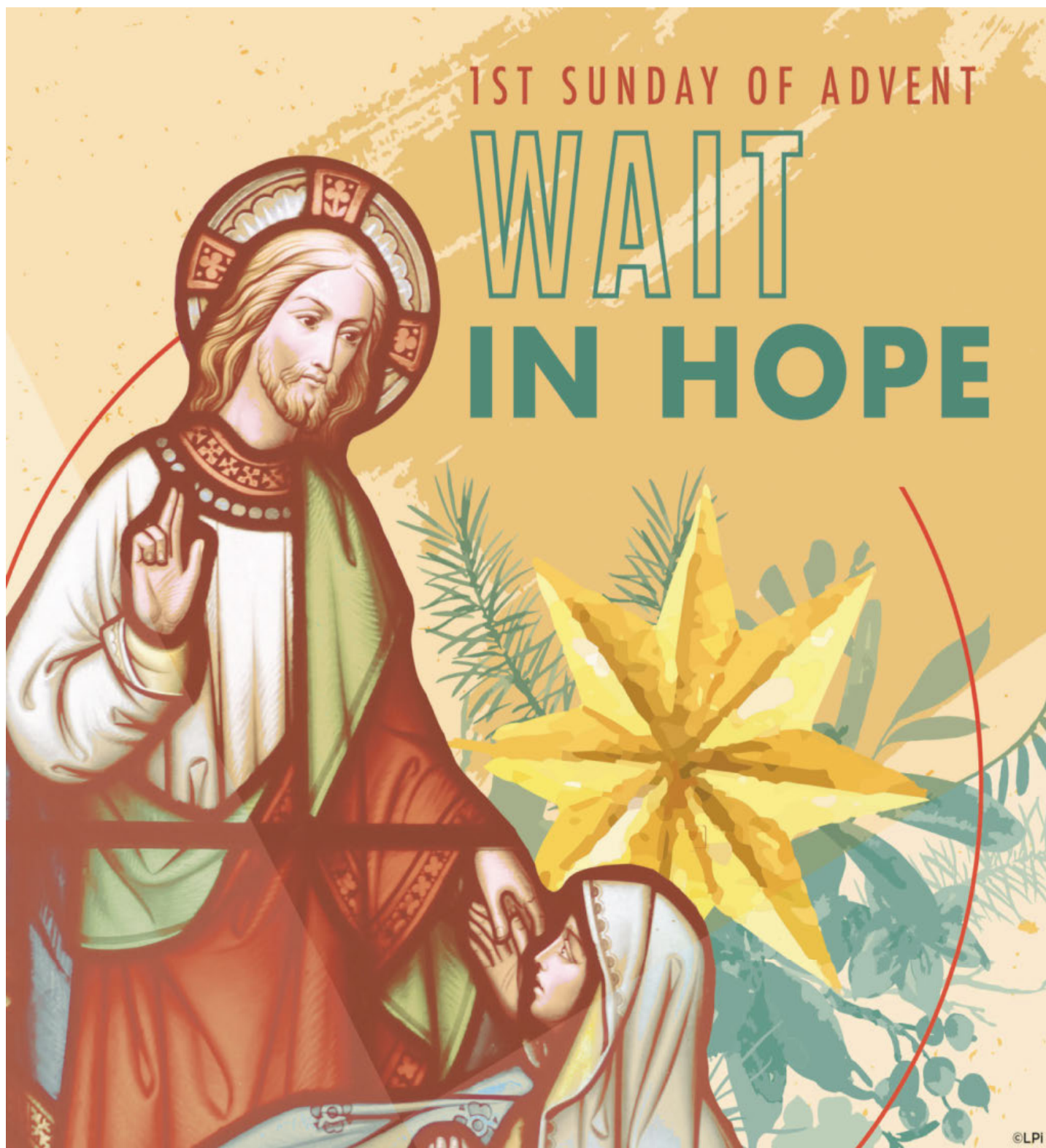


Our Lady at St. Germaine

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 3, 2023

First Sunday in Advent



A Letter from the Pastor

Dear Parish Family of Our Lady at St. Germaine,

Advent is not only our time to prepare for Christmas Day; it is also our time to prepare for the coming of our Lord in glory. We reflect during these four weeks of Advent on the lives of Mary and John the Baptist as the first of the Disciples of Christ. We reflect on their relationship to Jesus and our own relationship to Christ, as reflected in our relationships with one another. We ask ourselves during this Advent season, are we faithful Disciples of Christ, in the image of Mary or John the Baptist?

Mary gave life to Christ, our Savior and nurtured him. In the image of Mary how will we give life to those around us and nurture them in mind, body, and spirit? Mary went about her vocation as the Mother of our Savior quietly, gently, but always present in Christ's life. Who around us needs our gentle presence to lift them up, and to lift up their spirits at this time of the year?

John the Baptist, on the other hand, was a bold courageous voice for the Lord. He was truly a prophet, who spoke for truth and justice that the kingdom of peace may enter into the world, through Christ, our Savior. What injustices have we witnessed around us that we can help right that the Lord's peace may be present among us this Christmas and this coming year?

Whether we act with gentleness or act boldly as Disciples of Christ, we do not act alone. Christ is already present among us and gives us the gift of the Spirit that we might bring the gift of his peace to the world around us.

Sincerely,

Rev. Thomas S. Cabala

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

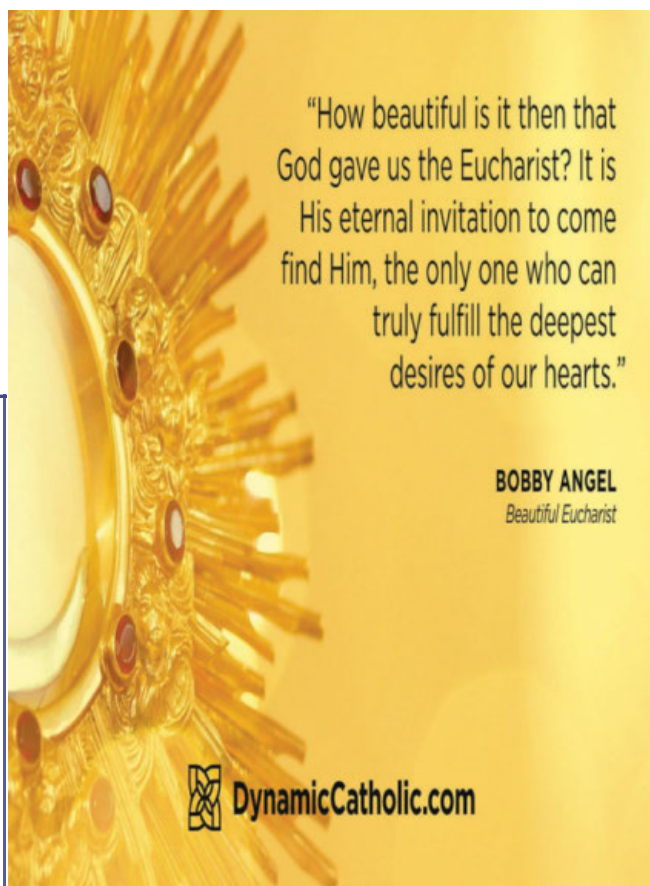
Mass schedule is as follows;

Anticipatory Mass; Thursday, December 7th
at 7:00pm

Friday, December 8th at 8:30am and
10:00am

Taize Prayer

Join us Wednesday, December 6th at
6:00pm in Church.



MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, December 4-St. John Damascene**

8:30AM Mass:

Deceased Members of Our Lady at St. Germaine

Tuesday, December 5-Weekday

8:30AM Mass:

Carol Frazza, Barbara Klein, Bill Dunne, Kris Shine

Wednesday, December 6—St. Nicholas

7:00AM Mass: Margaret Gaba

8:30AM Communion Service:

Thursday, December 7-St. Ambrose

8:30AM Mass: Timothy Lavery, John O'Hare

7:00PM Mass:**Friday, December 8-Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

8:30AM Mass: Deacon Jack Malone

10:00AM Mass:

Saturday, Dec. 9—St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

8:30AM: Lucille Finn, Patrick Murphy

4:00PM: Josephine Konczal, Nolan Family, Gino Pacetti,

Dorothy McGoldrick, Carol Lynn Rimovsky

6:00PM: Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass

Sunday, December 10—Second Sunday of Advent

7:30AM: Donna, Mary & John Forbes, Mary Bridgeman, Alice & William Munno

9:30AM: Anna Mannion, Irene Nykiel, Jack Devereaux, Ester & Ray Ristow

11:30AM: Elizabeth & Denis Hedderman, Daniel Burke, Peter Jurkash, Janice Kurland

REMEMBER OUR BELOVED DEAD

Terri Lenz Bergen

Leona Mizen Helen Rendak

Adrienne Wild

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, 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

Readings for the week of December 3, 2023

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

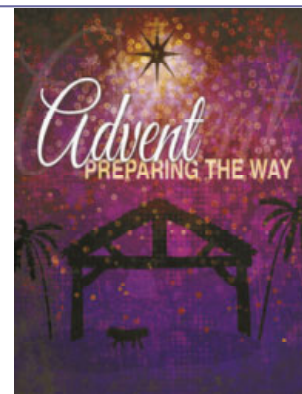
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

**Ministers' Schedule for December 9 - 10, 2023**

	SAT 4:00 PM	SUN 7:30 AM	SUN 9:30 AM	SUN 11:30 AM
Proclaimer	Cindy Brejcha	Becky Kapjon	Mike Maslanka	Jim Maughan
Eucharistic Ministers	Pat Vlasis Terry Vorderer	Laura Stawczyk George Kapjon	Sr. Darleen Mayo Sharon Rosenbaum	Jim Maughan Gina Maughan
Altar Servers				

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

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

November 19, 2023

Sunday:	\$6,580.00
Sunday (GIVE CENTRAL):	\$2,098.00
SUNDAY TOTAL:	\$8,678.00
*AID ED(GIVE CENTRAL):	\$30.00
Thanksgiving:	\$369.00
Human Development:	\$581.00
Christmas Flowers:	\$5.00
Christmas:	\$5.00
Immaculate Cpnception:	\$5.00

*GIVE CENTRAL & ACH ARE IN ADDITION TO REGULAR COLLECTION

November 26, 2023

Sunday:	\$7,775.75
Sunday (GIVE CENTRAL):	\$2,368.00
SUNDAY TOTAL:	\$10,143.75
*AID ED(GIVE CENTRAL):	\$30.00
Thanksgiving:	\$1,259.00
Human Development:	\$110.00
Food PANTRY:	\$10.00
Christmas Flowers:	\$61.00
Christmas:	\$135.00
Share in the Care:	\$90.00

Split The Pot Drawing

On November 19th, envelope # 940 was Pulled and there was no winner.

Last week envelope #137 was drawn and did not participate in the drawing. The amount of **\$2,740.00** 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!



**STOP BY GOD'S SPECIAL
FRIENDS'
CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR
IN THE
SHERIDAN ROOM
AFTER ALL MASSES
THIS WEEKEND**

Thank you to the **297** donors who have started off our ***Raise the Roof*** campaign pledging **\$417,745.39!**

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?

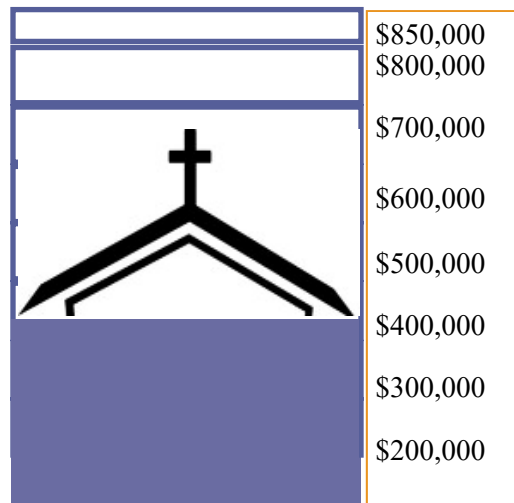
**DUE TO HOLIDAYS BULLETIN DEAD-
LINES ARE AS FOLLOWS**

**DECEMBER 17TH BULLETINS, INFO
NEEDS TO BE IN BY DECEMBER 6TH**

**DECEMBER 24TH BULLETINS, INFO
NEEDS TO BE IN BY DECEMBER 10TH**

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

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



**Tuesday
December**

5

2:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy
meal and drink plenty of
water before donating.

**Our Lady at St. Germaine Parish
& Community Blood Drive**

Parish Hall, 9711 S Kolin Ave, Oak Lawn, IL 60453
(Enter from East Parking Lot)

APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED

Call 1-800-7TO-GIVE, visit

<https://tinyurl.com/bdd7p2ae> or scan the QR code



Donate blood and help reach our goal to help supply
85 local hospitals including Little Co. of Mary!



**ST GERMAINE SCHOOL AND OUR LADY OF ST GERMAINE PARISH
INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF**

**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
& JUAN DIEGO**



SATURDAY DECEMBER 9TH - ST. GERMAINE CHAPEL & CAFETERIA


6:00 PM MASS - RE-ENACTMENT - LIVE MUSIC - DINNER

AUTHENTIC MEXICAN FOOD & DESSERTS FOR PURCHASE

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CALL 708-636-5060



Our Advent calendar has some suggestions for you to be rejoicing this Advent. We're sure you can do it!

<p>December 3 First Sunday of Advent</p> <p><i>"In him we are also chosen so that we might exist for the praise of his glory."</i></p> <p>Please take a card from the Marion Giving Tree in the Church and provide a gift for someone in need.</p>	<p>December 4</p> <p>"My soul magnifies the Lord."</p> <p><i>How can your daily actions "magnify" the Lord?</i></p> <p><i>How do you help others build their love of God and his people?</i></p>	<p>December 5</p> <p>"My spirit rejoices in God my Savior."</p> <p><i>What "proclaims the greatness of the Lord" in your life today?</i></p> <p><i>How do you share this joy with others around you?</i></p>	<p>December 6</p> <p>Feast of St. Nicholas</p> <p>Read the story of St. Nicholas. Fill the shoes of family with treats.</p> <p>Make a donation to the Courage Program website.</p>		
<p>December 10 Second Sunday of Advent</p> <p><i>"Cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of glad tidings."</i></p> <p>Make paper snowflakes or ornaments you can use for your Christmas tree.</p>	<p>December 11</p> <p>"Henceforth, all generations shall call me blessed."</p> <p><i>Mary is known throughout time for her role in salvation."</i></p> <p><i>What do you do that makes you a blessing to others?</i></p>	<p>December 12 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe</p>  <p>Remember St. Juan Diego and say a prayer for all newcomers and immigrants</p>	<p>December 13</p> <p>"He who is mighty has done great things for you, just as he did for you a minute today to lift up all things God has done for you."</p>		
<p>December 17 Third Sunday of Advent</p> <p><i>"I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in God is the joy of my soul."</i></p> 	<p>December 18</p> <p>"He has scattered the proud in the conceit of their hearts"</p> <p><i>What tempts you to be proud or seek power over others?</i></p>	<p>December 19</p> <p>In the final days before Christmas, say a blessing prayer at your family Christmas tree. Pray for all those who do not have the things you do."</p>	<p>December 20</p> <p>"He has put down from their thrones and exalted the lowly."</p> <p><i>God loves us as we are and does not <u>leave</u> us as we are called to generosity.</i></p>		
<p>December 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent</p> <p><i>"Nothing will be impossible for God."</i></p> <p>Say a special prayer for each person who will receive one of the gifts under your Christmas tree.</p>	<p>December 25</p>  <p>Please share your joy with us at Mass today!</p>	<p>Four very traditional "hymns" fit perfectly for the Christmas season: Mary journeys to her cousin Elizabeth; Zechariah hears of the birth of Jesus.</p> <table><tr><td><p>Magnificat (Luke 1: 46-55)</p><p>Cantic of Zechariah (Luke 68-79)</p></td><td><p>Magnificat</p></td></tr></table>		<p>Magnificat (Luke 1: 46-55)</p> <p>Cantic of Zechariah (Luke 68-79)</p>	<p>Magnificat</p> 
<p>Magnificat (Luke 1: 46-55)</p> <p>Cantic of Zechariah (Luke 68-79)</p>	<p>Magnificat</p> 				


Celebrating Advent, 2023

“My Spirit Rejoices”

Our Lady at St. Germaine Parish






For areas in your life where you might join with Mary in her Magnificat re-
 dd many more on your own.

6 Nicholas. t. Nicholas. ily members s. help the ith its work	December 7 “He has regarded the lowliness of his servant.” <i>God takes notice of all his people with infinite love. How do your actions show your “regard” for all those around you?</i>	December 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception Attend Mass and pray to be open to God’s plans for you“ 	December 9 Make a donation to the Salvation Army bell ringer while you’re out shopping.
13 y has done r me.” t things for Mary. Take st the great ne for you.	December 14 “Holy is his name” <i>There are many musical settings for the Magnificat on YouTube. Listen to a few to find one that you enjoy. Here’s a start https://youtu.be/vYzJNXcoLUg?si=axSvx3qTJucVTaXH</i>	December 15 “He has mercy from generation to generation on those who love him.” <i>Share stories and memories of Christmas when you were growing up to reinforce the reality of God’s love from generation to generation.</i>	December 16 “He has shown might with his arm.” Set up your family’s Nativity crèche and say a blessing prayer before dinner.
20 the mighty and has ex- ly.” re, but does re. We are and justice	December 21 He has filled the hungry with good things and the rich he has sent away empty.” <i>Where do we find hunger and emptiness in our lives? How can God help to fill us?</i>	December 22 He has given help to Israel, his servant, mindful of his mercy.” <i>Even in times when Israel fell short of God’s plans, God came to their help. How has God come to your help in the times you have fallen short?</i>	December 23 “Even as he spoke to our ancestors, to Abraham and Sarah and their children forever.” <i>Abraham and Sarah are our ancestors in faith. How has God spoken to you through your own family?</i>

Four Advent Hymns

ectly into Advent. Each has a part in the liturgies of the season and reminds us of central events of the story.
 of the birth of his son, John; the angels announce the birth of Christ; and Simeon blesses the child but warns Mary of sorrows to come.

Canticle of Zechariah 	Glory to God 	Canticle of Simeon 	“Glory to God in the Highest” (Gloria at Mass) Canticle of Simeon (Luke 2: 29-32)
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GET YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING STARTED ...

Manna profits are shared by you and the school with a nominal administrative fee going out to the Manna program – it is like free money for you and the school! The fact is, we all go to the grocery store and the gas station, and have gifts to buy, so, why not take money off of tuition while paying at these places and buying your holiday gifts at the same time.

If you're not already using the Manna program, we encourage you to try it out – we think you'll love it. For those who are already using the Manna program, we thank you.

Our "Special Manna Order Form" is online.. We are hoping to get the holiday shopping started here – please fill it out and return to the office with payment. Should you need a regular Manna order form, please feel free to call the office and we will send you one. **Thank you and let the 2023 Holiday Shopping begin!**

Name	Customer #
Check #	Order Date

Product	%	QTY	Total	Product	%	QTY	Total
Landry's, Inc. \$100.00	9%		\$	Ross Dress for Less \$25.00	8%		\$
Lands' End \$100.00	15%		\$	Ruth's Chris Steak House \$50.00	10%		\$
Lands' End \$25.00	15%		\$	Saks Fifth Avenue \$50.00	12%		\$
Little Caesars Pizza \$20.00	8%		\$	Sally Beauty \$25.00	12%		\$
Long John Silver's \$10.00	8%		\$	Shoe Carnival \$25.00	5%		\$
LongHorn Steakhouse \$100.00	8%		\$	Shutterfly \$25.00	9%		\$
LongHorn Steakhouse \$25.00	8%		\$	Smashburger \$10.00	10%		\$
Lowe's \$100.00	4%		\$	Staples \$25.00	5%		\$
Lowe's \$25.00	4%		\$	Steak 'n Shake \$10.00	8%		\$
Marcus Theatres \$25.00	8%		\$	Talbots \$25.00	13%		\$
Mario Tricoci \$100.00	7%		\$	Texas Roadhouse \$25.00	8%		\$
Michaels \$25.00	4%		\$	Topgolf \$50.00	8%		\$
Mity Nice Bar & Grill \$25.00	12%		\$	ULTA \$25.00	7%		\$
Morton's Steakhouse \$100.00	9%		\$	Under Armour \$25.00	11%		\$
Morton's Steakhouse \$25.00	9%		\$	Vera Bradley \$50.00	7%		\$
Neiman Marcus \$50.00	12%		\$	Visa Gift Card - No Activation Fee \$100.00	1.25%		\$
Nike \$25.00	12%		\$	Visa Gift Card - No Activation Fee \$250.00	1.25%		\$
Noodles & Company \$10.00	8%		\$	Visa Gift Card - No Activation Fee \$50.00	1.25%		\$
Nordstrom \$100.00	4%		\$	West Elm \$100.00	8%		\$
Nordstrom \$25.00	4%		\$	West Elm \$25.00	8%		\$
Office Depot / Office Max \$25.00	5%		\$	Williams Sonoma \$100.00	8%		\$
Olive Garden \$25.00	8%		\$	Williams Sonoma \$25.00	8%		\$
Omaha Steaks \$25.00	11%		\$				
Outback Steakhouse \$25.00	10%		\$				
Overstock.com \$25.00	8%		\$				
Panda Express \$25.00	8%		\$				
PetSmart \$25.00	5%		\$				
Pottery Barn \$25.00	8%		\$				
Rainforest Cafe \$25.00	9%		\$				
Red Lobster \$25.00	8%		\$				
Red Robin \$25.00	8%		\$				
REI \$25.00	8%		\$				

Phone #: _____

Remember you can get your "regular manna" everyday in the school office from 8:30am-1:00pm.

Groceries, gas, fast food, etc.
Call for a current list!

PAGE 2

Make Checks Payable To: **ST. GERMAINE SCHOOL**

Total Due All Columns:

\$

SPECIAL MANNA ORDER DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 11th @ 10:00am

Family Order Form

Created: 10/11/2023 2:52:27 PM

St Germaine School - Oaklawn ,IL

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE LAST DAY TO SUBMIT A SPECIAL ORDER WILL BE MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023, BY 10:00 A.M. -- SPECIAL ORDER FORM

Name	Customer #
Check #	Order Date

Product	%	QTY	Total	Product	%	QTY	Total	Product	%	QTY	Total
Ace Hardware \$100.00	4%		\$	Bob Evans Restaurants® \$25.00	10%		\$	DSW (Designer Shoe Warehouse) \$25.00	8%		\$
Ace Hardware \$25.00	4%		\$	Bonefish Grill \$25.00	10%		\$	Express \$25.00	10%		\$
adidas \$25.00	13%		\$	Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. \$100.00	9%		\$	Famous Footwear \$25.00	8%		\$
aerie \$25.00	10%		\$	Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. \$25.00	9%		\$	Fandango \$25.00	4%		\$
Aeropostale \$25.00	10%		\$	Buca di Beppo \$25.00	8%		\$	Fannie May Candies \$10.00	25%		\$
Amazon \$10.00	1.7%		\$	Buckle \$25.00	8%		\$	Five Below \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Amazon \$250.00	1.7%		\$	Buffalo Wild Wings® \$10.00	8%		\$	Foot Locker \$25.00	8%		\$
AMC Theatres Single Ticket \$12.00	10%		\$	Build-A-Bear Workshop® \$25.00	8%		\$	GameStop \$25.00	5%		\$
Apple Store/Apple.com \$100.00	5%		\$	Burger King \$10.00	6%		\$	Gordon Food Service Store \$100.00	4%		\$
Apple Store/Apple.com \$25.00	5%		\$	Burger King \$25.00	6%		\$	Gordon Food Service Store \$25.00	4%		\$
Applebee's® \$25.00	8%		\$	Burlington \$25.00	8%		\$	Great Clips \$25.00	8%		\$
Applebee's® \$50.00	8%		\$	Cabela's \$100.00	10%		\$	H&M \$25.00	7%		\$
Athleta \$25.00	14%		\$	Cabela's \$25.00	10%		\$	Hampton by Hilton \$100.00	2%		\$
AutoZone \$25.00	7%		\$	California Pizza Kitchen \$25.00	8%		\$	Hardee's \$10.00	5%		\$
Banana Republic \$100.00	14%		\$	Carter's \$25.00	10%		\$	Harry & David \$50.00	12%		\$
Banana Republic \$25.00	14%		\$	Champs Sports \$25.00	8%		\$	Hilton \$100.00	2%		\$
Barnes & Noble \$10.00	8%		\$	Cheesecake Factory \$25.00	5%		\$	Home 2 Suites by Hilton \$100.00	2%		\$
Barnes & Noble \$100.00	8%		\$	Chewy \$100.00	5%		\$	Icing \$10.00	9%		\$
Barnes & Noble \$25.00	8%		\$	Chewy \$25.00	5%		\$	IHOP \$25.00	8%		\$
Bass Pro Shops \$100.00	10%		\$	Children's Place \$25.00	12%		\$	Instacart \$100.00	4%		\$
Bass Pro Shops \$25.00	10%		\$	Cinnabon \$25.00	6%		\$	Instacart \$25.00	4%		\$
Berkot's Super Foods \$100.00	4%		\$	Circle K \$100.00	4%		\$	J. Crew \$25.00	13%		\$
Berkot's Super Foods \$25.00	4%		\$	Circle K \$25.00	4%		\$	JCPenney \$100.00	5%		\$
Best Buy \$100.00	4%		\$	Claire's \$10.00	9%		\$	JCPenney \$25.00	5%		\$
Best Buy \$25.00	4%		\$	Cold Stone Creamery \$10.00	11%		\$	Joe's Crab Shack \$25.00	9%		\$
Best Western Hotels & Resorts \$100.00	12%		\$	Courtyard by Marriott \$100.00	6%		\$	Journeys \$25.00	10%		\$
Best Western Hotels & Resorts \$25.00	12%		\$	Cracker Barrel \$25.00	8%		\$	Krispy Kreme® Doughnut Corporation \$10.00	8%		\$
Big Lots! \$100.00	4%		\$	Dave & Buster's \$25.00	13%		\$	Kwik Trip \$100.00	4%		\$
Big Lots! \$25.00	4%		\$	Denny's \$10.00	7%		\$	Kwik Trip \$25.00	4%		\$
Blaze Pizza \$25.00	10%		\$	Disney \$100.00	3%		\$	L.L.Bean \$100.00	16%		\$
Bloomingdale's \$100.00	12%		\$	Disney \$25.00	3%		\$	L.L.Bean \$25.00	16%		\$
Bloomingdale's \$25.00	12%		\$	Domino's \$10.00	8%		\$	Lady Foot Locker \$25.00	8%		\$
				Domino's \$25.00	8%		\$				

Make Checks Payable To: **ST. GERMAINE SCHOOL**

Total Due All Columns:

\$

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.

Support St. Germaine School's new Playground!

Location: between the gym and parish center.

GOAL: raise **\$11K** (Total cost \$18K - we have a \$7K grant)

**BRIGHTLY COLORED,
SLIDES, CLIMBING COMPONENTS,
A SMALL ROOF AREA, AND INTERACTIVE PIECES.**



**St. Germaine
Catholic School**
Empowering Minds. Enriching Lives.
A Ministry of Our Lady of St. Germaine Parish



**representation
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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 Director of Children's Faith Formation

Sr. Regina DeVitto CND

Dan Arens

Casey Wiedenski (636-6647)

Nancy Dunne

Molly O'Grady (636-8001)

Jen Stazak

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Permanent Deacon

Permanent Deacon

Operations Director

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