

St. Alexander Church

Epiphany of the Lord

January 5, 2025

The Palos Catholic



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother.

They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

- Mt 2:10-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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St. Alexander Parish Administration Directory

Parish Administrative Center

7025 W. 126th St., Palos Heights, IL 60463

Phone: 708-448-4861

Fax: 708-448-0039

Pastor: Rev. Martin Michniewicz ext. 227

Associate Pastor: Rev. Colm Mitchell ext. 223

Deacons: Jim Horton, Michael Ciciura, Fran Pendergast

Director Parish Home & Health Ministry: Jim Horton ext. 232

Operations Manager: Paula Somers ext. 233

Director of Music: Matthew Berardi ext. 224

Youth Minister: Tyler Ried—708- 448-6624

Athletic Director Michael Kennedy

Parish E-Mail: alchurch1@comcast.net

St. Alexander on the Web: www.stalexanderpalos.org

St. Alexander School

7025 W. 126th St., Palos Heights, IL 60463

Phone: 708-448-0408 Fax: 708-448-5947

Principal: Sharon O'Toole

Administrative Assistant: Mary Ann Pellicore

School Web: www.stalexanderschool.com

School E-Mail: info@stalexanderschool.com

Religious Education Office

7025 W. 126th St. Palos Heights, IL 60463

Phone: 708-448-6624

Coordinator of Religious Education: Tyler Ried

Religious Ed. E-Mail: tried@archchicago.org

Knights of Columbus: 708-448-4861 ext. 400

Knight of Columbus on the Web: www.kofc14057.org

Spreading the Holy Fire

Celebrating Christ Risen from the Dead through the 7 Sacraments

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

BAPTISM

Celebration of Entrance into Christ's Church

You should be a registered parishioner of St. Alexander, or willing to register and join our Faith Community. Relatives of St. Alexander parishioners are also welcome.

At least one Godparent must be a practicing Catholic. The other must be a Christian. Parents must register for a class on Baptism **BEFORE** your baby is baptized. Archdiocesan required classes are held once a month, usually on the first Tuesday of the month, and facilitated by trained parishioners.

Baptism contact Joan DeVito 448-4861 ext. 237

CONFIRMATION

Celebration of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

This Sacrament is normally celebrated in 8th Grade and is a 2 year program of preparation.

Confirmation Contacts:

Tyler Ried - Religious Education 448-6624

Sharon O'Toole - School 448-0408

The Archdiocese also offers classes for adults wishing to receive Confirmation. **Adult Confirmation Contact -**

Fr. Martin Michniewicz 448-4861

OCIA *Celebration of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*

This process is for adults who would like to join the Roman Catholic Church and have never been Baptized, or were Baptized in another Christian denomination. There is also a process for children (OCIC) and teens (OCIT).

OCIA/OCIC/OCIT contact - Fr. Martin Michniewicz 448-4861

EUCCHARIST

Celebration of Sharing Fully at Christ's Altar of Sacrifice & Communion with Jesus and His Church

Eucharistic Liturgy (Mass)

Sunday Vigil: 5:00 PM (Saturday)

Sunday: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 AM, & 6:00 PM

Monday through Friday: 8:30 AM

Saturday Morning: 8:00 AM

First Saturday Devotions after 8:00 AM Mass

Holy Day: 8:30 AM & 7:00 PM

Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

On the 1st Wednesday of the month
6:00-7:00PM in the Church

SACRAMENTS OF HEALING

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Celebration of God's Restorative Love & Forgiveness

Sacrament offers strength to the living. If someone becomes seriously ill, please call the Parish Administrative Center. Ministers of Care are available to bring Holy Communion and/or visit with the sick and homebound.

Also every 1st Saturday after the 5:00 PM Mass

RECONCILIATION

Celebration of God's Forgiveness through Personal Confession

Saturday Morning: 8:30 AM (until all are heard)

Saturday Evening: after the 5:00 PM Mass

Other Times by Appointment

SACRAMENTS OF COMMITMENT

MATRIMONY

Celebration of God's Blessings on the Loving Union between Man and Woman

Please call the Parish Administration Center at least 4 months in advance of your wedding. Pre-Cana for engaged couples is required by the Archdiocese.

Matrimony Contact:

Fr. Martin Michniewicz or Fr Colm Mitchell 708-448-4861

HOLY ORDERS

Celebration of Ordained Service to the Church

The three offices of the Sacrament of Holy Orders are bishop, priest and deacon. All three are conferred by the sacramental act called "ordination."

Priesthood Contact - Fr. Michniewicz 448-4861 ext. 227

Fr. Colm Mitchell 448-4861 ext. 223

Archdiocese of Chicago Vocation Director:

Rev. Timothy Monahan 312-534-8298



FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

As the liturgical season of Christmas soon comes to an end, I would like to thank all the people who helped make our liturgical celebrations so spiritually meaningful and enjoyable. Such as our parish Arts and Environment Committee who put so much time into planning and decorating our church this year for Christmas. Also, our parish Musicians and Cantors for their extra hours of practice and for their wonderful execution of their skills leading our congregation in singing and spiritual reflection. All our Ushers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, and others who assisted at Mass to celebrate this special season. Finally, a big thanks to all our parishioners who participated in our Masses and for all those who were so generous by donating to our Christmas collections either in person or via the mail. Your generosity is greatly appreciated, especially during these challenging times, as we continue to celebrate the sacraments and the many ministries at St. Alexander Parish.

Many thanks to Lawn Funeral Homes who sponsored our 2025 calendars. The calendars were very popular this year. If you would like one please call the parish office to check on availability.

Thanks also to Mary Sodetz who organized this year's Sharing Tree, and to all those parishioners who participated by purchasing gift cards or donating money. Thanks to your generosity many people at The Port Ministries were able to celebrate Christmas with a meal, warm clothes, and a gift for their children. I am very proud of your generosity. This year's amount totaled \$8,225.00.

God Bless,
Father Marty



Pilgrimage

The app for your Catholic journey

Do you attend Mass regularly, but crave something more?

Using the new Pilgrimage app, you can journey through Scripture with friends, and your group. Your group will have access to a message board, which enables you to ask questions, start discussions, share content and connect with fellow group members, all from within the app. Learn more: www.pilgrimage.americanbible.org/

A Prayer for "Renew My Church"

Lord Jesus, you speak to us today, as you spoke to holy men and women who have gone before us. In every age and in our own time, you call to us and say: Renew My Church.

Pour out the gift of your Holy Spirit upon us, and so enable us

*to hear you clearly
to listen to each other attentively
to imagine our future boldly
to discern your direction wisely
to persevere in your holy will courageously*

*to stay together in charity
to surrender our own plans readily
to embrace the greater good
to hand on your gifts to future generations*

*May we remain in the holy company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the apostles, and all the saints.
May their example and presence inspire us with patient confidence in the work of your grace.*

We ask this of you who live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

EPIPHANY

Solemn things of mystic meaning;
Incense doth the God disclose;
Gold a royal Child proclaimeth;
Myrrh a future tomb foreshows.



A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again
Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame
So that in our time, many will see the
wonders of God
And live forever to praise
Your glorious name.

WORD OF LIFE

“O Blessed Mother, you received the good news of the incarnation of Christ, your Son, with faith and trust. Grant your protection to all pregnant mothers facing difficulties. Guide us as we strive to make our parish communities places of welcome and assistance for mothers in need. Help us become instruments of God’s love and compassion.”

—USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
“A Prayer for Pregnant Mothers”



Prayers of the Faithful for the Sick

As the faith family of St. Alexander, we unite with one another to pray for those who need healing of their body, mind or spirit. Confident that God hears the voices of those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we join in prayer for:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Dale Yukich | Lisa Krisik |
| Fr. John Noga | Carole Holding |
| Jennifer Aparo | Loretta Gwin |
| Elaine Krisik | Mike Belczak |

If you or anyone in your family would like to be added to our *Prayers of the Faithful for the Sick* please contact the Parish Administrative Office by noon on Friday.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION



Have you ever wondered why the magi had gold, frankincense, and myrrh? Matthew’s Gospel tells us, “Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh” (Matt. 2:11). Why are these things their “treasures”? One possible answer is they were magicians and astrologers, and these three items were the tools of their questionable trade. In offering them to Christ, they demonstrate that they will cease using such items to predict or control life. They place this baby-king, the God of Israel, at the center of their lives, and not their own devices of control, manipulation and prediction.

Isn’t that what we need to do, too? Consider, for example, the magical power of money, symbolized by the magi’s gold. Seemingly whatever we ask of money, it does. It wields a god-like power over the world. It can predict the future by guaranteeing better outcomes for us — which is why it is such a tempting alternative to trusting in God. The problem is such absolute trust in money enslaves us to the economic forces that make money so powerful. In paying homage to Jesus with “gold” (i.e., tithing), we participate in his authority over (and therefore freedom from) the magical sway of money.

What things in your life do you use to predict or control your future? What in your life seems to give you power over the world? Those are your treasures. Are you tired of feeling enslaved to them? Find a way to open them and give them to Christ, and you will be freer.

— Father John Muir

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK
January 6-12, 2025**



- Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
- Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/
Mk 6:45-52
- Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/
Lk 4:14-22a
- Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/
Lk 5:12-16
- Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and
9b/Jn 3:22-30
- Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25,
27-28, 29-30 (1)/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Today’s Readings: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11,
12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
ST. THEODORE GUERIN
COUNCIL #14057**

**Meeting: Wednesday, January 8th
7:15 PM - Parish Lounge**

If you are interested in helping those in need, serving your parish, and growing in your faith, then the Knights of Columbus is the organization for you. For membership information please call Deacon Fran Pendergast at 708-448-4861 or visit kofc14057.org for membership info.

LEGACY PLANNING

Please prayerfully consider remembering our parish when you update your estate plans. These gifts help us to build a solid foundation for the Catholic formation of future generations.

Prepare or update your will or trust today by contacting an attorney. For sample bequest language, contact Fr. Marty at 708-448-4861.

MASS ANNOUNCEMENTS

If any parish ministry or organization would like to have an announcement made at Mass we ask that you please have the information to the office by noon on Friday. This allows us to compile the books we need for weekend liturgies by the end of Friday. Also, please limit announcements to one or two sentences.

COMMUNION MINISTERS

Saturday, January 11th

5:00 PM— Terry Horvath, Maureen Balich,
Sharon Mundo

Sunday, January 12th

7:30 AM— Steve Lukasik, Ed Sobczak, Ruth Macey
9:30 AM— Nancy Dougherty, Rosemary Dziuba,
Dave Heide, Patti Hartig
11:30 AM— Paul Sullivan, Ryan Alberts, Tom Stuchly
6:00 PM— Sharon Ayres

READERS

Saturday, January 11th

5:00 PM— Joan DeVito

Sunday, January 12th

7:30 AM— Paula Somers
9:30 AM— Linda Buchanan, Melissa Duckett
11:30 AM— Briana Knight
6:00 PM— Bob Ayres



WELCOME TO ST. ALEXANDER!

We extend a warm welcome to all our guests and visitors who have graced us with their presence at today's liturgy. We hope that you feel at home here; please let us know if we can be of any assistance while you are with us.

Home Bound or Ill?

If you, or someone you know, are unable to attend Mass and would like to receive communion in their home, please call Deacon Jim Horton or Deacon Fran Pendergast at 708-448-4861.

**Join us for a Holy Hour with
Exposition and Benediction
of the Blessed Sacrament**



**Every first Wednesday of the
month 6-7pm in Church
Wednesday, January 8th**

"A Holy Hour before the Most Blessed Sacrament so pleases the Heart of Jesus, that every man, woman and child on earth receives a new effect of God's graces." - St. Faustina



ST. ALEXANDER SCHOOL HAPPENINGS





ST. ALEXANDER SCHOOL HAPPENINGS



Left:
7th & 8th grade
Christmas Caroling
at Palos Heights
Senior Living

Previous Page
and Below:
End of the year
Christmas Caroling

CHRISTMAS CAROLING





ST. ALEXANDER CATHOLIC SCHOOL

7025 West 126th Street, Palos Heights, Illinois 60463
P 708-448-0408 • F 708-448-5947
StAlexanderSchool.com
@StAlexanderSchool

Dear St. Alexander Parishioners and Donors,

As a loyal supporter of our parish and school, you understand the importance and benefit of a Catholic education in the lives of our children.

We need your help in continuing to meet the challenge of assisting our students at St. Alexander School who are receiving scholarships. The Catholic Schools Scholarship Program, a fund that will provide need-based financial assistance to families who are committed to a Catholic school education, has been established to provide donors a way to make a monetary gift and still receive a 100% tax deduction (as allowable by law).

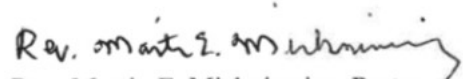
Gifts can be made online at: www.archchicago.org/scholarships

It is important to note that **your gift should be directed to St. Alexander School**. All monies directed to St. Alexander School is guaranteed by the Archdiocese of Chicago to support only St. Alexander students.

We hope everyone who knows and loves our school will consider joining us in this effort around scholarships. Please help make a Catholic school education a reality for a deserving student.

You have faith in St. Alexander School and we have faith in your support. Together we will ensure that our Catholic school is available and accessible for years to come.

With gratitude,


Rev. Martin E. Michniewicz, Pastor



Mrs. Sharon O'Toole, Principal

National Blue Ribbon Schools Awardee, 2005.







24/7 HOTLINE: 708-429-SAFE
WE SUPPORT VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE




SUNDAY 10:15-11:30AM
 SAVE orders may also be brought to the Parish Administrative Center. Orders dropped off by 5:00PM on Wednesday are available for pick-up Thursday after Noon at the PAC. They may also be picked up during sale hours in the SAVE room on Sunday.

Low-Gluten Hosts
 Starting today at the 9:30AM Mass an Extraordinary Minister of Communion will be available with low-gluten hosts. The extraordinary minister will be located at the entrance of the ramp which leads to the sanctuary on the side where the statue of our Blessed Virgin is presented.




E-Giving Made Easy
 If you would like to make a one-time electronic donation, please scan this bar code.



Scroll down to "One –Time Gifts" and enter the amount and type of payment. It's that simple!

MERCY HOME SUNDAY MASS
9:30AM on WGN-TV Channel 9



Many of you may take advantage of the convenience of electronic giving to our parish and we are grateful for that. For those of you who have yet to join us in giving online, we strongly encourage you to do so. Here's why:

Faith Direct enables parishioners to make your Church contributions through either direct debit from your checking/savings account or through your credit/debit card. No more writing checks or searching for envelopes on the way out the door. Now you can apply the convenience of direct debit to your parish offerings in much the same way as you may now use it to make your mortgage, car or tuition payments.

Faith Direct also offers you personalized offertory cards to replace your envelopes for the collection basket. **To cancel your monthly envelopes, please notify the parish office at 708-448-4861. This is not done automatically when signing up for electronic giving.**

Please visit www.faithdirect.net to enroll securely online. Or, download the Faith Direct app onto your smartphone. Our parish code is **IL910**.



2025 PARISH CALENDARS
 Thanks to the generosity of Lawn Funeral Home, we continue to offer our Parish Calendars! They are available in the back of church or in the parish office.



St. Alexander's Athletic Board/Booster Club Presents

AFC & NFC

Championship Game Raffle Pools

Sunday, January 26, 2025

Please support
Our Advertisers

Thanksgiving after Mass

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary

O Mary, Virgin and Mother most holy,
behold, I have received your most dear Son,
whom you conceived in your immaculate
womb, brought forth, nursed and
embraced most tenderly.

Behold him at whose sight you used to
rejoice and be filled with all delight:
him, whom, humbly and lovingly,
once again I present and offer him to you
to be clasped in your arms, to be loved
by your heart, and to be offered up
to the Most Holy Trinity
as the supreme worship of adoration,
for your own honor and glory and
for my needs and for those of the whole world.

I ask you therefore, most loving Mother:
entreat for me the forgiveness of all my sin
and, in abundant measure, the grace
of serving him in the future more faithfully,
and at last, final grace,
so that with you I may praise him
for all the ages of ages.

Amen.

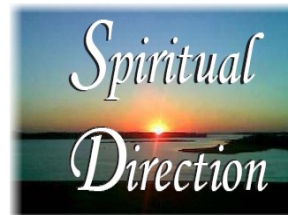
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**Society of St. Vincent de Paul
& Knights of Columbus
FOOD COLLECTION**

Please donate to our ongoing food
collection for St. Blase. Donations
should be placed on the bench
across from the SAVE room.
Thank you for your generosity!
NO EXPIRED FOOD PLEASE!



**Opportunity for
Spiritual Direction**

Christian Spiritual Direction is
an ancient spiritual discipline
that is a way of companioning
people as they seek to look closely, through the eyes of
their heart, at the guidance and transforming work of God in
their lives. Direction is given by one believer to another and
helps the seeker to respond to the Holy Spirit's communica-
tion by living out this relationship with God. The focus of
this type of spiritual direction is on experience, not ideas,
and specifically on the religious dimension of experience.

Moreover, experiences are viewed as an expression of the
ongoing personal relationship God has established with
each one of us. The director is considered a gentle guide in
this process. Spiritual direction meetings take place once a
month in a one on one setting. Prayer, silence, and listening
are used to assist the seeker in discerning the movement of
the Holy Spirit in their lives. All conversations take place in
strict confidentiality.

**If you are interested in getting more details about
or using Spiritual Direction ministry, please contact
Deacon Mike Ciciura at 630-243-9342
or mciciura@archchicago.org**

THE HOLIDAYS
CAN BE A
STRESSFUL TIME.

CHECK IN ON
SOMEONE WHO MIGHT
NEED YOUR HELP.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUTREACH
AWARENESS - SERVICES - PREVENTION



CHWC 2025! KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE JUNE 21ST-28TH

**I CAN TAKE UP TO
16 TEENS!!!
INCOMING FRESHMEN-
OUTGOING SENIORS**

Thank you for all your support in the past, if anyone would like to continue to support our mission trip, any donations would be greatly appreciated!

For more information

Contact

Tyler Ried

(309)826-2049 (Cell)

Tried@archchicago.org

All donations help keep the cost down for those who want to join!



HOWL AT THE MOON DUELING PIANOS NIGHT

21 & Over Event

BYOB &
SNACKS



FRIDAY, JANUARY 10TH
ST. AL'S GYM
DOORS OPEN AT 6PM
PIANO SHOW 8PM-11PM



Circle your choice:

\$25/individual \$45/couple \$40/PP VIP Front Row*

Name: _____

*VIP is on a First Come, First Serve Basis. Please send an email to stalsfsa@gmail.com to reserve your front row VIP table of 10. This option includes a complimentary bottle of wine for your table.

Please return to school by 1/7/25. Checks payable to FSA.

Mass Intentions For The Week



EPIPHANY OF THE LORD JANUARY 5, 2025

Saturday, January 4th

5:00 PM— Amy Lyon
Raymond Majdecki
Jeanette & William Schuble

Sunday, January 5th

7:30 AM— Aggie Palmer
Thomas Chwierut
Chet Chwierut
Brian Cadore
Vincent & Mary Hoban
Colleen J. Nix
Rose Barth—Christmas Blessing
Julio Fuentes

9:30 AM— Raymond & Marion Hunt
William Brett
Jack Meade
Mike Gembara
Kevin Reynolds
Jim Foskett

11:30 AM— George Lombard
James Flanagan
Margaret Banks

6:00 PM— Kathleen Jurgens—Birthday Blessing

Monday, January 6th (St. André Bessette)

8:30 AM— Patrick Murphy
Tess & Tom Skelly—Marriage Blessing
William Brett
Margaret Corbett
Colleen J. Nix
Skelly Family—Special Intention

Tuesday, January 7th (St. Raymond of Penyafort)

8:30 AM— Joseph Rathnau
Jason Lewis
Colleen J. Nix

Wednesday, January 8th

8:30 AM— Chet Chwierut
Colleen J. Nix
Michael A. Ferro
Jean Burke

Thursday, January 9th

8:30 AM— Joseph Rathnau
Tom & Kathleen Walsh
Karen Reid
Colleen J. Nix

Friday, January 10th

8:30 AM— Virginia M. & Joseph T. Feldner
Colleen J. Nix

Saturday, January 11th

8:00 AM— James Donovan
Chet Chwierut
Thomas Chwierut
Colleen J. Nix

BAPTISM OF THE LORD JANUARY 12, 2025

Saturday, January 11th

5:00 PM— Richard Campion—1st Anniversary
Joseph Rathnau
Madeline Marie Boyle

Sunday, January 12th

7:30 AM— Poor Souls in Purgatory
Noel Lynch
Aggie Palmer
Meghan Cawood & Phillip Harter—Blessing
Joe Macey
Dorothy Kavanaugh
Thomas Chwierut
Robert Barth
John & Mary McAleer
Josephine Data
Robert McQuiston
Chet Chwierut
William & Mary Barth
Mary LeFebre
Catherine Hoban
Colleen J. Nix
Jean Burke

9:30 AM— Raymond & Marion Hunt
Nell Hanley
Dan Stanton
Kevin Reynolds
Jim Foskett
Michael Kanalas
Barbara J. Wolfe
Special Intention

11:30 AM— Michael Walsh
Steve Horvath

6:00 PM— Special Intention

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