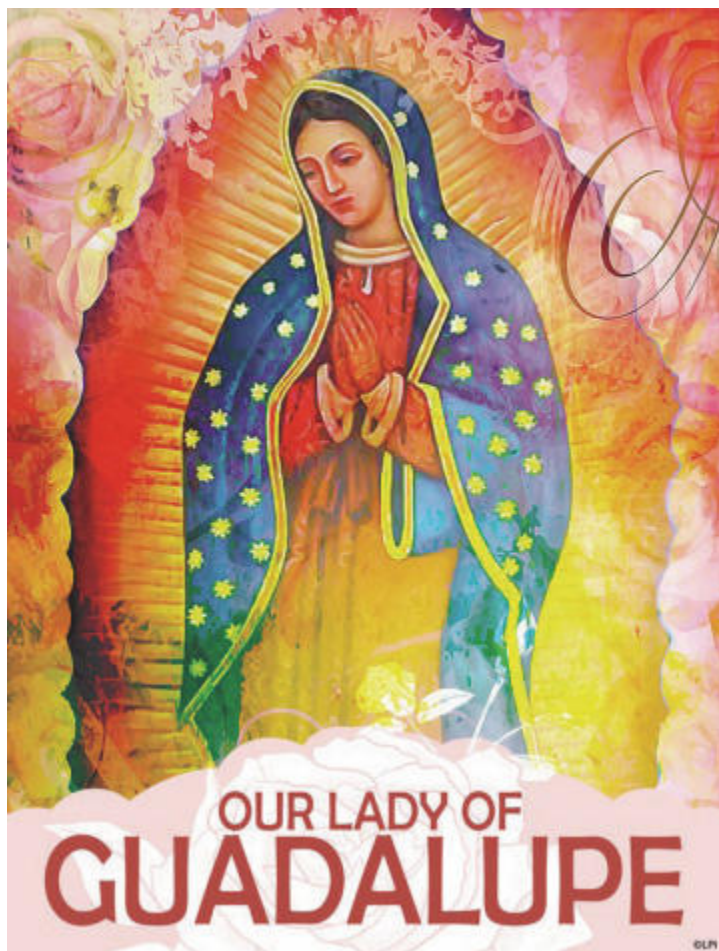


Stay Connected

December 8, 2019



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



Mass Times

Monday - Friday: 6:30 AM

Monday - Saturday: 8:30 AM

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:30 PM

Sunday:

6:30, 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 AM | 12:30 & 6:00 PM

Holy Days of Obligation

Vigil Mass: 5:30 PM

Holy Day Masses: 6:30 & 8:30 AM | 12:10 & 5:30 PM

Confessions

Saturday: 9:00 AM & 3:00 PM

Adoration Chapel is open 24/7

*4401 Highcrest Rd., Rockford, Illinois
61107 815-398-4280*

*Office Hours: Monday through Friday
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM*

Building Community • Making Disciples

Rev. Phillip A. Kaim, Pastor
pkaim@rockforddiocese.org

Rev. Robert Blood, Parochial Vicar
rblood@rockforddiocese.org

Rev. Kenneth Wasilewski, in residence

Deacon Jason Stewart & Deacon Frank Zammuto

In this issue:

- Newest Disciples of Christ, p. 3
- Festival of Lights, p.5
- Advent by Candlelight pics, p. 6

Formed.org—parish code bb85df | info@holyfamilyrockford.org | St. Vincent de Paul 815-986-5825
Teresa Field, Parish Nurse 815-298-8138

From the Desk of Fr. Kaim

Hospitality at Christmas

Be thinking of what you can do to be more hospitable for our guests this Christmas. I mention some ideas in my homily this weekend, but that list is far from exhaustive. As one in the pews, you probably have ideas you have thought of, or maybe you have been on the receiving end of some gracious hospitality in the past that you think might be worth replicating on a grand scale. Don't hesitate to email me with your ideas. And keep in mind the bigger picture in all this—it's all a part of the "New Evangelization" and reaching out to those beyond our more dedicated members and expanding the saving message of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. It's a responsibility Jesus has tasked ALL of us with and is part and parcel of our responsibilities when we were baptized into this awesome Catholic faith of ours.

Our Lady of Guadalupe... some amazing facts

As I mentioned when I got back from my travels with 25 parishioners to Mexico, I would wait to share some facts about this continuous miracle that anyone can see known as the *tilma* of Our Lady of Guadalupe. And it is a continuous miracle! With her feast day this week on Thursday, I thought this would be a good time to mention some of those amazing facts:

- Made primarily of cactus fibers, a *tilma* was typically of very poor quality and had a rough surface, making it difficult enough to wear, much less to paint a lasting image on it. Nevertheless, the image remains, some 500 years later and scientists who have studied the image insist there was no technique used beforehand to treat the surface. The surface bearing the image is reportedly like silk to the touch, while the unused portion of the *tilma* remains coarse. What's more, experts in infrared photography, studying the *tilma* in the late 1970s, determined that there were no brush strokes, as if the image was slapped onto the surface all at once.
- Adolfo Orozco, a physicist at the National University of Mexico, spoke in 2009 about the remarkable preservation of the *tilma* compared to its numerous copies. One copy created in 1789 was painted on a similar surface with the best techniques available at the time, then encased in glass and stored next to the actual *tilma*. It looked beautiful when painted, but not eight years passed before the hot and humid climate of Mexico caused the duplicate to fade and fray. It was discarded. However, Orozco said, no scientific explanation is

possible for the fact that, "the original *tilma* was exposed for approximately 116 years without any kind of protection, receiving all the infrared and ultraviolet radiation from the tens of thousands of candles near it and exposed to the humid and salty air around the temple."

- An astronomical study of the star pattern on the *tilma* was performed and found that the stars on Mary's mantle align with those seen in the Mexican sky at the exact longitude and latitude of Tepeyac Hill in the winter morning solstice of December 12, 1531 at 10:26 AM, which corresponds exactly to the date and time traditionally given for the apparition.
- In 1979, when Philip Callahan, a Florida biophysicist at the University of Florida was analyzing the *tilma* using infrared technology, he apparently also discovered that the *tilma* maintains a constant temperature of 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit, the same as that of a living person!
- In 1785, a worker was cleaning the glass encasement of the image when he accidentally spilled strong nitric acid solvent onto a large portion of the image itself. The image and the rest of the *tilma*, which should have been eaten away almost instantly by the spill, reportedly self-restored over the next 30 days, and it remains unscathed to this day, aside from small stains on the parts not bearing the image.
- In 1921, an anti-clerical activist hid a bomb containing 29 sticks of dynamite in a pot of roses and placed it before the image inside the Basilica at Guadalupe. When the bomb exploded, the marble altar rail and windows 150 feet shattered. A brass crucifix was twisted and bent out of shape. But the *tilma* and its glass case remained fully intact!

One can see why it's such an important part of their culture. Some Mexicans will joke that they're 90 percent Catholic but 100 percent Guadalupan. While the numbers aren't entirely accurate, it is definitely the case that historically the Virgin of Guadalupe has been a constituent part of Mexican national identity, reflected in the fact that millions of both women and men are named Guadalupe, many going by the nickname "Lupe." Our Lady of Guadalupe... pray for us!

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam,

Fr. Kaim, S.T.L.

This Week:

Campaign Corner

The new parking lot is now open! Please use the blacktopped path to enter into the side door of the church.

Brick work is being finished, and the roof work will begin for the temporary entrance. The temporary entrance will be located at the Hospitality room. The target date for this new entrance is **December 18**.



Please Welcome our newest disciples of Christ

Alessia Antonia Altamore
Daughter of Agostino and Ashley

Logan James Johnson
Son of Steven and Nicole

Sadie Nicole Derry
Daughter of Dan and Stephanie

Lydia Lind Heidemann
Daughter of Bryan and Annie
(Pictured below)



Nicole Gentile
Florian Guski
Manuelito Suarez
Moira O'Sullivan
Ronald and Jane Picht

Morning Coffee with the Women's Guild

On December 31, after 8:30 AM Mass, we meet at Mary's Market in the Edgebrook Center. This is strictly a social hour that gives us a chance to solve the world's problems and get to know each other a little better. Members, if it's your birthday month, the coffee is on us! A typical month will find 10-20 of us in attendance. Come join us!

THE LADIES AUXILIARY

The Ladies Auxiliary will have their annual Christmas party on Wednesday, December 11 at 7 PM in the St. Joseph Room in the lower level of the church. Every one is asked to bring a treat and a new gift worth a minimum of \$10.00. The gift should be wrapped, but put no name on it. Come and have a good time!

Holy Family Seniors Lunch Group

We will meet **Wednesday, December 11, at 12:15 PM**, at **Capri Pizza, 313 East State Street, Rockford, IL**. All are welcome! Please contact Gary at 815-541-6549 for reservations.



Mass Intentions

Monday, December 9, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 6:30 +Bea Mutz
 8:30 +Fr. Gerard Christianson

Tuesday, December 10, Advent Weekday
 6:30 ++Dale & Florence Zeal
 8:30 +Jim King
 +Eleanor Messersmith

Wednesday, December 11, Advent Weekday
 6:30 +++Leo Serio, Jane Bier, & Marsha Worth
 8:30 +Vic Giovingo
 ++Tony & Fran Castrogiovanni

Thursday, December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe
 6:30 Int. of Geno Marsili
 8:30 ++Dr. & Mrs. Kurt Kalweit
 +Emma Stieglitz

First Friday, December 13, St Lucy
 6:30 +Vern Sympson
 8:30 +Billy Long

First Saturday, December 14, St. John of the Cross
 8:30 ++David Gonzalez & John Hojnacki

Third Sunday of Advent
 4:30 +Arnold Hintzman
 +Filomena Pierri

Sunday, December 15, Third Sunday of Advent
 6:30 +Fr. Edward Seisser
 8:00 +Goble & Kelly Families
 9:30 +Frank Jefko, Jr.
 11:00 +Mary Cunningham
 +Mike Pinter
 12:30 +Danny Blackler
 6:00 For the People of Holy Family

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Holy Family School
 Cori Gendron, Principal
 cgendron@holyfamilyrockford.org



HOLIDAY
Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve
 4:00 PM-Church
 4:15 PM-Meilinger Gym
 6:00 PM-Church
 9:30 PM—Carols and Anthems
 10:00 PM Mass-Church

Christmas Day
 7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 AM

EVENTS December

Sat./Sun., Dec. 7-8	Poinsettia Sales	After All Masses
Tuesday, Dec. 10	St. Peregrine Cancer Support Group -- Presence Cor Mariae	2:00 PM
Wednesday, Dec. 11	BAM Birthday's after Mass	After 8:30 AM Mass
	Seniors Lunch Group	12:15 PM
Saturday, Dec. 14	Movie Night— <i>The Star</i>	After the 4:30 PM Mass
Sunday, Dec. 15	Knights of Columbus Breakfast with Santa	8:00 –11:00 AM
Thursday, Dec. 19	Christmas with the Guild Open House	5:00 – 7:00 PM
	St. Peregrine Cancer Support Group –Tavern on Clark	11:00 –2:00 PM
Monday, Dec. 23	Advent Confessions	5:30-6:30 PM
Tuesday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Masses	4:00, 4:15 (Gym), 6:00 & 10:00 PM
Wednesday, Dec. 25	Christmas Day Masses	7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 AM
Thursday, Dec. 26	NO 6:30 AM Mass	
Sat./Sun., Dec 28/29	Food Collection	After all Masses
Tuesday, Dec. 31	Women's Guild Coffee at Mary's Market	9:00 AM

The Knights of Columbus would like to thank everyone who donated to our coats for kids drive. We are overwhelmed by your generosity. There were 170 coats collected along with hats, gloves, scarfs, boots, etc.



Festival of Lights at Sinnissippi Park
Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings
11/29 through 12/29
5-11 PM
The lights will be on display all evening on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day and again from 5 PM - 12 AM on 12/31.
There is no charge for admission, but free-will offerings are accepted.



Join us
Sunday, December 15 from
8 AM until 11 AM for the
Knights of Columbus
Breakfast with Santa
Pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee and juice!!

Movie Night!
December 14, 2019
After the 4:30 PM Mass, head on down to the Family Room for a lite dinner and movie night.
This is a great way to celebrate the upcoming birth of Our Savior Jesus and be together as a family and a community. Bring your lawn chairs, sleeping bags, blankets, and pillows so you can get comfy for the show.





ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

We had a lovely evening with approximately 200 women celebrating friendship and their love for Jesus at our 3rd annual Advent celebration.

This event's speaker was Ellie Nelson, DRE at St. Margaret Mary parish in Algonquin, and her theme was, *Jesus Comes in the Unexpected*.

By popular demand, here is the ***Cheesy Carrots*** recipe served at Advent by Candlelight:

- 2 pounds big carrots, peeled and cut into thirds.
- 10 ounces of sharp cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 large white onion, chopped
- Salt and pepper
- 2 pats of butter (optional, but adds a bit of moisture).

Boil the carrots for 20 minutes. Drain and run under cool water until you can handle them. Grate the carrots with a cheese grater or food processor with the grating tool. Put in large bowl. Mix everything together and place in shallow dish. Bake at 350°F for 35 to 40 minutes. Enjoy!



Thanks to Eagle Scout Danny Summers for completing his Eagle Scout project, The Path to Adoration. This was an inspiration from the

Catholic Committee that Fr. Edward Seisser put together during his time here at Holy Family. Danny felt it was important to bring Fr. Edward's plans to fruition. We are very proud of Danny and the scouts that helped him accomplish his goal.



The path was recently blessed in a brief ceremony.

BAM

Join the Birthdays After Mass group on **Wednesday December 11, 2019, after the 8:30 AM Mass** for coffee, donuts, and fellowship to celebrate all our December birthdays. Who knows, Jesus might even show up!!!!!!

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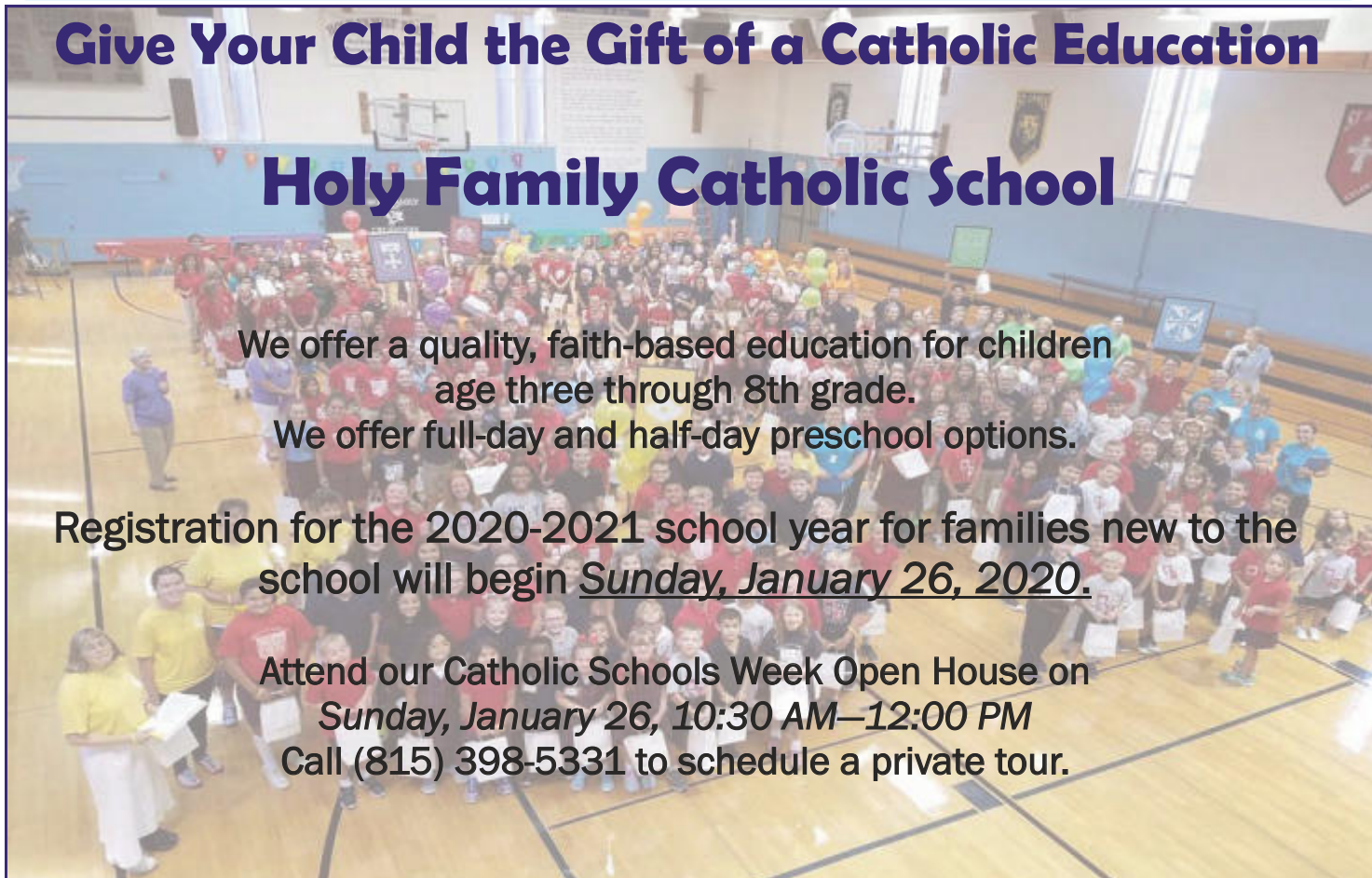
We offer a quality, faith-based education for children age three through 8th grade.

We offer full-day and half-day preschool options.

Registration for the 2020-2021 school year for families new to the school will begin Sunday, January 26, 2020.

Attend our Catholic Schools Week Open House on Sunday, January 26, 10:30 AM–12:00 PM

Call (815) 398-5331 to schedule a private tour.





GOD BLESS YOU ALL!!

Thank you to all the hardworking volunteers, the very generous people that gave monetary donations, and the wonderful, talented bakers that made this bake/craft sale a huge success!

It takes many hands and people working together to achieve this kind of accomplishment for the **St Peregrine Cancer Support Group.**

We are truly blessed. Our final count was **\$2,702.46!**

THE GIVING TREE PROGRAM

Our Giving Tree Program is ready to help those in need for the 2019 Christmas Season!

***Just a reminder that all Giving Tree packages are due this weekend. If you ordered something online and it hasn't arrived, or there is a problem with this deadline, please contact Cindy Stewart at the Parish Center (1-815-398-4280) or Mary Jo Keffer (1-815-877-8856).**

***Please print your name and phone number on the lower portion of the tag, tear it off at the perforated edge, and put it in the box near the trees. THIS IS FOR PARISH USE ONLY. The gift recipients will NOT see this information.**

We are also looking for \$25 gift cards from local stores (Aldi, Save-A-Lot, Walmart, Woodman's, and Dollar Tree) to help offset or provide a Christmas dinner for a family in need. Mobil gas cards are also appreciated.

Woodman's and Walmart gift cards are available in the Harte Center Office, or you may drop off your \$25 check in the collection basket with Giving Tree written on the envelope and we will take care of it for you!

Donate these items on one or more of the following weekends:

- * **December 7/8**.....Household cleaning supplies, toilet paper, paper towels
- * **December 14/15**.....Disposable paper plates, bowls, & utensils

All items will be distributed to Catholic Charities, St. Elizabeth Center, Carpenters Place and St. Vincent de Paul Society to individuals in need.

Thank you for your generosity to those who are less fortunate!



-Help Needed- On Monday morning, December 9, following the 8:30 AM Mass, we will be sorting items from the Giving Tree. If you have 20-30 minutes to spare, we could use your help in the vestibule sorting and packaging these items. Thank you!

Help support our students going to summer camp, June 9-12, 2020!

YOUTH MINISTRY JEWELRY FUNDRAISER

DECEMBER 7-8 & 14-15 in the back of church after all the Masses!



Holy Family Catholic Church
St Peregrine Cancer Support Group

December 10th 2:00 PM
 Presence Cor Mariae Center
 3330 Maria Linden Rd, Rockford

We will be sharing Christmas cards and having punch and cookies with the residents of Cor Mariae. Our first year was such a blessing, we decided to do it again!

The residents are lovely people. It was a joy to all of us to be able to spend some quality Christmas time together. The stories that we all shared brought back such happy memories of years gone by.

Won't you join us in sharing your treasured stories with those who no longer have families to share them with? I promise that you will walk away knowing the true meaning of Christmas.

Contact Dixie at 815-988-2830 to RSVP and with any questions.

RESPECT LIFE

respect · love · protect

“When others challenge our faith, may we not fear to stand up for the truth. Give us Courage Lord.” November Magnificat

Tiny Wire helps world's smallest boy survive - Dave Mantey, www.thomasnet.com, “When Ryuskuke Sekino was born at 24 weeks and five days of gestation, he weighed only 9 ounces and was only 8.7” long. His blood vessels were thinner than a needle. Sandvik, a materials engineering company, develops ultra-fine wire for medical applications and they were able to provide the specific fine wire for Baby Sekino’s special ventilator. The wire helped detect diaphragm activity and deliver breaths simultaneously with Sekino’s respiratory drive. After five months in the hospital, his parents were able to take him home. He weighed a healthy 7.4 pounds. (<https://tinyurl.com/wj23ojj>)

Pro-lifer arrested outside Aurora Planned Parenthood; police refuse to specify alleged broken law - Calvin Freiburger, www.lifesitenews.com, “[November 16, 2019] police officers arrested a pro-life activist for standing in front of the entrance to the PP parking lot even though no vehicles were ever blocked from entering. Officers refused to explain what ordinance or law was broken. **Sadly, shortly after this incident, an ambulance arrived for a woman who suffered a botched abortion.**” (<https://tinyurl.com/tpnd2wq>)

California declares Catholic charity that helps women escape from sex trafficking as offensive because of the charity’s Catholic beliefs - LifeSiteNews staff, www.lifesitenews.com, “California’s Department of Social Services regulates the state’s foster care system. It is refusing to issue a license to Children of the Immaculate Heart (CIH) to open *Refuge*, a residential treatment home for sex-trafficked teen girls because CIH refuses to sacrifice its religious beliefs and to promote LGBTQ events, drive residents to get abortions, and inject children with transgender hormone medications. No one in their community has ever complained that the charity’s Catholic mission was discriminatory or coercive. (<https://tinyurl.com/s8aq626>)

Democrat Attorneys General Association Announces They WILL NOT SUPPORT PRO-LIFE CANDIDATES - Cassy Fiano-Chesser, www.liveaction.org, “Pro-life Democrats have been made to feel increasingly unwelcome in their own party. In the upcoming 2020 elections, 12 attorneys general seats are up for grabs. The DAGA, with support from Planned Parenthood, will only support pro-abortion candidates. The 20% of pro-life Democrats are finding it increasingly difficult to find a place for themselves in their own party. (<https://tinyurl.com/wly4uux>)





ST PEREGRINE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

**DECEMBER 19, 2019, 11:00-2:00 PM
TAVERN ON CLARK, 755 Clark Dr.
Rockford**

Please join us as we celebrate our annual Christmas luncheon (food cost is on your own). Guests are welcome and encouraged to come.

Bring a "White Elephant" gift, if you would like to participate.

Have you ever wondered what we are all about? Now's your chance to see what a fun group we are! You are welcome to "join our family" of accepting, caring, and absolutely wonderful men and women.

God is our strength, through him all things are possible.

Please **RSVP** by December 11, to Dixie at 815-988-2830

NOTE: This is no meeting at the church on this date

Women's Guild

**DON'T MISS OUR
CHRISTMAS WITH THE GUILD
OPEN HOUSE**

**Thursday, December 19, 5:00 to 7:30 PM
at Siena on Brendenwood.**

We will have our White Elephant gift exchange again this year. If you want to participate, bring a small gift. (A White Elephant is a re-gifted item you don't use or want!)

Beverages, appetizers, and desserts will be provided.

Come, enjoy, and celebrate the Christmas season!

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