

# THE CHIMES OF ST. ATHANASIUS PARISH

## OUR MISSION

We strive to be a vibrant Catholic parish that nurtures our community, and lives the gospel of Jesus Christ by sharing our talents and resources for the good of others.



*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race..."*

JOHN 1:1-5

Please see Mass Readings for December 20 & 27 and Mass Prayers on pages 11-14.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
NATIVITY OF THE LORD  
HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH  
SOLEMNITY OF MARY HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

DECEMBER 20, 2020  
DECEMBER 25, 2020  
DECEMBER 27, 2020  
JANUARY 1, 2020

**Pastor**

Rev. Hernan Cuevas, *Pastor*  
parishoffice@saintasparish.org

**Parish Office**

1615 Lincoln Street,  
Evanston IL 60201-2340  
847-328-1430 (fax) 847-328-1809  
[www.saintasparish.org](http://www.saintasparish.org)  
Reception Hours, Monday - Friday, 9:00am - 4:30pm

**Parish Office Staff**

Kelly Fierro, *Parish Operations Director*  
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Jose Moreno, *Buildings and Grounds Facilities Manager*,  
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**Pastoral Staff**

**Music Ministry**

Chris Skrable, *Coordinator of Music*, music@saintasparish.org  
Emma Tumminello, *Music Minister*, etumminello@saintas.net

**Religious Education**

Barb Cegielski, *Director of Religious Education (DRE)*  
familyprogram@saintasparish.org

**Youth and Young Adult Ministry**

James Andrew Holzhauer-Chuckas, ObSB  
*Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry*  
jholzhauer-chuckas@saintasparish.org

**Parish School**

2510 Ashland Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60201-2319  
School Office 847-864-2650 (fax) 847-475-7385

**Parish School Staff**

Carol McClay, *Principal*, cmccclay@saintas.net  
Mary Quish, *Assistant Principal*, mquish@saintas.net  
Judy Berg, *Communications Coordinator*, jberg@saintas.net  
Emma Tumminello, *Choir Director*, etumminello@saintas.net

**Staff Extension List 847-328-1430**

101 Judy Berg	114 Jose Moreno
103 Fr. Hernan Cuevas	100 Marianne Moseley
105 Kelly Fierro	100 Parish Office
100 Renee Kapel	123 Mary Quish
142 Jean Lauri	101 School Office
133 Liz Leon	100 Chris Skrable
115 Carol McClay	124 Barb Cegielski
114 Jose Moreno	155 J Holzhauer-Chuckas

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** is a several-month process for an adult wishing to become a Catholic through the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) or through a Profession of Faith. These rites are celebrated at the Easter Vigil. Please call the Parish Office.

**Infant Baptism** is generally celebrated on the first and third Sundays of the month at 1:00 pm in the Church. The Baptism Preparation Program for parents and godparents, if possible, is held each month. Please call the Parish Office to make arrangements.

**Confirmation Adolescent Confirmation Sacramental Preparation** is a structured 2 (two)-year faith journey beginning in junior high in our School and our religious education program, Family Program, and continuing through high school to complete the 2-year requirement. Adult Confirmation Sacramental Preparation takes place in a subcategory of the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. For more information please contact Barb Cegielski, Director of Religious Education.

**The Eucharist** is brought to the homebound by Care Ministers. Arrangements are made by calling Mary Ann Harvey at 847-323-6910. First Eucharist preparation for children begins in first grade and is celebrated in the spring of second grade. For more information contact Barb Cegielski.

**Matrimony** arrangements made a year in advance allow for adequate reservation time, participation in marriage preparation programs and liturgical planning. Please call the Parish Office.

**Anointing of the Sick** is celebrated in the Fall during a communal celebration. Special requests for this sacrament can be arranged by calling the Parish Office.

**Reconciliation** is celebrated after the Sunday 9:30am Mass with previous notice to the priest or by appointment. Communal Reconciliation Services are held during Advent and Lent.

**Chimes Bulletin Articles**

The deadline for submitting information to the parish office is Friday at Noon, 10 days prior to publication date. Please email the document as an attachment to communications@saintasparish.org. Issues of the Chimes can be found online at [www.parishesonline.com](http://www.parishesonline.com).

*Connect and unite  
with the St. Athanasius Family online.*

◆ **Livestream Mass & Liturgical Events at**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9IGSZjuCoMOZNqXDHubXrA>  
<http://vimeo.com/user110042574>

or on our Facebook page at  
<https://facebook.com/saintasparish/>

**Worship aid** visit <https://www.theworkofgod.org/Devotns/Euchrist/guide.htm>

◆ **Visit us online at** <http://saintasparish.org>



◆ **Like us on Facebook at**

<https://facebook.com/saintasparish/>



◆ **Like us on Instagram at**

<https://www.instagram.com/saintasparish/>

**Dear St. Athanasius Community:**

## ***A Christmas Call to Action***

We pray that you and your loved ones are healthy and experiencing a deepening of Christ's love as we journey together through Advent to the end of 2020. There is much to be hopeful and grateful for while we reflect upon all we have been through this past year. In this season of hope and renewed promise, despite the many challenges our community has faced and continues to overcome, inspiration can be found in the spirit, resilience, and dedication shown by our whole community. With the Holy Spirit guiding us, our St. Athanasius family continues to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ for one another and our community.

Our parish community has answered the call to address current challenges head-on, and has continued to serve our community. We have adapted new ways to serve through livestream Masses, sacramental celebrations, in-person learning at our school, virtual formation programming for our Family Program, online formation groups and wellness checks. We continue to support the outreach efforts of St. Agnes of Bohemia School, St. Vincent DePaul Society, St. A's Soup Kitchen, Connections for the Homeless, New Hope Apartment Program, and various other Archdiocesan sponsored missions.

Thankfully, we have a dedicated team of volunteers and staff who developed and implemented our reopening plan. Their contribution of time and talent has allowed us to joyfully and safely worship and serve together to celebrate Mass and the sacraments. Since our reopening in June, St. Athanasius has held 119 in-person events and liturgies including a First Holy Communion, a Graduation, a First Reconciliation, 69 Masses, 24 Eucharistic Adorations, 14 Reconciliations, 10 Baptisms, 3 Weddings and 2 Funerals serving over 500 parishioners and visitors. The thoughtful and diligent approach taken by the reopening committee has allowed us to accomplish this safely and without incident, allowing our Parish community to worship with confidence. As the pandemic evolves, we will continue to carefully evaluate the risks and follow recommended protocols to make our spaces as safe as possible for all parishioners.

Though we have done much during this unprecedented year, St. A's, unfortunately, has not been immune to the economic challenges these times have brought upon us all. As we look forward to 2021, and review and project our Parish financial position, we remain confident that we are in a position of strength. However, we also have had a higher level of unforeseen safety expense and lower offertory collections with Mass attendance restricted due to the pandemic. Your generosity through the pandemic has been incredibly appreciated and we now ask you to share what you are able this Christmas to ensure that our parish ministries and operations can continue with strong support into the new year. The contributions of parishioners at Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses represent a significant amount of our annual budget which funds vital ministries and outreach. Limited attendance and lower offertory collections at Christmas Masses does present a significant risk of financial strain on our ministries and operations.

Our Christmas Call to Action asks us to reflect and pray on our mission as a parish, and on how we can, as a community, contribute in ways both large and small to help St. Athanasius continue its meaningful mission into the new year. We prayerfully ask you to continue giving to the St. Athanasius offertory and to consider a Christmas gift at the level you provided last year, or if you are able, to increase it in thanksgiving for blessings received. You can make an electronic Christmas gift by visiting <https://bit.ly/stasxmas> or as an electronic offertory gift by visiting <https://givecentral.org/givenow>. Gifts by cash or check can be dropped off at the parish office or mailed. If you are unable to make a financial gift, please continue to pray for our St. Athanasius family. We also invite you to donate your valuable time to the extent you are able. We need volunteers to assist in greater duties and church cleaning for in-person Masses. To volunteer please contact [saintsfriends@gmail.com](mailto:saintsfriends@gmail.com) or call the parish office.

May you have a blessed Advent season and thank you for your continued support. We are proud of our strong and close community. We believe we are being called by Jesus Christ to a renewed sense of solidarity. This is a time for unity in prayer, not for isolation; it is a time for hope, not despair; it is a time for generosity, not self-focus. "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn. 13:35).

Please know that you are a gift to our St. Athanasius family. Your presence, whether in spirit or in person, means everything to our community. May the Lord be with each one of you during this Advent and Christmas season. ***Merry Christmas!***

***Sincerely yours in Christ,***

Father Hernan and the St. Athanasius Finance Council

## Mass Intentions

December 20–January 3, 2020

### Sunday - *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

5:00 pm Saturday (Vigil) † Jerry Allen  
11:30 am † John Hatch, David Sager

### Monday

† Mae Stone

### Tuesday

† Natan Enzo Martinez, John Hatch

### Wednesday - *NO MASS*

### Thursday - *Christmas Eve*

3:00 pm † Helen Allen  
6:00 pm † Jack Steinberg, Lois LeMenager  
9:00 pm † Christine Braniff, Gertrude ‘Trudy’ Skrable

### Friday - *Christmas Day*

9:30 am † Natalie J. Duffy  
11:30 am † Eileen Navins, Mary Nugent Kane

### Sunday - *Feast of the Holy Family*

5:00 pm Saturday (Vigil) † Kathleen Farrell  
11:30 am † Rita Jans, Thomas Martin Kent,  
Natalie Duffy

### Monday

† Beulah Younes

### Tuesday

† Rita Kent

### Wednesday - *NO MASS*

### Thursday - *New Year's Eve*

5:00 pm † Dan Murray

### Friday - *Solemnity of Mary. New Year's Day*

11:30 am † Andrew Reis

### Saturday

† John Klemmer

### Sunday - *Epiphany*

11:30 am † Joan DeLena

## St. Athanasius Parish Christmas 2020

**Attendance at All Events requires Registration.**  
Links to Register are included below and also will be available on our website, and our e-newsletter.

### POSADA

Register at:

<http://bit.ly/stasposada>

FILLED waiting list available by calling Parish House at 847-328-1430.

Tuesday, December 22, (Note: this is the correct date)  
Outdoors 6:30 to 7:30pm

### CHRISTMAS EVE LITURGIES

Register at:

<http://bit.ly/staschristmas>

Thursday, December 24

3:00 PM Mass (Livestream) FILLED, waiting list available by calling Parish House at 847-328-1430.

6:00 PM Mass FILLED, waiting list available by calling Parish House at 847-328-1430.

9:00 PM Mass (Livestream)

### CHRISTMAS DAY LITURGIES

Register at:

<http://bit.ly/staschristmas>

Friday, December 25

9:30 AM Mass

11:30 AM Mass (Livestream)

### VIGIL OF THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY NEW YEAR'S EVE

Register at:

<http://bit.ly/stasmary>

Thursday, December 31

5:00 PM New Year's Eve Mass

### SOLEMNITY OF MARY, NEW YEAR'S DAY

Register at:

<http://bit.ly/stasmary>

Friday, January 1, 2020

11:30 AM Mass (Livestream)

### SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Register at:

<https://bit.ly/weekendmass>

5:00 PM (Saturday, January 2, 2020)

Sunday, January 3, 2020

11:30 AM Mass (Livestream)

**UPDATE:**

**Livestreaming St. A's Liturgies & Events**

For those who are watching our services from home, we appreciate your continued patience with technical issues we sometimes encounter with our livestream services. Thank you for your feedback about any technical issues you encounter as we use that to remedy issues within our control. For example, thanks to viewer input, we are now careful not to begin streaming our services too early so as to prevent "timing out" on Facebook. If you are experiencing difficulty when trying to worship virtually, remember that your device or internet connection may also be affecting performance on some platforms. If you are unable to connect with us on one platform, please try another. **We livestream all our services on**

- Facebook:** <https://facebook.com/saintasparish/>  
**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9IGSZjuCoMOZNqXDHubXrA>  
**Vimeo:** <http://vimeo.com/user110042574>

All links are also available on our parish website, and in our weekly Enewsletter.

**Please Remember in Your Prayers**

The sick and their caregivers, especially, **Carla LaRochelle**, and **Lori Goszczynski**;

Those in the military, especially **Patrick Harmon, USN**, son of Katherine Harmon and grandson of Joan and Jim Ward, **US Army Captain, Madeline Celebrezze**, daughter of Kathleen and Jim Corydon, **US Army Captain, Megan Vande Hey**, daughter of Mark and Therese Vande Hey and granddaughter of Jack and Liz Pinter, **Captain Mark T. Harvey, USMC**, son of Paul and Mary Ann Harvey, **Captain William Durband, Alexander Ellis**, son of Georgie Ellis, **Ken Razionale, USMC, Petty Officer 1st Class Ryan Olsen**, grandsons of Jane and Emmit Ingram, **LCDR Anthony Grusich, USN**, son of Lois and Bill Grusich, **Anthony Chrobak**, nephew of Eric Harkna and Tonise Paul;

Those who have died, especially, **James Burns**.

STEWARDSHIP

**Weekly Finances — December 6, 2020**

Sunday Offertory (Cash/Checks Mail/Drop Off) .....	\$6,191
Sunday Offertory Electronic .....	+ \$4,895
<b>Total Offertory</b> .....	<b>\$11,086</b>
Target Goal.....	\$10,100
Current Weeks Difference.....	\$986
Year-To-Date Sunday Offertory Collections .....	\$89,054
Year-To-Date Sunday Offertory Electronic Collections.....	\$120,885
Year-To-Date Offertory Collections.....	\$209,939
Year-To-Date Target Goal .....	\$232,300
Year-To-Date Difference from Target Goal Over/(Under) .....	\$(22,361)

**Dear Parishioners,**

*Thank you for sharing with us what God has blessed you with. With gratitude, Fr. Hernan Cuevas*

**Thank You! Every Contribution Matters, Every Parishioner Counts**

**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

**This Week:  
Christmas**

<https://www.givecentral.org/location/432/event/10576>



Next Week: Christmas

**Sunday Offertory During the COVID19 Crisis**

If you are already an online donor, we thank you. If you are not, it is easier than ever to enroll in electronic giving. We recognize that there are members in our community who have been financially affected by COVID19, but if you are able to do so, we ask you to maintain your regular weekly donation or prayerfully consider an increase during this challenging time. You can make your Sunday offertory donation by:

- ◆ Visit <https://www.givecentral.org/givenow> to donate or set up a recurring electronic donation.
- ◆ Text the key word SUNDAY to 847-221-6237. You will be directed to our online giving page.
- ◆ Call 847-328-1430 x105 to set up electronic giving over the phone.
- ◆ Mail your envelope to 1615 Lincoln, Evanston, IL 60201.
- ◆ Drop off your donation in the parish house mail slot.

# FORMED

## NEW RELEASES

*Through loving God first, may we discover that Love is its own reward*

### **The Road to Bethlehem: Week 3**

Dr. Gray invites you to continue down the Road to Bethlehem during Advent. In this video, he highlights all the great resources available as you continue your Advent journey.

<https://watch.formed.org/what-to-watch>



### **Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession**

John the Baptist urged us to repent! This episode of Forgiven provides insights into all the details of Confession as we heed this call for repentance.

<https://watch.formed.org/what-to-watch>



### **The Search: Who is Jesus?**

Through Jesus' humanity, we are invited to know God in a very personal way. But how exactly did this lowly carpenter become the most pivotal figure of all time? Find out in this episode of The Search.

<https://watch.formed.org/what-to-watch>



### **Jesus is Coming**

Brother Francis special Sunday premier! Show your children "Jesus is Coming: The Blessings of Advent and Christmas" to help them prepare for the coming of Christ. This special program will be accessible for free exclusively on Sundays in Advent.

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/jesus-is-coming-the-blessings-of-advent-and-christmast>



To Start enjoying FORMED! go to  
<http://signup.formed.org>

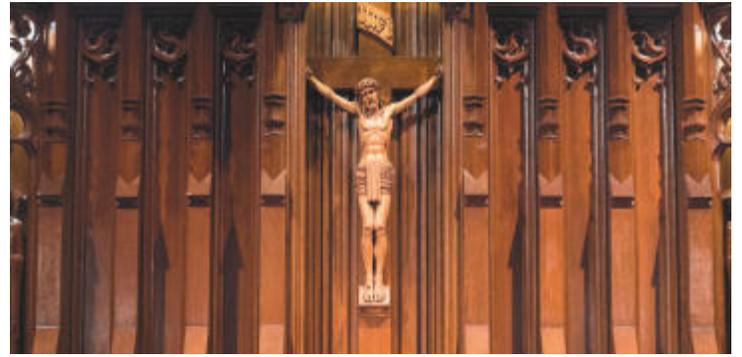
**Looking for Volunteers! Sign-up to volunteer as:**

**Greeter:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054baaab23a2fd0-greeter>

**Clean-up Crew member:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054baaab23a2fd0-cleanup>



### **St. Athanasius is OPEN for Masses, Private Prayer, Adoration and Reconciliation**

St. Athanasius is open for **Masses, Adoration and Private Prayer for up to 80 guests** and for **Reconciliation**. At this time registration for events is required on SignUp Genius

Sign up for **Masses** here:

**Weekday Mass on Wednesdays at 8:30am**  
(No Masses on December 23 & 30)

<https://bit.ly/wedmass>

**Weekend Masses on Saturdays at 5:00pm and Sundays at 11:30am**

<https://bit.ly/weekendmass>

Sign up for **Adoration and Private Prayer** here:

**Mondays, from 5:00 to 6:00pm**

<https://bit.ly/adorationmonday>

Sign up for **Reconciliation** here:

**Select Saturdays from 3:30 to 4:30pm**

Next Reconciliation dates: January 9 & 23

<https://bit.ly/reconciliationsaturday>

**The reopening effort will require many volunteers; anyone interested in helping can email the committee at [saintasfriends@gmail.com](mailto:saintasfriends@gmail.com).**

The dispensation from Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation continues and we advise that the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions stay at home and participate through livestream Mass.

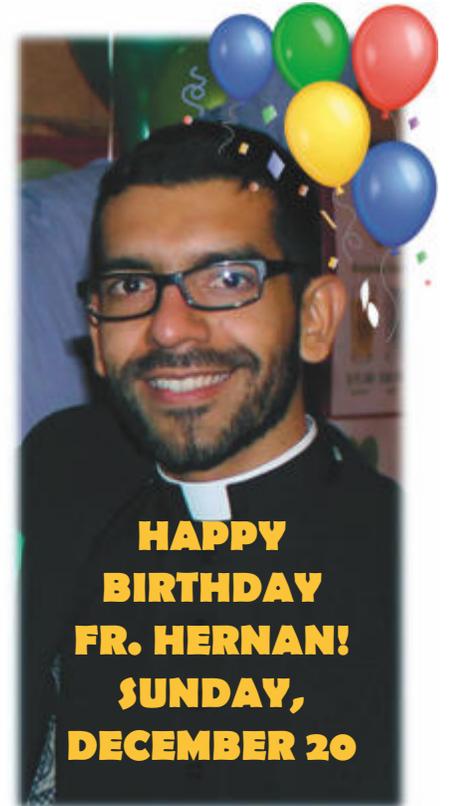
Those without online access can register by calling parish office at 847-328-1430 or by sending an email to [parishoffice@saintasparish.org](mailto:parishoffice@saintasparish.org). Please leave a message with your reservation request and wait for the parish office to contact you to confirm your reservation.

**The Parish House office is open to the community on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm.**

“Open wide your door to the one who comes.  
 Open your soul,  
 throw open the depths of your heart  
 to see the riches of simplicity,  
 the treasures of peace, the sweetness of grace.  
 Open your heart and run  
 to meet the Sun of eternal light  
 that illuminates all humanity.”

— St. Ambrose of Milan (340-397)

Fr. Hernan Cuevas  
 The Staff of St. Athanasius Parish



**HAPPY  
 BIRTHDAY  
 FR. HERNAN!  
 SUNDAY,  
 DECEMBER 20**

**An opportunity to triple your donation to benefit current and future students of St. A's**

Since its inception, St. Athanasius School has seen a steady growth in the number of students eligible for and awaiting Tax Credit Scholarships. These scholarships help to make Catholic education attainable for families for whom it may otherwise be out of reach. Each year we have a number of students who qualify for this scholarship, but we have not reached a point where we have the ability to fund everyone's needs.

Again this year there is a 2 for 1 matching gift opportunity for donations made toward Empower Illinois to fund Tax Credit Scholarships for students between now and February 28, 2021. Consider making a donation, receiving a substantial Illinois Tax Credit on your donation, and the opportunity to have your donation tripled to benefit current and future students of St. A's! Thank you for your consideration.

For more information and to access the links to make your donations, please visit:

<https://schools.archchicago.org/tax-credit-scholarships>



Did you know that the **Invest in Kids Act** helps children from low-income households in Illinois access scholarships that cover up to 100 percent of a Catholic school's tuition? Thousands of students are gaining knowledge and building on their faith in Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools thanks to this program. Your support during these challenging times would help educate the next generation in Catholic students while building on a brighter future for all.

**What is a tax credit scholarship?**

Tax Credit Scholarships cover up to 100 percent of tuition and fees for the 2021/22 school year. Students from low-income households can qualify for tax credit scholarships if their family income is less than \$70,000. More than 9,000 students qualified for a scholarship last year and 6,900 were left waiting without one.

**Cut tax liability**

Individuals and corporations may receive a credit for their Illinois state taxes equal to 75 percent of donation.

**Triple your impact**

Donate to a school or all archdiocese schools between Dec. 1 and Feb. 28, 2021, and, thanks to a few generous donors, your donation will be matched and maximized threefold! Limitations apply.

**HOW IT WORKS**

We use \$10K in this example, but any amount is needed.

**DONATE \$10,000**

After following the step-by-step guide, a taxpayer can donate \$10,000 to Empower Illinois, the Scholarship Granting Organization working with the Archdiocese. Designate the archdiocese's Catholic schools or a specific group of schools as beneficiary.

**TAX REWARD CAN EQUAL \$7,500**

You are eligible to claim a \$7,500 tax credit on your state taxes -75 percent of your gift. This has the potential to eliminate your 2020 tax liability.

**MATCHING ANGELS:**

Your \$10,000 gift becomes \$30,000 in student scholarships

Each dollar you give between Dec. 1 and Feb. 28, 2021, will be matched 2 for 1 by a handful of generous donors, tripling the scholarship amount and making a bigger impact on students who need your help. Limitations apply.



**Leddon Family  
Lights the St. A's Christmas Tree**

**St. A Café Soup Kitchen goes beyond Christmas and into the New Year!**

Remember: Donations will go well beyond the Christmas event.

▲ We will continue to collect in order to provide more meals to the community.

▲ We will take on more dates in 2021.

▲ We will help Connections for the Homeless continue to feed the same community during the week until our donations run out.

▲ Please donate here:

<https://www.givecentral.org/location/432/event/10810>

Thank you!  
Michael Masini, 24-392-3002, mvmasini@gmail.com



**We would like to thank all of our generous donors for their financial support!**

In addition to responding to our regular requests for help with utility and rent payments, this month our conference distributed Jewel food cards for Thanksgiving meals to over 45 households in our local community.

The outpouring of gratitude from these individuals and families has been overwhelming. And in a few weeks we will be undertaking another large distribution of food cards, just in time for the Christmas holidays.



To support these efforts you can make a donation to our poor box located in the church vestibule, or you can contribute using GiveCentral on the parish website at:

<https://www.givecentral.org/location/432/event/10811>

Thank you for your continued generosity ... our work on behalf of the needy would not be possible without you! May God bless you and please keep our clients in your prayers.

**PAVER PROGRAM**

**Honor our past and build the future by setting your legacy in stone.**

*We invite you to donate a personalized engraved stone for installation on the beautiful path to the west of the church, to lay a foundation for St. A's parishioners to tread upon for years to come.*

*Your donation is tax-deductible.*



**Make your Mark**

Keep memories and make a statement by putting your thoughts in a permanent setting.

Family | Graduation/Alumni | Prayers and Memorials | Gratitude  
Anniversaries/Weddings | Favorite Teacher/Mentor | Quotes



**Standard Stone \$250**  
A standard rectangular stone of 4 by 7 inches which allows 3 lines of text, with 10 characters per line.

**Large Stone \$500**  
A large square stone of 8 by 7 inches which allows for 4 lines of text, with 13 characters per line.

**Extra Large Stone \$1,000**  
A large rectangular stone of 8.25 by 14 inches which allows for 6 lines of text, with 16 characters per line.

**Special Icon Addition to Stone \$50 per icon**  
Icons such as flowers, trees, crosses, animals, and hearts - take up 3 characters on 2 lines (6 characters total).

**For more details, and to purchase, visit [www.saintsparish.org/paverprogram](http://www.saintsparish.org/paverprogram) or call 847.328.1430**



*Personalized stones make lovely Christmas gifts!*



### Scouts Deliver Christmas Joy!

*After their original wreath and garland supplier had to cancel a week before delivery due to Covid-19, Cubs Scouts rallied and found an alternate source. So the scouts were happy to spread evergreen Christmas joy to all of their family, friends, and neighbors. This year 2 former Cub Scouts, now in 8th grade, got some Parish service hours towards Confirmation by helping with deliveries.*



### Thank you for your generosity!

*Thank you to everyone who donated to the St. A's Canned Food Drive last week at the school and church. We were able to donate 800 items, including 55 birthday kits and 30 pasta kits, to the Hillside Food Pantry. A special thank-you to the eighth grade students who braved the cold and helped collect items. Thank you for your commitment to supporting our neighbors in need, especially during this difficult year.—St. A's Friends*

### Thanksgiving Food Drive THANK YOU!

Now that the Advent season has begun, we would like to thank everyone for their generosity to the Thanksgiving food drive for St. Agnes Parish. We were able to purchase 150 Aldi food cards for \$50 each, and another \$2,000 for Walmart cards. Both of these were suggested by Fr. Nevins and Estella, their secretary. Thanks to all the generous people at St. Athanasius, we had a balance of \$1,000 so we sent a check to meet the continuing needs of the parishioners of St. Agnes. **We are grateful for your continued support of this project. Thank you from the Maday family.**



## Epiphany Home Blessing

The Christmas season, especially the Feast of the Epiphany, is a traditional time to bless homes. The Book of Blessings has an official rite which may be used by a priest, deacon, or lay person. The book of Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers has a short, simple rite that may be led by a family member. Often related to these blessings is a ritual of "chalking" the front door of the home with the numbers of the year separated by the initials, CMB. The letters traditionally refer to the legendary names of the three kings: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. (Scripture neither names them nor says there were three of them.) Another tradition refers to it as the abbreviation of the Latin phrase, *Christus mansionem benedicat*, translated as "May Christ bless this house." To chalk the door for Epiphany, one would write in chalk on the outside lintel above the front door (or anywhere on the posts of the doors):

**20 + C + M + B + 21**

Another tradition is to take the first Christmas card received that season which had the image of the Three Kings and tape it above the inside horizontal lintel of the front door. Both rituals are meant to remind the household to gladly welcome everyone who comes to your door and to eagerly seek out Christ every time you leave home. A copy of the Rite follows:

**All make the Sign of the Cross.**

**Head of Household:** *Peace be to this house and to all who dwell here, in the name of the Lord.*

**All:** *Blessed be God forever.*

**Reader:** *In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things come to be through him, and without him nothing came to be..... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-3.14)*

For 2021, using chalk, write on the outside of your house, above or next to an entrance:

**20**  
**Christus**  
**Mansionem**  
**Benedicat**  
**21**

These words mean: "May Christ bless this house."  
(Each word could be written by a different member of the household.)  
Or optionally you may use the names of the Magi

**+20**  
**Caspar**  
**Melchior**  
**Balthazar**  
**21+**

**All:** *Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness and the keeping of your law. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our love for each other may go out to all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT** Lectionary: 8**READING I** 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?'"

"It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Psalm 1:89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (*A different psalm may be sung at the discretion of the liturgist*)

**R. (2a) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

The promises of the LORD I will sing forever; through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness. For you have said, "My kindness is established forever"; in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

**R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant: Forever will I confirm your posterity and establish your throne for all generations."

**R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

"He shall say of me, 'You are my father, my God, the Rock, my savior.' Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him, and my covenant with him stands firm."

**R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.****READING II** Romans 16:25-27

Brothers and sisters: To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

**GOSPEL** John 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY** Lectionary: 17**READING I** Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother. My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins—a house raised in justice to you .

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 *(A different psalm may be sung at the discretion of the liturgist)*

**R. (cf. 1) Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.**

Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways!

For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; blessed shall you be, and favored.

**R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.**

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home; your children like olive plants around your table.

**R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.**

Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD.

The LORD bless you from Zion: may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

**R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.**

**READING II** Colossians 3:12-17

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him .

**GOSPEL** Luke 2:22-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted—and you yourself a sword will pierce—so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. .

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**PENITENTIAL ACT Form A, Confiteor**

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

**PENITENTIAL ACT Form B**

Priest: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

**People: For we have sinned against you.**

Priest: Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

**People: And grant us your salvation.**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify  
you, we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God,  
Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the  
sins of the world, have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of  
the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the  
Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**NICENE CREED**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit  
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated  
at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and  
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,  
 the Father almighty,  
 Creator of heaven and earth,  
 and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 born of the Virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died and was buried;  
 he descended into hell;  
 on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
 he ascended into heaven, and is seated  
 at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
 from there he will come to judge  
 the living and the dead.  
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy catholic Church,  
 the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body,  
 and life everlasting. Amen.

## INVITATION TO PRAYER, Response

**People:** May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
 Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
 Hosanna in the highest.  
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Hosanna in the highest.

## MYSTERY OF FAITH, Memorial Acclamation

### People:

**A:** We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

### or:

**B:** When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

### or:

**C:** Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**Priest:** Behold the Lamb of God,  
 behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
 Blessed are those who are called  
 to the supper of the Lamb

**All:** Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

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