St. Alexander Church

The Baptism of the Lord
January 9, 2022

The Palos Catholic

The Baptism OF THE LORD

[John said,]
"I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I is coming.
I am not worthy to loosen
the thongs of his sandals."
Luke 3:16

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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
Deacons: ……..…. Jim Horton, Tim Keating, Michael Ciciura
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 - 448-6624
Athletic Director ……..…... Michael Kennedy
Counseling Center: ……..…… 448-4861 ext.310
Director: ……. Sr. Claire Marie Czerwiec, SSND, LCPC

Parish E-Mail: …… alchurch1@comcast.net
St. Alexander on the Web: ..…… www.stalexanderpalos.org

St. Alexander School

126th St. and 71st Ave. Palos Heights, IL 60463
Phone: 708-448-0408 Fax: 708-448-5947
Principal: ……..…... Sharon O'Toole
Assistant Principal: ……..…… Mary Dombrowski
Administrative Assistants: Mary Ann Pellicore & Renee Chavez
School Web: ……..... www.stalexanderschool.com
School E-Mail: ……..... info@stalexanderschool.com

Religious Education Office

126th St. and 71st Ave. Palos Heights, IL 60463
Phone: 708-448-6624
Coordinator of Religious Education: ……..…… Tyler Ried
Religious Ed. E-Mail: ……..…….. tried@archchicago.org

Knights of Columbus: ……... 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 must be a registered parishioner in this parish.

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 1st 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 - Deacon Tim Keating or Deacon Jim Horton 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 - Deacon Tim Keating or Deacon Jim Horton 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 Vigil: 7:00 PM
Holy Day: 8:30 AM & 7:00 PM

Eucharistic Adoration

Evening of Prayer and Adoration

On the 1st Saturday
4:30 PM - Rosary
5:00 PM - Mass
6:00 PM - Prayers for Healing

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 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
Archdiocese of Chicago Vocation Director:
Rev. Timothy Monahan 312-534-8298

FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

As the winter months progress, I remind everyone to be careful as they walk on our parish grounds. Many times there are patches of black ice that you cannot see and then you may unfortunately fall. We, at St. Alexander, try to do our best to remove snow and ice from our sidewalks and parking lots but sometimes it is difficult due to weather conditions. Once again, take caution and walk slowly in icy weather.

This month marks the 49th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, which was the shameful decision of our government allowing women to abort the lives of their unborn babies. Many mothers have lost their lives during abortions and many others continue to suffer emotional and physical scars.

Project Rachel reaches out to those mothers who have suffered so much. Project Rachel is a sensitive, private, free and confidential post-abortion reconciliation program sponsored by the Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of Chicago. When a person has been involved in an abortion which calls for healing, they are referred for counseling to one of the seventy-five specially trained priests or counselors in the Chicago Archdiocese. The meeting with the priest or counselor will generally include counseling, prayer, and scripture. Project Rachel provides post-abortion healing for mothers, fathers, grandparents and siblings of aborted children, as well as abortion providers and those in the abortion industry.

Through this program the Catholic Church reaches out to those broken by the sin of abortion with the power of Jesus' death and resurrection. It is Jesus who heals and forgives through the sacraments, especially the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If you, a family member, or friend needs assistance or would like more information about Project Rachel, please call 312-337-1962. In the meantime, let us all say a prayer for an end to all abortions and a prayer for all who have either died or been hurt through this process.

Remember that Saturday, January 22nd is the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. Please take time this day to say a prayer that some day abortion will not only be illegal in our country but throughout the world.

Parishioners will soon be receiving raffle tickets for this year's Annual Parish Raffle, which supports our school and religious education program. The raffle drawing will take place on February 26th.

Please note there will be a second collection next weekend for the Little Sisters of the Poor. Please turn to page nine for more information about the sisters and the important work they do with the needy.

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:

Carole Frank, wife of Walter Dettmann
Sally MacFarlane, wife of Alexander

WORD OF LIFE

"When we encounter Christ, experience his love, and deepen our relationship with him, we become more aware of our own worth and that of others. His love for each person is cause for great joy, and growing understanding of this priceless treasure motivates us to share his love with others. Our lives are often changed by the witness of others; so too, others' lives may be changed by our witness and authentic friendship with them ."

—USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

Home Bound or Ill?

If you, or someone you know, are unable to attend Mass and would like to receive communion in their home, please call Deacon Jim Horton at 708-448-4861, ext. 232.

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	Dale Yukich
Ed Mucha	Nancy Tarka
Ava Long	John Duzansky
Hedie Alt	Maria Budinger
Maggie Campbell	Baby Patrick Gartner III

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 at 708-448-4861.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, we also honor our own baptism as our initiation into the Christian life and community. In the Gospel, the baptism of Jesus, with his immersion and then emergence from the water, points to his later submission to God at his death, and his emergence from the grave at his resurrection. This pattern of death and resurrection is our path too, as followers of Jesus. Throughout life, often in small ways, we learn to surrender our limited and self-centered agendas. This surrender often feels like death. The sacrament of Baptism ritually enacts this pattern to remind us of Jesus' death and resurrection, so that we too might embrace the deaths and resurrections of our own lives. As Jesus emerged from the water, he encountered his Father and the Holy Spirit. Like Jesus, we can know we are God's beloved, empowered by the Spirit.

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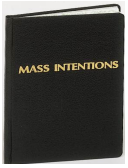
Today's Readings: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or Ps 104:1b-4, 24-25, 27-30; Acts 10:34-38 or Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22



Contact the parish office if you would like to have a Mass intention for 2022. Please note that Mass intentions are not just for the deceased but for anyone you would like to include in prayer.

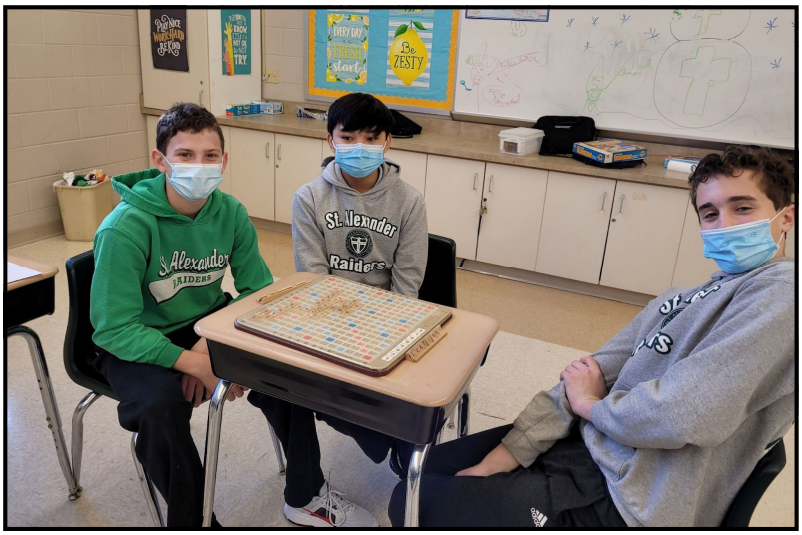
READINGS FOR THE WEEK
January 10-16, 2022

Monday:	1 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-19; Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday:	1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday:	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; 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 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday:	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17
Sunday:	Is 62:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-10; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11

ST.ALEXANDER SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

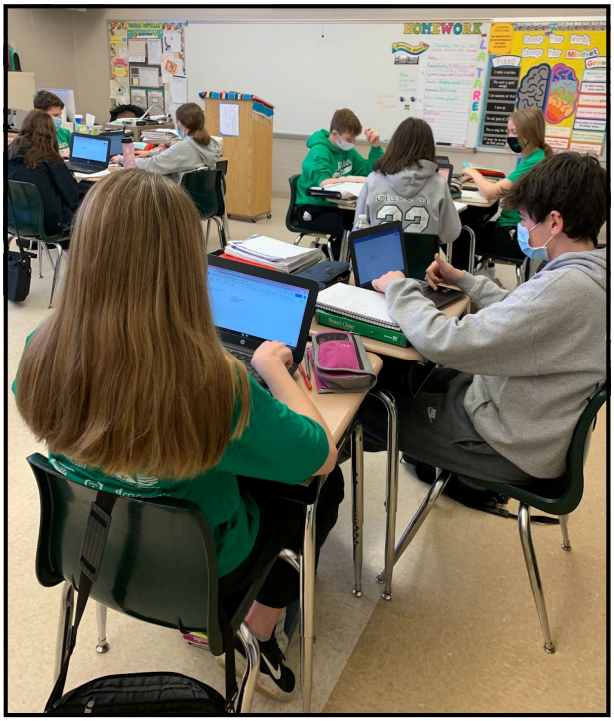
As we began a new year, students paused to thank God for what we hold dear: Our health, our family, and our friends!

The students of St. Alexander School returned refreshed and ready to begin 2022 strong.



Catholic Schools
Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.

Our teachers integrate technology and games into their classroom curriculum.



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.

St. Al's Over 50 Fellowship

There will not be a Monthly Meeting in January. Please join us in February!

The committee hopes you had a very Merry and Blessed Christmas we wish you peace, health, and love in the New Year!

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ST. THEODORE GUERIN COUNCIL #14057

Meeting: Thursday, January 15th
7:00 PM - Parish Lounge

If you are interested in helping those in need, serving your parish, and growing in your faith, then the Knights of Columbus is the organization for you. For membership information please call Fran Pendergast at 708-923-9984 or visit kofc14057.org for membership information.

2022 PARISH CALENDARS

Please pick up your complimentary copy available in the Narthex after all Masses.

Opportunity for Spiritual Direction

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

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

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

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!

PASTORAL COUNSELING SERVICES AT ST. ALEXANDER PARISH

Services for individuals, couples & families

For more information, call
448-4861 ext. 310
Sr. Claire M. Czerwiec, SSND, LCPC
Pastoral Counselor & Spiritual Director

More than 65 students from St. Alexander School and the Religious Education program participated in the Knights of Columbus Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest. The annual contest helps our children focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

There was a winner and two runners up in each of three age categories.

Grade K-2: Winner—Collin Augustyn Runners Up—Emma Yerkes and Wiktoria Wrzaszczak
Grade 3-5: Winner—Madeline Pricone Runners Up—Elle Enright and Rosalie Renardo
Grade 6-8: Winner—Mary DiVincenzo Runners Up—Carter Garrity and Audrey Rapp

Winners received a $20 gift certificate for Andy's Frozen Custard. Runners up received $10 gift certificates. Posters were judged on how clearly the message was presented, how the visuals conveyed the message, and the overall impact of the poster in capturing attention and causing reflection on the theme.

Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship Program

ILLINOIS INVEST IN KIDS TAX CREDIT

You can pay a child's St Alexander's tuition for a year at a cost to you of $500.

If you donate for the benefit of our school, St Alexander's, before January 31st an amount of $2,000, you will receive a reduction in your Illinois tax of $1,500 for 2022 and provide a full year's scholarship of $6,000 for a student. This is possible because we have a donor who has agreed to put in $2 for every dollar that you put in until January 31st. Of course, you may donate any dollar amount that you would like.

$ 2,000 you put in	**$ 2,000 you put in**
+ 4,000 match	**- 1,500 less an Illinois tax credit for 75%**
$ = 6,000 in scholarships	**$ = 500 cost to you**

Although our classrooms are all close to capacity, we have room for more. Every additional student makes our school stronger. The scholarships go towards our students in need. Because we have crossed into 2022 you can now earn an Illinois tax credit for 2022. In order to accomplish this, we need to act in advance of the January 31, 2022. This is when our matching donor will stop matching.

To ensure that St Alexander's receives the benefit you must follow a five-step process WELL BEFORE January 31st. This is where Paula Somers and I will assist you.

1) Call me at 708-341-8354 for a confidential, free, discussion about your tax situation in order to assure ourselves that there is a benefit to be had for you.
2) Register with the state of Illinois at "MyTaxIllinois.Gov". We can help you. It is like registering for any other organization. You need a username, password, and email address.
3) Once registered you go into your account and request a certificate and approval to take the credit on your personal return. The state responds with a certificate which has a PIN on it and a dollar amount. This is critical information for your tax preparer. Present it to him/her when you prepare your 2021 taxes next spring.
4) With the certificate in hand, go to another website for the "Scholarship Granting Organization" called EMPOWER to make your donation. This is where it is critical to properly designate St Alexander of Palos as your choice. Paula or I will walk you through this. You will need to provide them with your bank account and bank routing numbers for a transfer of funds.
   Sorry, no credit cards.
5) Visit you tax preparer next spring, provide him/her with the information from the state and EMPOWER. Reduce your Illinois tax by 75% of your donation amount.

Please call me, John Riesbeck, directly on my cell at 708-341-8354. I am a member of the School Advisory Council, a Certified Public Accountant, and a Certified Financial Planner. I can walk you through the process and assist in whatever fashion needed to help you.

This is a FANTASTIC opportunity to make our school NOT ONLY SURVIVE BUT THRIVE!

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Saturday, January 15th

5:00 PM— Jack Cranley, Bev Antos

Sunday, January 16th

7:30 AM— Bob Straz, Betty Chwierut
9:30 AM— Val Thoma, Wendy Loftus
11:30 AM— Tom Stuchly
6:00 PM—

LECTORS

Saturday, January 15th

5:00 PM— Denise Ciciura, Bill Rogers

Sunday, January 16th

7:30 AM— Kay Keating, Mary Dombrowski
9:30 AM— Debbie Myron, Rich Cruz
11:30 AM— Mary Ann Klimek, Carol Miller
6:00 PM—

JANUARY 19-27, 2022

9 Days for Life is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life.

Join today at www.9daysforlife.com!

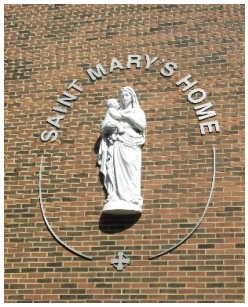
3 WAYS TO JOIN

9DaysforLife.com

Image: A mosaic of Our Lady of Guadalupe decorates a side altar in the Church of Santa Maria della Famiglia at the Vatican. Dec. 15. (CNS photo/Paul Haring.)

Visit us on Facebook

St. Alexander Catholic Church
St. Alexander School
St. Alexander Youth Ministry



The weekend of January 15/16, the Little Sisters of the Poor will visit our Parish to share their vocation of hospitality to the elderly. St. Mary's Home in Chicago is one of 167 Homes for the elderly poor operated by the Little Sisters in 31 countries around the world.

Acute and considerable continues to be their need for financial support. Virtually all of the current Residents of St. Mary's Home qualify for Medicaid, and a few receive meager pensions. But these modest funds cover, at best, about half of the annual expenses. The Little Sisters have ministered to thousands of elders in Chicago for 145 years. Your support will enable them to continue their mission of caring for the neediest seniors of every race and religion in a spirit of reverence and of humble service. God bless you!

www.littlesistersofthepoorchicago.org

Mass Intentions For The Week

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
JANUARY 9, 2022

Saturday, January 8th
5:00 PM— Beverly Avery
Mary Sharon Lazarski
Eva Ritz
Helen Bilina
Tony McLaughlin
Steve Horvath
James Grisolano

Sunday, January 9th
7:30 AM— For the Parishioners
Aggie Palmer
Colleen J. Nix
Vincent & Mary Hoban
Josephine Data
Robert McQuiston
Maureen Bonistelli
9:30 AM— Lorraine Lockie
Joan & Dan Bagniewski
Therese Kearney
James O'Malley Sr.
Brian Cadore
Eva Ritz
Norma Burke
11:30 AM— Shirley Van Henkelum
Geraldine Payette
Ed Beaulieu
Lourdesita Gorecho
6:00 PM— Rosario Baio
Dr. Reinhold H. Killian

Monday, January 10th
8:30 AM— Robert Samuel Seplin (1st Anniversary)
Michael Hanley
Nell Hanley
Jack Meade
Colleen J. Nix
Virginia M. & Joseph T. Feldner
Maureen Bonistelli

Tuesday, January 11th
8:30 AM— Colleen J. Nix
Ed Beaulieu
Nora McDonnell
Catherine M. McMahon
Maureen Bonistelli

Wednesday, January 12th
8:30 AM— Nieve O'Brien Garmes (1st Anniversary)
Noel Lynch
Joe Macey
Dorothy Kavanaugh
Colleen J. Nix
Maureen Bonistelli

Thursday, January 13th *(St. Hilary)*
8:30 AM— Colleen J. Nix
Louise Kozicki
Annette Hallagan
Steve Weber
Maureen Bonistelli

Friday, January 14th
8:30 AM— Colleen J. Nix
Fred Marhoefer
Paul Knez
Maureen Bonistelli

Saturday, January 15th
8:00 AM— Colleen J. Nix

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JANUARY 16, 2022

Saturday, January 15th
5:00 PM— Irene Pajda
Beverly Avery
Eva Ritz
Michael Dybas
Martin Elliot Clawson

Sunday, January 16th
7:30 AM— Colleen J. Nix
Dan Sniegowski
Paul Knez
Aggie Palmer
Mary K. Laski
James J. Laski Sr.
Catherine Hoban
9:30 AM— Fr. John Crosby
Larry Yakutis
Henery Szczasmy
Denise Huguelet
Colleen Nix
Ed Beaulieu
11:30 AM— For the Parishioners
Irene & Thomas Reidy
Dr. Thomas Evans
John Manning
James Grisolano
Roberta Nespor
6:00 PM— Patricia Jones

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, January 15th
5:00 PM— Terrence, Eddie & Madelyn Dougherty

Sunday, January 16th
7:30 AM— Ed & Pat Sobczak
9:30 AM— Connor & Caitlyn Augustyn
11:30 AM— Bryan Lech
6:00 PM—