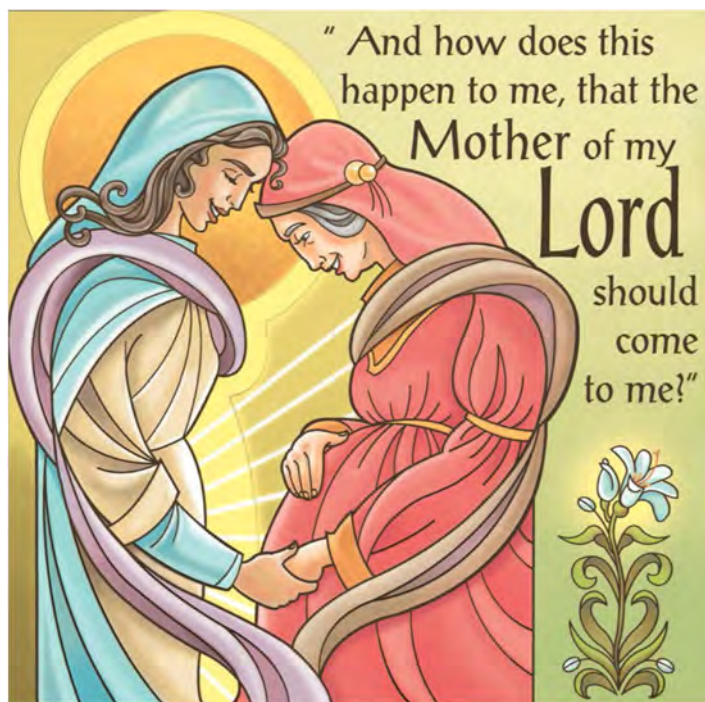


Welcome to Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2018

- Our Mission Statement -

We, the Roman Catholic Parish of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, joyfully worship together to give praise, honor and glory to Almighty God. We are called by the Holy Spirit to proclaim and to live the gospel message through the sacraments and to spread the message of Jesus Christ by living out the example of God's power in our lives.



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Advent/Christmas Information

Vespers: Sunday evenings at 6:00pm in church.

All volunteers who have completed all of the Safe Environment requirements are welcome to help with Environment set up: Sunday, December 23rd after the 11:30am Mass.

**Masses Christmas Eve: 4:00pm & 5:30pm
Christmas: Midnight, 8:00am, 10:00am and 11:30am.**

**January 1-Masses, Mother of God
Monday, December 31-No morning Mass
Monday evening, December 31-5:15pm
Tuesday, January 1, Masses are at 7:30 and 10:00am.**

Closed:

The parish office will be closed Monday, December 24-Tuesday, January 1. For any emergency, please call the parish, and dial Father's extension number 204.

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 Lord's words to Mary would be gathered and fulfilled. The memories of her people are alive in her, and memories of her nourish our own living faith.

Parish News & Events

Let us pray for those members of our parish who are sick and suffering

Bill Aloisio	Bob Kresz	Mark Phillips
Martin Brosas	Jacqueline Lehy	Ken Podsiadlik
Jacob Chilelli	Arlene Likovich	Janice Rippinger
Mary Aloisio Cummings	Judy Mallon	Philip Rippinger
Mary Beth Erickson	Mary Mayer	Norb Rozanski
Delores Franck	Mike McMahon	Judy Runge
Carole Glassford	Dave Medernach	Rudolph Schlecht
Bartholomew Hansen	Linda Miller	Geri Smith
Jack Hollis	Genie Millhouse	Lisa Tamplin
Ruth Homan	Carrie Mitchell	Jack Watson
Jeanette Hovorka	Baby O'Brien	Wayne Weiler
Mark Huettner	Kelly Olson	Linda White
Ron King	Joe Pascolini	

Please note:

Due to the government legislation regarding patient privacy, names of people to be prayed for at Mass or in the Bulletin can be listed only if that **person, or, in the case of their incapacitation, the person delegated to their medical care**, calls the parish office to give permission. The above also pertains to the **Sacrament of The Anointing of the Sick**.

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary will continue to pray for all the sick and suffering, even if unable to list by name.

Let us pray for those members of our parish who are sick and suffering.

If you would like a visit from Fr. Patrick, please call the parish office at 630-851-1436 to schedule a visit.



Our parish has joined a Catholic website called **FORMED**. This website is loaded with articles, videos, eBooks, and much more—all of which are thoroughly Catholic. You simply go to this website: <https://formed.org> (This is a secure site, which is why there is an “s” in the address). Once there, there will be a spot to enter our parish access code, which is 6MMWKC. We have unlimited access to everything on the site. I hope that you take advantage of this site, and pray that it will be beneficial to you.

Fr. Patrick

Stewardship



CONTRIBUTIONS for Sunday, December 16th will be in the December 30th bulletin.



My brothers and sisters,

Without fail, when the Christmas holidays roll around, someone usually decides that now would be a good time to insult the faith of about 1.2 billion people. One of this season's insults came from a tweet, on December 3, 2018, by a professor from Minnesota State University in Mankato, Minnesota. In his tweet, he stated that our Blessed Mother was "forced" to conceive the Christ child without her consent. When pressed with the fact that Mary, indeed, agreed to bear the God-Man—"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word"—this professor defended himself by saying that Mary, more or less, had no other choice than to obey. His argument? He said, "The biblical god regularly punished disobedience. The power difference (deity vs mortal) and the potential for violence for saying 'no' negates her 'yes.'" In other words, Mary had to obey and consent or God would have smote her to her ruin upon the countryside!

*It is amazing that anyone could freely deny a belief that Catholics hold so dear, without much controversy at all. However, deny something like climate change/global warming—or whatever it's called these days—and people such as the good professor would probably smote the deniers of climate change to **their** ruin upon the countryside! Oh well, such is the world in which we live.*

Regardless of the Virgin-birth deniers, we Catholics will quietly go about our business, and celebrate, with joy, the glorious event of the Incarnation, singing with the multitude of the heavenly hosts, praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests!

My brothers and sisters, in two, short days, unto us a child will be born, a son will be given to us; upon his shoulder, dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, and Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, upon David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever.

Yes, Glory to God in the highest, indeed, and all Virgin-birth deniers be darned!

Merry Christmas to all of you, and may these days of Christmas be wonderful!

Father Patrick

*Please consult the bulletin for deadlines, if you would like something in the bulletin. The usual deadline for things in the bulletin is **MONDAY, BY NOON**, unless otherwise stated. Please send the item/article that you would like to see in the bulletin to Mary at annunciationbvm-aurora@rockforddiocese.org or mglosson@rockforddiocese.org. If it is a document, please make sure that it is created in Word. If it is a picture, please make sure that it is in black and white. Also, if you would like something announced at any or all of the weekend Masses, please email Mary at annunciationbvm-aurora@rockforddiocese.org, or mglosson@rockforddiocese.org, no later than **WEDNESDAY EVENING, BY 4:00PM**. If you would like both an announcement and a bulletin item/article, please send two separate emails, one for the announcement, one for the bulletin item/article.*



The next **Annunciation food collection weekend** is January 5 and 6th. Please bring your non-perishable donations to the bin in the back of the church. Also, please check the dates on the items donated. Thank you so much for your continued support. Have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.



Mark Your Calendars! Our Men's Athletic Fund-raiser is Friday, February 1, 2019. Great food, raffles, poker & more! More details to come, but men over the age of 21 are welcome. Come out for a night of fun with family, friends & fellow parishioners!

High School News

Entrance Exams

Marmion Academy

Entrance Exam at Marmion Academy

Marmion Academy, located at 1000 Butterfield Road, in Aurora, is hosting an Entrance Exam for 8th grade boys on Saturday, January 12, 2019, beginning at 9:00 AM. This exam is for any 8th grade boy who was unable to take the Scholarship Qualifying Exam on Dec. 1, 2018. Students interested should register for the exam at marmion.org/admissions.

Rosary High School

Rosary High School Entrance Exam

January 5 at 8 am
901 Edgelawn Drive, Aurora, Illinois
Register online at rosaryhs.com/exam
(630) 896-0831 x245

Aurora Central Catholic High School Placement Exam will take place on Saturday, January 12. The doors will be open at 7:45am. The exam will begin promptly at 8:00am. You may sign up online at auroracentral.com/placementexam

Exam fee \$30.00

630.907.0095

Rediscovering Your Catholic Faith

From the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

“I Believe In God The Father Almighty, Creator Of Heaven And Earth”

51. What is the importance of affirming “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1)?

The significance is that creation is the foundation of all God's saving plans. It shows forth the almighty and wise love of God, and it is the first step toward the covenant of the one God with his people. It is the beginning of the history of salvation which culminates in Christ; and it is the first answer to our fundamental questions regarding our very origin and destiny.

52. Who created the world?

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are the one and indivisible principle of creation even though the work of creating the world is particularly attributed to God the Father.

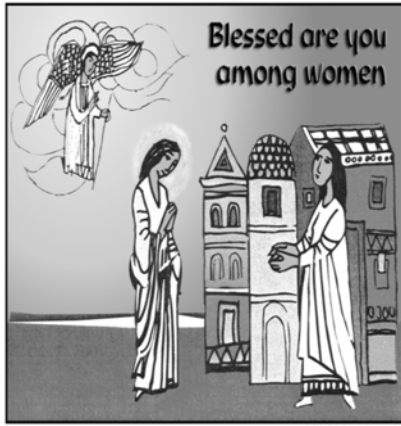
53. Why was the world created?

The world was created for the glory of God who wished to show forth and communicated his goodness, truth and beauty. The ultimate end of creation is that God, in Christ, might be “all in all” (1 Corinthians 15:28) for his glory and for our happiness.

“The glory of God is man fully alive; moreover man's life is the vision of God.” (Saint Irenaeus)

54. How did God create the universe?

God created the universe freely with wisdom and love. The world is not the result of any necessity, nor of blind fate, nor of chance. God created “out of nothing” (*ex nihilo*) (2 Maccabees 7:28) a world which is ordered and good and which he infinitely transcends. God preserves his creation in being and sustains it, giving it the capacity to act and lead it toward its fulfillment through his Son and the Holy Spirit.



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.



MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 24-No Morning Masses

- 4:00pm** †Ivan Seppell by The Family
5:30pm †Elizabeth & Adam Tiegelmann by Family and Friends

Tuesday, December 25

- Midnight** For the People of the Parish
8:00am †Living & Deceased Members of the Carey Family
10:00am †Carol Glorioso by The Family
 †Courtney Oroni by the Robert Oroni Family
11:30am †Dick Bonifas by Jim & Carol Hirner

Wednesday, December 26

- 6:30am** †The Poor Souls
8:00am †The Poor Souls

Thursday, December 27

- 6:30am** †Jacques Toussaint
8:00am †Diane Brummel by The Family

Friday, December 28

- 6:30am** †The Poor Souls
8:00am †George & Mary Nestor by Ida Rhea

Saturday, December 29

- 8:00am** †Charles W. Gallenbach by The Family
5:15pm †Henrietta Calpin by D. Denney

Sunday, December 30

- 7:30am** †The People of the Parish
8:45am †Robert Schiltz by The LoDestro Family
10:00am †Karl Schum (anniversary) by Daughter
11:30am †The People of the Parish



Ministers' Schedule

Christmas Eve	Lector	Eucharistic Ministers	Servers
4:00pm	D. Frerich	Fr. Patrick K. Griffin M. Garofalo J. Garofalo	W. Schwartz D. Tranchita
5:30pm	J. Meyer	Fr. Patrick D. Mutersbaugh K. Zinken J. Zinken	J. Schmidt I. Alvarado
Midnight	J. Cibulskis	Fr. Patrick Deacon Mike P. Lynch S. Lynch	I. Roskuszka L. Roskuszka
Christmas Day 8:00am	M. Franck	Fr. Patrick T. Evans F. Salis Volunteer	E. Juriga Volunteer
10:00am	S. Hirner	Marmion Deacon Ken (Preaching) A. Fata J. Cheney	J. Hirner C. Hirner
11:30am	M. Olivo	Marmion Deacon Dom (Preaching) G. Petitti A. Quintanilla	D. Hefke V. Hefke

Saturday, December 29	Lector	Eucharistic Ministers	Servers
5:15pm	D. Frerich	Fr. Patrick Deacon Mike (Preaching) S. Phillippe A. Helfer	P. Frieders K. Phillippe
Sunday, December 30			
7:30am	T. Evans	Fr. Patrick Deacon Dom G. Petitti T. Nolde	Volunteers
8:45am	J. Lipinski	Fr. Patrick Deacon Ken R. Michuda C. Griffiths	B. Feltes T. Litow
10:00am	A. Digate	Marmion P. Lynch S. Lynch A. Fata	M. Lambert M. Lambert
11:30am	J. Meyer	Marmion A. Quintanilla M. Olivo Volunteer	O. Fleming A. McCarty

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR
THE GROVE OF FOX VALLEY

J. Hirner, J. Olivo

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS
FOR THE HOMEBOUND

B. Klein, T. Gallenbach

Parish Office

1820 Church Road, Aurora, IL 60505
Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30am-12:00 and 1:00-4:00pm;
Friday: 8:30-12:00.
Phone: 630-851-1436
Fax: 630-851-2435
RE Fax: 630-851-3294
Cemetery Fax: 630-851-3066
Email: annunciationbvm-aurora@rockforddiocese.org
pgillmeyer@rockforddiocese.org
mglosson@rockforddiocese.org
mfletcher@rockforddiocese.org
Website: annunciationchurchbvm.org
Facebook: facebook.com/annunciationbvmchurch

Parish Staff

Pastor.....Rev. Patrick Gillmeyer, OSB
Deacons...Rev. Mr. Mike Giblin, Rev. Mr. Domenic Petitti,
Rev. Mr. Kenneth Gay
Business Manager.....Mary Glosson
RE Secretary.....Chris Barrett
Cemetery Secretary.....Jane Cebulski
Religious Ed. Director.....Mark Fletcher
Director of Music.....Dick Gardner
Head Organist.....Bob Kresz

Annunciation BVM School

1840 Church Road, Aurora, IL 60505
Phone: 630-851-4300
Website: annunciationbvm.org
Principal.....Jennifer Wardynski
Administrative Assistant.....Patti Brouch
Maintenance.....Ron Springer

We Welcome You!

We welcome you to our parish and our community. If you would like to become a member of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, please contact the parish office 630-851-1436 to register. Adult children of current members are also encouraged to register.

Baptism:

Please contact the parish office to schedule. Normally baptisms take place on Sunday afternoons, after the last Mass.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday.....4:00-4:45pm, or you may call the parish office for an appointment.

Marriage:

The bride, groom, or either of their parents must be registered, contributing members of the parish. Weddings must be scheduled no less than six months out in order to fulfill the diocesan marriage preparation requirements. If there were any previous marriages that were not annulled by the Church, then it must be pointed out that the annulment process could take up to two years.

Anointing of the Sick:

Whenever someone is seriously ill, hospitalized, or is dying, please contact the parish office immediately.

Communion for the Sick: Please call the parish office.

Adoration: Is normally celebrated on the first Friday of the month, after the 8:00 Mass, with Liturgy of the Word and Benediction at 4pm.

Bulletin Deadline:

If you would like something placed in the bulletin, please email the parish office by noon Monday at annunciationbvm-aurora@rockforddiocese.org.

Announcements:

Announcements are due in the church office by Thursday noon.

Catholic Men In The World Today:

Meets every Saturday morning at 6:30am in the Parish Patio. For information on who we are and what we do, please email us at annmensgroup@aol.com.

The Knights of Columbus Council 736: meets on the second Monday of the month at 8:00pm. For contact information and calendar of events, go to the council website at: knightsofcolumbusil.org/council736.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:

If you are an adult who would like to be baptized; or was baptized in the Catholic Church as an infant, but did not receive the Sacraments of Holy Communion or Confirmation; or are interested in becoming Catholic; we would like you to consider our RCIA program. For more information, please contact Mary at 630-851-1436.

Mass Schedule (Unless Otherwise Announced or Stated Elsewhere):

Weekend:

Saturday: 5:15pm
Sunday: 7:30am, 8:45am, 10:00am, 11:30am

Weekdays (School in session):

M. T. Th. F.: 6:30am, 8:00am
Wed.: 8:45am
Sat.: 8:00am

Weekdays (School not in session):

Mass) M.—F.: 6:30am, 8:00am (Rosary prayed before 8:00am
Sat.: 8:00am

Holy Days of Obligation (School in session):

6:30am, 8:00am, 11:00am, and 7:00pm,
only on the Holy Day itself (Unless otherwise
announced or stated).

Holy Days of Obligation (School not in session):

6:30am, 8:00am, and 7:00pm,
only on the Holy Day itself (Unless otherwise
announced or stated).