

Our Lady at St. Germaine

Our Lady at St. Germaine Parish Center: 708-636-5060
9711 S. Kolin Avenue
Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453
St. Germaine School: 708-425-6063

December 17, 2023

Third Sunday in Advent



A Letter from the Pastor

Dear Parish Family of Our Lady at St. Germaine,

Our lives are filled with questions. For high school students, at this time of the year, where should I go to college? For parents, how will we be able to afford college? When will I be able to find work? How will I provide food, clothing, and health coverage for my family? When will the job market get better, so I can find a job? At what age will I be able to retire? Our lives are constantly filled with questions; the answers we give can change the direction of our lives and the lives of our families.

If we could only be as certain in our answers, as was John the Baptist when he was asked in today's Gospel, "What should I do?" Our answers to life's important questions are usually given with some if not a lot of anxiety. But John, filled with the Holy Spirit, answered very readily and boldly by telling the people to treat everyone fairly, honestly, with respect and care. He was telling the people to prepare to welcome the Lord in their midst by welcoming each other in care and friendship. He challenged them to give up selfish and self-centered ways that only resulted in their lives being lived in competition against each other, only raising their anxiety levels and levels of competition.

What should I do to prepare for the coming of Christ? We should listen to the words of John the Baptist and welcome one another in care and friendship as if we were welcoming the Lord himself, because we are welcoming the Lord, who makes his dwelling not only among us, but, in each of our hearts.

Sincerely,

Rev. Thomas S. Cabala



Mary's Rosary

**Tuesday, December 19th
at 7:00pm in the**

Our Lady at St. Germaine Church

Please join the Knights of Columbus in honoring our Blessed Mother, Mary, by praying Her special prayer, the Rosary.



Hosted by the Knights of
Columbus Council 14553

Advent Reconciliation Service

Please join us for our Advent Service
Monday, December 18th at 6:30pm



Readings for the week of December 17, 2023

Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

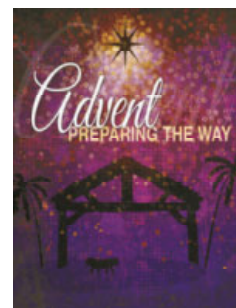
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

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

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/
Lk 1:26-38



MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, December 18-Advent Weekday**

8:30AM Mass:
Peter Vlasis

Tuesday, Dec 19-Advent Weekday

8:30AM Mass:
Our Lady at St. Germaine Parishioners

Weds., December 20-Advent Weekday

7:00AM Mass: Patrick Grady
8:30AM Communion Service:

Thursday, Dec 21-St. Peter Canisius

8:30AM Mass:
Deceased Members of Our Lady at St. Germaine

Friday, December 22-Advent Weekday

8:30AM Mass:
Phil Chaput

Saturday, Dec. 23-St. John of Kanty

8:30AM: Loretta Barry, Ed Terry
4:00PM: Deacon Jack Malone, Terri Lenz Bergen,
Michael & Geri Walker's Grandchildren

Sunday, Dec 24-Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30AM: Lorraine Caprio, Frank Kita, Ellen
Johnson, Lyons & Murphy Families
9:30AM: Nolan Cannon Family, Alan Francis,
O'Connor Family, Richard Aruldoss,
Armugam Aruldoss, Maria DeRosa Corrado

REMEMBER OUR BELOVED DEAD

Catherine Phillips
John Soss

Please pray for those who are sick, their families & caregivers, including:

David Akai, Kathe Anhalt, Michael Anhalt, Patricia Aruldoss, Michael Barry, Brian Bednarski, Chris Benjamin, Virginia Bovilsky, Catherine Cotter Brady, Donna Burica, Diane Cernivivo, Pat Cesak, Geri Chaput, Taylor Collard, Mary Connolly, Ann Contorno, Tom Coti, Elizabeth Czajka, Sue Daniels, Marie Dillon, Emily DiPierro, Adriana Elgas, Paige Epstein, Patty Fadden, Karen Finn, Sara Fox, Walter Furtner, Patsy Galecki, Bill Geegan, Giblin Family, Lynn Groebe, Gerardo Gonzalez, Peg Hansen, Kaitlyn Hedderman, Debbie Heitz, Gina Jakelski, Robert "Mitch" Jones, Dennis Kelsch, Garry Keller, Alvina Kita, Richard Kita, Joe Kress, Charles Lee, Kim Lewis, Norman Lupescu, Eileen Carroll Lynch, Stas Maciasz, Rita Martin, Eugene Martyn, Michael Mattaliano, Raimonda Miknius, Dean Ojeda, Francine Opas, Raul Osornio, Katherine Pape, Nicolas Rossio, Frank Roti, Guadalupe Martin Ruvalcaba, Marty Safstrom, Sharon Safstrom, Norma Salas, Devin Sanchez, Audrey Schmitz, Monica (Ranalli) Schuberth, Mary Schwappach, Phillip Scropp, Ellie Smith, Ryan Smith, Joe Smyth, Kayla Smyth, Carol Spero, Georgie Stupay, Michael Stupay, Rita Daniels Suchor, Jay Szewczyk, Patty Tapia, Kimberly Thielen, Charlene Thomson, Mary Ann Trop, Vickie Vertucci, Casey Wiedenski, Susan Zak, Gussie Zawaski

Ministers' Schedule for December 23 - 24, 2023

	SAT 4: 00 PM	SUN 7:30 AM	SUN 9:30 AM
Proclaimer	P. Glatz	J. Antos	E. McDermott
Eucharistic Ministers	P. Vlasis J. O'Shea	B. Kapjon G. Kapjon	St. Rosenbaum Sh. Rosenbaum

Ministers' Schedule for Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

	SUN 3:00PM	SUN 4:30PM	SUN 9:00PM
Proclaimer	M. Maslanka	C. Murphy	Sr. D. Mayo
Eucharistic Ministers	J. O'Shea P. Vlasis	M. Dwyer K. Mikutis	Sr. D. Mayo
	MON 7:30 AM	MON 9:30 AM	MON 11:30 AM
Proclaimer	J. Antos	Sr. D. Mayo	
Eucharistic Ministers	J. Antos G. Kapjon		



“Christ came among us to renew our friendship with the Father and with our neighbor. He came among to bring us the gifts of light, peace, love, and joy. He brings us the gift of salvation. But we know well that the kingdom of God having dawned with the birth of Christ and present among us today is not yet fully present. And so, we pray this Christmas that “Thy Kingdom Come!” May it come into the world through us as gifts of peace, love, joy, and friendship. As God shared these gifts with us through Christ, may we share them with family, friends, and neighbors. A blessed and joyous Christmas and a peaceful, healthy two-thousand and twenty-four.”

Our holiday schedule is as follows:

Parish Reconciliation Service: Monday, December 18 at 6:30 PM

Sunday Morning Masses (does not fulfill the Christmas obligation) Sunday, December 24 at 7:30AM & 9:30AM

Christmas Eve Masses: Sunday, December 24 at 3:00 PM (family mass), 4:30 PM and 9:00 PM

Christmas Day Masses: Monday, December 25 at 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM

Sunday Morning Masses, Sunday, December 31 at 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM 11:30 AM

New Year's Eve Mass: Sunday, December 31 at 4:00 PM

New Year's Day Masses: Monday, January 1 at 9:30 AM

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Many blessings are crocheted and knit into what we make through the prayers we say for every shawl. We have come to realize that there are endless possibilities for the use of Prayer Shawls. Whether there is a serious need or a special celebration the one common factor is that the comfort and healing power of prayer is sent with every shawl. Stop in the Parish Center or call 636-5060 to request one.



SAVE the DATE: Next Meeting Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 10:00am in the Parish Center.

Donations of yarn, and new members are always welcome!

If you would be interested in helping, please contact Eleanor at 708-422-3643.

Four Hymns of Advent and Christmas

How are you with Christmas carol lyrics? We all know that Rudolph had a red nose, and that, unfortunately, Grandma got run over by a reindeer. We sing of “golden rings” and “partridges in a pear trees” without even needing a printed copy of the lyrics.

But did you know that the first two chapters of Luke’s Gospel contain four hymns that are integral to the story of Advent and Christmas? Although they are not typical of the popular Christmas carols we hear throughout the season, they hold “pride of place” in the liturgical prayers. Three of the four hymns are a part of the official prayer of the Church known as the Liturgy of the Hours, while the Gloria is proclaimed at Mass almost every Sunday. As we examine each of the four hymns, we encourage you to read the scripture texts and reflect on how much beauty and depth they add to the Christmas story. Perhaps, check out YouTube for a musical version of the hymns to listen to as you reflect on the words.



The Magnificat or Cantic of Mary

is found at the beginning of Luke’s gospel (Luke 1: 46-55). Most of us think of it as the prayer of Mary when the angel Gabriel announced that she was to be the mother of the Savior. But that’s not quite right. The setting is, instead, during her visit to her older cousin Elizabeth, who has just learned that she is to be the mother of John the Baptist. Mary responds to Elizabeth, who calls her “the mother of my Lord.”

Her song is one of gratitude for all the things God has done for her, but even more, for all the things God has done for his people. She praises God for his mercy and for the justice he brings to the world. He shows the might of his arm to bring down the mighty and conceited and to lift up the lowly. He fills the hungry and shows mercy to the people of Israel. He fulfills the promise he made to our ancestors by sending a Savior to set us free.

The Magnificat has a prominent place in the daily prayer of the Church. It is a central part of Evening Prayer (Vespers) each day.

The Cantic of Zechariah or the Benedictus (Luke 1:68-79)

follows almost immediately after the story of the Visitation of Mary and Elizabeth. It chronicles another strange story of fullness and birth. Both Elizabeth and Zechariah, a priest in the temple, are long past the age for children. But Gabriel (the same angel that appeared to Mary at the Annunciation) tells Zechariah that he and Elizabeth are to have a child. Zechariah is doubtful at best. As a consequence of his doubt, he is struck mute until after the birth of his son.

After the birth of John, Zechariah’s song of praise blesses God for his faithfulness to the people of Israel. He announces to the world that this child of his “will go before the Lord to prepare his way, bringing knowledge of salvation and God’s tender mercy.

The Benedictus is included in each day’s Morning Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours.



“Gloria in excelsis Deo”

is the jubilant song of the angels as they announce the birth of Jesus to poor shepherds in the field. The story begins with a quick “Do not be afraid,” but the angels quickly promise “peace to his people on earth.” Emmanuel, God with Us, is born to save. This very evening heaven and earth are joined together—in the fullness of time.

Glory to God in the highest!

The Cantic of Simeon or Nunc Dimitis (Luke 2: 29-32)

is the prayer of Simeon when Mary and Joseph bring the baby Christ-child to the temple. God had promised Simeon that he would live to see the Messiah. When Simeon took the baby in his arms, he said, “Now let your servant go in peace, your word has been fulfilled.” Simeon warned Mary that a sword would pierce her heart with sorrow as the child grew. He also acknowledged the inclusion of all the people of the earth (not just the Jews) in God’s plan for salvation: “My own eyes have seen the salvation you have prepared for all people, A light to the Gentiles and a glory for the people of Israel.

This cantic is a part of the last prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours (Compline) for the day. It is recited with a simple antiphon that could easily become a bedtime prayer for all of us: “Protect us Lord, as we stay awake. Watch over us as we sleep, that awake we may keep watch with Christ, and asleep rest in his peace.”

Unlike so many of the “pop culture” carols, these four call our attention to the depth of the mystery of the Incarnation and its importance in our lives.



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Please be generous in your support of our parish ministries and services.

December 10, 2023

Sunday:	\$12,658.00
Sunday (GIVE CENTRAL):	\$2,555.00
SUNDAY TOTAL:	\$15,213.00
*AID ED(GIVE CENTRAL):	\$245.00
Share in the Care:	\$1,212.00
Christmas Flowers:	\$632.00
Christmas:	\$100.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$862.00

*GIVE CENTRAL & ACH ARE IN ADDITION TO REGULAR COLLECTION

Split The Pot Drawing



Last week envelope #691 was drawn and did not participate in the drawing. The amount of \$457.50 will be added to next weeks pot.

Don't forget to put your regular Sunday envelope and your orange envelope in for your chance to win! Good Luck!

AA Meetings in Our Lady at St. Germaine Basement

(For Location Confirmation Follow OLBB Signage)

Sunday - 7:00 pm – Closed Meeting
(Alcoholics Only)

Thursday - 7:30 pm – Open Meeting (all are welcome)



CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

Please come and see our
Holiday treats on
THIS WEEKEND
after all the Masses. Thank you
for your support and have a
Blessed Christmas!

DUE TO HOLIDAYS BULLETIN DEADLINES ARE AS FOLLOWS

DECEMBER 31st BULLETINS, INFO NEEDS TO BE IN BY DECEMBER 19TH

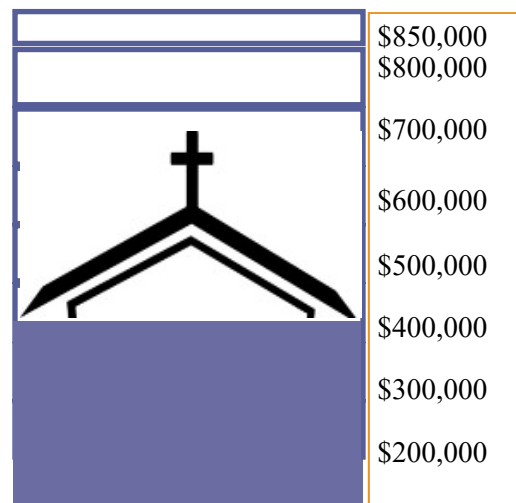
JANUARY 7th BULLETINS, INFO NEEDS TO BE IN BY DECEMBER 28TH

Thank you to the **298** donors who have started off our ***Raise the Roof*** campaign pledging **\$417,915.39**

We continue to receive pledge cards in the mail and will keep you updated on how successful this campaign is.

Thank you for your sacrifice and generosity.

Can you help us raise the roof?



2024 Mass book is open and has plenty of availability. Please fill out form located at entrances or stop by the Parish Center. We also have mass cards for birthdays, anniversaries, healing and special intentions.

Adorers of the Blessed Sacrament

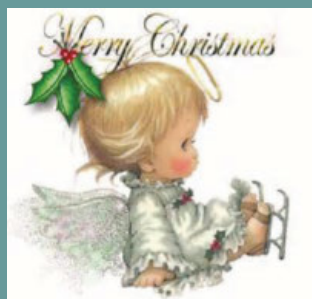
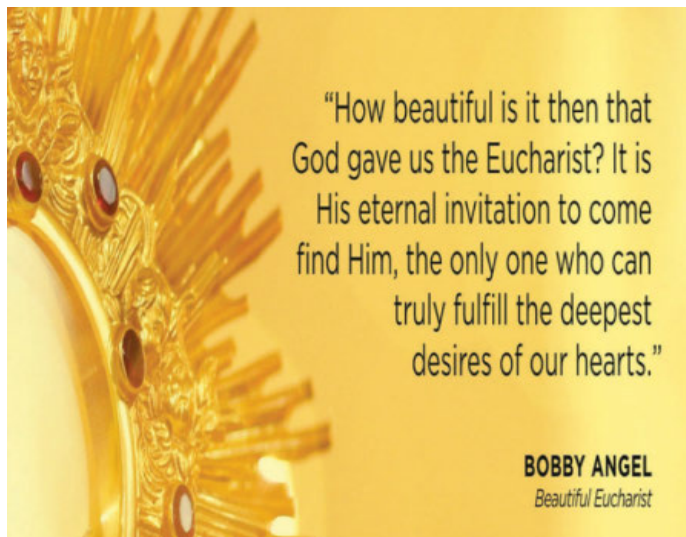
The Adoration Chapel will be closed Friday, December 15th through January 8th.

The chapel will reopen Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024



May you celebrate the birth of Christ with joy and peace, renewed courage and a bright vision that makes the New Year truly happy.

The Adoration Committee



THE COURAGE PROGRAM THANKS YOU!!!

Christmas is that wonderful time of year when we have the opportunity to bridge the generosity of this parish with the needs of the women and children in the COURAGE Program.

Thank you for the baby care items, toys, clothes, hats, gloves, gifts for moms, gift cards, & monetary donations which bring joy to so many! We could not do this without your loving concern.

Please free to stop downstairs in the Parish Hall this weekend to see the beautiful decorations and know that all of us wish you the peace and joy of Christmas throughout the New Year!





THE MARION GIVING TREES

THANK YOU for your generosity in helping so many families!
Saying "Thank you" doesn't seem enough, but know that it comes with prayers of gratitude for all of our generous givers.

If you have taken a card from the tree and have not turned them in. Please turn them so we can distribute to the families. **THANK YOU!!**



HUGE Thank You to Aetna Volunteer Group and Local State officials for their very generous donations to the pantry to help provide over 55 dinners, groceries and essentials to area families. They even sent a large crew to help distribute everything, including coats from the Timmy's Angels coat drive.

Thank you to everyone (including you) for your continued support to the pantry.

Thank you to the Oak Lawn Raiders SAC!!

Thank you for the generous donation to our Food Pantry. Thank you for running and volunteering during the yearly *Feed A Family Drive*. The funds donated are the result of donations their members collected on 95th Street. All of the funds are dispersed to local organizations that provide assistance to local families. They greatly appreciate & thank the volunteers who work with parishes and food pantries in our community, particularly around the Holidays.

In 2024 the Raiders will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary. 50 years of service, and fundraising to support our community. Winter Picnic is their largest fundraiser that helps fund operations and donations. This year's event will be held on Sunday, February 18, 2024, at the Homestead Barr from 1:00pm-6:00pm. Please consider supporting the Oak Lawn Raiders Social Athletic Club. For any questions regarding the Raiders, their fundraisers, or general questions, please email oaklawnraiders@usa.com or visit their website at www.oaklawnraiderssac.com.



Oplatki Christmas Tradition

The tradition of the Oplatki originated in Poland during Early Christian Times. This Christmas custom began with a simple white wafer, baked from flour and water. The wafers are wonderfully designed to display Christmas images, such as the Nativity. The Oplatki are enjoyed by families, typically right before the Christmas Eve meal. The entire family will gather around the table with the Oplatki.

Generally the eldest member of the family will begin the ritual by breaking off a piece of the wafer and passing it to another family member with a blessing.

This blessing can simply consist of what you desire for your loved one in the upcoming year – whether it be good health, success, or happiness.

The purpose of this act is primarily to express one's unconditional love and forgiveness for each member of his or her family. The significance of the Oplatki Christmas wafer is that it shadows the Eucharistic meal that Catholics

participate in at each Mass. Just as we share in the Eucharist as one family in Christ and receive Christ's love through the Eucharist, the Oplatki allows for one's immediate family to come together and share love for one another.

Although this tradition is primarily enjoyed by the human members of the family, even the family pets can partake in this meal.

Whereas the wafers are generally white in color, there are colored Oplatki made especially for pets although both colors are edible by people. Traditionally, this symbolizes the animals that were present at Christ's birth. However, in current times, this can also represent the important role that pets play in the family. The Oplatki tradition is one that is easy and fun to introduce to the family at Christmas time. All it requires is a simple wafer paired with love and affection, and the willingness to share it. This is a heartwarming tradition that will complete your family's time together during the Christmas season.



Christmas wafers are available for purchase. See an usher while our supply lasts.

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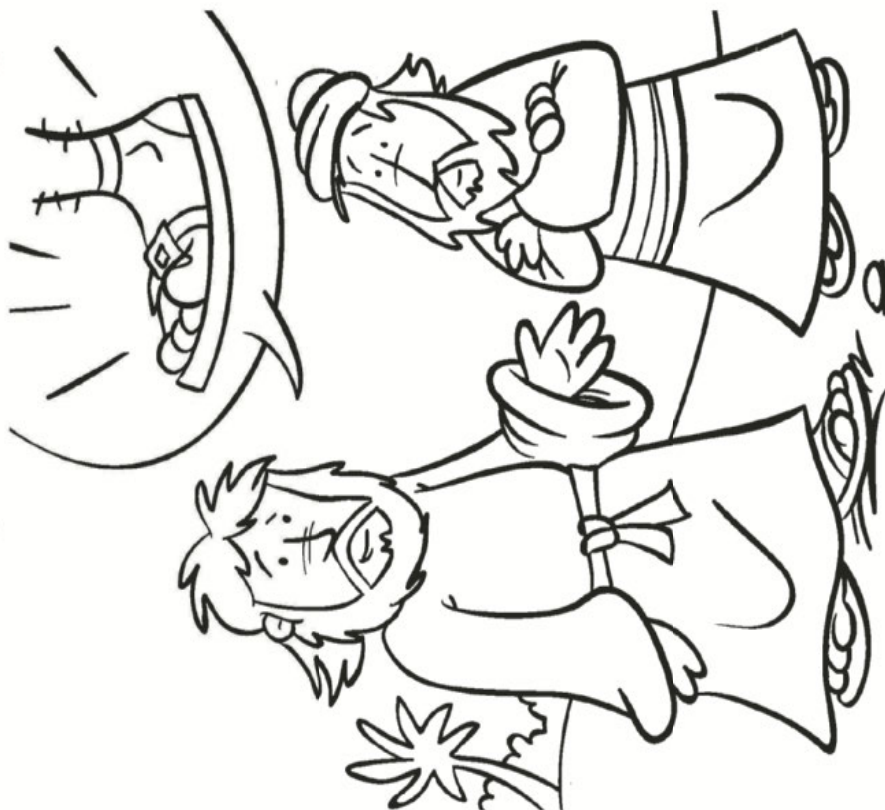


GROWING WITH THE Gospel

CYCLE B

COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



3rd Sunday of Advent • John 1:6-8, 19-28



GOSPEL

People noticed John the Baptist. He loved God, and he used words honestly. He really wanted to help people change and grow closer to God. He stood out as someone really different and special. People came from all around to hear him and learn about him. When people asked him questions, he pointed them to Jesus.



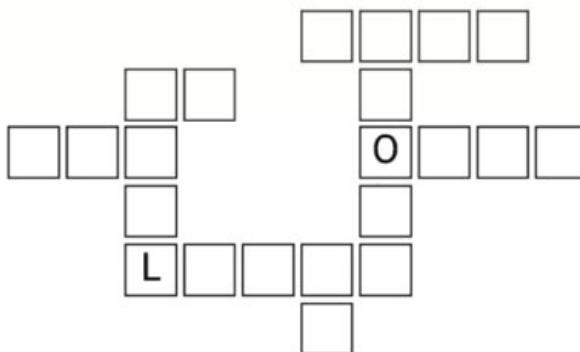
PRAYER

Jesus, help me to be different because I love you.



PUZZLE

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:
He came only to tell about the light.



OUR LADY AT ST. GERMAINE PARISH

ST. GERMAINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

9711 S. Kolin Avenue Oak Lawn Illinois

Parish Office: 708-636-5060 Fax: 708-636-8007

School Office: 708-425-6063

Parish Center Hours:

Monday—Thursday 9:00am ~ 2:30pm

Friday 9:00am-12:00pm

Website: ourladyatstgermaine.org

WEEKDAY MASS:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday: 8:30AM Mass
Wednesday: 7:00AM Mass, 8:30AM Communion Service

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday: 4:00 PM; Sunday: 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM

RECONCILIATION: Saturday from 2:45-3:30 PM

ADORATION CHAPEL:

Tuesdays 9-6pm, Wednesdays 9-7pm, Thursdays 9-7pm

Welcome to Our Lady at St. Germaine Parish!

To register in the parish, or for information about any of our organizations, ministries, services, or educational opportunities, please call the Parish Center at 636-5060.

BAPTISMS— Call Parish Center to schedule.

Fr. Thomas S. Cabala

Joe Gonzalez

Frank Mamolella

Amy Condon

Philip O'Rourke

Marianne Powers

Sr. Regina DeVitto CND

Dan Arens

Casey Wiedenski (636-6647)

Nancy Dunne

Molly O'Grady (636-8001)

Jen Stazak

Bulletin Editor

Pastor

Permanent Deacon

Permanent Deacon

Operations Director

School Principal

Director of Children's Faith Formation

Liturgy & Worship

Liturgy & Music

Minister of Care

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