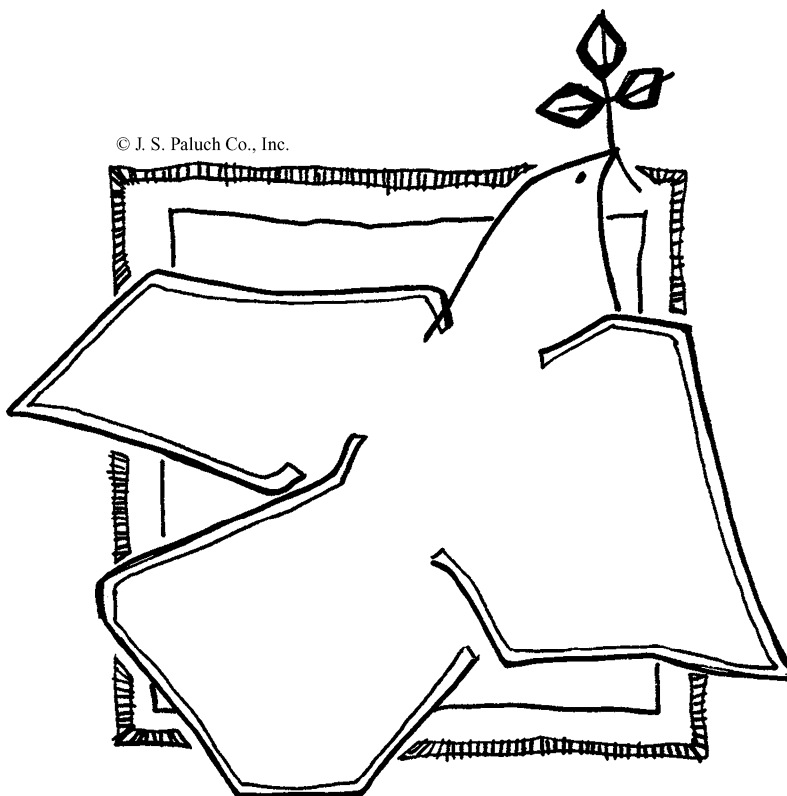
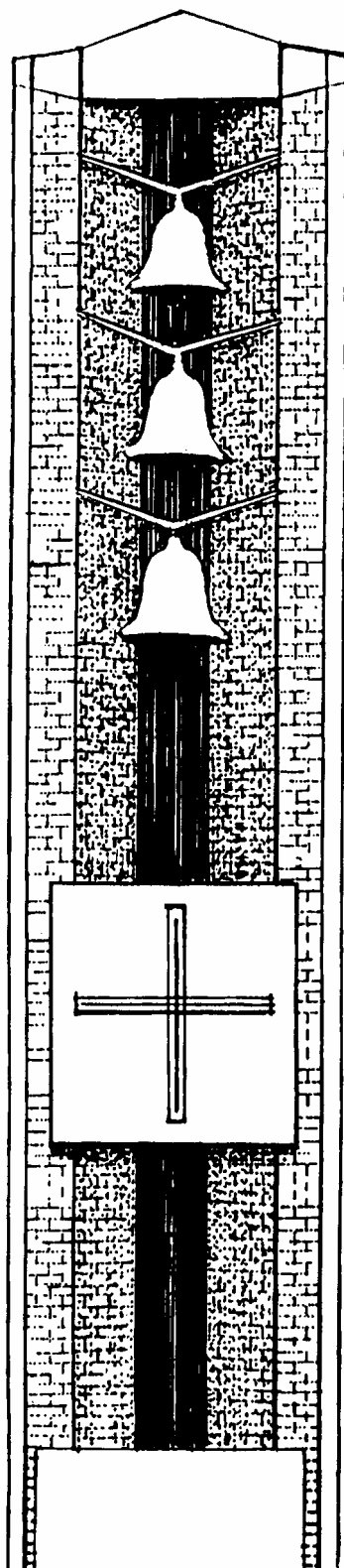


Saint John Fisher Parish

December 13, 2009
Third Sunday of Advent



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Rejoice in the Lord always

Rectory: 10234 S. Washtenaw Avenue, Chicago, IL 60655

Phone: (773) 445-6565 Fax: (773) 445-1644

SJF Parish website: www.stjohnfisher.org

School: 10200 S. Washtenaw Avenue, Chicago, IL 60655

Phone: (773) 445-4737 Fax: (773) 233-3012

SJF School Home Page: www.sjfschool.net

Office of Religious Education: (773) 238-1851

Weekend Liturgies

4:00 P.M. Saturday

8:00, 10:00 A.M., and 12:00 Noon Sundays

Weekday Morning Liturgies

Monday through Friday 6:30 A.M. Communion Service

Monday through Saturday 8:15 A.M. Daily Mass

ST. JOHN FISHER PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Catholic Community of St. John Fisher, formed by the gospel, nourished by the Eucharist, and united by love, are called to celebrate the kingdom of God and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and action.

BAPTISM

We welcome the following child into God's family:
Charles Evan McKnight

PRAYER SUPPORT FOR OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL

We would like to keep parishioners and all those who are serving in the military in our prayers, especially: MSG Kevin Daley; Sp4 James Garrity; Sp4 Kevin Garrity CPL Thomas Leonard, USMC; Recruit Raymond Doran; Daniel Wagner; Pvt 1st Class Michael Carroll, USMC; PFC Lane Kreisl, 82nd Airborne; Major Eric Dougherty, USMC; Lance Cpl Kevin Butler, USMC; Lt.jg Meghan Ryan; Pvt. Christopher Dinaso; PFC Ryan Hensley; AW2 Devin E. Williams, USN; PFC Steven Folliard; Sgt. John T. LaGiglia; Captain Michael McCann, US Army; Kevin Roche; Steve Ayon; Pvt. Anthony Schmidt; PFC Terrance Wilson, US Army; Cpl. Robert Brennan Carroll, USMC; Lt. Patrick F. McInerney, USN.; Captain Patrick Tierney, USMC; Kyle Sellers, USAF; Lance Cpl Brennan C. McDonald, Jr., USMC; LCPL Jack Fitzpatrick, USMC; AN Joseph L. Boyce, USN; Darin Oberhart, USN-MA1; Sgt. Thomas Hopman, USMC; CA Christopher Chirillo, USA.

ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

Please set aside an hour or so on **Tuesday, December 15th at 7:00p.m.** for our annual Advent Communal Penance Service. Once again this year, we will celebrate the sacrament in the context of Taize Prayer, providing a very peaceful opportunity for reflection and for experiencing God's amazing love and mercy. As always, we will try to have an extra priest available for face-to-face confessions.

Even if you don't feel the need to celebrate the Rite of Reconciliation individually on this night, you might want to come simply to find a quiet and prayerful hour for yourself in the midst of the sometimes hectic preparations for the days of Christmastime.

Remember that the Sacrament of Penance is also celebrated every Saturday afternoon from 3:00 to 3:45 in one of the confessionals in the rear of church.

BETWEEN JOBS MINISTRY

The mission of the Between Jobs Ministry is to provide practical and spiritual resources to support the unemployed and underemployed of our parish. We welcome those who are between jobs or looking to improve their current situation. We also continue to build up our resources. If you are interested in helping with resume writing and/or cover letter or helping those who need to polish their networking skills, please contact us. We meet on Sunday after the 10:00a.m. mass in the Rectory. If you can't join us the, or want to volunteer or learn more about the ministry, contact *Mary Mat Anders (773) 239-3624, Jim White (773) 322-2518 or Deacon Tom.*

A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN FOR CHRISTMAS

An area of church ministry in which we never seem to have an overabundance of help is in **ushering**. We've tried a number of times over the past few years to recruit new ushers, without much success. However, Christmas demands that we have some extra help to take up the collection and pass out Christmas bulletins which tend to be totally ignored in the midst of the Christmas crowds.

We could use extra help at all the Christmas masses, but particularly on Christmas Eve at the **4:00, 6:00** and **11:00p.m.** masses. As with any other liturgical ministry, ushering is open to **both** men and women as well as teenagers. If you could help with this important ministry either on Christmas Eve or Day, please give me a call or leave me a note at the rectory this week. I promise I won't try to rope you into a regular commitment; but then again, you might find that ushering isn't such a difficult job after all and consider helping out at other times during the year. That would be an offer we certainly couldn't refuse.

Fr. Bob

CHRISTMAS CHURCH SEATING

As everyone knows, unless you arrive quite early, finding a seat at mass on Christmas, particularly the vigil masses on Christmas Eve, is quite a challenge. We will have limited extra seating in the school foyer for those vigil masses, though even that is seldom enough. But here's a suggestion, particularly if you find yourself running late: try sitting in the **north or south transepts** (tabernacle or organ sides) of the church. People who come in the main Fairfield doors seem to get stuck standing in the rear gathering space while seats go unused at the east end of church. The easiest way, of course, to access those transept seats is to enter church from the **north doors** off the rectory driveway (handicapped parking only) or from the **southeast doors** off the parking lot. However, because of the expansion of the music ministry area, seating in the south transept is more limited than in the past.

If the weather is nasty or if you still end up coming in the main west doors, you can still work your way down the side aisles to the front—preferably during a time in the mass when everyone is standing, so as not to cause too much distraction. If we get a decent response to the request for extra ushers, we will ask them to check the seating availability in the front and direct standees or latecomers to those seats. And if the weather isn't too bad, I'll do what I've done for the last three years and walk back and forth in the parking lot directing people to the available seating areas—unless, of course, I'm presiding at that mass!

Fr. Bob

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING

This weekend and next, you will find Christmas flower offering envelopes on the tables at the church exits. The cost of Christmas flowers continues to rise each year (along with everything else), and our Liturgy Environment Committee does its best to ensure that our Christmastime environment fills the church with both the sights and scents of Christmas.

You will notice that the envelope has a line for “given in memory of...” so that you can remember a departed loved one with your flower offering. We will print the names of those being remembered in the bulletin in early January; so, please return your flower offering in the regular collection by next weekend, or drop it off at the Rectory before December 21st.



STEWARDSHIP = TIME - TALENT - TREASURE

Special MANNA Christmas Offer

As we approach the holiday season, we would like to encourage you to use the St. John Fisher **MANNA** program. Those of you who use the program regularly, know that a percentage of every gift card you buy is returned to you as a tuition rebate. Regular users have earned literally thousands of dollars as significant discounts when the rebates are refunded in February or August. (This August, almost \$40,000 was earned in tuition rebates.)

In addition to the money *you* save, the school has also used their portion of the profits from the MANNA sale for important improvements to the school program that are not covered in the operating budget. We are grateful to each of you for your participation. **MANNA is clearly a WIN-WIN proposition.**

Aware of the tough economy this year, we are offering a new incentive to our program. From November 15-January 15, one percent of the profit from MANNA will be used for our tuition assistance program. This fund was established last year to help families who because of job loss or other temporary set-backs, need assistance with monthly tuition payments. Although 1% does not seem like a significant sum, our Christmas sales have traditionally been so strong, that we anticipate the money directed to that fund could be significant.

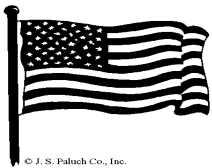
We would like to invite you to consider using MANNA gift certificate options when you are thinking about your holiday shopping. Many merchants provide certificates at our sales on a cash and carry basis. (Jewel, Dominick's County Fair, Kohl's, many local restaurants, and countless other stores are available any day of the week, (except Tuesday). Many other merchants and larger businesses can be "special ordered" with little turn-around time.

Using the MANNA Program this holiday season benefits you, the school, and our tuition assistance program. If you are not sure how it works, or need to know about our convenient hours, please check the new posting on the school website which lists the hours of operation and the stores that are in the program. If you have a question about the stores available through special orders, please call the school and we will put you in touch with one of our MANNA staff.

Thank you for your strong support of our school and especially of this new initiative to help our school families.

CATHOLICS COME HOME BEGINS IN ADVENT

This Advent the Archdiocese of Chicago will partner with the Dioceses of Joliet and Rockford on an evangelization initiative call **Catholics Come Home**. This effort will use TV commercials that will air December 16 to January 24, 2010 on 10 major networks in English, Spanish and Polish. We encourage our parishioners to pray for those who left the Church and invite them to join us at St. John Fisher. Parishioners can pick up a brochure to be used as an invitation for those who have drifted from the practice of faith. We lovingly invite all those who have drifted away, to come home, to find healing, answers and support.



PARISH FLAG

The flag that is now flying proudly over our parish was donated in memory of Robert E. Shanahan, veteran of World War I and grandfather of parishioner Dr. Michael Kozek.

THE GREAT ADVENTURE BIBLE STUDY

Father Bob has agreed to facilitate a study called **A Quick Journey Through the Bible** by Jeff Cavins. For more information you can see the website, **www.greatadventureonline.com**. We will begin on Wednesday, January 13th and meet every two weeks at 8:00p.m. There will be a \$22.00 fee for the student pack and the order must be placed by December 30th. This is open to all parishioners. If you would like to participate, please contact **Amy Goggin (708)499-2090** or **Gogginreg@comcast.net** and your pack will be added to the order.

Youth Ministry - be part of something BIGGER!



Youth hosted Mass... u in?

be on the list...

Sun. December 20th

Singers: Practice with us at 2:30 PM at MHR

Everyone: Celebrate Mass with us at 4:30 PM at MHR

For more information call Kim Madonia at: 708.275.8922

Tis' the week before Christmas...



DROP IN

WEDNESDAY DEC. 16th
SJF Rectory Basement

WEDNESDAY DEC 23rd
MHR Convent (Youth Room)

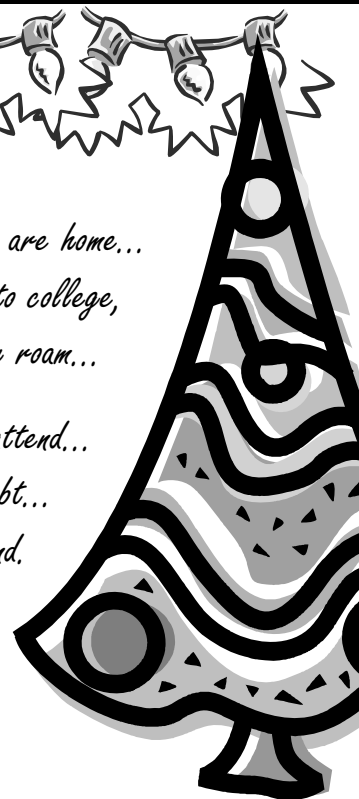
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

**All High School and College
Students are invited.**

*And all students are home...
From high school to college,
From wherever they roam...*

*Drop in's are planned, for you to attend...
Don't miss out, or they'll be no doubt...
On the "Naughty List" you will land.*

*Come join the fun, the laughter and jeer...
Where else would you rather be?
No greater place than here!*



Questions? Comments? Concerns? Please feel free to contact the Director of Youth Ministry,
Kim Madonia at 708.275.8922 or e-mail at youtharethefuture@hotmail.com



CANTORS/LECTORS

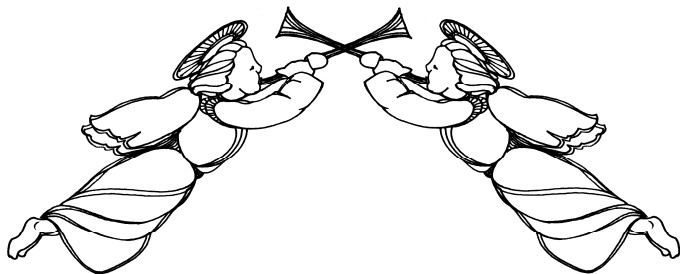
Saturday, December 19

4:00 PM Reader: P. Brandt

Sunday, December 20

8:00 AM Reader: E. Barron
10:00 AM 1st Reader: J. Zelek
2nd Reader: R. Carroll
12:00 PM Reader: A. O'Reilly

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Saturday, December 19

4:00PM 1.) Deacon Reilly; 2.) P. Tierney; 3.) N. Rooney; E.M.1) H. Peirce (T); E.M.2) M. Waldron; E.M.3) D. McHugh; E.M.4) S. Tesmond; E.M.5) J. Rooney

Eucharistic Sacristan:

Sunday, December 20

8:00 AM E.M.1) A. Duffy; E.M.2) J. Wolfe (T); E.M.3) M. Bertling
10:00 AM 1.) A. Schumann; 2.) M. Schumann; 3.) N. Zelek; E.M.1) Deacon Siska; E.M. 2) J. Boyle; E.M.3) K. Sullivan; E.M.4) E. Boyle (T); E.M.5) H. Zelek

Eucharistic Sacristan: J. and S. Murphy

12:00PM E.M.1) Deacon Siska; E.M.2) M. Condon; E.M.3) C. Galvin; E.M.4) R. Walsh (T); E.M.5) K. McElligott

MASS INTENTIONS AND SCHEDULE

Monday, December 14

6:30AM Communion
8:15AM Joza Garich — *Sister*

Tuesday, December 15

6:30AM Communion Service
8:15AM Mary E. Doolan — *SJF Women's Club*
7:00PM **Advent Parish Communal Penance Service**

Wednesday, December 16

6:30AM Communion Service
8:15AM Harriette Gierloff — *SJF Women's Club*

Thursday, December 17

6:30AM Communion Service in memory of Mary Coyle — *Barb Jilek*
8:15AM Konen Family — *Robert Konen*

Friday, December 18

6:30AM Communion Service
8:15AM Regina Joves — *Joan Courtney*

Saturday, December 19

8:15AM George Metz — *Peggy Metz*
Beegan and Skonicki Families — *Family*
4:00PM Parishioners

Sunday, December 20

8:00AM Kenneth J. Sindowski — *Family*
Emma J. Hall — *Mason Family*
Terry O'Neil — *Keen Furlong*
10:00 AM Joyce and Jim Broad — *Family*
Fred Konrath — *Walthier Family*
12:00AM John Lusk — *Family*
Mary Stenson — *Mary Kujawa*



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

If you are contemplating making a will or changing your will and plan to leave something to charity, please keep St. John Fisher Parish in mind. A bequest to your parish continues your love and concern for your parish long after your life on earth has been completed.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Is 45::6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17
Friday: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25
Saturday:: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
Sunday: Mt 5:1-4a; Ps 80; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

MAPLE / MORGAN PARK COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Dear Father Kyfes, Deacon Reilly and St. John Fisher Parishioners:

Thank you all for the donation of the proceeds of you Harvest Sunday Food Drive.

The Maple / Morgan Park Community Food Pantry, a ministry of the Beverly/Morgan Park Community of Churches and the Morgan / Maple Park Ministerial Alliance was created over twenty-five years ago to provide emergency food packages to those in our area who find themselves temporarily in need of assistance. Because of federal and state government cuts, we are serving more families than at any time in our history.

At this time, we also wish to announce the beginning of our "Annual Christmas Turkey Fund" to provide a turkey with all the trimmings, and a bag of groceries to the families of our community who find themselves in need. Each donation of \$15.00 will provide a turkey dinner that the family can prepare on Christmas, at home in a warm and loving setting.

Checks made payable to: **The Community Food Pantry** can be sent to: Christmas Turkey Fund
Maple/Morgan Park Community
Food Pantry
11030 South Longwood Drive
Chicago IL 60643-4012

The volunteers of the Pantry and the people who receive the benefits of this ministry are grateful for your continuing support and wish all a Merry Christmas!

Matthew H. Taylor
President, Board of Directors
Maple/Morgan Park Community Food Pantry

SANTA SACKS FOR THE REST SHELTER

As a parish family, we would like to gather items to fill up 45 Santa Sacks for the women at the **REST Shelter** who are struggling for a happier and healthier life. If you have any of the following items to donate, we would greatly appreciate your contributions. Individual items needed are: *socks, hats, scarves, gloves, packets of Kleenex, chapstick, toothbrushes, individual toothpaste, perfume, deodorant, phone cards, wrapped candy, granola bars, gum, juice boxes, McDonald's or Burger King gift certificates.*

With your help, we can make someone else's Christmas a little bit merrier. Please drop off these packages at the rectory marked **SANTA SACKS** or give us a call at (773) 238-6932 and we will be happy to pick them up. **Thank You!**

2010 CALENDARS

The 2010 calendars will be distributed by our St. John Fisher Scout Troops following all the weekend masses on December 19th and 20th. The calendars are provided compliments of the *Beverly Ridge Funeral Home.*

8th GRADE ENTRANCE EXAM PREP COURSE

There will be an HSPT Entrance Exam Prep Course held December 28-31 for all interested 7th and 8th grade students. The 4-day program prepares students for every key dimension of the exam - problem-solving, test management, mental preparation etc. The course will be held at three locations: Chicago (St. John Fisher), La Grange and Park Ridge and will be taught by acclaimed teachers from local Catholic high schools. Contact Claire Larmon at 773-259-9046 or go to www.redwoodprep.com to sign up and learn more.

A LETTER FROM THE CARDINAL

December 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The annual **Retirement Fund for Religious Appeal** has provided much needed assistance to women and men religious who have spent their lives serving our church and out world. They ministered in our schools, hospitals, parishes and charitable agencies, asking for little in return. They invested, not in pension funds, but in people, in service and in the future of the Church they served.

The people of the Archdiocese of Chicago have always responded very generously to this yearly appeal, contributing over \$1 million dollars last year alone. In these challenging economic times, I ask you to simply give what you can, I am very proud of your willingness to share in the care of our aging women and men religious.

I thank you for your support and ask you to keep our religious sisters, brothers and priests in your thoughts and in your prayers. In our often troubled world, they remain a visible sign of Christ's love. During this Advent season, when we prepare for the birth of Christ, I ask you to remember the love of those who taught us all about our Catholic faith: the men and women religious who served our Archdiocese.

May God bless you and your loved ones.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

CHRISTMAS NOVENA

Please join us as we come together for nine nights leading up to Christmas to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus. We will meet at nine different homes at 6:30p.m. each night. Come and enjoy this beautiful tradition with us.

Tuesday, December 15: Lindgren home, 10421 South Millard

Wednesday, December 16: Culloton home, 10541 South Campbell

Thursday, December 17: Tierney home, 10500 South Talman

Friday, December 18: O'Keefe home, 10729 South Fairfield

Saturday, December 19: Queen of Martyrs Adoration Chapel @ 3:00-4:00p.m.

Sunday, December 20: Ladislas home, 10729 South Central Park

Monday, December 21: Pinto home, 10642 South Maplewood

Tuesday, December 22: SJF Rectory Basement: Bring a treat for Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 23: Neumann home, 10449 South Artesian

SANTA SACKS FOR THE REST SHELTER

As a parish family, we would like to gather items to fill up 45 Santa Sacks for the women at the **REST Shelter** who are struggling for a happier and healthier life. If you have any of the following items to donate, we would greatly appreciate your contributions. Individual items needed are: *socks, hats, scarves, gloves, packets of Kleenex, chapstick, toothbrushes, individual toothpaste, perfume, deodorant, phone cards, wrapped candy, granola bars, gum, juice boxes,, McDonald's or Burger King gift certificates.*

With your help, we can make someone else's Christmas a little bit merrier. Please drop off these packages at the rectory marked **SANTA SACKS** or give us a call at (773) 238-6932 and we will be happy to pick them up. **Thank You!**

PARISH PRIESTS

Rev. Robert Kyfes, Pastor
Rev. Marion Soprych, Associate Pastor
Rev. Arthur Marat, Resident
Rev. Thomas J. Purtell, Pastor Emeritus

Associate

Rev. Thomas McCarthy, O.S.A.

Deacons

Deacon Robert Carroll Deacon Raymond Reilly
Deacon Couple Tom and Mary Siska

Sister Jean Anne McGrath, C.S.J., **Principal**

Elena Chermak, D.Min., **Dir. of Religious Education**
(773) 238-1851

Music Directors

Michael Carso, **(708) 396-2738**
Alan Bukowiecki
(312) 403-2512

Kim Madonia, **Youth Minister (708) 275-8922**

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: Sundays at 1:15 P.M.

Baptismal Preparation Class, 11:30 A.M. First Sunday of Month. Contact Rectory for details. A Baptismal Preparation Program is a requirement in the Chicago Archdiocese.

Reconciliation: Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturdays 3:00 to 3:45 P.M. or by appointment

Marriage: Arrangements are to be made at the Rectory at least **six months** before the wedding. A marriage preparation program is a requirement in the Archdiocese (Pre-Cana, Discovery Weekend, etc.).

Communion for Homebound Parishioners: Members of our parish family who are ill or homebound, please call the parish office and a Minister of Care will bring communion to your home at your convenience.

New Parishioners: We welcome you! Please introduce yourself to us. We ask that you register in the rectory office.