

# St. Alexander Church

*Third Sunday of Advent*

*December 14, 2025*

*The Palos Catholic*



## St. Alexander Parish Administration Directory

### Parish Administrative Center

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

Phone: 708-448-4861

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

##### ANOIDING 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,

Many thanks to St. Alexander's Knights of Columbus and St. Vincent de Paul who sponsored our Holiday Food Drive and to all our parishioners that were so generous in donating food this year. Due to your caring generosity many families received a nourishing meal in order to celebrate Thanksgiving. Many times we take the gifts and possessions that we have for granted when many people in our own country, and throughout the world, are homeless and are hungry each and every day. As Pope Francis reminds us, we must always remember those who are less fortunate than ourselves and share our gifts with our neighbor.

On page five of our bulletin is the schedule of our Christmas Masses and liturgies for our Christmas season. Due to popular demand we have two 3:00PM Masses on Christmas, one in the church and one in the parish center. This year January 1<sup>st</sup> is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be celebrated Wednesday evening, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:00PM and Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00AM.

Oplatki, the Christmas Wafer, is available in the back of church and for purchase at the parish office. The donation is \$3.00.

Let us remember we as Christians and Catholics are not only celebrating Holy Days this time of year. December 14<sup>th</sup> through December 22<sup>nd</sup> our Jewish brothers and sisters are celebrating their holiday of Hanukkah. Hanukkah is popularly known as the Feast of Lights, though it's Hebrew title more accurately means "dedication". It commemorates the Jewish people's victory in the first recorded battle for religious liberty. Hanukkah recalls the Maccabees, who in 167 B.C. lead a small guerilla army of Jews against the overwhelming might of their Syrian rulers in a struggle to the death for the right to worship God in their own traditional way. It is a valiant story, but Jewish tradition was hesitant about transforming a military triumph into a religious celebration.

The Rabbis therefore preferred to emphasize the spiritual aspects of the Maccabean war. Thus, the title of Hanukkah means "dedication" and refers to the rededication of the ancient temple, a final spiritual act in which the victorious Jewish army cleansed the Temple of the idols with which the Syrians had stocked it, while their army was occupying the temple mount. After the victorious war a miracle occurred by which the eternal light of the temple precinct, which had been put out by the Syrians, was rekindled and remained burning for eight days. This happened even though the oil available was sufficient for only one day. Eight days later new oil arrived by messenger and the miracle ceased. This is why Hanukkah lasts eight days.

Though Hanukkah may be a "minor" Jewish holiday in theory, more Jews keep Hanukkah than any other Jewish festival. For eight straight evenings the entire Jewish family gathers to light the eight branch Hanukkah candelabrum known as the Menorah, after which its members exchange gifts. The family spends the night by eating special foods, playing Hanukkah games, or just remaining around the lit Menorah. It is a time to celebrate family, love, friends, and the miracle of the burning temple flame of years ago.

As we celebrate Christmas this year let us make sure we respect the faith and traditions of our Jewish brothers and sisters. The more we understand other faiths the sooner we will have peace on earth and an end to war and religious violence. Jesus Christ is the savior of all people and has brought salvation to all people whether they believe in his divinity or not.

God Bless,  
Father Marty



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:

**Jo Anne Kukulski**, mother of Kasey

If you want peace, work for justice.

— Pope Paul VI

### It's Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday!



Light the third (rose-colored) candle on your Advent wreath. On Gaudete Sunday, the season of Advent shifts its focus. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus can be summed up in the phrase, "The Lord is coming." But beginning with Gaudete Sunday, the summary might be, "The Lord is near." This shift is marked by a lighter mood and a heightened sense of joyous anticipation. Liturgically, the colors lighten as well. The priest usually wears rose-colored vestments, a hue seen only on Gaudete Sunday and Laetare Sunday. In times when the focus of our anticipation is often on the negative and fearful, this celebration is a reminder that God who loves us is still in charge and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous joy.



### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

December 15-21, 2025

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27  
 Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32  
 Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17  
 Thursday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25  
 Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25  
 Saturday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38  
 Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

### SCRIPTURE REFLECTION



When I was 11, I was riding my bike on a Friday night in Scottsdale, Arizona. I saw giant spotlights swirling in the sky. Something amazing had to be happening. I pedaled after them with excitement. Sweaty and tired, I arrived, only to find a used car lot. Bright lights, flapping banners, inflatable balloon men swaying wildly in the wind. I stood there, heart sinking. All that spectacle, and all my effort ... for this?

As life proceeds, we learn what it is like to pursue promising but fruitless searches. This week we hear Jesus ask the crowds regarding John the Baptist: "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?" (Matthew 11:7). He's not just describing the crowd's mis-aimed pursuit. He's naming our tendency to chase after what's flashy but flimsy.

What are our swaying reeds? For me, it is endless video reels on my phone, worldly pleasures, entertainment in sports, and the good opinion of others. Inflated distractions that bend whichever way the wind blows. But they can't satisfy my soul. What are your flimsy reeds?

John the Baptist wasn't a swaying reed. He was rooted, grounded, unafraid to speak the solid truth. The people went to see him because, deep down, they were starving for something real.

This Advent, the Church asks us to reassess: What are we really looking for? Are we chasing the dazzling but hollow? Or are we seeking what is solid and lasting — that which points to Christ?

— Father John Muir

Today's Readings: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 10 (see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-1



*Prayers*  
FOR HEALING

### 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:

Lisa Krisik	Elizabeth Hannan Hurley
Molly Flynn	Brody Lynch
Denise Jandura	Rich Jandura

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.



**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.

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

**COMMUNITY DINNER**

Community Dinner's are held  
 on the third Tuesday of the month  
 at 6:00 PM in our Parish Center  
 Next Dinner: December 16<sup>th</sup>

We ask that if you plan on attending  
 please call the parish office  
 at 708-448-4861 and let us  
 know for the food count

JOY  
 NOEL  
 ANGEL  
 JESUS  
 PEACE HOPE  
 WISEMEN  
 CHRISTMAS  
 BELIEVE FAITH  
 PRINCE OF PEACE  
 THANK YOU

**ST. ALEXANDER  
 SHARING TREE  
 THANK YOU!**

Our Parish families were  
 once again very generous  
 to families in need at  
 Christmas. Your dona-  
 tions will truly help make  
 it a special Christmas for  
 many. God Bless and  
 Merry Christmas!



The Knights of Columbus  
 will offer Keep Christ in  
 Christmas magnets and  
 yard signs after Masses  
 this weekend

Proceeds will support our  
 annual Coats for Kids  
 program which provides new, warm winter  
 coats for needy children in our sharing parish.  
 The Keep Christ in Christmas program is de-  
 signed as a way to encourage our neighbors to  
 shift from preoccupation with materialism to the  
 light of Christ, the spirit of giving, and the true  
 meaning of Christmas.

Donation: \$5/magnet and \$10/yard sign

**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE**

***Christmas Vigil***  
***December 24<sup>th</sup>***

3:00 PM — Church  
 3:00 PM — Parish Center  
 5:00 PM — Church  
 10:00 PM — Church

***Christmas Day***  
***December 25<sup>th</sup>***

7:30 AM — Church  
 9:30 AM — Church  
 11:30 AM — Church

***Holy Family of***  
***Jesus, Mary & Joseph***

***December 27<sup>th</sup>*** 5:00 PM  
***December 28<sup>th</sup>*** 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM, 6:00 PM

***Solemnity of Mary,***  
***Mother of God***

***December 31<sup>st</sup>*** 5:00 PM  
***January 1<sup>st</sup>*** 10:00 AM

Please note January 1<sup>st</sup> is a Holy Day of Obligation

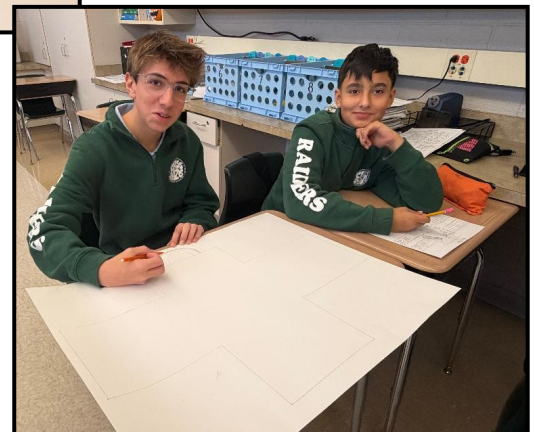
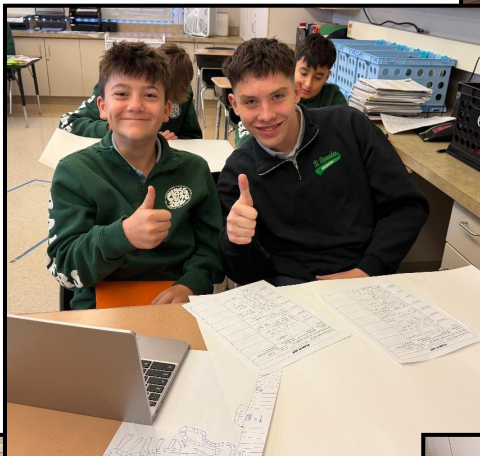
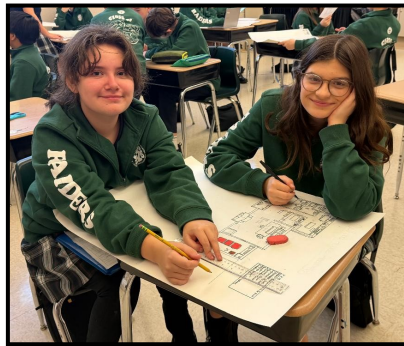
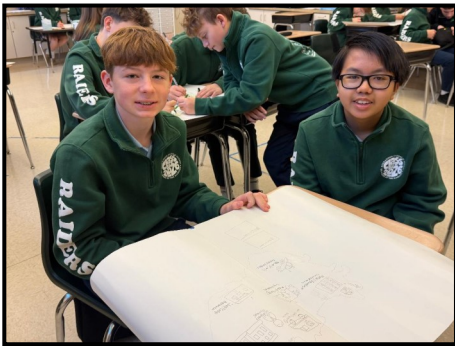




# ST. ALEXANDER SCHOOL HAPPENINGS



8th Grade is working hard on their cell analogy project! They are using their creativity to explain how some of their favorite things or places (Canes, Starbucks, Amusement Park, Movie Theatre, etc.) rely on different working parts, just like a cell relies on multiple working organelles!







# ST. ALEXANDER SCHOOL HAPPENINGS



Our PreK 4 students spent a joyful morning with their 8th grade prayer partners. Together, they created festive turkeys and enjoyed time connecting, creating, and sharing friendship. It was a beautiful way to build community and celebrate the season with gratitude and joy.





# COME AND SEE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH



Young Men (ages 16-35) interested in the Canons Regular of St. John Cantius are welcome to join Fr. Nathan Ford for a day-long discernment retreat.

The day will include: *Mass, Holy Hour, Canon Testimonials & More!*

Register Here



ARE YOU CALLED? GET MORE INFO.



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

## ParishSOFT

If you would like to make a one-time electronic donation or sign up for recurring gifts please scan this bar code.

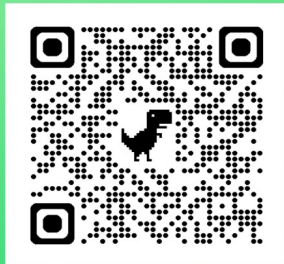


SCAN THE QR CODE FOR  
 INFORMATION ABOUT

**-Religious Ed**

**-Youth Ministry  
 (JR High/ High School)**

**-Stay and Play**



WWW.TRIED-YM.COM

## ParishSOFT®

Connecting People and the Church



Faith Direct has joined forces with ParishSOFT Managed Giving. You will see some changes to your giving portfolio and can still sign on to your account as you did before. ParishSOFT Giving offers all the same reliable features you've come to know – recurring gifts, online giving, and donor support – plus new enhancements to better serve you:

- Modern giving options: including Apple Pay, Google Pay, Venmo, PayPal, stock, and crypto.
- Anonymous Giving.
- Mobile-friendly experience: give online, through the app, or by text.

Donors can give based on preferred schedule, with support for weekly contributions rather than once-a-month processing. ParishSOFT Managed Giving will make your giving experience more convenient and meaningful. All your existing information, recurring gifts, and donation history will transfer automatically – no action is needed unless otherwise notified.



### 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.

Available in the church vestibule after all weekend Masses or in the Parish Office during regular business hours.

**DONATION: \$3/PACKET**



### 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.

### HOLIDAY BULLETIN DEADLINES

Please email your print ready information, in a word, jpeg or pdf file, to Nancy Romano at nromano33@aol.com. The information will be used as space in the bulletin is available. Thank you for your cooperation in helping to meet the publisher's deadline!

Bulletin Date  
January 4

Submit by Date  
December 16



The holiday season  
can be especially difficult  
for some people.  
Check in with someone  
who might need  
your help.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUTREACH  
—ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO—  
AWAWARENESS • SERVICES • PREVENTION

### WORD OF LIFE

“O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free.”

—USCCB, “Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita”

### 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 either Deacon Jim Horton or Deacon Fran Pendergast at 708-448-4861.



### 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.

## Earn Money for St. Al's and Save on Your Tuition While Shopping Almost Everywhere!

### Saving is As Easy as 1, 2, 3!

- STEP 01** Download the RaiseRight App and e-mail Mrs. Somers for the activation code.
- STEP 02** Add a payment source — your credit/debit card or bank account.
- STEP 03** Buy eGift Cards when shopping to cover your total at tons of brick-and-mortar and online retailers. Each retailer offers a cash-back percentage which you split **50/50** between St. Al's and your child's tuition!!



Feel Free to Contact Program Coordinator **Paula Somers** at [psomers1115@aol.com](mailto:psomers1115@aol.com) or 708.448.4861, or **Lloyd Metcalf** at [Lloyd.Metcalf@gmail.com](mailto:Lloyd.Metcalf@gmail.com) with questions!

## PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

St. Alexander Parish lists the names of active military of parishioners and their family members in our weekly bulletin. We keep them in our thoughts and prayers as they protect our country and freedom.

If you have a relative who is an active member in the United States Military and would like them listed in the bulletin, contact Nancy at the Parish Office, 448-4861. Please inform us if the service person listed is no longer active in the military at home or abroad.

Our Knights of Columbus Council #14057 would like to offer military families Blue Star Banners. If you would like to receive a Blue Star Banner, please call the Parish Office at 708-448-4861.

## Our Members in the Military

Scott Golich - U.S. Navy	Robert Brennan - U.S. Army
Stephen LaPiana - U.S. Army	Scott Milcarek - U.S. Army
Matthew Brennan - U.S. Air Force	Charles Berglund - U.S. Marines
Andrew Nissen - U.S. Marines	Patrick Pratl - U.S. Navy
Andrew Cleland - U.S. Army	Alan Filipiak - U.S. Navy
John Hoban III - U.S. Army	Mark Filipiak - U.S. Marines
A. Amanda Cleland - U.S. Air Force	Joshua Bramlett U.S. Navy
Amanda Brennan - U.S. Army	Matthew Bramlett - U.S. Navy
Kyle Hite - U.S. Army	David Lindstrom - National Guard
Gino Albergo - U.S. Army	Daniel Weakley - U.S. Navy
James M. Bilder - U.S. Army	Stephen Vossler - U.S. Navy
Nicholas Wineman - U.S. Marines	Vito Barraco - U.S. Army
Kate Ridsen - U.S. Navy	Ryan Grant - U.S. Army
Kevin Lewis - U.S. Navy	Nicholas Crot - U.S. Marines
Michael Lindstrom - U.S. Army	Jose Sanchez - U.S. Army
Ryan Graeber - U.S. Marines	Ben St. Aubin - U. S. Navy
Mary Kate Wetzel - U.S. Marines	Hunter Leschman - U.S. Navy
Chloe Van Witzenburg - U.S. Army	Cody Goldman - National Guard
Hanna Van Witzenburg - U.S. Army	Cameron Smentek - U.S. Army
Isaac & Veronika Baines - U.S. Navy	Judith Hite - U.S. Army
Michael D. Faloona - National Guard	Jake Soukup - U.S. Army
Conor Knapp - U.S. Army	





## CHRISTMAS IS ALMOST HERE....STOCK UP NOW!!!

It's time to start stocking up on SAVE! We have many retailers and restaurants, both local and national, to help make your holiday shopping easier. Gift cards make great gifts!

**DID YOU KNOW....** SAVE is a program where you can buy gift cards or certificates for many retailers and restaurants, both local and national. Pick up a list of participating vendors or check out all our SAVE vendors on the website [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com). This site has many additional vendors to choose from; besides those carried in-house. The order procedure for these cards is the same as a regular SAVE order.

Orders may be dropped off at the Parish Administrative Center Monday thru Wednesday, during normal business hours 9:00AM-5:00PM or through the school. Pick up completed orders at the Parish Administrative Center after Noon on Thursday or during sale hours in the Parish Activity Room on Sunday from 10:15 - 11:30AM.

The credit you receive for your SAVE purchases can be applied towards tuition payments or fees at any educational facility; grade school through college — public or private. It can even be applied to pay off college loans!! You may also choose to have the credit returned directly to you. The school is also a beneficiary of the SAVE program!

**THE LAST DAY TO PURCHASE SAVE FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY  
WILL BE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> FROM 10:15—11:30AM!  
LAST DAY FOR SPECIAL ORDERS IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>**

### MASS INTENTIONS

Contact the parish office if you would like to have a Mass intention for 2025 or 2026. Please note that Mass intentions are not just for the deceased but for anyone you would like to include in prayer.

### DON'T TAKE A VACATION FROM CHURCH

"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](http://www.masstimes.org) and [www.findaparish.com](http://www.findaparish.com).

### St. Alexander String Quartet

*St. Alexander's String Quartet  
will be performing a concert  
half an hour before the  
5:00 PM and 10:00 PM Masses  
on Christmas Eve.  
Also the 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, and  
11:30 AM Masses on Christmas Day.  
Come listen to the  
magnificent music as we  
glorify the new born King!*



### 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!**

### GET OUR WEEKLY BULLETIN EMAILED TO YOU!

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

## 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*



## Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Please donate at your local parish, or by mail at:  
National Religious Retirement Office  
3211 Fourth Street NE  
Washington DC 20017-1194  
Make check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious.

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

## PRAYING TO THE ANGELS

We pray to the angels, for they are given to us as guardians.

—St. Ambrose

## COMMUNION MINISTERS

### Saturday, December 20th

5:00 PM— Sharon Mundo, Mary Ceebin,  
Joan DeVito

### Sunday, December 21st

7:30 AM— Pat Sobczak, Bob Straz, Susan Chillmon  
9:30 AM— Patti Hartig, Wendy Loftus,  
Dorothy McCloskey, Rich Cruz (LG)  
11:30 AM— Patricia Klaus  
6:00 PM— Michael Collins, Sharon Ayres,  
Merrill Jurgens



## READERS

### Saturday, December 20th

5:00 PM— Bill Rogers

### Sunday, December 21st

7:30 AM— Mary Dombrowski  
9:30 AM— John Kelbowski, Linda Buchanan  
11:30 AM— Ryan Alberts  
6:00 PM— Bob Ayres, Johanna Jurgens



Join Us For A

# Dueling Pianos Extravaganza

Hosted By  
*St. Al's FSA*  
JANUARY 9, 2026




**HOWL 260**  
BY HOWL AT THE MOON

DOORS OPEN AT 6PM  
PIANO SHOW AT 8PM

TICKETS \$35 PER PERSON - \$60 PER COUPLE

BYOB & SNACKS  
21 & OVER EVENT



## Congratulations to Week 5 Winners



Card #245 – 5G003

Winner: TJ Schmitt

Paid \$25

Ticket sold by: Fuller family

Card #898 – 5G003

Winner: Joe Waytula

Paid \$25

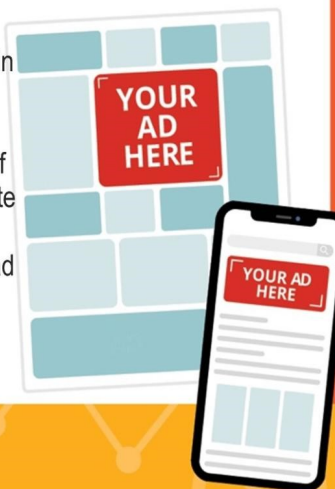
Ticket sold by: Levine family

Faith is not a light which scatters all our darkness, but a lamp which guides our steps in the night and suffices for the journey.  
—Pope Francis, The Light of Faith

## AVAILABLE NOW! PRINT & DIGITAL AD SPACES

**Build your business and help us grow a vibrant faith community!**

Jeff Hansen from LPi, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our church in the coming weeks. As a valuable member of the business community, we invite you to expand your reach and grow your business with a print ad in our parish bulletin and/or a digital ad featured on ParishesOnline.com.



Jeff Hansen

(800) 950-9952 x2683

JHansen@4lpi.com

### PART TIME HELP NEEDED

Sight challenged female looking for help part time. Monday through Friday. Flexible hours. Must have driver license.

Help with doing errands etc.  
If interested please call 708 218 1957.

Please support  
**Our Advertisers**

## 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.

# Mass Intentions For The Week

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 14, 2025

### Saturday, December 13th

5:00 PM— Janeen Pikula  
Dale Yukich  
Marilyn Reddy  
Ken & Eleanore Reilly  
Karen Yukich  
John Matejka  
Paul Lunter

### Sunday, December 14th

7:30 AM— Mary Ann Cieplak  
Fr. John Auer  
Brian Cadore  
Colleen J. Nix  
Joan Cadore  
Irene Brajner  
Carolyn Lowery  
Paul Pendergast  
Catherine Hoban  
Tom & Chet Chwierut  
Jerry Haase  
Mary Lou Kavanaugh  
Special Intention  
9:30 AM— Tony Janicek—27th Anniversary  
Margaret Griffin  
Mary Ellen Walsh  
David Shannon  
Raymond & Marion Hunt  
Mary Foscett  
Ralph Dziuba  
Healing Intention  
11:30 AM— Hohmer & Berquist Families  
Ed Obiala  
Tom Scanlon  
Michael Belczak  
Paul Lunter  
6:00 PM— For the Parishioners  
Martin Hynes

### Monday, December 15th

8:30 AM— Colleen J. Nix  
Jack Adams  
Mike Flaherty  
Sonny Schmeisser—Healing Intention  
Judith Jagodzinski  
Norma Jean Burke

### Tuesday, December 16th

8:30 AM— Dorothy Janik, Colleen J. Nix  
Michael Sweeney, Gerry Krull  
Jennifer Aparo, Tom & Chet Chwierut  
Special Intention, Karen Vasil  
Michael Macey—Birthday Blessing

### Wednesday, December 17th

8:30 AM— Colleen J. Nix, Shannon Jenkins  
Paul Macey, Special Intention  
Karen Vasil, Nicholas Chapin  
Mike—Healing Intention

### Thursday, December 18th

8:30 AM— Mary & Charles Somers  
Liam Hanley  
Colleen J. Nix  
Karen Vasil  
Richard Quinn  
Cindy Schmeisser—Healing Intention

### Friday, December 19th

8:30 AM— Lisa Czurylo  
Colleen J. Nix  
Michael & Darlee Macey & Fam.—Sp. Int.  
Karen Vasil

### Saturday, December 20th

8:00 AM— Colleen J. Nix  
Helen J. Brett—1st Anniversary  
Paul & Mary Ann Follenweider  
Chet & Tom Chwierut  
Karen Vasil

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 21, 2025

### Saturday, December 20th

5:00 PM— Mary Murphy O'Connell  
Dale Yukich  
Kevin M. Buschell  
Marilyn A. Reddy  
Paul Pendergast  
Cheri A. Holmes  
Ray & Dorothy Majdecki  
William & Jeanette Schuble

### Sunday, December 21st

7:30 AM— Colleen J. Nix  
Judy McCarthy  
Johanna Hoban  
Steven Plescher  
Chet & Tom Chwierut  
Mary Foscett  
Karen Vasil  
Jerry Haase  
Francis Strain—Special Intention  
Karen Bylaitis—Special Intention  
Maureen McFadden—Special Intention  
9:30 AM— William (Boleslaw) Zarod—1st Anniv.  
Joan & Dan Bagniewski  
Don & Mary Tadda  
Raymond & Marion Hunt  
Ralph Dziuba  
William Sokolowski  
11:30 AM— John Svabek  
Marie Hohmer  
Ed Obiala  
Michael Belczak  
Tom Scanlon  
Denis Downs  
Thomas Patrick Rush  
6:00 PM— For the Parishioners