



The Dome

ASCENSION CHURCH OF OAK PARK

A Stewardship Parish, Sharing Our God-Given Gifts in Service

December 26, 2010, Feast of the Holy Family



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Salvation in Daily Life

Take time this week to reflect and pray over today's readings: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalm 128; Colossians 3:12-21; Matthew 2:13-23.

This Sunday is the feast of the Holy Family, which comes on the first Sunday after Christmas Day. Today's feast celebrates how the humanity of Jesus (including his entire family life) has brought saving significance into the daily rhythms of our human family life.

The scriptures offer instruction and encouragement on how to share—within our families, parish families, and the wider human family—the love that God shares with us in Jesus. Selections from Sirach, Psalm 128, and Colossians encourage us to reflect divine love and thus find holiness in all our human relationships. The reading from Matthew's Gospel offers a living example of love in the actions Joseph took to protect his young family from danger and to nurture them within the larger family of faith of their time.

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To help you prepare for The Epiphany of the Lord which we will celebrate on January 2: Isaiah 60:1-6;

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).

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

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:

Joanna Cundari (Th, F) x 230

Pastor Emeritus:

Rev. Robert A. Cross

Weekend Assistant

Rev. Jerry Bleem, OFM

Rev. Ray Guiao, SJ

Deacon Couples

Lendell & Tina Richardson

Roger & Betty Vandervest

Joe & Kathie Walsh

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,

God's Blessings upon you all as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family! May our Parish Family of Ascension, as well as the families that make up our homes, be united in love and respect, as was the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

I would like to thank our Ascension School's Chamber Orchestras, Philharmonic Orchestra and Symphonic Ensemble, as well as our first, second and third graders for Ascension's Christmas Program on the 9th. *Come, O Savior, Come*. I thank our Principal, Ms. Mary Jo Burns, our Music Teacher, Mrs. Barbara Creed, our Orchestra Director, Mrs. Becky Coffman, and Music Director, Mr. David Anderson also for this wonderful night. I so enjoy this program. What wonderful musical talent and gifted students within our School! God is good! I loved hearing those young, innocent voices singing out the Christmas Carols with one of my life-long favorites, *Do You Hear What I Hear?* which made me teary-eyed. What a great night and I thank ALL the above for a joyful night of music and song!!!

Saturday, January 1st, is the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. Since this is a Saturday, the United States Bishops have removed the holy day obligation. We will have Mass at 9 a.m. and I am hoping that you will still come and celebrate. What a great way to start out the new year—with Mass, the Sacrament of Sacraments. What a great way to honor and prayerfully acknowledge Mary, the Mother of Jesus. In the Gospels, there are 13 scenes where Mary is identified either by her own name or as the Mother of Jesus, speaks, takes action, or is described as an essential part of the action. In Luke's Gospel, especially at the beginning, Mary takes a prominent position, showing that she is a great woman of deep and firm faith. Mary is in all four Gospels and, that presence, shows that Mary is an essential part of our redemption. As Vatican II says in its documents, Mary was the first Disciple, the perfect Disciple. The documents go on to say that Mary is the closest to God, yet nearest to us. So with all that said, I do hope that you will join us this Saturday as we celebrate the Mass of the Solemnity of Mary, Patroness of our United States; as stated above, there is none better!

And on that very same night, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany with 5 p.m. Mass. This Feast celebrates the fact that Jesus came on earth to save God's people everywhere! Growing up, we used to call this Feast *Little Christmas*.

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And to continue to start the New Year right, I also invite you to Taizé Prayer on Saturday, January 1st, beginning at 7:30 p.m. And as we gather in song and silent reflective prayer, we pray for peace in our world for all of God's holy people everywhere.

On January 2, our Sunday Mass schedule remains the same: 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. that evening.

Our Parish Center will be open on Thursday the 30th until 12 Noon and closed all day Friday. However, I will be in and around, and on a regular basis, I will be checking our parish's voice mail. And if there is an emergency, please call our Answering Service at 873-6650 and they will be able to get in contact with me in a timely manner.

One of our local papers did a rather long article on the Cubs' new manager, Mike Quade, and his passion for fishing and cooking his 'catch' in the winter. I was rather surprised at his timing since baseball's winter meetings were being held where I'd think there would be 'bigger fish for him to fry' for the new baseball season.

As our new year begins at the end of the week, one of the biggest priorities next year will be introduction of the new translation of the Mass. Vicky and David will be spearheading our parish's education for and introduction to this complete translation. In other words, most of the words we say and hear at every Mass are about to change. Mass will remain the same, but the prayers will be different. This will not affect our Scripture Readings or our petitions or even our hymns and songs. The new translation, which will reflect an even closer and tighter translation from Latin to English, will pertain to the words we pray, speak and sing at our Masses. It will also affect the prayers that I and all our priests will be praying from the Roman Missal (we used to call it a Sacramentary—now the new name is the Roman Missal). As was learned from the last time, a more thorough and complete presentation, education and formation must be done for a better understanding of all this, especially in this area of Mass. For as we know, Mass is the most important of what we

do as Christians—to celebrate this great sacrament of Eucharist—as well as living out the sacrament in charity. We are in good hands with David and Vicky taking care of this. We will have assorted sessions for various parish groups as well as taking part in our area cluster presentation of the Revised Mass Texts. There will be lots more to come on this in the months ahead. I will be gone in late June with all the priests of the Archdiocese for a week of in-depth study of the new texts. The Revised Mass Texts, as of this writing, are scheduled to begin on Saturday, November 26th, and Sunday, November 27th, which is the first weekend of Advent—the Church's New Year.

Due to printing deadlines by the bulletin company, we are way ahead of ourselves in publishing our DOME. Therefore there is no Offertory collection summary again this week. I will bring you up to date with these summaries once we are back on normal schedule. But please let me express my thanks and gratitude for your generosity in our Offertory collection weekend after weekend. I thank you so very much. I thank you for ALL that you do for our Family of Ascension.

I pray for you every day.

I see where Scott Lee Cohen was so confident that he was going to be elected Lieutenant Governor before the his scandal became public, that he got himself vanity license plates that read Lt. Gov. As we all know by now, all that didn't work out. One could say that he isn't everyone's 'Pride' and Joy.

Have a Blessed and Happy Epiphany Week.

GOD'S BLESSINGS,



Thank You!

Dear Ascension Community,

Thank you for your tremendous support with this year's Christmas Angel Project. Your generosity will help 100 families have a more Blessed Christmas. This annual program could not happen without the support and assistance of Father Larry, the Parish Staff, School Office Staff and Faculty, Religious Ed Teachers, and countless other volunteers.

A special thank you to:

The Angel Captains: Sue Herbert, Jean Bowling, Patti Spanger, Jean Sullivan, Celine Woznica, Kathy Wirtz, Joanne Kalkirtz, Susan Fleming, Peg Mackie, Colleen Martinotti, and Deedee Ralston.



Our other volunteers: Carolyn Quaid; Ellen Ziegert; Tiernaur Anderson; Frances Farlee; Maggie Skalitzky and the Confirmands; The Bowling, Mackie, Yaccino, Bergholtz, and Sobczynski families; Linda Dunne; Dottie Hetzel; Julie Patterson; Meg Liebreich; Beth Bracco; Katrina Vigsnes; Kate Dunne; Jessica and Michael Nowicki; Tom Dunne; Don Stapleton; Patrick Bracco; David Fruth; Tim Kelly; and Don Granholm.

God bless you all,

Colleen Bracco, Marybeth Granholm, and Sheila Martinotti

Religious Education Classes

Religious Education classes will NOT be in session during the Christmas holidays.

Sunday classes resume on January 9th.

Tuesday classes resume on January 11th.

Wednesday classes resume on January 12th.

Teacher training takes place on January 4th.

Confirmation Meeting

Confirmation candidates and mentors will meet for their first session on Thursday, January 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the Pine Room. Please complete all required work before the meeting.



Give a Gift of Life Next Sunday, January 2nd

What a great way to start the New Year!

We will be hosting a Blood Drive in the Pine Room from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 2, 2011. Walk-ins are most welcome, but appointments are preferred.

Please contact Sara Gallagher at 312-231-3170 or saracgallagher@gmail.com to schedule an appointment. If you find it easier to schedule an appointment online, it's very easy and there's no need to create a login—www.heartlandbc.org. Receive a Frango Gift Coupon (redeemable online) when you share the gift of life at this particular blood drive!



Taizé Prayer This Saturday

*Join us as we pray for peace and reconciliation
for our troubled world.*

*We will gather for prayer this month only
on Saturday, January 1st,
at 7:30 p.m.
We hope you can join us.*

*Our next Taizé gathering will be
our usual Friday night, February 4th.*



Youth Mass

The Youth Ministry Board would like to invite all teens to a youth focused Mass. Fr. Andy McAlpin, Campus Minister from Fenwick High School, will be presiding. He has a lot of experience working with and talking to high school teens and their families. Afterwards, come to the Pine Room for pizza and socializing. Please join us for our next gathering at Sunday Mass, January 2, at 5 p.m.

For more information or if you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Sarah Schmidt, Anne Smart, Liam Northey, or Tom Northey.

Save the Date

In our lives that are so hectic with work and family, focusing on our marriage often takes a back seat. The Marriage Mentor Ministry is hosting a party for couples in the parish to celebrate and bless their marriages.

Save the date of Saturday, February 12, and join us for Mass, good food, friendship and fun. More information will follow.

Parents First

Please save the date and plan on attending the next presentation of *Parents First* on Sunday, January 23, at 10 a.m. in the Pine Room as we continue our discussion of living out our Christian call in the workplace. We hope to see you there.

Christ Renews His Parish Women's Retreat Weekend

The CRHP process is a unique opportunity for prayer, scripture reflection, spiritual growth and a wonderful chance to get to know fellow parishioners better. The men of Ascension have experienced a Renewal weekend and several are now in the six-month formation process to provide another weekend in the Spring. And now there is an opportunity for our women.

On Friday, January 21st thru Sunday, the 23rd, a women's CRHP weekend will be conducted by the Archdiocese at the Cenacle Retreat House in Chicago. This is an opportunity for Ascension women of all ages to begin the Team Formation process which will restart the Christ Renews His Parish program for all women of our parish. Several women have already committed to the formation process and are hoping more will join them for this January retreat experience. If you are interested or would like more information, please call or e-mail Jay Champelli 708-383-7496, jaychampelli@msn.com, or Fr. Larry.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Department of Finance
Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979



Parish Operations
835 N. Rush St.
Chicago, IL 60611
Phone (312) 534-5399
Fax (312) 534-5267

STOCK DONATION - LETTER OF INTENTION For the Archdiocese of Chicago Parishes, Schools, and Agencies

Donor: Please complete this form for ALL STOCK/MUTUAL FUND donations.

For further assistance, please call Greg Salm, Archdiocese of Chicago, Bank Administrator at (312) 534-5399.

I (we) plan to transfer the securities (please check one of the following):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Electronically
<input type="checkbox"/>	By Registered Mail
<input type="checkbox"/>	By Hand Delivery

Donation Date: _____

From: (Please Print)

Donor Name(s):
Address:
City, State, Zip:
Telephone:
E-Mail Address:

Please accept our donation of _____ Shares of _____
(# of shares) (Name of Security)

to be credited to the Catholic Bishop of Chicago for the benefit of:

Parish, School or Agency:
Address:
City, State, Zip:
Other Information:

(If you are donating various stocks/securities and/or to various locations, simply print "VARIOUS" above and attach a separate page with a list detailing the various gifts and locations that are to receive the gift/s).

Send this form via one method listed below:

- Regular U.S. Mail: Archdiocese of Chicago
Parish Operations – Stock Donations
835 N. Rush St.
Chicago, IL 60611
- Fax Number: (312) 534-5267
- E-Mail Address: gdsalm@archchicago.org

Thank you for your donation.

Feast of Faith

PROCESSIONS

Why does the liturgy begin with a procession? It is not just a practical matter of getting the ministers of the liturgy from the sacristy to the sanctuary. The procession is a powerful sign of who we are as Christian people. We are not static, staying in one place. We are going somewhere. Our procession leads us to the altar, sign of Christ's presence in our midst. We move, we process, because we recognize our need for what Christ is preparing for us at that table. We go forward eagerly, because we are hungry for that heavenly food.

This procession is an orderly one: servers, lector, deacon, priest presider. Each is set apart by distinctive vesture: albs for the altar servers, dalmatic for the deacon, chasuble for the priest. The procession is an image of the hierarchical structure of the Church. On a deeper level it is an image of unity in diversity. We are all on a journey to the heavenly city, but each of us is clothed with different gifts. We all receive the call to service, but not in the same way. Only by coming together in all our wonderful variety can we achieve the work of the kingdom.

—Corinna Laughlin, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

Volunteer Tutors Needed

The Dominican Literacy Center (1503 Rice St., Melrose Park) is in great need of women volunteers for the Winter/Spring session. This program offers tutoring in reading and speaking of English to women, on a one-to-one basis. Classes are once a week, for an hour and ½ session. To volunteer and register for the tutoring sessions, please call: Sr. Judith or Sr. Marlene at 708-338-0659.

Happy New Year!

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See You Next Year!

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Mt 2:13-18
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40
Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18
Saturday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7;
Lk 2:16-21

Feast Days

Monday: St. John
Wednesday: St. Thomas Becket
Friday: St. Sylvester I
Saturday: The Blessed Virgin Mary



Bed 18

An independent, confident, strong young woman decides to carry her pregnancy alone. The premature birth of a one-pound little girl opens Pandora's box for the mother. She proceeds to fight for her child's life and discovers that her own life is not as it has appeared for the last 35 years. Her daughter's courage and strength calls the young mother to come home to herself, the first of many lessons along this journey. The story unfolds as the mother finds numerous twists, turns, meltdowns, roadblocks, faith, imagination, spirituality and resilience on the journey through her child's brief life.

Cailin and Carrie's love story will not only touch your heart but change how you carry your soul through this life.

Bed 18 is only available through wwwcreatespace.com/3441553 for \$9.99.

Carrie, a parishioner, is using her story to help others by donating the proceeds of her book to purchase new parent chairs for the NICU at Loyola Hospital so other parents can build memories with their sick babies just as she was able to do with Cailin.

**All Figures are for
December 12 Weekend
Mass Attendance**

Mass Attendance1,342

Financial Update

Total Weekly Offering \$19,070.00
Weekly Need..... \$19,275.00



YTD Budget \$462,600.00
 YTD Offering \$426,756.53
 Deficit (\$35,843.47)

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 \$197,532.58

Meetings and Events

Today	December 26		
Extending the Word	Dining Room	10:15 am	
Monday	December 27		
CRHP II	215	7:00 pm	
Stewardship Team	Dining Room	7:00 pm	
Wednesday	December 29		
TT Team	Lower Level	7:00 pm	
Thursday	December 30		
Parish Office Open 1/2 Day			
Friday	December 31		
New Year's Eve / Parish Office Closed			
Saturday	January 1		
New Year's Day / Parish Office Closed			
Taizé Prayer	Church	7:30 pm	
Sunday	January 2		
Blood Drive	Pine Room	8:30 am	
Extending the Word	Dining Room	10:15am	
Youth Fellowship	Pine Room	6:00 pm	



December 26, Feast of the Holy Family

January 1st

Year End Tax Contributions

If you are able to make a year end tax deductible donation to Ascension Church, there is still time. Gifts of stock will need to be transferred by December 31, 2010 in order to qualify for this year's tax savings. Please see page 6 of today's bulletin for a form or call the Parish Office so we can give you the information you need.

All other 2010 contributions must be dated December 31, 2010 and received in the Parish Office by Monday, January 17, 2011, in order for us to close the books and prepare year-end statements for anyone who donated over \$250 to Ascension Parish this year.

No matter how large or small, any donation to our parish is greatly appreciated and very important to us and the quality of services we provide.

As Fr. Larry always says, *Thank you for all you do for our parish. I pray for you every day.*



Banns of Marriage

II Daniel Bateman & Pantila Vanichakarn

Pray for the Sick

Marty Biau, Sarah Bowman, Baby Michael Brady, Kay Bracco, Josephina Carmona, Joe Cassidy, Mary Colombo, Charles Crowe, Rey Dominguez, Carol Finnegan, Jennifer Fischer, Steve Flanagan, Marty Grimes, Malissa Groth, Simon Gutierrez, Meri Hale, William Hall, Bruce Hanessian, Patricia Hanley, Ester Hitchner, Pat Koberstine, Thomas P. Kragie, Anne Marie Kuhny, Fay Kutz, Kathleen O'Bryan Kurrle, Annina Lementavich, Curt Linne, Gerry & Mary Logan, Jan Lorenzen, Rosita Malmis, Mary Massura, Mary Ruth McGrath, Dellwyn Meewes, Ken Morten, Frank Murphy, Emilia Ortiz, Leo & Estelle Pargulski, Philip Rice, Joseph Rigali, Anne Sandow, Tom Slott, Steven Sobie, Annette Spillane, Elizabeth Stohl, Mary Strenski, Mikayla Sweeney, Mary Thomas, Jesse & Sonia Vasquez, Nancy Welch, Kathy Wiedow and David Wojcik.

May our prayers bring them healing and peace.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of
Michael Decker, Casey's brother
Joyce McDonald, Moira's mother
Ursula Pyrz, Rita Cooke's mother
 and for their family and friends.

This Week Sunday December 26

7:30 am	Fr. Larry McNally
9:00 am	Fr. Jerry Bleem
11:00 am	Fr. Jerry Bleem
5:00 pm	Fr. Larry McNally

Masses for the Week

SUNDAY – December 26th

Feast of The Holy Family

7:30	Deceased Benefactors
9:00	Ken & Tim Palmer
11:00	Mary & Benedict Wojcik / Evelyn Perivolidis
5:00	Eileen Gull / Lisa Szelesta

MONDAY - December 27th

St. John, apostle and evangelist

7:45	Rosary (Monday—Friday)
8:15	Julianne Villari / Oscar Feliciano

TUESDAY - December 28th

The Holy Innocents, martyrs

8:15	Jimmy Sullivan
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WEDNESDAY - December 29th

The Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas

8:15	Mary Christiansen
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THURSDAY - December 30th

The Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas

8:15	Elvia Lopez Zambrano
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FRIDAY - December 31st

The Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas

8:15	Deceased Parishioners
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SATURDAY - January 1st

Mary, the Mother of God

9 am	For the Parish
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SATURDAY - Vigil, The Epiphany of the Lord

5 :00 (Sat.)	Leo Touhey
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SUNDAY - January 2nd

The Epiphany of the Lord

7:30	Ed & Helen Freidheim
9:00	Patricia Brennan & The Brennan Family / Dorothy Malinowski
11:00	Tom Strudeman/Alicia Johnson
5:00	Eugene Odom / Addison Cammack

PARISH INFORMATION

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

Infant Baptism: Our parish celebration of infant Baptism takes place at 1 p.m., 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 9:30 a.m. First-time parents are required 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 Fr. Larry to pick up a wedding information packet at the Parish Office at least a year prior to selecting a date or reception hall.

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 one of the Ministers of Care Coordinators: Susie Cahill, 383-7238, Linda Dunne, 848-5574, or Cece Masella, 383-3785.

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 or by downloading a form from the parish website. Parishioners who marry, have a baby, or move to a new address should also notify the Parish Office.

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

Lost & Found Box is under the table in the church vestibule.

Parish Office: 708-848-2703

Bulletin deadline: Monday 5 p.m. Please deliver articles to Parish Office or email to ascensiondome@msn.com