

ST. MOTHER THEODORE GUERIN PARISH



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."

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

3020 North 76th Court, Elmwood Park, Illinois 60707
708-453-2555 stguerinparish.org

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS (through August 23)

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

MASSES Monday through Friday 8 AM

Saturday Mass 4:30 PM (Reconciliation 3:30 PM)

Sunday Masses 7:30, 9, and 11 AM

ST. CELESTINE SCHOOL

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

Mass Intentions

- 4:30 PM Saturday, July 18**
 +Carl and +Rose Rossi
 +Nery Rodriguez
 +Robert Larsen
 +Ernest Vlcek
 +Frances Ziaja, Anniversary
- 7:30 AM Sunday, July 19**
 People of the Parish
- 9 AM**
 +Harace Lee
 +Joseph Morgan, Sr.
- 11 AM**
 +Frank and John Kucera
 +Kay Falcone
 +Roman and +Anna Romanyuk
 +Angelina Alongi
- 8 AM Monday, July 20**
 +Gerard Penczak
- 8 AM Tuesday, July 21**
 +Angelina Alongi, Birthday
- 8 AM Wednesday, July 22**
 +Suzanne Corcoran
 +Jack Doyle
 +Bill Karlovitz, Birthday
- 8 AM Thursday, July 23**
 +Jimmy Secreto, Birthday
- 8 AM Friday, July 24**
 +Gerry Peterson, Birthday
 +Fr. Bernard White, 100th Birthday
 +Pasquale Vena, Anniversary
- 1 PM Saturday, July 25**
 Sayra Albarran, Quinceañera
- 4:30 PM**
 +Carl and +Rose Rossi
 +Nery Rodriguez
 +Robert Gutkowski, Birthday
 +Joseph Sweeney
 +Alfonso Bruno, Birthday
- 7:30 AM Sunday, July 26**
 People of the Parish
- 9 AM**
 +Geraldine Lustro
 +Joseph Morgan, Sr.
- 11 AM**
 +Cora Dal Cerro, 1st Anniversary
 +Marie McGuire, Birthday
 +Frank and +John Kucera
 +Roman and +Anna Romanyuk

Fake emails

It's that time again, when scammers attempt to get money and gift cards from you. The scammers can be very sophisticated and they fool a lot of people! Fr. Ton, Fr. Paul, and the rest of the staff will never send you an email asking for money or gift cards. Our emails come from stguerinparish.org. If you receive a message and are unsure if it's true, please call the office at 708-453-2555.

Liturgical Ministers

- Saturday, July 25**
4:30 PM
 Presider Fr. Ton Nguyen
 Servers Robert O., Evan V., Elijah V., Peighton V.
 Lector Brad Wdowiak
 E.Ms. Mike Miller, Pat Strabley, Barbara Miller, Patricia Rinella, Peggy O'Donnell, Anna Petras
- Sunday, July 26**
7:30 AM
 Presider Fr. Ton Nguyen
 Server Joseph K., Jasmin G., Yasleen G
 Lector Andy Johnson
 E.Ms. Minnie Reillo, Mary Kay Macchione, Bill Lesch, Maria Mojek, Tina Krzysko, Ken Doyle
- 9 AM**
 Presider Fr. Stan Ilo
 Server Nickolas F.
 Lector Betty Blonski
 E.Ms. Maryann Dibari, Daniel LaCour, Joanne Koziol, Michael Wittrock, Lois DeFelice, Mary Graf
- 11 AM**
 Presider TBA
 Servers Amelia H., Sarah P., Macaria T., Lorenzo T.
 Lector Danny Hesslau
 E.Ms. Greg Derlacki, Leonora Palattao, Skip Marcucci, Kathy Iversen-Jaroch, Lena Roy, Charlie Roy

Parish Weekly Events

- Sunday, July 19**
 11 AM Thank You Blessing for Sr. Johanna Trembl
- Tuesday, July 21**
 7 PM Mother of Perpetual Help Devotion in the Chapel

Parish Weekly Events

We will be collecting for the parish Food Pantry at the Parish Picnic on July 26. Please bring non-perishable food items and put them in the Food Pantry Barrel in the shelter that day.

Thank you for your generosity.

Save the Date

- Sunday, July 19: 11 AM Mass Thank You **Blessing for Sr. Johanna Trembl**
- Sunday, July 26: 10 AM **Parish Picnic and 11 AM Mass** at Evans Field in River Grove
- Tuesday, August 4: 4—7 PM **Organization Day** at the School
- Sunday, August 9: Blessings for **College Students**
- Sunday, August 16: **Return to School Blessings, Backpack Blessing** at 11 AM Mass
- Thursday, August 20 **St. Celestine School** begins
- Sunday, September 6: **Grandparents Blessings** at all Masses
- Saturday, September 12 4—9 PM **Parish Taste**
- Sunday, September 20: **Catechetical Sunday**
- Sunday, October 25 **Craft Fair** 8:30 AM in the Gym and Annex
- Tuesday, November 17: Watch **The Chosen Season 6** after 8 AM Mass on Tuesdays

Bulletin Deadlines

Please send information to Kim at khagerty@stguerinparish.org.
August 2 is due on Wednesday, July 22 at 9 AM
August 9 is due on Wednesday, July 29 at 9 AM

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

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 1-800-422-4523

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 1-800-603-4357

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 1-888-293-2080

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 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

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

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tnguyen@stguerinparish.org

Rev. Paul Eruva, Associate Pastor x5013

Rev. Eugene Gratkowski, Pastor Emeritus, St. Cyprian

Rev. Fil Ngwila, **Rev. Stan Ilo**, **Rev. Kenneth Ekekwe**,
Priests-in-Residence

Deacon Michael DeLarco x5031

mdelarco@archchicago.org

Deacon Rolando Merced rmerced@archchicago.org

Summer Office Hours (through August 23):

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

Laurie DePillo, Business Manager x5015

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khagerty@stguerinparish.org x5012

Eric Mueller and **Bob Vessini**, Maintenance

Mary Murphy, Coordinator of Religious Education for
Children and Adults with Special Needs
murphyme2000@gmail.com

Lois DeFelice, Ministry of Care
loisdefelice@gmail.com

Michelle Doyle, Food Pantry

mdoyle@stcelestineschool.org. Open 4—6
PM two Thursdays a month. Check
Weekly Events or website for dates.

Baptisms and Baptism Preparation Classes: Contact
Ruthanne Swiatkowski, x5017. Baptisms
are at 12:30 PM on the 2nd and 4th
Sundays of the month. Class held on the 1st
Wednesday of each month at 7 PM.

Masses and Reconciliation: see cover.

Weddings: Please call a year in advance of preferred
date and talk to Deacon Mike DeLarco
before a wedding date can be reserved.
Participation in marriage preparation is
essential.

Holy Hour: First Friday of each month at 3 PM

Mother of Perpetual Help Devotional Tuesdays at 7
PM in the Chapel.

Rosary: Second Wednesday of the month at 7 PM in
the chapel and after the morning masses.

St. Celestine School 708-453-8234
3017 North 77th Avenue, Elmwood Park, IL 60707

Sheila Klich, Principal
sklich@stcelestineschool.org

Jennifer Ebervein, Secretary

Nicole Nayder, Financial Secretary

From the Administrator's Desk: Fr Ton Nguyen**God Sees Wheat Where We See Weeds**

One of the beautiful things about our Catholic faith is that while the world constantly changes, God does not. His goodness, mercy, and faithfulness remain the same yesterday, today, and forever. That is why we can hear the same Gospel year after year, yet each time God's Word speaks to us in a new and personal way. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the weeds among the wheat. When the servants discover weeds growing in the field, they immediately ask the master, "Do you want us to go and pull them up?" It is a reasonable question—and perhaps one we have all asked in one way or another. Throughout Scripture, we see this temptation. Jonah did not want to preach to the people of Nineveh because he believed they deserved God's punishment rather than His mercy. When the people repented and God forgave them, Jonah became angry because he knew God was "gracious and merciful, slow to anger, rich in clemency, and loath to punish." (Oh—That's why he ran away from that mission). James and John reacted similarly when a Samaritan village refused to welcome Jesus. They asked, "Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?" Jesus, however, rebuked them. His mission was not to destroy but to save.



Perhaps we recognize this temptation in our own lives. We may think, "That person doesn't deserve another chance," or "I can never forgive what was done." Sometimes we even judge ourselves more harshly than God does, believing that our own failures place us beyond His mercy. Yet Jesus teaches us something different. God sees opportunities where we see failures. He sees wheat where we see weeds. His desire is always conversion before condemnation, mercy before judgment.

St. Mary Magdalene beautifully illustrates this truth. Once known for her sinful past, she encountered the mercy of Christ, and everything changed. She became one of His most faithful disciples, remained at the foot of the Cross, and was the first witness to the Resurrection. What others may have considered a weed, God transformed into a saint.

That is why Jesus immediately follows the parable of the weeds with the images of the mustard seed and the yeast. God's kingdom often begins in small, hidden ways. A single act of forgiveness, a quiet prayer, a word of encouragement, or a humble act of charity can become the seed from which great holiness grows.

This week, let us resist the temptation to judge too quickly. Instead, let us ask the Lord to make us instruments of His patience and mercy. May we become the mustard seed that brings hope, the yeast that leavens the world with the Gospel, and the faithful disciples who trust that God is never finished writing anyone's story.

I love being a priest! JMJ, Fr. Ton

What's Cooking at St. Mother Theodore Guerin This Week?

- A heartfelt thank you to Sr. Johanna Trembl for her many years of faithful service to our parish, especially her leadership of the Food Pantry ministry. Sr. Johanna has now returned to her motherhouse, but she will join us for the 11 AM Mass this weekend. Please stay after Mass for refreshments and take a moment to thank her personally for her generous ministry.
- Mark your calendars for our Parish Picnic on July 26! If this will be your first parish picnic, you'll be in good company—it will be my first one too! I look forward to sharing a day of fellowship, good food, laughter, and getting to know our parish family better.
- Parents, it is also time to register your children for Religious Education, which begins in September. We look forward to helping our young people continue growing in their relationship with Jesus and His Church.

Liturgical Life

"He replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, "First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn." ' "

- Mt 13:29-30

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

Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Wisdom speaks of God's power in terms of kindness, leniency, and mercy. What words would you use to describe God?

Second Reading:

Paul explains that the Spirit intercedes on our behalf, especially when we struggle in our prayer life. How can the Spirit help you in your prayer life?

Gospel:

In the parable of the weeds and the wheat, Jesus warns the disciples of the presence of the devil active in the world. How do we stay on guard against the evil one?



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Liturgical Life

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

The Weeds We Need

Driving up my street in late spring, you can see which yard is mine from a whole block away: it's the one covered in dandelions. And I like it that way.

I fear neither my husband's shame nor the snarky comments of neighbors: I will never apologize for my dandelion-filled yard. "It's for the pollinators," I say, but it's a total lie. I just think it looks lovely. Who doesn't like a splash of yellow after a long, dreary winter?

People call dandelions "weeds," but it's just not true. Weeds are, by definition, any plant growing where it isn't wanted. A rosebush is a weed, if it's in the middle of a cornfield. I want my dandelions. Plants that are commonly considered weeds can even have beneficial properties. They attract pollinators, for instance, and they promote nutrient cycling, whereby soil health is improved.

We all have metaphorical "weeds" in the garden of our lives. I certainly do: facets of my personality I loathe, realities of my life I resent, limitations in my abilities I dread — these are my weeds, and their roots run deep, coiling closely around those of the plants I try to cultivate. But if I could rid my garden of any one of these weeds, would it really benefit me? And if I examined them all closely, could I tell them apart — the blessing from the curse, the struggle from the triumph?

One day, it will all become clear: what is the wheat, and what is the weed. We will be put to our ultimate purpose, and we will see ourselves for what we are meant to be.

Until then, we need the weeds. It's not harvest time yet.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

I accept on faith that God is a Trinity of Persons, and I know it's something we can't fully understand. Should I just accept that, or should I try to learn more?

Answer:

There's a legend from the life of St. Augustine. As the early Church grappled with the identity of Christ and his relation to the other Persons in the Trinity, the holy theologian wrote a book about the Trinity. The story goes that, while he worked on the piece, he took a break to walk along the seashore. He came upon a small boy who had dug a hole in the sand. He was carrying a bucket, which he'd fill up with seawater and pour into the hole. Back and forth he walked. St. Augustine gently chided the young boy, "*You can't pour the whole ocean into that hole.*" The boy responded, "*And you cannot fit the whole Trinity into your mind.*"

The Trinity is a mystery! Our finite mind can't comprehend the infinite God. Of course, the lesson isn't about giving up trying to understand God. St. Augustine did write that treatise, after all. The hunger to know more about God is good. We can read books about the Trinity or about the fatherly love of God, the life of Christ, and the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives. More than that, we can deepen our life of prayer. The heart of our Trinitarian teaching is "God is love." The Three Persons are an infinite relation of love between one another. Real understanding of that comes less through our heads but through our hearts.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of July 19, 2026

Sunday:

Wis 12:13, 16-19/Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16/
Rom 8:26-27/Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

Monday:

Mi 6:1-4, 6-8/Ps 50:5-6, 8-9, 16bc-17, 21
and 23/Mt 12:38-42

Tuesday:

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 85:2-4, 5-6, 7-8/
Mt 12:46-50

Wednesday:

Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17/Ps 63:2, 3-4,
5-6, 8-9/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

Thursday:

Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13/Ps 36:6-7ab, 8-9,
10-11/Mt 13:10-17

Friday:

Jer 3:14-17/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/
Mt 13:18-23

Saturday:

2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5,
6/Mt 20:20-28

Next Sunday:

1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-
128, 129-130/Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52 or
13:44-46



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A man recently told me he was losing patience with the Church. **"It's supposed to be God's Kingdom on earth,"** he said, **"but it's full of contradictions and hypocrisy. Why can't the Church just be better?"** That last word landed with a judgmental thud. It hurt. Because at times the Church can look painfully ordinary, even disappointing.

But Jesus' parables in today's Gospel meet that frustration head-on. He says, **"The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field,"** yet the weeds grow up with the wheat, and the master allows both to grow together until harvest. To his listeners, this sounded strange, even offensive. They expected God's reign to be pure, powerful, and glorious, anything but mixed up, hidden, or small.

Jesus is showing us something essential. The Kingdom always begins small and grows amid imperfection. Grace and weakness exist side by side until the harvest. That is why the Church often looks messy. Yet within that mess, God's quiet work continues. The weeds do not stop the wheat from growing.

When we see the Church's flaws or our own, it helps to remember that this is exactly the field in which Christ chose to plant. The miracle is not that everything looks perfect, but that his Word keeps taking root anyway.

Lord, give me patience with Your field, the Church. Help me see Your hidden life growing even among the weeds. Amen.

— Father John Muir



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Bus Drivers and Riders

Would you like to help people attend the 9 AM Mass? Several men have volunteered to drive the parish bus to pick up people who need a ride to the 9 AM Mass on Sunday. If you would like to help drive, please call the parish and let Lynn know about your availability. We would like to get enough drivers that we could expand our ministry to the 4:30 PM Mass too. School families, you can earn service hours this way, too. Would you like a ride to the 9 AM Mass? Call Lynn at 708-453-2555 by Friday each week and we will pick you up at your house.



School Organization Day

Mark your Calendars! Organization Day, Tuesday, August 4, from 4—7 PM, is quickly approaching. This is when parents receive classroom assignments, important school paperwork, and the opportunity to get involved with various parish and school organizations.

If you have not registered and are interested in St. Celestine School, please call the school office at 708-453-8234.

We look forward to welcoming new families and seeing our returning families.

Memorial Gardens



Have you seen the beautiful Memorial Gardens on 76th Court? There is one for our deceased love ones right next to the Pastoral Center and one for our pets who are no longer with us under the trees by the church sign. If you would like a stone hand-lettered with the name of your loved one on it, please drop a note in the collection basket or call or come into the parish office at 3020 N. 76th Ct. and one will be made for you. The suggested donation is \$10. Thanks to the Maraviglia family so making this garden so beautiful!

Mother of Perpetual Help Society Devotional

The Mother of Perpetual Help Society invites you to join us for the Mother of Perpetual Help Devotional held every Tuesday evening in the St. Celestine Chapel. We pray the rosary at 7 PM and then the Mother of Perpetual Help Novena at 7:30 PM. You may join us for either the rosary or the novena or both!



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.

All are welcome to come and 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.

Fr. Ton got a great welcome to Elmwood Park as he participated in his first parade, walking in the Elmwood Park Independence Day parade. Our Scouts led the parade and over 30 lbs. of candy was distributed. Thanks to Pat Hagerty for driving the bus and to all who participated!



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, Edward Bray, Sue Brink, Brian Cunningham, Ellison Deeher, Elene Dimperio, Cathy Downing King, Cynthia, Eleanor, Tom Ferguson, Michael Garcia, Tammy Garcia, Maciej Gondek, Dorota Gondek, Thomas Gruber, Grace Hensley, Rachel Hindery, Kathy Johl, Adele Johnson, Juliette Jimenez, Lisa Kostrzeski, Justine Kucera, Robert Kucera, Larry Lemanski, Bart Masi, Kathy Mooney, George Moskaliuk, Sandra Moskaliuk, Efreem Munoz, Martha Munoz, James Nasti, Larry Nestor, Ron Nichols, Gregory Olsen, Carolyn Paprocki, Gerard Palattao, Aida Rivera, Sarah Rotolo, Kathy Sassolino, Morgan Schlanger, Joseph Serwa, John Sheahan, Mary Skelly, Michele Soronto, Sue, Brian Swatek, Colleen Schlanger Thomas, Jeffrey Tomek, Judy Virgilio, Lillian Wardzala, Jim Waterloo, Jim Wazorick, Danyll Wolcotte, Nicholas Zych *recently added

Faithful Departed

Angelina Alongi, Lucrezia Sanfelice, Arlene LaMantia

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for July 19, 2026

Matthew 13:24-43

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: a variety of seeds. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

HEAVEN	SOWED	GOOD SEED
FIELD	EVERYONE	ENEMY
WEEDS	WHEAT	APPEARED
HOUSEHOLD	HAS DONE	WANT
LET THEM GROW	BURNED	MUSTARD SEED
SMALLEST	YEAST	FLOUR
LEAVENED	MOUTH	CHILDREN

TOGETHER

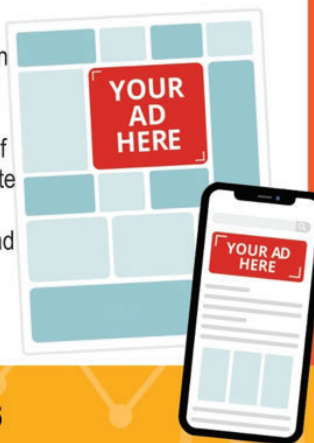
C	Y	M	E	N	E	D	T	A	E	H	W
C	M	H	D	E	N	R	U	B	J	O	A
H	A	U	O	J	O	E	K	N	R	E	N
I	P	U	S	U	D	E	E	G	U	H	T
L	P	O	P	T	S	V	M	K	O	G	G
D	E	N	E	V	A	E	L	W	L	S	O
R	A	N	A	E	H	R	H	B	F	O	O
E	R	W	H	T	A	Y	D	O	G	W	D
N	E	E	T	J	A	O	E	S	L	E	S
A	D	E	U	C	H	N	E	A	E	D	E
N	L	D	O	F	I	E	L	D	S	E	E
A	M	S	M	A	L	L	E	S	T	T	D

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Mark Olech
(800) 888-4574 x5965
molech@4lpi.com

Mother Guerin High School 50th

Were you a member of the class of 1976, Mother Theodore Guerin, River Grove, Illinois? Do you know someone from that class? It's time for the 50th Reunion! Guerin alum from '76 will meet on a weekend in early October for mass on Saturday and lunch on Sunday. A great time to relive a bit of the past and make a new connection or two. For more information, including dates, email mtgclassof76reunion@gmail.com.

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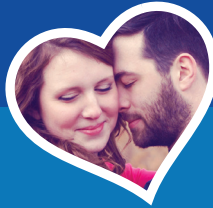
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