



Our Parish COMMUNITY

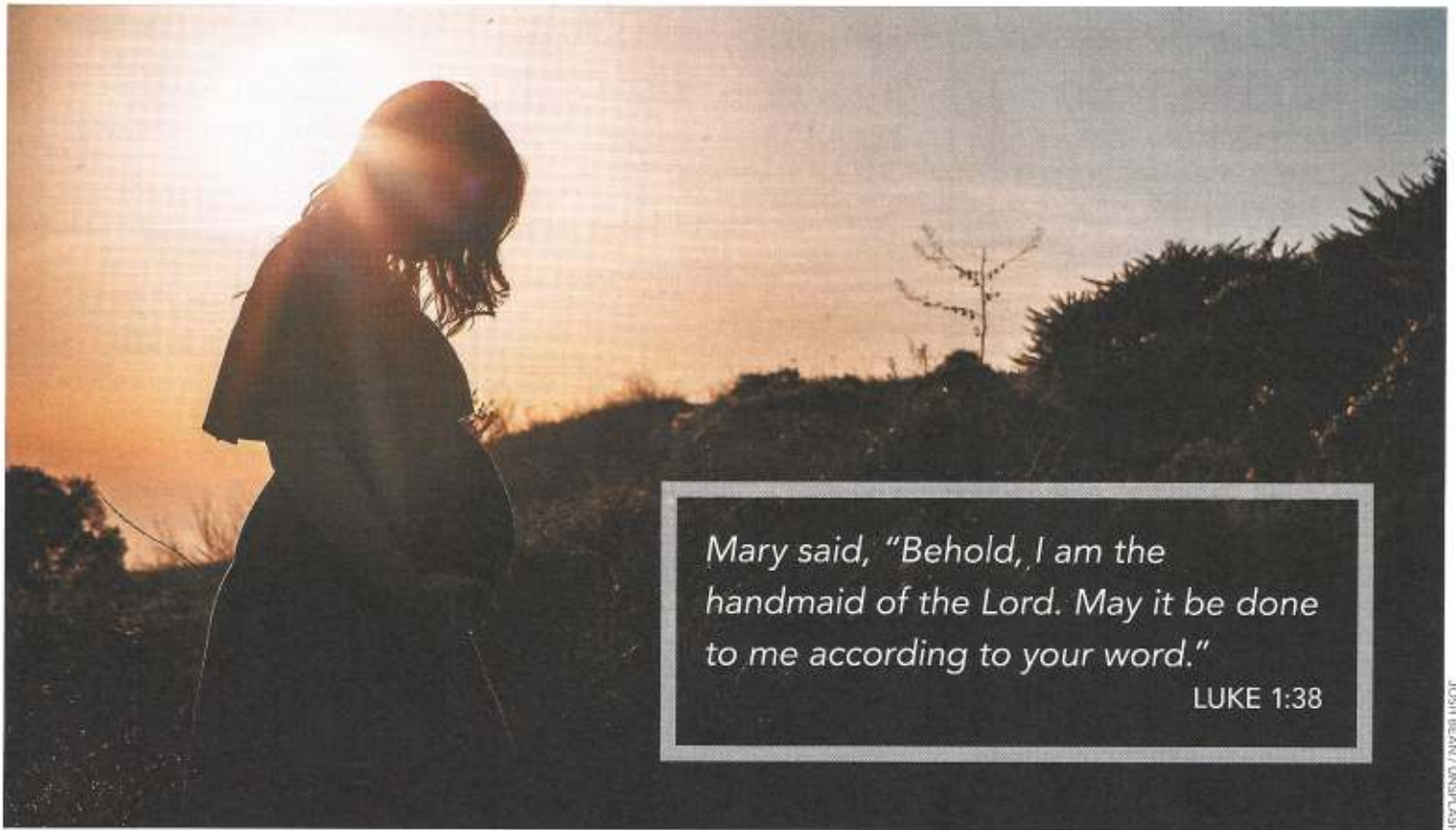
December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Rom 16:25-27

Lk 1:26-38



Mary said, "Behold, I am the
handmaid of the Lord. May it be done
to me according to your word."

LUKE 1:38

JOSH BEAN / UNPLUSH

How Can This Be?

The reading from Samuel assures us that the leader we are awaiting will be of the royal house of David. We presume this means personal power and political leadership, and recognition of this from others.

The Gospel turns us in a different direction. In it Mary asks, "How can this be?" (Luke 1:34) This question can be understood in two different ways. One means: How is it going to happen? The other suggests: You've got to be kidding! When told she will bear a child, this virgin asks: How is this going to happen? Her visitor

explains the unfolding of an unbelievable event. While stories in pagan religions described how gods took on human form, such wondrous events supposedly happened in royal families—not in the life of an unassuming girl promised to a modest carpenter. In the Incarnation, a singular historic event, Mary did not say: "You've got to be kidding!" She replied: "If that's what you want, I'm willing."

Advent readings have traced God leading the people to salvation and a new way of living, to an outline of an individual chosen by God to lead them, to the realization that this leader will be a descendant of David. However, none of this happens as we might expect. Rather, it unfolds in such an unpretentious way that many people did not even realize it was happening. Who could blame anyone for saying: You've got to be kidding! But God was not kidding.

Now we are ready for Christmas.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ✦ *Advent readings show God working in mysterious ways. Where is God working in your life?*
- ✦ *How prepared are you for the deeper meaning of Christmas?*



Holy Trinity Catholic Church



St. Thomas More Catholic Church



St. Patrick Catholic Church

****Main Office****

Holy Trinity Church & Rectory

212 S. Main St.

PO Box 159

Cherry, IL 61317-0159

Phone: (815) 894-2006

Office Email: HolyTSP@gmail.com

Website: www.bureaucatholic.org

And on Facebook at

"Bureau Catholic Churches".

Mass Schedule

Weekdays - Tuesday 12:15pm and

Thursday - 8:30am

Saturday Confessions - 3:15-3:45 PM
or by appointment

Saturday Vigil Mass - 4:00 PM

Sunday Mass - 8:30 AM

***Pastor of the Three Churches**

Fr. Patrick Fixsen

Email: frpat.fixsen@gmail.com

****Upcoming Events At Church****

All Events On Hold

****Emergency Phone****

For All Three Churches

815-664-8241

St. Thomas More Church

302 Chestnut St.

Dalzell, IL 61320

Phone: (815) 663-6201

Email: StTMoreDalzell32@gmail.com

Mass Schedule

Weekday Mass -

Wednesday & Friday - 8:00AM

Saturday Vigil Mass - 5:30 PM

**Sunday (Last Chance) Mass -
5:30 PM**

Adoration Room

Open Monday-Saturday 9AM-8PM

Sunday - 9AM - 6PM

Divine Mercy Prayers

Every Friday 3:00PM

****Upcoming Events At Church****

Rav Orders - 815-252-2215

No Events Scheduled

**St. Patrick Church
(Office at Holy Trinity Church)**

106 Church St.

Arlington, IL 61312

Phone: (815) 894-2006

Mass Schedule

Sunday Mass - 10:30 AM

***3 Churches Pastoral Assistant**

Julie Hollinger

Email: JulieHTC@outlook.com

****Office Hours****

Holy Trinity - Tues, Thurs, & Fri.
- 9AM-12PM

St. Thomas More -

Wed - 9AM - 12PM

****Facebook:** Use Link on Home
Page - www.bureaucatholic.org

****Upcoming Events At Church****

Dec. 12 - Sausage Making

**Daily Mass Intentions for
Masses the Week of December 21, 2020**

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Christmas Eve

Friday

Christmas Day

****Facebook Link - 9:00AM**STM**

****www.bureaucatholic.org/Facebook Link - 5:30PM**HT**

****www.bureaucatholic.org/Facebook Link - 4:00PM**HT**

St. Patrick - In Person Only - 10:00PM

****www.bureaucatholic.org/Facebook Link - 9:00AM **HT**

****Facebook Link - 10:30AM**STM**

Next Weekend's Mass Intentions

Weekend of December 26-27, 2020

Saturday:

Sunday:

****Facebook Link - 4:00PM **STM**

****www.bureaucatholic.org/Facebook Link - 9:00 AM**HT**

St. Patrick, Arlington - 10:30 AM (No Streaming)

****St. Thomas More, Dalzell - 6:00 PM (Last Chance Communion)**

Offered For

† No Mass

† Sy Pyszka

† Ann Koenan

† For The Parishioners

† For The Parishioners

† For The Parishioners

† For The Parishioners

Offered For

† Norma Templeton

† For The Parishioners

† Msgr. Richard Soseman

† No Mass (Only Holy Communion)

Latest Offering's

Holy Trinity - \$0.00
St. Patrick - \$0.00
St. Thomas More - \$0.00

Visit Venerable Fulton Sheen
At Cathedral in Peoria

Monday - Friday 12pm - 2pm
Saturday 3pm - 5pm
(Re-Opened Again)

Ministry Schedule
For Next Weekend

Holy Trinity

LECTOR

Saturday - 4:00PM - ?
Sunday - 8:30AM - ?

SERVERS

Saturday - 4:00PM -
?

Sunday - 8:30AM - ?

COUNTERS

Sunday - 8:30AM -
? & ?

** Mass Intentions **

We are in need of Mass Intentions for weekday Masses. The Masses on the web are a great occasion for family members not living in this area to pray with us for family members who have died. Please consider having a weekday Mass for a deceased member of your family and thank you. Mass intentions can be paid through our online giving program, mail or dropping by our office.

Recurring Special Church Events

Wednesday's - Rosary - 6PM

(On Website)

(After Wednesday HT Evening Mass)

Friday's - Divine Mercy Chaplet -

On Facebook- 3PM -

St. Thomas More Adoration Chapel

In This Month

Preparing For Christmas

Prayer is the most important gift we have been given to communicate with Him, God. This prayer has traditionally been prayed 15 times a day until Christmas:

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold.

In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires,

[State your intention(s) here...]

through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother, Amen.

And most all of us have lost loved ones that we miss in a particular way during Christmas. This prayer is for us, titled "Christmas In Heaven":

I still hear the song

I still see the lights

I still feel your love

on cold wintry nights.

I still share your hopes

and all your cares

I'll even remind you

to please say all your prayers.

I just want to tell you

you still make me proud

You stand head and shoulders

above all the crowd.

Keep trying each moment

to stay in His grace

I came here before you

to help set your place.

You don't have to be

perfect all the time

He forgives you the slip

if you continue to climb.

To my family and friends

please be thankful today

I'm still close beside you

in a new special way.

I love you all dearly

now don't shed a tear

cause I'm spending my

Christmas with Jesus this year.

Christmas Confessions

The last of the Christmas confessions will be:

Tues-Dec. 22 - 6-6:45pm - STM

Wed - Dec. 23 - 3:00 - 3:45pm - STM

Father will stay until all confessions are heard in needed!

This Week's Update

Thank you so much to everyone at all three churches who offered your help to put up the Christmas decorations this year!

And again, I am very grateful to EVERYONE who has helped with the to-go chicken dinners over the last two weekends at St. Thomas More. And also to the Sausage Makers up at St. Patrick in Arlington, they have been tremendous in giving our church a little extra needed income.

This last week of Advent, we hear about the preparation of a place for God to reside in the Old Testament reading. God had been carried around, from place to place, in the Ark of the Covenant.

Then in the second reading, St. Paul reflects on how the Old Testament prophets foretold the coming of a Savior. And with Jesus Christ being among us, we would have a reason for obedience to God through our faith in Jesus Christ.

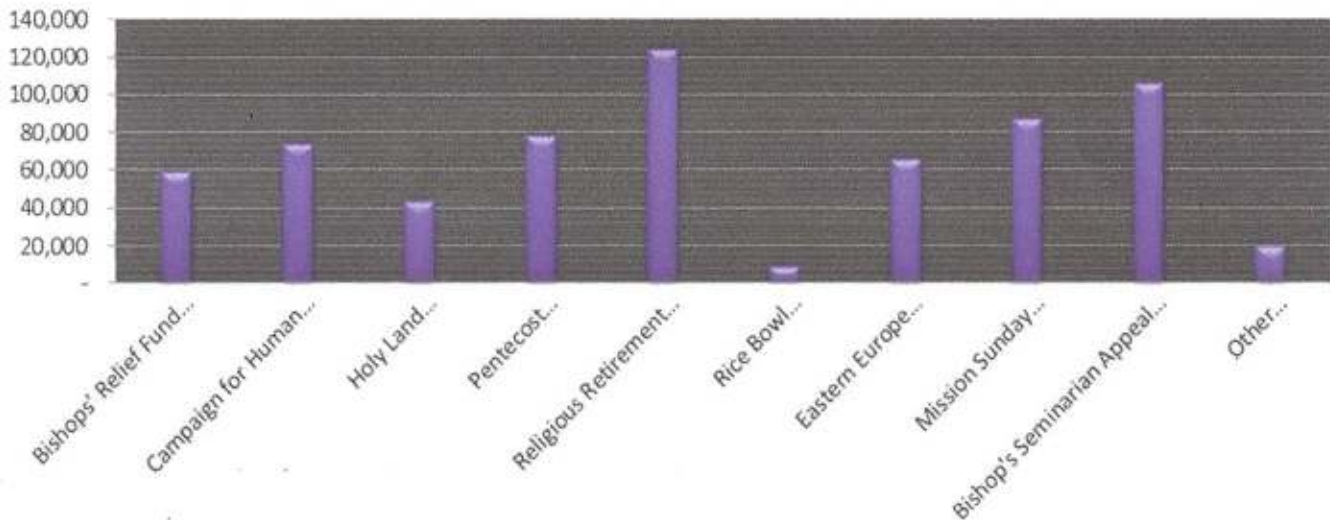
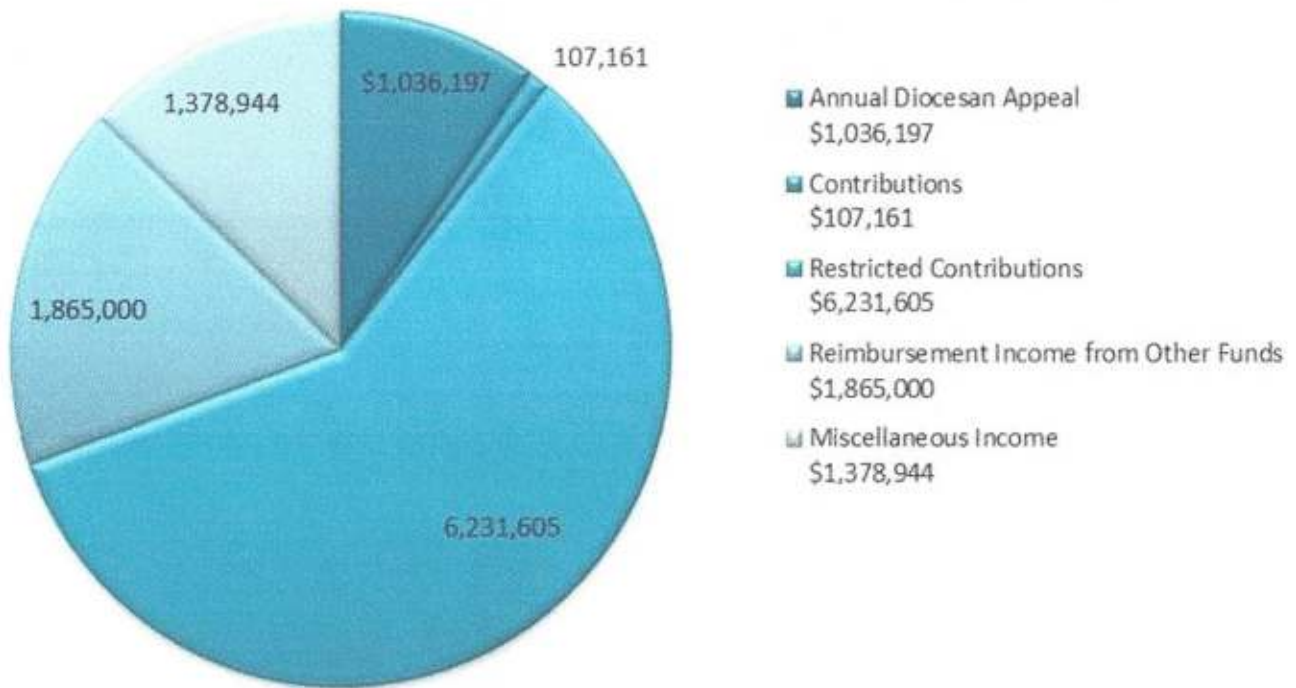
In the Gospel, we hear the account of the Annunciation. God again is looking for a home to rest in. And it is Mary, born without sin, who will provide that home. God in all His wonder can do amazing things! He can use ordinary people to bring salvation to His people. And God can bring new life through those thought to be too old to bring forth new life. Is there anything that God can't do? The answer is no! It is our turn to witness some of those things thought to be impossible! All of you have a big place in my heart, so pray, be holy and stay close to Christ! Fr. Pat Fixsen

Catholic Diocese of Peoria

Summary of Diocesan Financial Activities

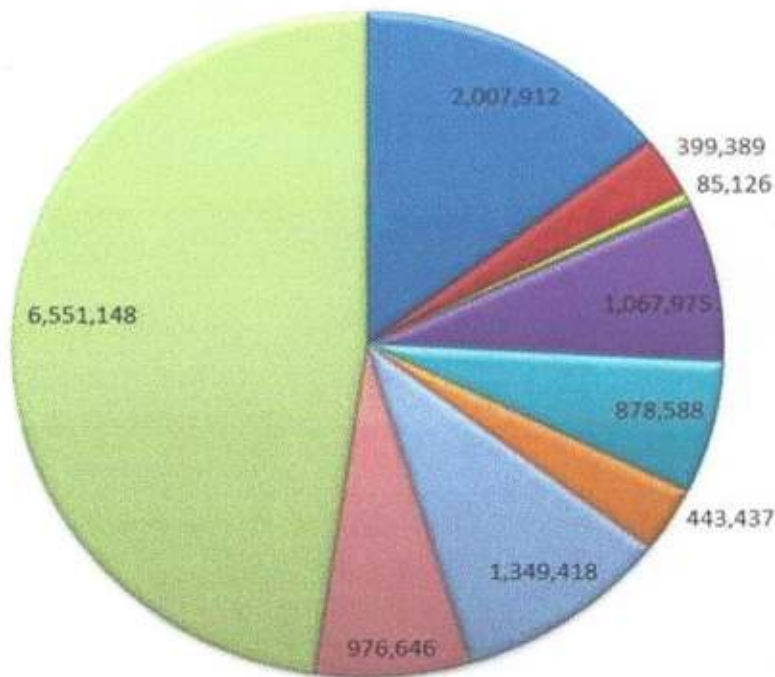
Year Ended June 30, 2020

Revenue
\$10,618,907



Special Collections
\$862,758

Costs & Expenses \$13,759,640



■ Pastoral Offices	\$2,007,912
■ Pastoral Ministries	\$399,389
■ Pastoral Commissions & Assessments	\$85,126
■ Religious Personnel Development	\$1,067,975
■ Religious Education	\$878,588
■ Social Services	\$443,437
■ Administration	\$1,349,418
■ Building Expenses	\$976,646
■ Capital Costs	\$6,551,148

Endowment Grant Distributions

John Lancaster Spalding Scholarship Fund	\$560,214
Monsignor Duncan College Campus Ministry Fund	\$225,689
Fulton Sheen Religious Education Fund	\$ 76,855

A Gift that Lives Forever

As Catholic stewards we are asked to make our Church a vibrant source of service and hope to the larger community. Often a financial gift given directly to the Diocese can forever perpetuate our Catholic Faith right here close to home. It may be a gift in your will, a gift of real estate, live insurance or even your required minimum distribution from your IRA.

These are gifts that anyone may afford and most likely do not impact your cash flow or life style. To discuss making a gift that lives forever, please call the Diocesan Office of Development at (309) 671-1550.

Dear Padre,

Does God call me, like God called Mary? Can the angel Gabriel speak to me as he did to Mary?

Perhaps God has already spoken to you! In the great calls in Scripture, God doesn't seem to care about age. God doesn't care about gender, race, talents, poverty or wealth, strengths or weaknesses. God calls each of us because we are God's daughters and sons. God's call is personal (to you and no other!), and this call is to always be Christian and serve the Lord. Most often



THE ANNUNCIATION / PSALTER, VENICE

the call won't be dramatic, like it was for Moses. More likely, your call will be quiet and personal. Remember what God said: "Be still, and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:11).

In these hectic days before Christmas, find a peaceful place and quiet time. Be still and say to God, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:9). In this place, God will reveal your call to you, a call that was present long before your birth.

God has already spoken to us in our life's vocation. We are planted in friendships, relationships, marriages, jobs, families, a community, and a nation. In each place, we listen to hear what God is calling forth from us.

Then, like Mary, we say yes! We reach into our most generous spirit and proclaim "yes" to even the most difficult, mundane, or boring aspects of our vocation.

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

The angel Gabriel calls Mary "full of grace": in her there is no room for sin, because God chose her from eternity to be the mother of Jesus and preserved her from original sin....We too are asked to listen to God who speaks to us, and to accept his will....The Lord is always speaking to us!

—SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, DECEMBER 8, 2014

Calendar

Monday

DECEMBER 21
Advent Weekday
Sg 2:8–14 or
Zep 3:14–18a
Lk 1:39–45

Tuesday

DECEMBER 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24–28
Lk 1:46–56

Wednesday

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

Thursday

DECEMBER 24
Advent Weekday
2 Sm 7:1–5,
8b–12, 14a, 16
Lk 1:67–79

Friday

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

Saturday

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

Sunday

DECEMBER 27
The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 or
Gn 15:1–6; 21:1–3
Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17
or Heb 11:8, 11–12,
17–19
Lk 2:22–40 or
2:22, 39–40