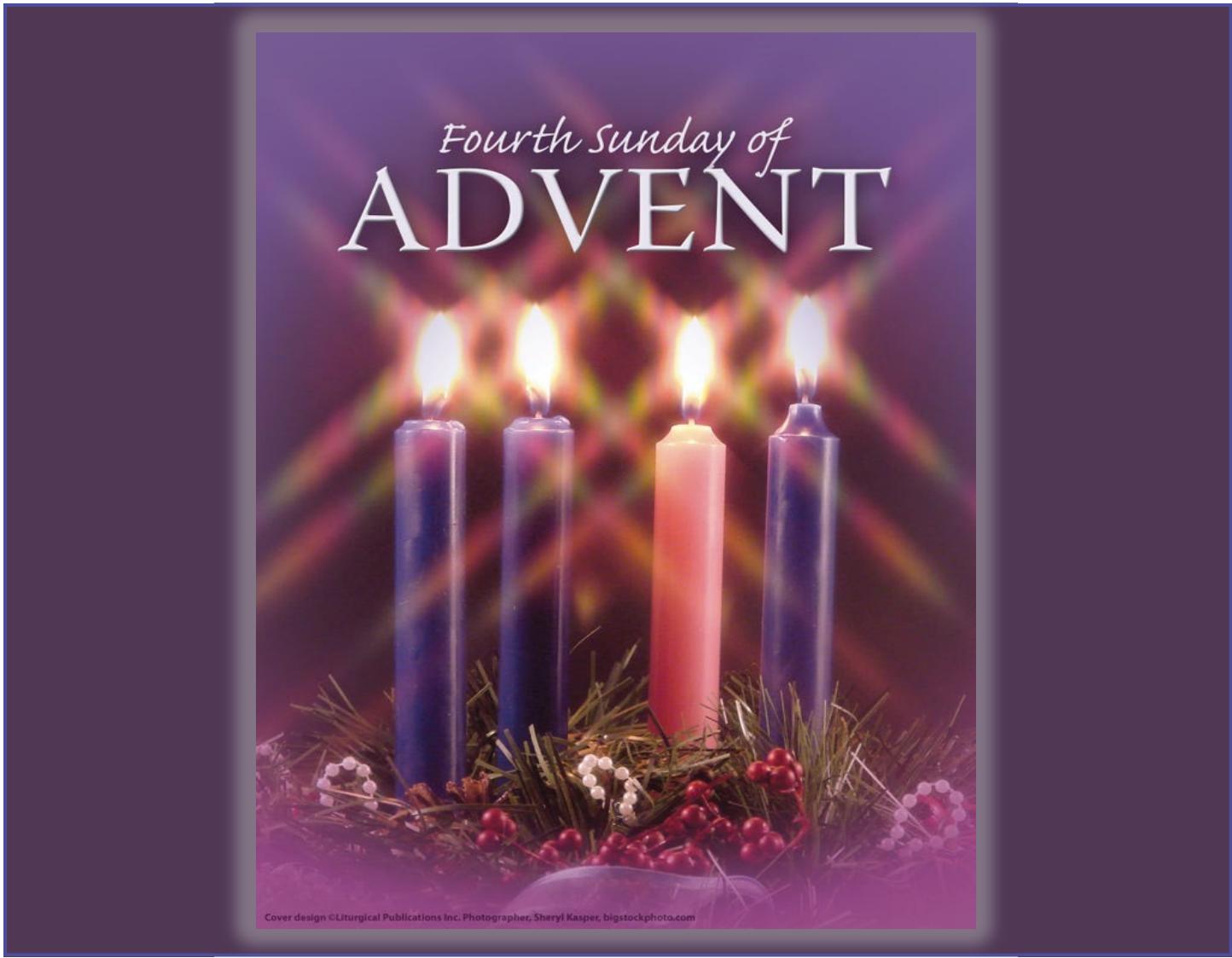


# St. Alexander Church

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
December 24, 2023

## 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, 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

Counseling Center: ..... 708-448-4861 ext.310

Director: ..... Sr. Claire Marie Czerwiec, SSND, LCPC

Parish E-Mail: ..... alchurch1@comcast.net

St. Alexander on the Web: ..... [www.stalexanderpalos.org](http://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](http://www.stalexanderschool.com)

School E-Mail: ..... [info@stalexanderschool.com](mailto: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](mailto:tried@archchicago.org)

Knights of Columbus: ..... 708-448-4861 ext. 400

Knight of Columbus on the Web: ..... [www.kofc14057.org](http://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,

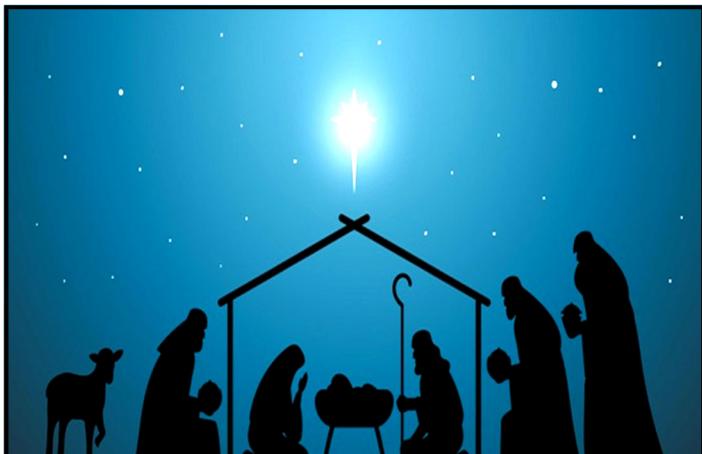
We are loved by many people in our lives which include family, friends, co-workers, and others we have come to know. We must always remember that nobody loves us more than God. How do we know this? Because of the Gift of the Incarnation: God taking flesh and becoming man. God so loved the world that he sent his only son to show us how to live, died for our sins, and rose from the dead so the gates of heaven would be opened that had been closed through Adam's sin. This gift of God made man, that took place over 2,000 years ago, is eternal.

Christmas is eternal because the gift of Christmas, Jesus Christ, is eternal. Jesus is the Word of God, the Light and Life of the world. It is through Jesus Christ, both fully God and fully human, that we as humans are made one and whole with God. The best way for us as Christians to keep Christmas eternal is by imitating our Lord, by loving one another as our Lord loves us, and sustaining this love all year long. When we love, console, forgive, assist each other, and are generous with our goods to our parish and fellow humans, we continue to give the gift of Christ and His love to each other. This Christmas, let us pray that we recommit ourselves to eternally sharing the gift, our Lord, with all humanity.

We know that life is precious because Jesus took the form of human flesh. All life is sacred from the moment of conception, which has been proven in history when our Blessed Virgin conceived our Lord. As we reflect on the amount of people murdered in our streets throughout America, let us pray that people will turn away from evil and turn to the Lord. Let us make sure that all of us, whether it be at our Christmas table or wherever we may be, stand up for life, and be people of peace.

On behalf of the entire family of St. Alexander, the priests, deacons, staff and lay people, may your Christmas be filled with much happiness and your New Year with much hope.

Merry Christmas and God Bless,  
Father Marty



The child to be born will be called  
holy, the Son of God.

—Luke 1:35

The Parish Administrative Office  
will be closed on  
December 25<sup>th</sup> and December 26<sup>th</sup>  
**We Wish you and your  
families a Blessed Christmas!**



### Prayer at the Manger

With the Shepherds Your Good News  
was sung by angels to these lowly ones  
in the night. Look on us in our lowliness.  
Let us rejoice in the glad tidings of Christ,  
now and forever. Amen.

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Fr. Colm Mitchell baptized **Noah Thomas Blight**, son of Michael & Kimberly, on Sunday, December 17, 2023.

We welcome him into the family of the church and offer his parents our prayers and good wishes.



III Emma Somers & Leo Heinz



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:

**Richard Griffin**, husband of Doris  
**Joseph Stachler**, husband of Susan  
**John Svabek**, husband of Rose



### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

December 25-31, 2023

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Monday:    | Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/<br>Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/<br>Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:<br>1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14<br>Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/<br>Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20<br>Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/<br>Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14 |
| Tuesday:   | Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and<br>8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22  |
| Wednesday: | 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/<br>Jn 20:1a, 2-8   |
| Thursday:  | 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/<br>Mt 2:13-18   |
| Friday:    | 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/<br>Lk 2:22-35  |
| Saturday:  | 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/<br>Lk 2:36-40   |
| Sunday:    | Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/<br>Ps 128:1- 2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6,<br>8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8,<br>11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40  |

### SCRIPTURE REFLECTION



Life is troubling. Who among us has not struggled with anxiety and difficulties, sometimes massive ones? I certainly have, as have many of my loved ones. If we do, does this mean that we don't trust the Lord or just need to toughen up?

I don't think so. How encouraging for us anxious and troubled souls to hear Luke describe the Blessed Mother Mary in these words, "**But she was greatly troubled at what was said.**" An archangel has visited her. An inconceivable promise has been made to her. Her life has become wildly unpredictable, perhaps more so than any person before or since. The first point for us: the Lord is with her precisely when she is troubled. Her anxiousness and God's presence are not mutually exclusive. Christianity is not about a trance-like robotic indifference. It's about the presence of divine love. Even in — especially in — troubled circumstances.

Our troubled soul can become our greatest treasure. What seems so troubling at first to Mary becomes the best possible thing, Jesus, the Savior and Lord, is now her son. All the difficulties and troubles remain, and yet her movement into the fullness of God is accelerated. What is troubling you right now? This scripture invites us now, this week, to hear the Lord's messenger say to us what he said to Mary, "**Do not be afraid! You have found favor with God.**"

— Father John Muir

Today's Readings: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/  
Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38



### 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    |
| Maggie Campbell | Lisa Krisik    |
| Carole Holding  | Jaiden Trevino |
| Pat Potokar     | Marian Conway  |
| Paul Pendergast |                |

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.

## *Christmas 2023*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we also celebrate the birth of our hope. When he came among us as one like us in all things but sin, he lifted us up to new and transformed life. In fact, he opened for us the way to share in the very life of God. One of the prayers of the Mass gives us these words: "...may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity."

The struggles that we face in our personal lives and in our wounded world do not have the last word. We are meant for more. We are meant for full and eternal life. I pray that our celebration of the Lord's birth will remind us of the glory that will carry us beyond the challenges, sometimes truly significant challenges that mark our lives and our world.

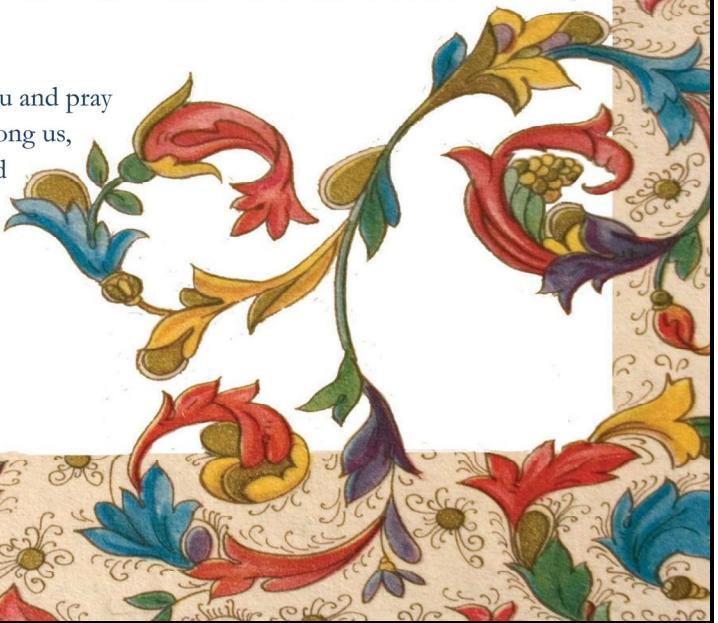
We must also remember that the Lord did not just come among us once and long ago. He continues to walk with us as we walk with each other. Our celebrations of the Eucharist remind of that. And he will never abandon his people. He is now and always Emmanuel, our God with us. Our journey is his journey. And this year, having celebrated the first of two synods of the Church, we are especially aware that he accompanies us as we accompany one another.

In this holy season, I invite you to pray. Take time, create a quiet space, look on the creche, read the gospels, and allow yourself to know that he is near and that he walks with you. If you do so, I can assure you that you will know his peace. Then, take what you learn from him to your family, to your workplace, to your community, and to entire world. The gift of Jesus, the Incarnate Word of God, is not something we can hold for ourselves. We are called and destined to share it with others.

As I celebrate the Eucharist, I will remember you and pray that you will have a living sense of the Lord among us, the one who walks with us and draws us forward into the fullness of his life.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Blas Card. Cupich*  
Archbishop of Chicago



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



**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 newborn King!

**COMMUNION MINISTERS**

**Saturday, December 30th**

5:00 PM—Sharon Mundo, Dolores Gorski

**Sunday, December 31st**

7:30 AM—Susan Chillmon, Karen McNeal,  
Betty Chwierut

9:30 AM—Rosemary Dziuba, Nancy Dougherty,  
Wendy Loftus

11:30 AM—Tom Stuchly, Joan Obiala



**READERS**

**Saturday, December 30th**

5:00 PM—Jan John

**Sunday, December 31st**

7:30 AM—Mary Dombrowski

9:30 AM—Rich Cruz

11:30 AM—Mary Ann Klimek, Mary Lally

**GET OUR WEEKLY BULLETIN  
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for our parish to get started today.  
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**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 30<sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM**

**December 31<sup>st</sup> 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM**

**Solemnity of Mary,  
Mother of God  
January 1<sup>st</sup> 8:30 AM**

\* Not a Holy Day of Obligation

- Please note there is no 6:00 PM evening Mass on December 31<sup>st</sup>



# ST. ALEXANDER SCHOOL HAPPENINGS



## I ❤️ CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Kindergarteners welcoming the Advent Season and preparing for the birth of Jesus





## 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.

## Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph December 30<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*

### 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.

### 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.

### WORD OF LIFE

“O Blessed Mother, at the angel’s word you went in haste to the aid of your cousin Elizabeth. Although pregnant yourself, you placed her needs before your own. By your example of radical solidarity, teach us to reverence and protect those in need, without conditions or expectations... Obtain for us the grace to bring Christ to any expectant mother who is alone and afraid.”

—USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

## A Christmas Prayer For Military Families



Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Please help the families whose loved ones are away this Christmas season. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for their selfless acts. Let these families know You keep watch on their dear ones who are serving their country and lead them safely home. Hold our troops and their families in your hand until they are united together again. Amen.

*They shall name him Emmanuel,  
which means “God is with us.”  
— Matthew 1:23*

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*Don’t try to shine so that others will see you.  
Shine so that through you, others will see Christ.  
—Pope Francis*



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
Shannon Lungaro - U.S. Navy	Andrew Cleland - U.S. Army
Alan Filipiak - U.S. Navy	John Hoban III - U.S. Army
A. Amanda Cleland - U.S. Air Force	Mark Filipiak - U.S. Marines
Joshua Bramlett U.S. Navy	Steven Lungaro - 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 Risden - 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	

## 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 6 Winners



Card #167 – 3G802  
Winner: Judith Sweas  
Paid \$25  
Ticket sold by: Strzempa family

Card #1031 - 3G004  
Winner: Christina Novak  
Paid \$25  
Ticket sold by: Novak family

### 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*

## 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*

**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.


**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!

Contact the parish office at 708-448-4861 if you would like a Mass intention for 2024.

**PRAYING TO THE ANGELS**

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

— St. Ambrose

**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!

**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.


**St. Alexander Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Jesus is alive among us and so is the love of God the Father. The warmth of his mother Mary's arms can wrap you in love as well. The Prayer Shawl Ministry has prayer shawls, lap blankets and baby blankets available to you in the PAC, so you can easily obtain them for your family or friends who are ill or need simple comfort. The grace of God is fulfilled when we are kind to each other. Please feel welcome to get these gifts of love to share a beautiful ministry of our faith, a prophetic sign of our love.

**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 [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net) to enroll securely online. Or, download the Faith Direct app onto your smartphone. Our parish code is **IL910**.

# 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



The Catholic Faith. On Demand.

## The best Catholic content. All in one place.

It's EASY and FREE to register!

1. Visit [formed.org/signup](https://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!

## Find Support At Our Caregiver Resource Center

Untrained, informal family caregivers usually get the job unexpectedly. Caregivers of all ages are appointed the role by family or friends for a myriad of reasons: medical emergencies, sudden onset of a chronic illness, unanticipated issues related to aging or other scenarios.

The Caregiver Resource Center (CRC) at Pathlights can help. It links caregivers to training and education opportunities, emotional and financial support and resources to improve their lives and the lives of those they are caring for — all free of charge and many services are for people at all income and asset levels.

The Center offers:

Respite that gives caregivers a break from their day-to-day duties for self-care.

Nutritious meals delivered to the home for older adults who are unable to manage meal preparation and those with limited or no access to food.

Information and assistance regarding availability and eligibility requirements of government programs and support; TCARE assessments to identify areas causing distress and recommend personalized interventions like respite and support groups to prevent burnout); and one-on-one individualized conversations to discuss challenges related to caregiving.

Support groups such as our new "Early-Stage Memory Loss" support group beginning in June; "Stress-Busting Program for Family Caregivers" for caregivers of those experiencing memory loss; "Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children" and Memory Cafes, monthly meet ups for people experiencing memory loss and their caregivers to engage with others in similar situations and participate in music, art therapy and other special programs.

## Prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

## TRAVELING OVER THE HOLIDAYS? 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* and *Mass Times for Travel*. Or visit the websites [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or [www.findaparish.com](http://www.findaparish.com).

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# Mass Intentions For The Week

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 24, 2023

### Saturday, December 23rd

5:00 PM— Chuck Fabing  
 Colin Myron  
 Jennifer Aparo  
 Dee O'Leary  
 Anne Trecek

### Sunday, December 24th

7:30 AM— Aggie Palmer  
 Linda Koepke  
 Joe, Virg, & Rick Potempa  
 Colleen J. Nix  
 Emma Somers & Leo Heinz  
 9:30 AM— For the Parishioners  
 Helen Jablonski  
 Robert M. Pikula  
 Donna M. & Joseph A. Feldner SGM  
 Dr. Loren J. Feldner  
 Dalia Santuras  
 Dan Nicholson  
 11:30 AM— Marie Hohmer  
 Raymond & Marion Hunt  
 William Sokolowski

### Sunday, December 24th (Christmas Vigil)

3:00 PM— Joseph Sloyan, Catherine Wells  
 Dorothy Janik, Noelle Cox  
 Jim Wann, Kevin Reynolds Jr.  
 William Gibbons  
 5:00 PM— Edgar Beaulieu, Michael & Jean DeVito,  
 Eva Ritz, Mary & John Stephens  
 10:00 PM— For the Parishioners  
 Judy Chapan, Gloriann Chapan  
 Eleanor Chapan, Colleen J. Nix  
 Eleanor O'Neil, John & Mary O'Connell

### Monday, December 25th (The Nativity of the Lord)

7:30 AM— Joe Macey, Thomas Leyden  
 James Grzeczka, Bernard Ziobro  
 Aggie Palmer, Pat & Rosemary Murphy  
 Colleen J. Nix  
 9:30 AM— Art & Lorraine Wittbrodt, Gerald Barry  
 Mike McConville, Dorothy Janik  
 Joanne Schwabe  
 11:30 AM— Raymond Schwaller, Edward Amberg  
 Richard & Mary Cawley, David Hicke  
 Roseanne Jones, Norbert Putlak  
 Chrissy Mastro, Jay Alex Mastro  
 Paige Mastro, Ashley Mastro  
 Ben Kautz, Mary Lou Mastro

### Tuesday, December 26th (St. Stephen)

8:30 AM— Arthur J. Data Sr.  
 James O'Malley  
 Bruno & Richard Scodro  
 Joseph & Margaret Feldner  
 James Grisolano  
 Colleen J. Nix

### Wednesday, December 27th (St. John, Apostle)

8:30 AM— Elizabeth Corbin  
 Patrick Joseph O'Reilly—10th Anniversary  
 Colleen J. Nix  
 John Sheerin—3rd Anniversary

### Thursday, December 28th (The Holy Innocents)

8:30 AM— Rosemary Murphy  
 Jim Nash—1st Anniversary  
 Margaret Corbett  
 Marilyn Sutley  
 Chester "Chet" McGrath  
 Linda Koepke  
 Colleen J. Nix  
 Jerry Keller—3rd Anniversary  
 Richard Kirioin

### Friday, December 29th (St. Thomas Becket)

8:30 AM— Sr. Lourdes  
 Father John M. Murphy—17th Anniversary  
 Florence C. Jastrzebowski  
 James Nash  
 Colleen J. Nix

### Saturday, December 30th

8:00 AM— Margaret Corbett  
 Colleen J. Nix  
 2:00 PM— Wedding: Emma Somers & Leo Heinz

## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH DECEMBER 31, 2023

### Saturday, December 30th

5:00 PM— Raymond Schwaller  
 Raymond & Marion Hunt  
 Jennifer Aparo

### Sunday, December 31st

7:30 AM— Beth King  
 Aggie Palmer  
 Linda Koepke  
 Cindy, Joe & Jim Rozak  
 Colleen J. Nix  
 Maurice Daniher  
 Steven & Marie Plescher  
 Lena Carlton  
 9:30 AM— Donna M. & Joseph A. Feldner SGM  
 Dr. Loren J. Feldner  
 Meg Feldner  
 Thomas Grady  
 Gerry Pannaralla  
 Joanne Schwabe  
 11:30 AM— For the Parishioners  
 George & Lorraine Jedlicka  
 Sylvester D. Ciciura  
 Luke Botica  
 Andrew Klmkiewicz

