

THE HILARION

ST. HILARY PARISH

California and Bryn Mawr Avenues – Chicago, Illinois 60659

FOR GOD AND HIS PEOPLE

PASTOR: Rev. William A. Eddy

PASTORS EMERITI: Rev. Robert G. Darow
Rev. Roger J. Caplis

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Rev. Arthur J. Olsen

DEACONS: Mr. Donald J. Wehling
Mr. Daniel G. Welter

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Mr. Michael G. Neis

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
CO-ORDINATOR:** Mrs. Barbara Lowery
office (773) 989-2695

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Mr. Carl Chadek
office (773) 989-2485
chadek@sthilarychicago.org

BUSINESS MANAGER: Mrs. Mary Lou Miller

PARISH SECRETARY: Mrs. Mary Lou Wirtz

SCHOOL SECRETARY: Mrs. Carol Wolf

**INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT
& ALUMNI RELATIONS** Ms. Judith Pycrz
office (773) 561-0231

RECTORY / PARISH OFFICE
5600 N. Fairfield Avenue (773) 561-3474
Chicago, Illinois 60659 FAX: (773) 561-1129

ST. HILARY SCHOOL
5614 N. Fairfield Avenue (773) 561-5885
Chicago, IL 60659 FAX: (773) 561-6409

MASS SCHEDULE:
Weekdays: 8:30 AM Monday – Friday
Saturdays: 8:30 AM & 5:00 PM (Vigil Mass)
Sundays: 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 12:00 Noon
Holy Days: 8:30 AM & 7:00 PM
North Park Village Chapel: 9:30 AM Sundays & Holy Days

RECONCILIATION (Confession)
4:00 – 4:45 PM every Saturday

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF SAINT HILARY IS A ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO. OUR MISSION IS TO KNOW CHRIST THROUGH PRAYER AND EXPERIENCE AND TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN TO ALL.

**Approved 6/22/11 by the Parish
Pastoral Council Steering Committee**



BAPTISMS are usually celebrated on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 1:30 PM. Instructions for parents are required. These are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7:30 PM in the Rectory. Arrangements must be made in advance. Please call the Parish Office, 9 AM – 5 PM, Monday – Friday.

Arrangements for **MARRIAGES** must be made at least four months in advance. Please call the Parish Office, 9 AM – 5 PM, Monday – Friday, for more information.

The Nativity of the Lord - December 25, 2011

NO MATTER WHAT YOUR PRESENT STATUS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH - NO MATTER WHAT YOUR CURRENT FAMILY OR MARITAL SITUATION - NO MATTER WHAT YOUR PAST OR PRESENT RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION - NO MATTER WHAT YOUR PERSONAL HISTORY, AGE, BACKGROUND, RACE OR COLOR - NO MATTER WHAT YOUR OWN SELF-IMAGE OR ESTEEM - **YOU ARE INVITED, WELCOMED, ACCEPTED, LOVED AND RESPECTED HERE AT ST. HILARY PARISH!**

*A Holy
and Blessed
Christmas*

*from Fr. Eddy,
Fr. Olsen,
and the entire Parish Staff*

Today we are invited with the shepherds to listen ... In the stillness, we can hear the Word of God. In the words of Isaiah the prophet: "The people who dwell in darkness have seen a great light. Their yoke, their burden has been lifted. A child is born, a son is given. He is called: Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father Forever, Prince of Peace; on his shoulders dominion rests, and his kingdom shall be without end!" From these grand and eloquent words, our vision is directed to a stable. We have been told, and we believe that the Almighty, the Everlasting Father, has sent his Son, born of Eternity to become a human baby- in a filthy, smelly stable in a backward, out of the way nation, amidst a people who would not receive him.

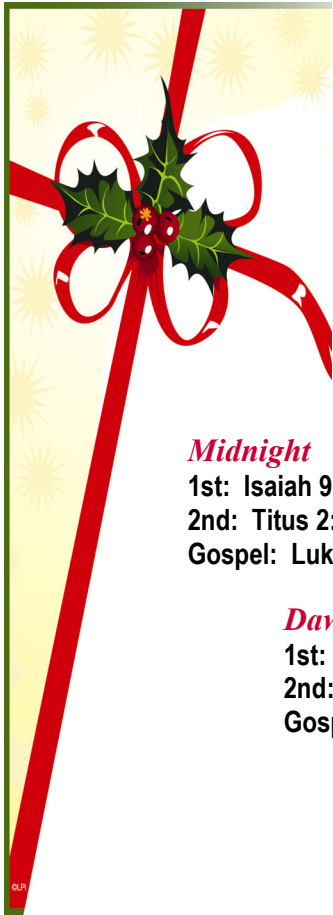
Why would God, the Son, desire to be reduced to such a state of utter weakness? Why would he become a little baby, totally dependent on his human parents and our hostile human community? Why was he hidden in such a destitute condition? No wonder his own knew him not when he came among them. This was no place for the birth of the king of kings.

Some things never change. Even to this day, we must seek for Christ in the unexpected places. He remains hidden from the rich and the powerful. But those who are poor, like the shepherds, may find him. Those wise, like the magi, may seek him out.

It is good that today we look for him. But remember that this is just one of his moments in time. Jesus is always the firstborn, begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father. He was present at the beginning of creation, for through him all things were made; and by the power of the Holy Spirit, was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. He continues to become enfleshed in this world through you and me. He remains the first born, but he is also the last born. In every age, his Mystical Body - the Church - is being born. Today, as it was 2000 years ago, and as it will be until the end of ages, Christ comes to those who are poor and wise and seek him.

May the Child of Bethlehem grant you his peace in your hearts and in your homes! Merry Christmas!

Fr. Eddy



*Scripture Readings
for
Christmas Masses*

Vigil

1st: Isaiah 62:1-5
2nd: Acts 13:16-17,22-25
Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

Midnight

1st: Isaiah 9:1-6
2nd: Titus 2:11-14
Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

Dawn

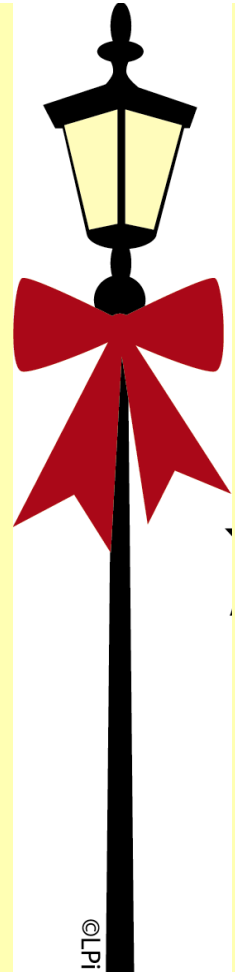
1st: Isaiah 62:11-12
2nd: Titus 3:4-7
Gospel: Luke 2:15-20

Christmas Day

1st: Isaiah 52:7-10
2nd: Hebrews 1:1-6
Gospel: John 1:1-18



We warmly welcome all
who come here today
to celebrate Christmas
in this glorious way.
We welcome the stranger,
the traveler, the guest.
We welcome our students
at home for a rest.
We welcome our friends
who have moved far away,
but join with us now
as we gather to pray.
We welcome all those who
are "active" no more;
we hope you'll find peace
and return to our door.
We welcome our faithful,
so loyal and true —
May the Lord bless you all
for all that you do!
Welcome to everyone.
May our prayer on this day
gladden your hearts and
form bonds that will stay.



A Christmas Blessing at the Dinner Table:
**FOR THE FOOD BEFORE US,
THE FAMILY & FRIENDS BESIDE US,
AND THE LOVE AMONG US,
LORD, WE GIVE YOU THANKS.**

A Prayer on Christmas Day

Lord, on this Christmas Day, in the midst of the joy of our celebrations, help us recall what is truly important about this day. In the midst of opening our presents, help us remember the love that each gift represents. In the midst of Christmas dinner, help us remember that You are the Source of all life. In the midst of our family gatherings, help us remember that You are the Fullness of all joy. And in the midst of Christmas Mass, help us remember the supreme act of love, sacrifice and humility that we celebrate on this Christmas Day when Your Son came as a helpless, unknown Baby and grew to be the Life and Light of the world. Amen.



THANK YOU !

The **Women's Club** wishes to thank everyone - buyers, bakers & contributors - who helped make its recent **Bake Sale & Spirit Basket Raffle** a big success, and most especially the members of Mothers' Club for their many delicious donations.

Those who worked on the **Giving Tree Sharing Project** this year wish to thank the parishioners of St. Hilary for their continued generosity during the Christmas season. The toys were given to Catholic Charities and Our Lady of Sorrows, and 157 residents of Continental Care Nursing Home received gifts.

The **Girl Scouts** would like to thank all who donated warm winter clothing for the homeless men of our sharing parish, Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica.

St. Hilary's Pro-Life Committee thanks all the school children who designed the special Christmas cards this year. And thank you, too, to all the parishioners who purchased them. The cards were sold out!

The **Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast** was indeed a success, providing a delicious meal for many and funds for the scouting program here at St. Hilary. The many Christmas crafts made by both our Cub Scout & Girl Scout troops gave everyone an opportunity to purchase reasonably priced, unique, last-minute Christmas decorations & gifts. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard.

THERE'S SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT CHRISTMAS

There's something special about Christmas that sets it apart from all other feasts. We sing, "I'll be home for Christmas," not "I'll be home for Ascension Thursday" or "I'll be home for Halloween." They somehow don't have the same feeling attached to them.

The birth of Christ is a moment of great celebration for many reasons. For one thing, Jesus came to stay. He didn't come the same way we did, then leave when He died. He signed on and is here for the duration. That's why we call Him Emmanuel, "God is with us."

He also didn't come generically for the human race. Think about what the angel said: I have good news for you, tidings of great joy. A Savior is born for you. Jesus came and stayed to be with each of us - individually, tailor-made, present. He came for each one of us, and not simply for us all.

And Jesus came to help. A Savior is born for you. He came precisely to be with me in my difficulty. He came, not to magically make everything a fairy tale, but just to be with me in the difficult parts of my life.

It may seem to be a strange place to look for God, and a strange way to pray, but one of the finest ways to find God is when I'm feeling my weakness, my failure, my problem, my fear, and know that the Lord is with me.

from The Little Blue Book
Advent & Christmas Seasons 2011-2012



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Monday, December 26

Basketball (Gym) 9 AM - 8:30 PM

Tuesday, December 27

Basketball (Gym) 9 AM - 8:30 PM

Wednesday, December 28 - NO GYM

Parish Council (Rectory) 7 PM

Pinochle (Rectory) 7 PM

Thursday, December 29 - NO GYM

Alpha & Omega Prayer Group 7:15-9 PM

Friday, December 30

CYO (Gym) 8:30-10 PM

Saturday, December 31

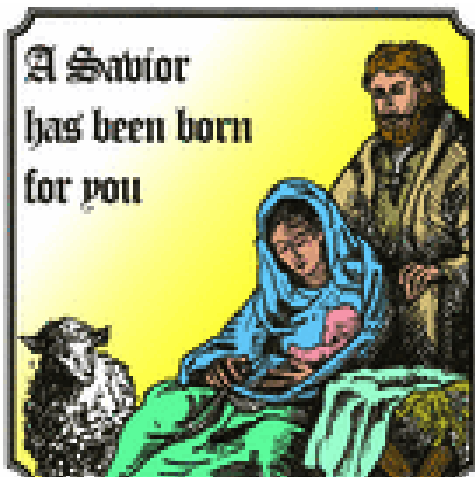
Vigil Mass - Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God
(Church) 5:00 PM

Sunday, January 1

Masses for the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God
(Church) 8 AM, 10 AM, 12 Noon

Mass at North Park Village Chapel 9:30 AM

**The Parish Office will be closed
on Sunday, January 1st, and
Monday, January 2nd.**



ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE



Monday 12/26 through Saturday 12/31

8:30 AM As Assigned

Saturday 12/31 New Year's Eve

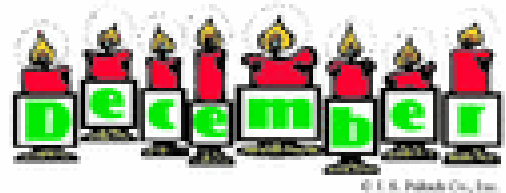
5:00 PM E. Lam
J. O'Grady
M. Hasmonek

Sunday 1/1 New Year's Day

8:00 AM P. Aco
G. Aco
M. Capapas

10:00 AM N. Ernst
B. Camana
L. O'Connor

12:00 NOON J. Sirgiovanni
L. Sirgiovanni
G. Guasso



Please pray for those in the hospital or recovering at home, our shut-ins and those in nursing homes, our ailing relatives and friends, especially: **Tony & Bridie Gallagher, Mary Nicolini, Zachary Vito, Joseph Boyle, Mary Habert, Minerva Hernandez, John Austin, John Cleland, Chuck Staff, Jr., Maureen Brown, Tony Wolf, Dick Byrne, Edward Matayka, Theresa Kim, Clayton Poe, Robert Mikkelsen, Norma Valerosa, Sophie Richter, Peter Hayashi, Karen Kane**

**Also, Please Remember Our Troops
In Your Prayers.**



Mass Intentions

Monday, December 26

St. Stephen, first martyr

8:30 AM † Anthony Canova, Jr.
by Wife
† Ted Stanley
by Cecile Lauer



Tuesday, December 27

St. John, apostle & evangelist

8:30 AM † John Saccone
by Rita & John Omischl
† Katelyn carlson
by Dennis & Nancy Dyl

Wednesday, December 28

The Holy Innocents, martyrs

8:30 AM † Frank Grillo
by Mary & Don Wehling

Thursday, December 29

St. Thomas Becket, bishop & martyr

8:30 AM † John Nicolini (BR)
by Mother & Sister, Dina
† Sengka Chua by Norma

Friday, December 30

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:30 AM † Martha Okboon Lee by Daughter
† Guadalupe Longno by Norma

Saturday, December 31

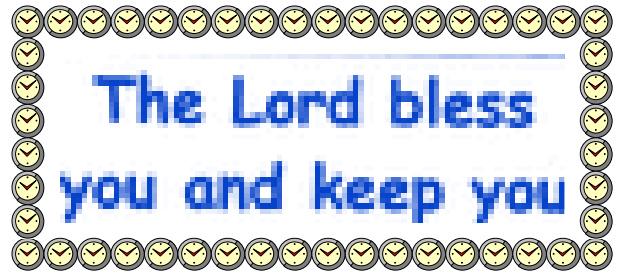
St. Sylvester I, pope

8:30 AM † William R. Warnock by Wife
† James & Loretta Tobin
by Frank & Donna Tobin
† James E. Tobin
by Frank & Donna Tobin

Saturday, December 31

Vigil: Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

5:00 PM For All Our Parishioners



Sunday, January 1

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD


8:00 AM † For All Our Parishiners

10:00 AM † For All Our Parishioners

12:00 PM † For All Our Parishioners

North Park Village Chapel

9:30 AM † For All Our Parishioners



**There will be a
MANDATORY meeting
for ALL ALTAR
SERVERS on Monday,
January 9th, from 3:05-
4:05 PM in the Church. All
servers, grades 5-8, must attend.
Anyone absent without prior
permission will be removed
automatically from the ministry
of altar servers.**

“Who can be afraid of a Baby?”

Fr. Rich Simon ponders this in his brief audio reflection for Christmas -
and we'd like you to have a free copy.

Go to www.relevantradio.com and type in the keyword “baby” to listen or download.

May your Holy Seasons be truly bright!

RELEVANT RADIO Chicago 950AM, Chicago West 930AM, or NW Indiana 1270AM

SAVE THE DATE !!

St. Hilary Parish Dinner-Auction is coming soon!
Friday, February 17th, 2012
Monastero's Ristorante

SAVE YOUR AUCTIONABLE ITEMS !!

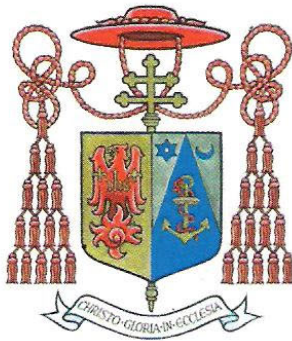
To help make this auction a success,
now is the time to check your still-boxed
unused gifts.
from past birthdays & Christmases
(which may not be "you"
but may be a treasure for others).



Sponsored by the St. Hilary Parish School Board

HoopsMania is a fun and profitable way to raise a significant amount of capital for various St. Hilary School programs. For every ticket sold at \$20 a piece, St. Hilary School will receive \$14. The ticket holder will automatically be entered into three contests during the NCAA Basketball Tournament (March Madness). Each ticket sold thus has many chances to win cash prizes up to \$1,000, and there is a 1 in 52 chance of being a winner. Ticket holders can monitor their team's progress and check for winnings on-line.

HoopsMania tickets are available through school families who will be selling them, at the school office, or at the parish office in the rectory.



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

Christmas 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“God is closer to us than we are to ourselves,” said St. Augustine, and that closeness, through the power of the Holy Spirit in the wondrous mystery of the Incarnation, becomes visible in Jesus Christ. It also becomes visible in how we treat each other and how we radiate the hope Christ brings to the world. The Word made flesh reconciles God and his human family and all creation; that is God’s interpretation of the Christmas crib.

The giving of oneself to others constitutes the nature of God; therefore, Jesus never comes alone. To genuinely celebrate his birth, we cannot put individuals or entire peoples in boxes in order to dismiss them from our lives. Likewise, if we climb into a box to separate ourselves from others by our attitudes or actions, the Word made flesh cannot speak to us, transform us or save us. Moreover, if we allow our faith to be boxed in by our secular age, it becomes a personal hobby without any public presence, witness or role.

By her response, “My soul magnifies the Lord” (Luke 1:46), Mary shows complete trust and faith in God; her active cooperation with God is a model for all. As Pope Benedict emphasizes in *God Is Love*, “In these words she expresses her whole program of life: not setting herself at the center, but leaving space for God, who is encountered both in prayer and in service of neighbor—only then does goodness enter the world.”

God has spoken and the eternal Word is made flesh. With the courage born of our faith, we proclaim in word and action, in our very flesh and bone, that Jesus Christ our Savior is born. It is our turn to speak, to one another and to the world. A blessed Christmas to all of you and to all those whom God has given you to love—Merry Christmas!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago