



## Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Parish

### Our Mission:

We honor the traditions of our parish and welcome all to unite in prayer and the Sacraments. Loved by God and guided by the Holy Spirit, we share the good news of Jesus Christ through joyful worship, faithful formation and dedicated service.



## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT



"This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you." - Mt 11:10

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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December 14, 2025



## PARISH STAFF

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nruosso@ssjfx.org

## Saints JFX Mass Schedule

### Daily Mass

6:30 am (SFX) Monday through Friday

8:30 am (St. Joseph) Monday through Saturday

### Saturday Vigil Mass

5:00 pm

(SFX, May through October; SJ, November through April)

### Sunday Mass

8:00 am (St. Joseph)

9:30 am (SFX)

10:30 am (St. Joseph)

11:30 am (SFX)

4:45 pm (St. Joseph)

7:30 pm (SFX) Teen ACTION Mass (school year)

Confession is offered from 9:00 - 10:00 am on Saturday at St. Joseph Church.

## Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Parish Office

St. Joseph Campus

1747 Lake Avenue

(847) 251-0771

cadaniel@ssjfx.org

Hours: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday - Friday

St. Francis Xavier Campus

524 Ninth Street

(847) 256-4250

officessjfx@ssjfx.org

Hours: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday - Thursday

For emergencies outside of office hours,  
please call 708-237-6665

For additional parish information, please visit [www.ssjfx.org](http://www.ssjfx.org)

For school information, please visit [www.saintsjfx.org](http://www.saintsjfx.org)

Follow us on social media!

Instagram ([saintsjfx\\_wilmette](https://www.instagram.com/saintsjfx_wilmette)) and

Facebook ([Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier](https://www.facebook.com/SaintsJosephandFrancisXavier))



## Discover the Saints JFX App

Scan the QR code and install the app. Once installed, log in using the person icon in the upper right hand corner. Follow the instructions to register.

Are you interested in becoming more active at Saints JFX? We need you! Scan the QR code and select any ministries that interest you. The ministry leader will be in contact with details.



Dear Friends,

Gaudete! This third Sunday of Advent carries with it a command in Latin. Gaudete! The command encourages the commanded to be joyful. The faithful light the pink candle of the Advent wreath. Today is different. In the arena of liturgical colors, the presider is even encouraged to wear the joyful, hopeful, color rose on this day. We, presiders and people in the pews, are commanded today to radiate joy. The readings for this *be joyful* Sunday remind us that we have many reasons to do so.

Isaiah tells his people that God is here to save them. That causes joy to be sure! *"Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you."* God's saving power continues to this day. Being joyful exudes gratitude. As we are thanking God for His saving power in our lives, we must express that gratitude with lives of joy. When we do so, our joy will attract others to life with Christ, and then they too will know true joy.

Over the last few weeks, hundreds of wish list ornaments were taken from our "Giving Tree." For the past couple of weeks, presents for children and families were donated to brighten their Christmas. December 25th will be a great day for those enrolled in the program - and really for all of us - because the spirit of giving, inspired by the gift of the Christ Child, lives on here.

Jesus told John's disciples when they questioned whether he was "the one who is to come," "Go and report what you see and hear." In a sense, that's what I do in this piece. I report the power of Christ moving in the hearts of this great community. As I reflect on it, I am grateful—and my gratitude causes my joy.

We established years ago with the comprehensive survey we set forth, that our parish priority is to build community and bring others to Jesus and His Church. I feel the Spirit moving in our parish as I write this. Over the past ten days, we have had a ladies Christmas lunch, Saturday with Santa, the Women's Club Bake Sale, Sip and Shop, the Men's Club Gathering, the Women's Club Christmas Dinner, The Saint Vincent DePaul Christmas Dinner, and the school and parish faculty and staff Christmas Party... That's just ten days in our parish calendar. We certainly are building community here!

And we are drawing people closer to Jesus and His Church. Despite snowy Advent Sundays, crowds continue to grow and involvement in our liturgies increases. The first graders hosted the 4:45 Mass at Saint Joseph last weekend, proclaiming the scriptures, reading the universal prayers, taking the collection and offering the gifts of bread and

wine. Their energy and enthusiasm and joy in serving the Lord in that way brought a smile to my face and joy to my heart. Their young parents were excited too.

On Sunday evening more than 80 young people gathered for ACTION Mass. The number has nearly quadrupled in the last five years. The youth pilgrimage to Lourdes is already filled to its 54-participant capacity. We are coming closer to Jesus, as a parish, young and old. None of this is done on our own. With my whole heart, I believe that all the great things that happen here directly result from God's power and the gift of the Holy Spirit. God authors, guides and protects the work. On this Gaudete Sunday, when I look around at all that is happening here, when I reflect on what I see and hear, I can do nothing but be joyful, and thankful!

One of our longstanding traditions, Follow the Star, is an annual pilgrimage through the streets of Wilmette, following the star in search of the Christ child. Follow the Star will commence at 12:30 pm Friday December 19. All are welcome to join us as we walk in prayerful silence (or prayerful *almost* silence!!) in search of the baby Jesus. Please meet us in the Saint Francis Xavier Campus school parking lot and we will pray and journey together to witness our eighth grade's portrayal of a living nativity.

Finally, the solemn blessing at the end of the Advent Mass says in part, "As you run the race of this present life, may God make you firm in faith, joyful in hope and active in charity." Let's live that blessing during the busyness of these final days of Advent. Rejoice. The Lord is near.

Peace,



PS The Christmas card should have arrived in your mailboxes and a request for a generous Christmas donation to the parish should be there too. I have made my gift. I hope you will too.



# Weekly Mass Schedule

4

|  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p><b><u>Monday, December 15</u></b><br/>         6:30 am SFX<br/> <i>Presider: Fr. Watts</i></p> <p>8:30 am SJ<br/> <i>Presider: Fr. Watts</i></p> <p>Intentions:<br/>         +Guillermo Cannon<br/>         +Young-So Kim<br/>         +Lane Charles Riley<br/>         (L)Ace Hickey<br/>         (L)Rehbock Family</p>  | <p><b><u>Wednesday, December 17</u></b><br/>         6:30 am SFX<br/> <i>Presider: Fr. Watts</i></p> <p>8:30 am SJ<br/> <i>Presider: Fr. Sheridan</i></p> <p>Intentions:<br/>         +Stephanie Fernholz<br/>         +Sr. Therese Fields, SCC<br/>         +Mr. &amp; Mrs. Robert Russell<br/>         +Will Weir<br/>         (L)Julius Caban<br/>         (L)Lucia Caban<br/>         (L)Hermalinda Luna<br/>         (L)Christopher Patino<br/>         (L)Maria Patino<br/>         (L)Rehbock Family</p> | <p><b><u>Friday, December 19</u></b><br/>         6:30 am SFX<br/> <i>Presider: Fr. Watts</i></p> <p>8:30 am SJ<br/> <i>Presider: Fr. Sheridan</i></p> <p>Intentions:<br/>         +Mike Haremza<br/>         +Eric Harkna<br/>         +Robert Spriggs<br/>         (L)Julius Caban<br/>         (L)Lucia Caban<br/>         (L)Hermalinda Luna<br/>         (L)Christopher Patino<br/>         (L)Maria Patino<br/>         (L)Rehbock Family</p>   | <p><b><u>Sunday, December 21</u></b><br/>         8:00 am SJ<br/> <i>Presider: Msgr. Mayall</i></p> <p>Intentions:<br/>         +Olivia Sergot<br/>         (L)Billy &amp; Cecilia Cannon</p> <p>9:30 am SFX<br/> <i>Presider: Fr. Sheridan</i></p> <p>Intentions:<br/>         +Joe Egan<br/>         +Suzanne Epstein<br/>         +John Steffes<br/>         +Judy Uruba<br/>         (L)John Phillips</p>  |
| <p><b><u>Tuesday, December 16</u></b><br/>         6:30 am SFX<br/> <i>Presider: Fr. Watts</i></p> <p>8:30 am SJ<br/> <i>Presider: Msgr. Mayall</i></p> <p>Intentions:<br/>         +Ken David<br/>         +Ruth Herrmann<br/>         +Joseph O'Connor<br/>         (L)Janet Landurini<br/>         (L)Rehbock Family</p> <p>9:00 am–10:00 am SJ<br/> <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i></p> | <p><b><u>Thursday, December 18</u></b><br/>         6:30 am SFX<br/> <i>Presider: Fr. Sheridan</i></p> <p>8:30 am SJ<br/> <i>Presider: Msgr. Mayall</i></p> <p>Intentions:<br/>         +Rosalie Breckenridge<br/>         +Jill Malan<br/>         +Bob McNamara<br/>         (L)Rehbock Family</p>  | <p><b><u>Saturday, December 20</u></b><br/>         8:30 am SJ<br/> <i>Presider: Fr. Sheridan</i></p> <p>Intentions:<br/>         +Loretta Szmyd<br/>         +Michael Tischler<br/>         (L)David Riddle</p> <p>9:00-10:00 am SJ Confession</p> <p>5:00 pm SJ<br/> <i>Presider: Fr. Munz, SJ</i></p> <p>Intentions:<br/>         +Debbie Brejcha<br/>         +Suzanne Epstein<br/>         +Mary Minogue<br/>         +Ray Pritchard<br/>         +Loretta Szmyd<br/>         +Michael Tischler<br/>         +Deceased Members of the DiClementi/Stewart Families<br/>         (L)David Riddle</p> | <p>10:30 am SJ<br/> <i>Presider: Fr. Watts</i></p> <p>Intentions:<br/>         +Andrew J &amp; Ben Bishop<br/>         +Elizabeth Cox<br/>         +Gino Gambacorta<br/>         +Liliana Suci<br/>         +Michael Tischler<br/>         (L)Billy &amp; Cecilia Cannon<br/>         (L)Msgr Dan Mayall</p> <p>11:30 am SFX<br/> <i>Presider: Fr. McLinden</i></p> <p>Intentions:<br/>         +Marion Blodgett<br/>         +Suzanne Epstein<br/>         +Liliana Suci<br/>         +Dennis Wolff<br/>         +Pauline Zorza</p> |
| <p>+ Deceased / (L) Living<br/>         SFX - St. Francis Xavier<br/>         SJ -St. Joseph</p>   | <p>Masses are livestreamed on<br/>         our YouTube channel.<br/><br/>         Search <i>Saints JFX</i> on<br/> <a href="http://www.youtube.com">www.youtube.com</a></p>   |   | <p>4:45 pm SJ<br/> <i>Presider: Msgr. Mayall</i></p> <p>Intentions:<br/>         (L)Billy &amp; Cecilia Cannon</p>   |

**Please pray for the sick and those in need:**

- |                      |                       |                  |                    |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Carmen Albino        | Peter DiClementi, Jr. | Susan Hayden     | Marlene Miller     |
| Laura B.             | Sally Griffin         | Tiffany McGivern | Pam O'Reilly       |
| Margie Bennett       | Sheila Groark         | John McGuiness   | Christopher Patino |
| Lorraine Bixler      | Rick Hawkinson        | James Mendis     | Carla Zaramella    |
| Jim Bohlman          | Catherine Horan       | Oliver Mendis    |                    |
| Paul "PJ" DiClementi | Marian Harmon         | Eden McKenna     |                    |

*Please email [officessjfx@ssjfx.org](mailto:officessjfx@ssjfx.org) to add or remove a name.*

*In prayer  
and loving memory of:*

*Tim Finnegan*



**PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY, PRAY FOR PEACE**

US Air Force

Ssgt John Wesley Hobbs  
2nd Lt Luke Stenberg

US Army

Rev Chaplain Maj John Barkemeyer  
Cpt Christopher Cannon  
Cpt Ryan Cannon  
PFC Richard Carlson  
Sgt Harrison Daniels  
Maj Jason Harlan  
Pvt Ryan Higgins  
Erik Larson (Army Reserve)  
Sgt Brenda Lore Mayo  
Sgt David Lore Mayo  
SGT Seth Miller  
Col Kelly Quinn  
Lt Ryan Slattery  
Lt Col Shawn Swarz  
PFC Asher Walsh  
Lt John Williams

US Marine Corps

Pvt Stuart Corboy III  
Sgt Joseph Devroy  
Cpt Peter Dulaney  
Sgt Brandon Galgay  
Sgt Aidan Gobeyn  
Cpt Brad Gustafson  
Ssgt Walter Ramirez  
Maj William Smith  
Cpl Trevor J. Talbot  
Pvt 1st Class Stevie Williams

US Navy

Cmdr Kevin Carlson  
Lt Matthew Mah  
PO2 Kevin Morrison  
Cornelius Robert Murphy  
LTJG Hugh Rider  
Cmdr Tom Smith  
John David Tobin  
Shane Zeman

US National Guard

Liam Gobeyn  
Sgt Steven Tetzlaff  
Sgt Jackson Knott  
Lt Col Grant Swinger

*If you would like to add or remove a name,  
please contact us at [officessjfx@ssjfx.org](mailto:officessjfx@ssjfx.org).*

**Readings for the week of December 14, 2025**

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11  
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27  
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32  
Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17  
Thursday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25  
Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25  
Saturday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38  
Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

*All Are Welcome*

*Advent Coffee*

*& Donuts*

Sunday, December 14th  
After 10:30 am Mass  
St. Joseph Church

After the Nativity Blessing we will gather in  
the Community Room for coffee, treats, and  
an Advent craft!



*Sponsored by*  
*Saints JFX Family Of Faith*

**Saints JFX Ministry of Care**



Experienced Ministers of Care are available to bring communion to our parish sick and homebound, those in senior facilities, and Evanston Hospital.

If you or a family member would like to schedule a visit, please contact the MOC Care line at (847) 256-2273 (CARE) or email [mbirmingham@ssjfx.org](mailto:mbirmingham@ssjfx.org)

**IF YOU OR A LOVED ONE ARE IN EVANSTON HOSPITAL**

Please call our Care Line at 847-256-2273 if you would like a visit from a Minister of Care. The hospital no longer provides a list of Catholics to visit. Our ministers go on Sundays and MWF to visit, pray with, and bring Holy Communion to all who request it.

Please leave the patient's name and hospital room number on the Care Line voicemail, along with your name, relationship, and phone number; or email this information to MaryClare Birmingham at [mbirmingham@ssjfx.org](mailto:mbirmingham@ssjfx.org). We will call or email you to confirm the request.

**Sacraments at Saints JFX**

**Sacrament of Baptism**

Request form can be found on our parish website: [ssjfx.org/baptism.html](http://ssjfx.org/baptism.html)

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturday 9:00 am-10:00 am at St. Joseph Church or by appointment. Please call 847/256-4250

**Sacrament of Marriage**

Request form can be found on our parish website: [ssjfx.org/weddings.html](http://ssjfx.org/weddings.html)

Parish registration forms can be found on [ssjfx.org/join-our-parish.html](http://ssjfx.org/join-our-parish.html)

**Pray the Rosary**

Please join us to pray the Rosary at 7:30 am daily

To join online:

<https://www.microsoft.com/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting>

Meeting ID: 217 167 320 893

Passcode: PgfzMi

If you prefer to call in:

**872-215-5920**

Phone conference ID: 706 348 841#

The Rosary is also prayed at 8:00 am, Monday through Saturday at St. Joseph Church, followed by 8:30 am Mass. All are welcome.

All are invited to join the **First Saturday Devotions** group after the 8:30 am Mass at St. Joseph on the first Saturday of each month. The group will meet next on January 3, 2026.

We pray the rosary along with devotions in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary; prayer guides will be available at the church.



**Companions in Grief**

We meet the Third Thursday of each month at 10 AM  
In the Community Room at St. Joseph

**All Are Welcome**



Upcoming meeting dates:  
December 18

**The Society of St. Vincent de Paul** is dedicated to helping the poor and those who have fallen upon difficult times. If you or someone you know is in need of help, please call the parish office at (847) 256-4250 and ask for the SVDP line.

If you are calling outside of business hours, please press 7 to leave a message and we will return your call.

All inquiries are held in the strictest of confidence.





# Christmas Caroling

## Sunday, December 21st

Join us for 4:45pm Mass with Family Dinner to follow in St. Joseph School Gym  
 Neighborhood Caroling from 6:15pm - 7:00pm

Register Today



<https://tinyurl.com/mrxssbr4>



THANK YOU to all who participated in the annual Toy Drive.

Your generous donations will bring smiles to over 900 children this season!

Merry Christmas from the Women's Club and Catholic Charities.



### Stewardship Report

If you are able, please consider contributing via PushPay ([www.pushpay.com](http://www.pushpay.com))

|                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| December 7, 2025          |                    |
| Collected at Church:      |                    |
| Envelopes:                | \$ 3,911.00        |
| Loose Cash:               | \$ 1,435.00        |
| Electronic Contributions: | \$21,880.00        |
| <b>Total:</b>             | <b>\$27,146.00</b> |

Sunday Collection



Haiti Sharing Parish



St. Thomas of Canterbury School



*Thank you for your generosity.*

*Join Us in Waiting For and Celebrating the Coming of the Lord*

**December 24**  
Christmas Eve

3:00 pm St. Joseph  
 3:00 pm St. Francis Xavier  
 3:15 pm St. Francis Xavier (gym)  
 5:00 pm St. Francis Xavier  
 5:30 pm St. Joseph  
 10:00 pm Christmas Concert,  
 St. Joseph and St. Francis Xavier  
 10:30 pm St. Joseph  
 10:30 pm St. Francis Xavier


**December 25**  
The Nativity of the Lord

8:00 am St. Joseph  
 9:30 am St. Francis Xavier  
 10:30 am St. Joseph  
 11:30 am St. Francis Xavier



**December 31**  
Solemnity of Mary,  
Mother of God (Vigil)  
5:00 pm St. Joseph

**January 1**  
Solemnity of Mary,  
Mother of God  
9:30 am St. Francis Xavier  
10:30 am St. Joseph

 Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Parish

YOU ARE INVITED TO  
**Christmas Eve**  
 FAMILY MASS AND PAGEANT  
 Wednesday, December 24, 2025  
 3PM at St. Joseph Church and  
 St. Francis Xavier Church



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The Children of Saints JFX are invited to participate in one of the 3:00PM Christmas Eve Pageant Masses. Use the link below for more information or to sign up using the SUG.

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|  |  |
|--|--|
| RSVP FOR SJ<br>(PS - 12TH GRADE<br>STUDENTS) | RSVP FOR SFX<br>(FIRST GRADE<br>STUDENTS ONLY) |
|--|--|

Scan the QR code below      Scan the QR code below

**Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Parish  
Year End Giving**

Please keep the parish in mind this holiday season


There are various ways parishioners can financially support Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier each year

- An appreciated stock/mutual fund gift
- A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) gift from your IRA account
- A donation through your Donor Advised Fund (DAF)

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Joe D'Arco at [jdarco@ssjfx.org](mailto:jdarco@ssjfx.org).

Thank you for your consideration.

*Please consult your tax advisor for specific tax advice.*



**YEAR-END GIVING**

# Come, Follow the Star

Join us on Friday, December 19th at 12:30pm



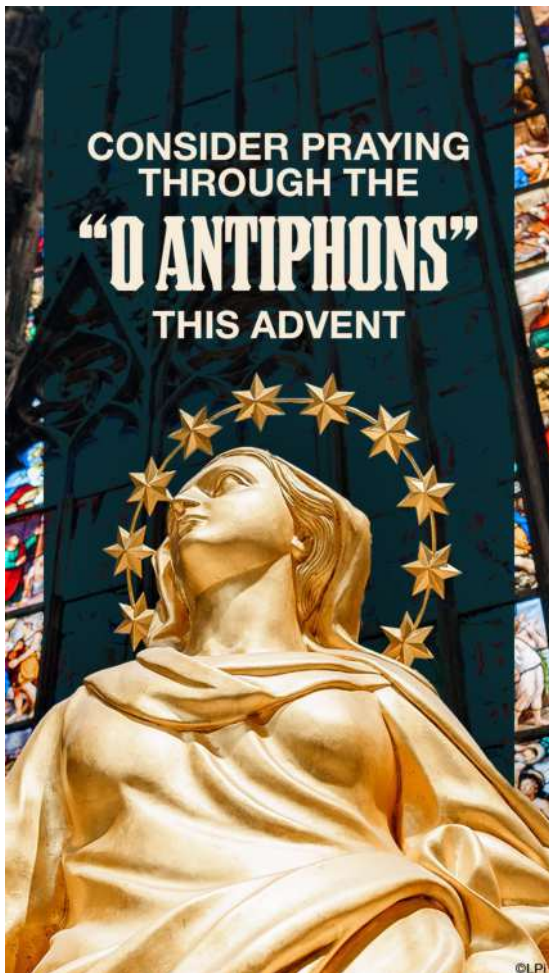
Gather on the SFX Campus school plaza and follow the Magi to discover the true meaning of Christmas!



## Kolbe House: Need for Winter Coats in Larger Sizes

Kolbe House needs new or clean, like-new men's winter coats sizes L-5XL to provide for vmen who are released from jail or prison. You can help them on their way to stability.

Contact Mark McCombs at [mmccombs@kolbehouseministry.org](mailto:mmccombs@kolbehouseministry.org).



## Donate Blood IN MEMORY OF Kevin Joseph Smith Burke



Kevin Joseph Smith Burke died suddenly in July 2017 at the age of 23 of a rare heart condition. Burke competed in area regattas, half marathons, stair climbing races and triathlons. Burke was known for his kind, social and energetic personality. He would be overjoyed to know that a blood drive was held in his honor. Family and Friends invite you to join them in donating blood and help save lives!

### Super Bowl Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Blood Drive

Saint Francis Xavier  
Gymnasium  
808 Linden Ave  
Wilmette, IL 60091

Sunday, February 9, 2025  
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org).

Bring a photo ID or your blood donor card, or two other forms of ID.



Scan for an appointment

**Schedule your appointment today!**

1-800-RED CROSS | [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org)

Blood Donor App | Sponsor Code: **SFXWilmette**



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# Blue CHRISTMAS

OUR LADY  
OF PERPETUAL HELP

## A Service for Hope and Healing

**7:00pm Wednesday, December 17**

*hosted by*

St. Norbert & Our Lady of the Brook  
1809 Walters Ave. Northbrook, IL

*All are welcome!*

### *What is a Blue Christmas Service?*

Blue Christmas Services are often held near Dec. 21 (the longest night of the year) as solace for those who do not find Christmas a happy event. This may include those who are mourning the death of a loved one or a divorce; those who are suffering from illness, addiction, or estrangement; those who are lonely, struggling financially, or simply those with hard memories of Christmas's past. Whatever the reason, this service acknowledges that God still loves us and continues to be the light of the world even if we struggle to rejoice.

On December 17, 2025, the Catholic Community of Glenbrook (Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Catherine Labouré, St. Norbert & Our Lady of the Brook), will be offering a Blue Christmas Service again this year. **This year's event will be held at St. Norbert & Our Lady of the Brook Parish.** No registration is required and there is NO fee. All are welcome.

The service will be facilitated by certified spiritual director, **Paula Kowalkowski**, and will consist of reflective prayer and music. The service is a gentle reminder that we are never alone and that there is always hope.

### Brief background of Paula Kowalkowski

Paula Kowalkowski has worked as a music educator on the high school and college level for over 30 years. She is currently the Music Director at St. Thomas Becket Church in Mount Prospect. Most recently, she received a Certificate in Spiritual Direction with an emphasis on Ignatian Spirituality from the Midwest Jesuit Province. She has facilitated programs and retreats at Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House in Barrington Illinois.



St. Norbert &  
Our Lady of the Brook



OUR LADY  
OF PERPETUAL HELP  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
GLENBROOK, ILLINOIS



St. Catherine Labouré  
Catholic Church

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