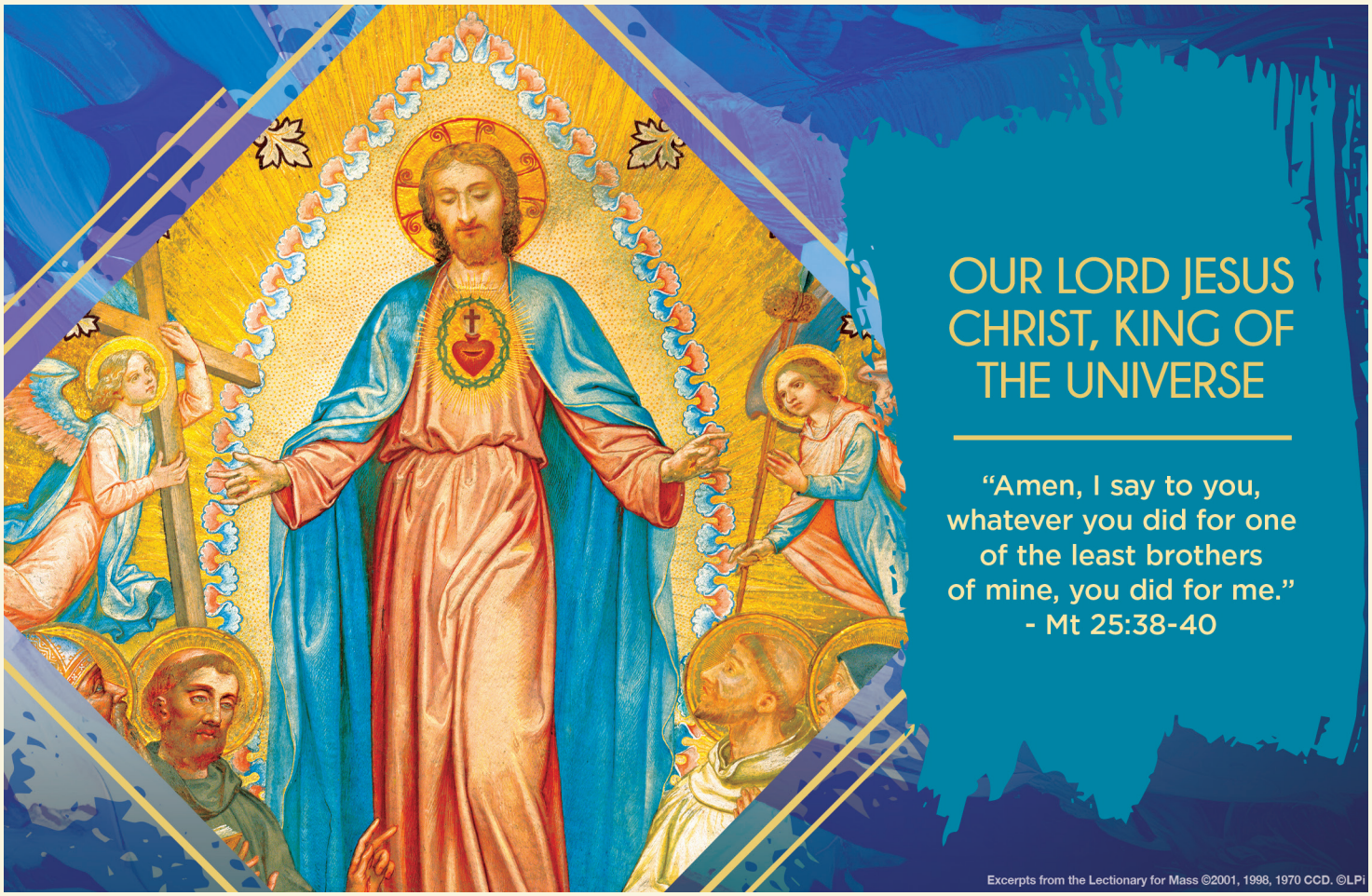
Saint Gianna Parish

YOUR FAMILY, YOUR HOME



Sunday, November 22, 2026

Mass Times

Weekend

4:00 p.m. Saturday

7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. Sunday

Weekday

8:30 a.m. Monday - Saturday

Parish Rectory

10233 S. Central Park Ave.

Evergreen Park, IL 60805

708-423-8110

www.mystgianna.org

On Facebook and Instagram:

@mystgianna

A Candle, a Prayer, and a Thankful Heart

Dear Parishioners,

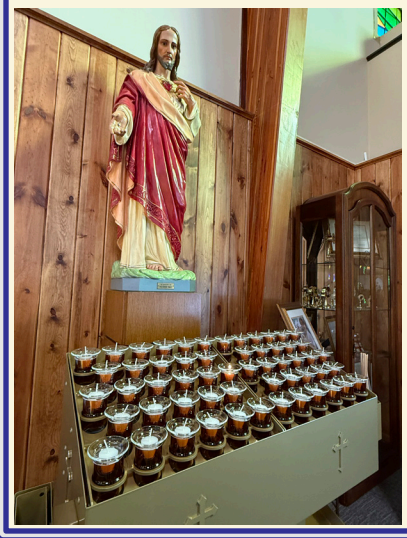
How often have we stepped into church to light a candle and whisper the name of someone we love who needs our prayers? Sometimes our prayers are long; other times, we just say, "Lord, please help." How comforting it is to place our concerns before God and trust that He will take care of us.

Thanks to the generosity of Carol Zofkie and Linda Blaeser, our parish has received new votive candle stands. I am grateful to both of them for this thoughtful gift, which will serve the prayer life of our parish for years to come.

The decision to replace our previous stands was prompted by a practical concern: fire safety. On several occasions, a match or lighting stick accidentally left in the candle wax caused a much larger flame than intended. These incidents made it clear that a change was needed. The new stands were chosen to help reduce this risk while preserving a tradition that means so much to many of us. Please continue to use care when lighting candles and dispose of matches and lighting sticks in the designated receptacles.

The custom of lighting candles in prayer has roots in early Christianity, when the faithful used lamps and candles in worship at the tombs of martyrs. Over time, lighting a candle became an established expression of devotion, petition, and thanksgiving. The word *votive* comes from the Latin *votum*, meaning "a vow". Its light reminds us of Christ's light and expresses our desire to be close to God in prayer, even after we have left the church.

It is important to remember that lighting a candle does not replace our prayer. It is a visible sign of the faith with which we pray. We may light one for someone who is ill, for a child facing difficulties, for a loved one who has died, or in gratitude for an answered prayer. When we light a candle before an image or statue of the Blessed Mother or a saint, we ask for their intercession, knowing that all grace comes from God. I encourage you to make time for this simple devotion. Before or after Mass, pause for a few moments. Light a candle. Speak to the Lord from your heart. And when you see the candles others have lit, offer a prayer for them and their intentions, too. We may never know who lit a particular candle, but we can still pray for one another.



With Thanksgiving coming this week, perhaps our next candle could accompany a prayer of gratitude. We are often quick to ask God for help, and He welcomes those prayers, but we can sometimes forget to return and say, "Thank you."

Thanksgiving invites us to appreciate the blessings of our country, the company of family and friends, and the food we share. It also asks us to remember those whose tables may not be as full as ours and those who will spend the holiday alone. As Catholics, thanksgiving is part of our life every week. The very word *Eucharist* means thanksgiving. At Mass, we thank the Father for the gift of His Son, and we bring Him our lives as they are with joys, worries, successes, and disappointments. Even in a difficult year, there are blessings for which we can give thanks.

In that spirit, I want to share some personal parish news. After 14 years of faithful service, Ellie Joyce will retire on December 9. As my administrative assistant and our office manager, Ellie has been someone I have relied upon through the daily responsibilities and many changes of parish life. I know how much work takes place behind the scenes, and I am sincerely grateful for her dedication, her help, and the care she has given our parish. Ellie, thank you for these 14 years and for all you have done to help me serve our people. We will miss having you in the office, but I am happy that you will have more time for your family, and especially for the joys of being a new grandmother! Please stop by the parish office before December 9 to thank Ellie personally and wish her well. After so many years of service, she deserves to hear how much she is appreciated.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving, please know that I thank God for you and for the privilege of being your pastor. May the Lord bless your homes, those gathered at your tables, and those you will be remembering in prayer.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!
Fr. Benedykt

Happy Thanksgiving

Begin Thanksgiving Day by giving thanks to God for all He has done for us this past year!

Join with your family, friends, and community at 9:00 a.m. on Thanksgiving morning for our annual celebration of Mass.

Don't forget, you can bring non-perishable food items with you to Mass. We place these items on the altar during the Presentation of the Gifts as an act of thanksgiving for the blessings we have received and as acknowledgment of Christ's command to care for those in need.



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

All are invited to be part of the Synodal Process in the Archdiocese of Chicago



This is a time for the Church to pray, reflect and listen to one another.

Synodal listening sessions will take place from:

November 2026 through February 2027, culminating in an ecclesial assembly on **June 12, 2027**.

There is a Synodal Listening Session at **St. Gianna Parish on Saturday, January 9, 2027 from 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.** You can sign up to attend at:www.archchicago.org/synodality or by scanning the QR code:

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VISIT US AFTER EVERY WEEKEND MASS
NOVEMBER 28-29
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Adult Faith Formation



SPRED Ministry

The SPRED ministry has been busy preparing rooms in the school and has already begun meeting with an adult group of friends. A second group with children ages 6-10 is set to begin in December. If you are interested in getting involved, we will have more training opportunities to become a catechist in the new year.

SPRED

Magnificent Humanity

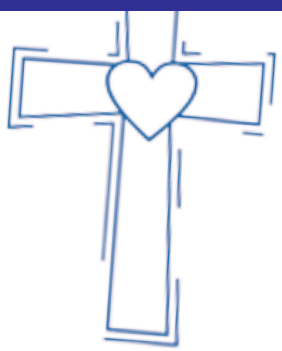
Book Discussion

Our faith formation discussions for adults (young or old) on Pope Leo XIV's new encyclical on protecting human diginity in the age of A.I. and technological progress, entitled "Magnificent Humanity" resume this Monday, November 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room (Room 8). All are welcome to attend.

Faith Formation

Religious Education Program and Youth Ministry

Contact Tina O'Shea Creed at: tina@mystgianna.org



CALENDAR

GMYM Thanksgiving Potluck 11/24

Random Fun 11/25

Retreat Formation 11/29

REP Class 11/30 & 12/7

Children's Liturgy of the Word 12/13

30 Days of Thankfulness

Each day during the month of November, GMYM will take time to reflect on everything in our life we are grateful for and we invite you to join us!



GMYM Teen Retreat
Dec. 5th -6th



"My second Mission Trip experience was one I will never forget. I built new friendships. I got to go on some very cool hikes, one with a waterfall and Knobby Rock! Knobby Rock is a very tiring hike with a beautiful rewarding view. During the week, my work at the worksites, I helped clear a mountain side full of roots, vines, and trees. At another worksite, I helped dig up a landfill like side of a house that was causing damage to the homeowner's house. My favorite part at this worksite was getting to talk to the homeowner. Despite what was going on in his life, he was very grateful for all he had. Thank you so much for your support in helping me and other teenagers at St. Gianna Parish go on the MIssion Trip this year. I cannot wait for next year. " ~Elizabeth



Advent Raffle



We are pleased to continue the tradition of our Advent raffle. There are six chances to win, with drawings on Thanksgiving, the four Sundays of Advent, and the grand prize on Christmas. The raffle tickets are $25.00 each, and if you win one of the early bird drawings, your ticket is placed back in the drum for another chance to win.

Our prizes are:

Thanksgiving, November 26.....$300.00
Sunday, November 29 .....$300.00
Sunday, December 6.....$300.00
Sunday, December 13.....$300.00
Sunday, December 20.....$300.00
Christmas Eve grand prize.....$2,500.00

Thank you for all the ways you support our St. Gianna Parish.

Facing the Holidays with Faith, Hope, and Trust

The Venerable Mary Potter Bereavement Ministry of St. Gianna Parish recognizes the holidays can be a particularly challenging time for those who are mourning the loss of a loved one. You are invited to a special morning of reflection with special guest Julie Berggren, MA. Julie is a Chaplain at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Associate of the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart, spiritual director and retreat leader. She provides bereavement support and facilitates meaningful conversations with those who are grieving. We hope you can join us for support and guidance on Saturday, November 28, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (*note the date/time change from the evening of Tuesday, November 17*) in the St. Joseph's Room. A continental breakfast will be served.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."
--Matthew 11:28-30.



To register for this morning of reflection, please call the rectory 708-423-8110.

QM Library Donates to Mobile Library Program

Back in September, we donated the books from the school's library to the Cook County Sheriff's Book Bus, a mobile library program which provides free books to communities and schools that need them. We're happy to see those books put to good use and continue to be used by those who need more access to reading and literacy. You can scan the QR code to see a news story from ABC7 Chicago about the Cook County Book Bus program.

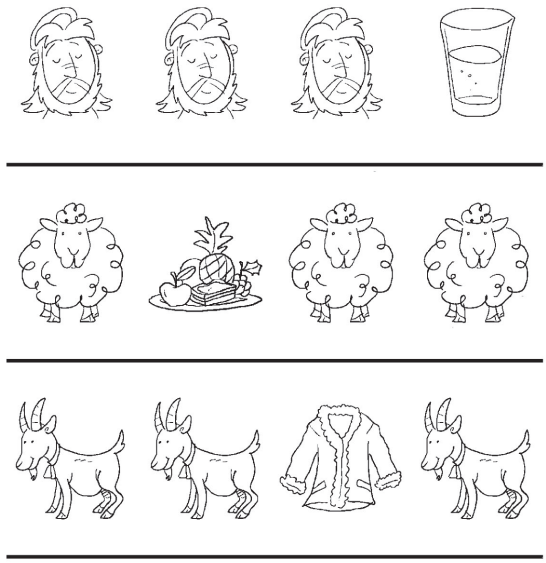
GROWING WITH THE Gospel
CYCLE A

COLOR
Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



Matthew 21:33-43 • Christ the King

PUZZLE
Circle the picture that is **different**. Then color in all the pictures.



MISSION
I will look for God in every man, woman, and child I meet.

BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER

Ministry Schedule, November 28-29

	4:00 p.m.	7:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
P:	Fr. Benedykt Pazdan	Fr. Bob Tonelli	Fr. Fred Pesek	Fr. Benedykt Pazdan Deacon Bob Landuyt
MC:	Jackie Rosillo	Diane Pajkos	Linda Blaeser	Iliana Torres
L:	Nancy Andrasco	Kim Boucher	Bob Pellegrini	Maryjo Landuyt
L:	John Springer		Gene Fendt	Victor Leal-Painter
EM:	Carol Zofkie	Jean Swiecicki	Kevin Kirkland	Joseph Albarran
EM:	Jorge Rosillo			Sara Torres
EM:	Dianna Rosillo			
S:	Alex Arguello	Catherine Stanislawski	Eddie Langle	Casey Knabjian
S:				Adela Torres
S:				David Torres
S:				

Pray for the sick, especially

Linda Pahuski
Caryl Morris



Dr. Mark Fenlon

Altar bread & wine will be offered in memory of

Delores Gilbride

given by the Burmeister Family
for the week of November 23, 2026.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, November 23, 2026
6:30 a.m. Communion Service
8:30 a.m. †Joanne Stark, †Tom O'Connell, †Michael "Mickey" Melody, †Emily Milazzo, on the anniversary of her death, For God's healing upon Caryl Morris

Tuesday, November 24, 2026
6:30 a.m. Communion Service
8:30 a.m. †Gerry Heslon, †Davy Derong

Wednesday, November 25, 2026
6:30 a.m. Communion Service
8:30 a.m. †Joan Cody, †Kathleen White, In Thanksgiving for God's blessings

Thursday, November 26, 2026
9:00 a.m. Parishioners of St. Gianna Parish

Friday, November 27, 2026
8:30 a.m. †Fr. Steven Dombrowski, †Andy Carioto, †Charles & Anna Marie Carioto, †Rocco Carioto, Living and deceased members of the Vering family

Saturday, November 28, 2026
8:30 a.m. †Carol Jean Larkin, For God's blessings upon Robin Gallagher, on her birthday
4:00 p.m. †Maria del Carmen De La Torre, †Hector Sagun, †Jim & Gerry Rix, †Paul Bernatek, †Maureen Somersett, †Kathleen White, †Paul & Colleen Daly, †Robert Kobel, For God's blessings upon Robin Gallagher, on her birthday

Sunday, November 29, 2026
7:00 a.m. †Paul Bernatek, †Denise Nelligan
9:00 a.m. †Fialkowski Families, †Denise Nelligan, †Jerry Dalton, †Jean Wagner, †Eugene O'Malley, †Frank Fic
11:00 a.m. †Mary Dyra, †Jim Gergits, †Mary Martin

Just Married...



John Coogan & Tara Capouch
on Saturday, November 21, 2026
Congratulations Mr. & Mrs. Coogan!

Early Bulletin Deadlines

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, there are early bulletin deadlines we would like to make you aware of:

Bulletin date	Early deadline
Sunday, December 6	Monday, Nov. 30
Sunday, December 13	Sunday, Dec. 6

RaiseRight (Sharing) Gift Card Program

The RaiseRight (formerly Sharing) gift card program has started up again! You can sign up in the rectory or online at RaiseRight.com. Select St. Gianna Parish and use enrollment code 2LYWWLXYTJXG to join. Families can purchase gift cards either online or in person at face value and receive a rebate based on their purchases. The parish earns 50% of the rebate and the family receives 50%. Individual gift cards will also be available for purchase at the rectory. Orders for gift cards placed online will be available for pickup on Wednesdays. Thank you for supporting St. Gianna Parish through this program!

Gluten Free* Hosts

The presiding priest always has gluten-free* hosts available during Communion. For those who prefer low-gluten hosts, please be sure to receive Communion from him and let him know that you would like gluten-free before receiving.

*-The hosts are 99.9% gluten-free. For transubstantiation to be valid, the host must be made from wheat and therefore will contain some gluten - in this case 0.1%.

Readings for the Week

Su: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/Ps 23:1-2a, 2b-3, 5, 6/1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-46
Mon: *Optional Memorial of St. Clement I; Optional Memorial of St. Columban; Optional Memorial of Bl. Miguel Agustin Pro*
Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 21:1-4
Tue: Memorial of St. Andrew Dũng-Lac & Companions
Rv 14:14-19/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/Lk 21:5-11
Wed: *Optional Memorial of St. Catherine of Alexandria*
Rv 15:1-4/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 7-8, 9/Lk 21:12-19
Thur: *Thanksgiving Day*
Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 21:20-28
Fri: Rv 20:1-4, 11-21:2/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a/Lk 21:29-33
Sat: Rv 22:1-7/Ps 95:1-2, 3-5, 6-7ab/Lk 21:34-36

While They Serve…



We pray for our parishioners and the relatives of parishioners who are serving in the Military and protecting us…

If you would like us to pray for a parishioner or a relative serving in the military, please email the parish office at mark@mystgianna.org or call the parish office at 708-423-8110.

Ted Bos
Cpt. Rev. Marcin Bulinski
PVT Michael Cihocki
SFC. Steven D. Galvin
Cpt. David Jackson Jr.
Maj. Daniel R. Johnson
LCpl. Patrick J. Kinnerk
SFC Wayne Mutnansky
Lt. John Mutnansky
Maj. Chris O'Neil
CW02 Clifford Oskvarek
Capt. Erik Owen
Lt. Matthew Sebok
Col. Ellen Shannon-Ball
Maj. Martin Springer
Sgt. Steven Surdynski
MA. Tristin Lopez
PVT James Egan
1stLt Patrick Barron USMC

****If your relative is NO LONGER serving, please call the Rectory office so we can remove them from our list.****

St. Gianna Parish Pastoral Council

The St. Gianna Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is a group of parishioners whose role is to consult and advise the Pastor. We act as the primary consultative body to the Pastor in planning and overall decision making in all areas of parish life and we work to promote the spiritual and pastoral mission of the parish. If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact us via email, ppc@mystgianna.org.

Parish Pastoral Council Members

Fr. Benedykt Pazdan
Deacon Bob Landuyt
MaryJo Landuyt
Marty McDonough
Jack O'Connell
Bob Pellegrini
Carol Zofkie
Fr. Fred Pesek
Linda Blaeser
Ruth Leyden
Eileen McNichols
Diane Pajkos
John Woolley

St. Gianna Finance Council

The Finance Council is a consultative body that assists the pastor in the administration and stewardship of the financial resources of the parish. The St. Gianna Finance Council is made up of the following members:

Fr. Benedykt Pazdan, Pastor
Nancy Andrasco
Kevin Kirkland
Theresa Walsh
Kevin Kessenich
Pat Kobel
Katie Zwierzynski

Parish Calendar

Monday, November 23
Adult Faith Formation Book Discussion
6:30-7:30 p.m., Room 8 - Heritage Room
Gianna Fest Recap Meeting
6:30-8:30 p.m., St. Joseph's Room

Tuesday, November 24
Youth Ministry Potluck Dinner
7-9 p.m., Youth Room

Wednesday, November 25
Youth Ministry Random Fun
7-9 p.m., Youth Room
Men's Basketball League
8-11 p.m., Vitha Hall

Thursday, November 26
~Rectory Closed~
Thanksgiving Day Mass
9:00 a.m.

Friday, November 27
~Rectory Closed~

Saturday, November 28
Facing the Holidays with Faith, Hope, and Trust
10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Church
Domestic Violence Outreach Ministry
10 a.m. - 1 p.m., St. Joseph's Room
Sacrament of Reconciliation
2:30-3:45 p.m.
Mass
4 p.m.

Sunday, November 29
Mass
7 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m.
OCIA
9-11 a.m., Heritage Room - Room 8
Youth Ministry Retreat 16 Formation
6:30-9:30 p.m., Youth Room

For scheduling or inquiries about the calendar, email calendar@mystgianna.org
Events in RED take place in the school building

Sunday Collection Report

Weekly Budgeted Amount	$12,300.00
FY '27 Budgeted Year-To-Date	$233,700.00
FY'27 Collected Year-To-Date	$203,178.00
Surplus/(Deficit) for FY '27	$(30,522.00)

Collection & 50/50 Results from November 15 were not available at the time of publication.

Thank you for your generosity!

Parish Staff

Rev. Benedykt Pazdan
Pastor

Rev. Fred Pesek
Associate Pastor

Rev. Robert Tonelli
Resident

Deacon Bob Landuyt
Permanent Deacon
dcnbob@mystgianna.org

Angie Correa-Cobb
Parish Secretary
angie@mystgianna.org

Ellie Joyce
Office Manager
ellie@mystgianna.org

Connie McLaughlin
Operations Director
connie@mystgianna.org

Tina O'Shea Creed
Coordinator of Faith Formation
tina@mystgianna.org

Bridget Ryan
Director of Music
bridget@mystgianna.org

Mark Wilkey
Director of Communication
mark@mystgianna.org

Mike Leonard
Maintenance

Parish Office Hours

St. Gianna Parish Rectory:
10233 S. Central Park Ave., Evergreen Park
708-423-8110

Mon-Fri:	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturdays:	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Sundays:	Closed

Sacrament of Baptism:
Baptisms are celebrated on the second, third, and fourth Sundays of the month. You must attend a Baptismal Preparation class prior to Baptism. Please call the parish office for registration. There are no Baptisms during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Saturdays from 2:30-3:45 p.m. in the church. Reconciliation may be scheduled by appointment by calling the parish office.

Sacrament of Marriage:
Arrangements must be made by the engaged couple at least six months prior to the wedding. Pre-marriage instructions may be required. Weddings are scheduled on Friday or Saturday.

Sacramental Records:
The records for sacraments celebrated prior to July 1, 2022 at Queen of Martyrs Parish and at St. Bernadette Parish are kept in the St. Gianna Parish office. To obtain copies of sacramental records, please contact our office at 708-423-8110.

Eucharistic Adoration Chapel:
10240 S. St. Louis Ave., Evergreen Park
Hours: Sun., Mon., Tue., Thur., Fri.: 2:30-6:30 p.m.

Bulletin Submissions:
Deadline for submission of articles for the bulletin is 12:00 noon Tuesday of the week of publication, unless otherwise noted. Articles may be sent to mark@mystgianna.org.

Homebound Parishioners:
Please call the rectory to arrange for the Ministers of Care to bring Holy Communion to you if you are homebound, or to arrange for a priest to come and administer other sacraments.

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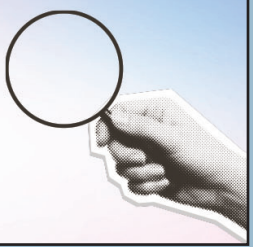

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4.8 ★★★★★ Rating

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