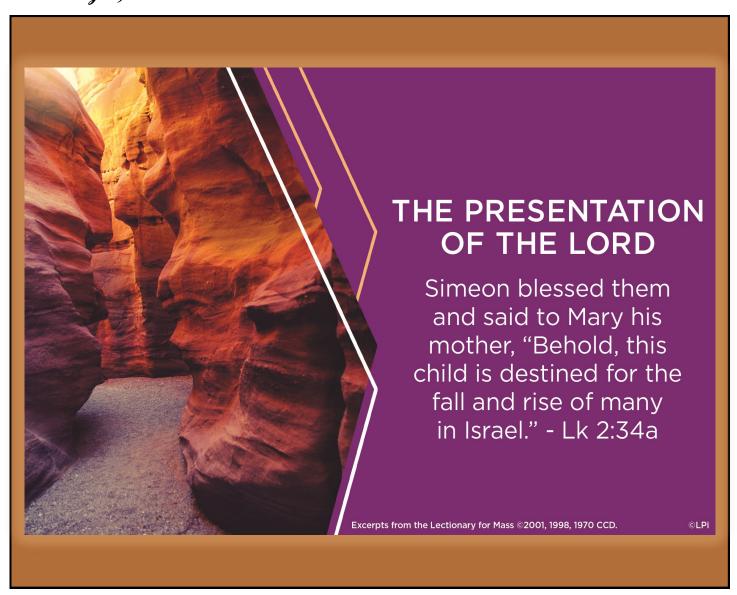
# St. Alexander Church The Presentation of the Lord February 2, 2025 The Palos Catholic



### St. Alexander Parish Administration Directory

### **Parish Administrative Center**

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

Phone: 708-448-4861 Fax: 708-448-0039

### 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

#### **EUCHARIST**

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,

Congratulations to our St. Alexander Athletic Board, current and former coaches and parents, and parishioners who ran and worked last Sunday's AFC/NFC football party. The crowd was great and everybody seemed to enjoy the day. Thanks to all those who attended, worked, and sold tickets to make this event a success and a time to get together as a parish family. Tyler Ried also had a AFC/NFC football party for our parish teens in our mobile units. Over twenty teens were in attendance and had a great time. Personally I was bouncing back and forth from both parties and enjoyed both of them. I even squeezed in some time to take a nap and talk to my mom for an hour on the phone.

Many blessings to our second grade school and religious education children who celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time Tuesday evening, January 28<sup>th</sup>. The evening was faithfilled and the healing power of our Lord was felt throughout the church. Please keep our precious second graders in your prayers as they prepare for their First Holy Communion in May.

Once again I ask you to please purchase and return your tickets for this year's annual raffle at the parish office, the offering baskets, or through the mail. Proceeds of this raffle will be of great assistance to our parish, school, R.E. program, and other ministries. Tickets will be drawn on March 1<sup>st</sup> at our St. Patrick's/Irish Party.

Remember if you would like a statement of your donations to St. Alexander for tax purposes please call our office and ask for Mrs. Paula Somers. We will be more than pleased to send you your statement in the mail.

Following are the figures for our collections for the past four months and Christmas:

September \$84,121.50 October \$89,383.00 November \$79,082.40 December \$147,963.83 Christmas \$88,069.00

Once again, thank you for your generosity which enables us to keep our ministries flourishing at St. Alexander parish bringing the love and gospel of our Lord to our faithful through liturgies and our love for one another.

Finally please continue to pray for our parish as we enter into the next phase of Renew My Church. As you all know we need to fill our pews again with Catholics both young and old. This program is based on trusting in the Holy Spirit and us using the gifts of the Spirit of God to be modern day apostles. Together my brothers and sisters in Christ we will fill the church again and bring the love of God to all people, especially those who have turned away from the church.

God Bless, Father Marty

#### Low-Gluten Hosts

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.

### **Home Bound or III?**

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





We ask you to remember and pray for the souls of the faithful departed. May they forever rest in the Lord's peace. We especially pray for:

Lawrence Stanek, father of Joanne

### WORD OF LIFE

"A society is all the more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love. Let us strive to achieve this goal, so that no one will feel alone, excluded or abandoned."

—Pope Francis, Message for the 29th World Day of the Sick 2021

Don't try to shine so that others will see you. Shine so that through you, others will see Christ.

—Pope Francis

#### 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.

# 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
Carole Holding Elaine Krisik
Mike Belczak Mike Sweeney

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



What is the secret to sharing in God's power to overcome our difficulties? Mary teaches us this in the prophecy of her pierced heart. This Sunday, the old man Simeon prophecies that when her son faces opposition, Mary's soul will be pierced by a sword. The seemingly pointless agony of a mother helplessly watching her son be mocked, tortured, killed and then cruelly desecrated in death by a spear — somehow this piercing of her heart releases a power by which "the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:35). What to make of this?

Whatever problems we currently face, the deepest threat is finally that evil thoughts are hidden in the human heart: hatred, envy, pride, lust, greed and so on. Behind every tyrant's injustice, for example, is a heart unpierced by love. Evil hides in our hearts. Mary's pierced heart, and its suffering love for her son, reveals and scatters these evil thoughts, and replaces them with love, forgiveness, generosity and peace.

This week, I invite us to ponder Mary's pierced heart. Her heart is quietly at work for us in the Church and world, exposing our evil thoughts and making a path for her son's divine love. This is how she gently cooperates in our salvation. Closed hearts are our biggest problem; love-pierced hearts are the ultimate power to overcome every difficulty.

— Father John Muir

Today's Readings: Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32



# READINGS FOR THE WEEK February 3-9, 2025

Monday: Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24/

Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: Heb 12:1-4/Ps 22:26b-27, 28 and 30, 3

1-32/Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14,

17-18a/Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4,

9, 10-11//Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc/

Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4,

5, 6/Mk 6:30-34

Sunday: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8

(1c)/1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11/Lk 5:1-1



# & 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!** 

### 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.

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

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



# Together we bring hope

2025 Annual Catholic Appeal

Please consider supporting this year's Appeal. Your generous

contribution will be a source of blessing for many people, for yourself and for your loved ones.

To make a gift by phone: 312.534.7959

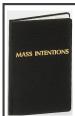
To mail: 835 North Rush Street Chicago, IL 60611

To give online:

annualcatholicappeal.com

### **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.



### **MASS INTENTIONS**

Please visit, or call, the parish office if you would like to have a Mass intention for 2024 or 2025. Please note that Mass intentions are not just for the deceased but for anyone you would like to include in prayer.

### 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, February 5<sup>th</sup>

"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

### 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

## OPEN REGISTRATION FOR NEW FAMILIES FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS FEBRUARY 3



PRE-K 3 THROUGH GRADE 8

PROUD TO BE RECOGNIZED BY THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO AS THE NUMBER ONE SCHOOL IN SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY FOR CATHOLIC IDENTITY

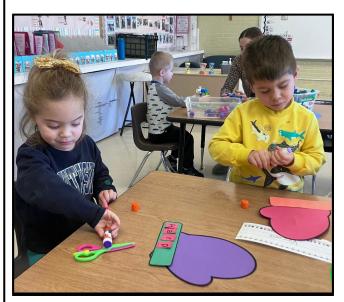


CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR PERSONAL TOUR OR TO REGISTER TO BE A RAIDER - 708-448-0408



# T. ALEXANDER SCHOOL HAPPENINGS







PreK 3 winter fun and an indoor snowball fight







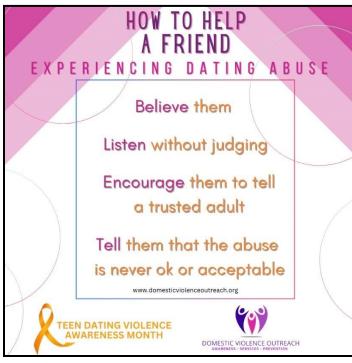




### GET OUR WEEKLY BULLETIN EMAILED TO YOU!

Subscribe to ParishesOnline.com to get a link to our weekly parish bulletin delivered straight to your inbox! Visit parishesonline.com and search for our parish to get started today. It's fast, easy and free!





# SAVE THE DATE! PARISH LENTEN MISSION



**February 2, 2025** 

March 25th 7:00 PM



### **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!





# Are You A Candidate For Spiritual Direction?

- 1. Is your experience of faith in transition?
- \* Exploring new ideas about your faith
- Picture of God is changing
- Physical place of faith has changed
- Spiritual practices need a review
- 2. Have you experienced a personal loss?
- \* Physical loss of a relative, friend, or loved one.
- Loss of material possessions or income
- Loss of special relationship
- 3. Has your self-perception changed?
- Transition from single to married life
- Beginning a new job or career
- Forced change of career/loss of job
- Desire to become more healthy—physically or spiritually
- 4. Do you feel a yearning for God?
- Asking where is God in your life experiences
- Desire to pay more attention to your relationship with God
- Desire to pay closer attention to your prayer life

If you are interested learning more about Spiritual Direction, contact Deacon Mike at 630-243-9342 or mciciura@archchicago.org











### 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. Sharm Sorle Mrs. Sharon O'Toole, Principal





January 20, 2025

Rev. Martin Michniewicz and the Parishioners of St. Alexander St. Alexander Catholic Church 7025 West 126<sup>th</sup> Street Palos Heights, IL 60463

Dear Father Marty and Our Friends at St. Alexander,

Thank you so much for your most generous sharing parish gift of \$7,855!

Thanks to generous gifts like yours we have been able to continue to support the many Hispanic families that call Chicago's far south suburbs home through our ministry work. We are pleased to report that these families are active in our parish as volunteers and enrolling their children in our parish school and religious education programs. With their help we are building a hopeful and faith-based community that will endure.

That said, finances continue to be a struggle for us. Your generosity makes a big difference, particularly as we address building repair issues that arise.

We truly appreciate your support of our parish and its families. We hope that we will continue to be worthy of your faith-driven generosity as a sharing parish.

May you and those you love continue to be blessed in the new year,

Rev. Gary Graf

Pastor

Our Lady of the Heights Parish ~ 724 W. 195th St. ~ Chicago Heights, IL 60411

### Prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary

O most blessed Virgin Mary. Mother of tenderness and mercy, I, an unworthy sinner, fly to you with all the affection of my heart and I beseech your motherly love, that, as you stood by your most dear Son, while he hung on the Cross, so in your kindness, you may be pleased to stand by me, a poor sinner, and all Priests who today are offering the Sacrifice here and throughout the entire holy Church, so that with your gracious help we may offer a worthy and acceptable oblation in the sight of the most high and undivided Trinity.



Amen.

### 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.

# **COMMUNION MINISTERS**



Saturday, February 8th

5:00 PM— Terri Filipiak, Maureen Balich, Terry Horvath

### Sunday, February 9th

7:30 AM— Karen McNeal, Nancy Foster, Pat Sobczak

9:30 AM— Rosemary Dziuba, Dave Heide,

Melissa Duckett, Nancy Dougherty (LG) 11:30 AM— Val Thoma, Mary Beth Flynn,

Paul Sullivan 6:00 PM— Sharon Ayres

### **READERS**

### Saturday, February 8th



5:00 PM— Bill Rogers

#### Sunday, February 9th

7:30 AM— Mary Dombrowski, Paula Somers

9:30 AM— Ryan Alberts, Debbie Myron

11:30 AM— Joan DeVito 6:00 PM— Bob Ayres

### DON'T TAKE A VACATION FROM CHURH

"Catholic Mass Times Church Directory" or "Mass Times for Travel" are free apps which give you Mass times all over the country. Or visit the sites www.masstimes.org and www.findaparish.com.



### **Assisted Listening Systems** for Church Sound

Our church is equipped with a hearing "loop" system which will allow those with a tele-coil (T-coil) in their hearing aid to hear more clearly. Some hearing aids will automatically switch to our "loop" system. Other hearing aids must be manually switched to the T-coil mode.

If you do not think your hearing aid is functioning properly with our "loop" system it may be because: A) Your hearing aid does not have a built-in T-coil OR B) You have to manually switch your hearing aid to the T-coil mode.

**T-Coil Switches:** If your hearing aid has a switch labeled **M-T-O** the switch should be set to the T position. If your hearing aid has switch labeled **M-MT** the switch should be set to the **MT** position.

Please consult your Audiologist with any questions, and to be sure that your hearing aid is equipped with a T-coil and is working properly.

If you do not have a hearing aid with tele-coil (T-coil), we have purchased four individual hearing devices, specifically programmed for our system, that can be used during our liturgies on Sunday. They will be placed in a box on the bench outside the school office. We do ask that you please clean the hearing device after Mass, with the alcohol wipes that are on the bench, before returning them to the box. Thank you and we hope this will help to enhance your liturgical experience.



# THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD FEBRUARY 2, 2025

Saturday, February 1st

5:00 PM— Madison Czurylo Christine Fus

Amy Lyon

Brett K. Johnson

Don Tadda

Holy Souls in Purgatory

Tom, Margaret, Pauline & Tommy Macey

Sunday, February 2nd

7:30 AM— Aggie Palmer

Thomas Chwierut Chet Chwierut

Vincent & Mary Hoban

Colleen J. Nix

Darlie Macey—Birthday Blessing

9:30 AM— Raymond & Marion Hunt

Kevin Reynolds Amy Lyon

Jim Foskett Ann Ruane

Florence Dibrizzi

11:30 AM— William (Boleslaw) Zarod

Matthew O'Brien Dr. Terry Wall

Clement Hohmer

6:00 PM— For the Parishioners

Monday, February 3rd (St. Blaise & St. Ansgar)

8:30 AM— Antoinette Gill—1st Anniversary

Naida Hough Dorothy Janik Colleen J. Nix

Sister Maria Paulina—Healing Intention

Tuesday, February 4th

8:30 AM— John Janik

Joseph Rathnau Colleen J. Nix

Chet Chwierut

Wednesday, February 5th (St. Agatha)

8:30 AM— Dolores Gorski

Kevin Patrick Sullivan—1st Anniversary

Colleen J. Nix Chet Chwierut

Thursday, February 6th (St. Paul Miki)

8:30 AM— Joseph Rathnau

Colleen J. Nix Danny Bagniewski

Melody Muhs—Birthday Blessing

Friday, February 7th

8:30 AM— Sean Donahue—Birthday Blessing

Colleen J. Nix Marty Young

Saturday, February 8th (St. Jerome Emiliani & St.

8:00 AM— Colleen j. Nix Josephine Bakhita)

Deborah M. Krates Chet Chwierut Thomas Chwierut

### FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME FEBRUARY 9, 2025

Saturday, February 8th

5:00 PM— Claire Narel

Lori Czech

Jimmy Pasque

John Joseph O'Connell

Henrietta Ceebin

Loretta & Chuck Klimkiewicz—

59th Wedding Anniversary Blessing

Sunday, February 9th

7:30 AM— Aggie Palmer

Joe Macey Colleen J. Nix

Thomas Chwierut

Catherine Hoban

9:30 AM— Raymond & Marion Hunt

Kevin Reynolds Brian Cadore Jim Foskett Rocco Carioto Mario deVilla

11:30 AM— For the Parishioners

Bill Lewis

### Prayer to Begin the Day

Lord God, may everything we do begin with your inspiration and continue with your help, so that all of our work today will bring us closer to you. Guide us in our work today, that we may do it not for ourselves alone, but for the common good of all.

We ask this in your name. Amen.



# ST. ALEXANDER PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Do you know someone who needs to be remembered? Do you have a relative, friend or neighbor who

needs to know someone is praying for them?

We have a gift for you. St. Alexander's Prayer Shawl Ministry has handmade shawls and blankets that have been blessed, and are available to anyone who needs them. You just need to pick them up. They are available to all parishioners at the Parish Administrative Center during normal business hours.