners

Members of the Confirmation Prep and Youth Ministry groups spent the afternoon of Dec. 16, singing Christmas carols and bringing Christmas cheer to several parishioners at their homes, followed by cookies and hot chocolate in the Youth Room. The group also made and decorated Christmas cookies and cards to give to the parishioners. A fun time was had by all.



*"Only with prayer—prayer that storms the heavens for justice and mercy, prayer that cleanses our hearts and souls—will the culture of death that surrounds us today be replaced with a culture of life."*

- US Catholic Bishops, Pastoral Plan for Pro-life

## Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

**January 22**



## Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn

God our Creator, we give thanks to you, who alone have the power to impart the breath of life as you form each of us in our mother's womb; grant we pray, that we whom you have made stewards of creation, may remain faithful to this sacred trust and constant in safeguarding the dignity of every human life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Important Dates

- Jan. 1 - Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
- Jan. 3 - No CCD, No Oasis,
- Jan. 7 - No 6th Grade CCD or Confirmation Prep
- Jan. 8 - School resumes
- Jan. 10 - CCD, Oasis
- Jan. 11 - The Rock Epiphany Party
- Jan. 14 - 6th Grade CCD, Confirmation Prep
- Jan. 15 - No School: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 17 - CCD, Oasis
- Jan. 21 - 6th Grade CCD, Confirmation Prep (Collect Baby Items); 8th/9th Grade Confirmation Sponsor Forms Due
- Jan. 24 - CCD (Collect Baby Items), Oasis
- Jan. 25 - The Rock
- Jan. 26 - No School
- Jan. 28 - No 6th Grade CCD or Confirmation Prep; Catholic Schools' Week begins

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WHICH HE HAS NOT COMMITTED TO ANOTHER.  
- ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN -

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ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

Curtis J. Ford | Mary Ann Brown  
Benjamin T. Young | JohnPatrick Brown  
James H. Nash, of Counsel | Robert N. Nash, of Counsel  
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