



# ST. MOTHER THEODORE GUERIN PARISH

St. Celestine and St. Cyprian Churches

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



December 7, 2025

## 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!'" - Mt 3:1

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

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### 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](http://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 6

### 4 PM ST. CYPRIAN

+Nery Rodriguez  
+Sister Ceil James  
+Joyce Rossi  
+Carl and +Rose Rossi  
+Antionette Lindstrand  
+Madeline Paldo

### 5 PM ST. CELESTINE

+Mary Gdowski, Anniversary  
+Maria Klos  
Souls of the DiCianno/Ricci Families  
+Frank and +John Kucera  
+Richard Ritter

## Sunday, December 7

### 7:30 AM ST. CELESTINE

People of the Parish

### 9 AM ST. CYPRIAN

+Luigi Piazza  
+Ignazio Libreri  
+Russ Gedeon

### 11 AM ST. CELESTINE

+Frank Pudlo  
+Roman and +Anna Romanyuk  
+Robert Paprocki  
Deceased members of the Braglia Family  
+Patrick Reilly  
Clery Family  
+Martin and +Marian Egan  
+Larry Piccoli  
+Mary Therese McGuire, Anniversary  
+Celia Neri  
+Al Fang, Jr., 8 month anniversary

## Monday, December 8

### 8 AM ST. CELESTINE

+Concetta and +Sabatino DiCianno  
+Nick DiCianni  
Turzitti Family  
7 PM ST. CYPRIAN  
People of the Parish

## Tuesday, December 9

### 8 AM ST. CYPRIAN

Faithful Departed

## Wednesday, December 10

### 8 AM ST. CELESTINE

+Felicula Perez  
+Debbie D'Amico

## Thursday, December 11

### 8 AM ST. CELESTINE

+Vivian Wiemerslage  
+Michael Sheahan, Anniversary  
+Millie Machalk  
+Victor Quilici, 10th Anniversary

## Friday, December 12

### 8 AM ST. CELESTINE

+Nick DiCianni, Birthday  
+Sabatino and +Concetta DiCianno

### 7 PM ST. CELESTINE

People of the Parish

## Saturday, December 13

### 4 PM ST. CYPRIAN

+Nery Rodriguez, Birthday  
+Sister Ceil James  
+Joyce Rossi  
+Carl and +Rose Rossi  
+Joseph Sweeney  
+Craig Bastek  
+Kathleen Kuroski  
+Gordon Hetland  
+James Hetland

### 5 PM ST. CELESTINE

+Joan Psak, Anniversary  
+Robert Gutkowski, 2nd Anniversary  
+Al Fang, Jr.  
+Joseph and +Bette Wesol  
+Louis and +Juliana DaPrato and the  
deceased members of the  
DaPrato family

## Sunday, December 14

### 7:30 AM ST. CELESTINE

+Lynn Johnson

### 9 AM ST. CYPRIAN

+Harace Lee  
+Linda Papesh  
+Padre Aldo Vinci

### 11 AM ST. CELESTINE

+Roman and +Anna Romanyuk  
+Frank Pudlo  
+Robert Paprocki  
+Bob Jurasz  
+John Orsi  
+Carl Braack  
+Jeffery Thien Nguyen  
+Jean Chlypniacz, Birthday



## 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).

## Bulletin Deadlines

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

**December 21** is due on Wednesday,  
December 10 at 9 AM

**December 28** is due on Tuesday,  
December 16 at 9 AM

**January 4** is due on Wednesday,  
December 17 at 9 AM

## Baptisms

We welcome those baptized in  
November!

Sophia Alexandra Aguilar  
Thomas Lawrence Estrada  
Nicolas Andres Farietta  
Samir Steven Montes Rojas  
Lucas Eli Oria  
Noah Alan Oria  
James Parker Walsh  
Olivia Payton Yalda

## Watch The Messengers: Christmas Episode of *The Chosen*

Join us on Tuesday, December 16 after the 8 AM Mass at St. Cyprian to watch a special Christmas episode of *The Chosen*. Experience the first Christmas through the eyes of Joseph and Mary. We will meet in the rectory at St. Cyprian and coffee and coffeecake will be served!

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

### Advent

Last week, we entered into the Advent season. The church was decorated very simply with purple cloths, the Advent wreath, and candles. We blessed the Advent wreath and lit the first candle to remind us that Jesus Christ came to bring light to the world. This week, as we enter the second week of Advent, we light the second candle, and we hear the Gospel of Matthew which speaks of the appearance of John the Baptist preaching a baptism of repentance in the wilderness to prepare the way for the Lord. John the Baptist preached in the desert of Judea saying, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" John the Baptist proclaimed a message written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

*A voice of one crying out in the desert,  
Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths.*

John the Baptist was the one God sent to prepare the way for Jesus, the Messiah. He calls us to prepare ourselves, to return to the Lord and to seek for the forgiveness of our sins. If there is a crooked attitude or a crooked way of behaving that needs to be straightened out in our lives, let us try to do so. If there

is something that prevents us from coming to the Lord, let us straighten it out. Let us respond to the crying out of John the Baptist to prepare the way of the Lord during this Advent season. Jesus is waiting for us to return to him. God does not abandon us when we stray from the straight path. He keeps calling us back from our crooked ways to the straight path. Advent is an excellent time to aim ourselves in the right direction, and to commit ourselves to the right path. Jesus is waiting for us in the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please come to him seeking forgiveness and love during this Advent Season especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

### Feast of the Immaculate Conception

This Monday the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary—the patronal Feast Day of the United States of America. This is a Holy Day of Obligation, and you are encouraged to come to mass at 8 AM at St. Celestine or 7 PM at St. Cyprian. Please come celebrate one of the most important Feast Days in honor of Mary, our Blessed Mother, and ask her to intercede for us and for our country.

### Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

Please join us this Friday, December



12, to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at 7 PM at St. Celestine Church. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patroness of the Americas. There will be a bilingual mass with Spanish music. Fr. Fil Ngwila will be the celebrant. I am grateful for Fr. Fil and the committee who organize the Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena and Celebration. Come and pray, asking our Lady of Guadalupe to intercede for us and help us to be closer to her son, Jesus Christ. There will be a reception after the mass with a mariachi band.

May the spirit of Advent help us to prepare well for Christmas!

May Our Lady of Guadalupe pray for us!

*In prayer,*

*Fr. Paul Cao*



### *Ladies Don't Forget...*

**St. Mother Guerin Women's Club Meeting**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025 – 7 PM**

Annex of St. Celestine ~ Doors open at 6:30 pm

Enjoy a little fun together, with a few surprises,  
Before we celebrate the holidays!





# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him:  
a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
a spirit of counsel and of strength,  
a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD. (Isa 11:2)

### Psalm:

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.  
(Ps 72)

### Second Reading:

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you,  
for the glory of God. (Romans 15:7)

### Gospel:

"I am baptizing you with water, for repentance,  
but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I." (Mt 3:11)

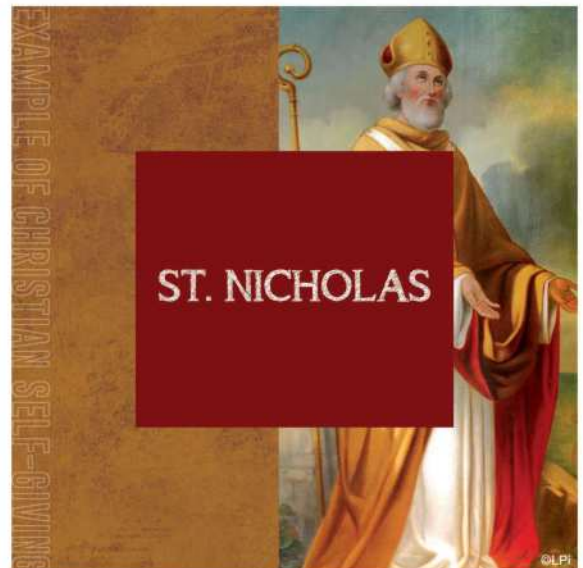
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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The story of Advent is a story of repentance. John the Baptist held up a mirror to the chosen people. He urged them to look at what they saw there. This Advent, will we look in the mirror? Will we choose repentance?

## Observances for the week of December 7, 2025

<b>Sunday:</b>	2nd Sunday of Advent
<b>Monday:</b>	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
<b>Tuesday:</b>	St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Our Lady of Loreto
<b>Thursday:</b>	St. Damasus I, Pope
<b>Friday:</b>	Our Lady of Guadalupe
<b>Saturday:</b>	St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	3rd Sunday of Advent



## Devotions, *Explained!*

St. Nicholas is sometimes merged with the modern figure of Santa Claus in the collective imagination. But St. Nicholas was a real-life bishop, a follower of Jesus whose example of Christian self-giving endures hundreds of years after his death.

## Prayer for Advent - Peace

Come, Lord Jesus!  
Bring your peace to our world.  
Inspire reconciliation, heal  
divisions, bind wounds,  
rewrite scripts.  
You are the Prince of Peace,  
bring that light into every space.  
Amen.

# Worship & Meditation

## Readings for the week of December 7, 2025

### Sunday:

Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/  
Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

### Monday:

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

### Tuesday:

Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/  
Mt 18:12-14

### Wednesday:

Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/  
Mt 11:28-30

### Thursday:

Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/  
Mt 11:11-15

### Friday:

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/  
Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

### Saturday:

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16,  
18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

### Next Sunday:

Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10  
(see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11



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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

This week we hear that John the Baptist is out in the wilderness eating “**locusts and wild honey**” (**Mark 1:6**). It’s not just a strange historical detail. It’s a symbolic expression of a healthy spiritual diet. The path to Christ includes both the hard and the beautiful, the gritty and the sweet. We have to learn to gulp the locusts and savor the honey.

I remember working with a young couple preparing for marriage. They were sincere, but raw — barely beginning to discover faith. Part of me wanted to rush them ahead, to fill in all the gaps, to bombard them with scripture and church documents. I swallowed that instinct. It was like eating locusts.

But I also recall them light up as they spoke about each other, about their first child, then their second. And they wanted to be close to God. Something innocent and beautiful was unfolding. That was the honey. I knew God was asking me to savor it.

This Advent, maybe we’re each being invited to accept both locusts and honey. Maybe it’s time to stop avoiding the difficult parts of faith — prayer that feels dry, the call to repentance, the patience with the troublesome. It’s time to eat some locusts.

But we also need to notice the small gifts God gives us: a peaceful moment, a good conversation, the joy of serving someone else, new life, good intentions of our friends. That’s the honey. Savor it!

John didn’t avoid either. He took it all in. And so can we. What are your locusts? Your honey? If we let God feed us with both, we’ll be ready — really ready — for the coming of Christ.

— *Father John Muir*



## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** It is so, so beautiful to be culturally Catholic. But actions, rituals, traditions, sentiments, nostalgia — none of it matters unless it bears the fruit of a transformed heart.

### Culturally Catholic

Catholic culture is so thick, you could spread it on a scone. Or a baguette. Or a slice of ciabatta bread. Or naan (Wait, do you put butter on naan? I would, because I'm Midwestern, but I sense that this is, perhaps, incorrect).

Okay, maybe my comparison is imperfect, but what I'm saying is this: Catholic culture is delicious, it's versatile, and it's nourishing. It's the same everywhere, even though it also looks and feels totally unique in every place. The Day of the Dead in Mexico, Simbang Gabi in the Philippines, St. Patrick's Day in Ireland, Meskel in Ethiopia, Semana Santa processions in Spain: these are all touchstones of Catholic culture.

It is so, so beautiful to be culturally Catholic. But today, when I hear John the Baptist's words to the Pharisees and the Sadducees, I am reminded that Catholicism is so much more than just cultural expression.

The Pharisees and Sadducees were loyal sons of Abraham and scrupulous observers of the law of Moses. Their culture, you could say, was strong. But John the Baptist is telling them — and he's telling us — that culture isn't enough.

Actions, rituals, traditions, sentiments, nostalgia — none of it matters unless it bears the fruit of a transformed heart.

It's something to remember especially as we approach Christmas, a time when culture and cultural rituals become so (beautifully) prominent. In the cultural practice of Christmas, we are like the Wise Men approaching the manger, bearing our gifts. But how terrible would it have been if the wise men had hurried away, their culture expressed, their ritual complete, and gone back to the world unchanged by the gaze of the Infant?

So be culturally Catholic. Bring these gifts to the Christ Child — but linger there. Reflect. And then when you return to the world, you will bring Catholic culture with you.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Why do we do that?

### Catholic Life Explained

#### Question:

I've heard people call Jesus' conception by the Holy Spirit being "immaculately conceived." Is that what the Immaculate Conception is?

#### Answer:

While these two events are often confused, they are not the same thing. We celebrated the conception of Jesus on March 25th, the feast of the Annunciation. While that was surely miraculous, it isn't what we refer to as the "immaculate conception." The Immaculate Conception is Mary's conception, and we typically celebrate it on December 8th. If the 8th happens to be a Sunday, the Church moves the feast to December 9th. It is a holy day of obligation. Why does the Church consider it so important to celebrate?

Mary's conception is immaculate because she was conceived without original sin. The angel Gabriel acknowledges this when he hails Mary as "full of grace" (Luke 1:28). Scripture scholars identify several theological ideas that confirm this. In the Old Testament, the sacred, pristine Ark of the Covenant held the presence of God. The presence of God is now held within a new "ark" — the womb of Mary. Genesis 3 also prophesies of a woman who would oppose the devil and whose child would crush the devil's head. Christ is the "New Adam." This passage sets up Mary, then, as the "New Eve." Jesus and Mary are the beginnings of a new creation, one we all can participate in through the grace of our baptism. After all, God's love is more "original" than our sin!



John the Baptist appeared...saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: A voice of one crying out in the desert, *Prepare the way of the Lord.*

- Mt 3:1a, 2-3b

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## Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

### First Reading:

Isaiah foresaw God's future when the world will be ruled by a new and ideal 'King David' ("a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse") and the earth will be filled with knowledge of the Lord. What do you hope for in your future?

### Second Reading:

Paul encouraged the community of believers in Rome to be in harmony with each other in thought and mind. Are there relationships in your life you consider to be harmonious?

### Gospel:

John the Baptist taught the people to prepare for the kingdom of heaven by repenting of sins and producing "good fruit." What could you do this second week of Advent to make a positive impact?

MONDAY, DEC. 8  
8 AM ST. CELESTINE  
7 PM ST. CYPRIAN

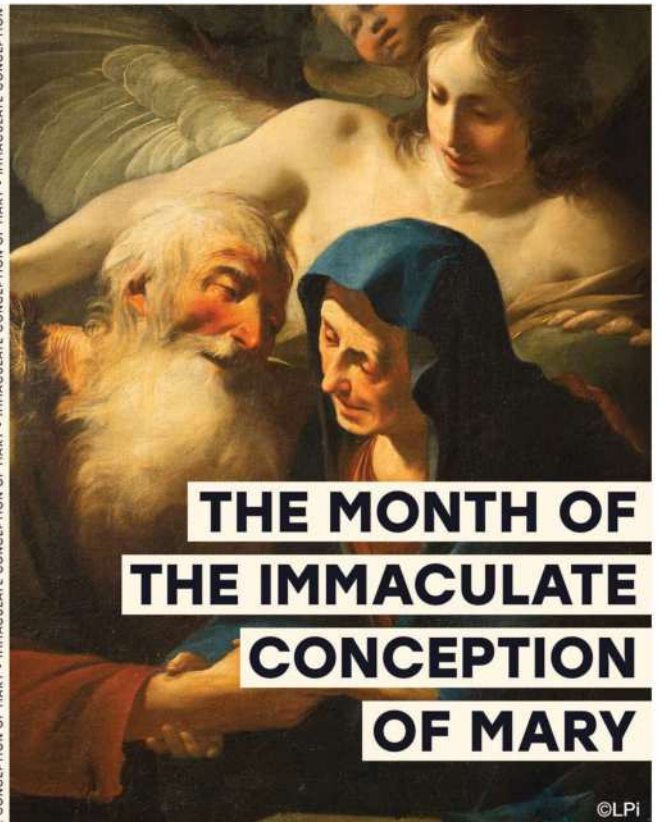
Immaculate  
Conception  
Masses

HOLY DAY OF  
OBLIGATION



DECEMBER

E CONCEPTION OF MARY • IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY • IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



THE MONTH OF  
THE IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION  
OF MARY

©LPi



# 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.

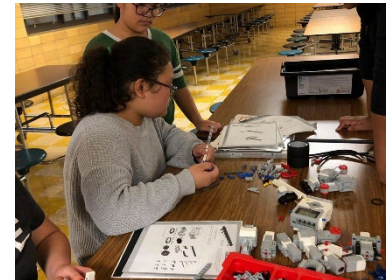
Sincerely

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

More than 80 years of Catholic School tradition.

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

**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.



Bring any parish kids to the Jingle Bell 1/2 Mile Fun Run at 2 PM on Sunday, December 14. The race starts and ends in front of St. Celestine School. Register online by December 12 at [stguerinparish.org](http://stguerinparish.org) or just show up! Hot chocolate and medals and jingle bells for all!



St. Celestine Pastoral Center Fireside Room

## ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

Bible Study with  
Fr. Stan Ilo

**WEDNESDAYS  
AT 6:30 PM**



HOLY  
BIBLE

**DECEMBER 10, 17**



We are excited to invite our Parish and School Community to the Annual Tree Trim. St. Celestine Girl Scouts, Scouting America Troop and Pack 4690, SCS Athletics, St. Celestine Parents' Club, St. Celestine School, SMTG Religious Education, SMTG Men's Club, SMTG Women's Club, and SMTG Parish Council are co-sponsoring these community events.



## SCHEDULE FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2025

<b>Toys for Tots Breakfast Tree Trimming</b>	Sunday, December 7 at 9 AM in St. Celestine's Gym Sunday, December 7 after 9 AM Mass at St. Cyprian
<b>Immaculate Conception Masses</b>	Monday, December 8 at 8 AM at St. Celestine Church; 7 PM at St. Cyprian Church
<b>Our Lady of Guadalupe Bilingual Mass</b>	Friday, December 12 at 7 PM at St. Celestine Church, reception following
<b>Tree Trimming Jingle Bell Fun Run</b>	Sunday, December 14 after 11 AM Mass at St. Celestine Sunday, December 14 at 2 PM at St. Celestine by the school entrance
<b>Reconciliation Service</b>	Monday, December 15 at 7 PM at St. Cyprian Church
<b>"Keep Christ in Christmas" Talk</b>	Tuesday, December 16 at 7 PM at St. Celestine Church with Craig Kamptner
<b>Taizé Prayer Service</b>	Wednesday, December 17 at 7 PM at St. Cyprian Church
<b>Extended Reconciliation</b>	Saturday, December 20 at 3:30 PM at St. Celestine Church with Polish-speaking priest available
<b>Simbang Gabi</b>	Saturday, December 20 at 5 PM at St. Celestine Church
<b>Christmas Masses</b>	
<b>Family Mass</b>	Wednesday, December 24 at 4 PM at St. Celestine Church
<b>Carol Singing Mass</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>Carol Singing</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
<b>Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God</b>	
	Wednesday, December 31 at 4 PM at St. Cyprian Church
	Thursday, January 1 at 9 AM at St. Celestine Church



## Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena



A rosary will be prayed for 9 days to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe, ending with a bilingual mass on December 12 at 7 PM. From December 4—10, the rosary will be prayed at 7 PM at St. Celestine Church; on December 11 and 12 it will be at 6 PM. Please join us.



### MARINE LANCE CPL. NICKOLAS A. DANIELS BREAKFAST WITH SANTA TOY DRIVE

Sponsored by:  
Elmwood Park Neighborhood Civic Organization

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025  
9:00AM - 12:00PM**

**St. Celestine School - Front Entrance  
3017 N. 77<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Elmwood Park, IL 60707**

- Please bring an unwrapped toy for a boy or girl - \$10 limit per toy
- Non-perishable food items collected by your visit with Santa
- Breakfast and photo with Santa
- Send Holiday Cards to Military members
- Send a Letter to Santa
- Enjoy Arts and Crafts

**Live Entertainment:**  
Turning Point Dance Studio  
Hugo's Elvis - Tribute Artist



Compliments of the following organizations



## Giving Tree

We will be collecting gift cards from Jewel, WalMart, and Target to give to people in need in our parish and in Elmwood Park and River Grove. We are also asking for new store-bought or handmade hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves to help a local school in need. You are welcome to write a check payable to St. Mother Guerin parish or give cash and we will purchase the cards for you. You can drop these in the collection basket or bring to the office. We will collect through December 14.

Thank you for your generosity!



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	Dorothy Vessini
Dorota Gondek	Sr. Louise Noesen	Judy Virgilio
Peter Gonzalez	Brendan O'Brien	Robert Virnich
Cynthia Guillen	Sherry Olsen	Lillian Wardzala
Lorry Hartnett	Carolyn Paprocki	Jim Waterloo
Grace Hensley	Adrienne Pudlo	Jim Wazorick
Karl Humowiecki	Betty Quartello	Sue Weber
Renee Iman	Sr. Rita Mae	Joshua Wilmes
Kathy Johl	Rabito	Tamycka Ortega Zapata
Adele Johnson	Aida Rivera	Nicholas Zych
Lisa Kostrzeski	Austin Rose	*recently added

Faithful Departed

Lana Patterson	Judy Kaner	Ceal Mueller
Richard Saia	Anthony Ventura	Maisy Capri Gillespie

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for December 7, 2025  
Matthew 3:1-12

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle A: the appearance of John the Baptist. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

BAPTIST	JUDEA	HEAVEN
A VOICE	THE WAY	PATHS
CAMEL'S HAIR	SINS	BROOD
VIPERS	ABRAHAM	CHILDREN
TREES	CUT DOWN	FIRE
WATER	MIGHTIER	SANDALS
WHEAT	CHAFF	BURN

THE BAPTIST

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

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Luis N. Burciaga	Army
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



## Parish Weekly Events

### Sunday, December 7

9 AM ST CEL Toys for Tots in the GYM and Annex  
 10 AM ST CYP Tree Trimming after 9 AM Mass  
 7 PM ST CEL OLG Novena in the Chapel

### Monday, December 8

8 AM ST CEL Immaculate Conception Mass  
 5:30 PM ST CEL Troop 47130 in the Annex  
 6 PM ST CEL Lion, Tiger, and Wolf in the Lower Mtg. Rm.  
 7 PM ST CEL OLG Novena in the Chapel  
 7 PM ST CYP Immaculate Conception Mass

### Tuesday, December 9

6:30 PM ST CEL Knights of Columbus in the Annex  
 7 PM ST CYP Teen OCIA in the Rectory  
 7 PM ST CEL OLG Novena in the Chapel

### Wednesday, December 10

6 PM ST CEL Troop Committee in the Lower Mtg. Rm.  
 6:30 PM ST CEL Fr. Stan's Bible Study in the Fireside Room

### Thursday, December 11

4 PM ST CEL Food Pantry  
 4 PM ST CEL Troop 45488 in the Annex  
 5 PM ST CEL Troop 47362 in the Annex  
 6 PM ST CEL OLG Novena in the Chapel  
 6:30 PM ST CEL Good Grief in the Fireside Room  
 7 PM ST CEL Women's Club in the Annex  
 7 PM ST CYP OCIA in the Rectory

### Friday, December 12

6 PM ST CEL Pack Night in the Lunchroom  
 6 PM ST CEL OLG Novena in the Chapel  
 7 PM ST CEL OLG Bilingual Mass  
 8 PM ST CEL OLG Reception in the Annex and Gym

### Saturday, December 13

9:30 AM ST CEL Religious Education in the School  
 10 AM ST CEL Special Religious Ed in the Gym and Annex  
 2 PM ST CEL Butter Braid Pick up in the Annex

### Sunday, December 14

12 PM ST CEL Tree Trimming after 11 AM Mass  
 2 PM ST CEL Jingle Bell Fun Run in front of the School

## Save the Dates!

- December 10 and 17 at 6:30 PM at St. Celestine: **Bible Study with Fr. Stan**
- December 12 at 7 PM at St. Celestine: **Our Lady of Guadalupe Bilingual Mass**
- December 14 noon at St. Celestine: Christmas **Tree Trim**
- December 14 at 2 PM in front of school: **Jingle Bell Fun Run**
- December 15 at 7 PM at St. Cyprian: **Reconciliation**
- December 16 at 7 PM at St. Celestine: **Advent Talk** with Craig Kamptner
- December 17 at 7 PM at St. Cyprian: **Taizé Prayer**
- December 17 at 7 PM at St. Celestine: **Rosary**
- December 20 at 5 PM at St. Celestine Church: **Simbang Gabi**
- 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**

## Liturgical Ministers

### Saturday, December 13

#### 4 PM St. Cyprian

Altar Servers	Isaac M.	Diego M.
Lector	Lois DeFelice	
Eucharistic Ministers	Anna Petras	Ruben Monterroso

#### 5 PM St. Celestine

Altar Server	Macaria T.	
Lector	Nick Kaspar	
Eucharistic Ministers	Ann Giannini	Mary Joost
	Bob Mitchell, O.F.S.	Carol Gutkowski
	Patricia Rinella	Bob Broz
	Barbara Miller	

### Sunday, December 14

#### 7:30 AM St. Celestine

Altar Servers	Jazmin G.	Yasleen G.
Lector	Michelle Doyle	
Eucharistic Ministers	Jeanne Chouloute	Mikenna Doyle
	Maria Mojek	Florence Smith
	Mary Kay Macchione	Larry Skelly

#### 9 AM St. Cyprian

Altar Servers	David D., Marco D., Matthew D.
Lector	Bonnie Billa
Eucharistic Minister	Daniel LaCour

#### 11 AM St. Celestine

Altar Servers	Robert O., Nickolas F., Isabel N.
Lector	Jackie Schweitzer
Eucharistic Ministers	Sheila Klich
	Mary Princivalli
	Charlie Roy
	Leonora Palattao
	Lena Roy
	Michael Wittrock

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St Mother Theodore Guerin, Chicago, IL

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# St. Mother Theodore Guerin Parish

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

### Deacons

**Michael DeLarco** 708-453-2555 x5031  
Call Deacon Mike to schedule a wedding.  
**Rolando Merced** 708-453-2555  
[rmerced@archchicago.org](mailto:rmerced@archchicago.org)

### 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.

### Staff

**Laurie DePillo**, Business Manager  
[lauriedepillo@stguerinparish.org](mailto:lauriedepillo@stguerinparish.org) 708-453-2555 x5015  
**Lynn Schmidt**, Administrative Assistant  
[lschmidt@stguerinparish.org](mailto:lschmidt@stguerinparish.org) 708-453-2555 x5010  
**Andrea Mayer**, Receptionist  
[amayer@archchicago.org](mailto:amayer@archchicago.org) 708-453-2555 x5010

**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

