



WELCOME TO SAINT MARY ORATORY

With the gracious permission of His Excellency, David Malloy, Bishop of Rockford, Holy Mass is offered according to the Traditional Roman Rite at Saint Mary Oratory by the *Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest*. We are pleased to have you join us in this venerable act of worship and invite you to return often.



St. ROCH CENTER Dr. Bob Tiballi
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**To preserve the Sacramental Seal
please leave phones outside
of the confessional.**



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*For homebound or sick calls,
please contact the office
so we can schedule a time
for Canon to visit.*



2024 Mass
Intention Book
*is now open
during office hours.*

Five Mass Intentions per family

to allow everyone an opportunity to have Masses offered for their loved ones.

Please have your intentions and stipend prepared before bringing them to the office.

Remember, dates and times cannot be guaranteed.

Rev. Canon John O'Connor

Saint Mary Oratory

*INSTITUTE OF
CHRIST THE KING
SOVEREIGN PRIEST*

UNITED STATES PROVINCE:

VERY REV. MSGR. R. MICHAEL SCHMITZ,
STD, JCD VICAR GENERAL & DELEGATE FOR THE UNITED STATES

REV. CANON MATTHEW TALARICO,
PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR

ORATORY CLERGY

REV. CANON JOHN JOSEPH O'CONNOR, Rector

ORATORY RECTORY

517 ELM ST
ROCKFORD, IL 61102
PHONE: (815) 965-5971
E-MAIL: stmaryrockford@institute-christ-king.org

ORATORY STAFF

Business Manager:
MRS. JEANANN HAYS
Director of Sacred Music:
MR. DANIEL LYTER

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday:
9:00am - 2:00pm
Friday - Sunday & Holy Days: CLOSED

GROTTO HOURS

Monday - Friday:
9:00am - 2:00pm
Sat., Sun., & Holy Days:
CLOSED

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday: 8:00am & 10:30am
Monday: 12:00pm
Tuesday-Friday: 7:00am
Saturday: 8:00am

CONFESSIONS

Monday & Wednesday-Friday:
11:15am-11:45am
Saturday: after 8:00am Mass
Sunday: 7:15am & 9:45am

OTHER SACRAMENTS & ALL APPOINTMENT

PLEASE CONTACT
THE OFFICE

**For baptisms, please contact the office a month before the baby is due. Baptisms should be done within 1 to 3 weeks after the baby is born*



"There standeth in the midst of you One, whom you know not."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon Dec 25....CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE:

- Midnight Mass
- Low Mass at 9:00am
- Low Mass at 10:30am
- no confessions

Dec 26 - 29.....LOW MASS AT NOON

- Mon Dec 28.....**ST. MARY'S PRO-LIFE GROUP**
day to pray at the abortion clinic
- Mon Jan 1.....Low Mass at 10:30am,
no confessions
- Sun Jan 7.....No Confirmation Classes Today



A parishioner of St. Mary Oratory is maintaining a prayer chain.

If you would like to join this list, please email:



stmaryrockford@institute-christ-king.org and we will forward your request.

The weekend food drive for the St. Elizabeth Center has been extended to Sunday, December 17, 2023.

No food should be dropped off after that day.

WEEKLY COLLECTION GOAL: \$8,022

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION:

TOTAL: \$8,148
ACTUAL - FISCAL YTD: \$147,931
GOAL - FISCAL YTD: \$192,528

MAY GOD REWARD YOUR GENEROSITY!

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

Third Sunday of Advent "Gaudete Sunday"

Petra Rodriguez, RIP

Richard Bird, RIP

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

Feria

Billy, Danny, & Faye White, RIP

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Feria

Mary Sue Scordato, RIP

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20

Ember Wednesday

Mary Lester

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21 (Mass with organ)

St. Thomas

Luke Veitch, RIP

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

Ember Friday

James P. Hahn, RIP

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

Ember Saturday

Richard Bird, RIP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve

Nicoloff Family, Living & Deceased

Phyllis Monty, RIP

Mass times are on the front cover and changes are under "Upcoming Events"



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

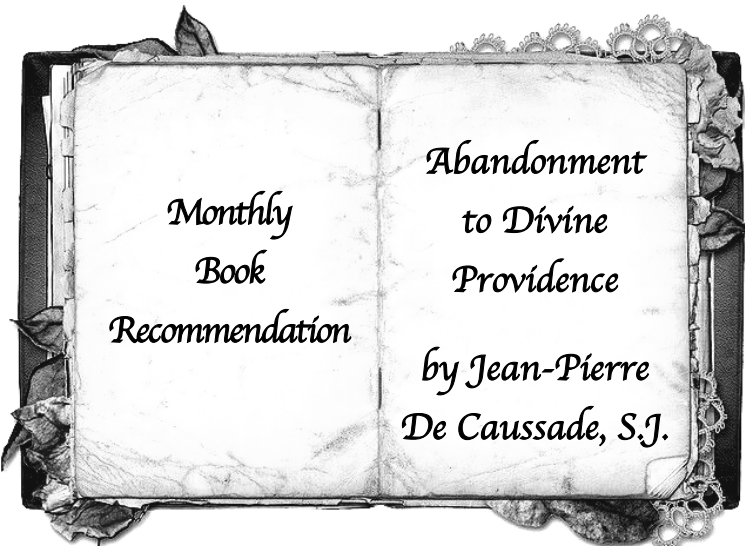
"There hath stood One in the midst of you, whom you know not, says Saint John the Baptist to them that were sent by the Jews. So that our Lord may be near, He may even have come, and yet by some be not known! This Lamb of God is the holy Precursor's consolation: he considers it a singular privilege to be but the voice, which cries out to men to prepare the way of the Redeemer. In this, St. John is the type of the Church, and of all such as seek Jesus. St. John is full of joy because the Saviour has come: but the men around him are as indifferent as though they neither expected nor wanted a Saviour. This is the third week of Advent; and are all hearts excited by the great tidings told them by the Church, that the Messiah is near at hand? They that love Him not as their Saviour, do they fear Him as their Judge? Are the crooked ways being made straight, and the hills being brought low? Are Christians seriously engaged in removing from their hearts the love of riches and the love of sensual pleasures?"

There is no time to lose: the Lord is nigh!

If these lines should come under the eye of any of those Christians who are in this state of sinful indifference, we would conjure them to shake off their lethargy, and render themselves worthy of the visit of the divine Infant: such a visit will bring them the greatest consolation here, and give them confidence hereafter, when our Lord will come to judge all mankind. Send Thy grace, O Jesus, still more plentifully into their hearts; 'compel them to go in,' and permit not that it be said of the children of the Church, as St. John said of the Synagogue:

There standeth in the midst of you One, whom you know not."

From: *"The Liturgical Year"*
by *Dom Guéranger*



Monthly Book Recommendation

Abandonment to Divine Providence

by Jean-Pierre De Caussade, S.J.

Catechism Corner

PRAYER

Lesson 37 from the Baltimore Catechism (cont.)
481. Are distractions in our prayers always displeasing to God?

Distractions in our prayers are not displeasing to God, unless they are willful.

482. How many kinds of prayer are there?

There are two kinds of prayer: mental prayer and vocal prayer.

483. What is mental prayer?

Mental prayer is that prayer by which we unite our hearts with God while thinking of His holy truths.

For the rest, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever honorable, whatever just, whatever holy, whatever lovable, whatever of good repute, if there be any virtue, if anything worthy of praise, think upon these things. (Philippians 4:8)

484. What is vocal prayer?

Vocal prayer is that prayer which comes from the mind and heart and is spoken by the lips.

With my voice I called upon the Lord, and he hearkened to me from his holy mountain. (Psalm 3:5)

485. May we use our own words in praying to God?

We may use our own words in praying to God, and it is well to do so often.

486. What are the prayers that every Catholic should know by heart?

The prayers that every Catholic should know by heart are: the Our Father, the Hail Mary, the Apostles' Creed, the Confiteor, the Glory be to the Father, and the acts of faith, hope, charity, and contrition.

487. How do we usually begin and end our prayers?

We usually begin and end our prayers with the sign of the cross.

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. (Matthew 28:19)

488. Why do we make the sign of the cross?

We make the sign of the cross to express two important mysteries of the Christian religion, the Blessed Trinity and the Redemption.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. (John 1:14)

489. How are these mysteries expressed by the sign of the cross?

When we say "In the name," we express the truth that there is only one God; when we say "of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost," we express the truth that there are three distinct Persons in God; and when we make the form of the cross on ourselves, we express the truth that the Son of God, made man, redeemed us by His death on the cross.