



# ST. MOTHER THEODORE GUERIN PARISH

St. Celestine and St. Cyprian Churches

stguerinparish.org



**ST. CELESTINE CHURCH**  
and St. Mother Theodore Guerin Parish Office

3020 North 76th Court  
Elmwood Park, Illinois 60707  
Phone: 708-453-2555

**MASSES**

**Saturday** 5 PM  
**Sunday** 7:30 AM  
11 AM  
**Monday, Wednesday, and Friday** 8 AM

**Reconciliation** Saturday 4—4:45 PM



**ST. CYPRIAN CHURCH**  
2601 North Clinton Street  
River Grove, Illinois 60171

**MASSES**

**Saturday** 4 PM  
**Sunday** 9 AM  
**Tuesday and Thursday** 8 AM

**Reconciliation** Saturday 3:30—3:50 PM

**ST. CELESTINE SCHOOL**  
3017 North 77th Avenue, Elmwood Park, Illinois 60707  
stcelestineschool.org 708-453-8234

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday—Thursday: 8:30 AM to noon and 12:30 to 8 PM; Friday: 8:30 AM to noon and 12:30 to 5 PM;  
Saturday: 8:30 AM—12:30 PM; Sunday: closed.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** "To do God's will as a unified, vibrant parish, and to foster an intentional relationship with Jesus through worship, witness, service, discipleship, and community."

# Mass Intentions

## Saturday, December 20

### 4 PM ST. CYPRIAN

+Nery Rodriguez, Birthday  
+Sister Ceil James  
+Joyce Rossi  
+Carl and +Rose Rossi  
+Ted Eirick  
+Evelyn Jajko  
**5 PM ST. CELESTINE**  
+Marian Egan  
+Ronald Gutkowski, Birthday  
+Al Fang, Jr.  
Deceased Members of the Bellapanni Family  
+Frank and +John Kucera  
+Evelyn Pontikis

## Sunday, December 21

### 7:30 AM ST. CELESTINE

People of the Parish  
**9 AM ST. CYPRIAN**  
+Pearl T. Tristano  
+Madeline V. Paldo  
**11 AM ST. CELESTINE**  
+Roman and +Anna Romanyuk  
+Frank Pudlo  
+Judy Kaner

## Monday, December 22

### 8 AM ST. CELESTINE

People of the Parish

## Tuesday, December 23

### 8 AM ST. CYPRIAN

+Keshawn Williams, Birthday

## Wednesday, December 24

### 8 AM ST. CELESTINE

+John Ciszek, 95th Birthday

### 4 PM ST. CELESTINE

+Vivian Yasin  
+Theodore Delatre  
+Dean Polo  
+Ray and +Colleen Kimberley  
**9 PM ST. CYPRIAN**  
People of the Parish

## 11 PM ST. CELESTINE

+Rich Szyszka, Birthday  
+Judy Kaner, Birthday  
+Nick Madrid  
+Al Fang, Jr. and his immediate family

## Thursday, December 25

### 7:30 AM ST. CELESTINE

+Helen and +Stanley Stypinski

### 9 AM ST. CYPRIAN

People of the Parish  
**11 AM ST. CELESTINE**  
In Thanksgiving for the Quiacos-Medrano Family

+Elaine Sansone, Anniversary  
+Concetta Piraino  
+Natalia Zygmunt  
+Thomas, +Stanislawa, +Franciszek Ufir  
+Edward Nowak, Sr.  
+Robert Nowak, Sr.  
+Theresa and +Ben Marinello  
+Lenore, +Geoffrey, and +Al Fang, Jr.

## Friday, December 26

### 8 AM ST. CELESTINE

+Fr. Bernard White

## Saturday, December 27

### 4 PM ST. CYPRIAN

+Nery Rodriguez  
+Sister Ceil James  
+Joyce Rossi  
+Carl and +Rose Rossi  
**5 PM ST. CELESTINE**  
+Al Fang, Jr., Birthday  
+Larry O'Donnell  
+Carl Braack  
+Angela Englund

## Sunday, December 28

### 7:30 AM ST. CELESTINE

People of the Parish  
**9 AM ST. CYPRIAN**  
Faithful Departed  
**11 AM ST. CELESTINE**  
+Roman and +Anna Romanyuk  
+Frank Pudlo  
Turzitti Family



## St. Mother Theodore Guerin Parish

Welcome! If you are new to our churches or just visiting, please introduce yourself. We are happy to share in this celebration of the Eucharist. If you do not have a church home, or your church is not home to you, we are open to anyone looking for a spiritual home. We invite you to become a part of our parish. Register by calling the parish office at 708-453-2555 or online on our website, [stguerinparish.org](http://stguerinparish.org).

Need help? Many services are provided by *Catholic Charities*. Call 312-655-7700 or go to [catholiccharities.net](http://catholiccharities.net).

Alcohol and Drug Abuse  
1-800-821-4357  
Child Abuse  
1-800-252-2873  
National Domestic Violence  
1-800-799-SAFE  
National Sexual Assault  
1-800-656-4673  
Compulsive Gambling Hotline  
1-410-332-0402  
Poison Control  
1-800-222-1222  
Suicide Prevention  
1-800-273-8255  
Elder Abuse  
1-800-252-8966  
[www.AddictionResource.net](http://www.AddictionResource.net)  
1-844-597-0006

## Bulletin Deadlines

Please send information to Kim at [khagerty@stguerinparish.org](mailto:khagerty@stguerinparish.org).

**January 11** is due on Tuesday, December 30 at 9 AM

**January 18** is due on Wednesday, January 7 at 9 AM

**January 25** is due on Wednesday, January 14 at 9 AM

## From the Pastor's Desk: Fr. Paul Cao

**Preparing for Christmas** As we enter into the 4th Sunday of Advent this weekend, and the final week of Advent concludes, our hearts are focused on the greatest gift the world has ever received: the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This is the moment we have waited for—when the promise of God's redeeming love is made visible in a humble manger.

Christmas is more than a single day; it is a profound declaration that God is with us. In the midst of darkness, complexity, or quiet struggle, the light of the Nativity breaks through, reminding us that we are never alone.

The story of Christmas is a story of hope, peace, and unconditional love. We celebrate the courage of Mary, the faithfulness of Joseph, the awe of the shepherds, and the wisdom of the Magi. But above all, we celebrate the vulnerability and power of the Infant King, who entered our world to reconcile us to God.

This year, as you gather with family and friends, we invite you to take a moment to look beyond the tinsel and the hustle. Listen for the quiet whisper of the angels and let the profound peace of the Christ Child settle in your heart. Jesus is the reason for us to celebrate

Christmas, not anything else. So please take time to be with Jesus and make Christmas more meaningful in your life.

### December 24—25 Mass schedule

Please bring your family, your friends, and your neighbors to join us this week as we again kneel before the humble stable of Bethlehem. We warmly invite you to join us as we celebrate the sacred services of Christmas:

#### Wednesday, December 24

##### St. Celestine

4 PM Family Mass  
Midnight Mass at 11 PM (Carols begin at 10:30 PM)

##### St. Cyprian

9 PM Christmas Night Mass (Carols begin at 8:30 PM)

#### Thursday, December 25

##### St. Celestine

7:30 and 11 AM Christmas Day Mass

##### St. Cyprian

9 AM Christmas Day Mass

On behalf of Fr. Paul Eruva, Fr. Ron Navoy, Fr. Fil Ngwila, Fr. Stan Ilo, Fr. Kenneth Ekekwe, Fr. Andrew Ezechiugo, Deacon Mike DeLarco, Deacon Roland Merced, and the entire staff of St. Mother Theodore Guerin Parish, I wish to extend to you—to your family—and to all those you love—our heartfelt good wishes and sincerest prayers for



every blessing in your lives as we celebrate the birth of our dear Savior.

May Jesus find you ever watchful and prepared to welcome Him into your hearts and into your homes. May you be comforted to know that He is close to those who may be far away from you. May you find peace in knowing that God loves you so very much that God sent His only Son to be your Savior.

May the light of Christ illuminate your path, may the peace of the manger fill your home, and may the blessings of Our Lord Jesus Christ fill your hearts with true happiness and bring you hope, love, joy and peace this Christmas season and throughout the new year!

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!!

*In the Hope of Christ,  
Fr. Paul Cao*



### Pray the Rosary

8:30 AM Monday, Wednesday, Friday after Mass at St. Celestine  
7:30 AM Tuesday and Thursday before Mass at St. Cyprian  
Second Wednesday of the month 7 PM at St. Celestine

## Save the Dates!

- Sunday, December 28 at 9 AM at St. Cyprian and 11 AM at St. Celestine:  
**Blessing** for couples married 25 or more years
- Friday, January 2 at 3 PM at St. Celestine: Divine Mercy **Holy Hour**
- Sunday, January 18 at noon in the gym **Bags Tournament**
- Friday, January 30 **Bingo** in the gym
- Saturday, February 7 at St. Cyprian 10 AM: **Parish Town Hall Meeting**
- June 7—12: **Totus Tuus**

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign:  
the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,  
and shall name him Emmanuel. (Isa 7:14)

### Psalm:

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory. (Ps 24)

### Second Reading:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom 1:7)

### Gospel:

"Joseph, son of David,  
do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.  
For it is through the Holy Spirit  
that this child has been conceived in her.  
She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,  
because he will save his people from their sins." (Mt 1:20-21)

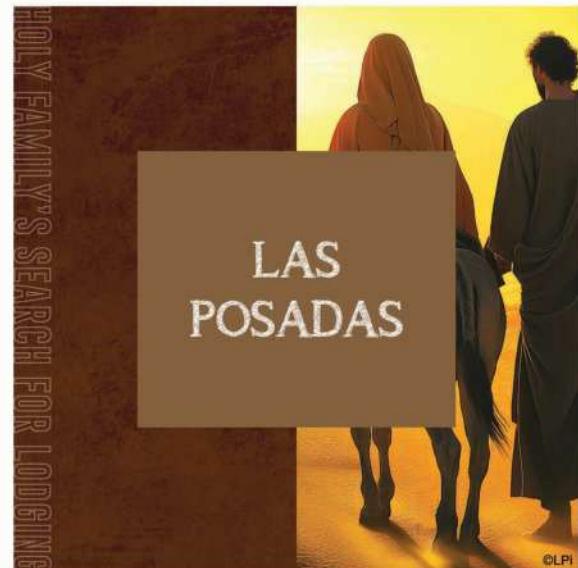
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.  
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,  
International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Sometimes we want God's instructions to be clear and precise — like the angel in Joseph's dream. But Joseph's understanding was only as strong as his devotion to God's will. If we give our lives to God as Joseph did, we will know what he asks of us.

## Observances for the week of December 21, 2025

- Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Advent
- Tuesday:** St. John of Kenty, Priest
- Wednesday:** Christmas Eve
- Thursday:** The Nativity of the Lord
- Friday:** St. Stephen, First Martyr
- Saturday:** St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
- Next Sunday:** The Holy Family



## Devotions, Explained!

Las Posadas is a Mexican tradition which recreates the Holy Family's search for lodging in Bethlehem. This nine-day devotion anticipates the birth of Jesus Christ, who seeks refuge in the heart of every man and woman.

## Prayer for Advent - Miracles

Dear God,  
You are in the miracle business.  
I still believe that You can move  
mountains and separate seas.  
Break into every unknown and  
astound us with Your goodness  
and grace.  
Amen.

# Worship & Meditation

## Readings for the week of December 21, 2025

### Sunday:

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/  
Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

### Monday:

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

### Tuesday:

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

### Wednesday:

Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps  
89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

### Thursday:

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29  
(2a)/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  
(Lk 2:11)/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 (3c)/  
Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

### Friday:

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

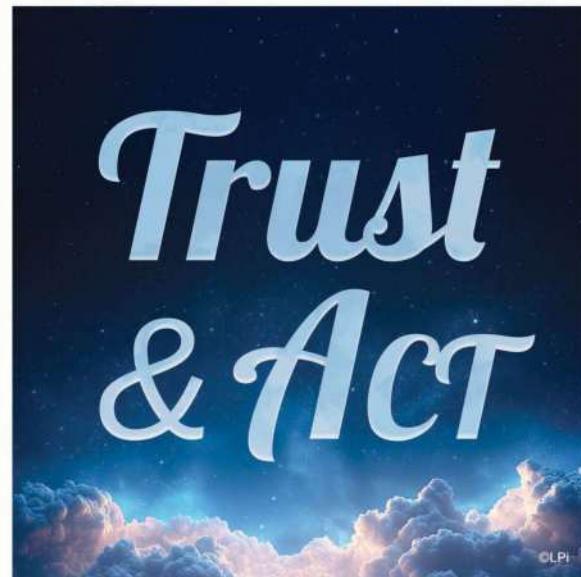
### Saturday:

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

### Next Sunday:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 (see 1)/  
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.  
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for  
Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in  
the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A priest friend recently told me a remarkable story. One of his cousins reported having a vivid dream in which an angel told him the family needed to exhume their grandmother's body from a cemetery in New York and return it to her birthplace in Romania. She had been dead nearly ten years. As you might expect, the family thought it was, well, crazy. But astonishingly they exhumed her body. It was incorrupt, showing no signs of decomposition. That experience sparked healing, faith, and reconciliation throughout the family.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Joseph also receives a dream. He's confused, afraid. But in the quiet of sleep, God speaks:

**"Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home"** (Matthew 1:20). When he wakes, Joseph acts. He doesn't overanalyze or dismiss the message. He trusts, and acts.

God still speaks — not necessarily through literal dreams but through those deeper intuitions of the heart. St. Ignatius of Loyola taught that God's voice draws us into peace, courage, and love. But we have to listen to it. Advent is a time for stillness. As we prepare for Christ's coming, we're invited to enter that quiet space where God's voice can be heard.

When and how do you become most receptive to God? Is it in silence? In prayer? In nature? At Mass? This week, go there. Be still. Listen. And like Joseph, have the courage to act on what God shows you.

— Father John Muir

# Liturgical Life

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** Advent is drawing quickly to a close, and Christmas is coming soon. The change is upon us. Do we rise to accept it, or do we fall on our faces in fear?

### The First Transfiguration

I imagine Joseph waking up the morning after the dream, blinking in the dim half-light of the dawn.

One day, decades from now, the baby his wife carries will stand on a mountaintop. His face will shine like the sun, and those who look upon him will fall down upon their own faces in fear.

We call this the transfiguration, and Joseph won't be there to see it. But that doesn't matter. What those men will learn on the mountaintop, Joseph already knows. He learned it last night.

Today, he shrugs off the remnants of slumber and stands up.

"Rise, and do not be afraid." This is what the baby — a baby no longer, but a man now, one in the last days of his life — will say to his companions on the mountain a few decades from now. They will look up to see him standing there the same as he always was, and they will realize that he did not change at all. They did.

"Do not be afraid." This is what the angel said last night as he revealed to Joseph the will of God: that Joseph take Mary and the Child as his own, despite having so many reasons not to do so. And today Joseph wakes up and the world is the same as it always was: Mary is pregnant, and the Child does not belong to him.

No, the world has not changed. Joseph has.

He rises, and goes to Mary.

Advent is drawing quickly to a close, and Christmas is coming soon. The change is upon us. Do we rise to accept it, or do we fall on our faces in fear?

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

### Why do we do that?

#### Catholic Life Explained

##### Question:

What is the difference between tithing and stewardship?

##### Answer:

Both tithing and stewardship are part of a spiritual way of life that calls us to use all of our resources for the service of the Gospel. Everything we are and everything we have comes from God. Offering back to God what He has given us is part of how we worship and give thanks to God.

Tithing is the practice of giving back 10 percent of what we earn. It comes from the Old English word for "ten." The first Scriptural example of tithing came from Abraham who gave a tenth of his possessions to the priest Melchizedek. He did so as an act of thanksgiving to God.

Stewardship as a way of life calls us to use well all that we have and all that we are, placing all things in service of others and God. Stewardship helps us see the good we can accomplish by making God and our spiritual life the most important values in our life. Whatever we accumulate in this life stays here. We can't take it with us! Both tithing and stewardship help us remember that nothing is mine or even ours ... all belongs to God.

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. - Mt 1:23-24*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



## Support our local advertisers

Please show your support for your parish by also supporting our advertisers. We wouldn't be able to bring you our bulletin every week without them. Please encourage and remind others to show their support and shop local.

## Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

### First Reading:

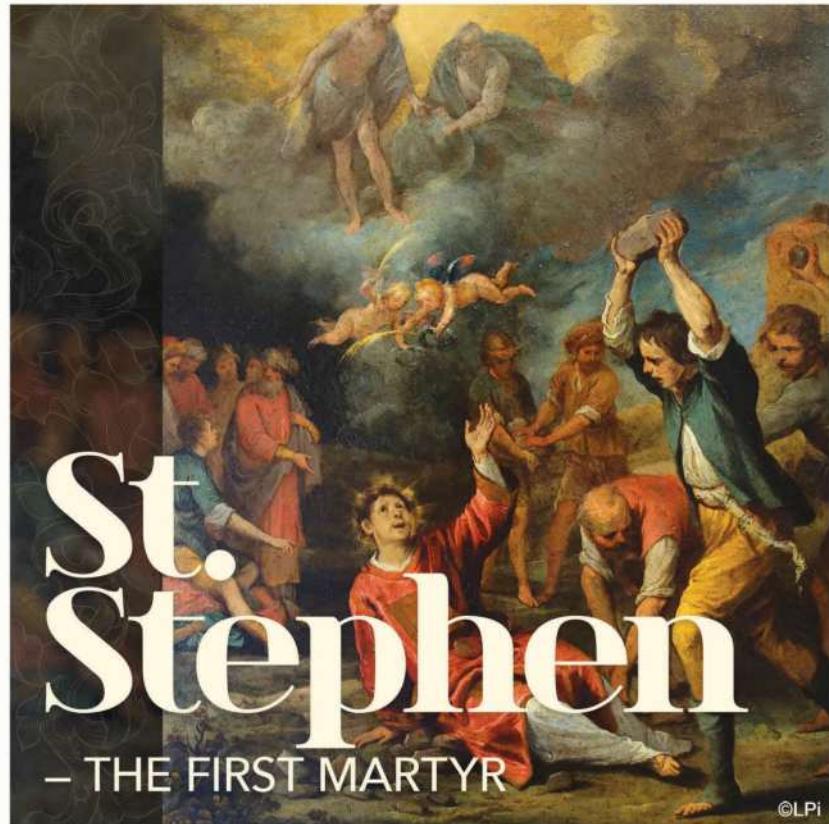
Seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah prophesies to King Ahaz that a virgin would bear a son and name him, Emmanuel (“God is with us”). When have you felt close to God this Advent season?

### Second Reading:

Paul instructs the Roman Christians that they are “called to be holy.” What do you see as some of the steps toward growing in holiness?

### Gospel:

We hear how Joseph struggled initially with the news of Mary’s pregnancy. How do you discern making difficult decisions?



## Prayer

I am proud that I am your child, Father God.

## Mission for the Week

I will thank my parents for having me and taking good care of me.

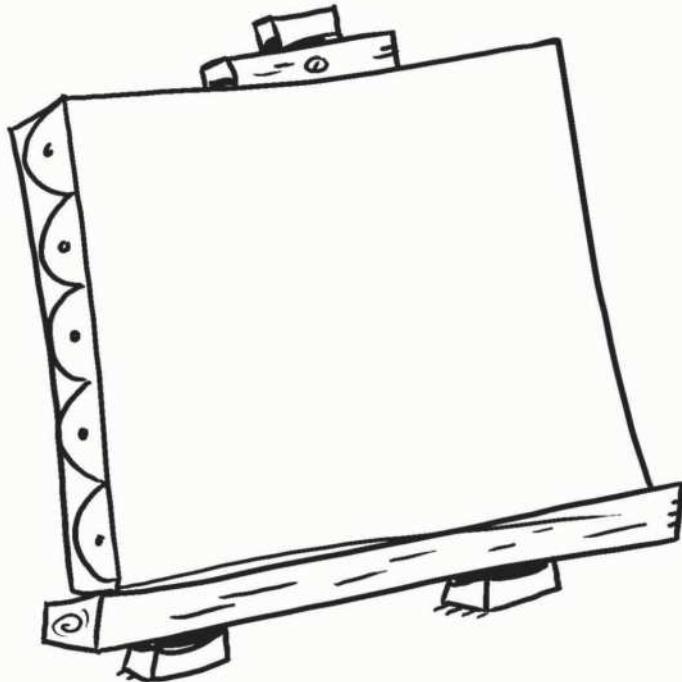
## Sharing the Gospel

An angel told Joseph to marry Mary because her baby was through the Holy Spirit of God. They would name the baby Jesus because he would save his people from their sins. God called you by name, too. Before you were born, he could tell you how many hairs would be on your head. He knew how long your feet would be. He knew all the good things you would do for his people.

Now color  
the picture!



Draw a picture of yourself when you were a baby.





# St. Celestine Catholic School

**A Place Where All Are Welcome To  
Believe, Achieve And Succeed!**

2025–2026 School Year

Dear Parishioners, Alumni and Friends,

From the very youngest grades, our students are creating and constructing knowledge with technology tools to foster skills in communication, collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, and computational thinking.

Your gifts to St. Celestine have made a great impact on our school and the programs we offer our students including iReady, STEAM activities, coding and design, classroom technology and applications, digital citizenship instruction, 1:1 Chromebooks & iPads, technology center, Google Workspace, programming, technology clubs, interactive displays that make the classroom more engaging, and much more.

We are grateful to you for your continued support of gifts and prayers to our annual fund. Because of you, we are a thriving school community and able to offer cutting-edge technologies to our students in addition to the many educational and spiritual experiences, athletic programs and clubs we offer them.

As you know, technology is constantly being upgraded but with your continued support you will help us keep it state-of-the-art for all the children to benefit this school year. Technology costs, as with so many other costs, continue to rise. Your support now is more important than ever!

Gifts to the annual fund directly support the 1:1 technology initiative which provides iPads and Chromebooks as well as other hardware, network infrastructure, security, software applications and licensing for over 550 devices throughout the school. We thank you for supporting the annual fund and more importantly for helping us prepare our children for their future.

Sincerely

Sheila Klich, Principal



## Chromebooks in 2nd – 8th grade

Interactive boards in every classroom and technology lab classes for all students



## Curriculum follows the ISTE

**Standards** (International Society for Technology in Education)  
Digital literacy is essential and necessary to our curriculum development and prepares students at every grade level to communicate and interact in a technology driven society.

## STEAM for all levels of learning

Science. Technology.  
Engineering. Art. Math.



*See reply card on next page  
for your level of support!*



## St. Celestine School

3017 N. 77<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Elmwood Park, IL 60707  
708-453-8234  
[www.stcelestineschool.org](http://www.stcelestineschool.org)

More than 80 years of Catholic School tradition.

**Thank you very much for your support of St. Celestine School children and the programs you provide them.**

- \$25 - 149.00 Friend
- \$150.00 - \$299.00 Supporter
- \$300.00 - \$499.00 Principal's Tech Circle  
*This level will help us at minimum purchase a new iPad or Chromebook for a student.*
- \$500.00+ Silver Circle (gift of 1+ new device)
- \$1,000.00+ Gold Circle (gift of 2+ new devices)
- \$2,500.00+ Celtic Circle (gift of 5 new devices)

Contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

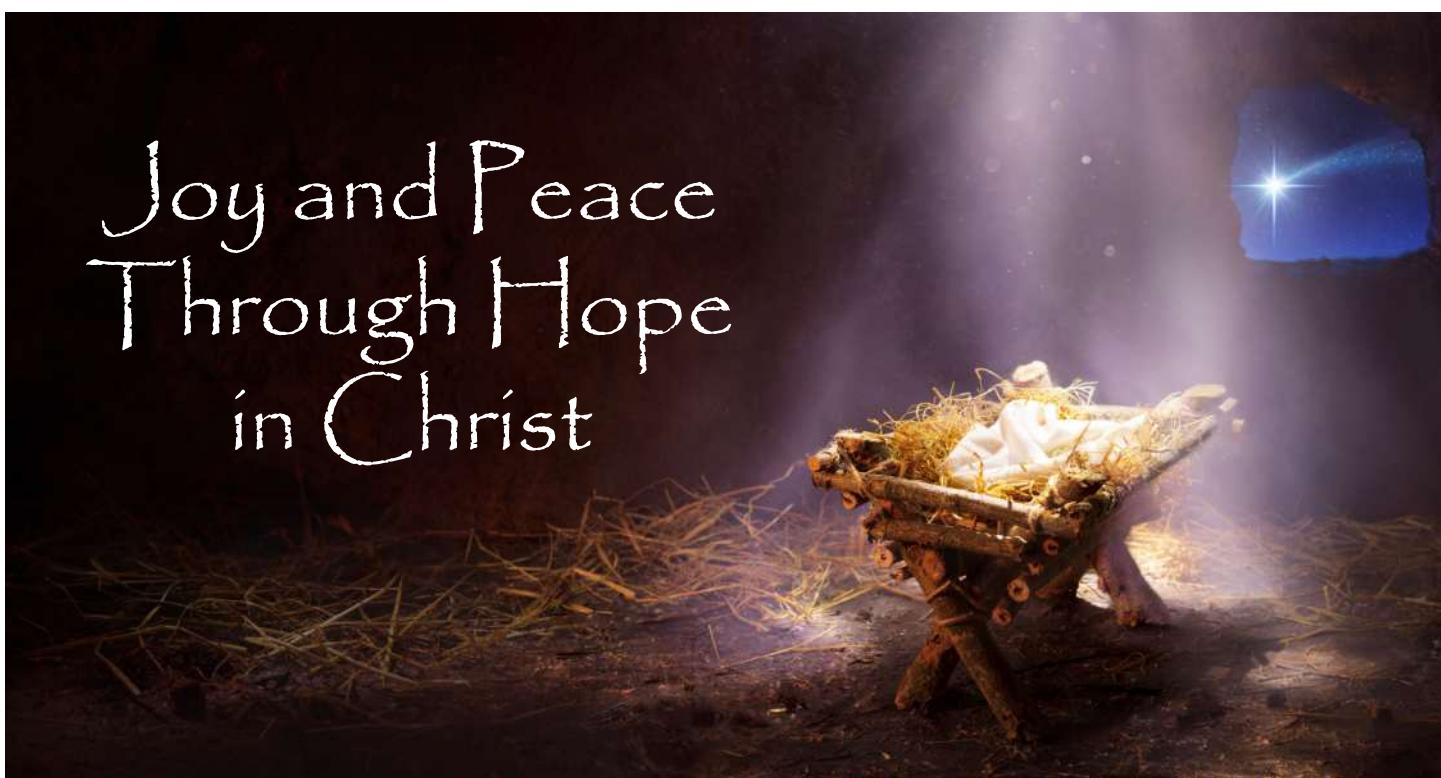
Enclosed is a check \$\_\_\_\_\_ Check #\_\_\_\_\_  
payable to: **St. Celestine School**.

Or, to make your gift online visit:  
[givecentral.org/location/313/event/20175](http://givecentral.org/location/313/event/20175)

My employer has a matching gift program.  
*Enclosed is my form.*

I would like to start a scholarship fund. *Please email me more information.*

St. Celestine School is in my Will.



### Christmas Masses

<b>Family Mass</b>	Wednesday, December 24 at 4 PM at St. Celestine Church
<b>Carols</b>	Wednesday, December 24 at 8:30 PM at St. Cyprian Church
<b>Mass</b>	Wednesday, December 24 at 9 PM at St. Cyprian Church
<b>Carols</b>	Wednesday, December 24 at 10:30 PM at St. Celestine Church
<b>Midnight Mass</b>	Wednesday, December 24 at 11 PM at St. Celestine Church
<b>Christmas Day</b>	Thursday, December 25 at 7:30 AM at St. Celestine Church
	Thursday, December 25 at 9 AM at St. Cyprian Church
	Thursday, December 25 at 11 AM at St. Celestine Church

### Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

Wednesday, December 31 at 4 PM at St. Cyprian Church  
Thursday, January 1, 2026 at 9 AM at St. Celestine Church

## Feast of the Holy Family Mass December 28

All couples married 25 years or more are invited to come for a special blessing at the 9 AM or 11 AM Masses on Sunday, December 28. The Feast of the Holy Family celebrates the family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as a model for all Christian families. The day is dedicated to honoring and consecrating families to the Holy Family, praying for them to be inspired by their virtues, such as compassion, humility, patience, and forgiveness, and recognizing their role as a model of faith, love, and service. Couples in long marriages can be a great role model for others and we would like to recognize them on this day.



## Food Pantry

Our parish Food Pantry needs food donations. Can you help? We need canned goods, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, cans of fruit, cans of soup, and non-perishable goods. Other suggested donations are cooking oil, tuna, salt, pepper, and spices, cake mix and frosting for birthdays, sugar, flour, coffee, and tea. Donations of cash or checks made out to St. Mother Guerin parish are great so we can buy meat and fresh foods.

Please drop off at the Pastoral Center or in the back of the churches. Thank you!

## Mass Intentions

During the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass, we hear that this Mass is being offered for the repose of the soul of someone who has died, or for someone requesting prayers for a particular intention.

If you would like a Mass offered, please call either office to schedule a Mass for your particular intention. The usual donation is \$10. Mass cards are available as well.

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL

# BAGS TOURNAMENT

TO RAISE FUNDS FOR ST. CELESTINE SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Sunday, January 18th 2026  
11AM Blind Draw  
12PM Tournament Start  
Located in the gym

**\$30 TICKET PRICE INCLUDES**

- One entry into the blind draw
- NFL Wildcard Games

CASH PRIZES!!!!

**Tickets can be purchased in the Parish Office**

**Cash Bar Split the POT**

For more information contact:  
Nicole DiMaggio at [athleticdirector@stcelestineschool.org](mailto:athleticdirector@stcelestineschool.org)

\*\*Must be 21 years and older to attend

EDIT.org



## Pray for Them

### Sick

Please remember the following people who are seriously ill. If you wish to add a name with the person's permission, please call the parish office. Names remain on the list for 4 weeks.

Angelo L'Abbate	Justine Kucera	Sarah Rotolo
Michael Binder	Robert Kucera	Warren Sarbacker
Jacqueline Boshell	Larry Lemanski	Kathy Sassolino
Edward Bray	Bart Masi	Morgan Schlanger
Sue Brink	Kathy Mooney	Joseph Serwa
Elene Dimperio	George Moskaliuk	John Sheahan
Cathy Downing King	Sandra Moskaliuk	Mary Skelly
Eleanor	Efrem Munoz	Julie Spaargaren
Tom Ferguson	Martha Munoz	Heidi Stringham
Patsy Galecki	James Nasti	Brian Swatek
Tammy Garcia	Larry Nestor	Colleen Schlanger Thomas
Maciej Gondek	Ron Nichols	Judy Virgilio
Dorota Gondek	Sr. Louise Noesen	Robert Virnich
Peter Gonzalez	Brendan O'Brien	Lillian Wardzala
Cynthia Guillen	Sherry Olsen	Jim Waterloo
Lorry Hartnett	Carolyn Paprocki	Jim Wazorick
Grace Hensley	Adrienne Pudlo	Sue Weber
Karl Humowiecki	Betty Quartello	Joshua Wilmes
Renee Iman	Sr. Rita Mae	Tamycka Ortega Zapata
Kathy Johl	Rabitoy	Nicholas Zych
Adele Johnson	Aida Rivera	*recently added
Lisa Kostrzeski	Austin Rose	

### Faithful Departed

Filomena Scudiero  
Rodrigo Alvear

### Military

Col. Stephen Acosta	Marines
Staff Sgt. Lawrence G. Campbell	Air Force
Senior Airman Cory McCambridge	Air Force
Lt. Col. Peter Anderson	Army
Sgt. Kenneth G. DiCristifano	Army
Spec Michael Migliorisi	Army
Pvt. John Cerrone	Marines
PFC Paul J. Lagoda	Marines
PFC Sophia M. Garcia	Marines
Lt. Robert Reynolds	Army
Staff Sgt. Alberto Boy	Marines
Staff Sgt. Natalie Borrini	Air Force
Cpl. Brian Macaluso	Marines
Lnc. Cpl. Meghan Jennings	Marines
Lnc. Cpl. Michael Casanave	Marines
Pvt. Nicolas Casanave	Marines
ABEAN Melanie Hodges	Navy
PFC Vincent Negron	Marines
Pvt. Matthew Meyer	Army
Master Sgt. Scott A. Cross	Air Force
Dario Rodriguez	Air Force
Ensign Devon Zych	Coast Guard
Lnc. Cpl. Andrew D. Nordlie	Marines
Luis N. Burciaga	Army

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

### Gospel for December 21, 2025

Matthew 1:18-24

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle A: the story of Joseph and Mary. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

THE BIRTH OF	JESUS CHRIST	MARY
JOSEPH	BEFORE	WAS FOUND
CHILD	HOLY SPIRIT	HER HUSBAND
SHAME	DIVORCE	BEHOLD
ANGEL	APPEARED	A DREAM
WIFE	SAVE	PEOPLE
VIRGIN	EMMANUEL	AWOKE

### BIRTH COMING

N	A	N	D	E	R	A	E	P	P	A	H
A	J	O	S	E	P	H	J	O	D	D	E
E	C	E	K	V	I	R	G	I	N	R	F
M	R	O	S	H	A	M	E	A	U	E	O
M	W	O	H	U	Y	T	B	D	O	A	H
A	I	H	F	A	S	S	B	I	F	M	T
N	F	D	N	E	U	C	E	V	S	U	R
U	E	G	N	H	B	H	H	O	A	E	I
E	E	Y	R	A	M	O	O	R	W	V	B
L	P	E	O	P	L	E	L	C	I	A	E
C	H	I	L	D	W	K	D	E	X	S	H
E	K	H	O	L	Y	S	P	I	R	I	T

© 2025 TRI-C-A Publications; tri-c-a-publications.com

PFC Rudy De La O	Marines
Jose Flores, Jr.	Air Force
Carmelo Flores	Air Force
AB Ethen N. Ortiz	Air Force
Lnc. Cpl. Michael Joshua Barajas	Marines
Sgt. Cody Krawczyk	Army
Lnc. Cpl. Jake Kola	Marines
Airman Kaden Turocy	Air Force
A1C Rhian Frnzn Vengua	Air Force
Private Nicholas Drust, Jr.	Army
Private Jesse J. Mendoza	Army
Lnc. Cpl. Edward Romano, Jr.	Marines
A1C Jose Manuel Lagunas, Jr.	Air Force
A1C Jordied Velez-Rosado	Air Force
Pvt. Noah Wardisiani	Army
Capt. Montgomery Smith	Air Force

## Parish Weekly Events

### Wednesday, December 24

8 AM ST CEL	Pastoral Center Closed
4 PM ST CEL	Morning Mass
8:30 PM ST CYP	Family Mass
9 PM ST CYP	Carol Singing
10:30 PM ST CEL	Mass
11 PM ST CYP	Carol Singing
	Midnight Mass

### Thursday, December 25

7:30 AM ST CEL	Pastoral Center Closed
9 AM ST CYP	Christmas Day Mass
11 AM ST CEL	Christmas Day Mass

### Friday, December 26

	Pastoral Center Closed
--	------------------------

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



### The Vicar for Deacons

Have you ever considered the call to be a Deacon of the Catholic Church?

Join us at **7 p.m.** on **January 19, 2026** at:

#### Office of the Diaconate

816 Marengo  
Forest Park, IL 60130



We will provide an overview of the **Deacon Formation Program, the application process and information on the ministry of a deacon.** Men, single or married, are invited to attend. Wives are strongly encouraged to accompany their husbands. For more information and to register for this session, contact the Office of the Diaconate at **708.366.8900.**

**"Whom shall I send? Who will go for us? 'Here I am, send me!'" –Isaiah 6:8**

## Liturgical Ministers

### Saturday, December 27

#### 4 PM St. Cyprian

Presider	Fr. Ron Navoy
Altar Servers	Isaac M.
	Diego M.
Lector	Karen Moretti
Eucharistic Ministers	Peg Gurnig
	Ruben Monterroso

#### 5 PM St. Celestine

Presider	Fr. Paul Eruva
Altar Server	Christian C.
Lector	Nick Kaspar
Eucharistic Ministers	Perlita Domingo
	Mike Miller
	Peggy O'Donnell
	Bob Mitchell, O.F.S.
	Mary Joost
	Maria Mojek
	Patricia Rinella

### Sunday, December 28

#### 7:30 AM St. Celestine

Presider	Fr. Paul Eruva
Altar Servers	TBA
Lector	Andy Johnson
Eucharistic Ministers	Minnie Reillo
	Bill Lesch
	Ken Doyle
	Michelle Doyle
	Florence Smith
	Mary Kay Macchione

#### 9 AM St. Cyprian

Presider	Fr. Paul Cao
Altar Servers	David D.
	Marco D.
	Matthew D.
Lector	Sr. Carol Meyers
Eucharistic Minister	Rosalia Librreri

#### 11 AM St. Celestine

Presider	Fr. Fil Ngwila
Altar Servers	Sarah P.
	Amelia H.
Lector	Brad Wdowiak
Eucharistic Ministers	Skip Marcucci
	Leonora Palattao
	Alice Carella
	Paulette Maraviglia
	Ray Maraviglia
	Greg Derlacki



**SUPPORT OUR PARISH**

**ADT-Monitored Home Security**  
Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Fire Safety
- Flood Detection
- Carbon Monoxide

ADT Authorized Provider | SafeStreets

833-287-3502

**Say Good-bye to Clogged Gutters!**



**\$99 Installation\***

\*Does not include cost of materials. Expires 10/31/22.

Call today for your FREE estimate and in-home demonstration

**CALL NOW 708-462-6373**

Receive a \$100 Visa gift card with your FREE in-home estimate

\*All participants who attend an estimated 60-90-minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$100 Visa gift card. Retail value is \$100. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings, Inc. Limit one per household. Company processes, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or involved with a life partner, both individuals must receive 10 days of complete presentation. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company employees, contractors, agents, and their immediate family members. Company reserves the right to substitute a gift of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail within 10 days of receipt of the promotion form. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not available in the states of CA, IL, PA and MI. Expires 10/31/22.

**ENGLERT LeafGuard®**  
Get it. And forget it.

\*Guaranteed not to clog for as long as you own your home, or we'll clean your gutters for free.

**LeafGuard®** is guaranteed never to clog or we'll clean it for FREE\*

- Seamless, one-piece system keeps out leaves, pine needles, and debris
- Eliminates the risk of falling off a ladder to clean clogged gutters
- Durable, all-weather tested system not a flimsy attachment

**DOES YOUR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION NEED A NEWSLETTER?**

Engaging, ad-supported print and digital newsletters to reach your community.

[VisitIpcommunities.com](http://VisitIpcommunities.com)



Scan to contact us!

**ILLINOIS CANCER SPECIALISTS**  
Our Only Care Is You

**773.774.0042**  
Working Towards a Cure



**Specializing In Cancer And Blood Disorders**

**SHORT STAFFED?**  
Place an ad here to find new local talent for your business.



**CALL 800-950-9952**

**LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS**  
Place Your Ad Here and Support Our Parish!

**CONTACT ME**  
**Mark Olech**

**molech@4lpi.com**  
**(800) 950-9952 x5965**

# WE'RE PROUD TO SUPPORT ST MOTHER THEODORE GUERIN CHURCH

**WINTRUST**  
BANK

Chicago

CHICAGO'S NEIGHBORHOOD BANKS

3050 N Harlem | Chicago, IL 60634  
773-622-5301 | [www.wintrustbank.com](http://www.wintrustbank.com)



## SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

**Salerno Galewood CHAPELS**



1857 N. Harlem Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60707

**Contact Us**  
**773-889-1700**

Pre Arranged Funerals & Cremation Services Available  
[www.galewoodchapels.com](http://www.galewoodchapels.com)

**Place Your Ad Here and Support our Parish!**

Instantly create and purchase an ad with

**AD CREATOR STUDIO**



[4lpi.com/adcreator](http://4lpi.com/adcreator)

**FREE AD DESIGN**  
with purchase of this space

**CALL**  
**800-950-9952**

## Our Family Serving Your Family

Cremation Services Available

Scott Johnson, Parishioner

**Belmont Funeral Home**  
7120 W. Belmont Ave.

(773) 286-2500



Resident of Elmwood Park

**Peterson-Bassi Chapels**  
6938 W. North Ave.

(773) 637-4441

Professional Neighborhood Handyman

### HOME REPAIRS

• Electrical • Plumbing • And More!

Ask for Roy

773-792-0275 773-386-5313

**PAINTING PRO**  
INTERIOR EXTERIOR  
DRYWALL & REPAIRS  
312-543-0490

 **Esperanza**  
Home Health Care

Providing Nurses, PT, OT, ST, and Aides  
right at your home. We will assist with  
Visiting Providers/Doctors if needed.  
Contact our office for any questions.

2048 N. 72nd Ct. • Elmwood Park, IL 60707  
Tel: 708-452-7610 • esperanzahhc.com



**Winter Special**  
\$79.95  
**Furnace or Central Air**  
16 pt. Clean & Tune

**NEW CENTRAL AIR**  
Starting at \$2,895!

Senior/Veteran Discounts  
24 Hour Service  
MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

**773-237-5724**

**PRO PLUMBING**  
• PLUMBING • SEWER  
• WATERTANK • RODDING  
10% OFF Parishioner Discount  
**847-671-7300**



SUPPORT  
OUR PARISH

**Ed the Plumber**  
**Ed the Carpenter**  
**708.652.1444**  
Best Work • Best Rates  
**PARISHIONER DISCOUNT**

**LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS**  
Place Your Ad Here and Support Our Parish!

CONTACT ME Mark Olech

molech@4ipi.com • (800) 950-9952 x5965

**PRO PAINTING**  
• PAINTING • DRYWALL  
• INTERIOR • EXTERIOR  
10% OFF Parishioner Discount  
**847-721-6368**



**SAX-TIEDEMANN**  
Funeral Home & Crematorium  
9568 Belmont Ave., Franklin Park, IL 60131

FAMILY OWNED. FAMILY FOCUSED.  
**847.678.1950**  
www.sax-tiedemann.com

### IF YOU LIVE ALONE

**MDMedAlert!**™ STARTING AT  
✓ Ambulance ✓ Police/Fire  
✓ Family/Friends ✓ GPS & Fall Alert  
\$19.95/mo.

CALL NOW! **800.809.3570**

 md-medalert.com



**Dr. Lawrence T.  
Jacobs**

Family Dental Care

8235 W. Grand Ave.

River Grove

**708-453-0250**

**NEVER MISS  
OUR BULLETIN!**



### SUBSCRIBE

Have our bulletin emailed  
to you every week.

Visit [www.parishesonline.com](http://www.parishesonline.com)

Place Your Ad Here and  
Support our Parish!

Instantly create and  
purchase an ad with

### AD CREATOR STUDIO



[4ipi.com/adcreator](http://4ipi.com/adcreator)

### NUZZO SEWER & PLUMBING INC.

**708-456-7300** Power Rodding **773-625-6280**

All Sewer & Plumbing Repairs & Installation  
Specializing in Flood Control • Correcting Low Water Pressure  
Video Sewer & Locating Service  
[www.nuzzoplumbing.com](http://www.nuzzoplumbing.com)

**VIA GALANTE  
CEMENT CONTRACTORS, INC.**

Patios • Sidewalks • Stairs  
Driveways • Garage Floors  
Concrete Power Washing & Sealing

**773-589-9893**



**SUPPORT  
OUR PARISH**

Local business ads  
sponsor the printing of  
our bulletin.

[4ipi.com/adcreator](http://4ipi.com/adcreator)



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • [www.4ipi.com](http://www.4ipi.com)

St Mother Theodore Guerin, Chicago, IL

A 4C 01-4008

# St. Mother Theodore Guerin Parish

[stguerinparish.org](http://stguerinparish.org)

**St. Celestine Church and Parish Office** 708-453-2555 3020 North 76th Court, Elmwood Park, Illinois 60707

**St. Cyprian Church** 2601 North Clinton Street, River Grove, Illinois 60171 [stguerinparish.org](http://stguerinparish.org)

**Office Hours:** Monday—Thursday, 8:30 AM—noon and 12:30—8 PM; Friday 8:30 AM—noon and 12:30—5 PM  
Saturday 8:30 AM—12:30 PM; Sunday closed



**Holy Hour:** First Friday of each month at 3 PM at St. Celestine Church.

**Baptisms:** To schedule, contact Ruthanne Swiatkowski at [rswiatkowski@stguerinparish.org](mailto:rswiatkowski@stguerinparish.org) or call 708-453-2555 x 5017. Baptisms take place at 12:30 PM on the second and fourth Sundays monthly at St. Celestine and the third Sunday of the month at St. Cyprian. Baptismal Prep classes take place on most first Wednesdays of each month at 7 PM at St. Cyprian; please call the office to sign up for the class.

**Masses:** See cover.

**Reconciliation:** Saturdays 3:30 PM at St. Cyprian and 4 PM at St. Celestine.

**Weddings:** Engaged couples are encouraged to call a year in advance of a preferred date. The couple must talk to Deacon Mike DeLarco before a wedding date can be reserved. Participation in marriage preparation is essential.

**Rosary:** Second Wednesday of the month at 7 PM in the chapel at St. Celestine, after the 8 AM Mass Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at St. Celestine, at 7:30 AM before the 8 AM Mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays at St. Cyprian.

## Contact Information

### Priests

**Rev. Paul Cao**, Pastor

[pcao@stguerinparish.org](mailto:pcao@stguerinparish.org)

708-453-2555 x5029

**Rev. Paul Eruva**, Associate Pastor

[peruva@archchicago.org](mailto:peruva@archchicago.org)

708-453-2555 x5013

**Rev. Eugene Gratkowski**, Pastor Emeritus, St. Cyprian

**Rev. Fil Ngwila, Rev. Stan Ilo, Rev. Kenneth Ekekwe**,

**Rev. Andrew Ezechiugo**, Priests-in-Residence

**Rev. Ron Navoy**, Weekend Associate

**Ruthanne Swiatkowski**, Director of Lifelong Faith Formation

[rswiatkowski@stguerinparish.org](mailto:rswiatkowski@stguerinparish.org)

708-453-2555 x5017

**Craig Kamptner**, Director of Music Ministry

[ckamptner@stcelestineschool.org](mailto:ckamptner@stcelestineschool.org)

708-453-2555 x5016

**Kim Hagerty**, Director of Evangelization and Bulletin Editor

[khagerty@stguerinparish.org](mailto:khagerty@stguerinparish.org)

708-453-2555 x5012

*See inside bulletin for deadlines.*

**Eric Mueller and Bob Vessini**, Maintenance

708-453-2555 x4025

### Ministries

**Mary Murphy**, Coordinator of Religious Education for Children and Adults with Special Needs [murphyme2000@gmail.com](mailto:murphyme2000@gmail.com)

**Lois DeFelice**, Ministry of Care

708-453-2555

[loisdefelice@gmail.com](mailto:loisdefelice@gmail.com)

**Food Pantry**

708-453-2555

The Food Pantry opens from 4 to 6 PM on two Thursdays each month.

Check Weekly Events in the bulletin or [stguerinparish.org](http://stguerinparish.org) for the dates.

### St. Celestine School

708-453-8234

3017 North 77th Avenue, Elmwood Park, Illinois 60707

**Sheila Klich**, Principal

[sklich@stcelestineschool.org](mailto:sklich@stcelestineschool.org)

**Jennifer Ebervein**, Secretary

**Nicole Nayder**, Financial Secretary

