

St. Alexander Catholic Church

LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I LOVE YOU

300 S. Cornell Avenue, Villa Park, Illinois 60181/630.833.7730
office@stalexanderparish.org/www.stalexanderparish.org



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

THE HOLY FAMILY



The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40

Dec. 31, 2023

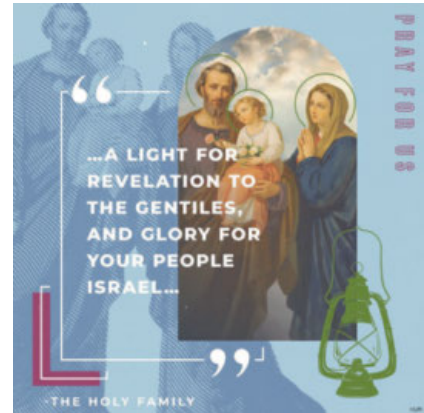
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Mass Intentions

| | |
|--|---|
| Monday 9:00am | Jan. 1, 2024—Mary, Holy Mother of God Luis Jimenez/Stralko Family/Jerry & Yolanda Lullo |
| Tuesday 8:45am | Jan. 2— Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors June Pfeiffer (2nd Anniversary) |
| Wednesday 8:45am | Jan. 3—Christmas Weekday Int. Nora McLaughlin |
| Thursday 8:45am | Jan. 4—St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious Int. Claude Awisati Family |
| Friday 8:45am | Jan. 5—St. John Neumann, Bishop People of St. Alexander |
| Saturday 5:00pm | Jan. 6—Christmas Weekday Braun & Liss Families/Anne & Tom Jones/Ralph, Sr. & Carmella DeRose/Marvin G. Jett |
| Sunday 8:30am 10:30am 6:00pm | Jan. 7—The Epiphany of the Lord Gene Niewoehner/Clare Stralko (2nd Anniversary) Theresa Jane Dowling People of St. Alexander Parish |

**The Parish Office and facilities will be closed
December 25, 2023 through January 1, 2024.
They will reopen on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**



Hospitality Sunday

You are all invited for hospitality and fellowship!!! Parish Council will host hospitality 3 times a month at one of the Masses. Hospitality is a time for all parishioners to get together in a casual setting with friends and just to “visit”. All are invited to bring a favorite comfort food to share with friends after Mass.

Here is the schedule:

- 1st Weekend: 6:00pm Spanish Mass
- 2nd Weekend: 5:00pm Mass
- 3rd Weekend: 8:30 & 10:30am Mass

Weekly Facility Schedule

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| <u>Tues. 1/2/2024</u> | | |
| Rental—Tri-Town YMCA | Gym/Hall | All Day |
| <u>Wed. 1/3/2024:</u> | | |
| Rental—Tri-Town YMCA | Gym/Hall | All Day |
| Legion of Mary | Fr. Tuan Room | 9:00am |
| Rental—Pius Basketball | Gym/Hall | 4:00pm |
| Rental—Lions Volleyball | Gym/Hall | 6:00pm |
| Music—Youth Choir | Church | 6:00pm |
| Music—Joystir Choir Practice | Maguire Room | 6:45pm |
| Music—Witness Choir Practice | Church | 7:00pm |
| Music—Spanish Choir Practice | Library | 7:00pm |
| <u>Thurs. 1/4/2024:</u> | | |
| Rental—Tri-Town YMCA | Gym/Hall | All Day |
| Mittens for Mary Knitting Group | Sister’s Room | 9:30am |
| Rental—Pius Basketball | Gym/Hall | 4:00pm |
| Rental—Lions Volleyball | Gym/Hall | 6:00pm |
| CCW Board Meeting | Sister’s Room | 6:30pm |
| Knights of Columbus | Fr. Tuan Room | 7:00pm |
| <u>Fri. 1/5/2024:</u> | | |
| Rental—Tri-Town YMCA | Gym/Hall | All Day |
| <u>Sun. 1/7/2024:</u> | | |
| Faith Formation Classes | Multiple Rooms | 8:30am |
| Adoration Holy Hour | Church | 2:00pm |
| Hospitality | Gathering Space | after 6pm Mass |



Reconciliation

St. Alexander:
Tuesdays from 5:00—6:00pm
Saturdays from 4:00—4:45pm
or by appointment 630-833-7730

St. John the Apostle:
Mondays from 5:00—6:00pm
Saturdays from 4:00—4:45pm
or by appointment 630-279-7404

Parish News

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of December 31, 2023

Sunday:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps
128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12,
17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Monday:

Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/
Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday:

1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday:

1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/
Jn 1:29-34

Thursday:

1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

Friday:

1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51

Saturday:

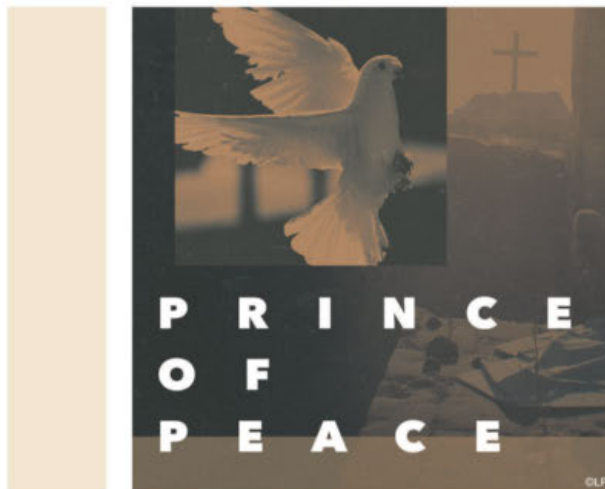
1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/
Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34,
36, 38

Next Sunday:

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see
11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



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
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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

I remember the first time my older sister asked me if I wanted to hold her newborn son. Terrified, I told her I didn't think it was a good idea. My résumé had nothing to suggest I would be a qualified baby holder. But she warmly told me, "I'll help you hold him." It struck me that she is baby's mother. She is the one who decides who is qualified to hold him. I took him in my arms and soon I began to feel comfortable with that tiny little warm cooing creature in my arms, and soon I no longer feared holding him. Now, twenty-seven nieces and nephews later, holding a newborn child is one of the great joys of my life.

Do we sometimes think that Jesus is given only to the highly qualified, special religious people? In the Gospel of Luke today we hear about the presentation of the Lord in the temple. The newborn son of God is passed around like a baton in a relay race, not guarded like a precious jewel or a breakable china dish. We can see him going from the arms of Mary to Joseph, then to the priest performing the ceremony, then to Simeon the old man, then to Anna the old widow. Each one receiving him and then handing him to the next. A tidal wave of joy and thanksgiving follows wherever he is placed.

Believe me, you are qualified to hold Jesus in your arms. How can I say that with such confidence? Because the mother decides who is qualified. The Blessed Virgin, embodied in the Church, holds him out to you and me. She rejoices to place him in our arms to hold, and to hand him on, too.

— *Father John Muir*

Parish News

Adoration in the Church

There will be no Adoration in the Church on the following Mondays:

January 1, 2024

Monday Adoration will resume on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 3:00pm.

DINE AND DONATES

We have received the following from recent Dine and Donates:


Strats: \$167 and Anyways: \$465.

We also received \$187 from the Chili Cookoff.

Watch the bulletin for future Dine and Donates.



Join us for:
National Eucharistic Revival
Adoration Holy Hour



Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024
2:00—3:00pm
 In the church
 Rosary, Music & Benediction

Pictures from the Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration on December 12, 2023.



Deacon Julio & Elaine Jimenez

Parish News

Update on 2023 Coat Drive for Mission of Our Lady of the Angels

Our coat drive ended the last weekend November. Your response to Sr Stephanie’s request for coat donations to The Mission of Our Lady of the Angels in Humboldt Park Chicago, was again amazing!

December 2 was the handout and the line for coats extended over a city block. Thanks to the generosity of the people of St Alexander many people in that neighborhood now have warm winter coats.

- Our parish was able to provide 26 cases of new winter coats with for total of 312 coats.
- We collected 170 + used coats.
- I would also like to acknowledge these contributors who helped to make the drive so successful:

⇒ Fr. Tran and the Society of the Divine Word, donated \$5000

⇒ Our Knights of Columbus council #8365, donated \$1000 and helped order coats in bulk at a great price. They also donated \$1000 to the Mission’s food pantry.

⇒ Mittens for Mary knitting group, made and donated beautiful handmade hats and scarves.

⇒ A special thanks to those parishioners who donated a total of \$2000 allowing us to buy new coats.

And thanks to those volunteers who sorted, bagged, and delivered all the donated coats!

St. Alexander, you are special parish.
-Deacon Matt



American Red Cross



Blood Drive Dates for 2024

Plan your blood donations for 2024 now! The Knights of Columbus and St. Joseph the Worker have five blood donation dates scheduled for 2024. All are 8 weeks or more apart so if you donate whole blood, you will be eligible for all five drives. Signups for the first three are now open. Scan the QR code or use the web link to schedule your time now.

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>Tuesday, February 06, 2024 at St Alexander https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=StAlexanderVP</p> |
| | <p>Tuesday, April 09, 2024 at St Alexander https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=StAlexanderVP</p> |
| | <p>Tuesday June 11, 2024 at St John the Apostle https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=VillaParkStJohn</p> |
| | <p>Tuesday August 13, 2024 St Alexander</p> |
| | <p>Tuesday October 15, 2024 St Alexander</p> |

Faith Formation & Parish News

Director Faith Formation: Kathy Halloran—stasfaithform.dre@gmail.com



Thank you to the following parishioners who donated towards our Christmas Flowers for the church. We greatly appreciate your generosity. *(More will be posted in future bulletins.)*

| <u>Parishioner</u> | <u>Parishioner</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Mr. & Mrs. Dirk Krueger | Virginia Lucas |
| George Sifuentes | Mark Ranieri, Jr. |
| Pauline Bonze | Vickie Maxson |
| Donald Hosek | George Laarveld |
| Robert Schillmiller | Tom Kucik |
| Joseph & Linda Pal | Ava Marie Lindahl |
| Rosemary Sprovieri | |



*Lisa Grover
Iracema Antonio Rejendo
Denise Gutierrez
Margaret Brown
Michael & Rose Elgeness
Peter Elgeness*



Do you like to sing? Join one of our adult choirs. We also have a children's choir as well.

For more information or to join, contact our Music Director Gina Gabriel @ ggabriel@stalexanderparish.org

INTENTIONAL GRANDPARENTING



All Grandparents are invited to join the Grandparent Ministry that meets on the **2nd Tuesday** of the Month in the Parish Center at **7:00pm**.

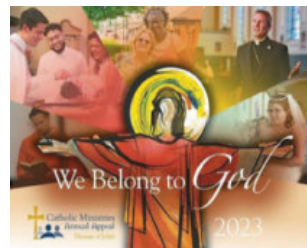
Next Meeting January 9th.

Our focus this year is on being an **Intentional Grandparent.**

Join us to watch a video series on Intentional Grandparenting from Legacy Coalition, followed by discussion, and coffee.

Please help us be environmentally friendly and bring your own cup.

Questions? Please contact Ann Krueger at: marriageministry130@gmail.com



The 2023 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES ANNUAL APPEAL

PLEDGE REPORT: Dec. 17, 2023

Thank you to all those who have made pledges. Please continue to make your **2023 CMAA** pledge payments. **Once** we have reached our goal in paid pledges, 70% of the additional funds received will be returned to the parish for our use.

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Parish Goal: | \$46,700 |
| Amount Pledged: | \$47,964 |
| Amount Paid: | \$47,431 |
| Remaining Balance: | \$533 |
| Donor Count | 226 |
| 2023 Rebate | \$511 |

Thank you for your continued support.

Prayer Intentions

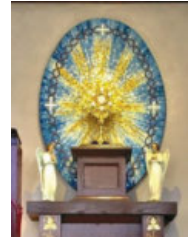


PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

1. Abbot Dismas Kalcic O.S.B.
2. Brs. Kenneth Arnold, John Blease, Thomas Dupre', Chris Englert FSC
3. Dcns. Eric Alvarez, Fred Ban, James Batis, Stephen Boffa
4. Sr. Rosanny P. Contreras Pozo, Sr. Maria Alejandra Pardo Rodriguez HMD
5. Fr. Ryan Adorjan. Fr. James Antiporek
6. Dcns. Rodger Accardi, Daniel Aderholdt, Cirio Afeltra, Albert Agurkis, Mark Armamentos
7. Vocations Office

Eucharistic Adoration

The Adoration Chapel is open:
Tuesday: 3:00pm—10:00pm,
Wednesday: 3:00pm—9:00pm,
Thursday: 3:00pm—10:00pm.



The Chapel is located in the Kennedy Center building North of the Church on Cornell Avenue.

Adoration is also available in the Church on Mondays from 3-4pm. No Adoration on 1/1/2024.

Rosebud Program

"Please pray for the following who have requested prayers of CCW's Rosebud Program."



CONGRATULATIONS!

Lori & Fred on the birth of their son Lucas Frederick.
Anthony & Beth on the birth of their daughter Lucille Lake.
Katie & Joh non the birth of their son Jack.

Lindsay & Dan due in 1/2024
 Diana & Jake due in 1/2024

Patrick & Anna due 4/2024
 Anne & Rick due 7/2024

Special Intentions for:

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Tracey & Bob | Maria & Bobby | Carl & Terrie |
| Tony & Andrea | Amy & Sam | Amanda & Scott |
| Rose & Eleodoro | Mary Frances | Bob & Cyndy |
| Mary & Jared | Julie & Rus | Jason & Leah |
| Lisa & Jim | Cin | |

Please call Michele if you have any questions or would like to add a name or update: 630.564.8423.



We pray for those who have recently been added to our prayer list for the sick. Names will remain in the bulletin list for 1 month. If someone can be taken off this sick list, please let the Parish Office know. Thank you.

Pete Connelly, Bill Conroy, Sandra Krutz, Reinelia Leiva, Hannah Medow, Mary Mullen, Carol Nance, Fr. John Ouper, Brianna Payne, Paloma, John Rich, Jr., Jon Riley, James Rohrich, George Smith, Jerry Spearman, Fr. Daniel Stempora, Susanne Strickland, Deacon Herb Waldron, those affected by the conflicts in Ukraine & Israel

We continue to pray for all the names listed on our online prayer page for the sick. Please visit our website : www.stalexanderparish.org



Vocations Cross (3rd Sunday of the Month @ 10:30 Mass)

Recognizing the importance of praying for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life, the Council of Catholic Women (CCW) is asking one family a month to pick up the Vocations Cross at Mass and pray for an increase of vocations that month.

If you are interested, please contact Judy Emerson @ 630-620-1425 to sign up for the Vocations Cross.



Our Faithful Departed
Demetrio Mino, Charles Baker, Michael Crosse, Jr., Ray Bacci, and Gene Niewoehner

Stewardship

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Sunday Collection: 12/17/2023..... | \$10,033 |
| Online Giving (WeShare) 12/12—12/20/2023 | \$3,835 |
| Weekly Goal..... | \$8,654 |
| YTD Actual Sunday Coll | \$218,890 |
| YTD Goal Sunday Coll—52 weeks..... | \$450,000 |
| Major Maintenance 12/17/2023..... | \$0 |
| Major Maint. Online Giving 12/12—12/20/2023 | \$20 |

Thank you for your continued support of St. Alexander parish.

Parishioner Registration

Why register with St. Alexander Parish?

Faith is a Journey, not a Destination. Registering with the parish is a commitment to your Faith Journey and St. Alexander’s would like to walk with you.

Benefits to registering as a Parishioner:

1. Registration helps you stay connected with the parish, builds community and helps the parish stay connected with you.
2. Other parishes (*including St. Alexander*) often request verification of a person’s status as a practicing Catholic, attendance at Mass, sacraments, etc., when that person has been asked to be a **Godparent or Confirmation Sponsor**. Without registration, no such verification can be made.
3. Census numbers may determine how many priests are assigned to a parish and how many Masses and enrichment programs are planned and scheduled.



Record of 2023 Contributions

Your 2023 tax statement will be sent to you the last week of January 2024. Any 2023 contributions must be received no later than Friday, January 5, 2024 with the check dated December 31, 2023. Please mark your contribution envelope clearly “2023” so these donations can then be included correctly in our records.

If you need the statement earlier than this or have any questions, please call Rita Matthews in the Parish Office @ 630-833-7730 Thank you for your help!

Welcome to St. Alexander!

We are blessed to have you with us today—and every weekend! Our liturgies are enhanced by your presence and participation. We hope that you find the experience here at St. Alexander’s to include a warm and inspiring celebration of the Eucharist and the faith that we profess.

If you are not registered at St. Alexander’s or are registered and need to make changes, please complete the form below and place it in the offertory basket or mail it to the Parish Office at 300 S. Cornell Avenue, Villa Park, IL 60181.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

- [] New Parishioner [] New Address
 [] New Phone Number

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St. Alexander and St. John the Apostle, Villa Park



Text STALEXANDER to 84576 to sign up for Email and text Updates & announcements

Eastern DuPage Deanery
Join Us As We Welcome
Fr. Michael Pawlowicz
“Understanding the Structure of the Vatican”

January 22, 2024

7:00pm

Immaculate Conception Church
132 Arthur Street
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Priests, Deacons, staff, council members, and all parish leadership are encouraged to attend. All are welcome to join us for an engaging presentation!

Please go to easterndupagedeanery.org after December 1st to register.

A priest of the Diocese of Joliet, Fr. Michael is currently working in for the Apostolic Nunciature of Indonesia.

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2023 Waterleaf Miracles

Thank you,
St. Alexander Catholic Church

You will make Christmas special for all our pregnant moms in need by your donations totaling \$1,375.00 in giftcards supporting Waterleaf Women's Center!

Thank you for helping us give the gifts of life, love, and hope in 2023!

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Total Donations | 8,527 |
| Total Babies | 7,444 |
| Total Gifts | 8,468 |
| Total Babies | 2,079 |

Waterleaf Women's Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) pregnancy assistance and resource center, providing an array of comprehensive services. To learn more about Waterleaf, please visit us at Waterleaf.org, or visit our donor website at OneChoiceOneLife.org.

Waterleaf
PREGNANCY | STD | EDUCATION | COUNSELING

www.onechoiceonelife.org | 630.701.6270

Parish/Deanery/Diocesan News




April 1-10, 2024





CELEBRATE
MASS DAILY
 WHEN A PRIEST
TRAVELS

DIVINE MERCY
Pilgrimage

Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary
 with optional extension to Croatia and Medjugorje


with **Fr. Steven Borello**

For information or to make a reservation, contact:
 Penny Borello | info@travel.com
pborello@gmail.com | 630-309-1851

LIMITED TO 30 GUESTS
SIGN UP
 AND SAVE YOUR SPOT!



Come Learn about the Life of St. Isaac Jogues


Thursday, January 18, 2024
 6:00 - Potluck Dinner
 7:00 pm - Presentation

**Saints Peter and Paul
 Catholic Church**
 Ministry Center Social Hall
 36 N. Ellsworth St., Naperville

Director of Catechesis and Evangelization, Michael Lewandowski, will present on the life of St. Isaac Jogues. Born to a prosperous family in France in 1609, his desire was to bring the Gospel far and wide as a Jesuit missionary. He first ministered among the Hurons in Canada. Fr. Jogues struggled to spread the Gospel in the New World. He bore much suffering and danger, and witnessed terrible torture. However, his zeal and love for souls would eventually bear fruit.

Fr. Jogues returned to France after being captured and tortured by the Mohawks. He eventually left France once more to again minister in the New World, where he was martyred. He was canonized in 1930, along with the seven other North American Martyrs.


For more information and to RSVP,
 please visit sspeterandpaul.net/cloud



Navajo Nation

Information Meeting
 January 17, 2024

Mission Trip
 June 1 to 14, 2024



The Diocese of Joliet will return to Navajo Nation for a two-week mission focused on construction and outreach from June 1 to 14, 2024.

The Diocese of Joliet has been putting faith into action—through intentional service and solidarity with the poor—in Chinle, Arizona, for 20 years.

The Office of Mission is seeking parishioners (18+) willing to help local area families with light construction work. No experience is necessary, but a heart willing to serve is required! Missionaries stay on the campus of Our Lady of Fatima, and the trip will include a pilgrimage to New Mexico's Loretto Chapel and its "miraculous staircase."

An informational meeting on the mission trip will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at the Blanchette Catholic Center in Crest Hill (16555 Weber Road).

Questions?
 Alex Buldak
 Mission Lead
abuldak@dioceseofjoliet.org
 (815) 221-6256

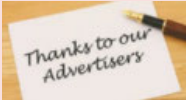
Parish Center: 630.833.7730
Office Hours:
 Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. — 12:00 Noon
 1:00 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.
 Friday 9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.
Church Website: www.stalexanderparish.org
Parish e-mail: office@stalexanderparish.org
Bulletin e-mail: bulletin@stalexanderparish.org
Mass Schedule:
 Monday - Friday: 8:45 a.m.
 Saturday: 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday: 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
 6:00 p.m. (*Spanish Mass*)

Sacrament of Reconciliation
 Tuesday: 5:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m. (Eng/Span)
 Saturday 4:00 p.m. — 4:45 p.m.

Sacrament of Baptism
Attendance at a pre-Baptismal class is required for both English and Spanish Baptisms. Pre-registration is necessary prior to class.
 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month @ 12:15 p.m.
Spanish Baptisms:
 3rd Sunday of the month @ 3:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Marriage
 Arrangements must be made **AT LEAST SIX (6)** months in advance before making other arrangements.

Eucharistic Adoration Chapel
Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00pm—10:00pm
Wednesday from 3:00pm—9:00pm
Pastor: Reverend Mark Rosenbaum
Mass Assistants:
 Rev. Nhan Van Tran SVD/Rev. David Medow/
 Rev. Johnus Cherunilath
Permanent Deacons:
 Christopher Cochran/Julio Jimenez/James Krueger/
 Mark Ranieri, Jr./Matthew Tretina
Office Administrator: Sue D’Alessandro
Music Coordinator: Gina Gabriel
Parish Registrar: Rita Matthews
Faith Formation: 630.833.7730
E-mail: stasfaithform.dre@gmail.com
Director: Kathy Halloran



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STEVE SABATINO, Parishioner

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630-530-0200

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