



# Our Parish

## COMMUNITY

December 22, 2019

Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

Is 7:10-14

Rom 1:1-7

Mt 1:18-24

## He's One of Us

The Incarnation means that God is one of us. He is made of our flesh and blood; he laughs, sings, and loves people. Though we believe he is God, he is still one of us. We can choose him to be on our team, trusting that he will play to win.

When identifying ourselves, we normally tell others what we do. Societies like the one to which Jesus belonged usually identified themselves by tracing ancestry. As Isaiah tells us today, Jesus belonged to the house of David. Paul says that he was of David "according to the flesh" (Romans 1:3). The Gospel identifies Joseph as a "son of David" (Matthew 1:20). Since Jesus was considered Joseph's legal son, he also was a "son of David." Joseph is told that the child will be called Emmanuel, which means "God is with us" (Matthew 1:23). Thus, Incarnation means God is with us in a unique way in this man who is one of us. The Incarnation also gives extraordinary dignity to material creation, of which we are all a part and of which he is a part as well, for he is one of us. In other words, Emmanuel (God with us) is a child of earth.

Like Joseph, we cannot fully comprehend what has happened. We can only stand with him in awe as this wondrous mystery unfolds before us. As we await Christmas, we wait for him to appear. When he comes, we will be amazed to see that he is really one of us.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

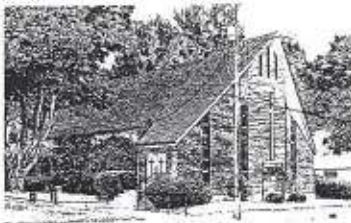


*"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us."*

MATTHEW 1:23

### FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *How does knowing that Jesus is one of us make a difference in your life?*
- ★ *We are on the threshold of Christmas. What religious sentiments fill your mind and heart?*



Holy Trinity - Cherry

St. Patrick - Arlington

St. Thomas More - Dalzell

3 Church Website: [www.bureaucatholic.org](http://www.bureaucatholic.org)

The Main Office Of Holy Trinity &  
St. Patrick Catholic Church Is Located At:  
212 S. Main St., PO Box 159  
Cherry, IL 61317-0159

Holy Trinity Parish Church & Rectory

Office Phone: (815) 894-2006

Office Email: [HolyTSP@gmail.com](mailto:HolyTSP@gmail.com)

Medical Emergency Phone: (815) 664-8241 **\*\*New**

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday  
9:00AM to Noon

Closed Holidays & Holy Days of Obligation

Administration

Pastor: Fr. Patrick Fixsen

Email: [frpat.fixsen@gmail.com](mailto:frpat.fixsen@gmail.com)

Assistant: Julie Hollinger

Email: [JulieHTC@outlook.com](mailto:JulieHTC@outlook.com)

St. Thomas More Church Office

302 Chestnut St.

Dalzell, IL 61320

Office Phone: (815) 663-6201

St. Thomas More Society (Ravs/Hall) - (815) 252-2215

Open Wednesdays - 9AM - Noon

Email: [thomasmore32@gmail.com](mailto:thomasmore32@gmail.com)

**Mass & Confession Schedule**  
**Holy Trinity Catholic Parish**

Weekend Masses

*Sunday Vigil (Saturday) - 4:00 PM*  
*Sunday Mass - 8:30 AM*

Daily Mass (Weekdays) (Holy Days - See Schedule)

Tuesday - 12:15 PM & Thursday - 8:30 AM

Confessions

Saturday - 3:15 - 3:45PM or By Appointment

Mass Schedule

St. Patrick Catholic Parish  
106 Church St.  
Arlington, IL

Sunday Mass - 10:30 AM

Holy Days of Obligation Refer To Schedule

Mass Schedule

St. Thomas More Church - Dalzell, IL

Vigil Mass (Saturday) 5:30 PM

Weekday Mass (Wednesday & Friday) - 8:00 AM\*

Sunday Last Chance Mass 5:30 PM

Confessions By Appointment

Holy Day of Obligation Refer To Schedule

Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel - Open 8am - 8pm (M-Sat)

Sunday - Open 8am until conclusion 5:30pm Mass

**\*\*Divine Mercy Chaplet - Every Friday at 3 PM**

**Daily Mass Intentions for**

**Masses the Week of December 23, 2019**

**Offered For**

Monday

St. Thomas More, Dalzell - 8:30am

† William Fixsen

Tuesday

Holy Trinity, Cherry - 4:00pm

† For The Parishioners

St. Patrick, Arlington - 10:00pm

† For The Parishioners

Wednesday

St. Thomas More, Dalzell - 10:30am

† For The Parishioners

St. Thomas More, Dalzell - 5:30pm

† For The Parishioners

Thursday

Holy Trinity, Cherry - 8:30am

† Nellie Cattani

Friday

St. Thomas More, Dalzell - 8:00am

† No Mass

**Next Weekend's Mass Intentions**

**Weekend of December 28-29, 2019**

Saturday Vigil:

Holy Trinity, Cherry - 4:00 PM

† For The Parishioners

St. Thomas More, Dalzell - 5:30 PM

† Dean & Dolly Abney

Sunday:

Holy Trinity, Cherry - 8:30 AM

† Kathleen Schmitt & Bill Waite

St. Patrick, Arlington - 10:30 AM

† William & Florence McDonald

St. Thomas More, Dalzell - 5:30 PM

† Doug Samolinski

**Ministry Schedule  
For Next Weekend**

**Holy Trinity**

**LECTOR**

Saturday - 4:00PM - Carol Lauer

Sunday - 8:30AM - Jeff Pinter

**SERVERS**

Saturday - 4:00PM -

?

Sunday - 8:30AM - ?

**COUNTERS**

Sunday - 8:30AM -

Sheila Pinter & ?

**St. Patrick**

**LECTOR**

Sunday - 10:30AM - Linda Beattie

**SERVERS**

Sunday - 10:30AM -

Claire & Brooke Lovgren

**St. Thomas More**

**ROSARY**

Sat 5:30PM - TBD

**LECTOR**

Sat 5:30PM - TBD

**SERVERS**

Sat 5:30PM - ?

Visit Venerable Fulton Sheen

At Cathedral in Peoria

Monday - Friday 12pm - 2pm

Saturday 3pm - 6pm

Sunday 9am - 2pm

**UPCOMING  
CHURCH EVENTS**

December 24 & 25 - Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

4:00PM - Holy Trinity

9:30PM - St. Patrick Christmas Choir

10:00PM - ST. Patrick

Christmas

10:30AM - St. Thomas More

5:30PM - St. Thomas More Last Chance

January 8 - Rosary Against Evil - Holy Trinity (Cherry) - 6PM

Last Sunday's Offering

Holy Trinity - \$1765.00

St. Patrick - \$700.00

St. Thomas More - \$835.00

**The Rosary Against Evil**

The rosary that we continue to pray on Wednesday nights at 6PM will be prayed at Holy Trinity Church during the month of January in Cherry. The weeks where Mass and Rosary is prayed together on Monday there is no Wednesday rosary. It is our time to show God, Jesus, Mary how much we need their help to fight the evil around us. Praying as a community has great strength to get God's attention for our needs and His help. And the rosary is and always has been our greatest weapon against evil! So please come and join us!

**Mass for Reparation of Sins**

Every Third Monday

On Monday, January 20th at 5:30PM at Holy Trinity in Cherry, there will be the celebration of Holy Mass followed by the recitation of the Creed and praying of the Holy Rosary. With the rosary prayed on Monday we will not meet that week on Wednesday for rosary. It repeats every third Monday at whatever church we are praying the rosary for that month. Our Blessed Mother wants this from us so people 9 months out of the year can receive the following gifts; we will receive peace, consolation from pain, stopping of hiding sins, not being arrogant, more humility, and the blessing of our homes. Please come!

Weather Warning Notice

With the winter's unpredictable snowfall, it is always hard to plan or prepare for, so just be cautious. Please stay home if you have health or physical difficulties dealing with the extreme weather. If the roads are too icy or not plowed because of fresh snow, the immediate Mass to be celebrated could be cancelled and my parishioners will be dispensed. But please put into the collection the following week what you would have put in for the cancelled Mass. Unfortunately, the bills still keep coming in! A good rule is if the weather is good enough to go the store, sports event, or otherwise, you should go to Mass. Check with WLPO (1220AM), WZOE (1490AM) and BCR Alerts for cancellations. If you aren't signed up for BCR alerts, check with Julie in the office.

Special Event In Area

None

**For The Week**

God has done amazing things in the history of the world; from creating the world to all the life that is in it. As we prepare for Christmas Day, we need to remember God has brought some people into the world in extraordinary ways to do the saving work for God's people. The other day, on Thursday, we heard the story of a barren mother who brought Samson in the world to take down the Philistine's. And there were others as well.

However, the one who is greatest among them is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ was born of Mary because of her being born without sin. The birth of Jesus Christ brought forth the salvation of people who would believe in Him. So as we approach this Christmas we need to always be thankful to God for His Son, Jesus. So during this Christmas season, it is time for all Christians to stop being lukewarm in their faith but live each day as it truly is a real gift from God. May God always bless us with His Real Presence! Have a Blessed and Merry Christmas!

ADA Goals 2019-20

Holy Trinity - \$17589.00

Pledges To Date \$4210.00 (24%)

St. Patrick - \$9902.00

Pledges To Date \$5289.00 (53%)

St. Thomas More - \$12554.00

Pledges To Date \$1265.00 (10%)

**Sacramental Preparation**

Baptisms: Preparation is required for the first child in the family. Baptisms are scheduled on Sundays at noon or by special arrangement. Please contact Father to setup an appointment.

Marriages: Preparations need to be started one year before the Wedding date. Please contact Father for more information.

Rite of Christian Initiation: Per Canon Law of the Catholic Church, anyone over the age of seven years old is to observe the requirements of the RCIA, unless there is a danger of death. If anyone has not received all of the sacraments; baptism, First Communion or Confirmation, please talk to Father.

# Dear Padre,

## Why did early Christians begin celebrating Christmas on December 25th?

Placing Christmas near the winter solstice can be traced to pagan celebrations in Christianity's early years. The celebration of Christmas in December began in Rome as a Christian response to a civil festival honoring the sun god Sol.

The Romans celebrated the sun climbing into the northern skies, signaling the lengthening days after the cold winter nights. On December 25, 274, Aurelian proclaimed the sun god principal patron of the empire. Christmas originated when this sun cult was strongest. Christians wouldn't go to the temple to pay homage to a sun god. They believed in the one true God, and God's only son made human, Jesus Christ.

It's almost as if Christians substituted "son" for "sun" and celebrated the birth of the son of justice into this world. The parallels are uncanny. As the extending sunlight broke night's grip and softened the cold sting on the world, so Jesus' coming broke the long reign of sin and darkness. Jesus was the true son, the light and life of the world, the reason for renewed hope.

Narrow fundamentalists fail to understand that Christmas is more than a birthday celebration of the *day* Christ was born. It's wider in scope, celebrating the reality that Jesus was born human. It's not the *when* but the *what* that we celebrate. So, Jesus' precise birthdate doesn't matter. What matters is that Jesus was truly born human—like us in all things but sin. For this we celebrate.

—Fr. Joseph Morin, CSSR  
[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*We need, then, to open our hearts to the true light, Jesus Christ. He is the light that can illumine life and turn our darkness into light; the light of goodness that conquers evil; the light of the love that overcomes hatred; the light of the life that triumphs over death.*

—ADDRESS TO VATICAN CURIA, DECEMBER 21, 2018

## Calendar

### Monday

DECEMBER 23  
Advent Weekday  
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24  
Lk 1:57–66

### Tuesday

DECEMBER 24  
Advent Weekday  
Sir 35:1–12  
Mk 10:28–31

### Wednesday

DECEMBER 25  
Christmas  
Is 52:7–10  
Heb 1:1–6  
Jn 1:1–18 or  
Jn 1:1–5, 9–14

### Thursday

DECEMBER 26  
St. Stephen,  
First Martyr  
Acts 6:8–10; 7:54–59  
Mt 10:17–22

### Friday

DECEMBER 27  
St. John,  
Apostle and Evangelist  
1 Jn 1:1–4  
Jn 20:1a and 2–8

### Saturday

DECEMBER 28  
The Holy Innocents,  
Martyrs  
1 Jn 1:5–2:2  
Mt 2:13–18

### Sunday

DECEMBER 29  
The Holy Family of  
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph  
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14  
Col 3:12–21 or  
Col 3:12–17  
Mt 2:13–15, 19–23

MOST REV. DANIEL R. JENKY, C.S.C.  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP  
DIOCESE OF PEORIA



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP  
419 N.E. MADISON AVENUE  
PEORIA, ILLINOIS 61603  
PHONE: 309-671-1550  
FAX: 309-671-1576

Christmas, 2019

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

During this Christmas season in homes and churches around the world, followers of Christ will look upon a nativity scene with images of Mary and Joseph, the wise men and shepherds, and the baby Jesus in the manger. And as we take time to reflect upon the true meaning of Christmas; how the promise of a savior was fulfilled on that most holy night, we come face to face with the incredible mystery of the Incarnation of God.

In this one act of incomparable love and mercy the whole relationship between God and man was changed forever. God is no longer distant and set apart. God is with us. A point of contact between heaven and earth has been established that will last until the end of time.

But Jesus Christ is more than an ambassador. A man like us in all things but sin, He is also a model of holiness. He shows us that happiness is not found in riches, fame and achievement but in God alone. He shows us how to use our freedom well. And he shows us what love is like in heaven, so that during our time on earth we can prepare to be with him for eternity.

And most of all Jesus came with a mission to take away the sins of the world, your sins and mine, so that nothing would stand between us and Him. He is our savior.

This is the Christ child we gaze upon in the manger. This is the Christ child to whom the wise men from the east came to give homage over 2000 years ago. And this is the same Christ child to whom wise men and women today come to give homage and to worship.

It is my prayer that each of us will spend this Christmas season in the company of family and friends as we reflect on the Holy Family of God and give thanks.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel R. Jenky C.S.C." with a stylized flourish at the end.

\*Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C.  
BISHOP OF PEORIA