



ST. MOTHER THEODORE GUERIN PARISH

St. Celestine and St. Cyprian Churches

stguerinparish.org



February 22, 2026

FASTED FOR 40 DAYS.

— MATTHEW 4:2 —

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

©LPI

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, February 21

4 PM ST. CYPRIAN

+Carl and +Rose Rossi
+Nery Rodriguez
+Joseph Sweeney
5 PM ST. CELESTINE
+Eddie Mizejewski
+Anne McCarthy, Birthday
+John Laxamana

Sunday, February 22

7:30 AM ST. CELESTINE

+Richard G. Bradkowski, Birthday

9 AM ST. CYPRIAN

+Joseph and +Stella Halinski
+Geraldine Lustró
11 AM ST. CELESTINE
+Roman and +Anna Romanyuk
+Frank and +Adrienne Pudlo
+Janina and +Josef Zagulski, Anniversary
+Anna Slowinska, Anniversary
+Maria Lis, Anniversary
+Carmen DePillo, Anniversary
+Tony Flando, Birthday
+Frank McGuire, Birthday
+Joyce P. Smith

Monday, February 23

8 AM ST. CELESTINE

+Pat Brand
+Mia Juliet Scola, 16th Anniversary
+Joseph F. Bradkowski, 28th Anniversary

Tuesday, February 24

8 AM ST. CYPRIAN

People of the Parish

Bulletin Deadlines

Please send information to Kim at
khagerty@stguerinparish.org.

March 8 is due on Wednesday,
February 25 at 9 AM

March 15 is due on Wednesday,
March 4 at 9 AM

March 22 is due on Wednesday,
March 11 at 9 AM

Wednesday, February 25

8 AM ST. CELESTINE

+Arnold and +Catherine Carlstrom

Thursday, February 26

8 AM ST. CYPRIAN

People of the Parish

Friday, February 27

8 AM ST. CELESTINE

+Fr. Bernard White

Saturday, February 28

4 PM ST. CYPRIAN

+Carl and +Rose Rossi

+Nery Rodriguez

5 PM ST. CELESTINE

People of the Parish

Sunday, March 1

7:30 AM ST. CELESTINE

Faithful Departed

9 AM ST. CYPRIAN

People of the Parish

11 AM ST. CELESTINE

+Roman and +Anna Romanyuk

+Frank and +Adrienne Pudlo

+Michael Campbell, Anniversary

Need help? Many services are provided
by **Catholic Charities**. Call **312-655-
7700** or go to **catholiccharities.net**.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse
1-833-234-6343

Child Abuse
1-800-422-4523

National Domestic Violence
1-800-603-4357

Sexual Assault
1-888-293-2080

Problem Gambling Hotline
1-800-522-4700

Poison Control
1-800-222-1222

Suicide Prevention
Call or text 988

Elder Abuse
1-855-800-1409
www.AddictionResource.net
1-844-597-0006



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.

Prayer for Our Journey

Please pray for one another.

Let us embrace the future with the credo of Love, Communion and Mission, trusting that God provides and that the seeds we plant today will bear fruit for generations to come.

Lord Jesus, unite us in Love,
Communion, and Mission.

Comfort all who grieve parish changes, strengthen our clergy and leaders, and make our communities generous in welcome.

May the seeds we plant today bear abundant fruit for generations.

In Christ our Life. Amen.

From the Pastor's Desk: Father Paul Cao

Dear Parishioners of St. Mother Theodore Guerin,

Following a six-month extensive study and review of our parish buildings, finances, and resources, it has been decided that St. Cyprian Church will end regular Sunday Masses sometime in June of this year. This decision was announced at a Town Hall Meeting at St. Cyprian on February 7, 2026.

The decision to close a church is never taken lightly. It is the result

of long periods of consultation, prayer, and study by our local Multi Site Review Team and the Archdiocese. These difficult decisions are necessitated in part by changing demographics, lower attendance at mass, fewer priests available for ministry, the costly upkeep and repairs needed for the aging buildings, and the need to steward our resources to best support evangelization and our mission to be disciples of Jesus.

We know that this news brings pain and sadness. It is, however, a necessary step to secure the future of Catholic ministry in our area. I ask for your prayers during this time of transition. Let us pray for one another, for our staff, and for a smooth transition. I trust this will build a new, stronger future together for St. Mother Theodore Guerin parish.

*In prayer,
Fr. Paul*

Reflection on Behalf of the Multi Site Review Committee

It is always hard to make decisions about letting go. As I age and realize all the treasures I have collected that my family may or may not treasure, I must begin to let things go. I have been a baptized Catholic for over 75 years and belonged to many parishes, worked in many throughout my years of service in the archdiocese. I have observed that my faith, my belief in God certainly has been nourished by all of those places and people. However, my faith is in God and not in a particular parish, building or priest. This recommendation does not come easily, but upon reviewing all we were asked to look at it seems the best direction to ensure that future generations have faith.

A lot of what we looked at was already happening prior to the decision of consolidation from Renew My Church. Decisions were often made on major repair and maintenance issues based on what bills needed to be paid or what needed to be done immediately to keep the building in use. Our Mass attendance was declining at both sites before 2016. Now, we have 5 Masses at two sites and combined attendance is less than 1000. It has leveled off and is not declining.

According to our most recent financial report we have over 2000 registered families.

Asking people to increase their offering or setting a fund to raise a certain amount of money for capital repairs to keep the buildings open and operational is just a Band-Aid and will not benefit the bigger picture of our parish. The decision to close St. Cyprian will only be delayed, not stopped.

Selling the property at St. Cyprian would give the possibility to expand our ministry to the parish, young and old alike. The few activities that remain in the rectory could easily be moved to the St. Celestine site which has many unused spaces.

Fr. Paul has done everything he could during these past 7 years to keep the site open and operational. He has also listened carefully to the advice from the committee that has been meeting these past 6 months. Now, he will need to finalize the plan with the input from the Parish Council and Finance Council before presenting it to our Vicar.

Lois DeFelice

Mother of Perpetual Help Society Devotional

We, a local Mother of Perpetual Help Society, warmly invite the parishioners of St. Mother Theodore Guerin Parish to join us for the Mother of Perpetual Help Devotional, to be held weekly in the St. Celestine chapel.

Every Tuesday, beginning on March 3, we will pray the rosary at 7 PM followed by the Mother of Perpetual Help Novena at 7:30 PM. Feel free to join us for either the rosary or the novena or both! This is a wonderful hour of prayer to offer to our Blessed Mother.

This beautiful and time-honored devotion is a peaceful opportunity to place our needs, our families, and our parish under the loving care of Our Blessed Mother. Whether you have prayed this novena for years or are new to it, all are welcome to come, pray, and find comfort, hope, and strength through Mary's intercession.

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Panzarella Konrath at panzkon@gmail.com.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life. (Gn 2:7)

Psalm:

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned. (Ps 51)

Second Reading:

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous. (Rom 5:19)

Gospel:

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

He fasted for forty days and forty nights. (Mt 4:1-2)

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

Our Lord is so humble that he allows us to see him experience temptation. The vulnerability of this moment is awesome to behold. Let us learn from Jesus' interaction with the devil, and be transformed by it. Let us say, with him: "Get away, Satan."

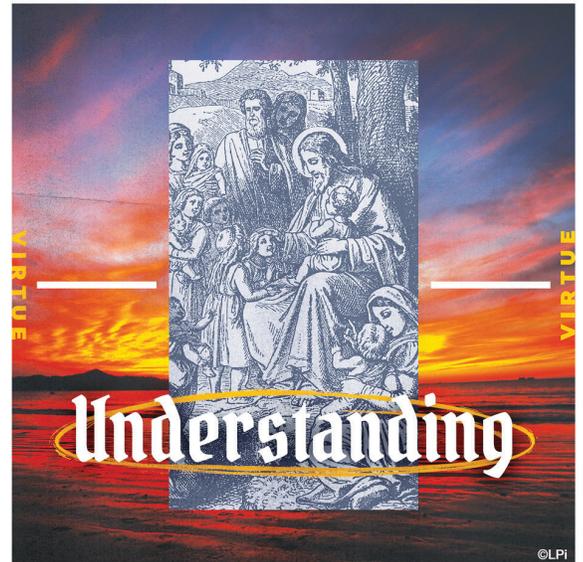
Observances for the week of February 22, 2026

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Lent

Monday: St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

Friday: St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent



Virtues, Explained!

Understanding is the "food" of faith. "I believe, in order to understand," said St. Augustine. We must constantly ask the Holy Spirit for greater and more profound understanding, for though understanding proceeds from faith, it in turn nourishes that faith.

Lenten Blessing

Bless us in Your mercy, Lord, as we enter these 40 Days of Lent. Use this time to call, anoint, bind, strengthen, and inspire us anew. Like a good shepherd, teach us Your voice, and give us the strength to follow. Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: There are many reasons why the Word became flesh. But I think one of the most important reasons must have been that God wanted to show us that He knows, intimately, how easily the devil exploits our physical experience of this world.

Into the Desert

When we first got married, I wanted to know everything my husband was thinking, exactly when he was thinking it.

Thirteen years later, I still want to know it all. But I want to know it after he's had a snack.

I think he still wants to know what I'm thinking, too. But he wants to know it after I've had 10 minutes without hearing the word, "Mommy!"

Life has taught us, you see, that it's hard to be a good person, a nice person, a gentle person, when your body doesn't feel good or nice or gentle. When you're hungry. When you're exhausted. When you're anxious.

It's not impossible, of course. It's just ... *hard*.

We're entering a penitential season, a time in which we purposefully deprive ourselves in certain ways. During Lent, we intentionally enter into the desert of physical hunger and weakness. Why, in preparation for Easter and in an effort to spiritually purify ourselves, do we go to this place where it's so *hard to be good*? Why do we go to the desert?

Because Christ has shown us that the desert is where decisions are made.

There are many reasons why the Word became flesh to accomplish God's plan for our salvation. But I think one of the most important reasons must have been that God wanted to show us that He knows, intimately, how easily the devil exploits our physical experience of this world. We see it in today's Gospel: Jesus, hungry and weary. Jesus, taunted and tempted.

We see him. We recognize him. We are him.

And we hear his voice, even though it trembles with fatigue: "Get away, Satan!"

Today, we enter the desert. Because the desert is where decisions are made.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What does Jesus mean when he talks about taking up our cross?

Answer:

Our journey of faith begins in baptism. When we are faithful to it, we find God's plan for us, his way of allowing us to participate in his saving work, which in turn becomes for us our own salvation. Stated simply, we share in the mission of Jesus each day. We live our life with all of its ups, downs, joys, and sorrows in union with the mission of Jesus. Our work then is holy. It is joined to the cross, God's will for Jesus — the way in which he destroys sin and death and makes eternal life possible. His sacrifice accomplishes what we ourselves cannot do.

To take up the cross, then, means that we share in the mission of Jesus and so embrace the sufferings of the cross. It is our daily life made holy, given a redemptive mission. It is our purpose and goal to unite our life to that of Christ. St. Paul says it best, "If we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection" (Rom 6:5).

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of February 22, 2026

Sunday:

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17/
Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

Monday:

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/
Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday:

Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/
Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday:

Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/
Lk 11:29-32

Thursday:

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab,
2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12

Friday:

Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/
Mt 5:20-26

Saturday:

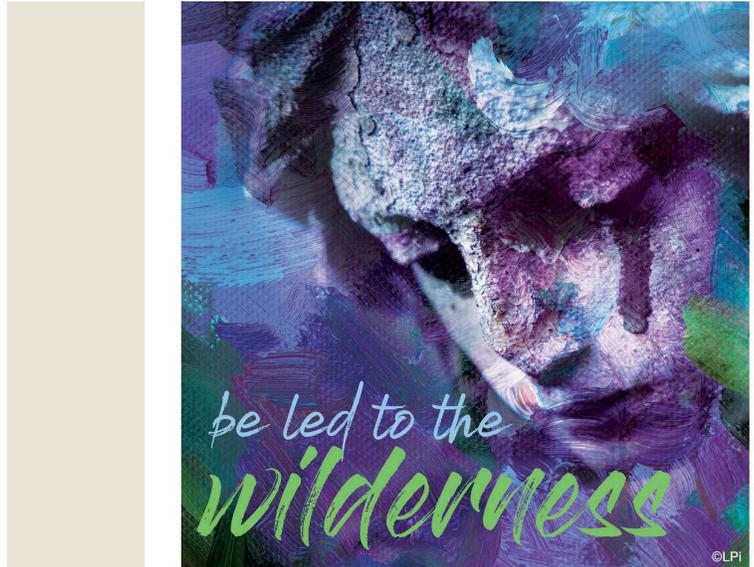
Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/
Mt 5:43-48

Next Sunday:

Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22/
2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

In my second-to-last year of seminary, I woke up one September morning to devastating news: two beloved classmates had died in a car crash. I was overwhelmed with grief and anger like I had never known. I entered therapy for the first time and had intense conversations with my spiritual director. For months I felt lost in a spiritual wilderness. But something unexpected happened: I encountered Christ there. The fear and sorrow didn't destroy me. In fact, that spiritual desert was a time of intense growth in faith.

Today's Gospel begins: **"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil" (Matthew 4:1).** The word "led" denotes a gentle, humble submission to the Spirit. Jesus does not send himself into this desolate place where wild beasts roam and Satan tempts. Who wants to be around roaming, wild beasts? The Church Fathers saw them as symbols of our inner chaos: fears, temptations, wounds. The Spirit leads us there, sometimes against our wishes. But those same Fathers also saw that this deserted place is also where angels ministered to Jesus, amidst his great trial and temptation.

Lenten Challenge: This Lent and throughout life's struggles, the Spirit leads you and me into the wilderness. Name one "desert" into which the Spirit has led you: perhaps grief, fear, silence, change, disappointment. Ask for the grace to go there willingly. The beasts may be real, but they will not harm you. There, the angels are waiting to minister to the Christ living in you, who always goes where the Spirit leads.

— *Father John Muir*

About Fr. Tom McCarthy, OSA

Fr. Tom McCarthy, OSA, will be speaking Monday and Tuesday at our Parish Mission (see page 8 of this bulletin), and you will have heard him preach at the masses this weekend. Here is some information about Fr. Tom from his website frtommmccarthy.com.

Fr. Tom is an experienced teacher, administrator, retreat director and parish mission preacher. He is a native of the South Side of Chicago. He grew up in St. Adrian Parish in Marquette Park. He received his elementary school education at St. Adrian School and high school education at St. Rita of Cascia High School. He graduated from Villanova University with a B.A. in Communication Arts. He also has a Master of Arts in Educational Administration from Lewis University.

Fr. Tom entered the Midwest Province of the Augustinian Order in 1987. After completing his novitiate, he attended Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and graduated with a Master of Divinity degree.

In 1993 he made his solemn vows as an Augustinian Friar and in 1994 he was ordained to the priesthood. He did a pastoral internship at St. Clare of Montefalco Parish in Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan, and taught theology at Providence Catholic High School in New Lenox. Fr. Tom

ministered for 21 years at St. Rita of Cascia High School in Chicago as a teacher, campus minister, Principal, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Fr. Tom ministered for nine years as the Vocation Director for the Our Mother of Good Counsel (Midwest) and five years for St. Thomas of Villanova (Eastern) Province.

Fr. Tom spent two years as the Augustinian Advisor to the Office of First—and Second—Year Initiatives—Office of Student Life at Villanova University.

Fr. Tom ministered in Rome as part of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization where he was named a Papal Missionary of Mercy by Pope Francis in 2018. He spent two years as the Director of the Augustinian Marylake Shrine in King City, Ontario, and the Prior of the Marylake Augustinian Monastery.

Fr. Tom is currently in his 14th year as Vocation Director for the Midwest Province and is the Director of St. Rita of Cascia Shrine Chapel in Chicago, Illinois. Father Tom is also the Prior of the Pre—Novitiate Community of St. Clare of Montefalco Friary in Chicago.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays at 7 PM
February 27 at St. Celestine
March 6 at St. Cyprian
March 13 at St. Celestine
March 20 at St. Cyprian
March 27 at St. Celestine

Stewardship

January

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Sunday envelopes | \$27,889 |
| Electronic giving | \$ 5,689 |
| Total: | \$33,578 |

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank You from Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council would like to thank everyone who attended our Bingo Night on January 30. We would also like to thank Eric Mueller, Laurie DePillo, Lynn Schmidt, Kim Hagerty, the Men's Club and all the wonderful parent volunteers for helping to make this event a success!

PARISH MISSION

with Fr. Tom McCarthy, OSA



"OUR RESTLESS JOURNEY"

Fr. Tom is

- ✓ Prior-Provincial Elect of the Augustinians
- ✓ South-sider graduate of St. Rita
- ✓ Teacher, retreat director, preacher
- ✓ Well-known for his talks and retreats
- ✓ Preaches the love and mercy of Jesus

Monday February 23
Tuesday, February 24

7 PM at St. Celestine Church

3020 N. 76th Ct., Elmwood Park, Illinois



St. Augustine said: "You have made us for Yourself and our hearts are restless until they rest in You." We are on a constant "restless" journey towards God, united in mind and in heart. Am I fighting or embracing the journey?



Fish Fry February 27

We will have a parish Fish Fry on Friday, February 27 from 5 to 7 PM in the Annex and Gym at St. Celestine.

Dinner includes fried fish, tartar sauce, french fries, coleslaw, a roll and butter, coffee, and dessert. Door Prizes and Raffles. Pizza will also be available by the slice. Assorted cold drinks and beer and wine will be available for purchase. To go containers will also be available.

Adults: \$15

Students: \$7 (half portions and dessert).

BAKERS NEEDED:

We will need baked goods for the desserts. Please drop them off at the Pastoral Center on the Thursday before the dinners. We also need: 12 oz. cans of Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, Diet Sprite and 16–20 oz. bottled water. Cash or checks made out to St. Mother Guerin Parish are helpful for purchasing the paper supplies we will need.

The next Fish Fry will take place on Friday, March 13 with a Pasta Dinner on Friday, March 27 from 5 to 7 PM in the gym and annex of St. Celestine.

Thank you so much!

**FISH FRY
FEBRUARY 27 AND
MARCH 13 5-7 PM**

St. Celestine Gym and Annex

Adults \$15
\$7 for students

Fish, fries,
cole slaw, roll, coffee
and dessert. Pizza
available by the slice

Book Discussion Continues February 25

We will return to discussing Fr. Stan Ilo's book, *Someone Beautiful to God: Finding the Light of Faith in a Wounded World* on Wednesday, February 25 at 6:30 PM in the Fireside Room at St. Celestine.

We do have extra books at the the Pastoral Center if you want to read it on your own. They are available for \$20.

Fr. Stan invites us to consider three central spiritual insights: Who are you? Where are you headed in life? And how can you find healing from pain and wounds? He offers a Christian vision for looking at the gift and value of life as well as resources, daily spiritual practices, for living a life of beauty and purpose.

We are so blessed to have Fr. Stan as a resident priest here between his many jobs! He is an author, a Professor at DePaul University, and will be teaching in Rome during Lent.

We will be discussing Chapter 3 on February 25.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Anthony De Padua Council #1949
49'ers Group

SPONSORS

THE 71st ANNUAL CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER

SUNDAY March 1, 2026

St. Celestine Annex (off Parking Lot)
(Catered by Harrington's)
3020 N. 76th Court
Elmwood Park, IL 60707

DOORS OPEN 2:00PM – DINNER SERVED AT 3:00 PM

MUSIC - Raffles - SPLIT THE POT

TICKET PRICE – \$55.00

CONTACT WALT GALIGA @ 773-230-2818 for Reservations

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY FEBRUARY 23, 2026

**NOTE: CHICKEN DINNER IS AVAILABLE IN LIEU OF CORNED BEEF
PLEASE ADVISE WHEN PAYING FOR TICKETS**

Checks made Payable to: 49'er Group - Mail to Walt Galiga -5340 W Pensacola Ave Chicago, IL 60641-1308

**PLEASE BRING A DONATION FOR THE RAFFLE!
A WEBER GAS GRIDDLE WILL BE RAFFLED !!!!!!!!!!!!!**



“SOUPS ON!”

Don't Forget Ladies ...
St. Mother Guerin Women's Club Meeting
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026 – 7 PM
 Annex of St. Celestine ~ Doors open at 6:30 pm

“SOUPS ON!”
 Enjoy some soup and/or chili from our member chefs
 While we discuss upcoming club events

Come out of the cold - Hope to See You!

From the Archdiocese:

St. Mother Theodore Guerin parish is on a journey to know, love, and serve Christ in our parish community. Together we must embrace Christ's vision for missionary discipleship so our parish can thrive and be a place for others to grow together in faith. This process involves assessing our greatest strengths and opportunities, and that is where the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) comes in. The DMI is a survey tool that invites you to reflect on your discipleship journey here at St. Mother Guerin.

The 10–15–minute survey can be accessed through an online link on the website, stguerinparish.org, or through this one: <https://portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/p57dg8> starting February 18 and will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide your perspective on our parish's efforts to help you grow in relationship with Christ. All responses will be confidential, and the parish will only receive information about the community as a whole. Paper surveys will also be available for those who do not have the ability to complete the survey online.

Together we must embrace Christ's vision for missionary discipleship so our parish can thrive and be a place for others to grow together in faith.

Thank you for helping with this important project and please continue to pray for this intention and for the growth and protection of our parish.

Welcome all Ladies - **WHITE ELEPHANT BINGO**



Celebrating the Chinese “Year of the Horse”
 Sunday, April 12, 2026
 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM St. Celestine's Annex / Gym
 \$ 20.00 per person

\$ 20.00 includes: Meal, non-alcoholic beverages, dessert and BINGO.

Meal Options: 1 – Beef and Broccoli with fried rice and egg roll
 2 – Chicken Kow (mixed veggies) with fried rice and egg roll
 3 – Vegetarian (all vegetables) with white rice and egg roll



Bring your **White Elephant Gift** wrapped or hidden in a gift bag.
 Gift must be worth minimum of \$5; new or gently used
 Ask yourself: “Is this something I would like to get?”
 Any extra gifts you bring will earn you an extra bingo card for each gift.

Bring some cash – “Race to the Finish” countdown \$5 per ticket
 Last 3 tickets pulled win the cash prizes
 Split the deck games \$2 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$5 - throughout the event

Purchase your tickets soon! No tickets sold after March 27. Get your tickets at the Women's Club meetings on 2/26 or 3/26, at the Pastoral Center, or by contacting Darlene at 708–805–2639. This event is sponsored by the St. Mother Guerin Parish Women's Club.

Vases for a Mission

This is a great time to get rid of your unwanted vases...
 (Any size, any shape, any color)

The Women's Club will be collecting vases at each of the worship sites. The money collected from Quasthoff's for the vases will then be donated to the

Daughters of the Sacred Heart School in Tanzania
 A Mission school sponsored by
 Fr. Fil Ngwila

Thank You for Helping us – Help the Mission!





STATIONS OF THE CROSS Fridays at 7 PM
 February 27 at St. Celestine
 March 6 at St. Cyprian
 March 13 at St. Celestine
 March 20 at St. Cyprian
 March 27 at St. Celestine

MISSION Monday and Tuesday, February 23 and 24 at
 7 PM at St. Celestine with Fr. Tom McCarthy,
 O.S.A.

LENTEN DINNERS Fridays at 5 PM at St. Celestine
 February 27, March 13, and March 27

HOLY WEEK

LABYRINTH March 29—April 3 in the Gym and Annex at
 St. Celestine from Palm Sunday—Good Friday.
 Palm Sunday, March 29, Noon—5 PM; March
 30—April 2: 4—9 PM, and April 3, Good Friday
 9 AM—9 PM

Monday, March 30
 7 PM Parish Reconciliation Service at St. Celestine

Wednesday, April 1
 7 PM Taizé Prayer at St. Cyprian

Holy Thursday, April 2
 8 AM Morning Prayer at St. Cyprian
 7 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper at
 St. Celestine, followed by Church Visits

Good Friday, April 3
 8 AM Morning Prayer at St. Celestine
 3 PM Service at St. Cyprian
 7 PM Shadow Stations at St. Celestine

Holy Saturday, April 4
 8 AM Morning Prayer at St. Cyprian
 11 AM Easter Basket Blessing at St. Cyprian
 Noon Easter Basket Blessing at St. Celestine
 7:30 PM Easter Vigil at St. Celestine

EASTER SUNDAY, April 5 Masses
 7:30 AM at St. Celestine
 9 AM at St. Cyprian
 11 AM at St. Celestine
 11:30 AM at St. Cyprian



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, Michael Binder, Jacqueline Boshell, Julie Boyce, Edward Bray, Sue Brink, Brian Cunningham, Ellison Deehr, Elene Dimperio, Cathy Downing King, Eleanor, Tom Ferguson, Tammy Garcia, Maciej Gondek, Dorota Gondek, Lorry Hartnett, Grace Hensley, Karl Humowiecki, Kathy Johl, Adele Johnson, Lisa Kostrzeski, Justine Kucera, Robert Kucera, Larry Lemanski, Bart Masi, Kathy Mooney, George Moskaliuk, Sandra Moskaliuk, Efrem Munoz, Martha Munoz, James Nasti, Larry Nestor, Ron Nichols, Sr. Louise Noesen, Carolyn Paprocki, Sr. Rita Mae Rabbitoy, Lucia Ramirez, Aida Rivera, Sarah Rotolo, Kathy Sassolino, Morgan Schlanger, Joseph Serwa, John Sheahan, Mary Skelly, Sue, Brian Swatek, Colleen Schlanger Thomas, Donna Toriani, Judy Virgilio, Robert Virnich, Lillian Wardzala, Jim Waterloo, Jim Wazorick, Danyll Wolcotte, Nicholas Zych

*recently added

Faithful Departed

Joseph Morgan, Sr.

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; 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

Save the Dates!

- Monday, February 23 and Tuesday, February 24: 7 PM at St. Celestine Church, **Parish Mission with Fr. Tom McCarthy, OSA**
- Friday February 27 5—7 PM at St. Celestine: **Fish Fry**
- Friday, March 13 5—7 PM at St. Celestine: **Fish Fry**
- Friday, March 27 5—7 PM at St. Celestine: **Pasta Dinner**
- Sunday, April 5: **Easter Sunday**
- Friday, April 24: **Bingo** in the gym at St. Celestine
- Monday, June 8: **Golf Outing at White Pines**
- June 7—12: **Totus Tuus**

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for February 22, 2026

Matthew 4:1-11

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the First Sunday in Lent, Cycle A: Jesus's challenge against the tempter. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| BY THE SPIRIT | BE TEMPTED | FASTED |
| FORTY DAYS | HUNGRY | TEMPTER |
| SON OF GOD | THESE STONES | BREAD |
| IT IS WRITTEN | MOUTH | HOLY CITY |
| COMMAND | ANGELS | HANDS |
| DASH | STONE | TEST |
| WORSHIP ME | SATAN | SERVE |

FORTY BEGINS

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

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Parish Weekly Events

Sunday, February 22

12 PM ST CEL Scouts Blue and Gold Event in the Gym and Annex

Monday, February 23

5 PM ST CEL Troop 47219 in the Annex
7 PM ST CEL Parish Mission with Fr. Tom McCarthy, OSA in the Church

Tuesday, February 24

7 PM ST CEL Parish Mission with Fr. Tom McCarthy, OSA in the Church
7 PM ST CYP Teen OCIA in the Rectory

Wednesday, February 25

6 PM ST CEL Troop Meetings in the Lunchroom
6:30 PM ST CEL Book Study in the Fireside Room

Thursday, February 26

6 PM ST CYP OCIA in the Rectory
7 PM ST CEL Women's Club in the Annex

Friday, February 27

5 PM ST CEL Lenten Dinner in the Gym and Annex
7 PM ST CEL Stations of the Cross in the Church

Saturday, February 28

10 AM ST CEL Special Religious Education in the Gym and Annex

Sunday, March 1

12 PM ST CEL Knights of Columbus Corned Beef Dinner in the Annex and Gym



Victoria was very excited about her February Baptism!

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, February 28

4 PM St. Cyprian

Presider Fr. Paul Cao
Altar Servers Isaac M., Diego M.
Lector Karen Moretti
Eucharistic Ministers John P. Madden, Ruben Monterroso

5 PM St. Celestine

Presider Fr. Paul Eruva
Altar Server Evan V., Elijah V., Peighton V., Axel R.
Lector Bob Mitchell, O.F.S.
Eucharistic Ministers Barbara Miller, Maryann Dibari, Mary Joost, Bob Broz, Peggy O'Donnell, Tom Lepore, Patricia Rinella

Sunday, March 1

7:30 AM St. Celestine

Altar Servers Jazmin G., Yasleen G., Joseph K.
Lector TBA
Eucharistic Ministers Minnie Reillo, Mary Kay Macchione, Bill Lesch, Michelle Doyle, Maria Mojek, Ken Doyle

9 AM St. Cyprian

Altar Servers David D., Marco D., Matthew D.
Lector Gissell Araujo
Eucharistic Minister Michael Wittrock,

11 AM St. Celestine

Altar Servers Sarah P., Macaria T., Lorenzo T., Cecelia, Lucas
Lector Josephat Urytskyy
Eucharistic Ministers Jeanne Chouloute, Debra DeSalvo, Sandra Mazzeffi, Paulette Maraviglia, Ray Maraviglia, Greg Derlacki

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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

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 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 708-453-2555 x5029
Rev. Paul Eruva, Associate Pastor 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

Deacons

Michael DeLarco 708-453-2555 x5031
Call Deacon Mike to schedule a wedding.
Rolando Merced 708-453-2555
rmerced@archchicago.org

Staff

Laurie DePillo, Business Manager
lauriedepillo@stguerinparish.org 708-453-2555 x5015
Lynn Schmidt, Administrative Assistant
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Andrea Mayer, Receptionist
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Ruthanne Swiatkowski, Director of Lifelong Faith Formation
rswiatkowski@stguerinparish.org 708-453-2555 x5017

Craig Kamptner, Director of Music Ministry
ckamptner@stcelestineschool.org 708-453-2555 x5016
Kim Hagerty, Director of Evangelization and Bulletin Editor
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
Lois DeFelice, Ministry of Care 708-453-2555
loisdefelice@gmail.com
Food Pantry 708-453-2555
Michelle Doyle, Coordinator mdoyle@stcelestineschool.org
The Food Pantry opens from 4 to 6 PM on two Thursdays each month. Check Weekly Events in the bulletin or stguerinparish.org for dates.

St. Celestine School 708-453-8234

3017 North 77th Avenue, Elmwood Park, Illinois 60707
Sheila Klich, Principal sklich@stcelestineschool.org
Jennifer Ebervein, Secretary
Nicole Nayder, Financial Secretary

