

St. Joan of Arc Parish

200 East 78th Avenue
Merrillville, Indiana 46410
Welcome Home!

Mission Statement

St. Joan of Arc is a parish in the Diocese of Gary. We are an intimate community, moving toward God the Father. We use our time, talent and treasure for creating a unique worship experience and reaching out to all those in need.



Fourth Sunday of
Advent
December 23, 2018

Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit,
cried out in a loud voice and said,
“Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”
Luke 1:41-42

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PRAYER LIST

If you know of someone who needs to be put on the Prayer Chain or would like to become part of the Prayer Chain please call Rose Marie Harmon at 947-7517 or Alice Gorski at 942-3320.

Reconciliation

St. Joan every Tuesday 7PM
Ss. Peter & Paul every Tuesday 1PM Chapel Entrance

Need A Ride to church please call the Parish Office.

EDUCATION COMMISSION

PARISH LIFE

Alice Gorski 942-3320

PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Sharon Berrier 769-2869

STEWARDSHIP

Larry Beishline 769-2750

SPIRITUALITY AND WORSHIP

HALL RENTAL—769-1973

If you are interested in renting the parish hall please call the parish office during business hours.

Eucharist—St. Joan of Arc

Sunday: 8:30AM and 11:30AM
Daily: 8:00AM M-F Rosary
prayed before Mass 7:30AM

Eucharist—Ss. Peter & Paul 5885 Harrison St., Merrillville

Saturday: 4:00PM
Sunday: 10:00AM

Mass Intentions



All weekday Masses are celebrated
at St. Joan of Arc at 8:00AM.

*Recitation of the Rosary for Peace before daily
Mass at 7:30AM*

Monday, December 24—4:00PM

People of God St. Joan of Arc & SS Peter & Paul
St. Joan of Arc 10:00PM

People of God St. Joan of Arc & SS Peter & Paul

Tuesday, December 25

8:30AM @ St. Joan of Arc

10:00AM @ SS Peter & Paul

Intention for both Mass

People of God St. Joan of Arc & SS Peter & Paul

Wednesday, December 26—NO MASS

Thursday, December 27—8:00AM Mass

Rosemary Hennessy/Pat Flannigan
NO INTENTION

*St. Joan of Arc
SS Peter & Paul*

Friday, December 28—8:00AM

People of God St. Joan of Arc & Ss. Peter & Paul

Saturday, December 29—4:00PM Mass @ SS Peter & Paul

Deceased members of the Kelley Family/Jane Sheeran

SS Peter & Paul

Sunday, December 30

8:30AM Aleja Rodriguez/Sandy Heln

St. Joan of Arc

10:00AM Nina Ornelas/Daughter Jane Hacker

SS Peter & Paul

11:30AM Anne Smar/Richard Pluth

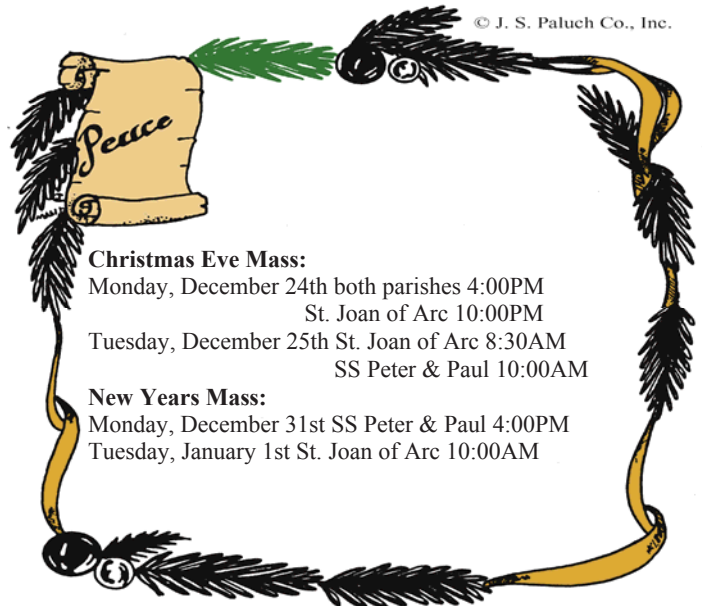
St. Joan of Arc

SUNDAY PRAYER SHAPING LIFE AND BELIEF

Courtesy of FDLC member Eliot Kapitan,
Diocese of Springfield

Fourth Sunday of Advent—God came in human flesh.
Mass today tells the story: no one is too small, too insignificant to bear the presence of God. The pre-born John [the one to be the Baptist] acts first in the story of visitation by jumping for joy in the womb. At what? The assurance that God comes and will be God-with-us.

- How will I let God come to me today?
- At what can I jump for joy?
- How will I enjoy the freedom of God's good grace by doing this mercy work: _____?



Christmas Eve Mass:

Monday, December 24th both parishes 4:00PM

St. Joan of Arc 10:00PM

Tuesday, December 25th St. Joan of Arc 8:30AM

SS Peter & Paul 10:00AM

New Years Mass:

Monday, December 31st SS Peter & Paul 4:00PM

Tuesday, January 1st St. Joan of Arc 10:00AM



Rev. James Meade, Pastor
Deacon Steven Zubel

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday— 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Friday Office Closed

Parish Office 219-769-1973

FAX 219-769-9056

Ss. Peter & Paul Office.....219-980-2693

E-Mail

Fr. Meade

jmeadesspp@gmail.com

St. Joan of Arc

StJoanMerr@comcast.net

Ss. Peter & Paul

ssppchurch@msn.com

Web Site

St. Joan of Arc

www.stjoanmerr.org

SS. Peter & Paul

www.stpeterpaul.org

**Bulletin Deadline: Articles for publication are requested
at least 3 weeks in advance. Parish events receive first
priority. Bulletin sent to publisher Monday by 11:00AM.**

Parish Pastoral Council Members

Teri Kopil—Chair

**Eileen Ryan, James Vermillion, Eileen Wayte,
Mary Kapitan, Phyllis Tully**



**Father Meade, Deacon Zubel
and the Parish Staff would like
to wish everyone a Very Merry
Christmas.**

Ministry at Saint Joan of Arc

The Parishioners and Visitors have shown their gratitude to God by sharing to meet the weekly expenses so that God's Mission can be continued at Saint Joan of Arc.

Totals for December 16th, 23rd, 30th and January 6th will be in the bulletin for January 13th due to early bulleting printing.

Thank you for your gratitude to God for all that you have.



December 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

MEMORIES AND DREAMS

Throughout our lives, we retain the language and habits of our native region and family of origin. Should we return to our home after a long absence, we quickly revert to its familiar speech and practices. Our deep memory is reflected in old stories and words and speech patterns. This familiarity runs like an underground river and accompanies us wherever we go. Not only do we remember, we are incorporated into and made part of a greater memory. In remembering and recollecting, we are in turn gathered up and re-collected.

Today we remember Mary, a small figure travelling the country roads to visit Elizabeth. All the great pronouncements and dreams of the prophets point to this time when the Lords words to Mary would be gathered and fulfilled. The memories of how people are alive in her, and memories of her nourish our own living faith.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

In ancient pagan Rome, these days in mid-December were a time for general slacking off at work and far too much rejoicing. The period of leisure after the harvest and a whole cluster of pagan festivals were a force for the church to reckon with. The Saturnalia, breaking out on December 17, was a time of high living and loose morals. Christians were advised by their bishops to drop out of the mayhem and do some serious fasting. A famous church council at Saragossa in Spain made a season of fasting mandatory from December 17 to December 23, exactly coinciding with the Saturnalia. The bishops at that time were perhaps less concerned with preparing for Christmas than with resisting the kind of loose living going on.

Modern times have restored a bit of the Saturnalia spirit to our culture, so that a general period of partying with a vague connection to religion is now upon us. How does a Christian keep balance? The practice of charity by remembering the poor in our gift giving, of hospitality in finding a place at our holiday tables for the poor and lonely, and of daily prayer in the home and at church are great helps. Although Advent is not a penitential season like Lent, it is a time for making room in our lives for what matters most.

—James Field, Copyright © J.S. Paluch Co.

- December 23 Mass 8:30AM @ St. Joan of Arc
Mass 10:00AM @ Ss. Peter & Paul
Mass 11:30AM @ St. Joan of Arc
- December 24 **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**
MASS @ BOTH PARISHES 4PM
MASS @ ST. JOAN 10:00PM
- December 25 **CHRISTMAS**
MASS @ ST. JOAN 8:30AM
MASS @ SS PETER & PAUL 10:00AM
- December 26 **NO MASS**
- December 27 Mass 8:00AM
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
- December 28 Mass 8AM
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
- December 29 Mass 4:00PM @ SS Peter & Paul
- December 30 Mass 8:30AM @ St. Joan of Arc
Mass 10:00AM @ SS Peter & Paul
Mass 11:30AM @ St. Joan of Arc



Scripture Study Prepare yourself for bliss! Winter Adult Formation is a Scripture Study on the Book of Revelations: This begins on Wednesdays, 16 January 2019, and you have the choice of 12:10 p.m. for our luncheon meeting or 7:00 p.m. Both of these at S. JOAN OF ARC parish hall.

Interestingly, a number of parishioners have requested this study. Probably the most knowledgeable priest about Scripture in the Diocese of Gary is Fr. Michael Maginot. He is teaming up with your pastor to give these presentations. As we have very different viewpoints on the Book of Revelations, our presentations will be fascinating!

OPLATKI IS AVAILABLE FOR \$2.00 PER ENVELOPE. AND ARE IN THE SACRISTY.

ENVELOPES FOR 2019 ARE READY FOR PICK UP IN THE NARTHEX.

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM DECEMBER 24TH THROUGH JANUARY 2ND AND WILL REOPEN ON JANUARY 3RD. IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY DURING THIS TIME YOU CAN LEAVE A MESSAGE ON FATHER MEADE'S VOICE MAIL #232 OR CALL SS PETER AND PAUL AT 980-2693 AND IF NO ANSWER LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR FATHER AND HE WILL RETURN YOUR CALL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

St. Mary's School in Crown Point will hold an Open House on Wednesday, January 23rd from 6:00 to 8:00PM. A second open House will take place on Sunday, January 27th from 10:30AM to 1:00PM. Visitors can also enjoy our Pancake Breakfast (Bring this bulletin for a free pancake breakfast for your entire family after your school tour.



THE 2018 CAMPAIGN IS WINDING DOWN! All payments must be received in the CSA Office by the end of this month in order to be claimed on your 2018 tax return! Please complete your outstanding pledge by December 31st. Thank You!

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From the WLP Vault comes the Bible Story of Christmas featuring 8 Classic Christmas Carols and a reading of the Gospel of Luke 2: 4-20 by Bing Crosby! Also available on vinyl.
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Photo Courtesy of Bing Crosby Enterprises

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