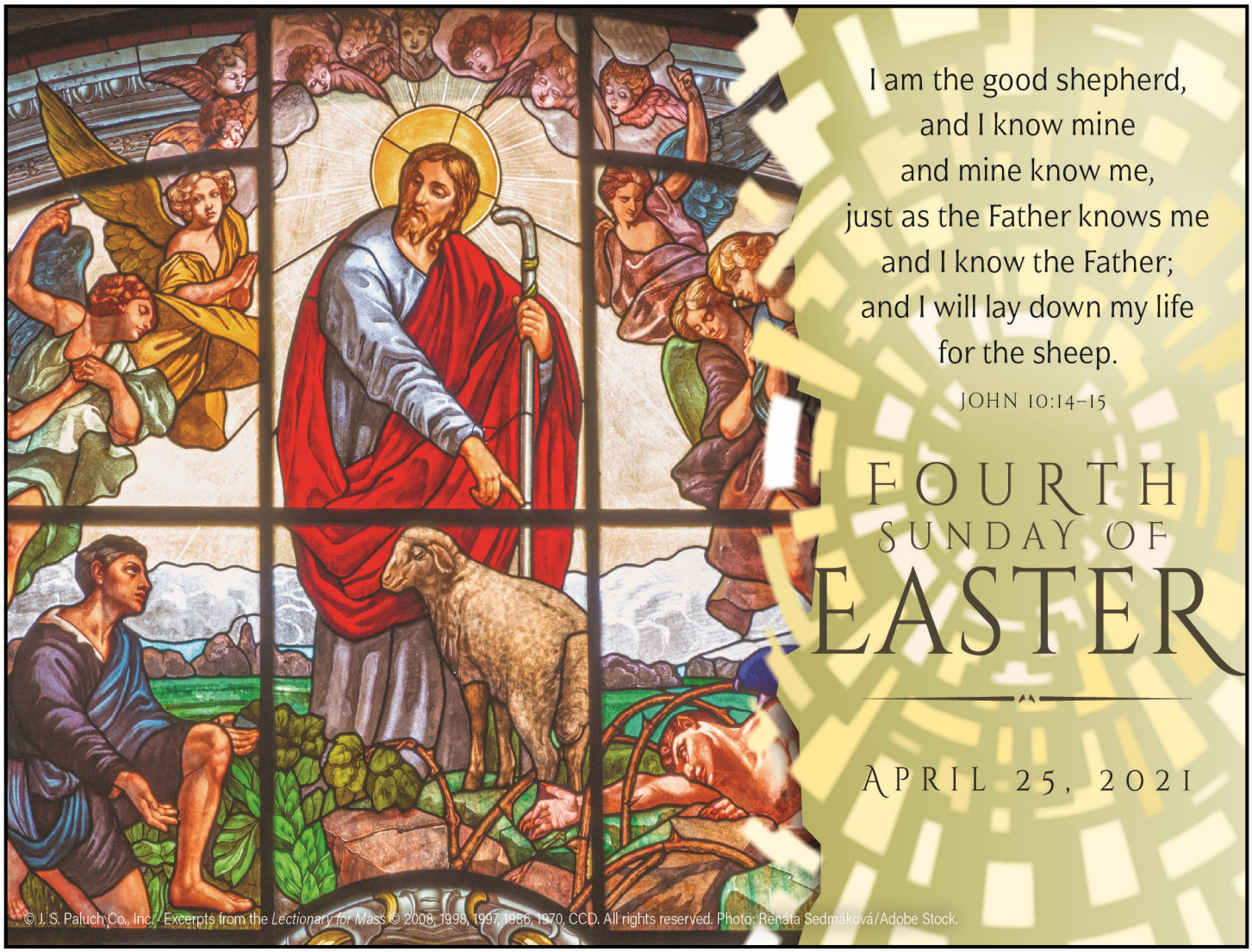
St. Alexander Church

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 25, 2021

The Palos Catholic



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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. Patrick O'Neill ext. 223
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
Parish Center & Parish Athletic Director:
…… Cathy Sullivan - 361-2626
Youth Minister: ……..…… Tyler Ried - 448-6624
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 Monday 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 and 11:30 AM
Monday through Friday: 8:30 AM
Holy Day Vigil: 7:00 PM
Holy Day: 8:30 AM & 7:00 PM

Eucharistic Adoration

Thursday before the 1st Friday (postponed due to COVID)
9:00 AM - 7:00 PM Benediction

Evening of Prayer and Adoration—1st Saturday

4:30 PM - Rosary (postponed due to COVID)
5:00 PM - Mass
6:00 PM - Prayers for Healing (postponed due to COVID)

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.

RECONCILIATION

Celebration of God's Forgiveness through Personal Confession

Saturday Morning: 9:00 AM

Saturday Evening: after the 5:00 PM Mass (postponed due to COVID) 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 & Fr. Patrick O'Neill 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,

Please keep our second grade school and RE children in your prayers this week as they prepare to celebrate their First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 1st. Most of us adults remember the first time we received our Lord when we were children and recall how special that day was. Boys dressed in new suits, girls in white dresses with veils, receiving our first hard cover prayer book and rosary, and all the relatives who came to celebrate this special day. As we go forth in our faith journey let us receive Jesus in this sacrament with the reverence and feeling of joy that we experienced on the day of our First Holy Communion.

We refer to our Lord Jesus Christ as the Bread of Life, Christ the King, The Prince of Peace, Christ Our Savior, Lamb of God, and many other titles. One of the beautiful terms we use when we refer to Jesus is The Good Shepherd. What a loving, caring, and nurturing term for Jesus as we realize He is always watching and protecting we His sheep. We are never lost when we follow The Good Shepherd. Jesus shepherds us out of love, and not out of duty, like a hired hand.

The difference between The Good Shepherd and the hired hand is the difference between life and death. Unlike a hired hand who only works for pay and would run away at the first sign of difficulty, Jesus is a Good Shepherd who willingly lays down his life for his sheep. The Good Shepherd draws the sheep near to him. They belong to him—not as a possession that can be discarded, but as precious ones who are assured that they can rely on His care and protection. The sheep owe their very lives to the Shepherd. Without him, they will be scattered and left on their own in what is often a dangerous world.

No sheep with any sense would wander off and leave the fold. The Shepherd provides food and safety. Away from the fold, the sheep risks death in the jaws of wolves or starvation in the desert. Jesus is The Good Shepherd and invites us to be good sheep. Jesus has experienced the best and the worst of all that life has in store. He has known the simple joys and deep disappointments of life; he has known temptation, anxiety, and fatigue. Jesus walks ahead of us, leading the way. We may be tempted to wander away, lured by the temporary pleasures and tempted by the illusion of something better over the horizon. In the noise of daily life, surrounded by messages that compete with God and God's ways, it is easy to become distracted from what is important and lasting. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, invites us to be good sheep who are so close to him that we hear and recognize his voice. As good sheep, we are called to follow the voice of the Shepherd, trusting that he will guide us to the best pasture, where we can thrive.

God Bless,
Father Marty

ST. ALEXANDER IS PART OF AMAZON SMILE!

When you order from Amazon.com, you may designate that a contribution of 0.5% of your total Amazon.com order will be donated to St. Alexander Parish & School. Every little bit helps!

Simply visit www.smile.amazon.com, log in, and choose St. Alexander Parish & School as your charitable organization. Be sure to log in through smile.amazon.com each time you place an order so it credits to our account.

Please consider doing this every time you place an order with Amazon.com.. It's free to you and it's a wonderful way to benefit our parish and school! An added bonus; you can purchase Amazon gift cards through SAVE!

BAPTIZED

The following children were baptized by Deacon Mike Ciciura on Sunday, April 18, 2021.

Conor Waldron Cunningham,
son of Richard & Kimberly
Johathan Timothy Vasaitis,
son of Valdas & Andrea

We welcome them into the family of the church and offer their parents our prayers and good wishes.

With Sympathy

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:

Dorothy Dunmore, mother of Darlene Folliard

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Do we truly know the voice of Christ? Do we truly respond to the voice of our shepherd with our own distinctive voice? How often we attempt to imitate those around us, appropriating the response of another member of the flock to Christ. Perhaps we need to balance the image of being sheep of one flock with the image from the second reading, which tells us that we are all children of God. What child has precisely the same interaction with parents as his or her siblings? Instead, they frequently do and say things to distinguish themselves in the eyes of their parents.

Whether we use the image of children or of sheep to understand our relationship with Christ, we believe that we are all known and called by name. With this great gift comes a responsibility: to respond to the call with our own distinctive voice, to take time to discern exactly what our call is, to determine precisely what the will of the Father is for each of us.

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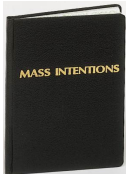
Today's Readings: Acts 4:8-12; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18

Catholic Charities Counseling Support Line

If the pandemic has you feeling anxious or depressed and you'd like to talk with a counselor, please call the Catholic Charities Counseling Support Line at (312) 948-6951, anytime M-F from 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Spanish speaking counselors are available. If you leave a message after hours, a counselor will call you.



Contact the parish office if you would like to have a Mass intention for 2021 or 2022. Please note that Mass intentions are not just for the deceased but for anyone you would like to include in prayer.

Prayers of the Faithful for the Sick

Prayers FOR HEALING

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:

John D. Baron
Josh Haberkorn
Joe Punda
Mike Garetto Sr.
Tom O'Donnell
Chuck Kalousek

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.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
April 25-May 2, 2021

Monday:	Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:1-10
Tuesday:	Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-7; Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday:	Acts 12:24 — 13:5a; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Jn 12:44-50
Thursday:	Acts 13:13-25: Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27; Jn 13:16-20
Friday:	Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11ab; Jn 14:1-6
Saturday:	Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 14:7-14 or (for the memorial) Gn 1:26 — 2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24; Ps 90:2-4, 12-14, 16; Mt 13:54-58
Sunday:	Acts 9:26-31; Ps 22:26-28, 30-32; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8

Thank You

This Tuesday, April 27th, will mark the 30th anniversary of the Ordination of the Class of 1991 to the Permanent Diaconate in the Archdiocese of Chicago. On that day, I along with twenty two other men were ordained by Bishop Thaddeus Jakubowski at Holy Name Cathedral, thus launching us into a ministry of service to the Catholic community of Chicago and many of the suburbs.

Over the past 30 years I have been blessed to serve at St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish under Fr. Richard Sullivan, Fr. James Finno and Fr. Michael Nacius. Fr. Paul Seaman was my Pastor at St. Emeric Parish and Fr. Patrick Cronin and Monsignor George Sauraskis were my pastors at Our Lady of the Snows Parish near Midway Airport. Then in December of 2004 Fr. Ed Cronin hired me here at St. Alexander where I now serve with our Pastor, Fr. Marty Michniewicz. To all these men of faith I am most grateful for your patience and trust.

I also wish to thank Fr. Patrick O'Neill, our Associate pastor, as well as all the associates I worked and served with at all my assignments. In addition, thank you to the many Deacons I have served with over the years, especially Deacon Jim Horton and our new Deacon, Mike Cicura. Their dedication and commitment are inspiring.

None of the ministry that I have accomplished would have been possible without the hundred, possibly thousands of volunteers that allowed us to open a PADS homeless shelter at O'Toole, to make 14 mission trips to Harlan, Kentucky, to prepare young folks for marriage with Pre Cana, to provide numerous Kingdom weekend retreats and to minister to our teens through the Life Teen Ministry. These are but a few, there are so many more that we haven't the space to mention. Thank you to all who have assisted me over the years.

I would be remiss if I did not thank all the parishioners who have trusted me to Baptize so many of their children, to preside at many weddings, to help bury their loved ones, and to teach the faith to their children. I am humbled by your trust.

Thank you to all the parish support staff and to our friends for their love, support and generosity. I am constantly fed spiritually by the giftedness of our parishioners. You are all amazing.

The music is beginning to crescendo so let me close by thanking my two beautiful daughters, Sheri and Amy and my sons in law Dennis and Phil, as well as my two grandsons, Daniel and Matthew. You have always supported me and I know you made many sacrifices to my ministry over the years.

Finally, thank you to my beautiful wife, my soulmate, my partner in ministry and my source of strength, Kay. You have walked beside me and have kept me moving forward when my basest instincts were askew. There is no doubt Kay is the best Deacon in our family.

So please know I pray for you all every day, and I ask you to pray for me and my family as well. Be safe, stay well, and may our Lord bless you and your family with his abundant love.

Thank you all, Deacon Tim

This year, Mother's Day Mass Cards will be available for pick up at the parish office

Please call 708-448-4861 and let us know how many cards you will need. We will leave the cards in the mailbox outside the parish office front door with your name on them.
Also, please remember there is a Mother's Day Novena of Masses envelope in your monthly mailing which will also remember those deceased mothers and can be placed in the collection boxes in the back of church, placed in the mail, or dropped off at the parish office.

Do you attend Mass regularly, but crave something more?

Using the new Pilgrimage app, you can journey through Scripture with friends, and your group. Your group will have access to a message board, which enables you to ask questions, start discussions, share content and connect with fellow group members, all from within the app. Learn more: www.pilgrimage.americanbible.org/

The CATHOLIC CHARITIES ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Catholic Charities Mother's Day Collection
Give to Change Lives

Please join Catholic Charities on May 9th in bringing God's infinite mercy and profound hope to mothers and children who make up the largest group of people we serve at Catholic Charities.
Your gift to the 2021 Catholic Charities Mother's Day Collection means that they don't have to walk alone. Your support will provide food, shelter, housing, counseling, maternity assistance, childcare, domestic-violence support and other life-changing programs.

Learn more or make a gift at www.catholiccharities.net, text HOPE to 878787, or scan the QR code with your phone.

Neat Repeats Resale stores are looking for volunteers to work in their stores with a boutique atmosphere. Share your compassion, talents and time.

Give four hours a week and make a difference in the lives of victims of domestic violence. Join the Neat Repeats team, develop new skills and help in your own community. All of the sales at Neat Repeats Resale benefit the clients served by the Crisis Center for South Suburbia, a not-for-profit domestic violence agency. For information, call Cindy Selling at 708-429-7233 ext. 604.

WORD OF LIFE

"Current laws in our country fail to protect the lives of unborn children. … People of good will must boldly stand up against this intrinsic evil [of abortion], especially when it is occurring on a massive scale, implemented in law and funded, in some instances, by the government."

—Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann, Chair of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities

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.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

With less people allowed at weekend Masses, due to the pandemic, your generous weekly offerings are needed—*and appreciated*—more than ever. You can mail your envelopes or sign up to give electronically with Faith Direct.

Please see the information below, or visit our web-site under the "Donate/Support" tab.

YOU CAN ALSO TEXT $ AMOUNT TO 708-401-6404 TO GIVE!

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®

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**.

ST. ALEXANDER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MINISTRY

The mission of the Domestic Violence Ministry of St. Alexander Parish is to raise awareness of domestic violence in our parish; to promote the development and delivery of services in our community; and to advocate for the prevention of domestic violence through education and parish activities.

If you need help contact:

- **National DV Hotline: 1-800-799-7233**
- **Illinois DV Helpline: 1-877-863-6338**
- **Crisis Center for South Suburbia: 1-708-429-7233**

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Want to create a new FORMED account with your parish?

Visit FORMED.org, Click sign up, Select "I Belong to a Parish or Organization", Type in St. Alexander, Palos Heights, IL, Enter your email and your in!

YOU CAN ALSO GET THE FORMED APP!

2021 ST. ALEXANDER WALK A-THON

ST. ALEXANDER STUDENTS ARE WALKING TO RAISE MONEY FOR THEIR COMPUTER LAB & TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT. PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THIS SCHOOL-WIDE FUNDRAISING EVENT!

Sponsorship Opportunities are available through 04/27/21!
Contact Laura MacNamara at 708-738-3452.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

5 BEHAVIORS TO KEEP US SAFE

As a member of our community, I will ...

1. Wear a mask
2. Keep my distance
3. Wash and sanitize my hands
4. Stay home if I am sick
5. Get tested if I exhibit symptoms

... because protecting others in our community is my responsibility, too.

A PRAYER AS I PUT ON MY MASK

As I prepare to go into the world, help me
To see the sacrament of wearing this cloth -
Let it be "an outward sign
Of an inward grace" -
A tangible and visible way of living
Love for my neighbors, as I love myself.
Christ, since my lips will be covered,
Uncover my heart, that people will see
Me smile in the crinkles around my eyes.
Since my voice may be muffled,
Help me to speak clearly,
Not only with words, but with my actions.
Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears,
Remind me to listen carefully -
And full of care - to all those I meet.
May this simple piece of cloth
Be shield and banner,
And each breath that it holds;
Be filled with your love.
In your name in in the name of love I pray.
- Amen

ST. ALEXANDER PARISH DATA BASE INFORMATION

(please note that we will not share any information provided)

Last Name: _____

First Name(s): _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone Numbers: Home: _____ **Cell:** _____

Email Address: _____

Please return to the church office by mail, place in the offering box, or drop off.

Mass Intentions For The Week

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 25, 2021

Saturday, April 24th
5:00 PM— Raymond Schwaller
Dr. & Mrs. Leonard Hertko (60th Wedding Anniversary)
Concetta Garry
David Dykstra (1st Anniversary)
Danielle Lange
Robert P. Dinkelman

Sunday, April 25th
7:30 AM— Joe Macey
Ed Dombrowski
Charles & Grace Nowak
Edmund Lincoln Devereaux III— U.S. Army Retired
9:30 AM— Geraldine Judickas
Anthony J. Ferraro
Donna Marie & Joseph A. Feldner, SGM
Dr. Loren Feldner
Robert Pikula
Margaret Feldner
Al Friedman
John Hartig
11:30 AM— For the Parishioners
Berry Yocum
Maciasz Family
James Serio
Szelag Family
Ed O'Toole
Martin Bergquist
Joseph Donovan

Monday, April 26th
8:30 AM— Joseph G. Noonan
Holy Souls in Purgatory

Tuesday, April 27th
8:30 AM— Anniversary Blessings—Chet & Betty

Wednesday, April 28th *(Ss. Peter Chanel & Louis Grignion de Monfort)*
8:30AM— Maria Rita Ripa
Edward Wloszek
Katherine Ochylski

Thursday, April 29th *(St. Catherine of Siena)*
8:30 AM— Ed Dombrowski
Al Mientus (11th Anniversary)

Friday, April 30th *(St. Pius V)*
8:30 AM— Jerry Dillon

Saturday, May 1st *(St. Joseph the Worker)*

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 2, 2021

Saturday, May 1st
5:00 PM— Donna Marie & Joseph A. Feldner, SGM
Dr. Loren Feldner
Robert Pikula
Joe Macey
Catherine R. Wall
John Janik
Rev. Martin Winters
Blanche & Peter Pellizarri
Gen. Hertko Houck

Sunday, May 2nd
7:30 AM— George Horalek
Ed Dombrowski
Chuck Childs
Kevin & Birdie Long
Holy Souls in Purgatory
Honesto Maglaya (1st Anniversary)
9:30 AM— Helen "Honey" Craven
Geraldine Judickas
Donna Marie & Joseph A. Feldner, SGM
Dr. Loren Feldner
Walter & Sophia Fieling
Anthony Noonan
Arlene Gawlicki
Mike & Denise Ciciura (25th Wedding Anniversary)
11:30 AM— Blessings—Mary Yocum & Family
Szelag Family
George Lombard
Annette Hallagan
Mamie O'Sullivan
Robert E. Colins
For the Parishioners

relevant radio CHICAGO
950 AM CHICAGO | 930 AM CHICAGO WEST | 1270 AM NW INDIANA
www.relevantradio.com

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUTREACH
— ARCHDIOCESE *of* CHICAGO —
AWARENESS—SERVICES—PREVENTION
www.domesticviolenceoutreach.org
Monthly Domestic Violence Support Group
For Information call 708-215-5418