

# The Churches of The Guardian Angels and Saint Nicholas

215 Second Street West, Chaska, MN 55318 • [www.gachaska.org](http://www.gachaska.org) • (952) 227-4000

412 Fourth Street West, Carver, MN 55315 • [www.stnicholascarver.org](http://www.stnicholascarver.org) • (952) 448-2345

## Office Hours

**Monday:** 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

**Tuesday:** 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

**Wednesday:** 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

**Thursday:** 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

**Friday:** 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

## Guardian Angels Staff

### Parish Office Front Desk:

[info@gachaska.org](mailto:info@gachaska.org)

952-227-4000

### Father Tony VanderLoop, Pastor:

[frtonyvanderloop@gachaska.org](mailto:frtonyvanderloop@gachaska.org)

(952) 679-9415

### Deacon John Cleveland:

[jcleveland@gachaska.org](mailto:jcleveland@gachaska.org)

### Deacon Bob Burns:

[bburns@gachaska.org](mailto:bburns@gachaska.org)

### Joel Swanson, Business Administrator/ Safe Environment Coordinator:

[jswanson@gachaska.org](mailto:jswanson@gachaska.org)

[jswanson@gachaska.org](mailto:jswanson@gachaska.org)

(952) 227-4001

### Meg Garrison, Administrative Assistant:

[mgarrison@gachaska.org](mailto:mgarrison@gachaska.org)

[mgarrison@gachaska.org](mailto:mgarrison@gachaska.org)

(763) 355-6904

### Brittany Kaufmann, Director of Music and Liturgy:

[bkaufmann@gachaska.org](mailto:bkaufmann@gachaska.org)

[bkaufmann@gachaska.org](mailto:bkaufmann@gachaska.org)

(763) 355-6905

### Viviana Sotro, Latino Ministry Coordinator:

[vsotro@gachaska.org](mailto:vsotro@gachaska.org)

[vsotro@gachaska.org](mailto:vsotro@gachaska.org)

(952) 227-4010

**Bulletin:** [bulletin@gachaska.org](mailto:bulletin@gachaska.org)

**Prayer Chain:** [prayer@gachaska.org](mailto:prayer@gachaska.org)

## Saint Nicholas Staff

### Father Tony VanderLoop, Pastor:

[frtonyvanderloop@gachaska.org](mailto:frtonyvanderloop@gachaska.org)

[frtonyvanderloop@gachaska.org](mailto:frtonyvanderloop@gachaska.org)

(952) 679-9415

### Joel Swanson, Business Administrator/ Safe Environment Coordinator:

[jswanson@gachaska.org](mailto:jswanson@gachaska.org)

[jswanson@gachaska.org](mailto:jswanson@gachaska.org)

(952) 227-4001

Father Jim Devorak, Retired



## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." - Lk 21:27-28

Excerpts from the Labyrinth for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©L.A.

## December 1st, 2024

### Weekly Liturgy Schedule / Horario de Misas

#### Sunday Masses:

Saturday: 4:30 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. at Saint Nicholas

Sunday: 12:30 p.m. in Spanish

#### Daily Masses:

Tuesday: 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 8:00 a.m.

Thursday: 8:00 a.m.

Friday: 6:00 p.m.

bilingual at Saint Nicholas

#### Reconciliation:

Saturday: 8:00 -8:45 a.m.

Saturday: 3:15 -4:15 p.m.

Or by appointment

#### Eucharistic Adoration:

Thursday: 8:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

#### Misas dominicales:

Sábado: 4:30 p.m.

Domingo: 8:00 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.

Domingo: 12:30 p.m. en español

#### Misas diarias:

Martes: 5:30 p.m.

Miércoles: 8:00 a.m.

Jueves : 8:00 a.m.

Viernes: 6:00 p.m.

bilingüe en San Nicolás

#### Reconciliación:

Sábado: 8:00-8:45 a.m.

Sábado: 3:15-4:15 p.m.

#### Adoración Eucarística:

Jueves: 8:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

#### Grupo de Oración

Jueves: 7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

## Guardian Angels Lay Leadership Positions

Larry Schmid, Trustee: (612) 670-7655  
David Pohlen, Trustee: (952) 428-9649  
Steve Rasmussen, Facilities Council Chair: (612) 802-6442  
Francis Kerber, Cemetery Board Chair: (952) 836-5467  
Scott Guillemette, Finance Council Chair: (952) 227-4000  
Bill Van Hecke, Pastoral Council Chair: (612) 812-8615

## Saint Nicholas Lay Leadership Positions

Elaine Ess, Cemetery: (571) 315-4980  
Darlene Mahowald, Prayer Chain/Funeral: (952) 448-4464  
John Turek, Trustee, Finance/Property Chair: (952) 448-2345  
Dan Svoboda, Trustee: (952) 448-2345  
Prayer Garden: (952) 913-4964

## BULLETIN SUBMITTALS

Please submit announcements, feature articles, or event summaries for the bulletin for Guardian Angels or St. Nicholas by email at [bulletin@gachaska.org](mailto:bulletin@gachaska.org) by 12 p.m. the Tuesday before. Photographs must be in .jpg format.

## ENVÍOS AL BOLETÍN

Si tiene algo que enviar para el boletín de Guardian Angels o St. Nicholas, envíe un correo electrónico a [bulletin@gachaska.org](mailto:bulletin@gachaska.org) antes de las 12:00 p.m. el martes anterior. Fotografía debe estar en formato .jpg.

## GET THE BULLETIN EMAILED DIRECTLY TO YOU!

Did you know that you can get this bulletin sent to your email inbox? You can! Call the Parish Office to get signed up.

## RECIBE EL BOLETÍN POR CORREO ELECTRÓNICO ¡DIRECTAMENTE A USTED!

¿Sabías que puedes recibir este boletín en tu bandeja de entrada de correo electrónico? ¡Puedes! Llame a la oficina parroquial para registrarse.

## ANOINTING

If you wish to receive an anointing please call the Parish Office: (952) 227-4000.

## HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, AND HOMEBOUND VISITS

Churches are no longer notified by hospitals or nursing homes when a parishioner is admitted unless the family has requested it. If you or a family member are homebound, hospitalized or in a nursing home and would like a visit from a member of the ministry staff, please call the Parish Office.

## Church Calendar

### Monday, December 2nd

6:30 p.m. Knights of Columbus Meeting, St. Francis Hall

### Tuesday, December 3rd

5:30 p.m. Mass, † Barbara Schaer

7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal, Choir Loft

### Wednesday, December 4th

8:00 a.m. Mass

9:00 a.m. Cathy Cress's Small Group, St. Francis Hall

6:30 p.m. Advent Fair, St. Francis Hall

### Thursday, December 5th

8:00 a.m. Mass, † Henry Stacken

### Friday, December 6th

6:00 p.m. Mass (SN), † Celia (Beanie) Friedman

### Saturday, December 7th

6:30 a.m. Father's Group, Room 004

8:00 a.m. Confessions, GA Church

8:30 a.m. Mom's Group, Room 004

3:00 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal, Choir Loft

3:15 p.m. Confessions, GA Church

4:00 p.m. D of I Rosary, GA Church

4:30 p.m. Mass, † Ray & Helen Therres

6:00 p.m. Movie Night, St. Francis Hall

### Sunday, December 8th

8:00 a.m. Mass

9:15 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal, Choir Loft

10:00 a.m. Mass

10:00 a.m. Mass (SN), For the People

12:30 p.m. Mass (Spanish)

4:00 p.m. Advent Penance Service, GA Church

### Mass Intentions:

Mass intentions may be for the living and/or the departed, with a † designating in the bulletin a deceased person. There is a \$10 suggested donation per Mass intention. Permission from the sick person or his/her family must be granted before a name's inclusion in these prayers. To schedule a Mass intention, please call the Parish Office.

### Baptism:

Our Baptism Belonging Class is required for all parents as a first step to Baptism of your child. Please call Father Tony VanderLoop, Pastor, at 952-679-9415 to sign up for a class. We encourage Godparents to attend. Baptisms are scheduled once per month after the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass. Special dates requested for Baptism will be considered and accommodated depending on circumstances.

### Matrimony:

Marriage preparation is required. Please call Father Tony VanderLoop, Pastor, at 952-679-9415 at least 8 months in advance.

### Communion for the Homebound:

When we come together to pray at our Eucharistic liturgy, we do not forget the members of our community who are unable to be with us because of ill health. We remember them in our prayers, and we wish to include them in our Holy Communion. Members of our community bring the Blessed Sacrament to them to comfort them and to unite us in the Eucharist. We are not always aware of those who have this need. Please call the Parish Office to let us know if you or a member of your family would like to have Holy Communion brought to them. Then we can schedule a time for our ministers to visit and bring the Sacrament.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 (1b)/1 Thes 3:12—4:2/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36  
Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11  
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24  
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37  
Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27  
Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31  
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8  
Next Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

### LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Domingo: Jr 33, 14-16/Sal 24, 4-5. 8-9. 10. 14 (1)/1 Tes 3, 12—4, 2/Lc 21, 25-28. 34-36  
Lunes: Is 2, 1-5/Sal 121, 1-2. 3-4. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9/Mt 8, 5-11  
Martes: Is 11, 1-10/Sal 71, 1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17/Lc 10, 21-24  
Miércoles: Is 25, 6-10/Sal 22, 1-3. 3-4. 5. 6/Mt 15, 29-37  
Jueves: Is 26, 1-6/Sal 117, 1 y 8-9. 19-21. 25-27/Mt 7, 21. 24-27  
Viernes: Is 29, 17-24/Sal 26, 1. 4. 13-14/Mt 9, 27-31  
Sábado: Is 30, 19-21. 23-26/Sal 146, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6/Mt 9, 35—10, 1. 5. 6-8  
Domingo siguiente: Bar 5, 1-9/Sal 125, 1-2. 2-3. 4-5. 6 (3)/Flp 1, 4-6. 8-11/Lc 3, 1-6

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE



“Be on guard,” Jesus warns in today’s Gospel, “lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence.” Let us heed His warning and follow the advice of St. Paul, conducting ourselves in a way pleasing to God, overflowing with love for one another.

### Year-To-Date 7/1/24—11/18/24

	Guardian Angels	St. Nicholas
Goal, Year-to-Date	\$273,924	\$25,347
Last Sunday’s Collection	\$14,028	\$1,111
Total Giving YTD	\$218,031	\$25,233
Percent of Goal Funded	80%	99%

### Maintenance Expenses Paid 7/1/24 to Date:

New A/C Compressor  
Architectural Fees for School Steps

### Guardian Angels Maintenance Fund:

Contributions this fiscal year:	\$23,532
Expenses this fiscal year:	\$44,457
Fund Balance:	\$109,433

*Please remember the Church of the Guardian Angels or Saint Nicholas in your Will.*



## THE MEANING OF ADVENT

If we want to have the best Christmas ever, the most important thing of all is to make room in our hearts to receive Jesus. Saint John the Baptist is a great example of what we must do to make room in our hearts. He made one of the most memorable statements in the gospels when he said, “He must increase, and I must decrease” (Jn 3:30). To make room in our hearts is to make room for his coming – or in a more profound sense, his coming by way of increasing in our lives. It is to anticipate that our Lord will come in a new way in our lives. But, if there is no anticipation, no longing for this, then there is no opening of our hearts nor new reception of him.

The term Advent is derived from the Latin word *adventus* which means “coming.” It focuses not only on the past coming of Jesus on the first Christmas, but also on the present coming of Jesus through His Word, in the sacraments, in other people, prayer, love, truth, personal experience, and the future coming of Jesus at the Second or Final Coming at the end of the world: the Parousia or the Last Judgment. So John the Baptist cried out from the desert, “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths” (Mt 3:3) which is what we are called to do during this holy season.

Saint John the Baptist has much to teach us about Advent. Jesus said that he is the greatest of all prophets because the other prophets prepared the people for a Messiah who would come in the long-distant future, but John the Baptist prepared the people for the Messiah whose coming was imminent. As Jesus was approaching, John the Baptist could point to Him and say, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” (Jn 1:29,36). He had a miraculous birth as John’s mother, Elizabeth, was elderly and past child-bearing age. He was filled with the Holy Spirit even while he was in his mother’s womb (Lk 1:15) and was chosen by God to be the “forerunner” of Christ. He preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Mk 1:4) because he wanted his listeners to renounce sin, be washed of their past impurities, and be in the state of grace when Jesus appeared. If we wish to be well-prepared for the solemn feast of Christmas, we would be wise to do likewise.

At Christmas there was no room for the Holy Family in the inn. This is a problem for us today. Our minds are overcrowded with news, information, and many ways to distract ourselves. Our hearts can be overcrowded with innumerable concerns and our schedules with innumerable things to do. But, no matter how busy we may be, no matter how many mental preoccupations we may have on our minds, we must set aside time and space to welcome Emmanuel, God-With-Us, who is Jesus our Savior. He is the true gift of Christmas.

So, it is crucial that we go off alone to converse with our Messiah and Lord in silence and solitude, and reflect with imagination and wonder at the great mystery of our Lord’s coming as the Son of God and the Son of Man into our world. We can read the first two chapters of Luke’s gospel, the infancy narrative and prayerfully reflect on it. We can say the Joyful Mysteries of the rosary. And we can listen to sacred music that reflects the hope of Advent in his coming.

When we make time and space for Jesus, we render ourselves capable of bringing Jesus to others, following in the way of our Blessed Mother Mary who gave Christ to the world. May God richly bless our Advent together at Guardian Angels and Saint Nicholas in order that we may all be true bearers of Christ to others.

Father Tony

## FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

*December 7th, 6 p.m., St. Francis Hall*

Join us for our next movie night December 7th at 6 p.m. in St. Francis Hall sponsored by Council 19 of Catholic United Financial. Enjoy 2 short films: The Little Drummer Boy and A Charlie Brown Christmas, as well as a prize drawing at the end and complimentary concessions.

### CCHD

Thank you for your generous support last week for the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development! If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Visit [www.usccb.org/nationalcollections](http://www.usccb.org/nationalcollections) and click "How to Give" under "Resources." #iGiveCatholicTogether also accepts funds for the collection—see [usccb.igivecatholictogether.org](http://usccb.igivecatholictogether.org).

### MASS INTENTIONS

The Mass Intentions Calendar for 2025 is open! To schedule a mass intention, come to the Parish Office, call, email, or write us a letter (including your phone number). Intentions are \$10.

Also, we still have December 2024 intentions Available at both GA and SN.

### DO YOU LOVE TO WRITE OR CREATE? JOIN OUR INTERCESSION WRITING TEAM!

We're seeking volunteers to help write intercessions for our parish. If you enjoy writing or have a creative spirit, this is a wonderful way to contribute to our liturgical celebrations. Father Tony will provide training, so no previous experience is necessary—just a willingness to learn and share your gifts.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact: Meg Garrison, [mgarrison@gachaska.org](mailto:mgarrison@gachaska.org), (952) 227-4000.

### D OF I MEETING/POTLUCK

The Daughters of Isabella will meet in St. Francis Hall on Monday, December 9th at 11:30 for a short meeting followed by potluck lunch. The main course and potatoes will be provided—please bring a side or dessert to share.

## CHRISTMAS WISH LIST FOR GA

This list includes items that are not included in our current budget year. You can provide a part of an item or in its entirety.

\$75 each—UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supply) batteries to replace for:

1. Boiler system computer
2. Video the Mass online
3. Staff office video equipment
4. School video equipment

\$150 each for one new UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supply)

\$35 each—2 Burse to hold a Pyx for Holy Communion **PURCHASED!**

\$59 each—2 Pyx for Holy Communion **PURCHASED!**

\$750—Labor to professionally install additional speakers in back of church

\$500—Pascal Candle for 2025 **PURCHASED!**

\$100—Sponsor a GA Faith Formation student

\$1,300—TV and Cart for Faith Formation Classes

\$5,000—Sponsor a GA child for area Catholic School

\$1,750—Railings and labor for Sanctuary steps—**PURCHASED!**

\$200,000—NEW School Steps in Spring 2025—For every dollar you donate another dollar will be donated up to \$25,000 until year end.

### ¿TE GUSTA ESCRIBIR O CREAR? ¡ÚNETE A NUESTRO EQUIPO DE ESCRITURA DE INTERCESIONES!

Estamos buscando voluntaries para ayudar a escribir las intercesiones de nuestra parroquia. Si te gusta escribir o tienes un espíritu creativo, esta es una excelente manera de contribuir a nuestras celebraciones litúrgicas. Se ofrecerá capacitación, por lo que no se necesita experiencia previa; solo se requiere disposición para aprender y compartir tus dones.

Para más información o para ofrecerte como voluntario, comunícate con: Fr. Tony, [frtonyvanderloop@gachaska.org](mailto:frtonyvanderloop@gachaska.org), (952) 227-4000.

## CONSIDER TAKING A SUNDAY FOR COFFEE AND DONUTS

Dear committee members, couples, and families,

Our hospitality after Mass is a growing ministry! It is a great way to get to know those who are visiting us and becoming new members, and we do have several who come. Let's continue to make this a thriving ministry by signing up to serve the coffee, doughnuts, and other food items. Please consider when you can help with this ministry and sign up for a Sunday or two. When you sign up, we'll be sure to send you the directions on how to run it. It is pretty easy, actually. Simply go to our website, [www.gachaska.org](http://www.gachaska.org), click directly on "Ministries," then click on "Community and Outreach." Scroll down and you will find our sign up for dates this year and next year. Thanks so much for making Guardian Angels a great place to be connected and get to know our visitors, new parishioners, and each other!

## CHURCH DECORATING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you have a passion for decorating and a desire to help beautify our church? We're looking for volunteers to assist with decorating throughout the liturgical seasons. Whether you have a creative touch or simply a willing heart, we would love your help! Training is provided.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Brittany Kaufmann at [bkaufmann@gachaska.org](mailto:bkaufmann@gachaska.org) or (952) 227-4000.

## AGING RELIGIOUS NEED YOUR HELP

"Your support acknowledges that we continue the mission of Christ even in our retirement," says Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart Sister Celeste Burgos, 80. Donations provide for the care, medicine, and daily needs of over 24,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious.

## SE NECESITAN VOLUNTARIOS PARA DECORAR LA IGLESIA

¿Tienes una pasión por la decoración un deseo de embellecer nuestra iglesia? Estamos buscando voluntarios para ayudar con la decoración a lo largo de las temporadas litúrgicas. Ya sea que tengas un toque creativo o simplemente un corazón dispuesto, ¡nos encantaría contar con tu ayuda! Se ofrece capacitación.

Para más información o para ofrecerte como voluntario, comunícate con: Fr. Tony, [frtonyvanderloop@gachaska.org](mailto:frtonyvanderloop@gachaska.org), (952) 227-4000.

## DO I FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

The Daughters of Isabella First Saturday Rosary is moving from Saturday evening (prior to the Saturday evening Mass). Come join us at 4 p.m. We ask that you sit in the far west bank of pews directly in front of Mary's side altar. This spot was selected to minimize interaction with those going to confession and choir practice. Once we complete the rosary, you are free to move to your favorite Mass viewing spot.

Opportunity for **Guardian Angels men** to experience a weekend retreat together.

**Men - December 6-8, 2024**

Retreat theme: *Finding God in Difficult Times*

Enjoy a pleasing blend of scheduled time to open time, plus classic retreat elements:

- Guided prayer • Confession
- Mass • Delectable meals

Experience four conference talks around a relevant yearly theme **while enjoying fraternity with fellow Guardian Angels men** and other area Catholics.

[franciscanretreats.net/mens-ga-group](http://franciscanretreats.net/mens-ga-group)



(Limited to 20 people)

**Register now, call 952-447-2182**

**Franciscan Retreat Center, Prior Lake**

(mention the Guardian Angels group)

[www.franciscanretreats.net](http://www.franciscanretreats.net) 16385 Saint Francis Lane, Prior Lake MN 55372



## MOM'S GROUP

Saturday, December 7th, 9-10:30 a.m.,  
Room 004 (enter door #2)

Mamas, you are welcome to attend our next Saturday morning Mom's Group! If you haven't joined us yet, we'd love to meet you!

We meet 1st and 3rd Saturdays for a morning to pray, reflect, & connect with one another. Refreshments provided.

Childcare available—please RSVP to Jenna Salinas with number of kids (call/text (612) 201-4894)

### CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

There are two trees at the entrance of the church filled with tags listing the needs of fellow parishioners and area residents who are struggling to make ends meet.

#### HOW DOES THE GIVING TREE WORK?

Choose a tag from the tree, fill out and tear off the bottom half of the tag, and purchase a gift (typically \$25-30) using the list of ideas on the tag. Then bring your gift, concealed in a gift bag, to church with the tag attached to the outside of the bag. Please remember to attach the tag to the gift bag so that we are able to match the gift with the recipient.

#### WHEN/WHERE ARE THE GIFTS RETURNED?

Put your gift(s) under the trees at the entrance of the church by **Sunday, December 15th**. All gifts will be organized and delivered that week.

#### DONATIONS ACCEPTED

If you would like to donate a new gift or monetary donation to the Giving Tree, please contact the Parish Office or Jean Van Hecke at (612) 245-9252. We will use these gifts for supplementing individuals and families with extraordinary needs.

### SHARING THE JOY OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS!

### WE ARE STILL COLLECTING CANS

If you would like to drop off your cans, small bags can go in the bin outside of the can shed behind church. Large bags of cans can go on the ground next to the bin. Thanks.

## 22ND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK BAKE SALE

December 14th & 15th, St. Francis Hall, after the  
4:30, 8, and 10 Masses



All parishioners are asked to donate their favorite cookies, bars, breads, or candies. Treats can be dropped off starting at 3:15 p.m. Saturday. This is your opportunity to dazzle us with your baking abilities. Choose from hundreds of cookies and bars to build a custom tray of your favorites. Trays are weighed and priced at \$9/lb. These are the best Christmas goodies in town.

Hosted by Guardian Angels Council 19. This event is eligible for a matching grant from Catholic United Financial of up to \$1,000.

Local Rep.: Gary Hoke (952) 256-1627 or  
ghoke@catholicunited.org



### CANTORS FOR MASS

Have you ever thought about becoming a cantor? We are looking for new cantors for both Guardian Angels and Saint Nicholas. You will get trained in on how to lead the congregation in joyful praise to the Lord!

For more information or to sign up, contact Brittany Kaufmann at bkaufmann@gachaska.org.

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**The Church of the Guardian Angels**

**All-Parish Reconciliation**

**Sunday, December 8th at 4:00 PM**

**Prepare the Way of the Lord!**



## **Examination of Conscience**

Do I believe in God and have faith in God? Do I pray? When I pray, do I really raise my heart and mind to God or is it a matter of words only? Do I turn to God in times of temptation?

Do I love God above all things or do I love other things more such as money, popularity or success?

Have I love and reverence for God's name? Have I offended him by using profanity?

Do I keep Sundays and other Holy Days of Obligation holy by attending mass and giving the Mass my full attention?

Do I have love and respect for my co-workers, members of my own family, my classmates, and my friends? Or have I done to them what I would not want done to myself?

Do I honor my mother and father? Have I shown them respect? Do I trust them?

Am I concerned for others, or do I spend my life caring only for myself? Do I look down on my neighbor thinking that I am better than they are, especially the poor, the sick, the elderly, strangers, and people of other races?

Have I maintained a spirit of charity toward others? Or have I done violence to others by fighting, quarreling or insults?

Have I kept my senses and my whole body pure and chaste. Or have I dishonored my body by engaging sexual actions with others or giving in to unworthy thoughts and desires? Have I read books or watched movies or shows that are offensive?

Have I stolen the property of others?

Have I been truthful and fair, or have I harmed others by not telling the truth, by criticizing them behind their back, by gossip, or making fun of them.

Have I been content with what God has given me? Or have I been jealous of another person's belongings, gifts or talents?

If I have been injured, have I been ready to make peace for the love of Christ and to forgive, or do I harbor hatred and the desire for revenge?

Have I used my time well in order to be the person God wants me to be? Or have I been lazy and reluctant to do what I know I should?

# A Jubilee Year Begins!

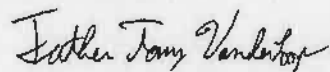
Dear Friends in Christ,

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has declared 2025 (the 2,025<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Incarnation of our Lord) to be a Jubilee Year of Hope. As Advent begins, rekindling our hope is a great and appropriate theme for our churches of Guardian Angels and Saint Nicholas. Our pope calls this an “event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church.” Pope Francis stated in his letter announcing the Jubilee 2025: “We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire...”

Advent teaches us to hope in a person who, out of love for us, was born among us -- our Savior Jesus Christ, the King. We hear in Advent of the people of the Old Testament who had the courage to hope for big things: that the desert would be turned into fertile land; that the blind would see, the deaf hear and the lame walk; that their scattered and divided people would eventually be gathered again and united in the blessings of everlasting peace. We celebrate and ponder the Blessed Virgin Mary who never failed to hope in the words of Angel Gabriel to her. We hope with Joseph, with John the Baptist, with Simeon and Anna, with Elizabeth and Zechariah, in recognizing the presence of our Savior in the world.

This Advent, we will dare to hope for big things for our parish and its revitalization as we continue our expectant prayer and worship, continue our participation in small groups, and dream of a new Catholic pre-school. We will imagine the possibilities of new ways that the Lord will come to us personally as we build a community of faith. But we acknowledge that this hope is only possible by our repentance, our alertness to his daily presence, and our faithfulness that Mary and Joseph show us so profoundly. He is Emmanuel – God with Us – God who searches and hopes for us to receive Him in the Holy Eucharist at Mass. Let His search for you be successful. Come to Mass this Advent and Christmas season to meet the one who truly fulfills our hope. May God bless you and your family this Advent and Christmas!

Yours in Christ,



Father Tony VanderLoop  
Pastor

## Advent and Christmas Schedule 2024-2025

Advent Penance Service	4:00 PM	Sunday, December 8th	@ Guardian Angels
Masses of The Immaculate Conception (English)	9:00 AM	Monday, December 9 <sup>th</sup>	@ Guardian Angels
(Spanish)	7:00 PM	Monday, December 9 <sup>th</sup>	@ Guardian Angels
Mass of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Spanish)	7:00 PM	Thursday, December 12 <sup>th</sup>	@ Guardian Angels
Masses of the Nativity of our Lord (English)	4:00 PM	Tuesday, December 24 <sup>th</sup>	@ Guardian Angels
(English)	10:00 PM	Tuesday, December 24 <sup>th</sup>	@ Guardian Angels
(English)	9:00 AM	Wednesday, December 25 <sup>th</sup>	@ Guardian Angels
(English)	9:00 AM	Wednesday, December 25 <sup>th</sup>	@ Saint Nicholas
(Spanish)	11:00 AM	Wednesday, December 25 <sup>th</sup>	@ Guardian Angels
Masses of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph		December 28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> , Regular Sat. and Sun. schedule	
Mass of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Spanish)	6:30 PM	Tuesday, December 31 <sup>st</sup>	@ Guardian Angels
(English)	9:00 AM	Wednesday, January 1 <sup>st</sup>	@ Guardian Angels
Masses of the Epiphany of Our Lord		January 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> , Regular Sat. and Sun. schedule	
Masses of the Baptism of the Lord		January 11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> , Regular Sat. and Sun. schedule	



# Year-End Giving

Are you reviewing your year-end charitable contributions?

Please consider Guardian Angels or Saint Nicholas!

Donate your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) directly from your IRA and receive tax benefits! Your distribution to GA will not be considered income to you.


Or you can donate gifts of mutual funds. (Should be initiated by December 6<sup>th</sup>.)

Or you can donate gifts of stock. (Should be initiated by December 13<sup>th</sup>.)

The tax benefit of giving from your mutual funds or stock is you don't pay taxes on the gains you may have plus you get a charitable tax deduction for the full amount of what you gave.

Please contact business administrator, Joel Swanson, if you have any questions.

952-227-4001 or [jswanson@gachaska.org](mailto:jswanson@gachaska.org)



“In the quiet corners of service, women and men religious have dedicated their lives to others. Your donations help us honor their lifelong devotion with the care they so richly deserve.”

Sister Olivia Bellegante, OSF, 92, center

# Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

**Our aging religious need your help.** Like those pictured here, more than 24,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated their lives to service—praying, teaching, and caring for those in need—usually, for little to no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your donation is crucial and can help bridge this gap, providing critical support for their essential care, medicine, and daily needs. Please give back to those who have given a lifetime.

From left:  
Father Maury Smith, OFM, 87;  
Sister Olivia Bellegante, OSF, 92;  
Sister M. Stephanie Belgeri, FSGM, 72.  
Visit [retiredreligious.org/2024photos](https://retiredreligious.org/2024photos)  
to meet the religious pictured.

[retiredreligious.org](https://retiredreligious.org)

**To give at your parish:** Make your check payable to your parish. (Write RFR on the memo line.)

**To donate by mail:** Make your check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious. Please do not mail cash.

Amount:  \$1,000  \$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  \$25  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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“En los rincones tranquilos de su servicio, las religiosas y los religiosos se han dedicado a los demás. Sus donativos nos ayudan a honrar la dedicación de toda una vida con el cuidado que tanto merecen”.

Hermana Olivia Bellegante, OSF, 92, *centro*

# Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos

## Done a los que donaron su vida.

### Las religiosas y los religiosos ancianos necesitan de ustedes.

Al igual que estos, casi 24,000 hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes de órdenes religiosas ancianos se han dedicado a servirnos: rezando, enseñando y cuidando a los necesitados por poco o ningún pago. Hoy, las comunidades religiosas carecen de ahorros suficientes para la jubilación. Los donativos de ustedes son cruciales y llenarán este vacío proveyendo apoyo crítico para cuidados esenciales, medicamentos y necesidades diarias. Devuélvale a aquellos que dieron toda una vida.

Desde la izq.:

Padre Maury Smith, OFM, 87;

Hermana Olivia Bellegante, OSF, 92;

Hermana M. Stephanie Belgeri, FSGM, 72.

Visite [retiredreligious.org/2024photos](https://retiredreligious.org/2024photos) para conocer a estos religiosos fotografiados.

[retiredreligious.org](https://retiredreligious.org)

**Para entregarlo a su parroquia:** Haga su cheque pagadero a su parroquia. (Escriba RFR en la línea del memo.)

**Para donar por correo:** Haga su cheque pagadero a Retirement Fund for Religious. No envíe efectivo.

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