

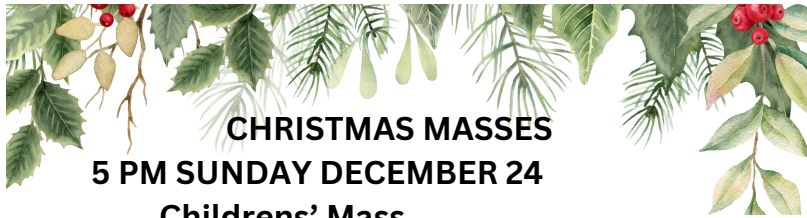
# St. Mary Catholic Church

402 Freeman St. Anna IL

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St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception | facebook

December 24, 2023 Fourth Sunday of Advent



## CHRISTMAS MASSES

5 PM SUNDAY DECEMBER 24

Childrens' Mass

MIDNIGHT MASS 12 AM ST. JOSEPH

8 AM MONDAY DECEMBER 2

10 AM MONDAY DECEMBER 25

St. Joseph, Cobden

You are

*Awesome*

Parish!

bakers: *so many wonderful cookies*

helpers: *from setup to cleanup*

**THANKS** to all of you, we had a successful cookie walk.

**Our Cookie Ambassadors** helped make hot chocolate, folded boxes, and worked as cashiers. **Great Job!**

Over \$700 was raised to help with future activities.

**You are appreciated!** ~ Susan Sherwin

## ITEMS TO PICK UP

Offering envelopes for 2024 are available on the table in the vestibule, along with 2024 Feasts and Saints calendars, courtesy of Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Homes. The January -March Living Faith booklets are available on the ledge at the entrance of Church.

## MASS TIMES

Saturday 5 PM

Sunday 8 AM 10 AM St. Joseph, Cobden

Tuesday & Thursday 8:15 AM

Reconciliation by Appointment

**Christmas Eve Childrens' Mass 5 PM 12/24**

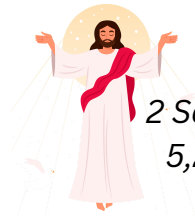
**Midnight Mass 12 AM St. Joseph**

**Christmas Day Mass : Monday 8 AM**

**10 AM Cobden**

**January 1 Solemnity of Mary:**

**9 AM St. Joseph 6 PM St. Mary**



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16; Psalm 89: 2-5,27,29; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38*

We are very close now to the coming of Christ. What would the world be like if we were to allow Christ to really come as king? What would a world ruled by Jesus Christ be like? Would we have the poverty and homelessness that we have now? Would we have the death penalty? Would there be abortion and child abuse and neglect of the elderly? Would Jesus Christ allow the people of his kingdom to kill each other in wars?

If only we could join in consenting to God's rule as Mary did: "Let it be done to me as you say." Who knows what joy the world would know! ~Gerald Darring

## VOCATION CORNER



Today we again hear God's asking of Mary to be the Mother of the "Son of the Most High". Her total self-giving reply of "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" is the greatest example of "listening" to the Lord's call. Do you hear a call from the Lord to be a sister or a priest? In this season of giving, 'give' some time to quiet reflection and 'hear' what the Lord is asking of you.



### WOMENS' RETREAT

**February 8-11**

All women 18 and over are invited to join the women of Ss. Peter & Paul at the Kings' House at Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville. This retreat offers the opportunity to renew your spirituality, strengthen your faith, and build relationships with women from our Diocese. You can register using the QR code below, or on the parish website: <https://www.ssppcc.org/acts>. The retreat begins at 6:30 PM Thursday, February 8 at SS. Peter & Paul Church in Waterloo. The cost of the retreat is \$295 and includes lodging, transportation, and meals. Contact Courtney Harper at 314.922.8459 or Tara Phillips 618.340.2138 if you have questions.



## MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday December 23: Michael J. McGrath  
Sunday December 24: Clarence Ulrich  
Monday December 25: Peace on Earth  
Saturday December 30: Ann Packard  
Sunday December 31: Ryan Haire  
Monday January 1: For all Mothers

## WORD OF LIFE

"O Blessed Mother, at the angel's word you went in haste to the aid of your cousin Elizabeth. Although pregnant yourself, you placed her needs before your own. By your example of radical solidarity, teach us to reverence and protect those in need, without conditions or expectations... Obtain for us the grace to bring Christ to any expectant mother who is alone and afraid." *USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities Prayer for Radical Solidarity* ([www.respectlife.org/prayer-for-radical-solidarity](http://www.respectlife.org/prayer-for-radical-solidarity))

### Intercession:

Inspired by the example of the Blessed Mother, may we, like Mary, have the courage to say "yes" to God's gift of human life;  
*We pray to the Lord*



## MINISTRY SCHEDULE

### Monday December 25 8 AM

**Lector:** Rhonda Schmidt

**Servers:** VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Joe Wendling, Carol Frick, Susan Belcher

### Saturday, December 30:

**Lector:** Jackie Beatty

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Paul Ciaratti, Susan Sherwin, Joe Wendling

### Sunday December 31:

**Lector:** Mary Beth Hileman

**Servers:** Sophia Vaughn, Lincoln Nice, Jayden Nice

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Lisa Hoehner, Susan Belcher, Ellen Quertermous

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR JANUARY 1 6PM**