

May 11, 2025

Our Lady of the Woods Parish

# HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

MARY IS  
THE MOTHER  
WHO WATCHES  
OVER US,  
HER CHILDREN,  
ON OUR  
JOURNEY  
THROUGH LIFE,  
OFTEN WEARY  
AND IN NEED,  
ANXIOUS THAT  
THE LIGHT OF  
HOPE NOT FAIL.

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CHRISTUS VIVIT, NO. 48



©LPI

## Notes from the Pastor

There has been a lot going on this past week in our church and our world, especially in our parish! Firstly, I have to begin by wishing a Happy Mothers' Day to all the women in our parish! Mothers' Day isn't just about honoring the physical mothers in our lives, it is about acknowledging all those women who have provided and cared for us throughout our lives. I am so grateful for the many women in my life whose example of faith, dedication, and service to others fostered my faith and brought me to my vocation of priesthood. Of course I am first and foremost thankful for the gift of my mom, but I also think of women I have encountered along the way who have been a gift to me and helped me learn what it is to be a disciple of Christ. Thank you to all of you and if you haven't done so yet and are still fortunate to be able to do so, call your mother!



Secondly, we have been celebrating a lot of sacraments here at Our Lady of the Woods. As I mentioned last week, we had our confirmation mass last Sunday and it was wonderful to see our young people receive the gift of the Holy Spirit to be able to live their faith each and every day. Bishop Kane reminded all of us that our faith is lived not just on Sunday but in every moment. Just yesterday we also had the joy of celebrating first communions. It has been a while since my own first communion but I remember how special it was to finally be able to receive Our Lord in Holy Communion. Our first communicants remind us all of how special the gift of the Eucharist is and how we can often take it for granted. The smiles and excitement they displayed yesterday reminded me that I should have that same anticipation and joy every time I receive our Lord! Thank you to our first communicants and their families for sharing that moment with our parish. We look forward to gathering around the altar with you every Sunday!

With all these celebrations has come a great deal of planning and organizing. I want to thank our Religious Education Program and our Youth Ministry for the work that they put into preparing our young people for these moments. Formation and faith begin in the home but they are fostered in our parish through the hard work and dedication of those who serve as catechists and leaders in our ministries geared toward education and faith formation. Without their time and effort, we could not do the amazing work that we do here at OLW. Thank you to all of you for your dedication to our young people.

Finally, by the time you're reading this on Saturday or Sunday, we could have a new pope! Beginning on Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, the cardinals of the church who are eligible to vote went into conclave to pray and elect a new pope. In the conclaves of my lifetime this has been a relatively quick process; no more than a few days. Many are predicting a short conclave so it is possible we have a new Holy Father; if we do have one I'll write about him next week. If we get to next week's bulletin and we still don't have a new pope then we have a situation we haven't seen in a long time with a long conclave. Whatever the case, may the cardinals listen to the Holy Spirit and may God bless the ministry of our new Holy Father, whoever that may be!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "The Elliott Doss".

Father Elliott  
Pastor

**LECTORS****Saturday, May 17**

5:00 PM—Ann Lipuma, Steve Kahn

**Sunday, May 18**

8:00 AM—Al Wagner, Judy Nocek

9:30 AM—Adam Kaufmann, Becky Bosack

11:00 AM—Debbie Calandriello, Brian Goebel

6:00 PM—Kevin Czarnecki, Steve Barstatis

**ALTAR SERVERS****Saturday, May 17**

5:00 PM—Finnegan Loughry

**Sunday, May 18**

8:00 AM—Kroplewski

9:30 AM—Swiatkowski, Alex Akroush

11:00 AM—Simon Krysiak, Lucy Cryns

6:00 PM—Czarnecki



Please consider continuing your weekly donations via online giving by visiting [ourladyofthewoods.org](http://ourladyofthewoods.org).

Look for the little gift box or scan the **QR Code below**.

You can easily set up an account to make recurring gifts, or you can make a one-time donation through GiveCentral. Under payment type, you can choose either a Debit/Credit Card or Bank Account.

**Thank you for your prayers and generosity!**

**Weekend of May 4**

*God Bless All for your continued generosity to our Parish.*

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Week	\$17,920	\$22,000	(\$4,080)
Year	\$918,354	\$990,000	(\$71,646)

**Are You or Someone You Know in Need of Assistance?**

**If you are in need of assistance, contact us at (708) 606-5360.**

**A representative will return your call within 48 hours.**

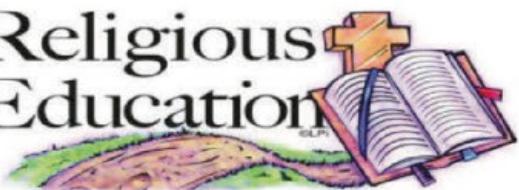
**Confidentiality and compassion are the cornerstones of our Ministry.**

**May 11: Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Today, we celebrate "Good Shepherd Sunday" where we reflect on the care and love of Jesus for us.

**Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will show that you are indeed the disciple of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, as it will bring your love to those who live in fear and doubt, loneliness and dread.**

# Religious Education



Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11, 2025

## IMPORTANT DATES:



**Congratulations all of  
the Confirmandi's**



**Congratulations all First Holy  
Communicants**



**Our SPRED Program is  
Tuesday at 5:00PM and  
Saturday at 10:00 AM.  
Celebration—May 17**

**Vacation Bible School  
"Pilgrims of Hope"**  
**June 23–27**

**Songs, Lesson, Scripture, Prayer,  
Arts/ crafts, snacks**

**Cost: \$30.00**

**Link: <https://forms.gle/KcyrkSmdGTLuSJNA>**

**\*\*We need Volunteers**



**Calling All Catechists!**

We are seeking passionate individuals to serve as catechists to share the joy of the faith with our young disciples.

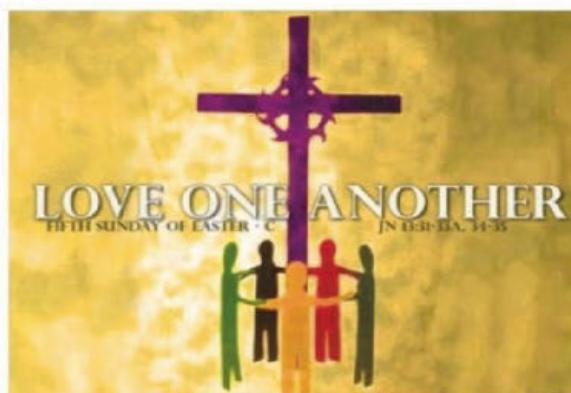
If you are inspired to help guide others in their journey with Christ and deepen their Catholic faith, we invite you to join us in this vital ministry.

The Readings for this Sunday: Jesus shared a new commandment with his disciples: to love one another as he loved them.

### What can we do this week?

This week we are invited to help create this new world through acts of love and care.

- 1—How can you show love to others, especially when facing challenges?
- 2—What steps can you take to offer more support to those around you?



**Our Lady of the Woods Church—  
Religious Education Program  
(708) 361—9435**

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST COMMUNICANTS

May 10, 2025

Brooke Bender

Colin Bender

Reagan Carroll

Parker Chesna

Kelly Coleman

Maeve Coleman

Vincent Cryns, III

Claire Daemicke

Olivia Daukszewicz

Charlotte Dorigan

Kevin Dorigan

Annie Dougherty

Riley Duer

Carolina Duzan

Julia Dwyer

Audrey Enright

Nicolas Espinoza

Thomas Foley

Connor Gerretse

Brody Gibbs

Elizabeth Griffin

Sadie Griffin

Ashton Hansel

Walter Haraf

Lucy Hunt

John Kaufmann

Konnor Kitching

Kennedy Krokos

Everett Lambrecht

Rowan Lysaught

John Macarol

Nora MacKinnon

Nolan Malczewski

Gavin Marshall

Molly Masini

Charlie McGlennon

Sean Mendoza

Savannah Milkevitch

Teagan Nagle

Carolyn Nowakowski

Liam O'Brien

Samuel O'Brien

Daniella O'Connor

Kayla O'Leary

Penelope O'Malley

Teagan O'Malley

Henry Palmisano

Ava Perkovic

Natalie Placek

Grace Poore

Violet Rispin

Emerson Schweikert

Falyn Simon

Luke Smith

Olivia Valencia

Jayden Villagonzalo

Julia Vinh

Henry Wade

Colin Watson

George Yerkes

Leonardo Zaucha

Nicholas Ziolek

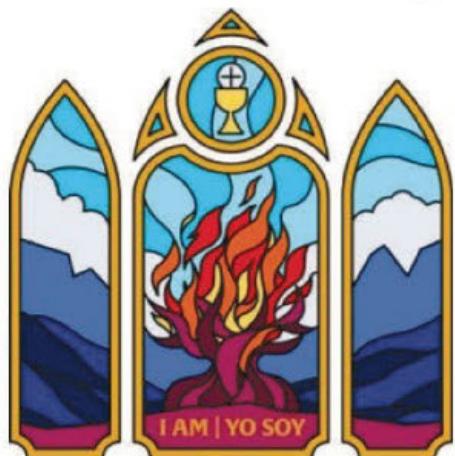
**Our Lady of the Woods Youth,  
Young Adult, & Family Ministries**  
[ourladyofthewoods.org](http://ourladyofthewoods.org)



**Youth Ministry**  
**Jr. High School and Older**  
**Drop-In and Open Gym**  
**6-7:30pm on Thursdays!**



**NCYC Conference!**  
**November 20-22, 2025**  
**Indianapolis**  
**All High School and older are invited to attend!**  
**Please contact Christine for details and how to register.**



**Family Ministry**

**Sponsored by Religious Education!**



**Vacation Bible School!**  
**June 23 - 27, 2025**  
**Registration can be found on our website at**  
**[ourladyofthewoods.org](http://ourladyofthewoods.org)**



**Thought of the Week!**  
**Choosing to follow God is one decision you will never regret!**



Come join us for lots of fun!  
Please Call Christine Collins at (708)269-6315 or email at [ecollins@ourladyofthewoods.org](mailto:ecollins@ourladyofthewoods.org)  
Weekly updates can be found at [ourladyofthewoods.org](http://ourladyofthewoods.org) or on Facebook's Our Lady of the Woods Family & Youth Ministries  
All are Welcome!





## Support Catholic Charities Today!

**Your support today can create stability for generations.**

Make your gift to the 2025 Mother's Day Appeal today to support mothers and children across Cook and Lake counties. Your generosity helps us serve more than 61,000 moms and families every year with supports that promote long-term growth and well-being.

**Read about Kay\*, a participant in Catholic Charities' New Hope Apartment program:**

**Kay's decision to leave an unhealthy relationship was a vital first step on her journey to become the mom she wanted to be.** But for months after leaving, she and her children had nowhere to live. That changed when Kay connected with Catholic Charities. We provided rental assistance and other support. Now Kay is a nurse and ready to buy a house. She's proud of the example she's setting for her children. "I'm grateful," Kay says. "This made me a stronger person. My children have seen me do it. I tell them, 'Go to school, get your education. You can do it, too.'"

**Please support the Second Collection on Mother's Day, May 11 or anytime at [catholiccharities.net/mothers](http://catholiccharities.net/mothers)**

\*Names have been changed to protect privacy



[catholiccharities.net/mothers](http://catholiccharities.net/mothers)



**JOIN IN A SIX WEEK STUDY OF  
GENESIS  
WITH FATHER ELLIOTT**

**FROM MAY 7<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH  
JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:30 pm  
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**THANK YOU TO ALL**

This year's Fish Fry reached an exceptional level of socializing with family, friends and food.

Thank you to the **wonderful** volunteers at the event and behind the scenes with event preparation. Thanks also to the dessert makers, parish staff and all the supporters who came to dine. It couldn't be done without each and every one of you.

A special thanks to Pelican Harry's Bar & Grill on Bell Road in Homer Glen for helping us procure the fish at an excellent price.

Spread the word for next year's Fry! It will be March 27th! In the Our Lady of the Woods tradition, **ALL are welcome**. A good relaxing time with friends and family is an experience worth sharing.

**The Knights of Columbus Split the Pot winning number was on a blue ticket 220528 which HAS been claimed.**

**Thanks to all who participated!**



## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

**We are in need of your talents.** Looking for anyone who would love to provide warmth and comfort to those in need. We are in search of those who love to crochet and/or knit. We meet at Our Lady of the Woods every third Friday of the month at 10:00am until noon. We donate shawls to anyone who is undergoing medical treatments. Some are taken to local hospital chemo wards. We also have them available at church for those in need or if you have a friend or family member who is in need of comfort. All are given gratis. Also, we make hats and scarves which are donated to shelters and the homeless. If you are homebound and would love to contribute to our ministry, we would gratefully arrange to pick up any finished articles. We are having our next meeting on **Friday, May 16, 2025**.

If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Carlson at 773-507-0856 or Mary Stringham at 773-213-9301, co-chairs.

# M G M

MEN'S GROUP MEETING

NEXT MEETING: MAY 13TH @ 7:00PM

LAST MEETING UNTIL SEPTEMBER

TOPICS VARY BUT ALL ARE INTENDED TO ENRICH YOUR FAITH LIFE. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT MGM CONTACT EITHER MIKE CALLAHAN, OLOW PASTOR MINISTER, AT [MCALLAHAN@OURLADYOFTHEWOODS.ORG](mailto:MCALLAHAN@OURLADYOFTHEWOODS.ORG). OR GORDON SELIN AT [GSELINO7@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GSELINO7@GMAIL.COM). YOU CAN ALSO REACH MIKE THROUGH THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 708-361-4754.

*Grant Me, O Lord My God, a mind to know you , a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen.*  
Saint Thomas Aquinas



**Bible Study/Reflection Meeting with Father Robert will meet on Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm.**  
**All are welcome!**

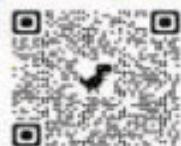


Our Veteran Ministry will be having a Memorial Day Ceremony after the 9:30am Mass on May 25th. To honor our deceased Veterans, please submit a photo of any family members or friends for our display. Please be sure to add Name and Rank of service with photo. Drop off photos to the Church Office by May 22nd.





Our Lady of the Woods Children's Athletic Ministry



# Sponsor A CHAIR

The Children's Athletic Ministry  
would like to replace the gym  
benches with padded chairs.  
Please help us fund this effort by  
sponsoring a chair today.

Only  
**\$225**

**30 CHAIRS AVAILABLE  
FOR SPONSORSHIP**

Scan the QR Code to fill  
out sponsorship form or  
<https://tinyurl.com/olowchair>



## FINAL CHANCE - ONLY A FEW CHAIRS LEFT TO SPONSOR!!

If you are interested in sponsoring a chair, please follow the QR Code above or fill out the form and drop it off in  
the parish office with payment.

Should you have any questions please email [athletics@ourladyofthewoods.org](mailto:athletics@ourladyofthewoods.org)

**PLEASE PRINT**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**Each chair will have an engraved plate – please provide the following information:**

DONATED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF (if Applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to: OUR LADY OF THE WOODS



Metro Chicago

Once again, the people from Our Lady of the Woods showed the love and compassion for our fellow neighbors by participating in National Rebuilding Day on April 26, 2025. This event was in Maywood, Illinois for a 75-year old lady. The tasks that needed to be completed were placing 7 smoke detectors in the house, placing non-skid pads on steps, putting larger house numbers on the front of the house, cleaned out many items from the house, installed hand rails, planted and cleaned up the grounds and more. We were also assisted by union plumbers, electricians and painters. The home owner was extremely happy and it was a great job by everyone. Thank you!





II. Christine Hurley & Timothy Beltran

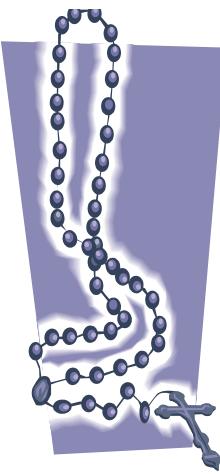
### Welcome to our Parish

Jean Quigley  
Robert & Linda Bosack



### Please pray for our sick:

Macie Bracken, Jim Capuano, Pete Collins, Paul Dederich, Mary Gibson, Grace Halstrom, Kathleen Hennessy, Christopher Hilliard, Jamie Stanko Johnson, Richard Kolasinski, Al Kubicki, Gino Montalbano, Connie Pinto, Alicia Ramirez, CJ Slomski, Drew Stanko



Please join us  
every  
morning after the  
8:30 Mass to say the  
Rosary and the  
Chaplet of the  
Divine Mercy.

Every Friday after  
8:30 Mass a Holy  
Hour for the Sacred  
Heart of Jesus with Benediction  
is hosted.

Please feel free to join us.

### Let us Pray

Please join Our Lady of the Woods Parish as we continue to pray for those who have or are serving in the military. We pray for those who protect our country, for their safety, and well-being, especially,

Adam Rodrigues  
Captain John Brooker  
CPL John P. Cherry  
CPL Brandon D. Gabry  
LCPL Steve Olson  
Lt. John Spannuth  
Sgt. David A. Delach  
Brian Allen  
Bryan Lampinen  
Sgt. John P. Micham  
Sgt. Jesus M. Flores  
Lt. Dylan Conover  
Sean Girouard  
CPL Rowen N. Barker  
1Lt. Jack McGuire  
2Lt. Patrick McGuire  
Ian Altieri

Battalion Chief Douglas Mayer  
LT Garrett Green,  
PO2 Gabe Duda, USN  
E5-VN Francisco J. Gaytan  
E4-SA Michael A. Gaytan  
Joe Vanderberg, Army  
Robert Burns, Army  
Lt. Anna Loureiro, Army

Peter Michael Czerwien, USN  
Robert Owens  
Larry Stolinski  
Major Tom Buller  
Sgt. Greg Danko  
Mario Danko  
PFC Tim Radcliffe  
Sgt. David Darwent Gavril  
Robert Micham  
Danielle Batton  
CPT Brendan Girouard  
LT Matthew E. Lodwich  
CSM Joseph Cistaro  
SPC Rebecca Buhs  
LTC Nicholas Kamon  
LT Christa Kamon  
AB Kevin Schwenn  
AB Sean Schwenn  
CPT Allen Dagys  
CPT Justin T. Halligan  
Sgt. Gavril  
AJ Pfeiffer  
Sgt. Rafal Hodur  
SFC Rosalinda Jaime  
SO2 John F. Radtke USN  
Cpl. Michael Murphy



### Our Deceased:

Eileen Shannon  
William Pisano



*“Eternal rest grant to her O Lord.”*

### BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Our Ministry Team is here to help you during this difficult time:

Michelle Hilliard—708-361-4754  
“Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

Matthew 5:4



## Mass Intentions

### SATURDAY, May 10

8:30 AM—Walter Orlow, Bernice Wojenik

5:00 PM—Michael & Marelyn Gorman, Ann Clair

### SUNDAY, May 11

8:00 AM—People of Our Lady of the Woods, Norbert & Bernice Mikolajczyk

9:30 AM—Fred Butalla, Jr., Al Leonard

11:00 AM—Anne Sikon, Betty Leonardo, Felix Jr., Alfonso, Estella, Lupe & Alfredo Ramirez

6:00 PM—Carmelo & Maria Chiaro, Frank & Caterina Mundo

### MONDAY, May 12

6:30 AM—Special Intentions of Gregg Kaput

8:30 AM—Fred Butalla, Jr. Robert Ellsworth

### TUESDAY, May 13

6:30 AM—Elinor Sullivan

8:30 AM—Carol Eipers, Will, Lorraine & Bill Sullivan

### WEDNESDAY, May 14

6:30 AM—Michael Prchal

8:30 AM—Dennis McQueary, Thomas Kewley

### THURSDAY, May 15

6:30 AM—Communion Service

8:30 AM—Patricia Spalla, Mindy Favata, Patty Hynes

### FRIDAY, May 16

6:30 AM—George W. & George R. Ferrell

8:30 AM—Eileen Grein, Ralph DeFay

### SATURDAY, May 17

8:30 AM—Helen Orlow, Raymond Wisinski

5:00 PM—Patricia Rowley, Mary Carmody, Special Intentions of the Guzior Family

### SUNDAY, May 18

8:00 AM—People of Our Lady of the Woods, Terry Wall

9:30 AM—Pauline Pracz, Leona Kotora, Lucia Labriola

11:00 AM—Eric Horabik, Janina & Dennis Dobowski

6:00 PM—Ron Dombrowski, Fred Jasinski

## Readings for the week of May 11, 2025

### Sunday:

Acts 13:14, 43-52/Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5 (3c)/  
Rv 7:9, 14b-17/Jn 10:27-30

### Monday:

Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:1-10

### Tuesday:

Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 10:22-30

### Wednesday:

Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6,  
7-8/ Jn 15:9-17

### Thursday:

Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27/  
Jn 13:16-20

### Friday:

Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/Jn 14:1-6

### Saturday:

Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/  
Jn 14:7-14

### Next Sunday:

Acts 14:21-27/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13 (see 1)/Rv 21:1-5a/Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35



## MASS SCHEDULE

### Weekend Masses:

Saturday: 5:00 pm  
Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:30 am (Livestreamed),  
11:00 am & 6:00 pm

### Daily Masses:

**6:30 am** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday  
**8:30 am** Monday through Saturday

**6:30 am** Communion Service on Thursdays

## RECONCILIATION

Saturday after the 8:30 am Mass &  
**4:00 pm to 4:45 pm**

## ADORATION

Thursday 2:00 pm — 5:00 pm  
Friday 9:00—10:00 am

## Creation Care Corner

Protecting Creation, "is not only an ethical issue, but one that is eminently theological ..." — Pope Francis

### Pope Francis' Creation Care Legacy (Part 1)

Pope Francis will be remembered for making all things that live on the earth a pastoral priority. He helped the world to see caring for creation not as a political, social, scientific or ideological battle, but as a moral imperative. This is because the poor and future generations will suffer most from environmental degradation. He taught that abusing the "common home" of the earth, its ecosystems and all forms of life that depend on it "...is a grave sin."

Francis spoke of the growing environmental crises as signaling broader broken relationships between man and God, man and fellow man, and man and nature. Social, economic, political and environmental issues are not separate problems, but are dimensions of one overarching crisis, according to Francis. In his landmark encyclical *Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home*, Francis spoke of an "integral ecology" and demonstrated that everything is interconnected. To address the environmental crisis, Francis taught that we need to fix our relationship with God, our fellow humans, and be open to an "ecological conversion." As part of his legacy, Pope Francis solidly established ecology and stewardship of creation as a pro-life, pro-marginalized, and pro-family issue.

**REV. ELLIOTT DEES, PASTOR**

**REV. ROBERT MARCHWIANY, ASSOCIATE PASTOR**

**MOST REV. JOHN R. GORMAN, RESIDENT**

**REV. ED MIKOŁAJCZYK, RESIDENT**

**DEACON JOHN J. AND TERE MACAROL**

**DEACON DOUG AND CAROLYN SZARZYNSKI**

**DEACON RICK AND KIM DUDA**

**SHELLY STANKO**

Business/Office Manager

**JOHN MACAROL**

Facilities Manager

**DAN BILEK**

Sacristan

**MICHELLE HILLIARD**

Pastoral Associate

**MIKE CALLAHAN**

Pastoral Minister

**CHRISTINE COLLINS**

Youth Minister

**ANDY PERZ**

Director of Music Ministry

**KATHLEEN ERICKSEN**

Coordinator of Religious Education

**NANCY FREDERICK**

Athletic Coordinator

**DIANE VANDERPOOL**

Parish Secretary/Bulletin Editor

Bulletin@ourladyofthewoods.org

**ERIN KUTA**

Religious Education Secretary

**BRITTNEY LITTLE**

Athletic Administrator

**BAPTISMS:** Sunday at 12:30 PM. Arrangements must be made in advance at the Parish Office.

**MARRIAGES:** Arrangements should be made at the Parish Office six months in advance. Pre-Cana required.

**REGISTRATION IN THE PARISH:** Newcomers are welcome to the Parish and are requested to register at the office.

**PARISH BOUNDARIES:** **East** 80th Ave., (west side), **North** Rte. 83 (south side), **West** Bell Rd. (east side) to 123rd Street to Parker Road (east side), **South** 135th Street (north side)

10731 W. 131st Street Orland Park 60462

**708-361-4754**

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