

ST. MOTHER THEODORE GUERIN PARISH

June 7, 2026

I AM
THE LIVING BREAD.

JOHN 6:51

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

©LPI



ST. CELESTINE CHURCH

and St. Mother Theodore Guerin Parish Office

3020 North 76th Court, Elmwood Park, Illinois 60707

708-453-2555 stguerinparish.org

MASSES (beginning June 8, 2026) Monday through Friday 8 AM

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

Sunday Masses 7:30, 9, and 11 AM

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

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

ST. CELESTINE SCHOOL

3017 North 77th Avenue, Elmwood Park, Illinois 60707

stcelestineschool.org 708-453-8234

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, June 6

4 PM ST. CYPRIAN

+Carl and +Rose Rossi
+Nery Rodriguez
+Adam Plonski
+Nicholas Spaniak
+Paul Schubitz
+George Spaniak
+Lorraine Spaniak
Randy Hundley
+Kevin Wall

5 PM ST. CELESTINE

+Dennis DePillo, Birthday
+Judy Ciszek Yates, 32nd
Anniversary
+Andrew Gutkowski,
Anniversary
+Mary Petella
+Robert Anthony Ptack
+Matt Rugetti

Sunday, June 7

7:30 AM ST. CELESTINE

+Joe Castronovo, 2nd Anniversary
+Charlie McLaughlin

9 AM ST. CYPRIAN

+Joseph Morgan, Sr.
+Steva Pawlik
+Andrew R. Pawlik
+Kevin Wall

11 AM ST. CELESTINE

+Roman and +Anna Romanyuk
+Attilio Manfredini, Birthday
+Helena Golab
+Jozefa Powrozek

Monday, June 8

8 AM +Fr. Bernard White

Tuesday, June 9

8 AM Faithful Departed

Wednesday, June 10

8 AM +Carl Braack
+John Kucera, Anniversary
+Sabatino and +Concetta
DiCianno, Wedding Anniversary
+Nick DiCianni

Thursday, June 11

8 AM +George Yagunic, 5th
Anniversary

Friday, June 12

8 AM People of the Parish

Saturday, June 13

1 PM Natalie LoMascolo and
Matthew Obrecki Wedding
3 PM Anabelle Castrejon Quinceanera
4:30 +Carl and +Rose Rossi
+Nery Rodriguez
+Joseph and +Bette Wesol
+Louis and +Juliana DaPrato
and the deceased members of
the DaPrato family
+Marge Sanger
+Margaret Maggio
James Anthonee Palattao,
Birthday

Sunday, June 14

7:30 AM People of the Parish
9 AM +Craig Bastek
11 AM +Roman and +Anna Romanyuk
+Richard and +Carol Ritter
Zygmunt Family
+Santa Snieg

Parish Weekly Events

Sunday, June 7

9 AM ST CYP Final Mass at St Cyprian and reception
11 AM ST CEL Scout Pinning Mass
6:30 PM ST CEL Evening Totus Tuus in the Church and School
for Grades 7—12

Monday, June 8

8 AM White Pines Golf Outing
9 AM Daytime Totus Tuus in the Church and School
for Grades 1—5
6:30 PM Evening Totus Tuus in the Church and School

Tuesday, June 9

9 AM Daytime Totus Tuus in the Church and School
6:30 PM Evening Totus Tuus in the Church and School
7 PM Mother of Perpetual Help Devotional in the
Chapel

Wednesday, June 10

9 AM Daytime Totus Tuus in the Church and School
6:30 PM Evening Totus Tuus in the Church and School
7 PM Rosary in the Chapel

Thursday, June 11

9 AM Daytime Totus Tuus in the Church and School
6:30 PM Evening Totus Tuus in the Church and School

Friday, June 12

9 AM Daytime Totus Tuus in the Church and School

Sunday, June 14

11 AM Fr. Paul Cao's Final Mass, followed by
Reception in the Gym

Bulletin Deadlines

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

June 21 is due on Tuesday, June 9 at 9 AM

June 28 is due on Wednesday, June 17 at 9 AM

July 5 is due on Tuesday, June 23 at 9 AM

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, June 13

4:30 PM Presider Fr. Paul Eruva
Servers TBA
Lector Nick Kaspar
EMs Perlita Domingo, Maryann Dibari, Patricia Rinella,
Grisel Lopez, Barbara Miller, Peggy O'Donnell

Sunday, June 14

7:30 AM
Presider Fr. Fil Ngwila
Servers TBA
Lector Betty Blonski
EMs Joanne Koziol, Ken Doyle, Bill Lesch, Tina Krzysko,
Mikenna Doyle, Mary Kay Macchione
9 AM
Presider Fr. Paul Eruva
Servers TBA
Lector Tim Orr
EMs TBA, Lois DeFelice, Daniel LaCour, Michael Wittrock,
John Madden, Mary Graf
11 AM
Presider Fr. Paul Cao
Servers TBA
Lectors Julie McGuire, Lynn Loftus
EMs Sandra Mazzeffi, Alice Carella, Sheila Klich, Kim Bartell,
Skip Marcucci, Greg Derlacki

Wedding Banns

June 13 Natalie LoMascolo and Matthew Obrecki

June 19 Carmen Placencia and Michael Gigante

June 20 Daisy Martinez and Armando Munoz

June 20 Makala Franks and Gino Fornaro

From the Pastor's Desk: Father Paul Cao

Corpus Christi This weekend, we celebrate the solemnity of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. It is the feast of the very center and heart of our Church, our faith, and our individual lives: Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Therefore, today's feast is of the utmost importance.

The Eucharist is a celebration of Jesus's love for us—His blood shed for us and His body scourged, crowned with thorns, and crucified for us. The wine poured and the bread broken signify the love of Jesus, His body and blood given for us. Because the Eucharist is the ultimate expression of His love, we must always approach Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament with great respect and a desire for the pardon of our sins. This is why it is necessary at the start of every Mass to ask Jesus for mercy because we are so unworthy of His love. Again, before receiving Jesus, we express our unworthiness: "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."

Think of how precious a moment it is during Mass when we receive Jesus in Holy Communion. When we receive Him, He is in us and we are with Him: "He who eats my flesh abides in me and I in him" (John 6:56). The Eucharist is not an option for our Christian faith; it is necessary for our spiritual lives. We need to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ to nourish and strengthen us in our daily routines. I would like to encourage each of you to please consider coming to Church at least every Sunday to participate in the Lord's banquet. Jesus is waiting for us and offering Himself to us. What else do we need?

Please join us for the 9 and 11AM Masses today (Sunday), which

will be followed by a Eucharistic Procession and Benediction.

We also host Eucharistic Adoration and a Holy Hour every first Friday at 3 PM at St. Celestine Church. Please set aside one hour every month to come and adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Additionally, our Blessed Sacrament Chapel at St. Celestine is open for prayer every day from 8 AM to 5 PM.

May Jesus in the Eucharist always be the very center and heart of our Church, our faith, our parish, and the lives of each of us.

Last Mass at St. Cyprian This Sunday, we welcome Bishop Jose Maria Garcia Maldonado, our Episcopal Vicar for Vicariate IV, to be the main celebrant at the 9 AM Mass to celebrate the last Mass at St. Cyprian. We also welcome all the former pastors who have served at St. Cyprian and many other former parishioners who will come to remember the rich history of St. Cyprian Church. I know this is very emotional for us, especially for all former parishioners of St. Cyprian. I ask all of you to please hold them in your prayers.

We will change our Mass time at St. Celestine on Saturdays to 4:30 p.m. beginning June 13, and move the 9 AM St. Cyprian Mass to St. Celestine starting June 14. We will also use our church bus to pick up seniors at their homes on Sundays to bring them to the 9 AM Mass. Please call the office if you need transportation.

The large crucifix from the St. Cyprian sanctuary, the St. Cyprian Icon, and the Mary and Joseph statues will be transferred and placed in the beautiful, designated stained-glass area in the back of St. Celestine Church. It will be a beautiful reminder as you enter the church to see both communities

united as one Body of Christ.

While I hope to have all current St. Cyprian parishioners join us at the St. Celestine site, I know that this may not be realistic for everyone. Our staff will work with every family to identify the best way to stay connected to the life of the Church. I hope to see many of you at our last Mass this Sunday to pray for one another and to ask for the intercession of Our Blessed Mother, St. Cyprian, St. Celestine, and St. Mother Theodore Guerin to draw us closer to Jesus each day.

For those that want their memorial bricks back, please call the office to make arrangements.

Pray 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.

May God bless you and your loved ones!

In prayer,

Fr. Paul



Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of June 7, 2026

Sunday:

Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15,
19-20/1 Cor 10:16-17/Jn 6:51-58

Monday:

1 Kgs 17:1-6/ Ps 121:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/
Mt 5:1-12

Tuesday:

1 Kgs 17:7-16/ Ps 4:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/
Mt 5:13-16

Wednesday:

1 Kgs 18:20-39/ Ps 16:1b-2ab, 4, 5ab and
8, 11/Mt 5:17-19

Thursday:

Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3 (580)/Ps 65:10, 11,
12-13/Mt 5:20-26

Friday:

Dt 7:6-11/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 10/
1 Jn 4:7-16/Mt 11:25-30

Saturday:

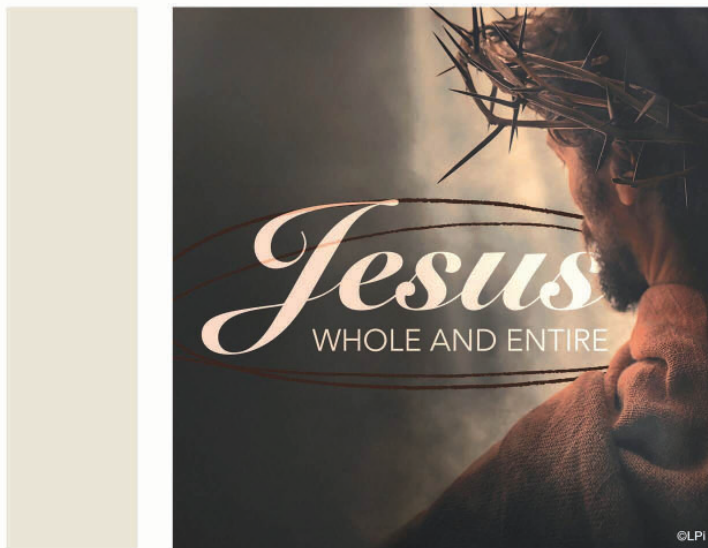
1 Kgs 19:19-21/Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8,
9-10/Mt 5:33-37

Next Sunday:

Ex 19:2-6a/Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5/Rom 5:6-11/
Mt 9:36-10:8



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The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for
Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in
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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

When I was a young altar server, I once overheard two very different comments about the Eucharist. One person asked, "Is Father distributing the bread or the wine?" Later, another asked, "Can you go get Jesus from the tabernacle?" Same parish, same Mass, but two very different ways of speaking. I pondered: So, is it bread that we pretend is Jesus? Or is Jesus a tiny white thing in a box? I was utterly confused.

This Feast of Corpus Christi is an excellent time to think about how we should speak about the Eucharist. In today's Gospel, Jesus declares: "**My flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.**" (John 6:55) His words scandalized his listeners, who feared cannibalism, and even today puzzle many, who reduce them to metaphor. Both miss the truth.

The Church gives us better words that honor Jesus' words in the Gospel. After the consecration, we do not call it "bread" or "wine." Nor do we say, "a piece of Jesus" or even "Jesus." We say: *the Eucharist*. We say: *the Body and Blood of Christ*. We say: *the Real Presence*. We say: *the Most Blessed Sacrament*. These words safeguard the astonishing reality that Christ himself is truly present, whole and entire, under the appearances of bread and wine.

If we speak well about the Eucharist, we will think more clearly and believe more deeply. And if we believe more deeply, we will adore more truly the One who gives himself to us — not bread, not wine, but Jesus Christ himself, whole and entire.

— *Father John Muir*

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world...

“For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.” - Jn 6:51, 55-56

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

Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Moses instructs the Israelites to never forget their 40-year journey in the desert and the Lord's deliverance of them from slavery in Egypt. What has God done in your life that you will never forget?

Second Reading:

Paul reminds the Corinthians that the Body and Blood of Christ unite us as one body. Do you see your faith community united by the Eucharist?

Gospel:

Jesus teaches the crowds that whoever eats his body and drinks his blood will live forever. Who could you invite this week to attend Sunday Mass and receive the Eucharist with you?



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(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: What is “true food” and “true drink,” when you live in a society where bodily nourishment is so plentiful that we reject it out of pride, that we feel a shame for needing it, and that we use it as a balm for feelings of boredom, pain, and fear?

True Food

Like most millennial women, I have a bizarre relationship with food.

I'm so busy and distracted that most days, I forget to eat — until nighttime, when I make some very questionable decisions, usually involving cake. I also came of age in a time when any woman without a visible eating disorder was labeled as “curvy” (and curvy was understood by everyone to be A Very Bad Thing). Thus, I have a deep feeling of shame whenever I do eat, even when I am hungry, and even when it's something good for me.

I'm so messed up when it comes to food that I often wonder if I even have a good point of reference for understanding the Eucharist. What is “true food” and “true drink,” when you live in a society where bodily nourishment is so plentiful — at least for certain fortunate people like me — that we reject it out of pride, that we feel a shame for needing it, and that we use it as a balm for feelings of boredom, pain, and fear?

But I suppose there's no better way to understand the Eucharist, when you really think about it. The Israelites survived on manna from Heaven — what they would have given for a grocery store. What they would have given for redemption.

I am given both. I appreciate neither to the extent that I should.

True food, true nourishment, true life — physical and spiritual — these are things we all desperately want. And so many of us have them. But our ability to understand what they mean — well, it's hampered. This isn't Eden, after all.

We are reading a book missing half its pages, singing a harmony missing half its parts. We stumble forward, knowing that the fullness can come, will come — one day.

If we keep trying.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do we celebrate the Hearts of Jesus in the month of June?

Answer:

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is an ancient practice. We can see its Scriptural origins in Jesus' own references to His Heart. “*Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest ... for I am meek and humble of heart*” (c.f. Matthew 11:28, 29).

The devotion received a surge of popularity in the late 1600s. Jesus appeared several times to a French religious sister, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, pointing to his heart. During this time, the Jansenist heresy had risen in France, which preached limited predestination for salvation. When appearing to Margaret Mary, Jesus affirmed his love for all mankind: “*Behold the Heart which has so loved men that it has spared nothing.*” He asked for a special feast celebrating his Sacred Heart on the Friday following the feast of Corpus Christi. Over time, June has become known as the month of Sacred Heart.



STCELESTINE BILINGUAL EXCELLENCE

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- Notre Dame Partner: High-quality lessons from top experts.
- Active Learning: Stories and games that make language stick.
- Better Brain Power: Built specifically for our youngest learners.



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LANGUAGE INTENSIVE PROGRAMS

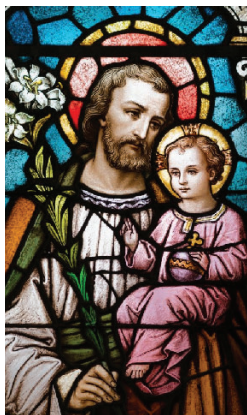
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME | ENGLISH AS A NEW LANGUAGE



Father's Day Novena

Enroll a special Dad, Grandpa, or father-figure, living or deceased, in the St. Mother Guerin Father's Day Novena. The novena begins on Sunday, June 21. Prayers for the intentions of all enrolled will be offered at Masses for nine days.

Novena cards and envelopes with instructions are available in church and at the Pastoral Center. Return the card in the envelope in the collection basket or to the Pastoral Center by Thursday, June 18. The suggested offering is \$10.



There will also be a special blessing for all fathers on June 21 at all the Masses. All the names of those being honored will be displayed in church and they will all be lifted up in prayer during the novena.

Garage Sale July 11

Do you want to participate in the Elmwood Park garage sales but don't have the space (or garage) at your home? Get a space in the St. Celestine parking lot and sell from there on Saturday, July 11, 2026, from 9 AM to 2 PM. The cost is \$25 (non-refundable) for two parking spaces. Please arrive on the day of sale between 8 AM and 9 AM. If you would like to be parked near a friend, please arrange to arrive at the same time. Once parked, you will not be able to drive out until 2 PM.

You will be assigned two parking spaces, one for your car and one for your sale items. The garage sale will take place rain or shine. Please supply your own table/chairs/tents. There will be food and beverages available for cash purchase. Restrooms will be available in our Annex. Feel free to invite others in the area to take part in this event as either a seller or a shopper! For the form and more info visit our website: stguerinparish.org.

Secular Franciscan Order

"The Mass has ended, go in peace to love and serve the Lord." How do we do that? Since 1959, members of the St. Juliana Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order have sought to follow the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi by "going from Gospel to life and from life to Gospel." If following the Rule of St. Francis might interest you, the SFO fraternity at St. Juliana meets once each month. For more information or just to visit, please contact Bob Mitchell at robertpmitchell1@gmail.com.

4th of July Parade

Join Fr. Ton and the parish in walking in the Elmwood Park annual Independence Day parade. Line up on Fullerton by the parish bus by Elmwood Park High School. Organizations are invited to bring their banners.

Parish Mass for Couples Married 50+ Years

Anyone married 50 years or more is invited to join us at the 11 AM Mass on Sunday, July 12 for a special blessing. A reception will follow after the Mass. Please call Lynn at 708-453-2555 to register.

Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word.

**Pray the Rosary with
Lena Roy
Wednesday,
June 10 at 7 PM
St. Celestine Chapel
Enter off of 76th Court**

Calendar

- Sunday, June 7: 9 AM **Final Mass** at St. Cyprian Church with reception
- June 7—11: 6:30 PM **Totus Tuus** for grades 7—12
- June 8—12: 9 AM **Totus Tuus** for grades 1—6
- Monday, June 8: **Golf Outing** at White Pines in Bensenville
- Sunday, June 14: 11 AM **Farewell Mass** for Fr. Paul Cao
- July 4: **Independence Day Parade** in Elmwood Park
- Saturday, July 11: 9 AM **Garage Sale** in the St. Celestine Parking Lot
- Sunday, July 12: 11 AM Mass Blessing for couples married **50 or more years**
- Sunday, July 26 **Parish Picnic and 11 AM Mass** at Evans Field in River Grove
- Saturday, September 12 4—9 PM **Parish Taste**
- Sunday, October 25 **Craft Fair** 8:30 AM in the Gym and Annex

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, 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, Sr. Louise Noesen, Carolyn Paprocki, Gerard Palattao, Aida Rivera, Sarah Rotolo, Kathy Sassolino, Morgan Schlanger, Joseph Serwa, John Sheahan, Mary Skelly, Sue, Brian Swatek, Colleen Schlanger Thomas, Jeffrey Tomek, Judy Virgilio, Lillian Wardzala, Jim Waterloo, Jim Wazorick, Danyll Wolcotte, Nicholas Zych
*recently added

Faithful Departed

Eugene Oggerino, Barbara Devine

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 June 7, 2026

John 6:51-58

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Cycle A. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

BREAD	COME DOWN	HEAVEN
EATS	FOREVER	FLESH
JEWS	THIS MAN	TO EAT
JESUS	TO THEM	UNLESS
SON OF MAN	DRINK	HIS BLOOD
ETERNAL LIFE	LAST	FOOD
LIVING	DIED	ANCESTORS

HEAVENLY FOOD

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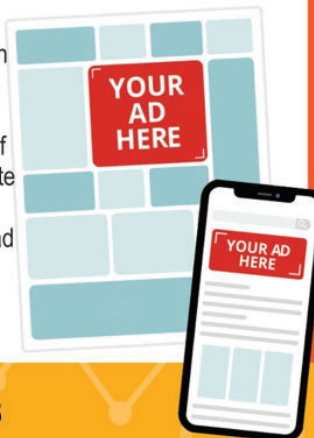
A S F T C O M E D O W N
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N A C J O K I L Y F N A
L M K E D D S V I C A M
E F M S S D B L I H O S
S O E U F T L F F N K I
S N H S O A O D L M G H
W O T E N R O R E E B T
E S A R E H D I S H R Y
J T E V V J H N H T E E
D T E A E O T K M O A K
E R A E M T A E O T D E
    
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The History of St. Cyprian

The beginning and the miniature church

In the early 1920's, the Village of River Grove was slowly growing. Most Catholic families attended Mass at St. William in Chicago, since it was accessible by bus and railroad. Many children attended school there, but because of overcrowding in the 1920's, most started attending St. Gertrude in Franklin Park. In 1926 St. Cyprian's was organized under Cardinal Mundelein as a mission church of St. Gertrude's parish. The first mass was celebrated at Senf's Hall, then at the northwest corner of Thatcher and Grand.

Father L.P. Hurkmans, pastor of St. Gertrude, procured land to begin construction of St. Cyprian church and school, which would cost \$40,000. On September 12, 1926 the cornerstone was laid dedicating the new church and school. In January of 1927, Rev. George P. Stafford was appointed pastor. The original boundaries were Addison to the north, North Avenue to the South, 76th Street in Elmwood Park to the East and the Des Plaines River to the West.



With the opening of the new building, school children in grades 1 through 7 were transferred from St. Gertrude to St. Cyprian under the direction of the School Sisters of St. Francis of Milwaukee. The 8th graders stayed at St. Gertrude to

graduate. Three classrooms opened, with two grades sharing a room. Mass was held in the basement.

In 1927 there were 125 registered families in the parish, and school tuition was \$4.85 per child.

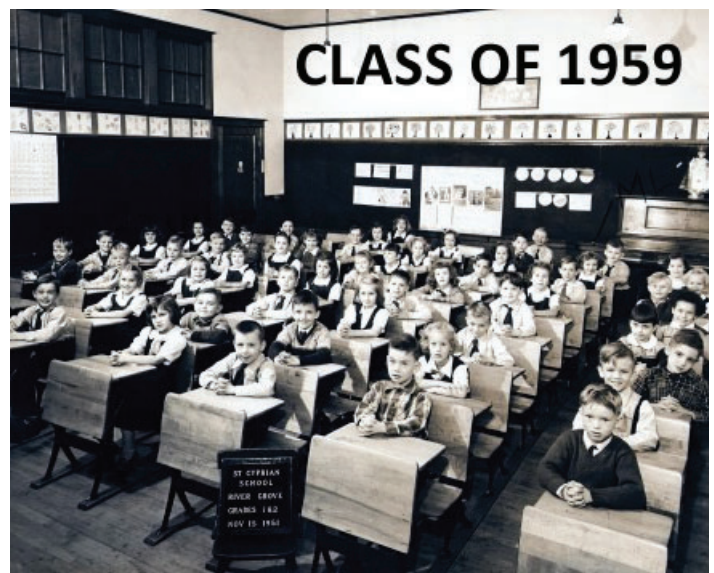
In 1929 the temporary church, called the "Portable" was erected. It had been used by other parishes, including St. Thomas Aquinas,



then Resurrection, St. Timothy, and St. Hilary. The Holy Name Society helped shore it up, since it was structurally weakened by being moved. In 1940 a convent was purchased in the 2500 block of Erie Street to replace the rented home the Sisters had used for the first 14 years.

In October 1946, Father Stafford was appointed to Maternity BVM in Chicago. When he left it was discovered that he had never taken a salary and that he was owed \$12,000. He only asked for a settlement of \$1,000. The new pastor was Rev. Joseph F. Byrne who was well-liked by the parish. In 1949 construction of the new church was approved with the firm of Pirola and Enbach as architects and engineers. The cornerstone was laid on June 11, 1950. The cost of the building was \$117,000 less furnishings and architect fees.

The new church was dedicated by Samuel Cardinal Stritch in September 1951. The "Portable" was used for classrooms. In 1952 the first Associate was appointed, Rev. Thomas Seitz. Father Byrne died in 1954 after resigning as pastor due to illness.



Rev. Arthur Douaire was appointed pastor in early 1954. He expanded the parish facilities and built a new school, convent, and rectory. The new school opened in September 1954 with eight Sisters and a lay teacher. Due to overcrowding, the children attended classes on a split schedule; half from 8 AM to noon and half from noon to 4 PM. Tuition was now \$1.50 a month and 5 cents a ride for the bus.

By 1961 parish organizations and the school were booming. The school held 734 students. In 1963 there were 7 Sunday Masses, at 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM. In 1965 two extra Masses were added to the schedule, at 10:30 and 11:30 AM in the annex.



In 1969, Rev. John Lucas became an Associate. The Pavilion was erected from a garage and storage area. In 1975 the school added a Kindergarten class for the first time. In 1976, Father Douaire became ill and died in 1978. He had devoted himself to the people of St. Cyprian and River Grove for 22 years. Rev. Thomas Powers was appointed Pastor in 1977.

Over the years, the organizations have been very active, especially in raising funds to cover the debts accrued by building the school and church, providing substantial support to the parish. The School Sisters of St. Francis were involved from the very beginning to the end of the parish, working tirelessly for almost no pay and educating thousands of children. Other pastors at St. Cyprian include Fr. Ron Navoy in 1981, Fr. Eugene Gratkowski in 2005, and the last pastor was Fr. Darrio Boscutti in 2012.

This information is from a booklet published for the Golden Jubilee in 1977 and on the stguerinparish.org website.

From the book Images of America: River Grove by Kenneth J. Knack: The enrollment in the school in 2017 was only 138. In 2018 the Archdiocese of Chicago decided to

permanently close the school after the 2018 term and merge St. Cyprian with Elmwood Park's St. Celestine parish. Both churches were to remain open as worship centers for the new combined parish named St Mother Theodore Guerin parish. Fr. Paul Cao was named the first pastor in 2018 and in 2026 Fr. Ton Nguyen was named Administrator. In 2026 the decision was made to permanently close St. Cyprian. The last mass will be held on Sunday, June 7 at 9 AM.



The Great Mahogany Crucifix at St. Cyprian Church

The great mahogany crucifix was conceived and begun by Sister M. Thomasita, OSF, in 1947, shortly after her graduation from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Soon her duties as chair of the Fine Arts Department and director of the Studio San Damiano at Cardinal Stritch College in Milwaukee prevented her finishing the great sculpture. In 1961, on the commission of St. Cyprian Parish, she completed the Crucifix as she had originally planned it: the figure of Christ, measuring two by eight feet, is sculpted in block mahogany and attached to fifteen by eighteen foot mahogany beams; the mahogany halo is two and a half feet in diameter. Sister Thomasita gained fame as a painter and teacher of art, but she considered the great Crucifix her masterpiece in sculpture. She created over 600 works in her career which are now in galleries, churches, and museums around the world. The crucifix will be moved to St. Celestine Church.

Information is from the Golden Jubilee Book of St. Cyprian published in 1977.



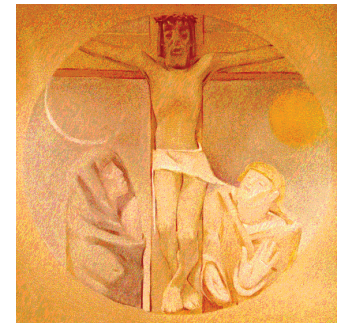
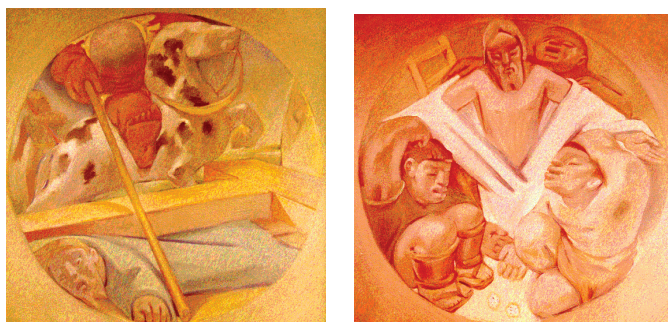
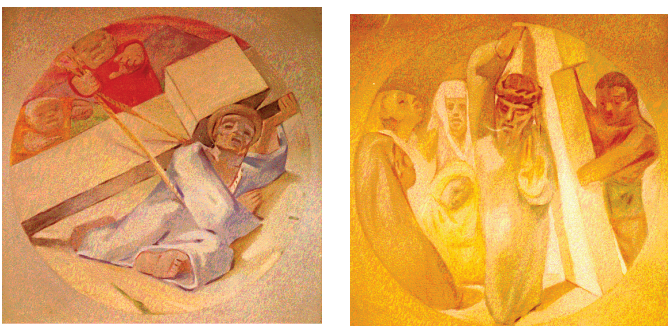
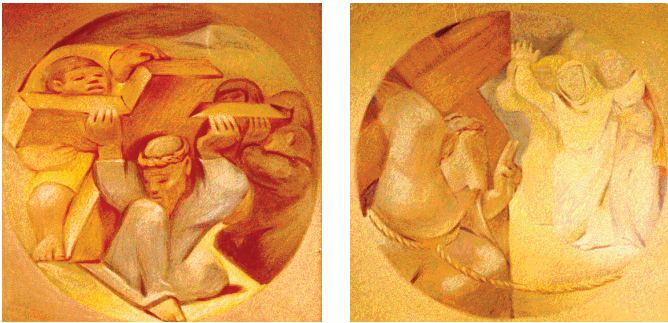
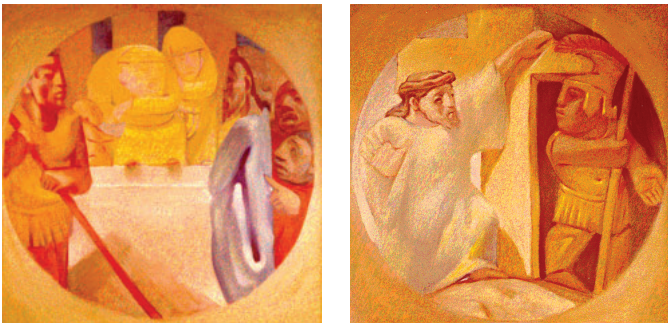
The Stained Glass at St. Cyprian Church

Seeking a suitable backdrop for the great crucifix, Father Richard Douaire envisioned a wall of slab glass, a great burst of light symbolic of the Resurrection; thus the whole Paschal Mystery of Christ passing through death to life would be made artistically alive for us. Raymond Toloczko (1925—1972), then a young graduate of the Chicago Art Institute, later a well-known painter prior to his untimely death; was commissioned to live at St. Cyprian and produce the “cartoons”—full-size drawings from which the windows would be built. The 6,800 segments of glass in 23 colors, imported from Chartres, the famous home of French medieval glass, were each cut and faceted by hand by Father Douaire himself. The engineering and structural problems of the pouring, the curing of the epoxy binder, and the installation of the finished panels were solved by our talented Chief Engineer, George Vondran, aided by Joseph Vida. Their technical advances in this phase of production of slab glass and epoxy windows have been copied by many commercial houses engaged in this work.

Raymond Toloczko designed, and Father Douaire and George Vondran and Joseph Vida built the two stories of side windows, each representing a procession of the People of God to the altar and to the Heavenly Jerusalem. Sixty-eight colors of glass were incorporated in these windows. On the south, a day scene is illuminated by the sun’s rays; on the north, a scene by night shines under the light of the moon. Their final joint projects were the lovely small window of Mother and Child found in the rear of the Church, and the charming Chrysanthemum Window in the west wall of the Church balcony.

Information is from the Golden Jubilee Book of St. Cyprian published in 1977.

Paintings for *The Way of the Cross* by Jean Charlot (1898—1979), a French-born American artist active in Mexico and Hawaii, were painted in oil on canvas from 1935—1938 and installed in the 1950's.



The Stations of the Cross carved by Sr. Thomasita will be moved to St. Celestine.

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St. Cyprian Church (Last Mass June 7, 2026) 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. **Summer Hours** Monday—Friday 8:30 AM—noon and 12:30—5 PM, Saturday 8:30 AM—12:30 PM.

Holy Hour: First Friday of each month at 3 PM at St. Celestine Church. **Rosaries:** after Mass and 7 PM on the second Monday of the month in the Chapel. **Mother of Perpetual Help Devotional** Tuesdays at 7 PM in the Chapel.

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. Baptismal Prep classes take place on most first Wednesdays of each month at 7 PM at St. Celestine; please call the office to sign up for the class.

Masses: See cover. **Reconciliation:** Saturdays 3:30 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.

Contact Information

Priests

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Rev. Paul Eruva, Associate Pastor
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

Deacons

Michael DeLarco 708-453-2555 x5031
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Rolando Merced 708-453-2555
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See inside bulletin for deadlines.
Eric Mueller and **Bob Vessini**, Maintenance 708-453-2555 x4025

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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
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Sheila Klich, Principal sklich@stcelestineschool.org
Jennifer Ebervein, Secretary
Nicole Nayder, Financial Secretary

