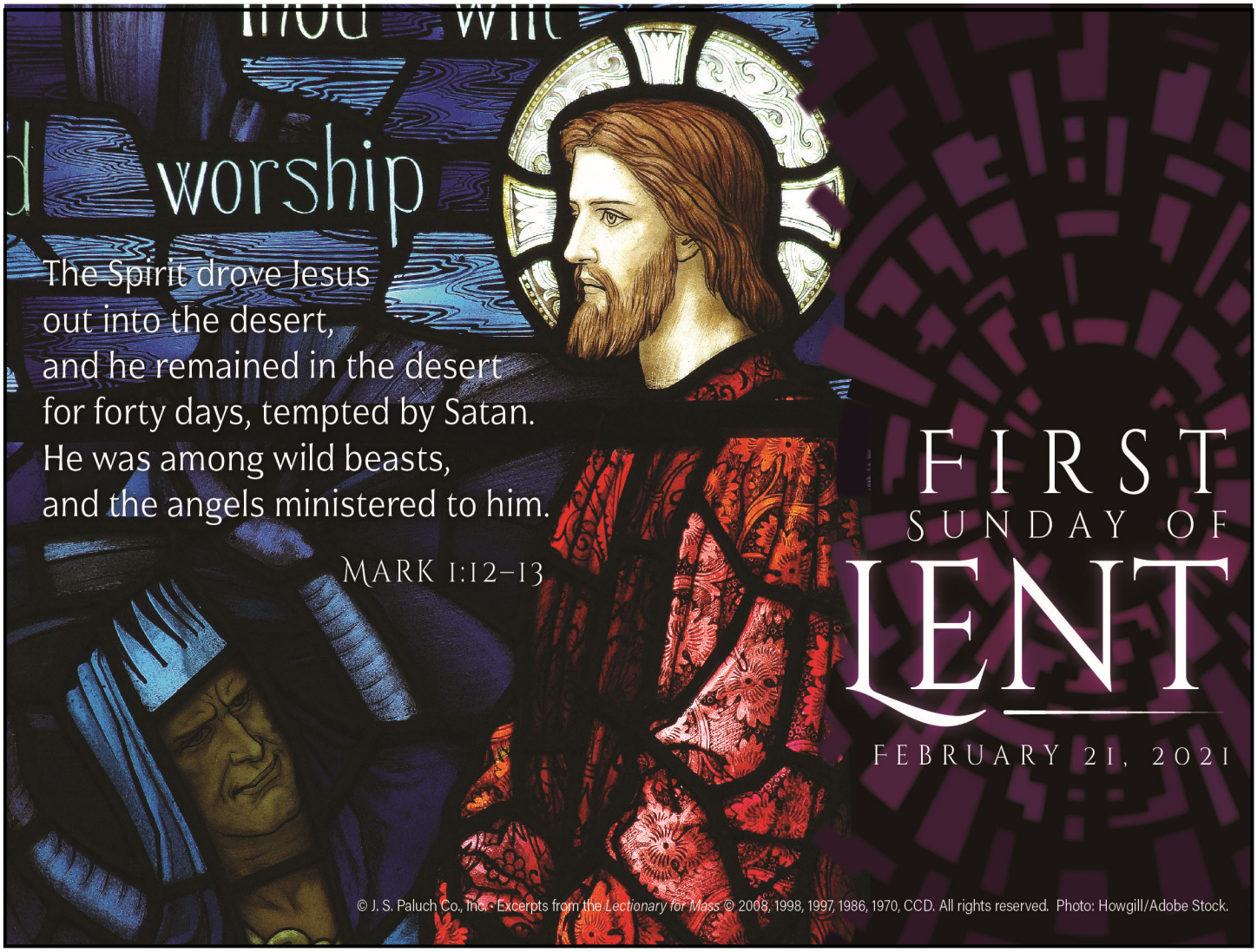
St. Alexander Church

First Sunday of Lent
February 21, 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,

During this prayerful season of Lent, remember our daily Mass at 8:30 a.m. Monday through Friday, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated on Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. until all are heard. Stations of the Cross will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m. every Friday during Lent. Online registration is required for each week. If you have a stations booklet (The Way of the Cross) we ask that you please bring it to Friday stations so you can participate in the prayers. If you do not own a copy of The Way of the Cross we will have printed copies available for use which we ask you take home and bring with you the following week.

Fortunately, the Lenten and Easter season is not filled with hour upon hour of shopping, wrapping, decorating, and parties. This is the perfect opportunity for us to concentrate on our personal relationship with God through reflection and prayer.

We at St. Alexander parish will continue to abide by the COVID-19 safety protocols and guidelines provided to us by the Archdiocese of Chicago for the foreseeable future. While vaccination offers protection to the person vaccinated, it is unclear at this time if vaccination affects an individual's ability to transmit the virus. Therefore, it is highly unlikely there will be any substantive changes to the guidance on masks, physical distancing, gatherings and hand hygiene in the near future. We appreciate your cooperation following these safety protocols which not only protects you, but also your fellow parishioners. Also, our Cardinal, the Illinois Bishops, and the U.S. Bishops encourages all to receive a COVID vaccine if one is physically able, or can get an appointment. I know it can be quite difficult to get an appointment on the phone or computer at this time, but I encourage you to be patient and persistent.

Many thanks to all those who bought and sold tickets for our Parish Raffle. Your participation in our raffle supports our school, religious education program, athletics, and the ministries here at St. Alexander. Following is a list of this year's winners.

God Bless,
Father Marty

Check out our Facebook Pages:
St. Alexander Catholic Church
St. Alexander School
St. Alexander Youth Ministry

Stations of the Cross
Every Friday evening
during Lent at 7:00 PM
(Registration required. Online registration opens at 10:00AM on Thursday each week.)

$50 RAFFLE

James Garlanger	$15,000
Carolyn Trzebiatowski	$ 7,500
Katie Meyer	$ 1,500

$20 RAFFLE

Lauren Driscoll	$ 5,000
Don Cardamone	$ 2,500
John Karolczak	$ 500

Next week we will take up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This Collection supports the Church in more than 25 countries that still struggle to recover from former communist rule. Funds from this Collection support pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations, and seminary formation. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the Collection next week. More information can be found at www.usccb.org/ccee.

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/

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:

Baby Edie Ryan	John D. Baron
Mike Garetto Sr.	Josh Haberkorn
Tom Grady	Ron Peterlin
Diane Blaha	Sandy Dedera
John Hartig	Jeff Brooks
Ed O'Toole	Maureen MacDonald
Ed MacDonald	Sr. Noreen

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

Lent is the time of year we devote to scrutinizing our lives in the light of our baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus. Today's readings are a nice shorthand catechism of what our baptized lives mean. As Noah passed through the waters of the flood to a covenant with God, so did we enter into a covenant, a promised relationship with God through our baptism.

Peter's letter gives an explicit explanation of what our baptism means: it is an appeal we make to God for a clear conscience. How do we obtain this clear conscience? The words proclaimed by Jesus immediately following his temptation show us the way: "Repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). It might be a good spiritual exercise to keep these readings before us throughout the entire season of Lent, a means to help us return to a life lived by our baptismal promises.

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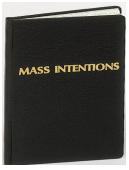
Today's Readings: Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25:4-9; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15



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.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
February 22-28, 2021

Monday:	1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19
Tuesday:	Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday:	Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32
Thursday:	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12
Friday:	Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26
Saturday:	Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
Sunday:	Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

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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

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 back.

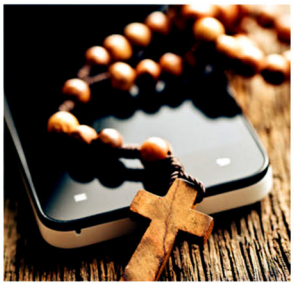
LEGAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Catholic Charities Legal Assistance Department has attorneys and volunteer attorneys available to provide advice in numerous areas of law. If you are unsure about your legal rights or lost in the legal system, let us help you. Services include in-depth advice and possible direct representation on many issues, including landlord/tenant issues, family law, consumer and debtor rights, foreclosure, employment issues, orders of protection, power of attorney, and more. CCLA provides free to low-cost legal services to eligible low-income individuals. For help, contact the legal advice line at (312) 948-6821.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

A CALL TO PRAYER

Bringing a light in the midst of darkness



Are you feeling overwhelmed by the effects of the pandemic and in need of prayer? We are here to pray with you and ask God for your needs.

Who we are: Volunteers from parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago who feel called to **accompany through prayer anyone who feels the need** for support during this time of uncertainty and isolation.

What we offer: A phone line staffed with people from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day, as well as 24-hour voice mail and e-mail connections. Our prayer partners are here to pray with you: opening our hearts to God, asking for His blessings and peace.

312.741.3388 praywithme@calledtoprayer.org

LENTEN REGULATIONS

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics who are 14 years old and older on all Fridays of Lent.

The Paschal Fast, as well as abstinence, are prescribed for Good Friday and is encouraged to continue until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday Night). This special fast is to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily his Resurrection.

When fasting, a person may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

WORD OF LIFE

"Abortion affects countless marriages more than many people recognize. But there is no doubt that God will bring great healing to those who trust in his infinite mercy. If a past abortion can be acknowledged and addressed, a married couple can make great strides in experiencing even more fully God's design that 'the two shall become one' (Mt 19:5)."

—USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

THE SEARCH

BROUGHT TO YOU FROM FORMED

The Search is a multi-part video based spiritual experience from the produces of the FORMED online platform many of us use for faith formation. This beautiful production is hosted by well-known Catholic evangelist Chris Stefanick.

- If your faith is already solid, *The Search* will help you to deepen it. If your feeling unsure, it's for you too. If your worried about your kids or grandkids, it a great series for you to share with them.
- *The Search* features scientists, artists, philosophers, and other people from all walks of life pro-claiming how their searches for meaning in life led them to Jesus and the Gospel.

The seven-part series is available for free at www.formed.org

Episode 1—What Do You Seek?
Episode 2—Who Are You?
Episode 3—Why a God?
Episode 4—What's Our Story?
Episode 5—Who Is Jesus?
Episode 6—Am I Saved?
Episode 7—Why a Church?

$ + $ = BIG IMPACT

Looking for a new way to **lower your tax bill?**

NOW is the time!

2-for-1

matching gift program

December 1, 2020 — February 28, 2021
(or until matching funds run out)

INVEST IN TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR **ST. ALEXANDER'S SCHOOL!**

APPLY FOR A TAX CREDIT AT MYTAX.ILLINOIS.GOV

DONATE TO AN SGO WITHIN 60 DAYS

DESIGNATE TO: **ST. ALEXANDER SCHOOL**

ST. AL receives your donation PLUS 2 x YOUR donation!

FOR ASSISTANCE:

PAULA SOMERS

ST. AL'S BUSINESS MANAGER

708-448-4861

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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Visit FORMED.org, Click sign in, Enter your email, Click the link received in your email. You're in! No more passwords.

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!

Mass Intentions For The Week

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
FEBRUARY 21, 2021

Saturday, February 20th
5:00 PM— Robert Kennelly
For the Parishioners
Patricia Hayes

Sunday, February 21st
7:30 AM— Ken Flerick
Virginia White
Ed Dombrowski
Judy Cardamone
9:30 AM— Geraldine Judickas
Donna Marie & Joseph A. Feldner, SGM
Dr. Loren Feldner
Peter & Frances Feldner
Joan & Dan Bagniewski
Jerry Keller
11:30 AM— Special Intention—Gibbons Family
Special Intention—Oakbrook Smiles Staff
Maciasz Family
Fatla Family
Parvez Haq Siddiqi

Monday, February 22nd
8:30 AM— Bill Brown
Special Intention

Tuesday, February 23rd *(St. Polycarp)*
8:30 AM— Sister Hughes
James Serio (1st Anniversary)

Wednesday, February 24th
8:30 AM— Pat Sullivan
Clara Doyle
Art & Lorraine Wittbrodt

Thursday, February 25th
8:30 AM— James Hayes
Donna Marie & Joseph A. Feldner, SGM
Dr. Loren Feldner
Nieve O'Brien Garmes

Friday, February 26th
8:30 AM— Sister Dolores Kane
Karen Jelinek

Saturday, February 27th *(: St. Gregory of Narek)*

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
FEBRUARY 28, 2021

Saturday, February 27th
5:00 PM— Nancy A. Somers
Steven P. Follenweider
Joseph Sloyan
Catherine Wells
Raymond Schwaller
Neil DiVencenzo

Sunday, February 28th
7:30 AM— For the Parishioners
John Foster
Margaret Corbett
Nancy A. Somers
Ed Dombrowski
Evelyn Blaney
9:30 AM— Geraldine Judickas
Donna Marie & Joseph A. Feldner, SGM
Dr. Loren Feldner
Jerry Keller
Michael Flaherty
11:30 AM— George Jedlicka
Bart Johnson
Berry Yocum
Blessings for Mary Yocum & Family
Jerry Keller