As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord God make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

Isaiah 61:11
All are invited to celebrate our

Valentine Gala

When: February 10, 2018 at 6:00pm

Where: Esplanade Lakes, Downers Grove

Dinner, Dancing, Live and Silent Auction and the Drawing for the Grand Prize for the Lucky in Love Raffle

Registration is now open at:
www.Stmarygostyn.org

Check or cash payments can be dropped off at the Rectory.

$100 per person, tables of 10 for $1000

Proceeds for this event go to our School Operating Budget, our Endowment Fund and our Athletics Department
CONFIRMATION
Sat. March 10, 2018 1:00 PM

According to Canon 882, the ‘ordinary minister of Confirmation is a bishop’, and, due to the departing of Bishop Siegel to become the Bishop of Evansville, the schedule of celebrants for parish Confirmations in March, April, and May of 2018 has been affected.

After consultation with the parish staff, I requested delegation from Bishop Conlon to Confirm our students at St. Mary of Gostyn Church. As pastor of the parish, Bishop Conlon has granted me the faculties to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Mary of Gostyn Parish, Downers Grove, IL on Saturday, March 10, 2018, at 1:00 PM.

May the Holy Spirit enrich all those who will be confirmed at St. Mary of Gostyn Parish.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
MASS SCHEDULE

Next weekend Masses, the Fourth Sunday of Advent will be:

Saturday, Dec. 23
4:30 PM

Sunday, Dec. 24
8:00 AM 10:00 AM

There will be no 12 Noon Mass in order to prepare the Church for Christmas Eve Masses.

St. Mary of Gostyn Parish
Advent Reconciliation Service

Monday, December 18, 2017
7:00 PM in Church

During this time of watching, waiting for the presence of the Lord, don’t forget that He offers us healing and forgiveness in the special Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Join us for our Penance Service Monday, December 18th, seeking forgiveness of God and one another as we come to the final days of Advent. The service begins at 7 PM in Church.

Confessors will be available for individual confessions.

“...and his name shall be called Emmanuel (which means, God is with us).”
—Matthew 1:23
In today’s second reading Paul concludes his letter to the Christian community at Thessalonica by providing it with actions to take as they wait for the return of the Lord. The first action is to rejoice always and give thanks in all circumstances. This sounds easy but it’s not. The two words that make this task difficult are “always” and “all”. This means giving thanks and rejoicing even when our circumstances are not always moments of joy and thanksgiving, or when we are confronted with a broken world. Prayerful stewards rejoice and give thanks in all circumstances because they are people of hope. A good reflection this week would be how the season of Advent can give you reason to hope.
Christmas cards are something of a ritual in some homes, both the sending and the receiving. Somehow it became a sin to open a Christmas card alone. Christmas cards are set aside, to remain unopened until the next family meal. After dinner, the unopened cards are gathered and each family member chooses one to open and read aloud.

Some families send a lot of cards. It’s the one time of year when we correspond with people we’ve known for years. Each year we wonder if we should keep sending a card to a woman who was in our choir twenty years ago or the classmate of thirty years ago or the teacher who made such a difference in our life. But then it seems a shame to lose them. It’s so easy to lose people and we’re not willing to be the first to let go.

Writing out Christmas cards is our time to thank people for their kindnesses to us, to say something too long unsaid, to offer a quick prayer for them. We do catch people up on the comings and goings of the family, but more important than the family news is saying again the true truth of Christmas.

Good news isn’t complete until we’ve shared it with someone. That’s why we send Christmas cards. It’s a cozy, civilized way of telling the story again. We need to tell it. We need to hear it. That God loves us. That God cares. That God knows because God has been one of us. That God is involved in our world and that the stories we hold most dear to our hearts—they are really true. And in the midst of the loss and sin and pettiness and fear and all the things that distract us from our one most important task of creating on this earth small colonies of heaven—that none of these things is powerful enough to make the story less true. We need to hear it again. And we need to share it. Blessed Christmas, friends. It’s true.

Paige Byrne Shortal
November 2, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your dedication to the Catholic Church and the schools in the Diocese of Joliet. Today I write to share with you an exciting and unprecedented opportunity for Catholic education that requires all of our attention. In August, the Illinois House and Senate passed a comprehensive education funding bill which was signed into law by the governor. In the weeks since, more and more details are emerging. The bill includes a new five-year program for Tax Credit Scholarships (TCS) for students in private schools that will create more equity in school funding throughout Illinois.

As you are a valued partner in our diocese, I have included a brief overview of the tax credit scholarship program, and the opportunity it provides for students, their families, and potential donors.

- Under the TCS program, individuals and corporations can make donations to a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) that will distribute scholarships to qualified students (described below). In the interest of time and efficiency we have joined with the other Illinois dioceses in using “Empower Illinois” as our SGO.

- Individual and corporate donors will receive a 75% state tax credit for donations up to $1 million made to an SGO. Individual donors can designate their donation to an individual school, subset of schools, or a school system such as the Diocese of Joliet schools. Corporate donations cannot be designated and will be distributed ratably across the state.

- Students in grades K-12 may receive tax credit scholarships beginning with the 2018/2019 school year. To qualify for tax credit scholarships, families must earn less than 300 percent of the federal poverty level. In the first months of the program, applications from students with the greatest financial need, as well as those who reside in school districts with significant challenges, will be prioritized. More information on applications will be forthcoming when it is provided by the state.

Tax credits will be available on a first come, first served basis beginning January 2, 2018. As there is a limit to the amount of tax credits available, it is important we move quickly to ensure we do not lose the opportunity to have the funds designated to Diocese of Joliet schools. Strong interest may cause this cap to be reached very quickly. More information will be provided from the diocese as it becomes available.

In the meantime, I invite you to visit www.dioceseofjoliet.org/ILTCSP to learn more. Please consider this opportunity with an open heart and I thank you for your dedication to the Diocese of Joliet.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend R. Daniel Conlon
Bishop of Joliet
TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FAQs

What is a Tax Credit Scholarship Program?

It allows individuals and corporations to donate to scholarship granting organizations (SGO) and receive a credit on their state taxes in return. These organizations will then use this money to grant scholarships to qualifying students.

How much is the credit worth?

An individual or corporate donor will receive a 75 percent credit on their donation. This means that if a donor donates $10,000, they will receive a state tax credit of $7,500. Donations by both individual and corporate donors are capped at $1 million. Individual donors can direct their donations to the school or subset of schools of their choice. Corporate donors cannot designate. The credit is non-refundable, but it can be carried forward for five years.

Can a donor receive a federal tax deduction in addition to a state tax credit for the same donation?

No. The legislation specifically prohibits this.

Is there program cap?

Yes, there is a cap of $75 million per year. The cap indicates the amount of tax credits that can be handed out; it does not cap the amount of scholarships that can be distributed under the program. In order for the $75 million cap to be hit, $100 million will have to be donated.

How does that donation process work?

Beginning on January 1, 2018, individual and corporate donors will be able to reserve tax credits on an Illinois Department of Revenue website. They will then have 60 days to donate the amount they reserved to the SGO of their choice. After donating, they will receive a certificate of receipt from the SGO, indicating that a donation was made. The SGO will then notify the Department of Revenue that a donation was made. If a donor doesn't donate, rescinds their donation, or gives less than they indicated to the Department of Revenue, they will not receive ANY tax credit.

Will all scholarships go to Chicago?

No. There is a requirement in the new law that the Department of Revenue ensures distribution of scholarships throughout the entire state.
What is an SGO?

A scholarship granting organization (SGO) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose primary aim is to give scholarships to students attending non-public schools.

What are SGO regulations?

1. An SGO must be approved by the Illinois Department of Revenue before donors can receive a tax credit for donating to it;
2. An SGO must use at least 95% of donations during a taxable year for scholarships;
3. An SGO cannot be operated by an individual who has filed for individual or corporate bankruptcy in the last seven years;
4. An SGO cannot be operated by an individual who owns or operates a school that participates in the program or who has a family member who is a paid staff or board member of a school that participates in the program;
5. An SGO must abide by federal anti-discrimination provisions;
6. An SGO must distribute at least 75% of money raised in the form of scholarships each school year; and
7. An SGO must only give scholarships to eligible students attending participating schools.

Which students qualify for scholarships?

Initially, students whose families earn 300 percent of the federal poverty level or less ($73,800 for a family of four) will qualify. Once a student receives a scholarship, his or her family can earn up to 400% of the federal poverty level ($98,400 for a family of four).

From January 1 to April 1, priority will be given to students from each of the following categories:

- Students who received a scholarship from an SGO during the previous school year;
- Students who are members of a household whose previous year’s total annual income does not exceed 185% of the federal poverty level ($45,510 for a family of four);
- Students who reside within a focus district; and
- Students who are siblings of students currently receiving a scholarship.

After April 1, all other qualifying students will be able to receive scholarships.

How does an SGO determine the size of a scholarship a student receives?

To qualify for a scholarship, a student's family will have to give official documentation to the SGO of their financial circumstances. Based on how a student’s household income compares to the federal poverty level, a student will receive the following:

- For students whose household income is less than 185% of the federal poverty level, the scholarship will be 100 percent of tuition and necessary fees in the applicable school;
• For students whose household income is between 185% - 250% of the federal poverty level, scholarships will average 75% of tuition and necessary fees at the applicable school; and
• For students whose household income is above 250% of the federal poverty level, scholarships will average 50% of tuition and necessary fees at the applicable school.

What is the maximum amount of scholarship a student can receive?

Tuition and necessary fees of the school to be attended or the statewide average operating expense per student, whichever is lower. For the current year, the statewide average operating expense per student is $12,280. Students identified as gifted and talented can receive a maximum scholarship amount of 1.1 times the statewide average operating expense, or $13,508. Students identified as English Language Learners can receive a maximum scholarship amount of 1.2 times the statewide average operating expense, or $14,736. Students identified as eligible to receive services under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act can receive a maximum scholarship amount of 2 times the statewide average operating expense, or $24,560.

How will it be determined whether students are benefiting from this program?

All students who receive scholarships will be required to take the state assessment. The Illinois State Board of Education will select an independent research organization to conduct an annual study examining the year-to-year learning gains of students receiving scholarships and a comparison of these learning gains to public school students with similar demographic backgrounds. All unused tax credits will be put back into the program until the cap is hit.
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2017
6:15 AM - Billy Harper req. Calistro Family
8:00 AM - Robert Noonan req. Arla McMahon & Deanna McMahon Horner

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2017
6:15 AM - John Flannery
8:00 AM - In honor of Jesus agonizing suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane req. Harrington Family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2017
6:15 AM - Tina Pua
8:00 AM - Sally Van Cura req. Lucado Family
Marilyn Zubak req. Bruce & Moira Barker

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2017
6:15 AM - Mary Ann Regan
8:00 AM - James E. Hanlon Sr. req. Steve & Therese DeSitter

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2017
6:15 AM - Kathleen Bugner
8:00 AM - Dave Sabo req. Rose Vilutis

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2017
8:00 AM - Joseph Spidale req/ Rose Vilutis
Deceased Members of the Toner, Buckley, Newton & Hadank req. Hugh & Maureen Toner
4:30 PM - Edward Wies req. Loretta Wies
Richard Bonk req. Loretta Wies

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017
8:00 AM - Lillian Grams req. Family
Cecile Grant req. Mike & Mary Signer
10:00 AM - In celebration of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Robert & Aleena Truby req. Charlotte Sholeen
4:00 PM
6:00 PM
11:30 PM

TODAY'S READINGS
First Reading - As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will GOD make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).
Second Reading - Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).
Gospel - I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
Monday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

O come, Emmanuel

Prayer for the Sick through the Intercession of St. Peregrine

Graciously hear the prayers which we offer to you O God.
We present our petitions through St. Peregrine, your beloved servant and patron of those suffering from cancer, AIDS, and other life-threatening diseases.
Grant that the sick may receive help in all their needs through the intercession of St. Peregrine, whose life was so pleasing to you.
Hear us in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

St. Peregrine, Pray for us!
O Mary, health of the sick, Pray for us!

For all of the Faithful ~
living and deceased.
CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS
Envelopes will be available at the entrances to church for those who would like to remember their deceased loves ones during the Christmas season. You may also use a plain envelope, and write your name on the envelope and the name of the person you wish remembered. We will publish the list of memorials in the parish bulletin.

Baptism
St. Mary of Gostyn Parish Family welcomed the following children to the Catholic Faith through the Sacrament of Baptism recently:
Olivia Marie Boyce, daughter of Dan & Catherine Boyce
Elizabeth Maria Ann Dub, daughter of Patrick & Margaret Dubs

Oplatki is now available at the Rectory and Parish Center offices.

NOW HIRING
We are currently in the process of hiring a Parish Youth Minister (Part-time)
For a complete job description visit our homepage at www.stmarygostyn.org/About Us/Employment Opportunities

Presider Schedule for Saturday, December 23rd and Sunday, December 24th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass Times</th>
<th>Presider</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, 4:30 PM</td>
<td>Fr. Shaun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, 8:00 AM</td>
<td>Fr. Jim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Fr. Shaun</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, and Altar Servers, please consult your online personal schedule and email reminders for assignments.

Make St. Mary of Gostyn your Spiritual Home!
If you are new to St. Mary of Gostyn or have been attending and do not have a church home, you are most welcome to become part of our Parish Family. Please fill out the information form below, and we will mail you a registration form to become a member of the Family of St. Mary of Gostyn! Welcome to St. Mary of Gostyn Parish!

Name_________________________________________________________
Address________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip__________________________________________________
Email address___________________________________________________
Phone Number: _____________________________ (circle one: cell      Home)

Please drop off in collection basket or mail to:
St. Mary of Gostyn Parish, 444 Wilson Street, Downers Grove, IL 60515
For your convenience, you can also register to become a St. Mary of Gostyn parishioner on our website: http://www.stmarygostyn.org/?page=ParishRegistration
4 WAYS to Benefit From a Year-End Gift

The final months of the year are traditionally considered the season of giving. In addition to the gifts we give to the important people in our lives, this season of generosity is also the prime time to show support for the causes we love. When you support your parish this year, not only will others benefit, but so will you.

Few things in life offer more personal satisfaction than helping others. When you make a gift at year-end in support of our vital mission, not only will you help us meet our goals, but you can also receive important tax benefits. Here is what you need to know about making charitable gifts before the year comes to a close.

Explore Your Options
Although there may still be time to make several different types of charitable gifts, based on your unique situation and tax considerations, some gift types may be more practical than others. Following are a number of popular options.

1 Make an immediate impact.
Cash is an easy way to give each year. You can receive an income tax charitable deduction for the full value of the gift, up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income. If you write a check for less than $250, a copy of the check will suffice as a record of the gift. You should obtain a receipt for gifts of $250 or more.

2 Save taxes on appreciated stock.
When you donate stocks that are worth more than what you originally paid for them, you can claim deductions for their full fair market value and eliminate any tax on the appreciation.

3 Avoid the hassles and costs associated with selling real estate
Like securities, if you try to sell appreciated property you will be subject to capital gains tax on the appreciation. By donating the property to charity, you can enjoy tax savings and relieve yourself from the hassles of selling or maintaining it.

4 Put an insurance Policy to good use.
An old policy you no longer need can make a big impact on our work. To qualify as a deductible gift, we must become the policy owner. For most types of insurance policies, your tax deduction is usually the cost basis or the fair market value of the policy - whichever is less.
It is more common for policies to still require premiums to be paid. When you donate these, the future premiums are tax-deductible as you pay them.
The following persons have requested prayers from our parish community:

Judith Abella  
Abby Beranek  
Felicia Bubula  
Frank Davis  
Mark Gowgiel  
Robert Hayes  
Kenny Kern  
Eddie Mayerik  
Andrea Mutton  
Mary Ann Papievis  
Eliza Skipworth  
Hugh Toner  
Ashley Wolfman  
Kathleen Stress  
Malek Family  
Nicholas T. Almeida  
Kathy Berg  
Ann Clark  
Jessica Davy  
Diane Goyette  
Erinn Henes  
Doreen Lehner  
Spencer Mehr  
Rob Noonan  
Eleanor Pecka  
Yoshie Snider  
Mark Trout  
Thomas Mendoza  
Candy Kornack  
Katie Main Hwan  
Louise Bach  
Sharon Binter  
Margaret Corbett  
Jim Donovan  
Rion Goyette  
Bobby Johnson  
Robert Lehner  
Dolores Mendoza  
Fr. Ernie Norbeck  
Cynthia Petro  
Joey Stefka  
Laine Van Houton  
Eloise Schlech  
Joan Temborius  
Minnie Lopez  
Anna Bandur  
Bill Brown  
Helen Czulak  
Dennis Finn  
Gen Hadamik  
Donna Karlinski  
Diane Main  
Kate Moss  
Ken Norman  
Char Ryan  
Joan Tagglonia  
Audrey Waechtler  
Isabella Tolspa  
Bobbie Olp  
George Drobney  
Gabriella Beirne  
Tom Brown  
Jean Dahm  
Becca Gorman  
Hope Hathaway  
Joseph Karlinski  
Virginia Mates  
James Murawska  
Daniel Oliver  
Tom Salansky  
Sharon Tallerico  
Loretta Wies  
Don Nietzel  
Teresa Druzgal-Heaver

Pray for our Military

Let us pray for all of our military personnel, especially the men and women of our parish who are serving in harm’s way:

Kevin Braasch  
Michael Martel  
Natalya Brechlin  
John Svoboda  
Christopher Fountain  
Nathan Kijowski  
Bob Lang  
Zachary Frana  
Timothy Randazzo  
Kyle Ng  
Christopher Randazzo  
Richard Ciner

In Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to the family of
Charles Belano, husband of Illuminada Belano
Michaelene Clauser
Michael Kummer, son of Kay Kummerer

St. Mary of Gostyn Ministry to the Homebound

Do you have a homebound family member, friend, or neighbor who would like to receive the Eucharist on Sunday mornings?
If so, please have them contact Deacon Bob at the Parish Center at 630/960-1063, ext 244.
A Minister to the Homebound will be happy to visit them.
First Friday visits are also offered.

Nursing Home/Hospital Visitation

Notify the Rectory, (630) 969-1063, if you or a family member want a pastoral visit while in a healthcare facility. Without such notification, the rectory has no method of knowing who wants visitation.
(Please also see the tables at every church entrance for consent forms for healthcare facilities to notify the rectory of request for visitation).
The “O Antiphons” of Advent

The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.

December 17
O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

December 18
O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

December 19
O Root of Jesse’s stem, sign of God’s love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

December 20
O Key of David, opening the gates of God’s eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21

December 22
O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

December 23
O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!

Religious Education

Advent Mass

In all of the learning and activities we do as Catholics, Mass is by far the most important. Giving our children an opportunity to go to Mass together allows them to build a strong community of believers outside of their family. We want to encourage the celebration of Advent as we prepare for Christ. Please join us on Wednesday, December 20 for an RE Family Mass at 6:30 pm. There are no sessions that week at our regular times. Please come to Mass as a family.

Religious Education Dates

Please pay attention to the following dates on your calendar.

- December 20: All RE Mass. 630 pm. A great way to worship together during this Advent Season.
- January 8—9 First Reconciliation
- January 10 & 11 RE and Confirmation
  Sessions resume
December Topic:

The GIFT of caregiving

Sometimes it’s a matter of redirecting and refocusing to what is important and significant. Our faith in Jesus Christ helps ground us in the greater good beyond the frantic and hectic pace of today. Nourish turns our attention to the gifts and blessings of caregiving.

More information: Kelly at kjohnson@stmarygosyn.org or www.stmarygosyn.org Faith Formation- Nourish tab.
Christmas Mass Greeter Opportunities!

*Be a Joyful Witness as we welcome all home to our Christmas Masses! It’s fun and simple!*

Looking for a fun and simple way to *live* your faith? This works! And it’s family friendly – People love to be greeted and welcomed!

Join us at a Christmas Eve or Day Mass at **St. Mary of Gostyn (SMG)** as a greeter. 40 spots available in Church and School Gym doors for Masses. We ask our greeters to arrive 30 minutes early. We will welcome, meet & greet, and allow our ushers to seat. Nametags will be available.

Click this link to see our Sign-Up site: [http://signup.com/go/SrjVvA](http://signup.com/go/SrjVvA) Choose your time slot.

OR Contact: Tom Strolia / 630-253-0663 cell-text / [tom12336@comcast.net](mailto:tom12336@comcast.net) – SMG Evangelization Coordinator

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**MEN’S CHRIST RENEWS THIS PARISH**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**January 27th - 28th**

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**Women’s CHRIST RENEWS THIS PARISH**

**SAVE THE DATE**

The women of CRHP #33 hope that you will prayerfully consider joining them for CRHP #34 on the weekend of February 24th to 25th.

For information or to register, please contact Carolina Menapace at [cmenapace@gmail.com](mailto:cmenapace@gmail.com).
Volunteers Needed
Catholic Communion Ministry
Good Samaritan Hospital – Downers Grove
Contact: Gail Miskowicz-Retz
Gail.Miskowicz-Retz@advocatehealth.com
or
630-852-5347

ARE YOU ITCHING TO DO SOMETHING IMPORTANT?
The Upper Room Crisis Hotline Needs You!

Ever have an itch you can’t seem to scratch – an itch that just won’t go away? Well, sometimes God is like that itch. He tries to get your attention by annoying you with a little itchy urge that only He can scratch.

If God is urging you to do something to help others, consider becoming a volunteer phone counselor for The Upper Room Crisis Hotline. We provide counseling and referral services to anyone struggling to find a reason to keep living in all circumstances. While we deliver our services in the Catholic tradition, we counsel anyone who needs help.

Becoming a phone counselor requires you to complete an eight-week training program where you learn communication skills, relationship issues, suicide prevention and much more. We hold classes from Jan. 9th thru Feb. 27th from 10:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m. Tuesday and Thursdays. All classes are held at The University of St. Francis (The old Guardian Angel Home on the corner of Theodore St. and Plainfield Rd) in Joliet, Il.

If this work touches your heart, please call Sr. Mary Frances Seeley at 815-341-9124, or email catholichotline@gmail.com. Check us out at www.Catholichotline.org. Thank You and God Bless!

INFORMATION MEETING FOR NAVAJO MISSION TO CHINLE, ARIZONA

The Joliet Diocese – Partnership in Mission is planning its next Navajo Construction Mission to Chinle, Arizona. Two information meetings will be held one on January 9th, 2018 from 7-9 pm the other on January 17th, 2018 from 7-9 pm at the Bishop Blanchette Catholic Center – 16555 Weber Rd. – Crest Hill, IL 60403. Interested persons are invited to attend. Further information can be found at http://bit.ly/missionapp1 or call 815-221-6258, email: missions@dioceseofjoliet.org

381 - 1261
YOUNG HEARTS FOR LIFE CARDIAC SCREENING
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Montini Catholic High School is looking for volunteers to help with Young Hearts for Life Cardiac Screening to be held on Friday, January 19, 2018. This is a free heart screening service provided to high school students to identify students at risk for sudden cardiac death.

Volunteers must attend a training session on Thursday, January 18th at 5:30 pm or 7:00 pm held at Montini Catholic High School. Times to volunteer for on Friday, January 19th are:

7:15 – 2:45 (full day)
7:15 – 11:45 (morning session)
11:00 – 2:45 (later session)

No experience is needed!
Registration is online at https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/1856727/false#invitation

FOUR SHEPHERDS RETREAT
BELARMINE JESUIT RETREAT HOUSE

Who Am I? Where Am I Going? How do I get there?
January 5 - 7, 2018 with Fr. Doug Leonhardt, SJ
An Ignatian Silent Retreat for Men

Family and Friends Enjoy PIZZA WITH SANTA

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This Week

Monday / 18
2:15 PM Daisy Troop #55604  Gym
3:00 PM Basketball  Gym
6:30 PM Rosary  Chapel
7:00 PM Parish Advent Reconciliation  Church
8:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal  Gathering Place

Tuesday / 19
3:00 PM Basketball  Gym
5:30 PM Children’s Choir Rehearsal  Church
6:30 PM Legion of Mary  Small Conf. Rm.
6:30 PM Prayer Group  Chapel
7:00 PM Festival Choir Rehearsal  Church
7:00 PM Worship & Spiritual Life Comm.  Large Conf. Rm.

Wednesday / 20
3:00 PM Basketball  Gym
7:00 PM Nourish for Caregivers  Living Room

Thursday / 21
1:15 PM Small Christian Communities  Living Room
3:00 PM Basketball  Gym
7:00 PM School Christmas Program  Church/GP

Friday / 22
9:00 AM School PS4 Christmas Pgm.  Church
10:00 AM Art & Environment  Church
5:00 PM PADS  Gathering Place

Saturday / 23
12:00 AM PADS  Gathering Place

Sunday / 24
4:00 PM Children’s Choir  Church
11:00 PM Festival Choir  Church

Rejoice Always!
NEW PARISHIONERS: We are happy to welcome new members to our community, and encourage you to register either in person at the Rectory, or register online through our website, www.stmarygostyn.org.

BAPTISMS: St. Mary of Gostyn offers baptismal preparation sessions on a monthly basis. If this is your first child or it has been more than five years since you attended a baptismal preparation session at St. Mary’s or another parish, you will need to participate in a session before you can receive a date for your baby’s baptism. Parents are the first and primary educators in the practice of the Faith. Godparents play an important role in the faith life of your child. While considering godparents for your child, be aware that at least one must be a baptized and confirmed Catholic who is active in his/her faith. Please call the parish office at 630-969-1063 to register for a preparation class and to schedule a baptismal date.

BECOMING A CATHOLIC: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process of welcoming and preparing adults for the Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation - for full membership in the Catholic Church. Unbaptized adults, adults baptized in another Christian faith, and baptized Catholics with little or no formal religious education are invited to participate. Please call the rectory for further information.

ANNULMENTS: We are available to help anyone who is in need of information about how to apply for an annulment. Please contact the rectory at (630)969-1063.

LITURGY of HOURS: Morning Prayer (Lauds) is prayed Monday through Saturday following the morning liturgies. The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is available at regularly scheduled liturgies throughout the year, or by appointment. You may ask the presiding priest before any Mass for an anointing. Communal Anointing Masses are held on the 1st Saturday of the month in August, December and April at the 8:00 AM Mass.

The Eucharist will also be brought to those who are ill, upon request. Please notify the Rectory if members of your family are in the hospital or homebound.

FUNERALS: Arrangements are usually made by the Funeral Home or by a family member. A member of our Bereavement team will meet with you to plan the Funeral Liturgy. Eulogies can be given at the Wake Service, Interment at the Cemetery or at the Funeral Luncheon, but not at the Mass of Christian Burial.

MARRIAGES: Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance to provide ample time for preparation of this sacrament.

PRAYER GROUPS: Monday evenings at 7:15 PM in the Parish Center; Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM in the Parish Center chapel.

ROSARY DEVOTION: Monday through Saturday, 7:30 AM in the church; Rosary will begin at 6:30 PM on Monday evenings in the church.

RECONCILIATION: Confessions are heard Saturday, 3:30 to 4:30 PM in church. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also available by appointment. Please call the Rectory (630-969-1063) to arrange to have your confession heard by a priest.