

St. Alexander Church

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 7, 2024

The Palos Catholic



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."

- Mt 2:1-2

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 S. 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: tryed@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

RCIA *Celebration of the Rites 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 (RCIC) and teens (RCIT).

RCIA/RCIC/RCIT contact - Fr. Martin Michniewicz 448-4861

EUCARIST

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

Evening of Healing Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration

On the 1st Saturday of the month

4:30 PM - Recitation of the Rosary

5:00 PM - Regular Vigil Mass for Sunday

5:45 PM - Eucharistic Adoration
for one hour of quiet prayer

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 2024 calendars. The calendars were very popular this year and there are about only 10 left in the parish office. If you would like one please call and check to make sure there are still several left.

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.

For fifteen years Sr. Claire M. Czerwiec used our facilities at St. Alexander parish for pastoral counseling and spiritual direction. Unfortunately Sr. Claire has passed on from death to new life with our Lord in the heavenly kingdom. Sr. Claire shared her gifts with both parishioners and non-parishioners alike and will be missed by those individuals she helped in their times of need. Please remember to say a prayer for the repose of the soul of Sr. Claire some time this week.

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*



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:

Anthony Casale, father of Cynthia LaRoy

Richard Jurgens, father of Peg Ivers

Constance Kress, grandmother of Michelle Mansfield

Josephine Passarelli, mother of Carol Bills

Stephen "Bud" Stefan, husband of Carol

EPIPHANY

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



READINGS FOR THE WEEK January 8-14, 2024

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Monday: | Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3)/
1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11 |
| Tuesday: | 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/
Mk 1:21-28 |
| Wednesday: | 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a,
8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39 |
| Thursday: | 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/
Mk 1:40-45 |
| Friday: | 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/
Mk 2:1-12 |
| Saturday: | 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5,
6-7/Mk 2:13-17 |
| Sunday: | 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4 7-8, 8-9, 10
(8a, 9a)/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42 |



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:

Tatiana Ranftl
Maggie Campbell
Carole Holding
Marian Conway
Barbara Collins

Dale Yukich
Lisa Krisik
Pat Potokar
Paul Pendergast
Dennis Rytlewski

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



A stranger in a foreign land, I was exhausted and homesick as my summer Spanish immersion ended in Guatemala. The rusty minivan arriving outside my small residence filled me with joyful hope. I was flying home to the U.S. and would be, at long last, completely happy. Or so I thought. After about half an hour of being home, I thought to myself, "This place is boring. I want to go somewhere." So, I hopped in my car and left to see my friends. As I drove, I wistfully wondered, "Where am I truly at home?"

The feast of Epiphany has a lot to do with our notion of home. Where is our origin? Where are we going? When is our wandering done? Saint Matthew tells us of the Magi, "They were overjoyed at seeing the star." This star will bring them home, to a place where their questing

will end, and they will be satisfied. Their real home is neither in the East nor in the earthly Jerusalem. Somehow, their home is wherever this boy and his parents are.

If you're a teenager or older, you probably know by now that every physical home we have is temporary. So, we look up at the countless stars in our proverbial skies: things which bedazzle and beckon us to follow toward peace. The Gospel invites us to behold that — at long last — God has sent us a star to follow home, one that whispers, "Follow me! I will take you home!" Perhaps that star is your spouse. A friend. An opportunity. A cause. An intuition about a new direction. A prayer group. What is it for you? How will you know? It will lead you to Mary and Joseph and their son, and you will be home.

— Father John Muir

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



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!

Home Bound or Ill?

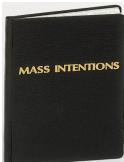
If you, or someone you know, are unable to attend Mass and would like to receive communion in their home, please call either Deacon Jim Horton or Deacon Fran Pendergast at 708-448-4861.



WORD OF LIFE

"Through the Incarnation and birth of Christ, God reveals to us the dignity of all human life. Human life, as a gift of God, is sacred and inviolable. The Son of God has united himself with every human being and desires for us to share eternal life with him... Each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, and we reflect his glory in the world."

—USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities



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



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!



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**.



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It's EASY and FREE to register!

1. Visit formed.org/signup
2. Enter our parish zip or name
3. Enter your name and email
4. Enjoy and share with others in our local community!

MASS TIMES WHILE OUT OF TOWN

There are free iPhone apps available that give church locations and Mass times all over the country; *Catholic Mass Times Church Directory* or *Mass Times for Travel*. Or visit the website www.masstimes.org or www.findaparish.com.

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!



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

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

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.



ST. ALEXANDER SCHOOL HAPPENINGS



ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE



St. Alexander's Athletic Board/Booster Club Presents



Championship Game Raffle Pools

Sunday, January 28, 2024

Super Square \$120

Pays out every score change AND 1st Quarter,
Halftime, 3rd Quarter and Final Score.

Includes Entry, Food and Drink.

General Tickets are also available, \$50 in advance, \$60 at the door.

Squares can be purchased from:

Pete White 630-816-4955 | Jim Hughes 773-680-3832
Joe LiVigni 708-296-2175 | Tom Hardiman 312-617-9214

**PALOS HEIGHTS SCHOOL
DISTRICT 128 PRESCHOOL SCREENING**
Monday, January 22, 2024 10:30AM - 4:00PM
**For all children 3-5 years of age
that reside in School District 128**
 Areas of development assessed include speech and language, gross and fine motor skills, concepts, social/emotional and self help skills. A vision and hearing screening will also be conducted, if possible. Children will be screened by a diagnostic team of district personnel under the direction of District 128 Administration. Please call for an appointment 8:30AM - 3:00PM 708-597-1285
 Questions: Contact Cathy Leslie, Director of Student Services at 708-597-1285



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Chicago Radio: 950 AM/930 AM/1270 AM
www.relevantradio.com

Informational materials available in the Narthex



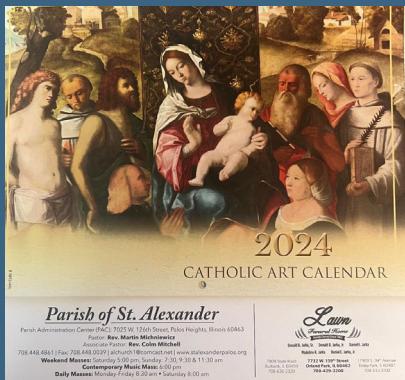
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUTREACH
— ARCHDIOCESE of CHICAGO —
AWARENESS—SERVICES—PREVENTION**
www.domesticviolenceoutreach.org

For Information call 708-215-5418



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.



2024 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.

Prayer for Those Affected by Domestic Violence

www.beliefnet.com

"God of peace, there are many places and many people who do not experience your peace. Right now there are women and children who live under the dark weight of the fear of violence right in their own homes.

We pray for their protection, and for wisdom for friends and officials to help bring that protection to them.

We pray for the many men who themselves feel powerless and confused about their relationships.

We ask that you help them find healthy ways to work out their frustrations and to find hope without resorting to destructive impulses.

God, work in our country to stem this epidemic. In Jesus' name. Amen."



**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUTREACH
— ARCHDIOCESE of CHICAGO —
AWARENESS—SERVICES—PREVENTION**

Mass Intentions For The Week



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD JANUARY 7, 2024

Saturday, January 6th

5:00 PM— Margaret Corbett
 Patrick McCartin
 Dolores & Robert Kramarski
 Poor Souls in Purgatory
 Patrick Murphy
 Nancy Tarka
 Jennifer Aparo

Sunday, January 7th

7:30 AM— Raymond & Marion Hunt
 Josephine Data
 Robert McQuiston
 Aggie Palmer
 Linda Koepke
 Vincent & Mary Hoban
 Christine Potempa—Birthday Blessing
 Colleen J. Nix
 Jason Lewis
 Rose Barth—Special Intention

9:30 AM— Richard Ciesler
 Brian Cadore
 Dorothy Janik
 Joanne Schwabe
 Loren Mahler
 Martin Brennan
 Jason Mirabella—Special Intention

11:30 AM— George Lombard
 Timothy Jarema
 Dr. Richard Griffin
 John Svabek

6:00 PM— For the Parishioners
 Richard Jurgens
 Jim—Healing Intention

Monday, January 8th (The Baptism of the Lord)

8:30 AM— Colleen J. Nix
 Lauren—Healing Intention
 Helen Bilina

Tuesday, January 9th

8:30 AM— Karen Reid—1st Anniversary
 Colleen J. Nix
 Tom & Kathleen Walsh

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.

Wednesday, January 10th

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

Thursday, January 11th

8:30 AM— Celine "Sallie" Heinlen—1st Anniversary
 Colleen J. Nix

Friday, January 12th

8:30 AM— Francis Gallagher—2nd Anniversary
 Arcangela Petrosino—1st Anniversary
 Noel Lynch
 Joe Macey
 Dorothy Kavanaugh
 Joanne Schwabe
 Colleen J. Nix

Saturday, January 13th (St. Hilary)

8:00 AM— Colleen J. Nix
 Harry Benham
 Tracey Hyde

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JANUARY 14, 2024

Saturday, January 13th

5:00 PM— For the Parishioners
 John Racila
 Robert Fisher

Sunday, January 14th

7:30 AM— James Laski Sr.
 Mary Laski
 Linda Koepke
 Catherine Hoban
 Aggie Palmer
 Virg, Joe & Rick Potempa
 Colleen J. Nix
 Robert Barth
 Joseph Stadelmann
 9:30 AM— Raymond & Marion Hunt
 Nancy Tarka
 Eugene R. Codo
 Gerry Pannaralla
 Jim Wann
 11:30 AM— Karyn Mrotek
 John Svabek
 Debbie Obiala
 Patricia Mikrut
 6:00 PM— June Spoonhour

GOD BE IN MY HEAD

God be in my head, and in my understanding;
 God be in my eyes, and in my looking;
 God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
 God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
 God be at my end, and at my departing.