

CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR THE ALTAR

Dear Friends,

In years past, Canon Hoogerwerf (who sends his greetings to you all!) established the praiseworthy annual custom of offering a liturgical gift to the altar. Past gifts include new reliquaries, purchase vestments, a silver monstrance, and last year an ornate altar cross and crucifix.

This year, with celebrating our first Christmas here at the Shrine in Merrillville, we need to continue to furnish our sacristy with the necessary items for the celebration of a worthy liturgy and so we have ordered a beautiful set of solemn Marian vestments to be used on feasts of Our Lady. The fabric used for the vestments is made in imitation of the gown of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Empress of the Americas.

In these difficult times, let us not forget about our Divine Savior and all that He has given for us. Remember the words of the Infant Jesus: "The more you honor me, the more I will bless you." Please make your offering using the envelopes available at the back of the Church.

May Our Lord bless you for your generosity,
Canon Luke Zignego

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Due to the Salvatorian Fathers Mass schedule, there will not be a midnight Mass. Thank you for your understanding.

**Faithful must attend Masses BOTH
Sunday, Dec 24th and Monday, Dec 25th**

Sunday, December 24th: Christmas Eve. 8am Mass

Monday, December 25th: Christmas Day. 8am Mass

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, January 5th: First Friday of the Month. Devotions and Benediction at 6.30pm followed by Holy Mass at 7pm, St. Joseph's Church, Dyer.

Sunday, January 7th: Coffee Social Hour after Mass at St Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church, located at 557 West 57th Avenue, Merrillville IN 46410. Please bring a dish to share.



SAINT JOSEPH ORATORY

INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

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Rev. Canon Luke V. Zignego, Chaplain
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**Sunday, December 24th, 2023
Mass of the Vigil of Christmas**

Introit

This day you shall know that the Lord will come, and save us: and in the morning you shall see His glory. The Lord's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it.

Glory be to the Father . . .

This day you shall know that the Lord will come . . .

Collect

O God, Who gladdens us year after year with the expectation of our redemption, grant that we, who now welcome with joy Thine only-begotten Son as our Redeemer, may also gaze upon Him without fear when He comes as our judge, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through our Lord . . .

Epistle

Romans 1:1-6

Paul, the servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an Apostle, set apart for the Gospel of God, which He had promised before-hand through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, concerning His Son Who was born to Him according to the flesh of the offspring of David; Who was foreordained Son of God by

an act of power in keeping with the holiness of His spirit, by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through Whom we have received the grace of apostleship to bring about obedience to faith among all the nations for His name's sake; among whom are you also called to be Jesus Christ's, our Lord.

Gradual & Alleluia

From This day you will know that the Lord will come and save us: and in the morning you will see His glory. O Shepherd of Israel, hearken, O Guide of the flock of Joseph! From Thy throne upon the Cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasse. Alleluia, alleluia. On the morrow the sins of the earth will be washed away, and the Savior of the world will be our King. Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-21

When Mary, the Mother of Jesus, has been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. But Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wishing to expose her to reproach, was minded to put her away privately. But while he thought on these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, Do not be afraid, Joseph, son of David, to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is begotten in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she shall bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins.

Offertory

Lift up, O gates, your lintels; reach up, you ancient portals, that the King of glory may come in.

Secret

Grant us, we beseech Thee, almighty God, that, as we anticipate the celebration of Thy Son's birthday, so we may joyfully receive His everlasting gifts. Through our Lord . . .

Communion

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all mankind shall see the salvation of our God.

Postcommunion

Grant us, we beseech Thee, O Lord, to begin a new life with this commemoration of the birth of Thy only-begotten Son, Who gives us food and drink in His heavenly sacrament. Through our Lord . . .

BURSAR'S BOX

Sunday, December 3rd: \$ 4, 667.00

Friday, December 8th: \$ 1, 492.00

Sunday, December 10th: \$ 4, 144.00

Sunday, December 17th: \$ 3, 693.00

Total for the Month: \$ 13, 996.00

Please make checks payable to "Institute of Christ the King" with Oratory on the memo line. All checks made out to "Our Lady of Częstochowa" are given to the Salvatorian Fathers. By order of the bishop, \$1000/week is given in rent to the Salvatorian Fathers.

Thank you for your generosity!



WISDOM FROM ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

"Happy are they who, being always on their guard against death, find themselves always ready to die."

JOIN OUR FLOCKNOTE

Dear Faithful of St. Joseph Oratory,

In order to better our communication with you concerning the life of St. Joseph Oratory, we are launching our local Flocknote. What is Flocknote? Flocknote is a church communication management tool that helps us manage our church member database and communicate with all of you by means of email and text message. We will continue to provide info in the bulletin, but Flocknote allows us to send reminders and more detailed descriptions of upcoming Masses and events. We will keep our communication to only what is necessary, so don't be afraid of being spammed! I encourage you all to sign up for this so that you will never miss an update about our Oratory life! Flocknote is voluntary and you will not be added automatically.

If you'd like to sign up, text SJOM to 84576 from your cell phone and follow the instructions. If you don't have text messaging, you can sign up from your computer by visiting this website:

<https://stjosephoratorymerrill.flocknote.com/StJosephOratoryP>

Please contact Mrs. Neupauer at rneupauer@institute-christ-king.org or 773-363-7821 x 2 should you have any questions or need further assistance.

To ensure receipt of messages please add flocknote to your contact list, preventing messages from spam and trash files.