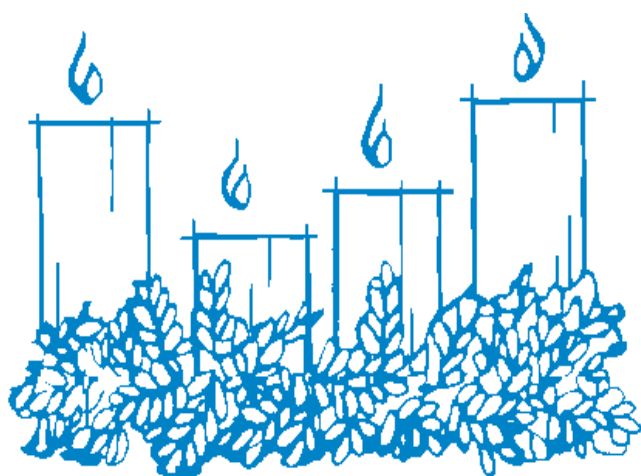




The Dome

ASCENSION CHURCH OF OAK PARK

DECEMBER 21, 2008, FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
OUR 102ND YEAR



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*“Forever I
shall sing
the goodness
of the Lord.”*

God's Promise

Take time this week to continue to reflect and pray over today's Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

The lengthy passage from Samuel is a wonderful exposition of God's promise to the house of David: that his throne would forever be gloriously occupied by his descendants. Hidden in the mystery of the prophecy is the promise of the Savior, the Messiah, Son of God and Son of David. The prophet Nathan, speaking in God's name, poetically turns around David's plan to build a house for God, and announces God's plan to build a "house," that is, a dynasty for David. From this house of David will come the Messiah, the Christ, not in kingly splendor as David ruled, but as a humble man, destined to rule forever and over all. When God gives a gift, it's amazing what we are given—so different from what we ever could have imagined.

God's Promise

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Remember that a Living the Word book will help you to prepare for next week: Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Psalm 105; Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Luke 2: 22, 39-40

ASCENSION CHURCH

Parish Center: 808 S. East Avenue
Oak Park, IL 60304
Tel.: 708-848-2703
Fax: 708-848-2773

Office hours:

M-Th: 8 AM - 8 PM
Friday: 8 AM - 4 PM
S/S: 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Bulletin Articles

ascensiondome@msn.com

E-Mail

ascensionchurch@comcast.net

Personnel can be reached by first
initial last name

@ascensionchurch.com

Web-sites

www.ascensionchurch.com
www.ascension-school.com
www.archdiocese-chgo.org

Pastor

Rev. Larry McNally 848-2703

Pastoral Associate

Victoria M. Tufano 434-1533

Business Manager

Neil Heskin 434-1532

Director of Institutional Advancement

Lynn Fredrick 434-1558

Director of Music

David Anderson 434-1535

Director of Religious Education

Christine Ondrla 848-3099

Director of Youth Ministry

Daniel Lawler 434-1555

School Principal

Mary Jo Burns 386-7282

Parish Office Support Staff

Financial Secretary:

Mary Pat Landa (M-F) x221

Administrative Secretary:

Rosemarie Nowicki (M,T,W) x231

Sacramental Secretary:

Vic Scodius (Th, F) x 230

Pastor Emeritus:

Rev. Robert A. Cross

Weekend Assistants

Rev. Larry Reuter, SJ

Rev. Myles Sheehan, SJ

Deacon Couples

Lendell & Tina Richardson

Roger & Betty Vandervest

Infant & Toddler Care is available
during the 9 & 11 a.m. Masses in the
Cry Room of the Church.

From the Pastor

DEAR FAMILY OF ASCENSION,

Advent Greetings! To symbolize this fourth and last week of Advent, we light the fourth candle, this one, a sign of love. Let us remember in these remaining days to do those 'acts of kindness' towards others, passing on God's love for us.

In this fourth week of Advent we all, myself included, feel a certain amount of pressure to begin to celebrate Christmas. Let's be sure that we carve out some added prayer time each day to keep us focused on the double meaning of Advent: Preparing to celebrate the first coming of Jesus Christ and staying prepared for the second coming of Jesus Christ. We don't know the time nor the hour of that second coming. Let our prayer these last few days of Advent be: *Lord, I wait for You in trust and hope.*

Thanks to all the students of our parish for their work in our Christmas presentations. These two events happened last Thursday evening (and Manning thought his kickoff run was the real thing) and Sunday morning. I enjoyed being there and seeing Christmas once again "through the eyes of a child." Thanks to all the adult involvement that made both events so wonderful.

Please remember that each year we ask that you do not save pews for Christmas Masses. It causes tension and some 'raw' feelings before the Christmas celebrations begin and none of want to begin our Christmas that way. Thank you!

Your help is needed tonight, Sunday the 21st after our evening Mass, to help prepare our church for Christmas. Our goal this evening is to do some of the major decorating that cannot be done on Christmas Eve. I thank you in advance for offering your helping hands.

We have had a sharp increase in our celebration of baptisms so have added one additional Sunday each month to the baptism calendar. This is great and wonderful news for growth in our parish. Starting in January, we will celebrate baptisms at 12:30 p.m. on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of each month.

I have been very touched by the number of parishioners who have offered their professional talent for our *Confidential Ascension Parish Assistance* program. A day has not gone by that someone has called or e-mailed me to volunteer their service. The lines are still open, as they say, if you are able to lend a helping hand. I can be reached at 848-2703 or lmcnally@ascensionchurch.com. Thank you

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

to those who have already volunteered.

And for our parishioners who are in need, I direct your attention to the letter printed on page 6. Please call me if you need some assistance. Do not hesitate.

I see where actor Leonardo DiCaprio lost his wallet and later retrieved it in the dirty laundry pile of a restaurant in New York. He had better be careful how and where he spends it as folks might think he's been laundering money.

Many thanks to Bill Komala for the attractive new sign outside the Parish Center and for remodeling the Parish Center kitchen with the help of Steve and Ann Devitt. On behalf of the staff and everyone else who uses the kitchen, we appreciate how nice it looks and how much easier it is to work in.



The maintenance committee has done so much work in all the buildings this past year. We should not take these generous people for granted. Their volunteer hours make Ascension a safe, more efficient and more attractive place to meet, learn and worship. So I do thank you for all your good work.

Speaking on maintenance, we are having trouble with the front door, north side of Church, but cannot repair it until the weather is warm enough for the door to come down. Please respect the sign on the door as it is really hard to get back into its mounts to lock it overnight. It is a little annoyance, but if you could avoid using it, I would appreciate it. Thank you.

It is a wonderful thing to see that over 200 households have purchased the *Living the Word* scripture reflection books thus far. These books can still be purchased at the Parish Center (which you can now find because of the nice new sign on the outside)! If you have a question about *Living the Word*, please contact David Anderson at 434-1535 or danderson@ascensionchurch.com.

Next Sunday, December 28th, we will be hosting the Heartland Blood Drive in the Pine Room from 8:30Aa.m. until 1:30 p.m. Please share your gift of good health as a Christmas gift with those who are in need of blood. This is a difficult season to find blood donors so your participation would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions please contact Sara sgallagher@flexotraining.com or at 493-4153. Thank you for your compassion.

Elsewhere in our DOME is last week's summary of the Offertory collection. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for ALL that you do for our Family of Ascension.

I pray for you every day.

A lot has been printed about the hairbrush that Rod Blagojevich carries with him wherever he goes. I wonder if ever realized that he has been in the cross hairs of the federal prosecutors since he took office back in 2003?

Have a good and holy last few days of Advent.

GOD BLESS,

Ascension Mission Statement

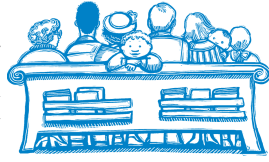
Ascension Parish in Oak Park is a Catholic community called to proclaim, to reflect on, and to live the Gospel. Our desire to follow Jesus inspires us to continue the rich traditions of our faith by supporting education for children and adults, celebrating the liturgical life of the community, and serving those in need within our Parish and beyond. Following the example of Jesus, we value the diversity of gifts in all people and all are welcome.

Parish Council

Alicia Creyts Kevin Duff
Mike Iannaccone Katherine Liebl
Joe McDonald Teresa Naughton
Bill Skalitzky Betty Vandervest Don Woznica

Now That Winter Is Here . . .

Coats, scarves, gloves and all the things we wrap ourselves in to keep warm take up a lot of space in the pews. Please be courteous and sit on your coats or otherwise make them take up less room, especially during the more crowded Masses.



Our ushers will occasionally ask you to move your coats when they are trying to seat people. Please help them do their job. Moving to the center of the pew would also help. It's one more thing that makes us a welcoming parish.

The Gift of Life

Ascension will be hosting its final blood drive for 2008 on Sunday, December 28th beginning at 8:30a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in the Pine Room. Please contact Sara Gallagher at 708.493-4153 to schedule an appointment or visit www.heartlandbc.org and click on the red mouse in the lower left hand corner.



Did you know.....that just one pint of blood can save up to 3 lives!!! This is a busy time of year for everyone; we hope you can help.

Happy Holidays and thank you very much for your support!

Looking for Something to do Today, December 21, At 4:00 p.m.?

The Paul Lindblad Choristers and the Oak Park Concert Chorale will perform Vivaldi's *Magnificat* and feature works by local composers. *O Tannenbaum* and *Hodie Christus Natus Est* are among the favorites to be presented in the magnificent setting of Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica National Shrine, 3121 W. Jackson Blvd in Chicago. There is ample secure parking, free admission; free-will offerings will be gratefully accepted. For details please call 773-638-0159, ext. 102.

Gentlemen: Mark Your Calendars!

The Ascension Men's Morning of Reflection is scheduled for Saturday, February 21, in the Pine Room. We are very happy to announce that our leader for the morning is Jack Shea, scripture scholar, story-teller, and popular author and speaker. All men of the parish are welcome.



It may seem like a long time from now, but it's already nearly Christmas, then the New Year. You know how quickly your time gets scheduled. February 21 is the Saturday before Lent begins. A day of reflection with other men of the parish is a great way to get a start on your Lenten journey. Mark your calendars now and watch the Dome for more details.

Religious Education Classes

Religious Education classes will NOT be in session during the Christmas holidays, December 21st through January 4th.

Wednesday classes resume on January 7th

Sunday classes resume on January 11th

Tuesday classes resume on January 13th

Teacher training takes place on January 6th

Have a wonderful Christmas and a peace filled New Year!

WELCOME TO ASCENSION CHURCH

If you are new to our church or just visiting, please stop and introduce yourself. We are pleased to have you share in this celebration of the Eucharist. If you do not have a church home, or your church is not a home to you, we invite you to become part of our parish family. Our church is open to anyone looking for a spiritual home. Parish Registration forms are at all church entrances or you can also download a form at www.ascensionchurch.com (Administration/Forms/Join the Parish).

We're glad you're here and hope you'll join us!

***Volunteers Needed
Church Decorating
for Christmas after 5 p.m.
Mass Today, Sunday***

As we move through Advent, we begin to see the many decorations inside and outside of houses in our neighborhoods. People all over the world are beginning to prepare to celebrate the "crowning of the year," as the days draw closer to Christmas.

The Art and Environment Committee extends an invitation to anyone who can help us prepare our church for Christmas and the days that follow. We will decorate the church after the 5 p.m. Mass on Sunday, TODAY. Our focus will be to do some of the major decorating that cannot be done on Christmas Eve. Your help would be very much appreciated.

The Art and Environment Committee appreciates those who help our small group at these special times of the liturgical year.

"Connectors" Are Coming!

They've been described and praised in sociological circles, and now they are coming to Ascension. They are "connectors," parishioners on each block or other defined area whose job it is to promote two way communication between the parish staff and the parish community. The block connector is a parishioner who knows (or is willing to meet) the other parishioners on his or her block, and keep the neighbors up to date with events at Ascension as well as the works of its many ministries.

Conversely, the connector would know his or her neighbors well and be ready to alert the parish (with the family's permission) of any spiritual or physical need. A pilot connector project will begin in early February involving about 15 blocks, and will start with a brief training session for the connectors. More information will follow in subsequent Domes. Any questions, contact Celine Woznica at 383-8619.

***Everyone Benefited from the
Festival Shopping Night at Ten Thousand Villages***

The New Hope Ministry did well for their fundraising shopping night - \$295.04! Everyone at Ten Thousand Villages appreciates the support that the parishioners of Ascension Church have given them. And we thank you for your support of the New Hope Ministry and Ten Thousand Villages!

Have a wonderful Christmas knowing that you helped others!

Thank You!

Happy Holidays

We are grateful for your friendship and support.

And we want to say Thank you . . .

Come join us at our annual Christmas Tea

Sunday, January 4th, 1-4 pm

L'Arche Angel House

1049 S. Austin Blvd.

Chicago, IL 60644

Please RSVP to 773-287-8249

Thanks for Your Support!

Thanks to your support for our work at West Suburban PADS, hundreds of formerly homeless men, women and children in our community can go home for the holidays.

Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Lynda Schueler
Executive Dir. PADS

Helping Ascension Parishioners in These Difficult Times

I am repeating here an open letter to all Ascension parishioners encouraging any parishioner who is having financial trouble because of the current economic crisis to reach out to me in confidence. I know that the difficulties are not necessarily limited to finances. If you are suffering spiritually, mentally or emotionally, please also contact me so that I can help, or if appropriate, I can arrange help for you through resources available within our parish or available to our parish.

No matter how difficult things are or may become, you are not alone. Help is available – but you need to reach out and ask for it. Please understand and remember that there is no shame in asking for assistance. There are times in all of our lives when we have the ability to help others, just as there are times when we need to receive help from others. Both are grace-filled, as both involve a surrender of your needs and abilities to God.

To those of our Ascension family who are able to help in any capacity – whether it is financially or through donating your time and talent to help others, please let me know.

We have teams of professionals who are willing to help, and we need more volunteers. Perhaps you could offer financial or legal advice to someone who has lost a job, or is in danger of losing their house. Perhaps you could do a necessary home repair that someone is no longer able to afford. Perhaps you could baby-sit someone's children when they are out looking for a job. Perhaps you are a counselor who would be willing to offer your services, or a human resources person who can offer suggestions on drafting resumes and job networking. Whatever talent you may have, please let me know. We need your help too. And if you cannot help in any of these ways, please help by remembering in your prayers those who are struggling in Ascension and in our community and beyond.

Please call or email me at lmcnally@ascensionchurch.com or 708-848-2703.

God Bless,

Fr. Larry

Lights, Action, Camera... Attention All Parishioners!!!

We are bringing back the Ascension Parish Variety Show in the Spring of 2009. We are currently looking for interested people to participate in various committees to help in the production of the show. Please email all inquiries by Friday, January 9th to Fred Brandstrader at flbrandstrader@comcast.net or Lynn Fredrick at lfredrick@ascension-school.com



The first committee meeting is targeted for Wednesday, January 14th .

Have You Lost Something?

Did you leave something in church? Almost every week someone does. Items left in church are placed in or on top of a plastic box (cleverly marked "Lost and Found") in the main entrance of church, under the table along the south wall.

Of course, we can't keep found items forever, but we will keep things for several weeks. Be sure to look there as soon as you realize you may have left something behind.

ESL Volunteer Tutors Needed

Aquinas Literacy Center needs volunteers to teach English to adult learners. Volunteers commit to tutoring 90 minutes per week. Knowledge of a second language is not required. All training is provided. Please join us at our next training session:

Friday, January 23rd from 6 - 9 p.m.

Saturday, January 24th from 6 - 9 p.m.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Juliet at 773-927-0512 or email programlit@aol.com.

Aquinas Literacy Center
3540 S. Hermitage Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60609



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

December 15, 2008

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Christmas is remembered and celebrated in many ways. As a child, it's the surprise and the gifts that mark the day. As a young person, it's the planning that goes into each gift as, for the first time, you can spend your own money to buy gifts for others. As a parent, it's the delight and happiness of children that leave the strongest impression. As an older adult, it's often the unity of the family that brings the most satisfaction. All of these are good, but each is only a part of something bigger. The more basic question is: what does Christmas mean to God?

St. Paul's letter to the Hebrews tells us that "in times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son, whom he made heir of all things, who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of his being." At the beginning of the Gospel according to St. John, we hear that God's eternal word took flesh and became light for the world, so that all could come to comprehend who God is and what is our destiny in God's plan.

Christmas, therefore, means we are to fit the bits and pieces of our lives and our experiences—the surprises, the generosity, the happiness, the unity—and the sin as well—to take all these and fit them into God's plan for us, revealed in Jesus of Nazareth, Son of God and son of Mary.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we live by his light in the midst of the darkness of our own sins and the sins of the world. The world doesn't like to be exposed, as either partial or sinful, and resists the light now as when Jesus was born. But nothing the world can offer is eternal, nothing lasts forever, except the Word of God made flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary. Today, Christmas celebrations will be more modest in many homes and memories will be different from other years. But what is done in and with and through Christ, the eternal Word of God, will be done well and will last forever.

I hope that some time in the future, we will recall that this was the Christmas we came to understand how God is always with us, in good times and in bad, in darkness and in light, so long as we remain one in him. This will then have been a truly blessed Christmas.

You and your intentions will be remembered in my Christmas Masses and prayers; please keep me and the needs of the Archdiocese of Chicago in yours.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

Treasures from Our Tradition

Children of the parish are somewhat focused on Santa Claus these days, who is keeping an eye on who's naughty and nice. Santa Claus, with his heavenly patron Saint Nicholas, has been more or less in charge of gift-giving to American children for a hundred years or so. In other places, perhaps more attentive to our Christian tradition, there are different gift-bearers. In Greece, Saint Basil delivers the presents on his feast day, December 31, and makes sure everyone is sprinkled with holy water. The Baby Jesus is in charge elsewhere, called the *Christkind* in Austria and Belgium, *El Niño Jesús* in Columbia, and *Le Petit Jesus* in France, where he shares his duties with *Père Noël*. In the Czech Republic almost everyone is atheist, but *Je íšek*, the infant Jesus, brings gifts to one and all. In Poland the "Star Man" is said to bring the gifts, although often he turns out to be the village priest in disguise. Saint Nicholas, not his Americanized cousin, is the giver in Holland, where he wears a bishop's miter, and in Russia, where he wears a bishop's crown. Soviet Russia tried to dethrone Saint Nicholas and promote Grandfather Frost, but no one was much fooled by this attempt to squeeze religion out of Christ's birth. One country has a saintly woman in charge of the gifts, Saint Lucy, honored in Sweden on December 13, when children serve their parents breakfast in bed, and others awake to news that they have been nominated for a Nobel Prize. Some children have a second round of gifts on Epiphany, when the magi assume the gift-giving duties. In general, the gifts of Christmas are simple pleasures, not great heaps of treasures. Once upon a time, a new pair of socks or an orange was enough for us. No matter what gifts we receive, all of them are to point us to the true gift, and the true giver.

—Rev. James Field, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.



Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66
Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79
Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Thursday: Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Feast Days

Tuesday: St. John of Kanty
Friday: St. Stephen
Saturday: St. John



Career / Work Ministry

The Career Transitions Group meets every Saturday morning from 7:30-8:30 a.m. in the Parish Center. The group is designed to serve the underemployed, unemployed and/or people looking to make a career change. We celebrate each success story with a box of donuts - we've been eating a lot of donuts!

Please note that we will not meet the Saturday between Christmas and New Year's Day, but we will gather again on January 3rd and we look forward to you joining us!

For more information, please refer to our web site www.workministry.com or call Kurt Mackey at 708-445-0221.

We just received notice from Catholic Charities that their toy supply is lacking for two categories: Birth - 2 and 13-15 year olds. If you are in touch with any companies or donors who want to help us with toys try to steer them in that direction. Items may be dropped off on the porch at 722 Clinton. Thanks for all you do every day!

Mass Attendance

Mass Attendance.....1,679

Financial Update

Total Weekly Offering\$25,817.01
Weekly Need\$18,900.00



YTD Budget\$453,600.00
 YTD Offering\$449,019.17
 Deficit(\$4,580.83)

Ascension Parish is entirely funded by private donations. Thank you for your kind and generous support of all the ministries of our community



CAPITAL DEBT
\$595,056.24

ASCENSION: MOVING FORWARD
 Pledges & Donors..... 403 Families
Total Pledges.....\$1,466,157.00
Amount Paid.....\$677,018.00

Notre Dame High School for Girls Open House

The New Notre Dame High School for Girls at St. Ferdinand Parish will be holding an Open House on Wednesday, January 7th. It will run from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. and is open to all 7th and 8th grade students and their parents. Open House will take place at the new campus, which is located at 3115 N. Mason Ave, Chicago. Please contact Mrs. Pauline Garrett at 773-622-1541 for more information or to reserve your spot.

Meetings and Events

Today	December 21	
Luminaria Sale	School Lobby	After Masses
Candidates	215	9:00 am
Inquiry Group	207	9:00 am
Extending the Word	Dining Room	10:15 am
Cub Scout Den Mtg	Pine Room	1:00 pm
Wednesday	December 24	
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	<i>Parish Office Open 1/2 Day</i>	
Thursday	December 25	
<i>Christmas Day</i>	<i>Parish Office Closed</i>	
Friday	December 26	
<i>Holiday</i>	<i>Parish Office Closed</i>	
Sunday	December 28	
Blood Drive	Pine Room	8:30 am
Candidates	215	9:00 am
Inquiry Group	207	9:00 am
Extending the Word	Dining Room	10:15 am

Finance Committee Members

Tom Brooker, Chairman
 Peter Gancer
 Walter Healy
 Pat Hess
 Michelle Joubert
 Mike Kowal
 Greg Peters
 Jim Schumacher
 Craig Shannon
 Joan Waldron

In Sympathy

Please pray for the repose of the soul of
Jeannette McElroy, Patricia Martin's mom,
Larry Carmichael, brother of Sue Sciacotta
 and for their family and friends.



Banns of Marriage

III James Sciacotta & Brigid O'Connor

Pray for the Sick

Elvere Anselmo, John Baggs, Baby Marty Biau, Sarah Bowman, Josephina Carmona, Joe Cassidy, Mary Colombo, Dale Dykema, Jennifer Fischer, Marty Grimes, Baby Simon Gutierrez, Meri Hale, Bruce Hanessian, Patricia Hanley, Jim Heneghan, Ester Hitchner, Jack Joyce, Kathy Kenney, Frances Kimball, Pat Koberstine, Thomas P. Kragie, Anne Marie Kuhny, Mary Landa, Gerry & Mary Logan, Angelo Madonia, Don Manning, Janine Marschalk, Carol McDonald, Joan McNeela, Ken Morten, Frank Murphy, Lenore Navarro, Leo & Estelle Pargulski, Sonya Parker, Philip Rice, Anne Sandow, Tom Slott, Mikayla Sweeney, Jean Szott, Mary Thomas, Mary Toomey, and Nancy Welch.

May our prayers bring them strength, healing and peace.

Christmas Mass Schedule

	Christmas Eve December 24th	Christmas Day December 25th
4 pm	Fr. Larry McNally	
6 pm	Fr. Larry Reuter	
12 pm	Fr. Larry McNally	
9 am		Fr. Larry Reuter
11 am		Fr. Larry McNally

	This Week Dec 20/21	Next Week Dec 27/28
5:00 pm	Fr. Larry McNally	Fr. Larry Reuter
7:30 am	Fr. Larry Reuter	Fr. Larry McNally
9:00 am	Fr. Larry Reuter	Fr. Larry McNally
11:00 am	Fr. Larry McNally	Fr. Larry Reuter
5:00 pm	Fr. Larry McNally	Fr. Larry McNally

Masses for the Week

SUNDAY – December 21

Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 5:00 (Sat) Ed & Cal Pulchalski / Celia, Joseph & Gregory Fera / Benedict & Mary Wojcik
- 7:30 Richard Heffernan / Bonifacio Tremonte
- 9:00 Kay Brennan Wallace / Brad Trifone
- 11:00 Adeline Dunlavy / Marie Reichenbach / Rose Smith
- 5:00 Tom Woods / Kragie & Hayes Families

MONDAY - December 22

Late Advent Weekday

- 7:45 Rosary (Monday—Friday)
- 8:15 James Greene / Ellen Geraghty

TUESDAY - December 23

John of Kanty, priest

- 8:15 Leonard & Brennan Families / Mary Carney

WEDNESDAY - December 24

Advent Wednesday / Vigil of Christmas

- 8:15 *All Parishioners*
- Christmas Eve Masses are at:
4 p.m. - 6 p.m. - Midnight

THURSDAY - December 25

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Masses are at 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

FRIDAY - December 26

Stephen, first martyr

- 8:15 Tim & Ken Palmer / Dorothy Eva Murray

SATURDAY - December 27

John, apostle & evangelist

Vigil: Holy Family

- 3:00 *Nup: James Sciacotta & Brigid O'Connor*
- 5:00 Anthony Coari / Kay Brennan Wallace

SUNDAY - December 28

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

- 7:30 Anthony Coari
- 9:00 Johnny Keegan
- 11:00 Thomas & Mary Murphy / Jimmy Sullivan / Tom Strudeman
- 5:00 Evelyn Kosar McDonald, MD / Evelyn Perivolidis

PARISH INFORMATION

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 4:00 - 4:30 PM.

Infant Baptism: Starting in January, parish celebration of infant Baptism takes place at 12:30 pm, on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month. A preparatory session for parents is held on the second Saturday of the month in the Parish Center at 9:00 a.m. Expectant parents, as well as parents whose children have already arrived, are encouraged to attend. To register for a preparatory session, or to schedule a baptism, please call the parish office.

Adult Initiation: Adults interested in information about the Catholic faith or wanting to become Catholic, should contact Vicky Tufano, ext 233.

Weddings: Please make an appointment with a priest to pick up a wedding information packet at the Parish Office at least a year prior to selecting a date.

Sick Calls: If there is anyone at home who cannot attend Mass or receive the sacraments because of illness or old age, please contact the Parish Office or the Ministers of Care Coordinator, Mary Strudeman, 848-4944.

Registration: All newcomers are welcome to the Ascension family and are asked to pick up a census/registration envelope at the entrance of the Church. Parishioners who marry, have a baby, or move to a new address should also notify the Parish Office, ext. 231.

Audio Devices are available for the hearing impaired. Please see an usher or greeter before Mass.

Ascension Community Board is available for the posting of services needed or offered. The Board is in the Usher's Room.

Parish Office: 708-848-2703

Bulletin deadline: Monday 9 a.m. Please deliver articles to Parish Office or e:mail to ascensiondome@msn.com