

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 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Advent



A Letter from the Pastor

Dear Parish Family of Our Lady at St. Germaine,

“And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”

This is an excerpt from the Gospel of John that will be read on Christmas Day. Where or in whom do we find Christ making his dwelling among us today?

At the time of his birth, the people of Israel were looking for a mighty and powerful ruler and king that would free them from the Roman Empire and restore their joy and comfort. But instead, the promised Savior came into the world and made his dwelling among ordinary people struggling and sometimes barely surviving from day to day.

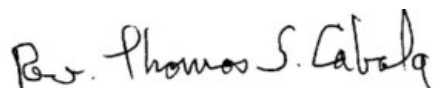
And so, much of the known world of that time did not accept or even realize what was taking place that the Light of the World, the promised Savior was born. After all, why would God allow the Savior of the world to be born in a cold stable among, sheep, and lowly shepherds?

Much of the world still does not understand why Christ was born among the poor and unimportant of society. And society still does not understand what it means for us today that Christ made his dwelling among us and continues to dwell among us.

It means that we are all precious in God's sight, worth of his love, because our Savior took our humanity upon himself and gave it dignity, hope, and restoring our status as God's children. We have become heirs once again of the promised kingdom of eternal life and light with the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.

But, as coheirs who share in Christ's divinity, though the Waters of Baptism, we must be light and life to the world, until Christ comes in all his glory.

Sincerely,



We wish you a Christmas filled with faith, family, and friends!
The Our Lady at St. Germaine Staff

Readings for the week of December 24, 2023

Monday: *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/ Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 *Night:* Is 9:1-6/
Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/ Lk 2:1-14 *Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/
Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or
3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, December 25-Christmas Day**

7:30AM: Parish Intentions

9:30AM: Parish Intentions

11:30AM: All Living & Deceased Parishioners

Tuesday, Dec 26-St. Stephen

8:30AM Mass:

Our Lady at St. Germaine Parishioners

Weds., December 27-St. John

7:00AM Mass: Bill Meyering

8:30AM Communion Service:

Thursday, Dec 28-The Holy Innocents

8:30AM Mass:

Alan Francis

Friday, December 29-5th Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:30AM Mass:

Quentin Coughlin, Naomi Sanna, Jim & Sally Links,
Alan Francis, Felecia & Anton Bealles**Saturday, Dec. 30-6th Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**

8:30AM: John & Mary Barry

4:00PM: Eileen McNamara

Sunday, Dec 31-Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30AM: Gino Pacetti, Phil Chaput

9:30AM: Our Lady at St. Germaine Parishioners

11:30AM: Margaret Ricker, Florence Brown

Sunday, Dec 31-Anticipatory New Years Day

4:00PM: Special Intentions

REMEMBER OUR BELOVED DEAD

Catherine Phillips

John Soss

Marjorie Schmidt

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 Gegan, 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 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		

Ministers' Schedule for December 30-31, 2023

	SAT 4:00 PM	SUN 7:30 AM	SUN 9:30 AM	SUN 11:30 AM
Proclaimer	Barry Zakes	George Kapjon	Steve Rosenbaum	Steve Postregna
Eucharistic Ministers	Pat Glatz Kathy Mikutis	Jim Antos Becky Kapjon	Steve Rosenbaum Sharon Rosenbaum	



“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:

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 and 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

CHALKING THE DOOR ~ AN EPIPHANY BLESSING



An Epiphany blessing is a way of marking our home, usually at the main entrance, dining room and bedrooms, with sacred signs and symbols as we ask God’s blessing upon those who live, work, or visit throughout the coming year. On the Twelfth Night after Christmas, many families gather in their homes to celebrate this Epiphany Feast with friends, singing, and gifts. It is at these Twelfth-Night celebrations that “chalking the door” with this blessing is most often observed. The following blessing is written over the doorway of the house with chalk.

20 + C + M +B + 24

The letters have two meanings. They are the initials of the customary names of the three Magi; Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. They also abbreviate the Latin words “*Christus Manisonem, Benedicat,*” “May Christ bless this house.” The year is divided before and after these letters because it is 2023 years since the incarnation. The crosses (+) represent the protection of Christ.



Christmas 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we also celebrate the birth of our hope. When he came among us as one like us in all things but sin, he lifted us up to new and transformed life. In fact, he opened for us the way to share in the very life of God. One of the prayers of the Mass gives us these words: "...may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity."

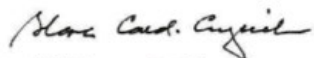
The struggles that we face in our personal lives and in our wounded world do not have the last word. We are meant for more. We are meant for full and eternal life. I pray that our celebration of the Lord's birth will remind us of the glory that will carry us beyond the challenges, sometimes truly significant challenges that mark our lives and our world.

We must also remember that the Lord did not just come among us once and long ago. He continues to walk with us as we walk with each other. Our celebrations of the Eucharist remind of that. And he will never abandon his people. He is now and always Emmanuel, our God with us. Our journey is his journey. And this year, having celebrated the first of two synods of the Church, we are especially aware that he accompanies us as we accompany one another.

In this holy season, I invite you to pray. Take time, create a quiet space, look on the creche, read the gospels, and allow yourself to know that he is near and that he walks with you. If you do so, I can assure you that you will know his peace. Then, take what you learn from him to your family, to your workplace, to your community, and to entire world. The gift of Jesus, the Incarnate Word of God, is not something we can hold for ourselves. We are called and destined to share it with others.

As I celebrate the Eucharist, I will remember you and pray that you will have a living sense of the Lord among us, the one who walks with us and draws us forward into the fullness of his life.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Archbishop of Chicago

The Work of Christmas

(a poem by Howard Thurman)

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:*

*To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart!*



Merry Christmas from the Volunteers of the OLSG FOOD PANTRY !!!

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the pantry and people in need.

Please consider helping to restock for Monthly Pantry Days. Some things Needed this month are....

Tomato soup, veggie soup, beef stew, canned tomatoes, pasta sauce, jelly, peanut butter, rice or pasta-roni, boxed or pouches of potatoes, coffee, cereal, mac & cheese, pudding cups, canned fruit, cookies, toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent & Gift cards to buy perishables

**THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS
HELPING US HELP OTHERS**

Merry Christmas



*God Bless and Thank you for your Support throughout the Year
Your Parish Knights of Columbus Council #14553*

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.**

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

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

December 17, 2023

Sunday:	TBA
Sunday (GIVE CENTRAL):	TBA
SUNDAY TOTAL:	TBA
*AID ED(GIVE CENTRAL):	TBA
Share in the Care:	TBA
Christmas Flowers:	TBA
Christmas:	TBA
Immaculate Conception:	TBA

*GIVE CENTRAL & ACH ARE IN ADDITION TO REGULAR COLLECTION

Split The Pot Drawing



Dues to early holiday bulletin deadline, the results from last week were not ready to be published. 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)

2024 CALENDARS ARE HERE

The 2024 calendars are now available. Please take one home with you. They have lovely images and all the important dates in the liturgical year.

ARE YOU READY?
COMEDY NIGHT
IS FRIDAY, FEB 2ND
\$40 EACH
BYOB EVENT
TICKETS ON SALE
JANUARY 1

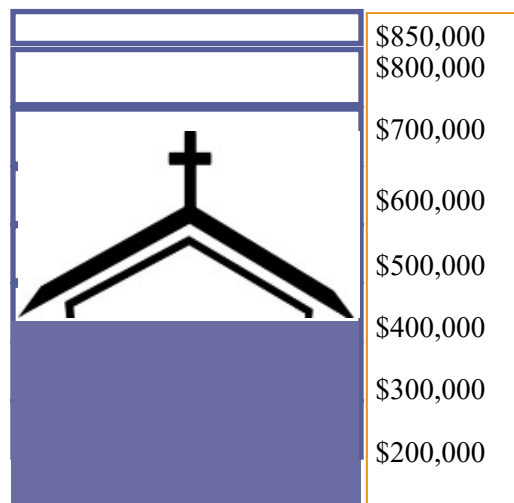
DUE TO HOLIDAYS BULLETIN DEADLINES ARE AS FOLLOWS

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

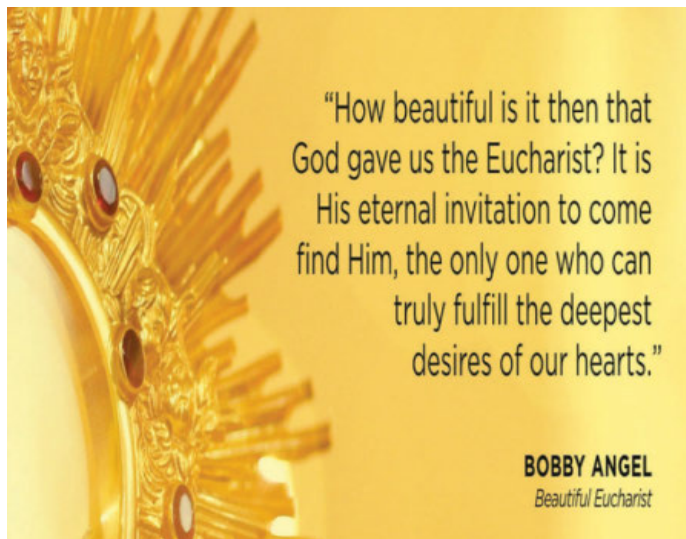
The Adoration Chapel will be closed Friday, December 15th through January 8th.

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.

We wish you and your families all the peace and joy throughout the New Year!



Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

When children re-enact events from our rich Catholic tradition God smiles! Last week our students re-enacted the story of how Juan Diego was inspired by Mary to build a church for his people on a hill in Tepeyac. It was absolutely beautiful. Thank you all who worked so hard to share this incredible story with all of us.



OUR SCHOOL!

2023-2024



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**We asked and our
Parishioners answered!**

**Thank you all so much
for your generosity,
enthusiasm, and support!
We surpassed our goal which
is incredible!**

**Together, we have raised
\$21,850!**

**All of the money raised will
go directly towards
the playground and
surrounding play area."**

**We can't wait to see the
smiles on our
students' faces!**



**\$21,850
RAISED!**

**#GIVING
TUESDAY**

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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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