December 25, 2016 • Christmas

Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying:

"Glory to

in the highest."

Luke 2:13-14

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CORCORAN'S CORNER

Merry Christmas...

"Is this for me?" Do you remember that wonderful feeling of seeing a spectacular looking gift under a Christmas tree, and someone nodding to you that the present was indeed for you? We tackle the mystery box, and inside is something that we had been dreaming that we would get. What a feeling of joy! What a feeling of surprise that our dream has come true! What a feeling of gratitude for good things that have fallen into our lap!

Each year, our experience of Christmas should be like that. As we age though we begin to wonder: "Is this Christmas for me?" Or is Christmas instead for children only? Or is it instead for others, but not for me? Sometimes we begin to think that we not deserve Christmas anymore. Somehow, we have out grown Christmas. We give in to the fallacy that gifts need to be earned.

Sometimes the "holly jolly" Christmas songs can set us right. We hear, "He [Santa] sees you when you're sleeping, he knows when you're awake. He knows if you've been bad or good, so be good for goodness sake." Santa sees all. He knows all. He knows we have been both bad and good. But in the end he judges that giftedness will come. Santa has the judgment of God.

God truly knows all. He sees our charity, kindness, and goodness. He sees us at our worst. And in the end, for all our goodness, and for all our failings, he sends us his ultimate giftedness, his Son, Jesus, to us, in the mystery of the Incarnation. We receive Jesus not because we "earned him" but out of God's great love for us, and our need for Him.

This Christmas we have no need to wonder: "Is this Christmas, this God, this Jesus, this giftedness for me?" If we do wonder, the answer is a resounding: "Yes!" Christmas and God and Jesus are here specifically for us not because we have earned them, but because of God's great love for us, and our need for him. This Christmas I wish all of you the joy of the Incarnation, the joy of Christmas! Yes, the gift is for you!

On behalf of the other parish priests, staff, and lay leadership of our parish I wish all of you a blessed Christmas. May the joy of the Lord be alive in your heart and life. Drink in the reality of God's love for you. How he sent us his Son, to show us the way in our lives. May you reflect in your relationships with family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors, the Lord's love for you. Merry Christmas!

The New Year's Mass Schedule...

Our New Year's Masses will follow our normal Saturday/Sunday Mass schedule. The Vigil Mass on Saturday, New Year's Eve, will be at 5:00 PM. Masses on Sunday, New Year's Day, will be at 7:15, 8:30, 10:00, and 11:30 AM.

As Christmas Dawns...

Well, we made it! This weekend we celebrate Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. At this time of year when we remember the gifts we have received from God, one of the year-long gifts that we enjoy in the community of Orland Hills, Orland Park, and Tinley Park is our parish of St. Elizabeth Seton. Whether as our spiritual home where we give praise to God for wonders, petition him for our needs, or thank him for our blessings, our parish church is truly a holy place where we are shaped by the gospels, and nourished by the Eucharist. It is a place that forms us into a community of faith that lives out the gospel values in our daily lives.

Our parish is also a beacon of hope. We provide solace to the bereaved, accompaniment to those who are ill, wisdom to those who are discerning, support to those struggling with addictions, faith formation for the next generation, and community to people of all ages. We seek to be, in the words of **Pope Francis** and **Cardinal Cupich** a "Field Hospital" binding up the wounds of those who are in need in our society.

We could do none of this without God's grace, and the generous contributions of our parishioners of their time, talent, leadership, and money. At this time of Christmas when we remember the many gifts that the Lord has given us, beginning with the wondrous gift of the Incarnation—Jesus taking flesh—we also remember the gift in our lives that is St. Elizabeth Seton Parish. I thank you for your ongoing support and contributions to our parish community.

CORCORAN'S CORNER (cont'd)

Are You Friendly?...

After the new year, at the urging of the Parish Council, and following through on recommendations from our Parish Transformation Program, we are seeking to establish a "Welcome Committee" who would reach out to new parishioners as they register. This phone contact would help the newcomers navigate the items in the parish welcome packet, and follow up on their expressed interests, allowing them to connect with parish groups, organizations, ministries, outreach groups, as well as the newcomer's own interests. We welcome about 80 new registered families per year. We would hope to have each committee member contact one new family per month. More information will be available in the weeks ahead. This could be the answer to your upcoming New Year's Resolution to do something new and different in 2017!

30th Anniversary Celebratory Mass and Dinner Dance...

Our parish will celebrate it's 30th Anniversary as a parish on Feb. 14, 2017! Time flies when you are having fun! To celebrate this milestone anniversary we are celebrating a 30th Anniversary Mass on Sunday, Feb. 12, 2017, at 11:30 AM, in the church. The main celebrant of the Mass will be Cardinal Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago.

Please plan on attending that Mass as we thank God for all the blessings he has given us through our parish community. We all have a lot to be thankful for. Just think of the thousands of people baptized in our parish over the past 30 years. The thousands who received the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. The thousands of couples that began their sacramental married life here. The tens of thousands who have been reconciled to God. The thousands of bereaved families who have been comforted. The tens of thousands who were visited when they were ill, and thousands who were sacramentally anointed. Think of the agents of care that this parish has been to people in need not only in our own geographic area, but in our sharing parish in Pilsen. God has been praised by and been alive in his works through our community. We have a lot to be thankful for and to celebrate!

The following Saturday, Feb. 18, 2017, we will have a parish 30th Anniversary Dinner Dance at the Orland Chateau in Orland Park, running from 6:30 PM until Midnight. Music will be by "Fun, Fun, Fun DJs." The dinner will offer a filet mignon and chicken entrée, and an open bar with top shelf liquor. Tickets are \$60 per person and will go on sale the weekend of January 7-8. We are hoping groups of parishioners will gather their own tables of friends, family, and neighbors for this festive occasion. Seating is limited to 400 guests, so please do not delay in purchasing your tickets.

De Alle Horson 125

Emmanuel, God-Is-with-Us by Michael Morwood

We believe in an Ultimate Reality, a reality beyond our words and beyond our images a reality that grounds and sustains everything that

We see this Reality at work in the immensity of our universe, in the incredible display of life-forms on this planet and in the development of consciousness in the human species.

All our collected human wisdom is a visible expression of this Reality, active for millions of years in human development active in all places. at all times in individuals and cultures, seeking expression in the betterment of humanity

As Christians we rejoice in the birth of Jesus. In him we see the fullness of human possibility: to make God visible in our lives. In him we have seen the Ultimate Reality, God, Breath of Life, Wisdom, come to expression in human form.

Like all of us he grew in wisdom as he aged. He questioned, he searched for meaning, he shaped his convictions, he experienced love and came to know love's connectedness with his God.

He stood firmly in his own religious tradition and preached good news to all people dreaming of a better humanity.

We rejoice that his teaching sets us free from imagining a manipulative, intervening God and from thinking we are distant from the Reality in which our very existence is grounded.

We rejoice that Jesus led people to discover the sacred in the ordinary: in the crowd, in the lowly, in everyday life,

in human yearnings to be better people,

and in being neighbor to one another. We rejoice that his teaching sets us free to believe that we live in God and that God lives

and comes to wonderful expression in u We believe in an eternal dimension to this intimate connectedness, giving meaning to who we are

We give thanks for God being with us in the love from family and friends, in the circumstances of life now,

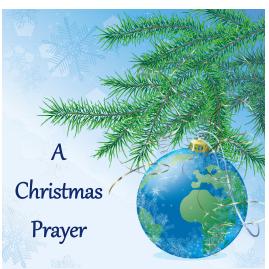
Our Christmas prayer is that we may recognize and actively acknowledge the presence of the sacred in places we are reluctant to look:

- in the stables of our own lives - among the downtrodden in our society
- in refugeesin people who are different from us.

May we recognize God-in-us and give generous expression to this wonderful gift we all share. Amen.







Eternal God, the hope of all humankind, you gave us the greatest gift of all in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Son of God, you came as God's Light to shine brightly in the darkness of minds and hearts; bathe our world in your Light.

Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, make a way for the Good News of your Kingdom to reach every home, every heart, everywhere.

Be the Comforter, Defender and Provider of the poor, the helpless, the cold, the hungry, the orphaned, the weary, the oppressed, those persecuted for their faith in you, the sick, those who mourn, the aged and the little children.

Reveal yourself to those who do not know your immense love.

Bless those who rejoice at your coming! Glorious Lord, we join our voices to the heavenly host and say: "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests!" Amen.

STEWARDSHIP

COLLECTION FOR 12-18-16: \$26.006.00

Thank you for your generosity.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The parish offices are closed on Monday, Dec. 26, Friday, Dec. 30 and Monday, Jan. 2 for the holidays. The parish staff wishes all a safe and blessed Christmas season.

WELCOME

Josephine Willis Margaret Grall

WEDDINGS

Please pray for these couples as they prepare for the Sacrament of Matrimony:

Liz Guldan and Dan Jeziorny; 12-31-16

Jennifer Legerski and Mark Klabacha; 1-21-17

PLEASE PRAY FOR

We remember the sick, infirm, and those recommended to our prayers, that they may experience the healing power of Christ:

Annie Roti Ron Grencik
Nicole Pulciani Nica Pulciani
Loretta O'Connell Wally O'Connell
Mike Hall Frances Marszalek
Jim Duffy Theresa Buckler
Jean Jackstis Steve Kreuz

"Heavenly Father, accept the prayers which we offer for them."

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat., Dec. 24 (4pm) NO INTENTIONS

(6pm) NO INTENTIONS

(10pm) NO INTENTIONS

Sun., Dec. 25

(7:15am) NO INTENTIONS

(8:30am) NO INTENTIONS

(10am) NO INTENTIONS

(11:30am) NO INTENTIONS

Mon., Dec. 26 (9am) O'Malley and LaMarche Families;

Catherine Kane

Tues., Dec. 27 (9am) Therese Manka; Mary and Oscar Fiores

Wed., Dec. 28 (9am) Bill Boardman; Betty Howland-Gildea

Thur., Dec. 29 (9am) Leo DuBois; Joe McCarthy

Fri., Dec. 30 (9am) Yanahan and O'Malley Families; Grace Beissel

Sat., Dec. 31 (5pm) Grace Beissel; Michael Kocher

Sun., January 1

(7:15am) For All Parishioners; Salvatore Roti

(8:30am) Phyllis Jean Minnick; Mary Mazzone

(10am) Francesca Campione; Bob and Suzanne LaCosse (living);

Roman LaCosse (living)

(11:30am) Charlie Dunne; Mark Berent



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST

Starlit Paths To God

By Donna Schaper

et's listen to the artists and the ■ Bible talk about words. The poet, Czesław Miłosz said, "Language is the only homeland." The scriptures tell us that in the beginning God "created the heavens and the earth" then go on to tell us that "in the beginning was the Word." It was made flesh and dwells among us. The word is Jesus, artistically presented.



Melissa McGill's sculpture Constellation

New York. She installed LED lights on an island in the Hudson River. When the artist asked the contractor how hard it would be to install the lights in such a way as to mimic the stars above them and in such a way that they would "come on" every night parallel to the real stars in the real sky, the contractor said it would be almost impossible:

"Have to haul everything over there by boat."
"Wind." "Snow" "Sturdy poles." And then he smiled and said, but you are going to do this right? And she and he did.

or all we know God created Jesus because God is fundamentally an artist or a writer or a sculptor. God as artist is a very different way of thinking of God than God as judge or even creator.

This Christmas morn when we catch our breath to look at the tree we have sculpted or the cards written to or by us or the packages we have created, we may want to have a little fun and think of ourselves as artists. We may want to join the divine in the images of art.

As Mary Oliver notes in *The Writer's Almanac*: "Jack Kerouac was a fast typist, and it frustrated him to have to change the paper so often. So he took long sheets of drawing paper, trimmed them to fit in the machine, and wrote all of *On the Road* that way. When he taped them together at the end, the manuscript was 120 feet long." You could call Kerouac's trick appropriate technology or creative handling of an asset that had met a problem. Or you could imagine God's long manuscript, written in the history of human kind. It goes on and on and on.

Take a sculptural metaphor if you don't care for the written or poetic word. Melissa McGill's sculpture *Constellation* drags the stars to earth just about any night off the Beacon shore or from the train between Cold Spring and Beacon in

can imagine God's contractors saying the same thing at the moment of creation. That and "Are you kidding me?"

The night after the Orlando shooting earlier this year, on the night of the Oscars, the award winning play *Alexander Hamilton* received a ton of awards. They got to perform a little — and did a major scene of the play differently. Instead of staging the battle with muskets, they staged it without muskets. In the beginning was a new word. A new way. It's called peace. At the end there will be a new word, also. It will be creative. It will be peace.

Maybe you'll never get to New York to see Constellation, this 100th Wonder of the World. And perhaps you can't afford the tickets to Hamilton. However, you can always go out at night and stare at a star and let it lead you to the Messiah and his magnificently made and natural cosmos. Or you can make a star out of paper and put it on your tree. Or write a poem about the star that guides you. Or live as if starlight and starlit paths to God are your real homeland.

Advent Morning of Reflection with Father Ron Hicks

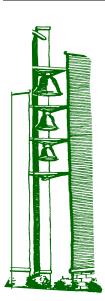








Very Rev. Ron Hicks began our Advent journey by sharing a special opportunity to participate in a Morning of Reflection on Tuesday, Nov. 29, hosted by the Seniors of Seton. Fr. Hicks served as our celebrant at the 9:00 am Mass and then led a talk in the Parish Life Center on the topic, "The Road to Salvation" with an emphasis on prayer, intellect and good works. A free will offering was shared for the children of Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos orphanage.



Seniors of Seton

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENTS TO FOLLOW NEXT YEAR

Christmas is here and New Year's will be soon upon us and the start of a new year...

We will have our first meeting of the year on Tuesday, Jan. 3, with C.J. Martello giving us a glimpse of history into the **George Pullman** "The Man and His Model Town" in the Parish Life Center.

UPCOMING TRIPS

Trip questions or reservations please contact Doug Benker at 708-429-4518.

1920'S GANGSTER MURDER MYSTERY TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017 BUCA DI BEPPO ITALIAN RESTAURANT 15350 S 94th Ave., Orland Park

Doors open: 11am. Luncheon: 11:30am. \$37 per person. Includes: Family-Style Luncheon: salad, entrée, two pastas, unlimited beverage (coffee, tea, soft drinks). Then travel back in time to the Roaring 20's—the era of Flappers, Gangsters, Bootleggers, Prohibition and "Old Henry's Speakeasy." Take part in solving the crimes that take place at the Speakeasy. Transportation on own. Limited seating. Reservations/payment deadline by our January 3 meeting. Checks payable SOS.

Questions: Contact Ceil Matul at 708-460-6004.

SAVE THE DATE

February 13, 14, 15 & 16 for another FUNDRAISER at "ROCK BOTTOM BREWERY RESTAURANT".



We wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and New Year from all of us at Seniors of Seton!

SAINT OF THE WEEK

SAINT STEPHEN

(d.36)

As the number of disciples continued to grow,

the Greek-speaking Christians complained about the Hebrewspeaking Christians, saying that their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.

SO THE TWELVE CALLED TOGETHER THE COMMUNITY OF THE DISCIPLES AND SAID, "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit... (Acts 6:1-5).

Acts says that Stephen was a man filled with grace and power, who worked great wonders among the people. Certain Jews, members of the Synagogue of Roman Freedmen, debated with Stephen but proved no match for the wisdom and spirit with which he spoke. They persuaded others to make the charge of blasphemy against him. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

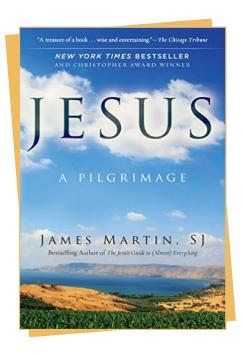
In his speech, Stephen recalled God's guidance through Israel's history, as well as Israel's idolatry and disobedience. He then claimed that his persecutors were showing this same spirit. "[Y]ou always oppose the Holy Spirit; you are just like your ancestors" (Acts 7:51b).

His speech brought anger from the crowd. "But [Stephen], filled with the Holy Spirit, looked up intently to heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and he said, 'Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God....' They threw him out of the city, and began to stone him.... As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.... Lord, do not hold this sin against them'" (Acts 7:55-56, 58a, 59, 60b).

COMMENT

Stephen died as Jesus did: falsely accused, brought to unjust condemnation because he spoke the truth fearlessly. He died with his eyes trustfully fixed on God, and with a prayer of forgiveness on his lips. A "happy" death is one that finds us in the same spirit, whether our dying is as quiet as Joseph's or as violent as Stephen's: dying with courage, total trust and forgiving love.

WINTER BOOK DISCUSSION: JESUS, A PILGRIMAGE



Join us Mondays, beginning January 16 10:00 am in the Cornerstone building

James Martin, SJ, gifted storyteller, editor at large of America magazine, popular media commentator, and *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost)* Everything, brings the Gospels to life in *Jesus: A Pilgrimage*, and invites believers and seekers alike to experience Jesus through Scripture, prayer and travel.

Combining the fascinating insights of historical Jesus studies with profound spiritual insights about the Christ of faith, Father Martin recreates the world of first-century Galilee and Judea to usher you into Jesus' life and times and show readers how Jesus speaks to us today. Martin also brings together the most up-to-date Scripture scholarship, wise spiritual reflections, and lighthearted stories about traveling through the Holy Land with a fellow (and funny) Jesuit, visiting important sites in the life of Jesus of Nazareth.

The person at the heart of the Gospels can seem impossibly distant. Stories about his astonishing life and ministry—clever parables that upended everyone's expectations, incredible healings that convinced even skeptics, nature miracles that dazzled the dumbstruck disciples—can seem far removed from our own daily lives, hard to understand, and at times irrelevant. But in Jesus you will come to know him as Father Martin knows him: Messiah and Savior, as well as friend and brother.

"This book is designed to be accessible to anyone—from those just starting to think about Jesus to those who feel that they may know the topic well. It is designed for people of deep faith or no faith who want to know about Jesus... I would like to introduce you to the Jesus I know, and love, the person at the center of my life. Getting to know Jesus, like getting to know anyone, has been a pilgrimage."—EXCERPT FROM INTRODUCTION

We invite you to come Monday mornings beginning January 16.
We will meet after morning Mass at 10:00am in the Cornerstone building (NE Corner of 94th Avenue and 167th St).

A limited number of soft cover books are available for purchase.

(Feel free to obtain a book on your own.)

Please prepare for the January 16th Book Discussion by reading the following:

Introduction Pages 1-15
Chapter 1 Pilgrims Pages 16-25
Chapter 2 Yes Pages 26-50

Book Cost: \$12
Register and pick up a book in the Parish Office today.

"Night Of A Thousand Stars" Christmas Concert and Gala, Dec. $\bf 4$





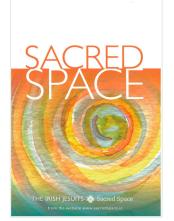












The Prayer Book 2017

Sacred Space Prayer Books can be purchased in the parish office for \$15 each.

Sacred Space Book: The Prayer Book 2017

The story is: "So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manager. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. And Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart." — Luke 2: 16-19

e start this 2017 year, as we start life, under the protection of a mother. On January 1st we celebrate the most passionate and enduring of all human relationships, that of mother and child. As Mary looked at her baby she knew that there was a dimension here beyond her imagining. Her baby was born to live in freedom, free to enjoy the world that God created for Him – and for us. Let us all give thanks for the freedom that we enjoy and live as God intended, with complete confidence in the loving care of His mother and ours.

NEXT GROUP MEETING: MONDAY, JAN. 9, 9:30AM, IN THE CORNERSTONE

The Sacred Space 2017 reflection group will meet on Monday, January 9th, at 9:30AM in the Cornerstone. They will be joined by members of the evening group which had been meeting on the first Tuesday of each month.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Strengthen your marriage in faithfulness by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend on February 17-19, 2017 or April 7-9, 2017, both at Elk Grove Village, IL. Early registration is highly recommended. For reservations/information, contact http://wwme-chicagoland.org or call 630-577-0778.



Ah Choo! Ah Choo! Ah Choo!

It's no surprise to all of us that the Cold and Flu Season is here...

We are all challenged to do our sensible best to avoid getting the flu or passing it on to others. Life does and will

continue to go on and we will be <u>washing our hands</u> <u>more</u>, <u>coughing and sneezing into our sleeves</u>, and staying out of crowds when appropriate. We want you to know we are well aware of the many concerns people have regarding the reception of the Eucharist during this season. Our priests and all Eucharistic Ministers take care that health and safety concerns will prevail. The reception of the Precious Blood will remain available. The greeting of "Peace" will continue to be given. If you wish to acknowledge someone with a verbal greeting only, please do so. May we all be blessed with good health.

Look for this sign on local electronic billboards, sponsored in part by our Men's Club...



Fr. C. C. Boyle Council of St. George Parish has sponsored three billboards to "Keep Christ in Christmas". One is electronic and located on I-294 at 115th and Ridgeland. It is expected to be viewed by 450,000 people per week for 10 seconds every 80 seconds night and day. The second billboard is located on 159th at 94th Avenue. The location of the third electronic billboard is still to be determined. This billboard will be sponsored with a \$200 donation in participation by our St. Elizabeth Seton Men's Club.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM OUR CARDINAL BLASE CUPICH



Office of the Archbishop 835 North Rush Street Chicago, IL 60611-2030 312.534.8230 archchicago.org

Christmas 2016

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Peace be with you and with all people of good will in this holy season.

After observing the Jubilee Year of Mercy and as we begin a journey of renewal in the Archdiocese of Chicago, we have come to know fresh hope in our hearts. We do not find the source of our hope in our own strength. With the Blessed Virgin Mary we recognize that our hope comes from God. As her son took flesh within her womb, she proclaimed, "God has remembered his promise of mercy." The birth of her son Jesus is also the birth of our true and lasting hope.

In this moment, we find ourselves challenged in so many ways. Together, we face the plague of war, violence, and a lack of respect for life and for the dignity of all people. On a personal level, we all struggle in different ways, whether with family issues or work or illness or in trying to do the right thing. Still, we hope, because "God has visited his people."

Pray with me that our celebration of the birth of Jesus may truly renew our hope in God, the only hope that can sustain us on the journey.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich Archbishop of Chicago

Card Store 1. Exist

A Visit with our Sharing Parish to Celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe



AINT ELIZABETH SETON parishioners looked forward with great enthusiasm to their invitation from our sharing parish, St. Procopius (this year held at Providence of God Church, photo left), to celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Despite the snow warning on Saturday, Dec. 10, our bus made it back safely. Fr. Bill Corcoran



FOLLOWING THE BEAUTIFUL LITURGY, a fun and festive Fiesta party is shared in their church hall, where our parishioners enjoyed visiting with sharing parish families and experience an authentic Mexican meal complete with entertainment. Our parish provides the desserts to complete the meal and candy canes for the children.





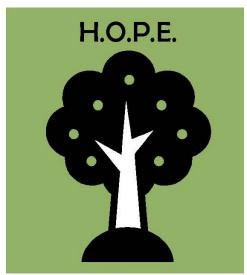












Helping Outreach for People Seeking Employment

Join the HOPE Ministry in kicking off our 11th year of service with a Special Mass!

Tuesday, January 3 Mass at 7pm

The **H.O.P.E.** (Helpful Outreach for People seeking Employment) **Employment Support Ministry** meets at St. Elizabeth Seton Church on the first Tuesday of every month at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Our sessions are open to all faiths and denominations. We meet to offer

support, fellowship, guidance and information for the employed, unemployed, or those in Career Transition. **HOPE** Ministry leaders review and critique resumes; offer job search and interview tips; and pass along job leads. Each month we also provide a guest speaker to support those in transition.

We invite people of all faiths to join us for this Mass. The Mass is intended to be a shared prayer for support and inspiration in the job search; in gratitude for blessings received; and for the hope of blessings forthcoming.

Whether you are employed or unemployed, all are most welcome to attend, including spouses and children, as they are part of everyone's support group. We especially encourage Alumni of the **HOPE** program to attend and share their experiences. A Networking Reception will immediately follow this uplifting, energizing event.

Please RSVP to Lee Junkans via email – <u>ajunkans@aol.com</u>. Please put **HOPE Mass** in the subject of your email.

LinkedIn Members are encouraged to join the **H.O.P.E. Employment Support Ministry Group** to share job leads, network, etc. The group can be accessed through www.linkedin.com.

Start the New Year off right with some HOPE and a Mass on **Tuesday**, **January 3 @ 7pm...** because everyone could use a little **HOPE!**

Thank You to Santa's Helpers For Our Sharing Parish, St. Procopius Christmas Gifts



Saint Elizabeth Seton Social Action Ministry members and volunteers, gathered together to pack the hundreds of Christmas gifts that were shared by our parishioners for St. Procopius Parish families. It is through your generosity that we are able to make Christmas a little brighter for those in need in the Pilsen community. Merry Christmas!

Doug Benker, Sharing Parish Coordinator

Do you recognize this box? It is the Saint Vincent DePaul Society Offering Box

You are invited to give a monetary gift or Jewel food certificates which will go toward providing a better Christmas for families in our community.

SVDP Christmas Collection

For your convenience, SVDP boxes are located at all the entrances of our church. We depend solely on the contributions placed in the donation boxes. SVDP members would like to thank all who contributed to the Thanksgiving collection—and to those who use the SVDP boxes at each entrance. All monies donated go directly to those in need. We service clients within our parish boundaries with emergency assistance for utilities, rent, security deposits, food, clothing, medical, dental, eye care and occasionally gasoline to get to a job site. As calls come throughout the year we look to your generosity and sense of sharing and justice to assist these people. It is your goodness that makes our work possible.

May God continue to bless you.





Keep doing the things you love.

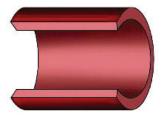
Catch health problems before they go too far.

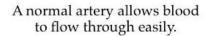
Life Line Screening, recognized with an A+ rating by the Better Business Bureau, offers a 5-test package to thoroughly check you for risk of stroke, cardiovascular disease and other chronic conditions. The combination of these tests helps detect problems—before you have symptoms and while you and your doctor can

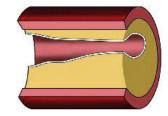


still take action...so you can keep doing the things you love.

Plaque buildup in the arteries can lead to heart disease, aneurysm or stroke.







Plaque buildup in the arteries reduces your blood flow and can be dangerous if left untreated.



Register now to check the health of your arteries

5 Important Screenings for Only \$149 a Savings of \$181!

- Carotid Artery Screening (Plaque)
- Heart Rhythm Screening (Atrial Fibrillation)
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening
- Osteoporosis Risk Assessment

Join the 8 million people who have been screened. We are coming to your neighborhood.

Where: ST ELIZABETH SETON CHURCH

When: SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2017

Please call toll-free **888-653-6434** to register for your screening and to receive a \$10 discount or visit www.LifeLineScreening.com/community-partners

Screening results are provided to you in 21 days. We direct all participants with abnormal results to take the report to their physician. Carotid Artery and PAD screenings help identify the presence of Atherosclerosis, and if found, can be an early warning for higher risks of stroke and coronary artery disease. Such early warning information can help you and your doctor take important steps to reduce your risk for more serious health issues. If necessary, steps may include lifestyle and diet, medical therapies, and even more thorough follow-up testing and evaluation of your heart function. Appropriate modification of risk factors (including high blood pressure, smoking, heart disease, diabetes and poor diet) is also necessary for cardiovascular disease prevention. Our screenings cannot detect all forms of stroke risk or cardiovascular disease. All tests are for screening purposes only. You should consult with your personal physician regarding your screening results. Insurance Note: Life Line Screening does not participate in the Medicare program and the cost of our screening services is not covered or reimbursable by Medicare. Life Line Screening does not file insurance claims nor provide referrals to any physician's group or hospital. Screenings in California are provided by Life Line Mobile Screening, a physician owned practice. Screenings in Kansas are performed by Life Line Screening of America, Ltd. on behalf of Life Line Screening Physicians, P.A. Screenings in New Hampshire, New Jersey and New York are performed by Life Line Medical Screening, Ltd. (Dr. Andrew Manganaro, 70 Niagara Street, Buffalo NY, 14202). Life Line Screening does not engage in the practice of medicine in those states. This information is not intended to induce referrals by Life Line Screening to Life Line Screening does not engage in the practice of medicine in those states. This information is required. A Life Line Screening affiliated physician will provide authorization for you if you qualify. Cancellation Policy: A full refund is



Great Christmas gifts! 2017 Golden Opportunities Coupon Books! Still Only \$20!

Golden Opportunities Coupon books offer local restaurants offering discounts of 50% off for 2-for-1. In addition, great savings at movies, grocery stores, sporting events, and more! Many coupons valid once a month. And... it makes a great gift!

Available for purchase in the parish office!



"CHRISTMAS NIGHT JOY"

The St. Christopher Music Ministry invites you to their "Christmas Night Joy" on Tuesday, Dec. 27, at 7pm. This year's concert will be performed by the combined adult choirs of St. Christopher and St. Emeric, the St. Chris Children's Choir, Living Stones Young Adult Choir accompanied by the St. Christopher Chamber Ensemble, under the direction of Phil and Amy Switalski. Refreshments will be served following the concert, free-will offering appreciated. St. Christopher Church, 147th and Keeler, Midlothian. Stay for fellowship after the concert and pick up the St. Christopher Travelers upcoming 2017/18 Trip information on Nashville Music City, Mackinac Island, Yellowstone/Tetons and Mt. Rushmore, Rt. 66 and more. For more information please call 708-687-3302.

FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART



9201 St. Francis Rd., Frankfort

F-I-N-A-L BINGO

FRIDAY, JAN. 6

Doors open: 5:30 pm Early Bird game: 6:30 pm BINGO starts: 7:00 pm 14 GAMES IN ALL!

Those over the age of 18 are welcome. Questions? Call 815-464-3882.



Women's Club NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, January 17 Meeting GREETING CARDS WORKSHOP Parish Life Center opens at 6:30pm Meeting begins at 7pm

We will create three beautiful designed homemade greeting cards (Valentine's Day, Birthday and Thinking of You). RSVP required. If you would like to participate, the cost will be \$5. Please contact Lynn Miller at 708-460-6113.

Tuesday, January 24 Meeting Painting Party

7pm in the Parish Life Center

We will each be painting two stemless wine glasses with a grapes motif. RSVP required. The cost is \$25 per person. Please contact President Lynn Miller to register at 708-460-6113.



If you plan on using the Christmas Flower envelope found in your monthly packet of envelopes, or if you already sent in a flower memorial gift, fill out the form below so we can publish the names of your loved one(s) in the bulletin after Christmas. Given in Memory of



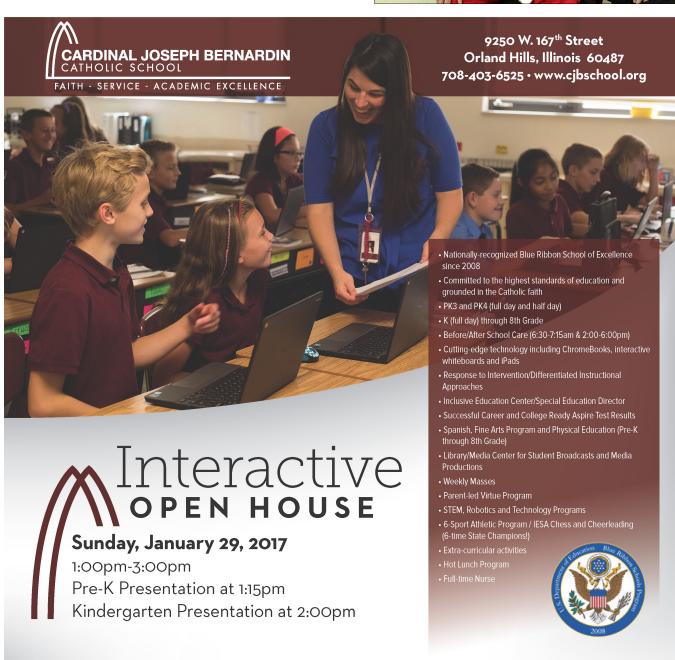
Please place in collection basket. Thank you.

Look who stopped by for a visit in our Church Hall!

DONUTS WITH SANTA

Father Bill Corcoran was ready to greet Santa Claus when he stopped by at our parish on Sunday, Dec. 11. Our Men's Club always extend an invitation to Santa every year. To prepare for this special visit they provide plenty of *Dunkin Donut* holes, juice and coffee to share with all of our families who stop by after Masses that morning. Many thanks to our St. Elizabeth Seton Men's Club who host this special event each year.





Online Registration for the 2017-18 school year can be accessed through our website at cibschool.org



CELEBRATING BAMBENELLI SUNDAY DECEMBER 11 CHILDREN'S NATIVITY AND LIVE PETTING ZOO AND RESPOND NOW TOY DRIVE







Our Third Sunday of Advent was a bustling, joyful morning with a BAMBENELLI BLESSING. All were invited to bring their baby Jesus figurine from their home nativities for a special blessing. After Masses, our Religious Education and Cardinal Bernardin students offered an opportunity to our faith community to share a toy for a child in need from Respond Now of Chicago Heights during their NATIVITY AND LIVE PETTING ZOO. Cookies and hot chocolate were served. Thank you to our three shifts of nativity actors: 8:45-10:00AM — Katianne Soltys, Emmanuel Villalobos, Madi LaSusa, Raven Talusan, Alexis Krabbe; Lexi Krueger, Terence Amador, Colin Peck, Brian Dykstra. 10:15-11:30AM — Ava Murray, Brian Dykstra, Ashley Cozzolino, Alyssa Cozzolino, Tyson Dang, Annie Lloyd, Noah Sauceda, John Dykstra, Hannah Miramontes, Sean Cuba. 11:45AM-1:00PM — Kylie Yerkes, Brian Dykstra, Maggie Gregg, Anna Dennis, Ava D'Andrea, Allie D'Andrea, Nicholas Papciak, Dan Gill. An extra special thank you to the animal handlers who



braved the frigid cold for our outdoor petting zoo.



MARY. **HOLY MOTHER** OF GOD January 1, 2017

NEXT WEEK: HOLY CARDIO

Next week we celebrate Mary, who held God's mysteries and pondered them in her heart, and whose heart would be pierced in sorrow. Like Mary, we need to train our hearts to be given wholly to God.

FIRST READING

The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace! (Numbers 6:22-27). This reading records the blessing that the Lord Our lives, in fact, only have meaning inasmuch gave to Moses that he was to invoke over the people of Israel. It is the presence of God in our lives that is the true definition of blessing.

as we make God the center. This blessing is also called the blessing of Saint Francis, for he recommended this greeting to his followers.

SECOND READING

You are no longer a slave but an heir, through God (Galatians 4:4-7).

There are two words for time in Greek. One word simply means the passing of one minute to the next. The other, that which Saint Paul uses here, signifies time that is sacred time. This is the first reference in Scripture to the birth of Jesus (written over a decade before

the First Gospel). God sends the Holy Spirit into our hearts so that we can know how much God loves us. This means that when we ask ourselves what we would most like to hear from God, the answer is not so much ours as that of the Spirit speaking in our hearts.



GOSPEL

The shepherds glorified and praised God for all they had heard and seen (Luke 2:16-21).

This passage from the Gospel of Luke recounts some of the wondrous events that accompanied the birth of Jesus. Note

Readings for the Week December 26-December 31:

Mon.: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

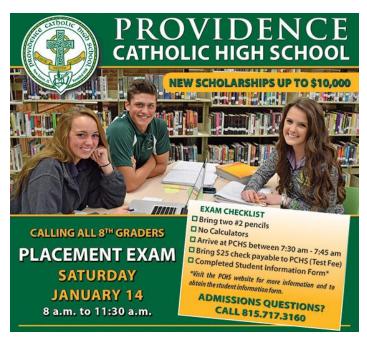
Tues.: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8 Wed.: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18 Thurs.: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:36-40 Fri.: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Mt 2:22-35 Sat: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18

especially that Mary pondered all of these things in her heart. In Biblical symbolism, the heart is where one thinks. Thus, Mary is pictured as wondering what the meaning of all these things could be. It is also important to remember that shepherds were not considered to be reputable people. They were social outcasts, thieves and worse. The message of salvation was given first of all to those who most needed it. Mary and Joseph, being good Jews, fulfill all the prescriptions of the law by circumcising Jesus eight days after He was born and giving Him the name that had been revealed to them by the archangel Gabriel.

God our Father. You invite us to experience the holiness that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph shared. Heal dysfunction in my relationships with family and friends. Give me a grateful heart, a heart for relationships that are holy. Amen.

REFLECTION

In the 1960s the Everly Brothers released a song that began, "Dream, dream, dream, dream, dream, dream." Next week our Gospel is filled with dreams. An angel tells Joseph to flee to Egypt with Mary and Jesus; an angel tells Joseph to take Mary and Jesus to Israel, where it is now safe; an angel warns Joseph to go to Galilee because Israel wasn't as safe as previously thought. Dreams are a window to the heart, revealing what we value or fear, or in what we believe. Whatever our family looks like, we have dreams for those we love, especially for our children. The first reading describes God's dream for family life: parents, honor your children; children revere your parents and be kind to them, even if their minds fail. Sirach's dream seeks basic respect. Paul's dream includes compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, love, peacefulness, and gratitude, tied with a bow that is the word of Christ. These values are needed for true obedience, from ob audire, to listen to. Listen to the voice of spouses, parents, children, and God. Speak your reality respectfully. Submit to these virtues by means of honest dialogue. Healthy relationships of give and take require this kind of respectful dialogue. To be holy families we need to live the virtues. St. Francis de Sales wrote that we ought to love everyone with great love, but should have no friendships except for those that communicate the things of virtue. What virtues do you need for you to hear God's voice and live in ways that will make your relationships holy because they are grounded in the Lord Jesus Christ?



MERRY CHRISTMAS from YOUR PARISH SCHOOL!

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Catholic School Administration, Faculty, and Staff extend prayers of peace and wishes of joy to all this Christmas! May each day of the New Year bring blessings that renew your spirit.

Ms. Mary lannucilli, Principal, and the CJB Staff



CARDINAL JOSEPH BERNARDIN SCHOOL GALA



SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY SEBRUARY 25, 2017 TINLEY PARK CONVENTION CENTER

Questions? Contact Kyle Hastings 708-309-7172 or cjbgala@gmail.com www.cjbgala.org

Branches Youth Ministry



Kyle Groves Parish Youth/ Young Adult Minister

DECEMBER/ JANUARY EVENTS

FRIDAY, DEC. 30 BRANCHES HIGH SCHOOL LOCK-IN 6:00pm-8:00am

SUNDAY, JAN. 8
BRANCHES MIDDLE SCHOOL
Parish Life Center — 5:00pm-7:00pm

SUNDAY, JAN. 15 BRANCHES HIGH SCHOOL Parish Life Center — 5:00pm-7:00pm

FRIDAY, JAN. 20 CRISIS ROOMS SOCIAL Please RSVP for more information.

SUN, JAN. 22 BRANCHES MIDDLE SCHOOL Parish Life Center — 5:00pm-7:00pm

SUN. JAN. 29 — BRANCHES HIGH SCHOOL Parish Life Center — 5:00pm-7:00pm

YOUNG ADULTS

THURSDAY, JAN. 19

Young Adult Adoration and Social @ St. Michael's Parish — 7:00pm-10:00pm

VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

Starting in January, Branches will be playing in a High School Volleyball League among the other churches in the area from January to March. All 8th grade & high school students are welcome. Games held on Sundays & Thursdays. Practices are still to be determined. More information to come soon.

To signup/receive information, contact Kyle Groves at 708-403-0101 x105 or kgroves@steseton.com.

ST. ELIZABETH SETON PRAYER/OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Social Action Ministry

How we serve: Shepherd's Table Soup Kitchen in Joliet; Sharing Parish with St. Procopius Church; Pro Life Ministry includes: COURAGE Program, Mother's Day Flowers For Life; Life Chain Sunday, Diaper Drive; Respond Now Outreach; SWIFT (South West Interfaith Team); Environmental Ministry; Speaker nights.

Seton Rosary Group

All are invited to join in praying of the Holy Rosary. We meet each Tuesday and Thursday in the church, by our statue of the Mary, following the 9am Mass.

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

The Divine Mercy Chaplet is recited every Wednesday morning in the church, following the 9am Mass.

Heart Warmers Meal Ministry

Heart Warmers is an outreach program where Seton volunteers deliver homemade meals to people of our parish community when they are experiencing times with medical, health, new baby, recovery, or grief issues. To schedule receiving a meal or to become a meal provider contact Barb Cristofaro at 708-349-7493 or heartwarmers-ses@att.net.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Shawls are prayerfully created, blessed, and distributed to those who have a need for the spiritual, physical or emotional comfort. Knit or crochet in your home and/or at the twice-monthly meetings. To become a knitter or to obtain a shawl, call Sharon Leone at 708-226-4836.

Seton Sowers-Newborns in Need

If you knit/crochet/sew, your skills to make clothing/blankets for premature newborn babies at the University of Illinois Hospital. We meet monthly in the Church Hall. Donations of yarn/fabric/baby toiletries/supplies accepted. For information/meeting dates, contact Carol Dimer at 708-479-6994.

HOPE Employment Ministry

HOPE is open to everyone. All of our services, to both job seekers and employers, are free. We meet the first Tuesday of each month in the Church Hall at 7pm. Our meetings consist of networking, resume review, guest speakers and open forums. Contact Lee Junkans at ajunkans@aol.com.

Alcoholics Anonymous

If you have a problem with alcohol and feel a sincere desire to stop drinking, you are welcome to attend a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) in the downstairs St. Elizabeth Seton Church Hall on Thursdays, from 7:30-8:45pm. AA is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength, and hope with each other so that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover. The only requirement is a sincere desire to stop drinking.

Families Anonymous

If your life has gone astray due to living with someone who has a substance abuse problem, attend a Families Anonymous on Mondays from 7-8:30pm at Palos Hosp. 123rd and 80th Ave., Palos Heights (Ambulatory Care Center, Rm. 1). Call 708-429-2507 or 708-269-9853.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Anyone within parish boundaries in need of assistance from SVDP, may call the parish office at 708-403-0101.

ST. ELIZABETH SETON PARISH INFORMATION

- **New Parishioners** We welcome new members. All are invited to participate in the life and mission of the parish. A complete listing of parish services and organizations is available in the parish office and on our parish website. Please visit the parish office to register or obtain the registration form on the parish website.
- **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is offered on Saturday, between 4:15-4:45pm.
- **Sacrament of Baptism** is celebrated twice monthly at 1pm. Reserve your time by calling the parish office Center early. Limited to six children per Sunday.
- **Baptismal Preparation** Couples preparing for the birth of their child should contact the Pastoral Center to register for a one night seminar, focusing on a parent's role in faith development. This session is mandatory prior to the Baptism.
- Anointing of the Sick is available in the Church every Monday after the 9am Mass. For those who are ill or facing hospitalization, it is appropriate to receive the sacrament once every six months. Call 708-403-0101 for information.

■ Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Adults, 18 and older, who wish to become Catholic are enrolled in a formation process (RCIA) that includes prayer, dialogue, instruction, and introduction to the Church's life and values, rituals and traditions. For information call the parish office 708-403-0101.

- Ministry of Care is available to give Communion to the housebound, to visit and pray for hospitalized and/or to arrange for the Anointing of the Sick. Please call the Pastoral Center for assistance.
- In the Hospital? Because of HIPAA Privacy regulations hospitals can no longer contact the parish regarding your hospitalization. It is the responsibility of you or a family member to notify our parish. We desire to offer whatever spiritual support we can. Please call the Pastoral Center.
- **Sacrament of Marriage** Couples planning to marry are asked to make arrangements six months in advance
- **Wedding Workshops** are offered throughout the year. They provide engaged couples with guidelines and suggestions for the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. The workshop covers topics ranging from readings and music to flowers and video taping.
- Adult Choir sings at all 10am Sunday Masses, as well as at a number of special liturgies.
- **Teen Choir** sings at the 11:30am Sunday Masses.
- Moving? Please call the office at 708-403-0101.
 9300 West 167th St., Orland Hills, IL
 708-403-0101

www.steseton.com

12/31 & 1/1	5:00PM	7:15AM	8:30AM	10:00AM	11:30AM
GREETERS	R. Coe S. Hermann E. Herman S. Klean W. Krol R. Lamparski J. Schuman P. Staszewski	C. Chor R. Dickover G. Lukasiewicz L. McGhee S. McGhee B. Tenuta	K. Fox M. Fox D. Gurka/M. Gurka P. Gurka/M. Gurka J. Klomes J. Klomes L. Klomes M. Klomes A. Lloyd A. McCoy D. Minnick	R. Chehy P. Havlin B. Krueger S. Lorenz N. Lorenz J. Moran D. Weber	I. Cox K. Cox B. Findura M. Gniady K. Ivancich B. Ivancich S. Klean M. McMahon
LECTORS	K. McSwain J. Bessette	D. Houha	D. Roti C. Bannon	D. O'Connor P. DeWilkins	P. Hambrick M. O'Sullivan
ALTAR SERVERS	C. Gagan J. Laxamana J. Laxamana	J. Pala H. Gacek E. Gacek	C. Durkin O. Durkin P. Maiolo	T. Quinlan J. Zufan C. Zufan	C. Gagen L. Kedzierski C. Soltys
EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	P. Ihnat M. Ihnat L. Jeffrey J. Murphy C. Hamilton A. Sharp B. Cristofaro D. Cristofaro G. Roy K. Gagliardi C. Lundgren T. Lundgren	D. Skrzypiec L. Skrzypiec J. Janiak T. McMahon P. Rodgers W. Dendler D. Ceglarski D. Flynn	S. Hall A. Roti K. Mantyck J. Mantyck J. Misiunas B. Kandel E. Pawlak R. Hicks V. Patrizi K. Kelly J. Kelly D. Minnick	L. Gent R. Ulrich D. Ulrich E. O'Connor J. Krusenoski D. Pacholski G. Chehy J. Eisenberg J. Kokotan-Krauss R. Grill C. Davis R. Laud J. Weger	C. Holmquist J. Holmquist T. Scorzo K. Hall T. Wolski J. Bilas M. Schmidt S. Villegas M. Merino M. O'Connor

St. Elizabeth Seton Church

9300 W. 167th Street Orland Hills. IL 60487

Parish Office: 708-403-0101 WEBSITE: WWW.STESETON.COM Religious Education: 708-403-0137

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8:30AM-4:30PM SATURDAY: 1PM-6PM SUNDAY: 8:30AM-1PM

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Catholic School WEBSITE: WWW.CJBSCHOOL.ORG 708-403-6525
Principal, Mary Iannucilli Administrative Assistant, Cindy Labriola Devlin

Pastoral Staff

Rev. William T. Corcoran, Ph.D, Pastor Rev. John Zurek, Associate Pastor Rev. William Gubbins, Resident Priest Rev. William T. O'Mara, Pastor Emeritus

Deacon: Frank Gildea

Deacon: **Dennis (Barb) Cristofaro** Deacon: **Joe (Mary) Truesdale**

Liturgy Staff

Claudia Nolan, Director of Liturgy

Music Staff

Linda McKeague, Director of Music

Parish Office Staff

Donna Stolinski, Business Manager Darlene Raila, Communications Director Joan Nemec, Morning Receptionist Karen Mirecki, Afternoon Receptionist

Youth/Young Adult Ministry

Kyle Groves, Director Bruce Hall, Coordinator

Religious Education Staff

Susan Matthews, Director of Religious Education Diana Barracca, Administration Assistant

Mary Vlaming, Secretary

Athletics

Bob Myjak, Director

Maintenance Staff

Raymond Yanowsky, Director of Maintenance Laurie De Mik-Renn, CJB Day Maintenance Supervisor Marie Makuch, Staff Joseph Shake, Staff

REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE

Monday-Friday:
9:00 am
Saturday
5:00 pm
Sunday:
7:15, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30am