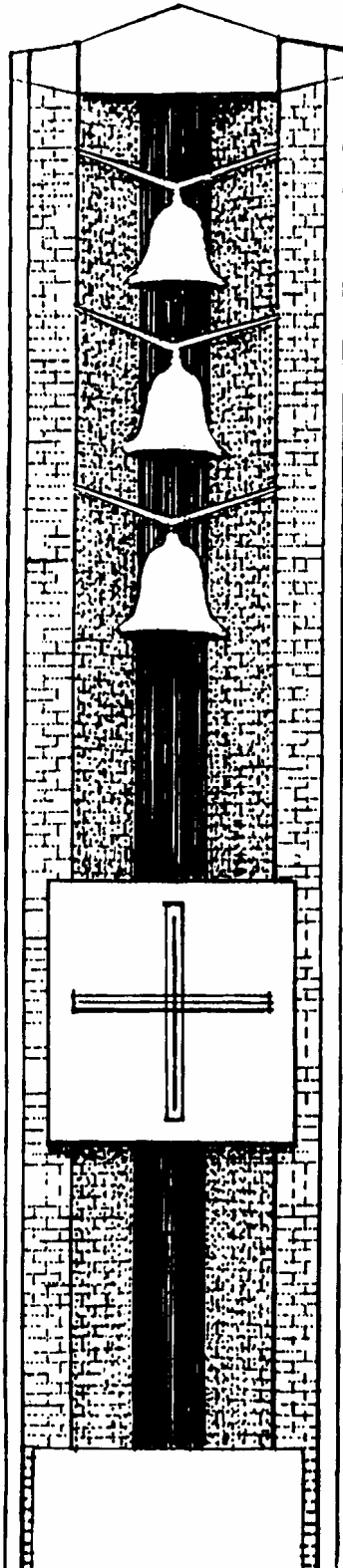


Saint John Fisher Parish

December 20, 2009
Fourth Sunday of Advent



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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:

Kate Marie Budewitz

REST IN PEACE

Please remember especially in your prayers this week: Parishioner Marion Bronson, wife of Perry; Parishioner Rita Cholke, wife of James; Florence Kloucek mother of parishioner Jill Doran; Craig Ford, son of parishioners Robert and Mary Ann; Michael J. O'Donnell.

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; 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.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2009

Christmas Eve – Thursday, December 24th

Vigil masses at **4:00p.m. & 6:00p.m.**

11:00p.m. (Adult Choir and musicians)

Christmas Day – Friday, December 25

8:00a.m., 10:00a.m. & 12:00 Noon

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (A holy day of obligation)

New Year's Eve – Thursday, December 31st

Vigil mass at **4:00p.m.** followed by

New Year's Eve Prayer Vigil for Peace until midnight

New Year's Day – Friday, January 1st

ONE mass at **10:00a.m.**

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

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 our resources. If you are interested in helping with practice interviews or networking tips, please contact us. We meet on Sunday after the 10:00a.m. mass in the rectory. If you can't join us then or want to volunteer or learn more about the ministry, contact Mary Pat Anders (773-239-3624), Jim White (773) 322-2518 or Deacon Tom.

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*.

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.

CATHOLICS COME HOME BEGINS IN ADVENT

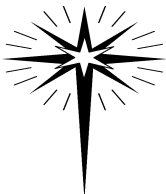
This Advent the Archdiocese of Chicago will partner with the Dioceses of Joliet and Rockford on an evangelization initiative call **Catholics Come Home**. This effort will use TV commercials that will air December 16 to January 24, 2010 on 10 major networks in English, Spanish and Polish. We encourage 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.

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!**

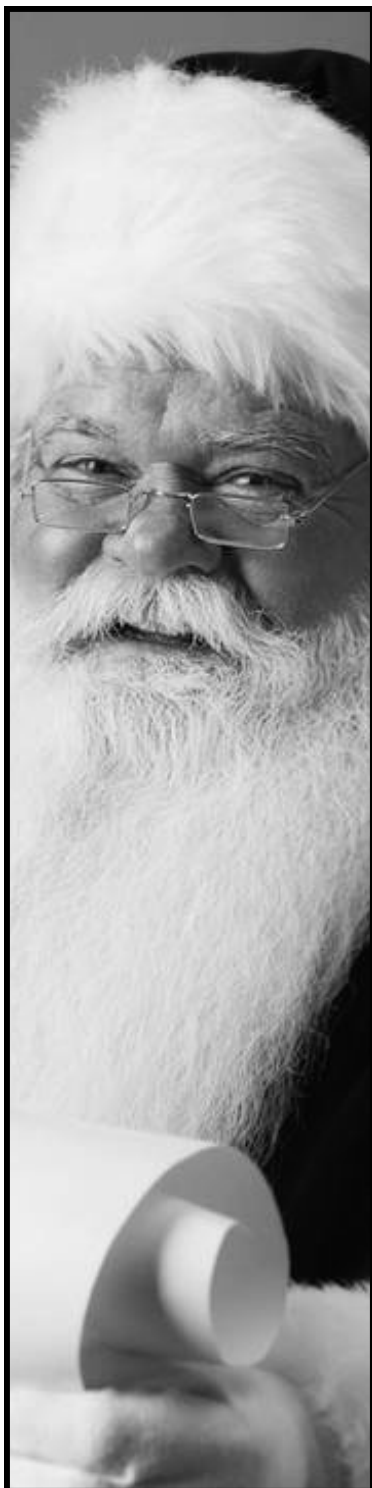
EPIPHANY CELEBRATION



The Epiphany is being celebrated on Sunday, January 3rd. Please join us after the 10:00a.m. mass for cake and coffee in the school foyer to celebrate the Brilliance of Our Lord's Kingship and the privilege that we have of being called his sons and daughters. Also, there is a wonderful tradition to blessing your home and family on the Epiphany, so remember to pick up your own House Blessing prayer kit at all of the church entrances that weekend.

Youth Ministry - be part of something BIGGER!

If you're on the "NICE" list, join us for these events!



JR. HIGH LOCK IN - Sat, Jan 9th

All 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade students invited to join us! Our ALL NIGHT LOCK IN will take place at Hollywood Park! We have a great party package and are looking forward to a FUN night! Invite your friends and make sure your paperwork is filled out on time! Packets are available in the Parish Rectory NOW! Please read all of the information carefully and return forms by Jan 5th! If there are parents interested in chaperoning this event, please contact Kim Madonia.



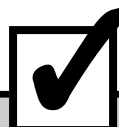
JR. HIGH SKI TRIP - Mon, Jan 18th

All 7th, & 8th Grade students invited to join us! We will be spending your day off skiing at The Grand Geneva Resort. Packets will be available in the Parish Rectory on and after Dec 30th. Please read all of the information carefully and return forms by Jan 13th! If there are parents are interested in chaperoning this event, please contact Kim Madonia.



HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE OVERNIGHT SKI TRIP - Feb. 5th - 6th

All High School and College students invited to join us! We will be skiing during the wee small hours of the morning (11P.M.- 4 A.M.) at Chestnut Mt. Resort. There are seventeen trails ranging from bunny to black diamond and the diverse snowboard terrain park in the Midwest, Chestnut Mt is a skiing and snowboarding paradise with nine lifts! The Terrain Park is the largest of its kind in the Midwest. A triple chairlift takes you to seven acres of quarter pipes, tabletops, rails, kickers, box jumps, logslides, and two half pipes! If there are parents interested in chaperoning this event, please contact Kim Madonia.



SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE EVENTS!

***March 6th - 7th: TEEN CRHP #5
RETREAT "What Light"**

***June 19th - 26th: MISSION TRIP
WEEK IN HARLAN KENTUCKY**

DROP - IN SCHEDULE:

ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FROM 6:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. ON:

Dec. 23rd at MHR (Convent 2nd floor) * Dec. 30th NO DROP IN

We hope to see you on Wednesday! Feel free to invite your friends!

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 26

4:00 PM Reader:

Sunday, December 27

8:00 AM Reader:
10:00 AM 1st Reader:
2nd Reader:
12:00 PM Reader:



EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Saturday, December 26

4:00PM 1.) J. McVady; 2.) M. Jurek; 3.) C. Bicek; E.M.1) N. Rooney (T); E.M.2) M. Kozek; E.M.3) J. Rooney; E.M.4) P. Redmond; E.M.5) M. Redmond

Eucharistic Sacristan:

Sunday, December 27

8:00 AM E.M.1) M. Arneberg; E.M.3) K. Furlong (T); E.M.5.) Deacon Siska
10:00 AM 1.) P. Gribble; 2.) L. Fitzgerald; 3.) S. Murnane; E.M.1) M. Leeder; E.M.2) K. Sullivan (T); E.M.3) R. Riccardo; E.M.4) J. Daly; E.M.5) G. Gribble

Eucharistic Sacristans: J. and S. Murphy

12:00PM E.M.1) D. Gardner; (T); E.M.2) Deacon Carroll; E.M.3) R. Walsh; E.M.4) W. Kresse; E.M.5) M. Fried

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1: 57-66
Thursday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79
Friday:
Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 (18-25)
Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96; TI 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-50; Mt 10:17-22
Sunday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14; Ps 128; Col 3:12-20;

MASS INTENTIONS AND SCHEDULE

Monday, December 21

6:30AM Communion Service
8:15AM John P. Langan — *Family*
Thomas Flynn — *Family*

Tuesday, December 22

6:30AM Communion Service
8:15AM Joyce and Jim Broad — *Family*

Wednesday, December 23

6:30AM Communion Service
8:15AM Lynch and Maloney Families — *Kitty Lynch*

Thursday, December 24

6:30AM Communion Service
8:15AM William A., William D. and Dorothy Vice — *Dorothy Shannon*
4:00PM Joe Murray — *Family*
6:00PM Helene and Alvin Kress—*Kresse Family*
11:00PM Louis Sullivan, Jim Fitzgerald and Keith Ryner — *Sullivan Family*

Friday, December 25

6:30AM NO Communion Service
8:00AM Parishioners
10:00AM Anne and Tom McGreal — *Tom and Mary Lu McGreal*
12:00PM Michael Stenson — *Family*

Saturday, December 26

8:15AM Jim McDonnell — *Rob and Ellen Callaghan*
4:00PM Parishioners

Sunday, December 27

8:00AM Merle R. Hall — *Lorraine Chynoweth*
James G. Fitzgerald — *Joe Fitzgerald*
10:00 AM Alvin J. Bielak — *Dee and Don Foertsh*
Martin Smith — *Family*
12:00PM Mary Jane O'Sullivan — *Family*
Mary Prendergast — *Patrick and Erin Murphy*

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.

ST. JOHN FISHER FIRST TRIMESTER HONOR ROLL 2009-10

Congratulations to the St. John Fisher students who achieved Honor Roll status during the first trimester of the current 2009-10 school year.

5th Grade

Straight A Honors

Joseph Alvarez
Ryan Banky
James Burnette
Quinn Cahill
Brett Clifford
Colette Conners
Shalyn Culloton
Emily Erickson
Maeve Fitzgerald
Ryan Glynn
Terrance Glynn
Daveenah Guise
Daniel Harty
Gerry Anne Hayes
Sally Keller
Lauren Lindgren
Taylor McAlilly
Adam McCarthy
Brenna McGathey
Brian Murphy
Christopher Murphy
Grace O'Hara
Hope Orsi
Maeve Reilly
Sarah Thompson
Lucy White

1st Honors

Lauren Broderick
Courtney Carlin
Liam Duignan
Lydia Fleming
Kathleen Goggin
Faith Laughran
Timothy Mahay
Patrick Marth
Emma O'Rourke
Avah Quintner
John Reilly
Nicholas Sarhage
William Scannell
Catherine Spencer
Teddy Tavrdes

2nd Honors

Ethan Conway
Sean Coyle
Patrick Cunningham

Jacob Faculak
Quinn Gorman
Mia Hayes
Annabelle Hladik
Ryan Horkavy
Anne Kelly
Joe Kopale
Kevin Levanovic
Adeline McGuire
Emily McWilliams
Megan Noonan
Patrick O'Connor
Patricia Sarandah
Bridie Schmalz
Hannah Skrypkun
Michael Stanton
Kendall Walsh
Erin Wood

6th Grade

Straight A Honors

Thomas Alvarez
Luke Bechina
Margaret Berger
Carly Bowen
Joe Cariola
Neil Daly
Bridget Fahy
Owen Falk
Mitch Gribble
Griffin Hughes
Caitlin Harkins
Julia Hannigan
Brent Holder
Joseph Inzinga
John Kelly
Brian Kozek
Catherine Lewellyn
Michael Long
Jack Mahay
Annie Murnane
Michaela Murphy
Margaret Murphy
Kevin Neumann
Maeve O'Rourke
Emma Przeslicke
Molly Quaid
Gavin Quintero
Michael Reilly
Meghan Rokas

Anna Strahlman
Emily Sullivan
Michael Sullivan
Rita Walsh
Zachary Wegner
Tara Rose White
Donna Maria Yozze

1st Honors

Benjamin Barry
Matthew Carlin
Kathleen Dine
Kathleen Dowling
John Drozd
Griffin Farrelly
Ryan Foster
Sarah Gannon
Andrew Guerra
Julia Greco
Raymond Holmes
Gavin O'Neill
Mia Rusch
Rosemary Scannell
Abby Sheahan
Joseph Skrypkun
Meilla Springfield
Nicole Stauffer
Mary Cate Walsh
Angela Williams

2nd Honors

Alyssa Danaher
Sam Hatton
Christina Healy
Miranda Insley
Emma Jacob
Teddy McDermott
Erin March
Ashley Murphy
Brendan O'Grady
Joseph Otto
Steven Robinson
Matthew Schied
Mark Seaver
Brianna Waldron

**We will publish the
7th and 8th Grade
Honor Rolls in a
future bulletin.**

CHRISTMAS NOVENA

Please join us as we come together for the final 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.

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

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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

... **Senior Citizen New Year's Eve Party** to be held 115 Bourbon Street at Noon on Thursday, December 21st. Doors open at 11:30 and \$5.00 admission includes a delicious family style lunch with entertainment followed by Bingo with cash prizes. All 19th Ward Senior Citizens are invited. To reserve your seat, call Donna or Shirley (773) 238-0288.

... **3rd Annual 19th Ward Children's Film Festival** to be held on December 28th and 29th at the Beverly Art Center. Admission is \$1.00 per person and ticket will be issued on a first come first serve basis and space is limited. Tickets may be reserved online at www.the19thward.com. For questions and complete information regarding times and movies, please call (773) 238-0288.

... **Donate your car—Help Others—Receive a Tax Deduction!** Cars For Help, a 501c3 not-for-profit organization is working with Catholic Charities to help people in need in Illinois. If you wish to donate a car, or just have questions, call (63) 595-9272 or visit the website www.CarsForHelp.com. Make a difference for Catholic Families!

... **Facing Foreclosure or Threat Thereof?** Act Pre-emptively—call Neighborhood Housing Svcs (NHS) of Chicago to learn of free seminars / workshops (773) 329-4185 24 hour intake hot line.

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.