

SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish

St. James at Sag Bridge Mission

Parish Staff

Pastoral Ministry

Rev. Waldemar "Valdi"
Stawiarski
Pastor

Rev. Thomas Koys
Associate Pastor

Education

Shirley Tkachuk
Parish School Principal

Monika Leja
R.E. Administrator

Roxana Boyden
R.E. Administrative Assistant

Liturgy

Trish Nickleski
Liturgy Coordinator

Music Ministry

Mirosława Sojka-Topor
Music Director

Administration

Denise Duda
Operations Director

Lynn Bailey

Ann Noonan

Assistant Business Managers

Monika Bochenek, Debbie Grand
Peggy Sniegowski, Ann Noonan
Parish Secretaries

Nicole O'Hare
Bulletin Editor

Coleen Mast
Evangelization Coordinator

Bernice Raj
Cook/Housekeeper

Ryszard Witkowski
Paul Siro
Maintenance



January 7, 2024

The Epiphany of The Lord



Our Parish Mission Statement

We are a family of faith, entrusted with the gospel message of Jesus Christ. Rooted in a rich tradition of worship, service and prayer, we foster the unity and faith of this community. Enlivened by the Spirit, we share our gifts, talents and resources to bring about the Kingdom of God.

The Parish Staff of St. Cyril's and St. James welcomes all to our historic parishes that have carried on the mission of Jesus Christ.

Parish Information		Minister of Music:	Mira Sojka-Topor musicmin@stcyril.org (630) 257-2776
Parish Office:	608 Sobieski Street, Lemont, IL Denise Duda, Operations Director (630) 257-2776; (630) 257-9372 Fax rectory@stcyril.org website: www.stcyril.org www.facebook.com/SSCMLemont	Polish School:	www.polschool.com Halina Szyrzyna Principal: (630) 669-9058
School:	607 Sobieski Street, Lemont, IL Shirley Tkachuk, Principal (630) 257-6488; shirleyt@stcyril.org	Polish Club:	John Lichacz, President (773) 216-1108 polishclub@stcyril.org
Religious Education:	Monika Leja, Religious Education Administrator (630) 257-9314; mleja@sscmlemont.org	Minister of Care:	Dave Smietanski (630) 257-2776
Mass Schedule:		Parish Council:	Joe Martello, President
Monday thru Saturday: 7:00 AM		Bulletin:	bulletin@stcyril.org
Saturday: 5:00 PM Sunday Obligation		Helping Hands:	helpinghands@stcyril.org
Sunday: 7:00 AM (English-No Music), 8:00 AM (Polish), 9:30 AM (English), 11:00 AM (Polish), 12:30 PM (English), 2:00 PM (Polish), 7:30 PM (English-No Music)		New Parishioners: Download the new parishioner form online on our website. The form can be handed into the donation basket at Mass, mailed in, or brought into the parish office	
Special Masses:		Baptisms: Parents need to be registered, active and supporting parishioners prior to arranging a baptism at St. Cyril's. If this is a firstborn child, the parents are required to attend a Pre-Baptismal Preparation Class. Both sponsors should be adults and one an active, practicing Catholic.	
Tuesday PM: devotions at 7 PM, 7:45 PM (Polish)		Marriage: The bride and groom are encouraged to be registered, active, contributing parishioners of SS. Cyril & Methodius. Arrangements are to be made with a priest or deacon as soon as possible. A Marriage Preparation Program is a requirement of the Archdiocese. To schedule a wedding, please contact the parish office.	
First Friday: 7:00 AM (English), 7:00 PM (Polish)		Social Media: In an effort to enhance communication with our parishioners and visitors, please visit these websites to stay better connected with the many events and ministries of our parish.	
First Saturday: devotions at 7 PM (Polish), 9:00 PM (Polish)		Parish Website: www.stcyril.org	
Holy Days of Obligation: As announced		School Website: www.school.stcyril.org	
Sacrament of Reconciliation:		Parish Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/SSCMLemont	
Saturday: 4:00 - 4:30 PM		School Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/SSCMComets	
First Fridays: 6:00 - 7:00 PM			
Also available by appointment.			
Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick:			
Following the Monday morning 7:00 AM Mass			
Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration:			
Located in the Divine Mercy Chapel in the Parish Life Building. Please contact: Lottie (630) 4442-9441, Mark (773) 727-7934, Margaret mtsniesz@gmail.com			
Parish Office Hours: Each weekday the office will be closed between the hours of 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM.			
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday			
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM			
Tuesday			
9:00 AM to 8:00 PM			
Friday			
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM			
Saturday & Sunday			
Closed			



**From the desk of Father Koys
Dear Parishioners,**

Many years ago, Al Capone virtually owned Chicago. He had a lawyer nicknamed "Easy Eddie." He was Capone's lawyer for a good reason. Eddie was very good! In fact, Eddie's skill at legal maneuvering kept Big Al out of jail for a long time. To show his appreciation, Capone paid him very well. He and his family occupied a fenced-in mansion with all of the conveniences of the day. Eddie lived the high life of the Chicago mob and gave little consideration to the atrocity that went on around him. Eddie did have one soft spot, however. He had a son that he loved dearly. Despite his involvement with organized crime, Eddie even tried to teach him right from wrong. Eddie wanted his son to be a better man than he was. Yet, with all his wealth and influence, there were two things he couldn't give his son; he couldn't pass on a good name or a good example. One day, Easy Eddie reached a difficult decision. He decided he would go to the authorities and tell the truth about Al "Scarface" Capone, clean up his tarnished name, and offer his son some semblance of integrity. To do this, he would have to testify against The Mob, and he knew that the cost would be great but did it anyway. Within the year, Easy Eddie's life ended in a blaze of gunfire on a lonely Chicago Street. But in his eyes, he had given his son the greatest gift he had to offer, at the greatest price he could ever pay. Police removed from his pockets a rosary, a crucifix, a religious medallion, and a clipping from a magazine. It read: "The clock of life is wound but once, and no man has the power to tell just when the hands will stop, at late or early hour. Now is the only time you own."

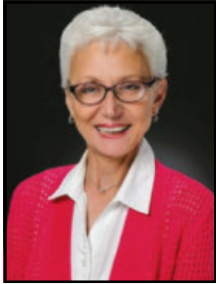
Fast forward a few years. Lieutenant Commander Butch O'Hare was a fighter pilot in the South Pacific. During a mission, he saw that he would not have enough fuel to get back to his ship. So, he dropped out of formation and headed back to the fleet. Then he encountered a squadron of Japanese aircraft heading toward the

American fleet. Laying aside all thoughts of personal safety, he dove into the formation of Japanese planes. Wing-mounted 50 caliber's blazed as he charged in, attacking one surprised enemy plane and then another. Butch wove in and out of the now broken formation and fired at as many planes as possible until all his ammunition was finally spent. Miraculously, Butch O'Hare made his way back to the carrier. This took place on February 20, 1942, and for that action Butch became the Navy's first Ace of W.W.II. A year later Butch was killed in aerial combat at the age of 29. There's a memorial at "his" airport between Terminals 1 and 2. So what do these two stories have to with each other? Well, Christ's birth changed history. This is a new year for you and me so to help you make some good New Year's resolutions, I thought you should know that Butch O'Hare was "Easy Eddie's" son.

Fr Thomas Koys, M.A., S.T.L.

And now a few things the Parish wants you to know:

- A new year means tax time! If you would like a print out of your contributions from last year, see the bulletin for the form to fill out and send to the office.
- This Sunday, January 7th, is the Epiphany of The Lord. Please pick up a piece of blessed chalk in the back of church to use to bless your home. Instructions are in the bulletin.
- Thank you to all who participated in helping us to celebrate our Christmas Masses. Thank you to the many volunteers for decorating our church inside and out so beautifully. Thank you to Mira and the choir for providing the great music. Thank you to the Ushers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Servers for your help. Thank you to Father Koys, and the entire parish staff for your work during Christmas and all year. Also, thank you parishioners for helping to keep the spirit of Christmas alive.



SS. Cyril & Methodius School "Strength for the Journey"

SS. Cyril & Methodius School 2019 National Blue Ribbon School

Dear Parishioners,

Happy 2024 from SS. Cyril and Methodius School! May this new year be filled with good health and happiness for all!!

Our students and staff are finishing up their Christmas vacation, and we will return to school on Monday, January 8th.

Please mark you calendars and plan on joining us at the 10:30 Mass on Sunday, January 28th as we begin our annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week. This will be followed by our Open House and Social immediately following the mass. School tours for prospective new families along with the chance to meet the staff will be available until 1:30PM. Please stop in, visit our National Blue Ribbon School, and hear about all we have to offer! SS. Cyril and Methodius School also offers tuition assistance.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Shirley A. Tkachuk
Principal

It is not too early to begin thinking about the 2024-2025 school year. If interested, please call our office at 630-257-6488. We can arrange for a tour or shadow day along with sharing all necessary information. Come visit & see all we have to offer!



SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS SCHOOL
607 Sobieski Street • Lemont, IL 60439 • 630-257-6488

SSCM 2024 Annual Fundraiser Sponsorship

On Friday, January 26th, 2024, SS. Cyril & Methodius School will be hosting its annual fundraiser. Proceeds directly benefit student academic growth by providing funding for student enrichment programs, teacher development, advanced technology immersion and much more.

With over 135 school families, we are expecting great attendance from enthusiastic parents, parishioners, and community members.

SS. Cyril & Methodius School, Lemont, IL is part of the Archdiocese of Chicago, operating as a non-profit school for students in preschool through eighth grade. Our school has been a vital part of the Lemont community for over 130 years, continuing with a commitment to provide academic excellence and developing well-rounded leaders of character and integrity. SS. Cyril & Methodius is an investment in a lifetime, as we prepare our students to have a well-developed intellect, a virtuous character, a vibrant spirituality, and a heart for service.

Below is a donation/sponsorship form. We ask that if you are able to support our school, please have all donations in by **Monday, January 15th, 2024**.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Parent School Organization at psoc@sscyril.org or Marie LoCoco at 708-567-7475.

With Gratitude,
SS. Cyril & Methodius 2023-2024
Fundraising Committee

Thank You for your support! No act of generosity is too small to make a difference.



2024 ANNUAL SCHOOL FUNDRAISER SPONSORSHIP DONATION FORM

January 26, 2024

Company/Family Name _____ or () Anonymous
Contact Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

BLUE RIBBON SPONSOR: \$5,000

-Company Logo/Family Name inscribed on "Blue Ribbon Sponsor" wall plaque on our Blue Ribbon Wall in the lobby of school-
-In addition, your name will be featured on our sponsorship banner, ALL tables, will populate on Give Smart bidding page for event, and on our social media pages.
-Includes 6 event tickets

GOLD SPONSOR: \$2,500

-Company Logo/Family Name featured on cocktail bar
-In addition, your name will be featured on our sponsorship banner, will populate on Give Smart bidding page for event, and on our social media pages.
-Includes 4 event tickets

SILVER SPONSOR: \$1,000

-Company Logo/Family Name will be featured on our sponsorship banner, will populate on Give Smart bidding page for event, as well as on our social media pages.

-Includes 2 event tickets

BRONZE: \$500

-Company Logo/Family Name will be featured on our sponsorship banner, will populate on Give Smart bidding page for event: as well as on our social media pages.

-Includes 1 event ticket

TEACHER SPONSOR: \$100

Your generosity will pay for a teacher's ticket to attend the event. Company Logo/Family Name will appear on sponsorship banner at event

MONEY or GIFT CARD DONATION

Company Logo/Family Name will populate on bidding pages

\$250 \$100 Other \$ _____

SILENT AUCTION DONATION Please add description and value of item donated.

Signature of Contributor _____ Date _____

Please send your logo & any questions to PSO at PSO@sscyril.org or Marie LoCoco at 708-567-7475.
This signed form & logo must be received by January 15th, 2024.

Checks may be made out to: SS. Cyril & Methodius PSO, 607 Sobieski Street, Lemont, IL (Attn: SSCM PSO)
Please retain a copy of this form. This serves as your tax deductible receipt, in compliance with section 170 (f)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code. SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish School is recognized as a nonprofit organization by the IRS code: Section 501(c)(3) and has not provided goods or services in whole or partial consideration for this gift.



**SS Cyril & Methodius
Religious Education Program**
stcyrilre@sscmlemont.org
(630)257-9314
www.re.stcyril.org

Mrs Monika Leja – RE Administrator



Welcome back!!

**Religious Education
Classes Resume:**

Monday session 1/8/2024

**Wednesday session
1/10/2024**

Friday session 1/12/2024



Catechists are currently working on first semester report cards. Once their submissions are completed, the RE office will email report cards individually to the parent email on file. Report cards are expected to begin being emailed mid to late January.



**Sacrament of
Reconciliation
February 24, 2024**

**Sacrament of
Confirmation
March 23, 2024**

*Parents of 2nd and 8th grade students:
Thank you to those that have submitted their child's 2nd Grade Sacrament/Confirmation registration forms. If you have a 2nd or an 8th grader receiving a sacrament this year please visit our website www.re.stcyril.org to fill out the appropriate sacrament registration form for your child. Please refer to the email that was sent from the Faith Formation office last December with details regarding Reconciliation/ Communion or Confirmation. Contact the Faith Formation office if you have any questions regarding these upcoming sacraments. God Bless!*

St. James at Sag Bridge Mission

10600 S. Archer Avenue | Lemont, Illinois 60439-9344 | (Ph) 630.257.7000 |
Email: stjames1833@att.net | Website: www.historicstjames.org

Mass Schedule

WEEKENDS:

Sundays: 8:15am, 10:00am and 12:00pm (TLM)

WEEKDAYS:

Mon/Tues/Thurs/Sat 8:00am,
Wed 7pm, Fri 6pm

ADORATION:

Adoration on Wednesday 5-7pm.

CONFESSION SCHEDULE:

Wednesday 6:00pm & Saturday 8:30am.
Otherwise by appointment.

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & FUNERALS:

Contact the rectory office.

SICK & HOMEBOUND PASTORAL CARE:

Please notify rectory.

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:

Wed, Thu & Fri: 9:00am to 2:00pm.



Congratulations and many blessings to Logan Baum and Francesca D'Aversa who were married at St James on December 16.



We welcomed Zofia Skorusa as she was baptized on December 17. Her parents are Krzysztof and Paulina.

2024 FLOWER SIGNUP CHART:

Now available in the back of Church.

There are two flower arrangements per date & each bouquet is \$35.00.



Our Lady of Fatima Statue
You may host our beautiful statue for one week (Sun to Sun). Scan to sign up or go to historicstjames.org.



TOGETHER WE STAND FOR THE UNBORN

Roe v Wade was overturned, but the battle for life continues. You can make your voice heard at the Annual March for Life in Washington, DC. *Want to join the St James bus?* All required registration information is at historicstjames.org.



The Altar & Rosary Society will be holding its first meeting of the new year on Sat, Feb 10th at 9:30am in Sag Hall. Please join us for the recitation of the rosary, refreshments and fellowship. There will be no January meeting.



Isabella Green and her mom Kelly Blankenship were baptized into the Catholic Church on Christmas Eve. Congratulations & welcome!



Anchor @ St. James
Gatherings of Young Catholic Adults – most Sundays, 7-9pm in Sag Hall. Join our group for chat & updates.

For Young Ladies
We will offer a formation-
al program to enrich the
spiritual lives of St James'
young ladies age 7 thru
early teens. For more info
& to register, visit our
website or sign-up in back
of Church. First meeting:
Jan 8 at 4:30pm



Winter is here!

Can you help homeless men stay warm this winter?
Drop men's coats and blankets (in good condition)
in the box in Charlie's Chapel. (Sorry, no women's
or children's coats please.)

Ministry of Care

If you or a loved one is homebound & would
like to receive the Eucharist, please sign up
online or via paper form in Church, or
call Fr Koys or rectory.

Attention Young Married Couples



Follow this code & send a message
to Kamile to learn more about a
community for "recently" marrieds
to help navigate marriage while
keeping Christ at the center. Next
meeting: **Mon, Jan 15 at 7pm** at
St Cyril's Parish Life Building.

Wednesday, Jan 10

Adoration 5-7pm

Confessions 6-7pm Mass 7pm

Election Integrity has never been more vital.
Come learn the status of efforts to ensure
that we can protect our democracy.

*Jan 17 – Jim Anderson will share the story and
wonders of the Miraculous Medal*

Our Weekly Offering



Our weekly *Offertory* collection from
December 24, 2023 was \$3,676. Online
giving (Give Central) for regular and
maintenance collections totalled \$1,668.

Our weekly *Offertory* collection from
December 31, 2023 was \$4,106. Online
giving (Give Central) for regular and
maintenance collections totalled \$1,198.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!



Mass Intentions

Note: Please allow 2 weeks notice to book Mass intentions

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

8:00AM: ✠Marianne Koys
✠Elvia Solis
✠Joseph Szczech

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

8:00AM ✠Dr. Edward & ✠Joan Jaros
✠Elvia Solis

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

7:00PM ✠Elvia Solis
✠Louise Schweihs

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

8:00AM ✠Elvia Solis
✠Elizabeth Stanley

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

6:00PM ✠Elvia Solis
✠Arnida Jania
✠Mary Aiello

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

8:00AM ✠Elvia Solis
Birthday Health & Blessings—Joe Gal

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

8:15AM ✠Elvia Solis
Deceased Members of the Salmon Family
10AM: Blessings for Joe Gal
Health & Healing—Dariusz Klikuszowian
12:00PM: ✠Dr Bill Morrissey
Birthday Blessings—Bernice Raj

**Our beautiful bouquets of flowers surrounding
our altar were made available by:**

JANE HOPSON

AND

THE PARISHIONERS OF ST JAMES

VOTIVE OFFERINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 1/7/24

St. James Altar & Rosary Society
All the Poor Souls in Purgatory
United States of America

MASS	ALTAR SERVERS SUNDAY, JANUARY 14	
8:15am	Matthew Rebello, Alex Pawlikowski, Christos Latsonas, Christian Cozzi	
10am	Matthew Sullivan, Marty, John & Tommy Comer	



Lemont Area Catholic Newlyweds Group presents:

Seven Ways to Kill Your Marriage

(and 7 ways to grow your love)

Presented by Peter and Angela Colarelli

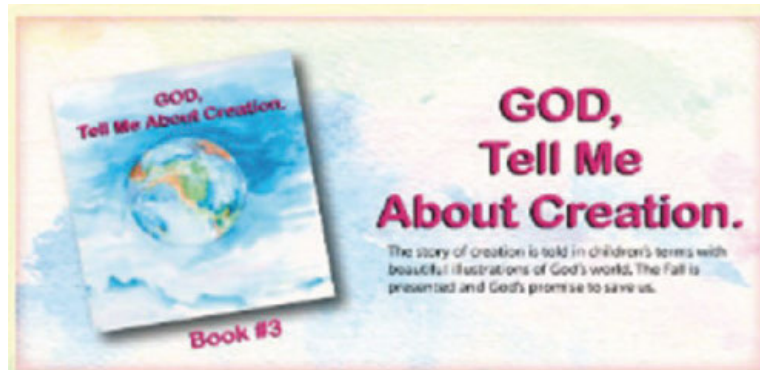
Monday, January 15, 2024

7-9 PM

**SS. Cyril and Methodius
Parish Life Building**

Free dinner included

RSVP to Mike at 708-446-8591 by 1/12



Little Catholics Book Club: Questions for God

*Parents with children newborn to
5 years old*

*Our parish "Little Catholics Book Club:
Questions for God" meets the 2nd Sunday of
the month in the SSCM parish life building
after 9:30 Mass. Join us as we have fun*

teaching the faith to our little ones, singing virtue nursery rhyme songs (such as "I Am Patient, I Can Wait") and making new friends with other parents.

What do we do?

- *Get your 10-book set of Questions for God Children's Books **
- *Read one book each day to your baby or child (babies still in the womb can even hear & learn)*
Our January book will be "God, Tell Me About Creation."
- *Join us January 14th at 10:30 AM in the SSCM Parish Life Building for food and fun.*

**Contact our parish Evangelization Coordinator, Coleen Mast, to sign up and receive your set of
"Questions for God" books. cmast@archchicago.org*

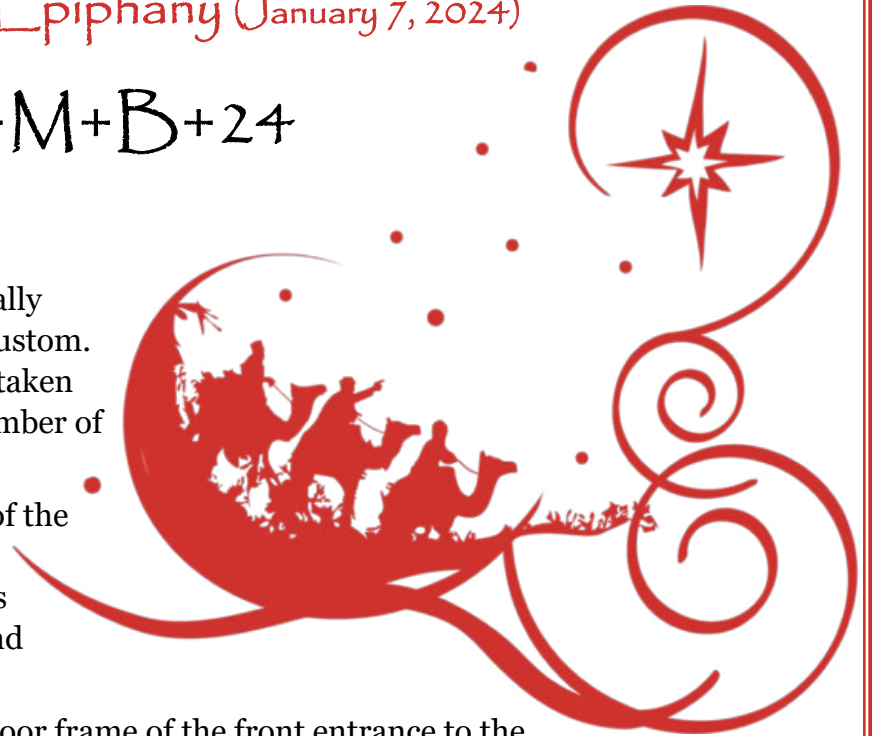
Bless Your Home on Epiphany (January 7, 2024)

20+C+M+B+24

The blessing of homes, using specially blessed chalk, is a popular Epiphany custom. The chalk is blessed at Mass and then taken home by families where the senior member of the household leads the blessing.

Chalk, a product of clay, symbolic of the human nature of Jesus, is used to make the inscription which reminds us that we have invited God's presence and blessing into our home.

The upper horizontal piece of the door frame of the front entrance to the home is inscribed with the Cross of Salvation, together with the indication of the year and the initials of the Three Wise Men. Their names were established in the eighth century and are traditionally remembered as Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, although these names are not found in Scripture. The inscription also stands for *Christus Monsionem Benedict*, which means "Christ, Bless this Home".



The popular form of the inscription is: 20+C+M+B+24

As the inscription is being made on the doorway the following prayer can be said:

*May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us;
and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus
who is your incarnate Word, now and forever. Amen.*

*God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten One to every nation by the
guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it.*

*Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love.
We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.*

Loving God, bless this household.

*May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and abiding in your will.
We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.*

In order for the **Divine Mercy Chapel of Eucharistic Adoration** to remain perpetual, faithful adorers, like yourself, are needed to commit to a specific hour each week. Please prayerfully consider making a gift of your time to spend one hour each week in the presence of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Here are the urgent hours:

♥ Sunday:

- 12AM - 1AM
- 1AM - 2AM
- 2AM - 3AM
- 8AM - 9AM
- 10AM - 11AM
- 11AM - 12PM
- 1PM - 2PM
- 3PM - 4PM
- 5PM - 6PM

♥ Monday:

- 11PM - 12AM

♥ Tuesday:

- 7AM - 8PM

♥ Wednesday:

- 12AM - 1AM
- 1AM - 2AM
- 2AM - 3AM

♥ Friday:

- 2AM - 3AM
- 9AM - 10AM

♥ Saturday:

- 12AM - 1AM
- 1AM - 2AM
- 2AM - 3AM
- 6PM - 7PM
- 7PM - 8PM
- 11PM - 12AM

Please contact:

Lottie (630-442-9441, Mark (773) 727-7934 or Margaret: mtsnierz@gmail.com



Are you, or someone you know, widowed?

If you have been recently widowed and are still struggling with the loss, or if you have been widowed for some time and need something to get you "over the hump" because you seem stuck in one spot, this program is designed to help you move on with life while still treasuring your past and its precious memories.

This unique retreat/workshop will be held at **St. Mary's Retreat House, Lemont, Illinois.** The Joyful Again! program is for both men and women (all ages) who have been widowed and are still trying to find hope and new joy in life.

All are welcome!

What: Retreat/workshop for Widowed Men & Women

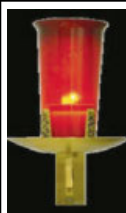
When: April 13 & 14, Sept. 20 & 21, 2024 (2-day program-overnight encouraged)

Where: St. Mary's Retreat House, Lemont, Illinois 60439 (Commute or stay overnight.)

For further information, call: 708-354-7211

e-mail us at: joyfulagain7211@gmail.com

website: www.joyfulagain.org



The Blessed Sacrament candle that burns above the altar 24/7 is available to be sponsored for an intention or in memory of loved ones. This candle is replaced every Monday morning. We also have a Blessed Sacrament candle in our Divine Mercy Chapel which is available for intentions. Please call our parish office to make arrangements to book your week and to specify which Blessed Sacrament candle you would like to sponsor. A donation of \$100 is requested, and the intention along with the name of the donor will be acknowledged in our bulletin.



Please consider using GiveCentral for online parish donations. Sign up at givecentral.org



**Z biurka wikariusza pastora
Drodzy Parafianie,**

Wiele lat temu Al Capone był praktycznie właścicielem Chicago. Miał prawnika o pseudonimie „Łatwy Eddie”. Nie bez powodu był prawnikiem Capone. Eddie był po prostu bardzo

dobry w tym co robił! Prawda jest taka, że umiejętności Eddiego w zakresie legalnych manewrów chroniły Big Ala przed więzieniem przez długi okres czasu. W ramach wdzięczności i uznania, Capone wynagradzał go hojnie. On i jego rodzina zamieszkiwali w ogrodzonym dworze ze wszystkim i wygodami życia dostępnymi w tamtym czasie. Eddie prowadził luksusowe życie chicagowskiej mafii i nie zwracał uwagi na okrucieństwa, które działy się wokół niego. Jednak Eddie posiadał wyjątkową słabość.

Miał syna, którego bardzo kochał. Pomimo swojego zaangażowania w zorganizowaną przestępczość, Eddie próbował nauczyć go zasad dobrego życia, aby mógł odróżnić dobro od zła. Eddie chciał, aby jego syn był lepszym człowiekiem niż on sam. Jednak przy całym swoim bogactwie i wpływach jakie posiadał, były dwie rzeczy, których nie mógł dać swojemu synowi. Mianowicie nie mógł przekazać dobrego imienia ani dobrego przykładu. Pewnego dnia „Łatwy Eddie” postanowił podjąć bardzo trudną decyzję. Zdecydował, że pójdzie do władz i powie prawdę o Al Capone „Człowieku z Blizną”. W ten sposób oczyści swoje splamione imię i przekaże synowi wzór uczciwości.

Ale żeby to zrobić, musiałby zeznawać przeciwko Mafii, a wiedział, że cena takiego zeznania będzie ogromna. Wbrew wszystkim przeciwnościom, zrobił to. W przeciągu tylko jednego roku zakończył swoje życie w ogniu strzałów na niezamieszkałej Chicagowskiej ulicy. W jego oczach dał swojemu synowi największy dar, jaki miał do zaoferowania płacąc za to najwyższą cenę, jaką mógł kiedykolwiek zapłacić, cenę życia. Policja wyjęła z jego kieszeni różaniec, krucyfiks, medalion religijny i wycinek z czasopisma. Było na nim napisane: „Zegar życia jest nakręcony tylko raz i żaden człowiek nie jest w stanie powiedzieć, kiedy wskazówki się zatrzymają, nikt nie wie kiedy jego godzina wybije. Teraz jest Twój jedyny czas, który posiadasz”.

Przeskakując pewien okres czasu historii do przodu, muszę wspomnieć o komandorze poruczniku Butch O'Hare, który był pilotem myśliwca na południowym Pacyfiku. Podczas misji zobaczył, że nie starczy mu paliwa, by wrócić na swój statek. Wypadł więc z formacji

i wrócił do floty. Następnie napotkał eskadrę japońskich samolotów zmierzających w kierunku amerykańskiej floty. Nie bacząc na swoje osobiste bezpieczeństwo, wpłótł się we flotę japońskich samolotów. Zamontowane na jego skrzydłach karabiny kalibru 50 płonęły, gdy szarżował, atakując jeden po drugim zaskoczone samoloty wroga. Butch wplatał się i wychodził z rozbitej już formacji i strzelał do jak największej liczby samolotów, aż w końcu wyczerpała się cała jego amunicja. Cudem Butch O'Hare wrócił spowrotem. Działo się to wszystko 20 lutego 1942 roku i za tę akcję Butch dostał najwyższe odznaczenie Marynarki Wojennej II wojny światowej. Niestety, rok później Butch zginął w walce powietrznej w wieku 29 lat. Na „jego” lotnisku, między terminalami 1 i 2, znajduje się pomnik.

Co więc mają ze sobą te dwie historie?. No cóż, narodziny Chrystusa zmieniły historię. To jest nowy rok dla Was i dla mnie, więc aby Wam pomóc w podjęciu dobrych noworocznych postanowień, pomyślałem, że powinniście wiedzieć, że Butch O'Hare był synem „Łatwego Eddiego”

Fr Thomas Koys, M.A., S.T.L.

Kilka spraw z życia parafii:

- Nowy rok to również okres podatkowy! W celu uzyskania zestawienia złożonych składek za rok 2023 proszę wypełnić formularz znajdujący się w biuletynie a następnie przesłać go do biura.
- Dzisiaj obchodzimy uroczystość Objawienia Pańskiego i Trzech Króli. W tyle kościoła została umieszczona poświęcona kreda do użycia w domu. Więcej informacji w biuletynie.
- Wyrażam ogromną wdzięczność wszystkim, którzy pomogli w przygotowaniach do godnego przeżycia tegorocznych świąt Bożego Narodzenia. Dziękujemy liczным wolontariuszom za tak piękne udekorowanie naszego kościoła wewnątrz i na zewnątrz. Dziękujemy Pani Mirze i chórowi za wspaniałą oprawę muzyczną. Dziękuję Marszałkom, Lektorom, Szafarzom Eucharystii i Ministrantom za pomoc. Dziękuję księdzu Koys i całemu personelowi parafialnemu za waszą pracę w okresie Świąt Bożego Narodzenia i przez cały rok. Dziękuję również całej wspólnotie parafialnej i gościom za tak liczny udział i wspólną modlitwę podczas świąt. Niech radość Bożego Narodzenia pozostanie w Waszych sercach na długo.

Mass Intentions

Monday — January 8th

7:00 AM GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR GUZIOR FAMILY

Tuesday — January 9th

7:00 AM † JANINA JURZEC

by Maria Klump

† LUPE SCHAEFER

by John Stach

7:00 PM O BOŻE BŁ. I OPIEKĘ M.B. DLA KRYSTYNY

PRĘDKI (urodziny)

by Mama

† JANINA I FRANCISZEK LICHOSYT

by Wnuki

Wednesday — January 10th7:00 AM FOR ALL PARISHIONERS LIVING & DECEASED
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FOR WLADZIA

by Josephine & Frank Gondek

Thursday — January 11th

7:00 AM CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR MICHAEL HOPE (birth)

by Hope Family

† JERRY W. PTACEK

by Rita & Stan Morrical

Friday — January 12th

7:00 AM FOR ALL PARISHIONERS LIVING & DECEASED

Saturday — January 13th

7:00 AM FATHER'S DAY NOVENA

3:00 PM *Wedding: Alyssa Rolnik and Paul Szymanski*

5:00 PM † DOLORES GURNICZ

by Hope Family

Fr. Stawiariski † WITOLD GASIOR & JANINA OZGA

by Family

† HENRY & GENEVIEVE MROZEK

by Family

Sunday — January 14th

7:00 AM † ROGER MALAK

Fr. by Wife**Stawiariski**

8:00 AM † CHESTER GONDEK

Carmelites by Brat

† HELENA I JÓZEF BYRDAK

by C.W. Mrozek

† JAN, ANIELA I STANISŁAW STASZEL

by Siostra

† HELENA I STANISŁAW GONDEK

by Syn

9:30 AM GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR DAMIAN KOWALCZYK
(birth)**Fr. Stawiariski** by ParentsGOD'S BLESSINGS & HEALTH FOR MARIA &
STANISŁAW KOWALCZYK (Wedd. Anniv.)

† TERESA CALES

by Kwasneski & Bozych Families

11:00 AM O BOŻE BŁ. I OPIEKĘ M.B. DLA MAI ZIELONKA
(18 urodziny)**Carmelites** by Rodzice

† ALOJZY WONTORCZYK

by Rodzina Ligas

† JÓZEF I ZOFIA WALKOSZ

by Anna Milan

12:30 PM GOD'S BLESSINGS & HEALTH FOR BONNIE
(birth)**Fr. Stawiariski** by MomGOD'S BLESSINGS & HEALTH FOR SUSAN CYCON
by Sophie Grele

† STANLEY SADELSKI

by Children & Grandchildren

† LOTTIE & ED MATECKI

by Family

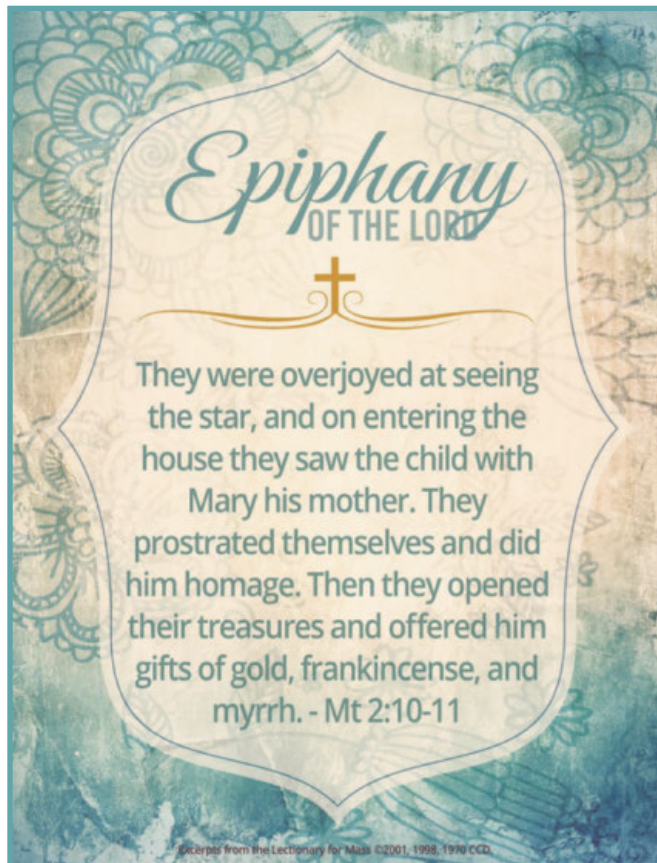
2:00 PM O BOŻE BŁ. DLA SAMANTY RUSIN (Roczek)

Carmelites by Rodzina

† STANISŁAW HOENDER (1 Rocznicia Śmierci)

† JAN SUCHMIEL (14 Rocznicia Śmierci)

by Rodzina

7:30 PM FOR ALL PARISHIONERS LIVING & DECEASED
Fr. Rataj

Please call the parish office if you have a loved one you would like our parish community to pray for.

Leon Chmielewski Jr.

Emilia Pilecki

Terri Sowa

Lori Reagan Suski

Anita Anderson

Bob Wheeler

Ria Supan

Karen Singer

Leo Smietanski

Nadia Skrzecz

Elena (Helen) Prew

Dan McNichols

William Casica

Byron Thoren

Matt Przybocki

Don Alleiujka

John Kalata

Jenny Alfano

Sally Labno

Ruth Robinson

Joelee

The name of an individual will stay on the prayer list for two months. Please contact the parish office if you would like to prolong the prayer request.

**Parish Contributions
December 30 & 31, 2023**

Envelopes	540	12,143.00
Children's Envelopes	6	7.00
GiveCentral (12/25-12/31)	125	<u>2,708.00</u>
Total		14,858.00
New Year's Day		\$10,962.00

Budgeted: \$14,200.00 / Actual: 14,858.00 / \$658

540 envelopes plus 125 GiveCentral Sunday donations represent 32% of 2,100 registered parishioner families.

Your donations help meet our immediate needs, repairs and improvements. We sincerely appreciate your generosity.

Parish Contributions

The contribution totals for the weekend of December 23rd, 24th & Christmas will be in printed in a later bulletin.

**Wedding Banns**

Antoinette Mock and Matthew Chraca

Creation Care Corner

*Taking action to protect God's great gift to us
— Mother Earth*



*"The environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all."
— Pope Francis*

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP RECOMMENDATION:

Join groups to accelerate Creation Care progress.

To protect the poor and future generations, Pope Francis urges our world's 1.3 billion Catholics to take serious action to address the ecological crisis. His encyclical letter *Laudato Si'* is a compelling call to care for our Common Home, our Earth, God's great gift to us. This builds on a long history of Catholic Social Teaching. Joining groups that are taking action on Creation Care can dramatically accelerate progress. Consider getting involved in your parish Creation Care Team or Green team, local civic organizations, or state or national advocacy groups. You'll get innovative ideas on how to make a difference. You could also consider investigating and joining groups like the Catholic Climate Covenant, Creation Justice Ministries, or the *Laudato Si'* Movement. There's power in numbers! You can make a difference!

**Please pray for...**

We ask you to please keep in your prayers the following parishioners who are on active duty in the military:

Capt. **Catherine R. Chappell**, Pilot HC130, U.S. Air Force; **Frank Romanowski**, Army Combat Medic; SPC **Ryan Sherwood**; PVT **Robert Kyle O'Hare**, US Army; **Dominic Maiella**, US Marine Corps; **Jonathan Plonka**, US Air Force; **Matas Maleiska**, US Navy; **Cole Kowalczyk**, Army Specialist

Please inform the parish office if there are any changes or additions to the above list. Thank you.

**May Perpetual Light
Shine Upon Them**

In your prayers, please remember the souls of **John F. Pavlovic & Marilyn Matuch**. May their souls and the souls of all our faithfully departed family and friends rest in everlasting peace.

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS

The Parish Council is offering a special card for your wallet! "I Am A Catholic. In case of an Emergency, Please call a Priest!" The cards will be placed in two baskets at back of church. Please take one. This will occur on weekend of January 6th & 7th.

2023 Contribution Statements

Contribution statements for 2023 will be mailed upon request only. If you would like your statement, please fill out the information below and return it via the PLB drop box, by mail or place it in the collection basket at church. Please include your envelope number. Your statement will be mailed to you after January 31st.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Envelope #: _____

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL 2023-24 IN OUR PARISH!

This past Fall, 15 parishioners of SSCM/SJM joined a wonderful Bible Study on the Holy Eucharist written by Fr. Mitch Pacwa of EWTN fame. The study was led by Jim Anderson, Catholic convert and former Anglican priest.

The participants want to share with all of you some of their inspirations from the 6-week study. We discussed how each of us learned our faith from others. We were taught it by people that cared for us. We also "caught it" by the good example of people we respected and loved.

Here are a few examples of how we were inspired by others' view of the Mass:

"My mother was devoted to Christ and the Virgin Mary. She taught me humility, service and compassion. Regular worship of God at Mass was the norm." (Jack)

"My husband was my high school sweetheart, and he has always been a big part of my faith journey. Attending Sunday Mass and praying together has always been a priority for us." (Julie)

"My parents were always strict about attending weekly Mass and that is how we were brought up. To this day, my 84-year-old father prays nightly on his knees. He goes to great lengths to go to Mass each Sunday. My parent's example has inspired me throughout my life." (Annette)

"When I was dating in my 20's (about 50 years ago) one young lady made it a practice to NEVER miss Mass. She told me that the week was simply not right without attending Mass. That made a big impact on me. I was, at the time, a barely practicing Protestant. By God's grace and Providence we eventually got married, I became Catholic and now follow her great example of weekly worship at Sunday Mass." (Jim)

These are just a few examples of how it is often through the good example of strong faith in other people that we are inspired to become devoted to God. Whether we realize it or not, people are watching us. We CAN be an inspiration for others!



Do you have a story about being inspired to appreciate the Mass and the Eucharist? Send it in to our Evangelization Coordinator, Coleen Mast, at cmast@archchicago.org. You can inspire others, too!

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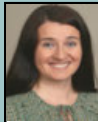
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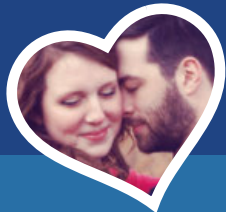
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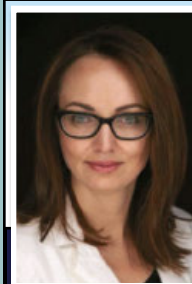
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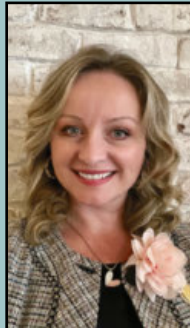
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