

Diocese of Peoria
St. Malachy Church and School

595 E. Ogden Avenue, Geneseo, Illinois 61254

Parish, 944-5393 School, 944-3230 Fax, 944-5319

Email: church@saintmalachy.org Website: www.saintmalachy.org

December 20, 2020

The Fourth Sunday of Advent



Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'

Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Outdoor Communion Sundays: 9:30 - 10:00 am

Reconciliation:

Monday & Tuesday 8:45 am; Thursday 5:00 pm

Extra During Advent: Mon - Th 12:00 - 12:30 pm

Saturdays 3:30 - 4:30 pm

For activities in the Quad Cities, go to:

<http://catholicquadcities.com>

Pastor: Fr. Daniel Gifford..... 944-5393
 giffordfrdaniel@saintmalachy.org

Deacons:..... 944-5393
 Harley Chaffee (SS) Larry Honzel Robert O'Rourke
 Art Ries (SS) Tom Wachtel Mike Sigwalt

School Principal:
 Heather Francque 944-3230
 hfrancque@stmalgeneseo.org

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 Robert O'Rourke..... 944-5393
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 Darci Dietrich (High School Coordinator)
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CCD Coordinator:
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 mlroemer75@yahoo.com

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9th Grade, Kristin Wilson 944-7562
 kwilson@stmalgeneseo.org

Parish Nurse:
 Cathie Stinson, B.S.N..... 944-5393
 stinsoncathie@saintmalachy.org

Ministry Contacts: 944-5393
Baptism: Parish Office
Marriage: Fr. Daniel Gifford
Hospital Visits: Parish Office
Anointing of the Sick Parish Office
Pastoral Care: Sue Ford
Bereavement: Deacon Ries
Just Faith: Deacon O'Rourke
Prayer Chain: Parish Office
Divorced Ministry: Deacon Ries

We warmly welcome new parishioners & ask them to register at the Parish Office. Individuals interested in becoming Catholic may contact Fr. Daniel Gifford or call the Parish Office.



MONDAY, December 21 *Advent Weekday*
8:00 am Regina Steadman +

TUESDAY, December 22 *Advent Weekday*
8:00 am Margie Fitzgerald +

WEDNESDAY, December 23 *Advent Weekday*
8:00 am Bottorff Family +
9:00 am There will not be any Mass this Wednesday

THURSDAY, December 24 *Vigil of Nativity of the Lord*
4:00 pm Leonard Loftus +
7:00 pm Bob Reade +
10:00 pm Louise Schroeder +

FRIDAY, December 25 *The Nativity of the Lord*
9:00 am People of the Parish

SATURDAY, December 26 *Vigil of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph*
5:00 pm Brenda VanMeenen +

SUNDAY, December 2027 *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph*
8:15 am Altar & Rosary Society, Living and Deceased Members
10:30 am People of the Parish
The Rosary is recited after weekday morning Masses

RECONCILIATION:

The last time to receive Reconciliation before Christmas will be Tuesday, Dec. 22nd

Fr. Daniel Gifford



Weekend Mass Schedules for Sacred Heart in Annawan and St. Anthony's in Atkinson

St. Anthony

4:00 pm Saturday
9:30 am Sunday

Sacred Heart

8:00 am Sunday

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon - Thurs 8 am - 3 pm; Fridays 8 -1.

*Bulletin articles **MUST** be submitted no later than 12:00 noon on Tuesdays. Thank you.*

Office will be closed Dec 21-25 and Dec 31 - Jan 1

READINGS FOR DECEMBER 27, 2020 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

The first reading is taken from Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

Abraham and Sarah are given a child as a reward for their faith

Responsorial: Responsorial: Psalm 104: 1-6, 8-9

"The Lord remembers His covenant for ever."

The second reading is from Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

The outcome of the faith of Abraham and Sarah

The Gospel is from: Luke 2:22, 39-40

The child Jesus was presented to God, then lived at home in Nazareth





Dear St. Malachy Parishioners,

In these final days of Advent, I wish to ask you one more time: How was your time with Jesus in prayer this week? It is these final days before Christmas dawns upon at last that the temptation to set prayer aside, in favor of all the things we tell ourselves we have to do. Meanwhile, if they are things that truly must be done, we ought to quiet ourselves enough to hear the Lord calling to us, *“Let Me do these things with you.”* I think of the story of Saint Teresa of Avila who was known for exclaiming to her sisters in the kitchen of the convent she founded in honor of Saint Joseph: *“The Lord is here! Amidst the pots and the pans!”* As the beautiful and glorious celebration of Our Lord’s birth comes upon us at last, I wish to offer you the reminder that the Lord is with you and invites you to turn the gaze of your heart toward Him, for His is fixed upon you. A final recommendation I offer you is to take some time in these final days of Advent to do a little *Lectio Divina* (prayerful reading) of the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke. Then, once Christmas is here, do the same with the second chapter. How does one go about this *Lectio Divina*, you may ask? There are many helpful guides you can follow. But, a tried and true method consists of four basic steps, after opening in prayer asking the guidance of the Holy Spirit:

- 1) Read the text slowly and prayerfully, willing to pause to reflect, or even reread words or phrases that stand out.
- 2) Meditate upon what you just read, reflecting more deeply on a word or a phrase or an image that strikes you (which you may wish to repeat to yourself or write down in a journal).
- 3) Respond to God in prayer, having received what He is saying to you, even if it still not clear to you what He is saying (perhaps talking to Him about that is part of your response), still enter into a loving dialogue with Him.
- 4) Contemplate. This contemplation is a natural progression from the loving conversation you have just had with the Lord. Take a moment to rest in His presence, not even needing words, but simply resting in His presence.

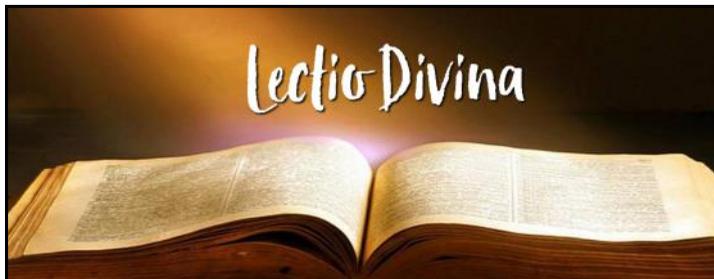
Whether this short explanation of *Lectio Divina* is a first time lesson for you or more of a reminder and review, please consider it my Christmas present to you. There is no better gift I can give you than to help you to enter into Christ’s presence, because this season is all about celebrating the mystery that God is with us, that He comes to dwell with us, even amidst the trials, tribulations and messiness of our lives. That is what Christmas is all about. *Lectio Divina* is one of the best ways to allow Him to be present to you. May you take some time for this beautiful mode of prayer, both in these final days of Advent and throughout the Season of Christmas, which is just beginning!

May you and your loved ones have a very Merry Christmas!

In Christ Through Mary,

Fr. Daniel P. Gifford

St. Malachy, Pray for us



GIFTS FOR GOD'S PURPOSES

December 13, 2020

Weekly Gifts	(Goal: \$13,000)	\$20,314
School Endow.	(Goal: \$ 750)	\$1,879
Paraclete Fund	(Goal: \$ 750)	\$734
Capital Improve.	(Goal: \$ 750)	\$1,234

<u>Week 24</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Avg</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Weekly	\$312,000	\$307,805	\$12,825	(\$4,195)
School End.	\$18,000	\$13,286	\$554	(\$4,714)
Paraclete	\$18,000	\$14,541	\$606	(\$3,459)
Cap Improve.	\$18,000	\$13,206	\$553	(\$4,740)
<u>Special Collections:</u>		This Week:		Total:
Bishops - Seminarian			\$50	\$1,295
Immaculate Conception			\$220	\$395
Religious Retirement Fund			\$1,440	\$1,570
Christmas			\$1,330	\$1,585
Campaign for Human Development			\$100	\$797

Parish Sacrificial Giving:

1% donated to United Stand Family Center

ADA 2020

Goal \$74,073.00

Pledged \$78,768.00

Contributed \$63,671.00

Number of Pledges: 197

TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS

In order for donations to qualify for tax deductions in 2020, they need to be in the church office by Dec. 31.

Christmas Flowers:

If you would like to donate towards the cost of Christmas flowers in honor of a loved one, please provide their name(s) along with your donation, clearly mark your envelope "Christmas Flowers" and drop in the basket or leave at the office.



DAILY PRAYERS FOR VOCATIONS

Please Pray for these Seminarians:

<i>Paul Rupert</i>	<i>Ben Shoonmaker</i>
<i>Chase Stevens</i>	<i>Francis Strong</i>
<i>Jonathan Swoik</i>	<i>Thomas Williams</i>
<i>Dcn Nicholas Wilson</i>	<i>Jack Watt</i>

Luke 1:38 "And Mary said, "Behold, the Lord's bond-servant; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her."

Is the Lord GOD calling you to serve Him as a priest or consecrated religious? If so, please contact Fr. Chase Hilgenbrink: 309-671-1550 or fr_hilgenbrinck@cdop.org



Eucharistic Adoration

Mondays 3 - 8 pm Thursdays 4:30 pm
(8:30 am First Fridays and Saturdays)

"What is the fact of the Eucharist? It is that the same Jesus Who was born on earth not only became man but remains man. He not only came into the world, He is in the world. In a word, He came to stay. The Eucharist is Christmas prolonged, because faith tells us that once God became man, He decided to remain man. From all the reaches of past eternity, God had only been God. But having once taken on human flesh, into now the future reaches of eternity, God will always remain man. And this God-Man is here; Bethlehem is wherever there is a Catholic Church or chapel in which Christ is present. These are the two facts that we commemorate on Christmas day. "— Servant of God, John Hardon



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

St. Malachy Advent Giving Tree

St. Malachy Social Justice Committee is once again sponsoring our Advent Giving Tree. Our Giving Tree will be a little bit different this year due to the pandemic. Instead of asking for household items as in years past, this year, we are asking for financial donations only, which will be used to purchase Heaven Sent Gift Cards.



Make your checks out to St. Malachy's and mail in your donation or drop it off in the church office. You may also put your donation in a marked envelope in the collection basket. Mark your envelope "Giving Tree" and your donation preference for one of the five charities listed below:

1. The Food Pantry/Pantry Patrons
2. Humility Homes and Services
3. Local Students in Need
4. The New Life Farm
5. Backpack Blessings

The Giving Tree will be set up near the church office the first weekend of Advent (Nov.28-29th) as a visual reminder and donations will be accepted until the fourth Sunday of Advent (Dec.20th).

There are so many people in our area in need at this time, please join us in helping those less fortunate this Christmas.

Thank you from the Social Justice Committee.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER



DECEMBER 25, 2020 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

First Lutheran Church of Geneseo is providing a free meal for those in our community who are in need of a delicious meal. The menu includes: turkey; mashed potatoes/gravy; sage dressing; green bean casserole and dessert.

Curbside pickup is available as well home delivery is to those who are homebound within the Geneseo/Atkinson area.

ALL MEALS ARE BY RESERVATION ONLY!

Call Marlee @309-442-5194 to make reservations before December 23.

Covid prevention practices will be met and all volunteers have passed necessary screenings.

Catholic Diocese of Peoria Offers a Holy Hour of Prayer for People Caring for and Suffering with COVID-19



The Catholic Diocese of Peoria invites all people of good faith to pray in this most precarious time for those suffering from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and for those who serve on the front line of caring for the sick. On Thursday, Dec. 17 at 7:00pm in the Cathedral of St. Mary, a Holy Hour will be offered to pray in an intentional way for this unique and troubling moment. Gathering with our future priests, our seminarians, we will pray for the sick and suffering, for our health care worker and their supporting staffs, for all essential workers and for an end to the pandemic. In the short days and long nights of winter, we can often focus more on darkness than light. Yet

the Church beckons us in the Advent season to not lose hope. In the final days of Advent, utilizing ancient titles for God, the "O Antiphons," we implore God to come into our lives. All are invited to join in this prayer time, which will be livestreamed from the Cathedral to pray "Come, O Divine Healer." We hope that the many individuals who are struggling at this moment know of our prayerful support and encouragement. Coadjutor Bishop Louis Tylka will preach the reflection for this prayer service. **To pray along via livestream, go to the CDOP Facebook page.**

THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO VIEW OUR MASSES ONLINE - PLEASE JOIN US!

Thanks goes out to Dave Wolak who worked with Keith Kennett of Geneseo Channel 50 so that our Sunday Live Streams are back on Geneseo Channel 50! Now there are three options for viewing our Sunday Mass. Without the hard work and dedication Dave puts into all of our live streams, many people would miss out on our Masses entirely. Thanks, Dave!

1. Live Stream of Mass – “Live viewing of Mass” Sunday, 8:15am via our web page: <http://saintmalachy.org> (click the link called “...celebrate Mass with us online”) OR on Facebook at: <https://facebook.com/150yearsingeneseo/live>



2. Videos of previously recorded Masses: Click on “Previous Mass recordings” on our web page: <http://saintmalachy.org> (click “Home” and then click “Masses Online”; (click the Mass you want to view) OR look on Facebook page: <https://facebook.com/150yearsingeneseo/videos> (Click the Mass you want to view)

3. Mediacom Channel 50 – Geneseo will be showing the previous Sunday Mass. Scheduled times are: Wednesday, Thursday & Friday; 11:00am, 1:00pm & 2:00pm

The Church's *fascinating* Liturgical Calendar can be seen on the bulletin board in the narthex.

The Church year is depicted as a circle, with each season shown in a certain color. Begin with Advent, on the left side of the circle, where the number 1 marks the first week of the year. Above the 4 weeks of Advent is the gold of Christmas. Continue to the right until the the large green area of Ordinary Time concludes below the purple area where the Church year began.



Don't forget to purchase Heaven Sent Scrip gift cards for all of your shopping needs and gifts! You will be helping raise money for the church and school!
Contact Mary at the church office.



IRA Charitable Donation Opportunity



There is good news if you have reached age 70 1/2 and you would like to help our parish or school. If you have an IRA, the government requires you to take out a certain amount each year and be subject to federal tax. **Qualified Charitable Distributions** can be used to satisfy all or part of a donor's required minimum distribution if one is due. The law allows you to donate this amount directly to our parish or school during 2020 and have it distributed free of federal income tax! What a wonderful opportunity for those 70 1/2 to help our parish and school. Please contact the person that handles your retirement plan or your tax advisor if you are interested in making such a donation.

Have you recently lost a loved one? Or struggling with grief in any way?

May God richly bless you in these holy days with a deep awareness of His endless love for you and of His compassionate and loving presence. We wanted to reach out to you to remind you of His loving embrace, as well as of the support of His Body, the Church. St. Malachy Circle of Healing Bereavement sessions were canceled this year because of the Pandemic. Although we are unable to meet as a group, we wanted to reach out to you and let you know that you are on our hearts and in our prayers. We know that the Christmas season can be very tough when you are grieving the loss of a loved one. It might be especially hard if you can't be with family and friends and supportive people this year when you most need their caring presence.

We've compiled a few suggestions that may be of help. They are designed to help those in a time of grief begin to think about what healthy self-care might look like during these days. Of course, everyone is different and our needs are different. Use these tips to help you, but the best way to apply them begins *after* you have read them. At that point, you continue on the journey of being honest with the Lord and with yourself. Take each day and each moment as it comes, because they will not all be the same. Give yourself permission to be where you are emotionally and invite the Lord to be with you there. Only when we begin with this posture of honest acceptance and open communication with the Lord can we allow Him to lead us into that deeper peace that our hearts desire and need. Also, we want you to know that you are welcome to call one of us if we can be of any help or support. We care for all of our parish family and want to be there for you.

God bless you always,

Father Daniel Gifford, Pastor 309-944-5393
Cathie Stinson, Parish Nurse 309-944-5393
Deacon Art Ries 309-945-2734
Cindy Ries 309-945-2733



1. Trust That Grief Is Part of Healing - Time doesn't heal the pain associated with a loss; it's what you do with that time that matters. Grief is the process by which you heal. Experiencing the pain-rather than constantly trying to escape it-can actually help you feel better in the long-term. So, while it may be tempting to pretend the holidays don't exist-or to numb the pain with alcohol-temporarily avoiding the pain only prolongs the anguish. Eventually, the holidays will get easier, but only if you allow yourself to experience the grief of going through them without your loved one.

2. Set Healthy Boundaries - You certainly don't have to force yourself to face every holiday event or celebratory tradition, however. If attending a tree lighting ceremony or participating in the office gift swap is likely to bring about too many painful memories this year, be willing to say no. Other people may try to convince you to participate, but you certainly don't have to try to please everyone.

3. Focus on What You Can Control - There are a lot of things you can't control about the holidays. You may be subjected to Christmas music in the waiting room of your doctor's office or you may overhear your co-workers constantly talking about their holiday plans. While you can't prevent those things from happening, there are some things you can control. Think about what you can do to lessen the heartache when you can. It's OK to limit your decorations or shop for presents online only. Pick a few things you can do to assert some control over the holiday cheer, and keep in mind that life goes on for other people and it's OK that they're happy to celebrate this year.

4. Plan Ahead - Often, the anticipation over how hard something is going to be is worse than the actual event. So, while Thanksgiving dinner may only last two hours, you could easily spend three weeks dreading it. Create a simple plan for how you'll get through the holidays to avoid extending your anguish. Often, it's helpful to create an escape plan. Drive yourself to holiday functions or ride with a trusted friend who will take you home whenever you want. Just knowing you can easily leave at any time can help you enjoy the activity much more than you would if you felt stuck.

5. Allow Yourself to Feel a Range of Emotions -The holidays can bring about a wide range of emotions. You might feel joy, guilt, and sadness all within a few minutes. Allow yourself to feel those emotions without judging yourself or thinking you should be happy or you shouldn't be laughing.

6. Find a Way to Honor Your Memories - Create a special way to memorialize the person you've lost. Whether you decide to light a candle every night or eat your loved one's favorite food, honoring your loved one can serve as a tangible reminder that although your loved one is gone, the love never dies.

7. Create New Traditions - Don't be afraid to create new traditions this year too. It's OK to get creative and do something a little out of the ordinary. You can also alter old traditions and make them fit better with the new phase in your life.

8. Do Something Kind for Others - Even when you're in the midst of grief, you still have something to offer the world. Performing a few acts of kindness can be really good for a grieving person's spirit. Donate gifts or a meal to families in need, or do something special to help people at a nursing home

9. Ask for Help - Don't be afraid to ask for help when you're struggling with the holidays. Reminding loved ones that you're having a rough time may be enough, but you also may want to reach out for more support. Look for support groups or contact a professional counselor to help you deal with your grief in a healthy manner.

10 TIPS ON GRIEVING DURING THE HOLIDAYS from Catholic Digest

- 1. Revisit and ritualize memories of your loved one.** Take ownership of how you want your loved one to be remembered: lighting a candle, planting a tree, creating a Christmas ornament, or baking a favorite dish.
- 2. Talk about your loved one, even if it makes people feel uncomfortable.**
One way to honor the memory of your loved one is to have Masses offered for their soul. This is a reminder that they are with you, interceding for you, and it's OK to talk with and pray for them.
- 3. Do something different. Break tradition.** It's acceptable to decide you aren't decorating for Christmas or that you are getting takeout for dinner instead of preparing a big meal.
- 4. Be honest with God. He wants you to be yourself.** God wants you to have a real relationship with him, even if that means being angry or sobbing when you try to pray. Enter into conversation with him. Don't close the door to him.
- 5. Allow (your understanding of who God is to deepen)*.** This helps you build a relationship with him based on love rather than fear (alone)*, especially when you are willing to say, "God is God, and I am not."
- 6. Make a plan to care for and love yourself where you are.** Be angry, sad, or happy. But wherever you are, whatever you are feeling, just be kind and gentle on yourself and your own unique grieving process.
- 7. Plan how you'll be part of the holiday festivities.** Figure out ahead of time what you are and aren't able to do. Keep your celebrations simple and communicate that to your family.
- 8. Prepare for the holiday letdown.** Realize there is a new normal about what the holidays will mean for you this point onward.
- 9. Find a good grief counselor and/or priest who can help guide you through your grief.** You may need someone to affirm that your loss is valid and real.
- 10. Don't put your prayer life on the back burner.** But understand that prayer may look different to you from now on, and that's fine. Shed your expectations of what you "should" and "shouldn't" do for prayer, and just show up to let God love you

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