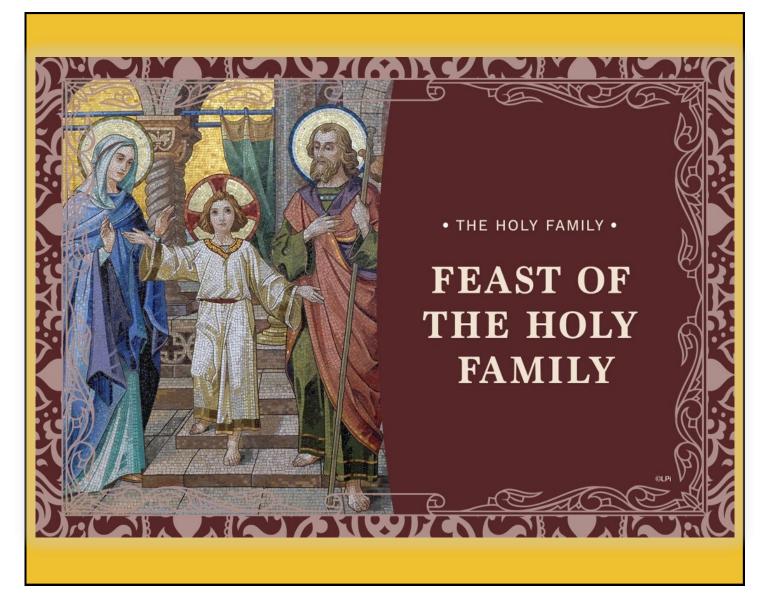
# St. Alexander Church The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph The Palos Catholic The Palos Catholic



# St. Alexander Parish Administration Directory

# **Parish Administrative Center**

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

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

Pastor: Rev	. Martin Michniewicz ext. 227
Associate Pastor:	. Rev. Colm Mitchell ext. 223
Deacons: Jim Horton, Mich	ael 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

#### **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,

As we begin the new Year of Our Lord, 2025, let us all take a few moments and read the following poem. The author is anonymous, but I would like to thank him for composing it, for it gives us much food for thought.

If I were asked to form a perfect prayer, No fluent phrases would my lips employ. No flourishes of speech would I prepare For only those of learning to enjoy. With simple verbal drapery I'd make A prayer that everyone would understand. Were I to make a prefect prayer designed. To rid the world of selfishness and greed. With books of lore I would not tax my mind, For these two simple lines would fill my need. "Renew, O God, within the hearts of men The Golden Rule, and give it life again. DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU.

The rule is quite easy to remember but so often forgotten and ignored. Our world, nations, and personal lives would be so much better if we lived this simple but challenging rule coupled with faith. We, as both humans and Christians, yearn for love, peace, individual freedom, dignity and respect. If we all treated one another with these qualities and ideals in mind, the kingdom of God would truly be fully established on earth. Just imagine a world with no stealing, homicide, prejudice and hate. In return, we receive a world only with peace, love, harmony and forgiveness. Thus, when we make our New Year's resolutions, let us place "Living the Golden Rule" on the top of our lists.

Let us also this year remember the words of Archbishop Fulton Sheen, "You must remember to love people and use things, rather than to love things and use people."

On behalf of myself, Fr. Mitchell, and the entire St. Alexander Parish staff and family, I wish you all a very healthy, faith filled and prosperous New Year. May our Lord continue to inspire us all to live out our faith and to love each other as Christ does.

God Bless, Father Marty

# 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

# WORD OF LIFE

"Dearest St Joseph... Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life —especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things."

—USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

# **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.



Sacrament of Communion



# **READINGS FOR THE WEEK** December 30-January 5, 2025

Monday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/

Lk 2:36-40

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/

Jn 1:1-18

Wednesday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3,5, 6, 8 (2a)/

Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/ Thursday:

Jn 1:19-28

Friday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/

Jn 1:29-34

1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42 Saturday:

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 Sunday:

(see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



# Prayers of the Faithful for the Sick

As the faith family of St. Alexander, we Prayers 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 Fr. John Noga

Jennifer Aparo

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.



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:

Mary Beatty, mother of Jim Jan Krzeminski, husband of Angie Maureen McDonald, sister of Meg Karolczak

# SCRIPTURE REFLECTION



As a first-time pastor in a parish, I received a phone call one afternoon from a young married couple, "Father, our 2-year-old son drowned in our pool this morning. We are at the hospital. Please help us." I sped over. The little boy was gone, his body cold, slightly blue, laid out on a bed. His parents were distraught and in shock. For the next few years, I walked with the couple along their difficult and painful road. They openly shared with me how they were often tempted to blame and accuse each other for the loss. And yet, by God's grace, their love for each grew stronger and deeper as the years went by.

The Holy Family was not without its pain and loss, either. Luke tells us, after losing their twelve-year-old son, Joseph and Mary "after three days found him in the temple area, sitting among the teachers..." (Luke 2:46). We don't know specifically what those three days were like for them except for what Mary says: "Your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." The three days of his absence foreshadow his death and burial. His finding in the temple is a kind of resurrection for his family. They had to learn, again and again, that their family was becoming place where death and resurrection was not only accepted but welcomed and celebrated. But surely they deeply felt the dangerous agony of their loss — just like every couple who has lost a child.

What losses in your experience of family still cause you anxiety? In what ways has God's presence seemingly vanished in your family? Will you keep searching for Jesus? Remember, he will rise and be found. Your family may be suffering, but when he is found, it will be stronger than ever before.

— Father John Muir

Today's Readings: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see a)/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52



The Parish Offices will be closed on Wednesday, January 1st

## MASS TIMES WHILE OUT OF TOWN

Free apps available: Catholic Mass Times Church Directory and Mass Times for Travel. Or visit mass-times.org and.findaparish.com.

# **Low-Gluten Hosts**

Starting January  $5^{\rm th}$  at the 9:30 AM 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.

# Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph December 29<sup>th</sup> Prayer to the Holy Family

O Jesus, look graciously upon our family here before you. Once more we consecrate ourselves before you our trial and joys that our home may ever be the shrine of peace, purity, love and faith. Protect and bless all of us, both absent and present, and be merciful to those departed.

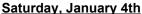


O Mary, loving Mother of Jesus, and our Mother, pray to Jesus for our families, for all the families of the world, to guard the cradle of the newborn, the schools of the young and their vocations.

O Joseph, holy Guardian of Jesus & Mary, assist us by your prayers in all the necessities of life.

Be present at the pillow of the sick and dying so that we may all be united to Jesus and Mary and you for all eternity. Amen

# COMMUNION MINISTERS



5:00 PM— Mary Ceebin, Terri Filipiak, Rosemary Dziuba

#### Sunday, January 5th

7:30 AM— Bob Straz, Susan Chillmon,

Susan Murphy

9:30 AM— Dorothy McCloskey, John Kelbowski, Pat Karrasch, Mary Beth Flynn

11:30 AM— Paul Sullivan, Jeff & Ofelia Foreman

11.30 Alvi— Faul Sullivall, Jell & Olella i Olel

6:00 PM— Merrill Jurgens, Sharon Ayres

## **READERS**

#### Saturday, January 4th

5:00 PM— Bill Rogers, Linda Buchanan

#### Sunday, January 5th

7:30 AM— Mary Dombrowski

9:30 AM— Debbie Myron, Rich Cruz

11:30 AM— Ryan Alberts

6:00 PM— Johanna Jurgens, Bob Ayres



# YOU'RE INVITED!

St. Alexander Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting

# Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup> —9:00 AM in the SAVE Room

Meetings usually last an hour. Items are made in our homes, and then we gather at our meeting to wrap and label them. We meet once every two months and share the joy of our gifts and prayers with many people in need in our parish and elsewhere.

If you want to see what we are all about, come out and join us. For more information please call Rosemary at 708-293-8884.



# ST. ALEXANDER SCHOOL HAPPENINGS





School students recently got the chance to shop for their friends and family at Santa's Workshop!









# ST. ALEXANDER SCHOOL HAPPENINGS





Santa's Breakfast was a fabulous event with about 350 people in attendance. It was great to see so many school children and parishioners with kids and grandkids in attendance. The families who helped organize were awesome and really enjoyed making this a special morning at St. Alexander.











# 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. Shawn Borle



# 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!

#### 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.

# **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.

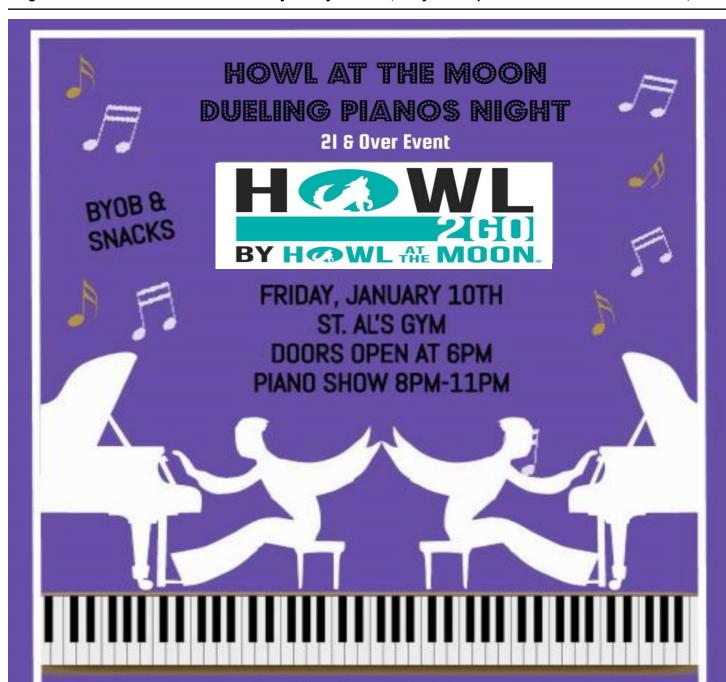


# & Knights of Columbus FOOD COLLECTION

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!** 





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.

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

# 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.



## **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.

#### **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.



# **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!

# FAITH DIRECT®

inspiring secure giving ®

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



# 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





# SUNDAY SALE HOURS 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.



# 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.

# Congratulations to Week 7 Winners



Card #4232 - 4G001

Winner: Theresa Beaulieu

Paid \$25

Ticket sold by: Parishioner

Card #3855 - 4G001 Winner: Jen Oganovich

Paid \$25

Ticket sold by: Oganovich family

Card #3754 - 4G001 Winner: Pat McCall

Paid \$25

Ticket sold by: McClory family

Card #3968 - 4G001 Winner: Michael Sharpe

Paid \$25

Ticket sold by: Salzer family

# **Mass Intentions For The Week**

# THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH **DECEMBER 29, 2024**

Saturday, December 28th

5:00 PM— Rosemary Murphy

Marilyn Sutley

Joseph Rathnau Family

Adeline Hyzy Margaret Corbett

Jerry Keller—4th Anniversary

Sunday, December 29th

7:30 AM— Aggie Palmer

**Thomas Chwierut** Chet Chwierut Colleen J. Nix

Rose Barth—Christmas Blessing Kyle Barth—Blessing

AM— Fr. John Murphy—18th Anniversary Florence C. Jastrzebowski 9:30

Donna M. & Joseph A. Feldner, SGM

Loren J. Feldner, DDS Robert M. Pikula

Raymond & Marion Hunt

Kevin Reynolds Amy Lyon Richard Podesto Thomas Macey Jr.

Patrick Stanton

11:30 AM— Sr. Lourdes

Alex Czurylo

John Svabek & Family

Roarke & Chape LaCoursiere

James Nash

6:00 PM— For the Parishioners

Monday, December 30th

8:30 AM— Tom Hynes

Mr. & Mrs. John Herring—Anniv. Blessing

Robert & Margaret Corbett

Colleen J. Nix

Emma & Leo Heinz—1st Wedding Anniversary Blessing

Tuesday, December 31st (St. Sylvester I)

8:30 AM— Special Intention

Tom & Chet Chwierut

Colleen J. Nix

Don Tadda

5:00 PM— Joseph & Mary Hecht

Amy Lyon

Stephen Malick Jr.—1st Anniversary

Wednesday, January 1st (Mary, The Holy Mother of God

10:00 AM— Deborah Krates

Clement Hohmer

John Janik—13th Anniversary

John & Lori Czech Colleen Kane Skrovanek Jacquelynn Kozolowski

Colleen J. Nix

Jeff & Karen—Healing Intention Jim & Chris—Healing Intention

Thursday, January 2nd (Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory

8:30 AM— Joseph Rathnau

Nazianzen)

Elizabeth Higgins Colleen J. Nix

Francis & verle Clair

Friday, January 3rd (The Most Holy Name of Jesus)

8:30 AM— Charles McClain—20th Anniversary

JoAnne Conway Dorothy Janik Antoinette Gill

Collen J. Nix

Saturday, January 4th (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton)

8:00 AM— John Janik

Erika Frelander—5th Anniversary

Chet Chwierut **Thomas Chwierut** Colleen J. Nix Don Tadda

Holy Souls in Purgatory

Tom, Margaret & Pauline Macey

# THE 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

