

Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you.



#### St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church

#### 8501 Calumet Avenue, Munster, IN 46321

Mission Statement : The Roman Catholic Saint Thomas More Parish Family welcomes and invites every person to join us on our journey in faith and celebration. With the grace and guidance of the Holy Spirit, and through Sacred Scripture and Tradition, we proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all, especially in loving service to those in need. As part of the Universal Church, we affirm the dignity of every person. All this we do to give glory and honor to God.

#### **Pastoral Staff**

Pastor Rev	erend Michael J. Yadron, KCHS; Ext. 312
	myadron@stm-church.com
Associate Pastor	Reverend Jordan C. Fetcko; Ext. 314
	jfetcko@stm-church.com
Senior Deacon	Dr. Napoleon Tabion, OFS
Deacons	David Kapala, KHS
	Joseph Stodola, KHS
	Daniel Zurawski, KHS
Director of Finance	Noreen Bickel; Ext. 330
Pastoral Care Coordinator	Deacon David Kapala, KHS; Ext. 313
Director of Music	Angie Lorandos; Ext. 338
Director of Religious Educa	tion Emily Hackett; Ext. 332
Director of Development	Amanda Herbst; Ext. 342

#### Parish Office Staff

Hours: Mon-Friday 8:00 am-8:0	00 pm • Saturday 8:00 am-4:00 pm
Web Site	www.stm-church.com
Email address	parish.office@stm-church.com
Email address for bulletin	bulletin@stm-church.com
Office Phone 836-8610	Office Fax836-9185
Bulletin Editor	Pam Pasyk; Ext. 309
Daytime Receptionist	Susan Strain; Ext. 310
Evening Receptionist	Veronica Brtos; Ext. 310
Building Maintenance	Mike Popovich 836-8610

#### **Pastoral Ministries**

Environment & Art	
Eucharistic Ministers	Deacon Dan Zurawski 742-6005
Hospitality/Greeters	Chris Shearman 923-1419
Lectors	William McDunn 922-9459
Nursery	Kaaren A. Mashura 836-5079
	Michael Martinelli 836-8610
Vocations Committee	Mary Kochis 322-7262

#### 2015-2016 Pastoral Council Members

Joe Dubczak, Chairperson	Deborah Jarvis
Wendy Jasinski	Nancy Klawitter
Jim Landowski	Paul Liszewski
Joe O'Brien	Kurt Popovich
Jim Secviar	Dwight Reed
Cheryl Staniszewski	Cindy Thompson

#### St. Thomas More School

Pre-School through 8th Grade

#### Office Hours: Monday- Friday ~ 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Web Site	www.stm-school.com
School Phone 836-9151	School Fax836-0982
President	Noreen Bickel; Ext. 330
Principal	Jay Harker; Ext. 328
Assistant Principal	Cynthia Block; Ext. 328
School Administrative Assistant	t Jennifer Gonzalez; Ext. 328
School Reception & Office Ass	ociate Sandra Steele; Ext. 329
Home & School Association	Kris Miller; (312) 909-8156
Parish & School Offices Associ	ate Mary Jo Biscan; Ext. 311
School Admissions	Pam Pasyk; Ext. 309

#### Weis Center — Preschool & Pre-K 8635 Calumet Avenue ~ Munster, IN 46321

Phone	.836-2660
Fax	.836-2655

#### Sacramental Information

#### New Parishioner Registration

To make it as convenient as possible for you, new parishioners may register at any time in the Parish Office.

#### St. Thomas More Religious Education

Kindergarten through 8th Grade

Office Hours:

#### Monday, Tuesday & Friday — 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Wednesday & Thursday — 1:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday & Thursday — 1:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.	
Religious Education Phone	
Director	Emily Hackett; Ext. 332
Administrative Assistant	Carolyn McGill; Ext. 336
Grades K through 8 ~ Wednesday or Th	nursday from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

#### Pastoral Commissions Chairpersons

Formation/Education	Allen Blocher
Parish Life	Elaine Herrmann
Peace & Social Justice	Mari Casas
Spirituality & Worship	Kaaren Mashura
Stewardship	

#### Parish Organizations

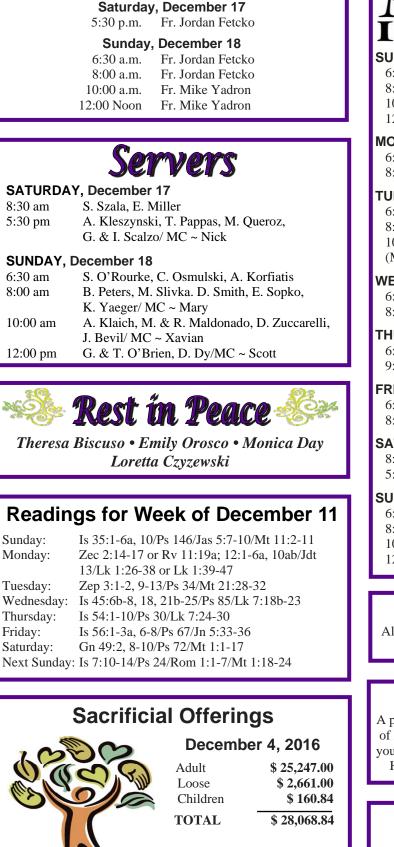
Altar & Rosary Society	Cindy Keilman 923-9862
Blue Army	Rose Marie Malburg 836-8779
	Curt Anglin 902-5126
	Christine Spencer 836-8610
	Mary Jo Humpfer 836-5002
Cub Scouts	.Kevin Ranos <u>Kevin.ranos@sbcglobal.net</u>
Finance	Barbara Shaver 838-9200
	Marilyn Glennon 836-8610
	Paul Mazerik 644-8409
Gifts of Love & Warmth	Bernadine Nemeth 513-6544
Girl Scouts	Renee Whelan 796-6809
Holy Name Society	
Knights of Columbus	W. Frank Lewandowski (708)466-7039
Oblates	Denise Gard 836-9115
Respect Life	Leslie Dernulc (219)741-3739
Senior Citizens	Herb Cleve 670-2982
The Travelers Club	Lois Quinn 836-7902
Ushers Club	Jim Marmalejo 836-1463
	Fr. Ben Ross 322-4505

Please remember St. Thomas More in your Will and Estate Planning

### Third Sunday of Advent

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## December 11, 2016



Thank you for sharing your treasure with our parish!



**SUNDAY, December 11** — *Third Sunday of Advent* 6:30 am For Our Parish Family Living and Deceased 8:00 am Clara Wohadlo by Ronald & Charlotte Conn 10:00 am John Nelson by Wife Helene 12:00 pm Chet Milen by Family

MONDAY, December 12 — Our Lady of Guadalupe6:30 am8:30 amHannah Keaveney (Ann.) by Kretz Family

TUESDAY, December 13 — St. Lucy
6:30 am John Michalik by Family
8:30 am Denis Buksa (Ann.) by Wife Judy
10:00 am Jo Ann Smundin by STM Altar & Rosary (MASS AT MED-INN CHAPEL, Group 3)

WEDNESDAY, December 14 — St. John of the Cross6:30 amAileen Walczak by Jim & Arlene Kender8:30 amJohn Jurkash by Daughters

THURSDAY, December 156:30 amAll Souls Day Intentions9:00 amPatrick Quinn by Wife Lois & Family

#### FRIDAY, December 16

6:30 am Irene Shaw by Marilyn Standerski8:30 am Ljubica Kirincic by Family

SATURDAY, December 17
8:30 am Bernardo Cantorna by Michael W. Mezey
5:30 pm Maxine Urbanczyk by Wanda Marlowe & Family

**SUNDAY, December 18** — *Fourth Sunday of Advent* 6:30 am For Our Parish Family Living and Deceased 8:00 am Eugene G. Sepaniak by Family 10:00 am Janina Krysinski (Ann.) by Helene Nelson 12:00 pm Vincent Gryn (Ann.) by Mr. & Mrs. John Gryn

# **Bulletin Deadlines**

All bulletin articles must be submitted via email at least 2 weeks in advance to: <u>bulletin@stm-church.com</u>. Thank you.

# **Vocations Committee**

A prayer each day for faith, passion and love for God, with works of Mercy for all and you will find a God who is loving and gives you the zeal to listen to His plan for you. Take courage and listen; He may be calling you. Are you prepared to discern the call?

# **Pastoral Care Ministry**

To arrange a visit from Pastoral Care for a hospitalized or homebound family member, please contact Deacon Dave Kapala at (219) 836-8610, # 313 or <u>dkapala@stm-church.com</u>.

#### Third Sunday of Advent

"The poor have the good news proclaimed to them." Jesus caps his catalogue of miracles with this unexpected statement.

In the same sentence where he reminds his listeners that he has cured the blind, the lame, the deaf, the sick, and even raised the dead, Jesus concludes by mentioning preaching the good news to the poor. How did that make the list of supernatural cures? What's so miraculous about good news?

Well, in this case, the news is that the Messiah has finally come, in the most miraculous of ways, as the incarnate Son of God conceived in the womb of a virgin. This is a message of spiritual healing: he comes to "save his people from their sins" (Mt 1:21).

The poor are not just those in physical poverty, but those whose sins have impoverished their souls. This of course applies to us. The poverty of our own sinfulness-of the alienation we create between ourselves and God-can be overcome by the forgiveness offered to us in Christ. Because of this, we have cause to rejoice!

On this Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, we are encouraged to rejoice. We pause in this season of anticipation to remember that, in truth, our hopes have already been fulfilled.

God has "visited and brought redemption to his people" (Lk 1:68). He is among us, saving us even now! We need not look to the past to witness Christ's astonishing acts.

His work in our souls, right here and now, is miracle enough.

# Please pray for the sick of our parish...

Joshua Alvarez Margaret Amatulli Frieda Andersen Mary Anhalt Doris Aurelio Maria Aurelio Antonio Belmonte Michael Berry Michael Billedo Michael Blazevich Laverne Blumka Cheryl Bostrom Robert Boyle Linda Braun Stephany Burney Paul Burns Dorothy Campbell James Campbell Thomas Cak Al Carollo Janet Cattanach Jacqueline Morrow Christian Willie Colby Vincent Corsello Mike Curtain Lucille Detterline Irene Dettmer Ann DeVov MarvPat Devov Jeanine Doescher Jim D'Orazio Alex Eiland Sherlon Evans John Forde Phyllis Garber Denise Gard Andrea Garritano Margaret Geary Emily Gibson Dorothy Gillespie Margaret Good Howard Gralewski Margaret Gray Susan Graff James Grunewald Amy Hayes Eleanore Heggi

Charles Helms Marie Henke Marisol Hernandez Becky Hill Megan Homcho Mary Jo Humpfer Charlotte Hunt Betty Ingbretson Steve Izzo Dennis Jablonski Elizabeth Jacob Barbara Jamrose Stanley Javjack Carol Keilman Kelly Jean Irene Kerps James Klein, Sr. Janet Knight Susan Kolodziei Miller Krizmanic Isabella Lappo Annika LeMonier Chris LeMonier Debbie LeMonier Nicklas LeMonier Mike Lewis Jo Lisiniewicz Edward Liskiewicz Stanley Liskiewicz Maria Lovell Marilyn Madsen Charlene Madura Mary Manchak Brady Martin Larkin McKenzie Jenny Mendoza Faye Meny Sandi Merlo Erin Meyer Ann Miskovich Andrew Moll David Moll Elissa Moll Genevieve Mrvan Jean Narvid Donna Nichols Steven Nowaczyk Clare O'Brien

Valerie O'Donnell Danny Ogren Emily Orosco Maryann Pancheri James Pancheri Marty Pavovic Johanna Petruch Angelo Petrungaro Andrew Pieczvrak Elizabeth Pilones Ron Plewniak Sylvester Porras Dennis Powell John Rav Jerry Reach Timothy Ribble Jackie Roach Shirley Romanyak Ann Sardella George Sauer Marie Schultz Marianne Schwartz William Schwartz Zachery Scriff James Secviar Jim Seul Renee Shehan Ruth Siorek Nick Skinner Lydia Skorupa Carolyn Smiley Deborah Stareck Georgianne Suto Florence Stevens Barbara Szypczak Rose Theis Gerardo Trevino Kathie Trudgian Anthony Ubuane Tony Vanden Heuvel Raymond Vanderbok Julia Vrbanich Adele Wall Stephanie Wisniewski Don Woszczynski Cecilia Ziegler Cody Ziemkowski



**SUNDAY, December 11** — *Third Sunday of Advent* 6:00 pm Taizé Prayer ~ Church

#### MONDAY, December 12

5:45 pm	Handbell Practice (until 7:00 p.m.) ~ Church
6:30 pm	Blue Army ~ Chapel
7:00 pm	Schola Choir ~ Church
7:00 pm	Vocations ~ Conference Room

7:30 pm Knights of Columbus ~ Solar Room

#### **TUESDAY**, December 13

- 9:15 am Eucharistic Adoration (until 6:30 p.m.) ~ Chapel
- 1:00 pm Prayer/Vocations ~ Chapel
- 6:00 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet ~ Chapel
- 7:00 pm RCIA ~ Conference Room
- 7:00 pm STMS Christmas Program (Grades K-3) ~ Gym

#### WEDNESDAY, December 14

9:30 am	Bible Study ~ Conference Room
4:30 pm	Religious Education Classes (until 6:00 p.m.)
5:00 pm	RCIC ~ Teachers' Lounge
6:45 pm	Altar & Rosary Society Pot Luck ~ Solar Room
7:00 pm	St. Vincent de Paul Society ~ Conference Room
7:15 pm	Handbell Practice ~ Church (until 8:30 pm)

#### **THURSDAY**, December 15

4:30 pm	Religious Education Classes (until 6:00 p.m.)
6:45 pm	All Seasons Chorale ~ Church
7:00 pm	Career Networking Group ~ Weis Center

#### FRIDAY, December 16

9:00 am Gifts of Love & Warmth ~ Conference Room

SUNDAY, December 18 — Fourth Sunday of Advent 6:00 pm Lessons & Carols ~ Church St. Vincent de Paul Food Collection at All Masses

## **Catholic Services Appeal**

The Catholic Services Appeal Campaign officially ends on January 31, 2017. Only payments received by 12/31/16 can be claimed as a tax deduction for 2016. *New:* Request tax receipts for donations at www.dcgary.org/csa.htm.

# Altar & Rosary Society

Christmas Pot Luck Dinner

Wednesday, December 14th — 6:30 p.m. in the Solar Room



All women of the parish are invited to join us. We will begin with the Rosary promptly at 6:45 p.m. followed by a short meeting, dinner, Christmas presentation & prizes.

Ladies attending are asked to bring:

A favorite main dish, salad or vegetable. *Altar & Rosary will provide the desserts. NEW* children's hats, scarves, and gloves.
Call Therese (219) 844-7715/Kathleen (219) 972-0539 for info.

#### The Pastor's Page

#### WE LOOK TO THE LORD

The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers. and rejoice with joyful song. The glory of Lebanon will be given to them, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the hands that are feeble. make firm the knees that are weak, say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication: with divine recompense he comes to save you. (Is 35:1-4)

Today, the Third Sunday of Advent, we look back and we look ahead. We have just finished two weeks of the season and we have two weeks to go. Midpoint, we evaluate where we have been and what we yet need to do to be ready for the celebration of Christmas.

By this point in our Advent journey, we realize that we cannot do it alone. The work that needs to be done, the spiritual preparation that is incumbent in this season, is more than we are capable of accomplishing on our own. To be ready, we need the help of someone greater than us.

It is a good thing that we can count on that help from our  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{God}}$  .

Isaiah boldly proclaimed, "Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you." There is no need to worry. There is no cause to fear. God is with us.

Because of that realization, we pause this Sunday and rejoice. Today, Gaudete Sunday, reminds us that we have reason to hope. In that hope, we renew our efforts to prepare for Christmas. In that hope, we await the coming of our Savior.

**FAITH ACTION:** Make it a point to spread joy this day. You might go as a family to visit someone in the hospital or nursing home. You might want to visit a relative who lives alone. You might even want to go to that neighbor that never has anyone who stops over to visit.

Fr. Mike



#### PLEASE REMEMBER THEM

Please pray for the priests and deacons who have served the Diocese of Gary so faithfully and whose anniversaries of death are this week:

December 12:Deacon Chuck S. Patrick (2012)December 13:Rev. Joseph J. Mosko (1987)December 14:Msgr. Michael Abraham (1960)Deacon Robert Fisher (1989)Msgr. Casimir E. Senderak (1996)



#### THE ADVENT WREATH

This week, light two purple candles and the rose colored candle on the Advent wreath and pray:

Almighty God, we are filled with joy as we anticipate the celebration of the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ and we look forward to the time that He comes again. Help us to be prepared for the coming of your Son when He appears in His glory.

This we ask through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Afterwards, sing together: **Come**, **Thou long expected** Jesus born to set Thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

#### **GETTING GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAY?**

As I shared with you at the annual finance report, this year the parish could easily see a loss as Christmas and New Year's fall on Sunday, taking away two Sunday collections.

Please consider this as you prepare your Christmas contribution and, if you are able, be extra generous to help us offset the loss of funds. Many thanks!

#### TAIZÉ PRAYER

Taizé Prayer will be at 6:00 p.m. Sunday evening. This type of prayer is very peaceful and reflective and only takes about a half hour of your time. Feel free to join us.



#### ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Taxiing down the tarmac, the jetliner abruptly stopped, turned around and returned to the gate. After an hour long wait, it finally took off.

A concerned passenger asked the flight attendant, "What was the problem?"

"The pilot was bothered by noise he heard in the engine," he explained, "and it took us awhile to find a new pilot."





# Religious Education

#### **December Schedule**

14/15	Class
21/22	No Class — <i>Christmas Break</i>
28/29	No Class — Happy New Year!

#### January Schedule

4/5	No Class— Christmas Break
11/12	Class
18/19	Class
25/26	Class

# **Communal Penance Services**

Going to confession is one of the best ways to prepare for the celebration of Christmas. The opportunities for confession throughout the Southlake Deanery are listed below. (All times at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted)

#### **December 13** St. James, Highland **December 14** St. Joseph, Dyer **December 15** Our Lady of Grace, Highland St. Andrew the Apostle, Merrillville December 16 Ss. Peter and Paul, Merrillville (1:00 p.m.) December 17 St. Anne, Black Oak (3:00 p.m.) **December 18** St. Bridget, Hobart (3:00 p.m.) December 19 Our Lady of Consolation, Merrillville St. Mary, Crown Point St. Matthias, Crown Point (6:00 p.m.) December 20 St. Edward, Lowell St. Thomas More, Munster December 21 Holy Name, Cedar Lake St. Michael, Schererville December 22 St. Mary, Griffith

# **Pierogi Sales**

Order pierogis from St. Josaphat Catholic Church now by calling (219) 838-9811. Orders should be placed by Wednesdays for pickup on the following Friday between Noon and 4:00 p.m. at the church. Leave order with quantity & flavor on the machine. Choose between potato, kraut, cheese or prune. Cost is \$9/dozen or \$5/half-dozen. No pierogi sale during December 23, 30 and January 6.

# Lectors for the Week



Saturday, December 17 5:30 pm Mass Joe Dubczak & **Rob Mangus** 



Saturday, December 17 5:30 pm Mass Chapel: Chuck & Chris Shearman Choir: Bill & JoAnn Karr

Sunday, December 18 6:30 am Mass Jim Hus & Loretta Krawczyk

8:00 am Mass Judy Buksa & Jim Kaspar

> 10:00 am Mass Irma Hernandez & Maryanne Topor

12:00 Noon Mass Richard & Sylvia Komyatte

Sunday, December 18 6:30 am Mass Chapel: Barbara O'Block

8:00 am Mass Main: Paul & Jan Liszewski Chapel: Mary Silvasi

10:00 am Mass Main: Amanda Baker-Hughes Chapel: Pischner Family Choir: Andrea Mazerik

# **STM Career Networking Group**

80% of Jobs are Unadvertised 82% of Jobs are found through Networking 15% Found through Search Firms • 10% Found through Want Ads 4% Create Their Own Jobs • 2% Blindly Send Resumes

#### Thursday, December 15, 2016

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

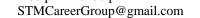
# **Salary Negotiations**

Better Compensation Tactic • Negotiating Beyond Pay Discussing Salary • Common Mistakes

Where:	STM Weis Center
	8635 Calumet Ave
When:	The 3rd Thursday
Time:	7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.
Email:	STMCareerGroup

The 3rd Thursday of Every Month 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

8635 Calumet Avenue • Munster, IN



#### **Regular Meetings are Free! Open to All!**

For those who are *unemployed* (in transition), new to the job market, employed but changing careers or those who can offer employment opportunities through their current professional connections. Have your cover letter, resume or thank you note critiqued by a professional.

# Holy Name Society

Our next regular meeting will be in the Solar Room on Monday, December 19th at 7:00 p.m. As usual, we will begin with the Rosary, followed by our regular meeting and pizza/beverages.

# St. Thomas More School



Preparing for Christmas

# Gingerbread Houses

The annual Gingerbread House "build-day" was held last week for our two St. Thomas More School Pre-K classes. Students invited a special adult (or two) to help them with their creations, and, as usual, the structures were colorful, creative and sturdy. And the leftover building supplies were delicious, too!

















Christmas Shopping

While the STMS Pre-K students were building gingerbread houses at the Weis Center, the Preschool students were at the main building shopping at Santa's Secret Shop. They found lots of treasures to give their moms and dads, siblings and grandparents, too. Leave it to the children to remind us of the true joy in giving to others. Special thanks to our 8th grade students who assisted the young shoppers and helped wrap gifts.



**TO:** St. Thomas More Capital Campaign Make your giving complete this season with a gift to the St. Thomas More Capital Campaign. Take pride in knowing that your contribution will help secure the legacy of our parish.

Giving.

# Don't know what to give someone?

Make a donation in honor or memory of a loved one. Cards are available in the Parish Office. Take advantage of year-end tax planning by making (or increasing) your pledge. All donations to the Capital Campaign are tax deductible. Thank you, as always, for your

generosity to St. Thomas More.

# Knights of Columbus Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale

In this Season o



Monday-Friday: 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Sunday: 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. While supplies last!

Wreath Stands & Tree Stands \$10. We have proudly kept the same prices since 2002.

> Checks should be payable to: Knights of Columbus

*aank you for your support.* Msgr. Robert Weis Council 10596

# St. Vincent de Paul Society

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul appreciates your continued support of our mission to help the needy.

*Our pantry is low!* The following non-perishable items are needed:

Peanut Butter Pancak Jelly Rice ( Pasta Sauce Potato Ch Spaghetti/Pasta Canned

Pancake Mix/Syrup Rice (small bags) Potato Chips (small bags) Canned Vegetables Canned Fruit Personal Care Items Granola Bars Cereal Soups Meal Helpers Body Soap Toothpaste

# Caps for Kids

St. Vincent de Paul Caps for Kids hopes to have plenty of winter hats, scarves & gloves/mittens to distribute to all those in need in time for Christmas. Boxes are located at all church entrances and by the Parish Office and we ask

that you make your donation early to allow for delivery time. May our Lord shower you with blessings for your generosity.



**Diced Tomatoes** 

Pork'n'Beans

# Simbang Gabi

Come join us to celebrate the long treasured Philippine tradition as we anticipate the birth of Christ.

## Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

4:30 p.m. Sunday Mass Our Lady of Consolation • 8303 Taft Street • Merrillville Fellowship to follow in Vamos Hall with traditional Filipino songs and food. Bring your family & friends.