

12/15/2024

Hope
Peace
Joy
Love



Advent
THIRD WEEK



HOLY FAMILY ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH, 316 S. Logan St., Lincoln, IL
ST. MARY ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH, 808 NW Pearl St., Atlanta, IL
ST. PATRICK ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH, 213 S. Bogardus St., Elkhart, IL
ST. THOMAS AQUINAS ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH, 321 S. Lafayette St., Mt. Pulaski, IL

Week of 12/15/2024

If the Mass Intention is in memory of your loved one, please consider bringing up the gifts. Contact an usher 10 minutes prior to Mass or call the parish office.

Saturday, December 14 - Vigil Mass for the 3rd Sunday of Advent (Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church)

4:00pm Holy Family: In honor of Dorothy & Emil Sandrolini by Laura Sandrolini
 [with Drive-Thru Communion from 4:45-5:00pm]

Sunday, December 15 - Gaudete Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent)

8:00am St. Patrick: In memory of Francis Schreiner by his family
 8:30am St. Mary: A Mass for the People
 10:00am Holy Family: In memory of Wes O'Donoghue on his Birthday by his Family
 [with Drive-Thru Communion from 10:45-11:00am]
 10:00am St. Thomas Aquinas: In memory of Patrick Walsh by Kathy Miller

Monday, December 16

8:00am Holy Family: In memory of Maria Carmen Bailey by Gary & Cindy Minder

Tuesday, December 17

8:00am Holy Family: In memory of Dora Jean Donath by Lee & Donna Burr
 8:00am St. Patrick: In memory of Susan May by Mark & Marcia May

Wednesday, December 18

8:30am Holy Family: In memory of Helen Dalpoas by Lynn & Sandy Aper & the Aper Family

Thursday, December 19

8:00am Holy Family: In memory of John Plut by the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary

Friday, December 20

8:00am Holy Family: In memory of Mike Denning by Mark & Coralee Young & Family

Saturday, December 21 - Vigil Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent

4:00pm Holy Family: In honor of Francis Schreiner by John Peifer
 [with Drive-Thru Communion from 4:45-5:00pm]

Sunday, December 22 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00am St. Patrick: In memory of Raymond Smith by his Family
 8:30am St. Mary: A Mass for the People
 10:00am Holy Family: A Special Intention for Bob & Diane's Health by Laura Sandrolini
 [with Drive-Thru Communion from 10:45-11:00am]
 10:00am St. Thomas Aquinas: In memory of Vinny Trauner by his Aunts & Uncles

**Based on the availability of clergy, this schedule may change. Please check the parish website calendar for any changes or additions.*

Reconciliation

Holy Family Church: Tuesday 7:30-8:00am before the 8am Mass & Saturday 2:45-3:30pm before the 4pm Mass
 St. Patrick Church, Elkhart: prior to Sunday Mass
 St. Mary Church, Atlanta: prior to Sunday Mass
 St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Mt. Pulaski: prior to Sunday Mass

⇒ **Adoration**

Holy Family Church, Lincoln: Thursday 3:00-6:00pm, Divine Mercy Chaplet recited at 3:00pm

⇒ **Infant Baptism**

Parents are asked to attend a baptism preparation session before the Baptism of their child. Please phone the parish office to register.

⇒ **Marriages**

Arrangements must be made 6 months in advance for the desired wedding date. Please phone the parish office to receive further information and to reserve your special day.



Through the mercy of God may they rest in peace.

Thomas "Tom" Sawicki

Robert "Bob" Letterle

Richard Evans

Jason Thomas

Week of 12/15/2024 - 12/21/2024

The **red Altar Sanctuary Candle Holy Family** is lit this week in memory of Pat Berger by Linda.

St. Mary is lit this week for the special intentions of the Logan County Catholic Community.

St. Patrick is lit this week for the special intentions of the Logan County Catholic Community.

St. Thomas Aquinas is lit this week for deceased & present members of the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary.

The **blue candle** at the **Mary Queen of Peace Statue** near the altar at...

Holy Family is lit this week in memory of Wes O'Donoghue on his birthday by Mom, Dad, & the Family.

The **blue candle** at the **Immaculate Heart of Mary Statue** near votive candles at...

Holy Family is lit this week for the special intentions of the Logan County Catholic Community.

To sponsor a sanctuary candle, call Alicia Baker at 217-732-4019 or email abaker@logancountycatholic.com.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

12/17: 7pm Advent Reconciliation at Holy Family

12/18: CCD Christmas Program 6pm, Holy Family

12/19: Community Prayer Time at 7pm

12/22: St. Patrick Christmas Decorating & Breakfast

12/24: Christmas Vigil Masses

4pm - Holy Family **4pm - St. Patrick**

6pm - St. Thomas Aquinas **6pm - St. Mary**

9pm - Holy Family

12/25: Christmas Day - Holy Family 9am

12/24/24-1/5/25: Parish Office Closed

ST. MARY LECTOR SCHEDULE

12/15 - Ed Jodlowski

12/22 - Ed Jodlowski

12/29 - Matt McGhee

01/05 - Matt McGhee

01/12 - Laura O'Donnell

01/19 - Laura O'Donnell





COMMUNITY PRAYER TIME

Join us on **Thursday, 12/19 from 7:00pm to 8:00pm**. We will meet in the Bride's Room at Holy Family for prayer.

We will come together to pray for your needs and thank God for your blessings. We will gather together to pray for each other, our community, and the world. All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you!



The St. Patrick Choir will begin practice for Christmas on 11/17/24 after the 8am Mass. We will meet every Sunday through 12/22/24.

Decorate Our Church for Christmas

St. Thomas Aquinas - Help us decorate the Church after Mass today, 12/15/24, then join us for pizza! Everyone is invited to come!

St. Patrick - Join us after Mass on 12/22/24 to decorate. Afterwards, we will gather to eat. Bring a coffee cake, if you can. All are welcome!



THE HOLY FATHER'S MONTHLY GLOBAL PRAYER INTENTIONS - DECEMBER

The Holy Father has entrusted his 2024 monthly prayer intentions to the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network. You can find more information about the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network for the USA on their website at [Home - Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network \(popesprayerusa.net\)](http://Home - Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (popesprayerusa.net)).

December: For pilgrims of hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

Adapted from

MONTHLY DEDICATION - DECEMBER

December is dedicated to the Advent Season.

Advent starts the new Liturgical Year and can be seen as another opportunity to spiritually begin anew. It means "to come to." Looking at the Advent Wreath (symbolizing eternity) we light each week, the purple candles represent the prayer, penance, and charitable works initiated during this season. The rose candle is lit on the Third Sunday of Advent known as Gaudete Sunday which means "rejoice" and marks the halfway point until Christ's birth at Christmas. By lighting these we symbolize the *expectation* and *hope* of our Lord's first coming into the world and the *anticipation* of his second coming at the end of time, in addition to his *daily coming* to us during *Communion*. We can Fast, Give Alms, and participate in the Giving/Angel Trees in these 40 days of preparation for his coming.

Adapted



SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Monday, December 16

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a / Ps 25:4-9 / Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday, December 17

Gn 49:2, 8-10 / Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17 / Mt 1:1-17

Wednesday, December 18

Jer 23:5-8 / Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 / Mt 1:18-25

Thursday, December 19

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a / Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 / Lk 1:5-25

Friday, December 20

Is 7:10-14 / Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6 / Lk 1:26-38

Saturday, December 21

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a / Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 / Lk 1:39-45

Sunday, December 22

Mi 5:1-4a / Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 / Heb 10:5-10 / Lk 1:39-45

SCRIP GIFT CARDS

As the holiday season is quickly approaching, do not forget to order your gift cards through our scrip fundraiser for CCS! Each business sells us gift cards at a discounted price and then we sell them at face value. This is an easy and profitable fundraiser for the school AND one-stop shopping for you!

These gift cards can be used for your own personal use too! Stop by school and checkout what cards we have on hand at anytime.



We love our local supporters...

- EL MAZATLAN, TOP HAT
- SORRENTO'S, STUFFED ARIA,
- SPIRITED REPUBLIC
- MISSY'S SWEET SHOPPE
- PEGGY'S PLACE BY HILARY
- THE BEE, VI NAILS



111 4th St, Lincoln
Mr. David Welch,
Principal

<https://carrollcatholicschool.com/>

217-732-4019

**NOTICE: REGARDING NAMES ON THE
"PRAY FOR THE SICK" LIST**

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF WE MAY REMOVE ANY NAMES FROM THE PRAYER LIST BY REACHING OUT TO ISABEL VIDAL BY EMAIL OR FEEL FREE TO CALL THE RECTORY.

EMAIL IS: IVIDAL@LOGANCOUNTYCATHOLIC.ORG

PHONE NUMBER IS: 217-732-4019, EXT. 2202



**Please "Pray for the Sick"
by remembering the following
people in your prayers:**

Mike Lowry, Paul Lowry, Terri Lowry, Laura Lowry, Sean Lowry, Elijah Cox, Guinevere Decker, Ruth Young, Rodney Alberts, Jill Alberts, Linda Wright, Steve Schmidt, Ryan Butler, Donna Burr, Paula Rutherford, Gavin Fox, Rita Johnson, Adelyn Jones, McKayla Nye, Gavin Shuler, Phillip Brown, Christina Clementz, Mike Kavanaugh, Linda H., Mark L., Deb Jordan, Dwayne Knapp, Esme Avart, Rita Scanavino, Thomas Siegel, Asher Phillips, Kristin Wright, Melinda Spangler, Phil Dehner, Alexa Cunningham, Mary Masterson, Marcia Bidwell, Sandra Buttell, Debi Hardin, Ann LaMothe, Teresa Tripplett, Curt C., Eddie Pharis, Shirley Davis, Mike Young, Shirley O'Donoghue, Dan Dankosky, Bridget Dutcher, Tinley Rubenacker, John Barrick, Tom Berta, Eric Faith, Jerry Boyle, Dave Morrow, Caroline & Mike Spaniol, Steve "Hacker" Aue, Jennifer Roedz, Dan Riccolo, Diana Purdue, Ann Baunach, Joyce Lichtenwalter, Sally Velasco, Ilene Davis, Tim McCormick, Bonnie Frawley, Jeane Connolley, Cheryl Farney, Jack Sprague, David Sanborn, Kathy Miller, Pat French, Jack Peifer, Johanna Grigsby, Charlie Dumire, Bryan Finchum, Phyllis' family, Steve Panissidi, Bob McCue, Carol & Bob Barger, Aria Tramontano-Grigsby Spitnale, Ron Nye, John Hebenstreit, Tina Huff, and Family, Nurse Lancaster, Cindy & Kenny Frericks, Ann Knuffman, Greg Harmon, Pam Baker, David Vale, Lois, Mirtha & Nicolas Barrios, Kimm & family, Adalynn Williams, Angela Piglia, Raeleigh Bess, Eric Ewald, Faith Stagnolia, Donna Bolton, Pat Dugan, Nancy Stevens & sons, the Salas Family, Becky Maestas, Cheryl Davis, Mike Shay, Bandy Aye, Carol Grunder, Sherry Miles, Linda Barrick, Karen Lowery, Cheryl Moscardelli, Rachel Santana and family, Marty J Clementz, Jr., Bridget Chiodo, Carol Ann Connelly, the Newton family and their twin newborns, Candice Rose, Nathan Cravatt, Dan Durchholz, Wil Buse, all children and families facing medical challenges, and all the members of the armed forces of our country.

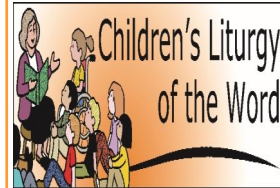
Wish to add a loved one, call Isabel Vidal at 732-4019 or email ividal@logancountycatholic.com.



On 12/1/2024, **Laynie Elizabeth Young**, daughter of Derek Alan Young & Kylie Michelle Fitzsimmons, was baptized at Holy Family Catholic Church by Deacon Wendell Lowry. We welcome her into our Logan County Roman Catholic Community. Congratulations!



On 12/1/2024, **Amaya Lyli Randall**, daughter of Jarron Randall & Amanda Lee Lucas, was baptized at Holy Family Catholic Church by Fr. Joseph Dondanville. We welcome her into our Logan County Roman Catholic Community. Congratulations!



There will be no Children's Liturgy sessions over the holiday at the following Masses:

- ◆ December 22
- ◆ December 29
- ◆ January 5

We will resume on 1/12/2025, at the 10am Mass on Sunday. Enjoy the holidays with your families! And a very Happy 2025!



**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
TREASURES FROM OUR
TRADITIONS**

Years ago, the trick question on religion quizzes would be to name all the liturgical colors, or the colors of the vestments worn at Mass. Rose is a color seldom seen, used at most two days a year. Today, "**Gaudete Sunday**," is one of those days. The name of the day is drawn from an opening verse in the old Latin Mass texts: *Gaudete* is Latin

for "Rejoice!" This year's Gospel certainly reflects that mood as Elizabeth feels her infant within her leaping for joy at the presence of Mary. Mary's visit to her aged cousin is an act of compassion between women, as two kinswomen who are bearing children into the world share their joy.

Some churches retain the custom of having the priest wear rose vestments today, and many will use a rose candle in the Advent wreath. Violet is the official color for Advent and Lent, but many parishes employ different hues for each season, trying to keep them distinct. In medieval times, dye was costly, and poor parishes used unornamented plain cloth for vestments. Dyes were expensive and some colors, particularly purple, difficult to achieve. In England, purple dye was made from mollusks, yielding at best a deep indigo or blue and not the desired violet. Thus, the color of Advent in the British Isles has long been a deep blue, reminding many people of Mary's presence at the heart of the Advent mystery. That theology is largely unplanned: it's all because of the clams!

By James Field, contributor to Diocesan

JUBILEE OF HOPE—HOLY DOOR OPENS ON DECEMBER 24TH

Pope Francis officially welcomes the *Holy Jubilee Year of Hope* with the rite of the Opening of the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of St. Peter at 7:00pm on December 24th (Rome time). He will then preside over the Mass on the Night of the Lord's Birth inside the Basilica. To participate in the celebration from St. Peter's Square, simply follow the opening of the Holy Door and all events of the Holy Year 2025 with Vatican News and Vatican Radio via the Vatican's [YouTube channel](#) or [Facebook Live](#). The Jubilee Year will be here by our next Bulletin, thus, we conclude the *Papal Bull* with paragraphs 20-25, below.

20. The death and resurrection of Jesus is the heart of our faith and the basis of our hope. Saint Paul states this succinctly by the use of four verbs: "I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas and then to the twelve" (*1 Cor* 15:3-5). Christ *died, was buried, was raised* and *appeared*. For our sake, Jesus experienced the drama of death. The Father's love raised him in the power of the Spirit, and made of his humanity the first fruits of our eternal salvation. Christian hope consists precisely in this: that in facing death, which appears to be the end of everything, we have the certainty that, thanks to the grace of Christ imparted to us in Baptism, "life is changed, not ended", [15] forever. Buried with Christ in Baptism, we receive in his resurrection the gift of a new life that breaks down the walls of death, making it a passage to eternity.

The reality of *death*, as a painful separation from those dearest to us, cannot be mitigated by empty rhetoric. The Jubilee, however, offers us the opportunity to appreciate anew, and with immense gratitude, the gift of the new life that we have received in Baptism, a life capable of transfiguring death's drama. It is worth reflecting, in the context of the Jubilee, on how that mystery has been understood from the earliest centuries of the Church's life. An example would be the tradition of building baptismal fonts in the shape of an octagon, as seen in many ancient baptisteries, like that of Saint John Lateran in Rome. This was intended to symbolize that Baptism is the dawn of the "eighth day", the day of the resurrection, a day that transcends the normal, weekly passage of time, opening it to the dimension of eternity and to life everlasting: the goal to which we tend on our earthly pilgrimage (cf. *Rom* 6:22).

The most convincing testimony to this hope is provided by the *martyrs*. Steadfast in their faith in the risen Christ, they renounced life itself here below, rather than betray their Lord. Martyrs, as confessors of the life that knows no end, are present and numerous in every age, and perhaps even more so in our own day. We need to treasure their testimony, in order to confirm our hope and allow it to bear good fruit.

The martyrs, coming as they do from different Christian traditions, are also seeds of unity, expressions of the ecumenism of blood. I greatly hope that the Jubilee will also include ecumenical celebrations as a way of highlighting the richness of the testimony of these martyrs.

21. What, then, will become of us after death? With Jesus, beyond this threshold we will find eternal life, consisting in full communion with God as we forever contemplate and share in his infinite love. All that we now experience in hope, we shall then see in reality. We are reminded of the words of Saint Augustine: "When I am one with you in all my being, there will be no more pain and toil; my life shall be true life, a life wholly filled by you". [16] What will characterize this fullness of communion? Being happy. *Happiness* is our human vocation, a goal to which all aspire.

But what is happiness? What is the happiness that we await and desire? Not some fleeting pleasure, a momentary satisfaction that, once experienced, keeps us longing for more, in a desperate quest that leaves our hearts unsated and increasingly empty. We aspire to a happiness that is definitively found in the one thing that can bring us fulfilment, which is love. Thus, we will be able to say even now: I am loved, therefore I exist; and I will live forever in the love that does not disappoint, the love from which nothing can ever separate me. Let us listen once more to the words of the Apostle: "I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (*Rom* 8:38-39).

22. Another reality having to do with eternal life is *God's judgement*, both at the end of our individual lives and at the end of history. Artists have often attempted to portray it – here we can think of Michelangelo's *magnum opus* in the Sistine Chapel – in accordance with the theological vision of their times and with the aim of inspiring a sense of awe in the viewer. We should indeed prepare ourselves consciously and soberly for the moment when our lives will be judged, but we must always do this from the standpoint of hope, the theological virtue that sustains our lives and shields them from groundless fear. The judgement of God, who is love (cf. *1 Jn* 4:8.16), will surely be based on love, and in particular on all that we have done or failed to do with regard to those in need, in whose midst Christ, the Judge himself, is present (cf. *Mt* 25:31-46). Clearly, then, we are speaking of a judgement unlike any handed down by human, earthly tribunals; it should be understood as a rapport of truth with the God who is love and with oneself, within the unfathomable mystery of divine mercy. Sacred Scripture states: "You have taught your people that the righteous must be kind, and you have filled your children with good hope, because you give repentance for sins, so that... when we are judged, we may expect mercy" (*Wis* 12:19.22). In the words of Benedict XVI: "At the moment of judgement we experience and we absorb the overwhelming power of his love over all the evil in the world and in ourselves. The pain of love becomes our salvation and our joy". [17]

Judgement, then, concerns the salvation in which we hope and which Jesus has won for us by his death and resurrection. It is meant to bring us to a definitive encounter with the Lord. The evil we have done cannot remain hidden; it needs to be *purified* in order to enable this definitive encounter with God's love. Here we begin to see the need of our prayers for all those who have ended their earthly pilgrimage, our solidarity in an intercession that is effective by virtue of the communion of the saints, and the shared bond that makes us one in Christ, the firstborn of all creation. The Jubilee indulgence, thanks to the power of prayer, is intended in a particular way for those who have gone before us, so that they may obtain full mercy.

23. Indeed, the *indulgence* is a way of discovering the unlimited nature of God's mercy. Not by chance, for the ancients, the terms "mercy" and "indulgence" were interchangeable, as expressions of the fullness of God's forgiveness, which knows no bounds. The *sacrament of Penance* assures us that God wipes away our sins. We experience those powerful and comforting words of the Psalm: "It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion... The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy... He

does not treat us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our faults. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our sins" (*Ps* 103:3-4.8.10-12). The sacrament of Reconciliation is not only a magnificent spiritual gift, but also a decisive, essential and fundamental step on our journey of faith. There, we allow the Lord to erase our sins, to heal our hearts, to raise us up, to embrace us and to reveal to us his tender and compassionate countenance. There is no better way to know God than to let him reconcile us to himself (cf. *2 Cor* 5:20) and savour his forgiveness. Let us not neglect Confession, but rediscover the beauty of this sacrament of healing and joy, the beauty of God's forgiveness of our sins!

Still, as we know from personal experience, every sin "leaves its mark". Sin has consequences, not only outwardly in the effects of the wrong we do, but also inwardly, inasmuch as "every sin, even venial, entails an unhealthy attachment to creatures, which must be purified either here on earth, or after death, in the state called Purgatory". [18] In our humanity, weak and attracted by evil, certain residual effects of sin remain. These are removed by the indulgence, always by the grace of Christ, who, as Saint Paul VI wrote, "is himself our 'indulgence'". [19] The Apostolic Penitentiary will issue norms for obtaining and rendering spiritually fruitful the practice of the Jubilee indulgence.

This experience of full forgiveness cannot fail to open our hearts and minds to the need to *forgive others* in turn. Forgiveness does not change the past; it cannot change what happened in the past, yet it can allow us to change the future and to live different lives, free of anger, animosity and vindictiveness. Forgiveness makes possible a brighter future, which enables us to look at the past with different eyes, now more serene, albeit still bearing the trace of past tears.

For the last Extraordinary Jubilee, I commissioned *Missionaries of Mercy*, and these continue to carry out an important mission. During the coming Jubilee, may they exercise their ministry by reviving hope and offering forgiveness whenever a sinner comes to them with an open heart and a penitent spirit. May they remain a source of reconciliation and an encouragement to look to the future with heartfelt hope inspired by the Father's mercy. I encourage bishops to take advantage of their precious ministry, especially by sending them wherever hope is sorely tested: to prisons, hospitals, and places where people's dignity is violated, poverty abounds and social decay is prevalent. In this Jubilee Year, may no one be deprived of the opportunity to receive God's forgiveness and consolation.

24. Hope finds its supreme witness in *the Mother of God*. In the Blessed Virgin, we see that hope is not naive optimism but a gift of grace amid the realities of life. Like every mother, whenever Mary looked at her Son, she thought of his future. Surely she kept pondering in her heart the words spoken to her in the Temple by the elderly Simeon: "This child is destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed, so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too" (*Lk* 2:34-35). At the foot of the cross, she witnessed the passion and death of Jesus, her innocent son. Overwhelmed with grief, she nonetheless renewed her "fiat", never abandoning her hope and trust in God. In this way, Mary cooperated for our sake in the fulfilment of all that her Son had foretold in announcing that he would have to "undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again" (*Mk* 8:31). In the travail of that sorrow, offered in love, Mary became our Mother, the Mother of Hope. It is not by chance that popular piety continues to invoke the Blessed Virgin as *Stella Maris*, a title that bespeaks the sure hope that, amid the tempests of this life, the Mother of God comes to our aid, sustains us and encourages us to persevere in hope and trust.

In this regard, I would note that the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City is preparing to celebrate, in 2031, the fifth centenary of Our Lady's first apparition. Through Juan Diego, the Mother of God brought a revolutionary message of hope that she continues to bring to every pilgrim and all the faithful: "Am I not here, who am your Mother?" [20] That message continues to touch hearts in the many Marian shrines throughout the world, where countless pilgrims commend to the holy Mother of God their cares, their sorrows and their hopes. During the Jubilee Year, may these shrines be sacred places of welcome and privileged spaces for the rebirth of hope. I encourage all pilgrims to Rome to spend time in prayer in the Marian shrines of the City, in order to venerate the Blessed Mother and to implore her protection. I am confident that everyone, especially the suffering and those most in need, will come to know the closeness of Mary, the most affectionate of mothers, who never abandons her children and who, for the holy people of God, is "a sign of certain hope and comfort". [21]

25. In our journey towards the Jubilee, let us return to Scripture and realize that it speaks to us in these words: "May we who have taken refuge in him be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us. We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered" (*Heb* 6:18-20). Those words are a forceful encouragement for us never to lose the hope we have been given, to hold fast to that hope and to find in God our refuge and our strength.

The image of the anchor is eloquent; it helps us to recognize the stability and security that is ours amid the troubled waters of this life, provided we entrust ourselves to the Lord Jesus. The storms that buffet us will never prevail, for we are firmly anchored in the hope born of grace, which enables us to live in Christ and to overcome sin, fear and death. This hope, which transcends life's fleeting pleasures and the achievement of our immediate goals, makes us rise above our trials and difficulties, and inspires us to keep pressing forward, never losing sight of the grandeur of the heavenly goal to which we have been called.

The coming Jubilee will thus be a Holy Year marked by the hope that does not fade, our hope in God. May it help us to recover the confident trust that we require, in the Church and in society, in our interpersonal relationships, in international relations, and in our task of promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God's gift of creation. May the witness of believers be for our world a leaven of authentic hope, a harbinger of new heavens and a new earth (cf. *2 Pet* 3:13), where men and women will dwell in justice and harmony, in joyful expectation of the fulfilment of the Lord's promises.

Let us even now be drawn to this hope! Through our witness, may hope spread to all those who anxiously seek it. May the way we live our lives say to them in so many words: "Hope in the Lord! Hold firm, take heart and hope in the Lord!" (*Ps* 27:14). May the power of hope fill our days, as we await with confidence the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and glory, now and forever.

Given in Rome, at Saint John Lateran, on 9 May, the Solemnity of the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the year 2024, the twelfth of my Pontificate.
Francis



2024 Advent/Christmas Calendar

**Holy Family, Lincoln; St. Mary, Atlanta;
St. Patrick, Elkhart; St. Thomas Aquinas, Mt. Pulaski**

Advent Reconciliation

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

7:00 pm Advent Reconciliation Service for all four parishes will be at Holy Family Church

Regular Reconciliation times:

Holy Family -	Tuesdays 7:30-8:00am Saturdays 2:45-3:30pm
St. Mary -	Prior to 8:30am Sunday Mass
St. Patrick -	Prior to 8:00am Sunday Mass
St. Thomas Aquinas -	Prior to 10 am Sunday Mass

Christmas - Holy Day of Obligation

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

(Vigil Masses)

4:00 pm @ Holy Family
4:00 pm @ St. Patrick
6:00 pm @ St. Mary
6:00 pm @ St. Thomas Aquinas
9:00 pm @ Holy Family

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

(Holy Day Mass)

9:00 am @ Holy Family

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God Holy Day of Obligation

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

(Vigil Masses)

5:30 pm @ Holy Family
6:00 pm @ St. Mary

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

(Holy Day Mass)

9:00 am @ Holy Family

**Based on the availability of clergy, this schedule is subject to change.
Please check the parish calendar on the website
www.logancountycatholic.org for any changes or additions.**