Our Mission

Christ the Servant Parish is a welcoming Catholic faith community gathered together to gratefully share and live the Eucharist, the inspiration of the Gospel, the presence of the Holy Spirit, and to follow Christ's example in service of others.
Living God’s Word

We can ask God to give us that joy that the world cannot give, a joy that is found rooted in our faith in God, in our trusting that the God who raised Jesus up will also bring us to fullness of life.

(Sacramentary, Opening Prayer for the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King)

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Simbang Gabi Novena of Masses

Christ the Servant is pleased to host one of the Novena of Masses called “Simbang Gabi” on Sunday, December 15, beginning at 5:00 pm.

All are invited to come and pray with our Filipino community.

How did Simbang Gabi originate? Simbang Gabi originated from the Missa Aurea (golden mass or Angel’s mass) practiced by the Roman Catholic Church. This tradition was introduced by the Spanish friars at the start of the Catholic evangelization of the Philippine islands. In 1587, Friar Diego Soria petitioned Pope Sixtus V for permission to have the masses outdoors because the churches were too small to accommodate the crowds. The request was granted through a rescript (indult), and in the 17th century, the Simbang Gabi or Missa de Gallo or Misa de Aguinaldo—as it is variously referred to by the Catholic populace in the Philippines—became a permanent practice among Philippine Catholics. Also included in the rescript granted by the Pope was permission during the mass to sing the Gloria and to wear white vestments to emphasize the joyful anticipation of the coming of the infant Savior in Bethlehem.

How huge is Simbang Gabi? This nine-day celebration symbolizes God’s desire to be human and the Filipino’s joy for that humanness. These are festive celebrations with Christmas carols sung before mass, faith sharing, and, of course, lots of food afterward—a sample of Filipino food and refreshments is usually served at a reception following mass. People dress in their finest Philippine barongs and dresses. Simbang Gabi is a religious festival for all, Filipino and non-Filipino. But no matter the language or dress, when you pray and sing during the Simbang Gabi, you realize how truly universal the Christmas spirit is. This is one of many cultural activities everyone can participate in and enjoy as a preparation for Christmas.

Remaining novena schedule for the Eastern Cluster:
- **Monday, December 16, Our Lady of Peace**, 7:00 PM, 701 Plainfield Rd, Darien
- **Tuesday, December 17, Divine Savior**, 7:00 pm, 6700 S. Main St, Downers Grove
- **Wednesday, December 18, Visitation**, 7:00 pm, 779 S York St, Elmhurst
- **Thursday, December 19, St. Mary Immaculate**, 7:00 pm, 15629 S Route 59, Plainfield
- **Friday, December 20, Holy Trinity**, 7:00 pm, 111 S Cass Ave, Westmont
- **Saturday, December 21, Christ the King**, 5:00 pm, 1501 S Main St, Lombard
- **Sunday, December 22, St. Walter**, 5:00 pm, 130 W Pine Ave, Roselle (combined with Western Cluster)

Find us (and like us!) on Facebook. www.facebook.com
Type “Christ the Servant Catholic Church” into the search bar.
Our Beloved Dead

We remember our loved ones who have gone before us.

The following names were inadvertently omitted from last week’s listing:

- Ella Amabile
- Emilia Amabile
- James Amabile
- Ralph Amabile
- Alberto Daniele
- Amelia Daniele
- Antoinettta Daniele
- Carmine Daniele
- Christina Daniele
- Ernesto Daniele
- Francesco Daniele
- Michelina Daniele
- Ann Meyer
- Harry Wiebler

Mass for the Homebound

As we look forward to Christmas, a holy time of the year for all of us, some elderly or ill family members or friends may be unable to attend Christmas Mass. Fortunately, for the homebound there will be a televised CHRISTMAS MASS from MERCY HOME from 8 am to 9 am on Wednesday, December 25th on WGN, Channel 9. Encourage homebound family and friends to join in prayer and song for this most holy feast. May everyone enjoy the love and all the blessings of this holy season. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

BLUE JEANS FOR THE HOMELESS

Christ the Servant parishioners and friends, THANK YOU for all the slightly used blue jeans, clothing, sleeping bags, personal hygiene products, food, and monetary contributions. you have made for the homeless that live under the bridges and viaducts in Chicago. “Amen, I say to you, inasmuch as ye did it to the least of these my brethren you did it to Me.”

Ramon Joson and his ministry team monthly visit the least of us as they spread the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy to those in need. You have helped make this possible by your donations and prayers. “The Way of Giving is as important as the Gift.” ~Pope Francis.

Please call or email if you have questions/comments. Ramon J
Rita S

Creation Care Corner

“... to defend the earth and to safeguard water is to protect life.”
— Pope Francis

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP RECOMMENDATION:

Plastic waste is a huge and growing problem. Only 9% of the 9 billion tons of plastic produced has been recycled. There is very little demand for the plastic you do recycle. 40% of all plastic is designed to be used once and tossed. Plastic doesn’t decompose easily and can last 100s of years. The waste clogs landfills and waterways, and poses hazards to animals and fish life. It breaks up into ever smaller microplastics getting into our air and food chain with unknown health effects.

What you can do:
- Say NO to single-use plastic. Carry your own cups, bags, to-go containers, utensils and forget the straws.
- Say NO to bottled water and pop. Carry refillables.
- Choose more biodegradable/recyclable materials like glass, paper, cardboard and metal instead of plastic... and then recycle those items.
- Avoid products with excessive packaging, excessive plastic packaging, and parts. If it leaves behind plastic trash, try not to buy it.

Recycle what you can’t refuse, reduce or reuse.
Service Opportunity for Jr. High students!

Sunday, December 22, from 11 am to 1 pm is the distribution of Christmas dinners and gifts for our neighbors in need through the West Suburban Community Food Pantry. Experience the joy of helping! Contact Mrs. Goba to let her know you can help (call 630-910-0770, ext 103, or email Christine@ctswoodridge.org)

There are a lot of things going on at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. To help our RF kids get more out of the Mass some of the students have been learning about the sacred items used, the reasons behind the rituals and the meaning of the words you will find at Church. This is one of the things that they have learned:

The bucket that holds the holy water is called Aspersorium and the Aspergillum, which is either a brush or a silver ball on a stick with a sponge inside, is the name of the object that is used to sprinkle holy water on an object or person. The sprinkling of liquids goes back to the Old Testament, most notably when Moses brought the Ten Commandments to the people, he followed the tradition of sealing a covenant by sprinkling blood on the people with a hyssop branch (Exodus 9:19-20).

In the same way, when we are Baptized into the new covenant water is poured over us. Water was also a sign of hospitality which was used by a host to wash the feet of their guest upon entering a home. When holy water is mixed with blessed salt (which signifies wisdom and preserves from corruption), it is used to cleanse us from sin and temptation. Holy water is a sacramental to protect us from evil.

In Exodus, sprinkling of the blood of the sacrifice on the altar or on the people was part of the “gift” offered to God. Today holy water is sprinkled on the people to remind them of their baptism and on objects to bless them.

Christmas Décor Help Needed!

If you recently signed up to help with Art & Environment, you will be contacted by a member of the Worship Commission, if you haven’t already been contacted. Want to help transition from Advent to Christmas?

If you would like to help (or better yet, become the new Art & Environment Chairperson!), please contact one of the following members of the Worship Commission:

Bill C
Donna C
Barb K
Angie M
Ali P
Pat S

Hotline Numbers for Help

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Hotline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Shelter Service Domestic Abuse</td>
<td>630-469-5650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Domestic Abuse Hotline</td>
<td>800-799-SAFE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois Adult Protective Services</td>
<td>866-800-1409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will County Crisis Line</td>
<td>815-722-3344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayslake Ministries</td>
<td>630-852-9000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diocese of Joliet Sexual Abuse Victim</td>
<td>815-263-6467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance Coordinator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterleaf Women’s Center</td>
<td>630-701-6270</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We attempted to avoid “volunteer burnout” by cutting down on the number of EMs at each mass, but that transition didn’t happen as smoothly as hoped. So we’re going back to 5 assigned ministers at each mass. Please encourage support from other people you see at mass...

Contact Corinne Hanson, 630-910-0770, or email ctsoffice@ctswoodridge.org, for information on how to get started in a liturgical ministry. Scheduling is based on your availability. When you see a name lots of times on the lists to the right, it’s because we need more people like you helping out!

Next Weekend’s MINISTERS—Fourth Sunday of Advent
(Liturgical color: purple)
Two more Extraordinary Ministers of Communion are requested to volunteer each mass.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>4:45 PM</td>
<td>Marlene B</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Maria F</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Tim G</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tom A</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cindy A+</td>
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<td>Cindy F</td>
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<td>Jose S</td>
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<td>Ed J</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Kristen C</td>
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<td>Madeline J</td>
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<td>Mary K</td>
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<td>Melanie S</td>
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<td>Jerry F</td>
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<td>Donna C</td>
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<td>Dan R</td>
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<td>Cathy B</td>
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<td>Gayle H</td>
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<td>Barbara G</td>
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<td>Pat W</td>
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<td>Rod H</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Respect for All Life

25 Ways To Spend An Hour With Jesus

Prayer is an encounter between you and God. Here are some of the ways to encounter God:

1) Slowly read Scripture -- or any spiritual book -- until something hits you. Then listen.
2) Pray the Rosary.
3) Sit silently and allow God to love you.
4) Tell God something that made you happy. Then listen.
5) Tell God what you are afraid of. Then listen.
6) Tell God what angers you. Then listen.
7) Talk to God about your parents, siblings, grandparents, etc.
8) Pray for someone you do not like.
9) Talk to God about your school work/work.
10) Sing a Song to God in your heart.
11) Promise to trust God.
12) Imagine Mary sitting next to you, praying with you.
13) Speak to God about your School or Church. (...to be continued next weekend.)

---from Children of the Eucharist, Young Missionaries of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Submitted by Dave A

Sacramental Information

RITES OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION Adults interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith, the celebration of Baptism, Eucharist and/or Confirmation are invited to contact the parish office.

BAPTISM OF INFANTS Baptisms are usually celebrated on the first and third Sundays of each month (except during Lent) at 11:30 AM. A Baptism Preparation Class must be attended if you are planning your first child’s baptism or if three years have passed since your last child was baptized. Call the Parish Office to register and to check whether adjustments have been made to the schedule.

MARRIAGE Marriage arrangements must be made at least six months in advance by contacting the Parish Office to set the date and reserve the church. Reserve the church before you reserve the reception hall.

HOLY ORDERS: Are you thinking of becoming a priest or religious? Talk with Fr. Bob or email Fr. Steven Borello vocations@dioceseofjoliet.org.

RECONCILIATION Available Saturdays from 4:00-4:30 pm (except Holy Saturday), or by appointment with Fr. Bob.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK Please contact the parish office for a visit from a priest when sickness occurs or death is imminent for the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. To arrange for Communion to be brought to the sick/homebound members of the parish community, call Deacon Tom F.

FUNERALS Arrangements for funerals are usually made in cooperation with the attending funeral home. Contact the parish office for pre-planning of funerals.

Baptism Preparation Class:
Thursday, January 2, 7:00 PM
**TABERNACLE LIGHT**
Virginia Gebka and Esther Palisoc

**MASS & PRAYER INTENTIONS**

**Saturday, December 14**
4:45 PM Al Januska, r. Darlene, family & friends
William (Dad) Kolodziej, r. Peslak family
Cecilia Pier, r. Luz Ramos

**Sunday, December 15**
8:30 AM Helen & Ed Ciolek, r. Ciolek family
Stanley Farbotko, r. Lee White
People of the Parish
10:00 AM Sam Maltese, r. Rosanne Maltese

**Monday, December 16**
8:30 AM Tommy Dongarra, r. Ron & Carol Calabrese
Alma Custodio, Sp. Int.

**Tuesday, December 17**
8:30 AM Helen Peslak (Mom), r. Peslak family

**Wednesday, December 18**
8:30 AM Bernice C. Deron, r. Barry J. Deron

**Thursday, December 19**
8:30 AM Holy Souls in Purgatory that are near to heaven

**Friday, December 20—Communion Service**
8:30 AM

**Saturday, December 21**
4:45 PM Ruff Family, r. Donna Mays
Kathy Leninger, r. Schildgen family
Ron Welton, r. Robert & Rosemary Thomas
People of the Parish

**Sunday, December 22**
8:30 AM Cindy Giannini, r. Lee White & John Gantz
Bob Haas, r. Elena Haas
10:00 AM Patricia Knotts, r. People of the Parish
James Sullivan, r. family

To request a mass, or the Tabernacle Light, stop by or call the parish office at 630-910-0770.

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**Bible Readings—Dec. 15-Dec. 22**

**SUNDAY:** Is 35:1-6a,10 / Jas 5:7-10 / Mt 11:2-11

**MONDAY:** Nm 24:2-7,15-17a / Mt 21:23-27

**TUESDAY:** Gn 49:2,8-10 / Mt 1:1-17

**WEDNESDAY:** Jer 23:5-8 / Mt 1:18-25

**THURSDAY:** Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a / Lk 1:5-25

**FRIDAY:** Is 7:10-14 / Lk 1:26-38

**SATURDAY:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a / Lk 1:39-45

**SUNDAY:** Is 7:10-14 / Rom 1:1-7 / M 1:18-24

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**We pray for the Sick**

Sharon Bhaskar
Richard Cleary
Allan Dreyer
Faith Ann Fialek
John M. Foresman
Fran Fruh
Isabelle Giurato
Guy Grimmelbein
Bill Haas
Jim Henry
Fr. Jim Hoffman
Rayna Januska
Steve Jascewsky
Jeanne Jordan
LaVerne Kozerski
Sally Krueger
John Kuehn
Gregory Lesniewski
S. Suzanne Lesniewski
Joyce Maples
Lucy Mathai
Mathew Mathai
Michael McCauley
Robert & Joanne McCauley
Josefina Mendez
Lucille Miller
Chuck Neal
Erica Neidlinger
Linda Nichols
Larry Nicioli
Anthony Nowak
Jim O’Brien
Toni Pendergast
Linda Pennock
Alie Phillips
Robert Roche
Dick Rosenbeck
John Rossi
Ken Ruh
Jim Sanders
Jerry Schultz
Paula Sedlacek
Justin Simpson
Barbara Smith
Marjorie Stuedemann
Dan Szymanski
Frank Tiesenga
Judy Wethington
Svendi Wildoer
Rita Wyman
Ron Wyman
Ray Young
Joe Zapalac

Names remain on this list approximately three months, unless specifically requested otherwise. To update the list, call the Parish Office at 630-910-0770 or email corinne@ctswoodridge.org. Thank you.

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**We pray for the Deceased**

Suzanne Miller
(sister of Karen Jackson)

John Anderson
(cousin of Dave Anderson)

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**We pray for those who Serve**

Emily Dome, granddaughter of Paul & Brenda Czarapata
Christopher Durkovic, grandson of Joan Kurtz
Avery Jackson, grandson of Steve & Karen Jackson
David Jackson, son of Cathleen & Richard Jackson
Ben Jalove, nephew of Chuck & Linda Jalove
Joshua Plucinski, grandson of Joan Kurtz
Jim Sheehan, godson of Liz Wagner

Dan Ward, nephew of Sister Rosemary Ward
If you have a family member serving overseas, please let us know. We will publish their names in the bulletin to remind everyone to ask for God’s blessings on them, that they may return safely to their families. Let us join our prayers for peace and safety with yours. Also, please let us know when they return safely home, so that we may also rejoice with you.
During this Advent season, as we focus on preparing for the return of Christ, let us embrace and witness to the world an attitude of joyful expectation, proclaiming through our words and actions the coming of the Lord.

**NEEDED WEEKLY: 2019-2020**

- Parish Expenses $ 7,700.00
- Debt Payment      2,900.00
- **Total Needed** $ 10,600.00

**CONTRIBUTIONS: Dec 3-Dec 10:**

- Sunday 12/8  $ 5,473.75
- Sunday other forms         4,327.00
- General funds             140.00
- Immaculate Conception         1,641.00
- Restricted Use             420.00
- Debt Reduction             338.00
- **Total Contributed**   $ 12,339.75

**Differential this period:**

- Needed    $ 10,600.00
- Reported        12,339.75
- **Cath up this period:** $ 1,739.75

**OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:**

- Diocesan Cemeteries $ 100.00
- Campaign for Human Dev. 110.00
- Religious Retirement 966.00

**General Funds includes Holy Days, All Souls, mass intentions, etc.**

- Debt to Diocese 11/3019    $ 631,126
- Registered Households—758

**Thank you for your generous support!**

Did you know…someone threw garbage and landscape waste into the Recycling dumpster. It cost the parish $141 for the company to make an extra trip for the trash.