DECEMBER 15TH, 2019 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Parish Offices:

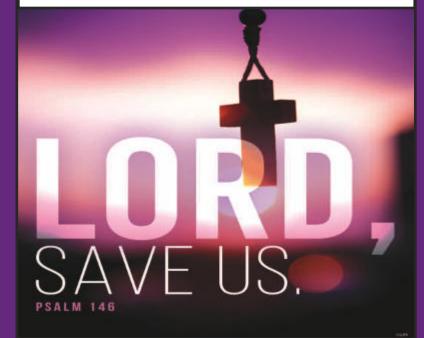
5250 W. 155th St. Oak Forest, Illinois 60452 Phone: (708) 687-1370 Monday - Friday 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM Closed 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Saturday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM Closed Sunday www.stdamianchurch.org Email: info@stdamianchurch.org **Religious Education** (708) 687-7778 **School Office** (708) 687-4230

Pastoral Staff:

Pastor Fr. Joe Noonan Associate Pastor Fr. Michael Olson Resident Fr. Jerry Scanlan Deacons Bill Stearns Tom Hipelius Tom Ruzevich Richard Korepanow Sacristan Lavergne Innocenti **Director of Ministry** Frieda Bertello 342-8529 **Principal** Jennifer Miller 687-4230 **Religious Education Director** MaryJo Landuyt 687-7778 **High School Ministry/Bulletin** Connie Swidergal 342-8513 **Music Ministry** Tony Berardi 687-9532 **Office Manager/Parish Secretary** Christine Yaeger 687-1370 **Director of Maintenance** Joe Beemsterboer 710-1510 **Director of Finance** Donna Kay 687-1370 **Administrative Assistant** Pat Garrity 342-8526 SHOP Dale Lux 342-8516 Seminarian Intern



Advent Reconciliation Service Sunday, December 15 6:00 PM in the Church



Mass Schedule:

Daily 7:00 AM: Tuesday, Thursday 9:00 AM: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday Weekend Sat: 5:00 PM | Sun: 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM, 5:00 PM Holy Days Vigil: 7:00 PM | Day: Follows regular weekday schedule, and 7:00 PM

Pastor's Corner by Fr. Michael Olson

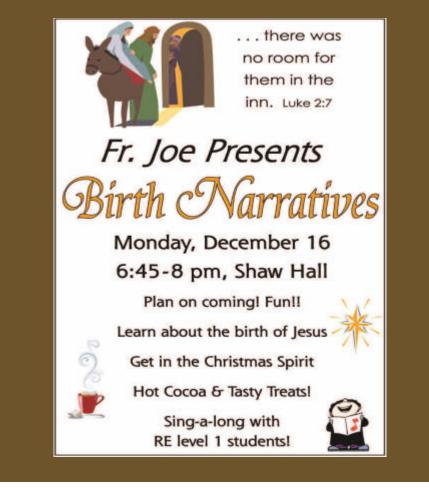
This Third Sunday of Advent is known as "Gaudete Sunday." Gaudete is the Latin word for rejoice! It is the first word of our entrance antiphon for Mass and it sets the tone and the theme for the day which is a spirit of joy. But, why is there a theme of rejoicing and joy during this third week of Advent? We have not reached Christmas yet? Shouldn't Christmas be that season or time of rejoicing and joy?

The theme of joy is shown in our readings for this weekend. It is also outwardly expressed in the rose colored candle we light this week and the rose colored vestments that the priest may wear during Mass. Why this change in color? The color rose is used as it is the combination of the color violet for Advent and white for Christmas. This change in color and tone for this Sunday is an outward manifestation of our Christian joy that we are now more than halfway to the Nativity and birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are closer to Christmas Day than we are to the beginning of Advent.

The theme of Gaudete or great joy is expressed in our readings this weekend, especially in our first reading from Isaiah. "Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you.... Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee." (Isaiah 35: 4, 10). The prophet Isaiah tells us that we must not be afraid, we must put sorrow and fear aside and be strong and patient for the Lord God is coming to vindicate and save you! Our salvation is beautifully made manifest to us in the birth of God our Savior, Jesus Christ. Advent is a season of joyful patience and preparation for us. St. James points this out in our second reading. "You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." (James 5:8). Our primary focus must be on deepening our personal and intimate prayer life with Christ to truly prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. We should put aside some of the secular distractions of this season, especially the ones that have nothing to do with Christ. By doing this remove many of the unnecessary stresses that we place in our lives during this season. We are more free to focus on our time and energy on Christ who will truly make us joyful.

Rejoice! Gaudete! Notice how that word is in the imperative, meaning; "You Rejoice!" It is a command that is given to us, that we must be joyful. Unfortunately, many of us know this season can be an extremely difficult one. We can find ourselves stressed or overwhelmed from all the things that need to get done. This season is also especially difficult for those who have lost loved ones. We should understand that there is a difference between joy and happiness. Fr. Henri Nouwen, a theologian and spiritual writer says; "Happiness is dependent of external conditions, joy is the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing- sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death-can take that love away. Thus joy can be present even in the midst of sadness." This means that happiness is a feeling that comes and goes. Happiness can be felt when things are good in our lives and is absent when things are bad in our lives. God does not give us the command to always be happy. That would be wonderful, if we could be happy all the time. That is simply not realistic, there are going to be things in our lives that make us upset. It is human to feel sadness. Jesus experienced sadness when he wept over the grave of his good friend Lazarus. But we do not let sorrow, sadness, anger, or any of our emotions control our lives. God's command to us is to always be joyful in the Lord. Joy is knowing that you are unconditionally loved by God. This joy, this love, can still be experienced by us even during the worst of times of our life. This is why we are given the command to rejoice! God has come to us, out of love, so that we might share in salvation with in Heaven. So how do we follow the command to rejoice in the Lord?

We are created in the image and likeness of God and are His beloved children. We are unconditionally loved by Him. If we truly understood what that means, we would be sharing the love of God with every single person that we met. We would be unstoppable. We would not be able to contain the immense joy, love, and kindness of God. Joy is knowing that you are unconditionally loved by God. We must strive to never give into fear, anxiety, anger, apathy, and laziness. We fulfill the command to rejoice in the Lord by sharing that kindness, that love of God, with everyone. During this Advent season and beyond let us continue to do those acts of kindness and love for others. St. Teresa of Calcutta would say, "Do small things with great love." Then all will see the goodness of God and rejoice always.



Pray for the Sick

Matt Zubek

Isabel Montes

Andy Devine

Maureen Kosman

Judy Morgan

Lisa Forst Geraghty

Kathy Varanauski

Emily Haynes

Michael LaPorta

Jane Fagan Erlinda Velasco

Gene Burklow

Ken Moser

Joan Mahoney

Laura Mazurowski

Diane C.

Bob Sutter

Sue Sutter

Jim Mahoney

Andrea Schultz

Danielle Fuentes

Jackie P.

Joy Ochoa

Enrique Navarette

Celine Lisikiewicz

Richard Rolnicki

Sandrine Bopeya

Kathy Dertz

Linda Carey Mary Anne LaHayne Linda Ruisz Pablo Flores Baby Wyatt Yager Dan Joyce Ronald McKay Eileen O'Malley Coit Lory Murtaugh Jim Murtaugh Lorraine Slotarski Bryan Shilander Linda Lisikiewicz Jeffrey Germany Anna Mroz Barbara Jean Sfondilias **Deborah Fogarty** Brian Wheeler Deborah Davis-Carroll Sue Bond George Ruglio Frank Hochman Jr. Bernadette Klein Richard Klein, Jr. Joe Flores Joseph Pilch Sgt. Alexander Curlee Kenneth Judd

Jim Mahoney Sylvia Prokop Sandra Prokop William Sutton Dolores Hochman Linda Laich Patricia Daley Kathy Swiatkowski Patricia Ryon Vincent Scialabba Barbara Scialabba Nicholas D'Angelo Tricia Mazurowski Thomas Williams **Christopher Burgess** Brenda Diaz Mary Thomas Iris Beltrame Mark Butowski Heather Blank Geri Wasik Avery Hollaway Marie Prutsman Noah Halek Lou Coppens, Jr. Rita Doweiko Warner Spencer **Tenly Spencer**



Baptisms

December 8, 2019

Liam Joseph Gory Child of **Brenden & Jessica**

In Loving Memory

Helen J. Lucas

Parish Support

December 1, 2019

Collected	\$17,831
Budgeted	\$18,000
Difference	(\$169)
Veen to Date Collected	¢064 =0=
Year-to-Date Collected	\$364,735
Year-to-Date Budgeted	\$396,000
Year-to-Date Difference	(\$31,265)
Christmas Flowers	\$411
All Saints - Nov	\$5
Thanksgiving	\$2,421
Immac. Conception - Dec	\$41
Solemnity of Mary - Jan	\$10
Votive Candles	\$284
Christmas - Dec	\$101
Sharing Parish	\$312
Retired Religious - Dec	\$12
CCHD - Nov	\$130
Pro Labore Dei Bake Sale	\$1,208

Thank you for your generosity!

St. Damian Parish

St. Damian Prayer Group

Come to our Christmas Party December 17th. It's a Pot Luck Dinner, so bring something to share. We will begin at 7:00PM which is earlier than usual. Come celebrate Emmanuel - *God with Us!*

We will not meet until Tuesday, January 7, 2020. A Blessed Christmas & New Year to All!

All are welcome to join us on Tuesday evenings in the Sr. Clarice Aula, Building door "F" at the east end of the school. For further information call Cielo at 254-3772.

Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration Wednesday 9:30 AM - 7:00 PM

"O Come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!"



Headline

Oplatki Wafers are here!

Oplatki wafers can now be purchased for a donation at the SHOP Table and the Pastoral Center.



SIMBANG GABI - A FILIPINO CATHOLIC TRADITION Celebrating our 27th Year

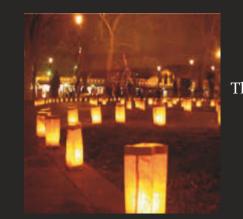
St. Damian will host the 5th novena night of **Simbang Gabi** (Advent Mass) on Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 7:00 PM. We prepare our hearts to welcome and joyfully celebrate the Birthday of Jesus. Our theme for this day is, "Jesus is Freedom." Fr. Joe Noonan will be our Celebrant. Here in the Southwest area, a novena of Masses (series of nine) is held from Dec. 15th to Dec. 23rd each year.

Dec.15th - Sunday	7:00 PM -	St. George, Tinley Park,II
Dec.16th - Monday	7:00 PM -	St. Michael, Orland Park,II.
Dec.17th - Tuesday	7:00 PM -	St. Fabian, Bridgeview, II
Dec.18th - Wednesday	7:00 PM -	St. Julie Billiart, Tinley Park,II
Dec.19th - Thursday	7:00 PM -	St. Damian, Oak Forest, II
Dec. 20th - Friday	7:00 PM -	Our Lady of the Woods, Orland Park,II
Dec. 21st - Saturday	7:00 PM -	St. Stephen Deacon & Martyr, Tinley Park,II.
Dec 22nd - Sunday	7:00 PM -	St. Francis of Assisi, Orland Park, II.
Dec. 23rd - Monday	7:00 PM -	Queen of Martyrs, Evergreen Park,II. Celebrant : Bishop Andrew Wypych, Episcopal V



Celebrant : Bishop Andrew Wypych, Episcopal Vicar, Vicariate V We invite our parishioners, families, and friends to attend in this joyful celebration. Fellowship will follow after Mass in the Shaw & O'Day Halls. For further information, please contact : Dem & Angeles Montefolka 687-8202, Estela Arguelles 687-3970,

Elena Toreja 535-2118, Ellen Burgos 314-6061, Josie Licardo 535-3185, Cora Guerrero 687-9032.



Help St. Vincent de Paul "Light the way for Christ" in Oak Forest this Christmas Season!

We are providing Luminaria kits again this year. The kits are only \$5.00 each. Not only will your home be a symbol of hope for all ... "Lighting the way for Christ" ... your \$5.00 donation will be used to bring Christ's hope to the families that need our help.

> Look for us in the Narthex after all Masses December 14-15 and December 21-22

STRAWS OF PRAYER

Advent is a time when individuals and families have an opportunity to prepare and await the birth of the Savior, soon to be born. One of the ways we can prepare as a community of faith, is to say a prayer. We pray for our families and loved ones, the poor and the hungry, the lonely and forgotten, our Church, our Pope, our nation and those in the military who serve and protect. We pray that Jesus be born into their hearts.

Traditions are inherent in family life and in Church life. St. Damian would like to begin a tradition that we are calling Straws of Prayer. On the weekend of December 21-22 there will be baskets of straw in the narthex and by the Gift Table. During the Offertory part of the Mass, we are inviting all the children to take a piece of straw and place it in the empty manger by the altar. Each straw will represent a prayer.

You and your children can pray a prayer of your own or the one printed here.



Did you take an ornament from the Giving Tree?

Please remember to return your wrapped gift, with the ornament attached to the outside of the package THIS WEEKEND. Gifts will be delivered with items from the food pantry next Saturday, December 21st. You will brighten the day of someone in need of a little extra loving care because you cared enough to give a gift out of the goodness of your heart. We are also in urgent need of volunteers to

make late deliveries at a time convenient for you on Monday, 12-24 between 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM. Late deliveries will involve no more than 4 or 5 stops in the same general area.

Ministers of Care, please select one of the live plants by the Giving Tree and share it with the person(s) you serve and wish them a very blessed and Merry Christmas from the family of St. Damian Church.

Please continue to check the tree for ornaments as we still are receiving requests for help from families and will do so through 12/20/19. Any questions, please contact Deb Hartigan, 708-269-0817 or by e-mail at flynnersfolks@att.net Christmas is coming, Won't you say a prayer For those we love and Those who are not here?

This little manager is empty It's true. It's awaiting a prayer To be said by you.

> Lay a piece of straw By the manger bed, Having said a prayer For others instead.

Then when Christmas Eve Is finally here, A bed of soft straw Soon will appear ...

... Jesus the Savior The Babe newly born ... Angels and wise men, Rejoice Christmas morn!





THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS!

Gratitude and thanks. I had a friend who used to say, "No one thanks you for dusting the furniture or cleaning the baseboards. They are so easily ignored. However, let a year go by and see if they would be noticed!"

Well, a year has gone by, and we would like to thank all of our sponsors whose ads defray the St. Damian bulletin expenses. If you haven't noticed, they are the businesses, services and practices whose colorful ads are located at the back of the bulletin every week.

There are a wide variety of services and discounts from which to choose. So, check them out and think about giving them support. It's a win-win.

Please Help with Project Linus

The St. Damian National Junior Honor Society is looking for fleece donations to help make fleece blankets for Project Linus. Project Linus is a non-profit organization with chapters in all 50 states that collects and distributes blankets to children in hospitals, shelters, social service agencies, or anywhere that a child might be in need of a big hug.

If you have any fleece that you would like to donate, please drop it off in the box in the Narthex.



Thank you for your support!

The St. Damian NJHS members.

Christmas Food Pantry Distribution Saturday, December 21 Shaw Hall 7:30 - 9:30 AM

Come help pack and deliver Christmas cheer to the less fortunate in our community. It's a BIG JOB - so we need lots of help!

Wear your Christmas gear to make it fun. Bring your family and friends to help out this great cause. The Giving Tree gifts will be delivered today as well so we need drivers as well as elves.

Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously at the Thanksgiving Mass! We couldn't do this without **you**!



Bake Sale to Feed the Hungry

A few weeks ago, Ethan Coe contacted Fr. Joe and asked if he could lead a service project. Ethan and his family are parishioners of St. Damian. He has attended St. Damian school and is an 8th grade student at Arbor Park Middle School. He is also a member of the National Junior Honor Society.

Ethan volunteered at the St. Damian Food Pantry and found it to be a rewarding experience. He said it was "a benefit to the community," feeding those in need. For his



service project, he wanted to host a bake sale to raise money. He would take care of all the details.

Good news! Ethan hosted a successful bake sale and raised \$1,208. It will be used to purchase the supplies needed for the Pro Labore Dei lunches that are donated every month. More good news. An anonymous donor agreed to match the funds raised for this bake sale. The proceeds will be given to the St. Damian Food Pantry.

Great job, Ethan! *Thank you* on behalf of the hungry and God bless you.

Christmas Eve Dasses Guesday, December 24 There will be no morning Mass

3:00 PM 3:15 PM ~ Shaw Hall 4:30 PM ~ School Choir Please arrive early-expected to be full 6:00 PM 12:00 AM

> Christmas Day (Dasses Wednesday, December 25

7:30 AM 9:30 AM 11:30 AM There will be no 5:00 PM Mass

Spotlight on St. Damian School

The Junior High students celebrated diversity at the Culture Fair. They learned about the many cultures and heritages we have in our St. Damian School community. They were very excited the NBC5 news team came out to tape a segment which aired that evening. If you missed it you can view the news segment on the NBC5 website www.nbcchicago.com/on-air/as-seen-on/south-suburban-culture-day, under the "Making A Difference" heading. The link has also been posted on the School and Parish Facebook pages.



Several of these Junior High Students were invited by Dr. Jim Rigg, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, along with Fr. Greg Sakowicz, Rector of Holy Name Cathedral, to be on their radio show to talk about the Culture Fair.

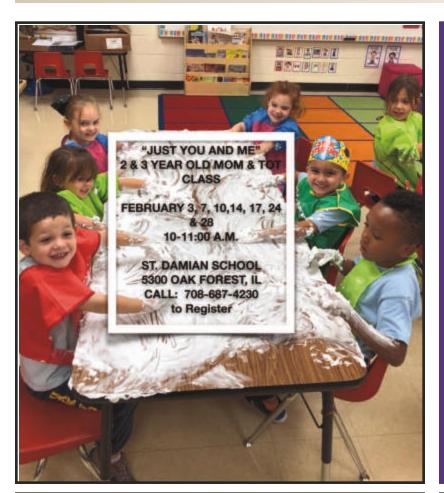


The St. Damian School Choir had the wonderful opportunity to perform with the Southwest Symphony Orchestra in the Holiday Gifts of Music Christmas Concert held at St. Damian. You can enjoy a sample of their wonderful performance by visiting the St. Damian School and Preschool Academy Facebook page.





St. Damian Parish



Give someone you love the gift of a deeper understanding of who they are in the eyes of God. See the video promo on our parish website

> Made for More St. Damian Church Wednesday, March 25, 7- 9:30 PM Tickets \$25 Call Connie 708.342.8513



CHRISTOPHER WEST MIKE MANGIONE



Who?	7th - 12th graders
When?	Saturday, December 21st
	@ 6-8pm
Where?	Life Teen Room
	(203 in the School)
What?	Free food, faith and life
	discussions, games & more.
Whv?	Why Not?????

Questions? Call Connie 708.342.8513 Email: lifeteen@stdamianchurch.org



Widowed and feeling stuck? Come and find ways to move toward inner peace and new hope in life.

Joyful Again! widowed Ministry program presents a Retreat/workshop for men and women:

March 14 &15, 2020 at the Mt. Assisi Center, Lemont

To register call: 708-354-7211 or e-mail us at joyfulagain7211@gmail.com Visit our website: www.joyfulagain.org



Give your spouse the gift of a Marriage Encounter weekend!

Experience a private weekend with your spouse to learn practical ways to live in love, and make your good marriage a great one!

The weekend is led by married couples and priests committed to ongoing marriage enrichment. Visit our website wwme-chicagoland.org, Facebook @WWMEChicagoland, (630) 577-0778.

Weekends in Feb 2020: 14-16 and 22-23.

Readings for the Week of December 15, 2019

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/ Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 [Is 35:4]/ Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17 Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25 Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25

Friday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/ Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/ Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

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Devotions

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesdays from 9:45 AM to 7:00 PM in the chapel.

Healing Prayer Service

First Wednesday of every month from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the church. Includes Exposition, Benediction and optional individual prayer.

Rosary

Mon., Weds., Fri. and Sat. at 8:30 AM before Mass; Tues. and Thurs. at 7:45 AM after Mass; in the chapel weekdays every half hour from 10 AM until 2:30 PM. Sunday at 7:00 AM.

Divine Mercy Chaplet

Fridays at 9:30 AM after Mass in the chapel.

Sacred Heart of Jesus ~ Holy Hour of Reparation

Thursday from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM in the chapel.

Parish Registration

We welcome new parishioners! For your convenience, a registration card is available at the Information & Resource table after every Mass, or you may register in person at the Pastoral Center.

Religious Instruction for Children and Adults

Call MaryJo Landuyt at 708.687.7778 for information about becoming Catholic or continuing education.

Hospital Visits

Due to government regulations, a hospital can notify us only if you specifically request this at the time of admission. Visits can be made once you have given your approval, and the parish has been notified.

Ministers of Care

Ministers of Care visit the sick and homebound, bringing them the Eucharist. Please call 708.687.1370 to request a visit from a minister.

Sacraments

Anointing of the Sick

Please call the Pastoral Center 708.687.1370 to request a priest to anoint persons who are ill.

Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:30-4:30 PM in the Sacred Heart room located on the west side of the Narthex, or call for an appointment 708.687.1370.

Baptism

Celebrated each Sunday at 12:45 PM. Call the Pastoral Center to arrange participation in the Baptismal Preparation Program. Arrangements should be made three months prior to the birth of your child.

Weddings

Arrangements must be made at least six months prior to the date of the wedding. Contact one of the priests prior to setting a date at 708.687.1370.

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 16

Nemencia de Guzman, Mary Beth Nekola, 9:00 Janet Meyers - Living

Tuesday, December 17

7:00 Carolyn Merino, Maria Javate de Guzman, Janet Weitz & Family, Roberto Lara, Jr.

Wednesday, December 18

Rita LeTourneau, Josephine Rinaldi, 9:00 John Ruscak

Thursday, December 19

Bobbie Noonan, Claire Brennan - Living 7:00 Friday, December 20

Ernest Zavala, Sucita Gregas, 9:00 Laura Bergin Family - Living

Saturday, December 21

John Zuffrano, Rose Zuffrano, 9:00 Sarah Castellano, Alfreda Korepanow

Vigil Mass

5:00 Dolores Nowicki, Nora McDonagh, Susie Moore

Sunday, December 22

- Irv Markus, Robert Haynes, Jeanne Carlyle 7:30 Ken Whitemiller, Ronald Barrett, 9:30
- Michael Norman, Eric Burrell
- Jean Bush, Joseph Wszolek, Bobbie Noonan 11:30
- Thomas Connolly, Fred & Patricia Kauffmann, 5:00 Ramona Ramirez

Liturgical Roles December 22, 2019

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Mass Time	Lector	Cantor	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers
5:00 PM	Joe Cascone Anne Streer (sub requested)	Andrea Sagel	Peg Fahey, Lynn LoBianco, Linda Wagner, Joan Kerkla, Roger, Mary Norkus, Ronald Wegrzyn, Tricia Mazurowski	Jackson Roberts Jonny Roberts
7:30 AM	Maria Connolly Allan Galassini	Tony Berardi	Pat Weitz, Jeanne Taverne, Linda Schubert, Jennie Steinbeigle, Bob Moran, Polly Pe, Jeff Pe, Sally Giannetti	Anthony Nemchausky (sub requested) Tessa VanWyk
9:30 AM	Teresa Nuskiewicz Cathy Rankovich	Patrick Smith Voices of Prayer	Joanne Murer, Mary Stanislawski, Sheila Perich, Danny Arguelles, Diana Dilger, Dale, Bernadette Elenteny, Brad Weert	Marianne Lake Emily Nuskiewicz
11:30 AM	Angeles Montefolka Domingo Montefolka	JoAnn Kelly	Mary Walter,Dianne Lipinski, Gene, Thereseann Starr, Brenden Infante, Paul Selman, Marybeth Hennessy, Maureen Keating	Jessica Luczak Veronica Luczak
5:00 PM	Joann Johnson Jovita Johnson	John Perovich	Susan Amann, Becky Cornacchia, Finley Madrigal, Vickie Janicki, Mary Williams	Mikaela Castillo Wynter O'Sullivan





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