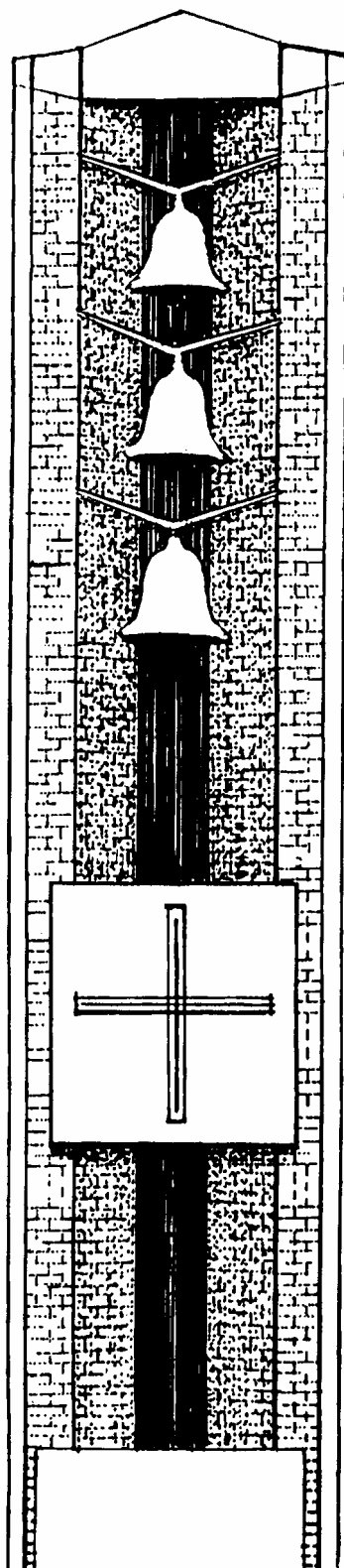


Saint John Fisher Parish

November 29, 2009
First 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.

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 Kreis, 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; Lance 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.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY — THURSDAY DECEMBER 10 – 7:00 PM

The Holy Name Society of St. John Fisher (Men's Club) cordially invites you to attend our upcoming meetings. Our next meeting is Thursday Dec 10 at 7:00 PM in Kane Hall. We will be hosting our 1st Annual Chili cook-off. Some of the premier chefs of the parish will offer a pot of their finest chili. Judging will take place and the parish chili champion will be crowned and earn bragging rights for a year.

Please grab some neighbors and friends and come down to the meeting and enjoy complimentary food, beverages, and SJF neighborhood camaraderie.

Other dates to remember:

Jan 14th – Hockey Night

Feb 21 – Father/Kids Mass and Breakfast

FAMILY ADVENT WREATH EVENT



The Mother's group would like to welcome all families to join us at the **10:00a.m. Mass** this **Sunday, November 29th**. Immediately following we will meet in Kane Hall to assemble our own fresh green wreath centerpiece to celebrate Advent. A prayer book will be provided to guide our families through this holy season. The wreaths and families will receive a special blessing. Christmas carols and small treats will be included. The cost is **\$25.00 per family** at the door. Please RSVP Melissa at mokdok@yahoo.com or (773) **239-1244**. Space is limited. Last minute walk-ins are welcome while supplies last.

AN ADVENT MORNING OF REFLECTION
Friday, December 3, 2009 — 9:30a.m.-11:30a.m.
St. Germaine Church
98th and Kolin (Enter through parking lot doors)

LITURGY: THE THINGS WE DO, THE WORDS WE USE – PART VIII

In the previous installment in this series, I considered what should not or must not be done in creating the **environment** of liturgy. Now we can look at just a few of the “do’s” of liturgical environment.

It should go without saying that the liturgical **season** is the starting point for shaping the environment of worship, and the **colors** of each season play an important part in the decisions that are made. For example, the violet or **purple** of Lent is not the same shade used in Advent. Lenten purple tends toward red—the royal purple of the King, with a hint of the blood of sacrifice and an acknowledgement of the penitential focus of the season. Advent purple is closer to **violet blue**, reflecting this time of anticipation and hinting at its Marian dimensions. We begin with those essential colors in these two seasons, but we can add others: gray and sandy tones in Lent and shades of rose or blue in Advent. **White** is the primary color of Christmastime and Eastertime, but can be enhanced by gold, silver or even the colors of the rainbow during the fifty days of Easter. More than half of the liturgical year is given over to Ordinary Time where all the possible shades of **green** can be used. The final liturgical color of **red** is limited to Passion (Palm) Sunday and Pentecost. While all these seasonal colors determine fabric choices for the environment (including, of course, the vestments worn by liturgical ministers), **flower** choices can expand the use of color in any season. We tend to expect poinsettias in more than just white and although white lilies are essential at Easter, all the colors of springtime flowers would be missed if they weren’t included. Although green predominates in Ordinary Time, autumn shades of yellow, bronze and orange certainly have their place in the environment during the fall.

The **seasons** of the church year also dictate the tone or “feel” of the environment, ranging from simplicity to abundance. Lent and Advent call us to the far end of simplicity in preparation for the abundance of Easter and Christmas, while Ordinary time is generally best expressed with the green of houseplants, coupled with fresh summer flowers or autumn grasses & mums.

One of the often-overlooked imperatives of liturgical environment is the extension of the seasonal elements beyond the sanctuary to embrace the assembly of believers. We regularly use the columns on the side walls of church for draping fabric or hanging Lenten branches or winter evergreens. Sometimes you’ll find plants or flowers at the “break” in the center of church as well as in the shrine areas and around the baptismal font. As I’ve mentioned a number of times in this series, we don’t gather in church to watch a performance in the sanctuary, but to become engaged and intimately involved in the great act of giving praise and thanks to God. Surrounding the assembly with seasonal fabrics or flowers is an invitation to all who are present at mass to feel part of “the action” of worship rather than passive observers.

Another important aspect of liturgical environment is **consistency**. There’s no need to reinvent things each year or come up with a clever twist on the season. When it comes to liturgy, creativity is good; novelty is not. When we come to church on the First Sunday of Advent, the environment should tell us immediately “Advent is here!” and provide us with a feeling of comfort and continuity with past experiences of the season. Even if the environment changes in subtle ways or adds a new or different element from time to time, it should never shock or call attention to itself with either a “wow!” or “what were they thinking?” response.

That brings us to one final aspect of the liturgical environment, **our response** to it. The one question to never ask about the environment of worship is “what does it mean?” As I’ve said previously, both in these articles and in bulletin introductions to Lent and Advent, the liturgical environment is never created to call attention to itself or to convey a specific message. Rather, it’s all about creating an atmosphere that expresses the season of the church year while supporting and enhancing our celebration of Word and Eucharist.

My hope is that these reflections of the past three months will help to deepen, not just our understanding of liturgy, but our desire to be fully engaged in the act of giving praise and thanks to God during this new year of grace in the Church. For now, as Bugs Bunny would say, “that’s all folks!”

Fr. Bob

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.

WOMEN'S CLUB LUNCHEON DONATIONS



The annual Christmas Luncheon will be held on Saturday, December 5th at Ridge Country Club. As in years past, we are looking for donations for the raffle baskets from our parishioners. It is difficult to solicit businesses in this economy so we are looking for items to use in the baskets. It can be a regifted item (always acceptable) or perhaps a gift card or certificates for a store, restaurant, car wash, hair salon, etc. You can contact **Kathleen Daly (773) 445-9270** or e-mail kdaly@woway.com

GIVE THE GIFT OF MUSIC THIS CHRISTMAS



Seasons of Hope is a twelve-track CD featuring the talents of St. John Fisher's amazing music ministry program. The St. John Fisher Adult Choir and Ensemble join their voices to the Teen Choir along with a talented group of instrumentalists, including Music Directors Mike Carso and Alan Bukowiecki. Included in this eclectic CD are instrumental renditions of *Taste and See* and *Amazing Grace*, along with choir favorites *All Are Welcome*, *We Give You Thanks* and *Wood of the Cradle*. Top it off with Alan's stirring rendition of *Lady of Knock* and this CD makes a perfect and economical gift for a donation of just \$10.00.

Just call the Rectory to place your order, then stop by to pick it up. If you need a copy mailed to you, there is an extra charge of \$2.00 for postage.

SUNDAY AND WEEKDAY LECTORS ...

The new Lector workbooks for Sunday and Weekday Lectors are now available for pick up in the priest sacristy. Please pick up your copy as soon as possible.

Youth Ministry - be part of something BIGGER!

End HUNGER
with **your** young
Person...



www.freerice.com

I thought I would share this
WONDERFUL link with you and
your family. Please take a moment
to check it out. It's totally **free**
and it gives you and/or your
young person the chance to help
end world hunger **TOGETHER!**

You can pick from multiple subjects:
Art, Chemistry, English, Geography,
Language Learning, Math

1 question right = 20 grains of rice

5 questions right = 100 grains of rice

Play and feed hungry people.

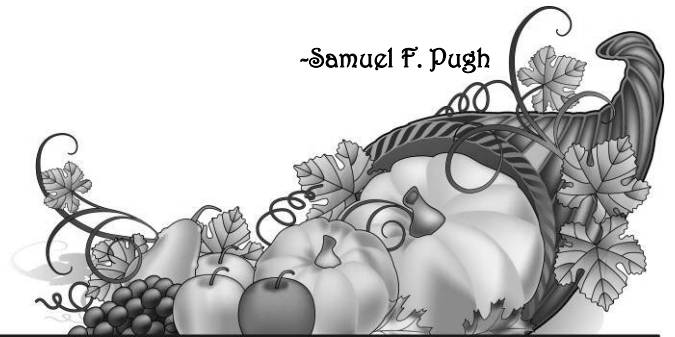
1,611,699,490 grains of rice were
donated last month!

Over 71 **BILLION** grains of rice
donated to date.

May the blessings of this Thanksgiving
fill your hearts and home.
- The SJF/MHR Youth Ministry Program -

Oh God, when we have food,
help us to remember the hungry;
When we have work,
help us to remember the jobless;
When we have homes,
help us to remember those who
have no home at all...
Help us to destroy our complacency;
bestir our compassion,
and be concerned enough to help,
by word and deed,
those who cry out
for what we take for granted.

-Samuel F. Pugh



THANKSGIVING

DROP - IN SCHEDULE:

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

Dec. 2nd @ SJF (Rectory Basement) * **Dec. 9th @ MHR** (Convent 2nd Floor)

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 5

4:00 PM **Cantor:**
Reader: R. Kroll

Sunday, December 6

8:00 AM **Cantor:**
Reader: J. White
10:00 AM **Cantor:**
1st Reader: P. Foliard
2nd Reader: D. MAhoney
12:00 PM **Cantor:**
Reader: E. Hynes



EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Saturday, December 5

4:00PM 1.) Deacon Siska; 2.) P. Tierney; 3.) W. McCloskey; E.M.1) H. Peirce (T); E.M.2) C. Cihocki; E.M.3) N. Rooney; E.M.4) R. Mahoney; E.M.5) D. McHugh

Eucharistic Sacristan:

Sunday, December 6

8:00 AM E.M.1) G. Finn; E.M.2) A. Duffy (T); E.M.3) N. North
10:00 AM 1.) J. Vaclavik; 2.) M. Vaclavik; 3.) Deacon Reilly; E.M.1) M. Leeder; E.M.2) L. Fitzgerald (T); E.M.3) P. McGovern; E.M.4) P. McGovern; E.M.5) P. Leonard

Eucharistic Sacristan: J. and S. Murphy

12:00PM E.M.1) D. Garvey; E.M.2) W. Kresse (T); E.M.3) M. Condon; E.M.4) R. Bertucci; E.M.5) Deacon Carroll

MASS INTENTIONS AND SCHEDULE

Monday, November 30

6:30AM Communion
8:15AM Mary Kay McGrath — *Judi Fitzgerald and Family*
David Schultz — *Samantha Persdorf*

Tuesday, December 1

6:30AM Communion Service for Winnie Wahlen — *Marcia Collins*
8:15AM Angela Berry — *Family*

Wednesday, December 2

6:30AM Communion Service
8:15AM All Souls Remembrance
Roy Kilian — *Family*

Thursday, December 3

6:30AM Communion Service
8:15AM *Harry Dietz* — Norine Sullivan
John and Jacqueline Thiese — *Nancy Boardman*

Friday, December 4

6:30AM Communion Service
8:15AM Larry McGinnis — *McGinnis Family*

Saturday, December 5

8:15AM Merle R. Hall — *Lorraine Chynoweth*
Kenneth J. Sindowski — *Family*
4:00PM Parishioners

Sunday, December 6

8:00AM Francis Mitchell — *Tom and Mary Lu McGreal*
Mary Stenson — *Guinane Family*
10:00 AM Shawn Spain — *Fisherfest Committee*
Robert Ross — *John and Cathi Diamond*
12:00AM Petra Nieves-Gonzalez — *Jackie Strasser*

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: Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sunday: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

ADVENT: THE WREATH AND THE CANDLES

This is the sixth year that our Advent wreath has been suspended over the center aisle of church and the Advent candles have been arranged in the sanctuary, near the altar. Two years ago, I finally got around to explaining the meaning of that, and some of you expressed your appreciation for the explanation; so here it is again for those who might have missed it before.

Even though most of us are accustomed to seeing or making Advent wreaths with the four candles attached or connected in some fashion, the fact is that those two elements are really distinct and separate symbols. The wreath itself is the primary symbol, with the circle representing the God who is without beginning or end, and the evergreen branches pointing to the enduring, ever-living faithfulness and love of God. The candles are simply a way to count the weeks leading to Christmastime. Through the centuries, the number of candles associated with Advent and Christmastime has ranged from the number familiar to us to twelve candles counting the twelve days of Christmas. The color has also varied from our traditional three violet and one rose to candles of either blue or red.

The most important thing is that there be but one wreath in church, and it must be real; after all, there's nothing artificial about God's enduring love. Suspending the wreath from the ceiling as we do also allows for another charming symbolism to emerge: a wreath suspended in such a way invites us to see it as the "keyhole to heaven" through which the Word made Flesh descends to earth.

So, however you choose to make your Advent wreath at home, enjoy these days of anticipation. And maybe, one of these days, make your way down the center aisle of church to gaze up through that "keyhole to heaven" and give thanks for the eternal, evergreen wonder of God's love.

Fr. Bob

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. The goal is to connect job seekers with needed resources to achieve full employment. Networking is an important part of bridging the gap. On Behalf of our parishioners who are between jobs, we want to identify those who can offer employment or who might have connections with those who are hiring. Also, if you can help with resume development or review, or practice interviews, we would like to hear from you. We meet after the 10:00a.m. Sunday mass in the rectory basement. We will announce special events as they are scheduled. If you're between jobs, want to volunteer or learn more about the ministry, contact *Mary Pat Anders (773) 239-3624* , *Jim White (773) 322-2518* or *Deacon Tom*.

FAMILY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION PRESENTS KID'S CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

Thursday, December 3rd from 5:30p.m.-7:30p.m. in Kane Hall

\$6.00 / child admittance fee entitles kids to 12 activities

All St. John Fisher Students Welcome

Kids under 8 years must be accompanied by an adult please.

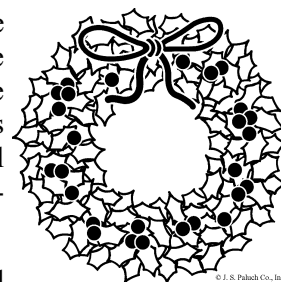
Don't forget to bring a box lid to carry home your creations!

CHILDREN'S CATHOLIC BOOK CLUB

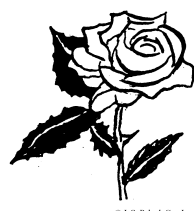
The book for this month is titled **Squanto and the Miracle of Thanksgiving** by Eric Metaxas. We will meet in the rectory basement on **Monday, November 30th at 6:30p.m.** There will be a donation basket passed to cover the cost of the craft and to donate a copy of the book to our school's library. We will also have the next book selection available for purchase on that night. For more information or a copy of the book, contact *Amy Goggin (708) 499-3090* or Gogginreg@comcast.net

DECORATE FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Fill your home with the spirit and love of the Christmas season. Fresh balsam and mixed noble fir wreaths and other holiday decorations will be available for purchase after all masses on the weekend of November 28-29 in the back of church. Proceeds from the sale help support the work of The Women's Centers of Greater Chicagoland. Through your generosity, thousands of teens and young women facing a crisis pregnancy receive compassionate counseling, social service referrals and material goods assistance they need to help them through this most difficult period of their lives. Your support is greatly appreciated.



Prices are as follows: 25" Balsam Wreath (\$20.00), 36" Balsam Wreath (35.00), 12" Mixed Noble Candlering (\$15.00), 26" Mixed Noble Wreath)\$30.00, Deluxe Cardinal Basket (\$25.00), Classic Swag Door Greeter (\$10.00), Euro Tree (\$10.00), Holly Plant (\$5.00), and new this year—Hyacinth / Crocus / Narcissus Bulbs (\$5.00).



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SPIRITUAL ADOPTION UPDATE

The baby is quite active in the womb now ... although her mother won't feel her for another couple of months. If the mother's womb had a window, you could watch your spiritually adopted baby squint, swallow and move her tongue. She can make a tight fist if you touch her palm. She is breathing amniotic fluid which continues until birth, although she obtains the oxygen her body needs through the umbilical cord. Thee baby you are praying for weighs one ounce.

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 recory marked **SANTA SACKS** or give us a call at (773) 238-6932 and we will be happy to pick them up. **Thank You!**

SPONSOR-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

This holiday season, St. John Fisher will again participate in the Sponsor-a-Family Program. a month-long effort to collect Christmas gifts for the many children and families served by Catholic Charities. Sponsor-A-Family reaches out to families who are most in need, responding to their basic wishes for clothing, household items, books, or school supplies.

You have the opportunity to help one of the 500 families seeking assistance through Sponsor-A-Family. Past experience shows that spending between \$50-\$75.00 per family member goes a long way toward making many of their wishes come true. Families are available with one to ten members; you choose the size family that you can afford to help.

You really can make a difference in someone's life this Christmas! Please consider sponsoring a family , or "co-sponsoring" a family with your family or friends. Please call **Mary Kopale (773) 239-6073** or send an email to mkopale@yahoo.com to sign up, or with any questions. You can also find information at www.catholiccharities.net/ celebration. The gifts will be collected on **December 5th**, so please call soon. Thank you!



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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.