Queen of Peace Parish

Welcome!

We, the Catholic community of Queen of Peace Parish, centered in the Eucharist, strive to grow in our faith and our relationship with God as a welcoming people, working for peace and justice through service to others.

OUR LADY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

8747 W. Lawrence Avenue
Chicago, IL 60656
Ph. (773) 625-3369

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:
Monday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

MASSES:

Tuesday:	7:00 am
Thursday:	7:00 am
Sunday:	10:00 am

ST. EUGENE CHURCH

7958 W. Foster Avenue
Chicago, IL 60656
Ph. (773) 775-6659 (773) 775-6660
(773) 775-6694

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:

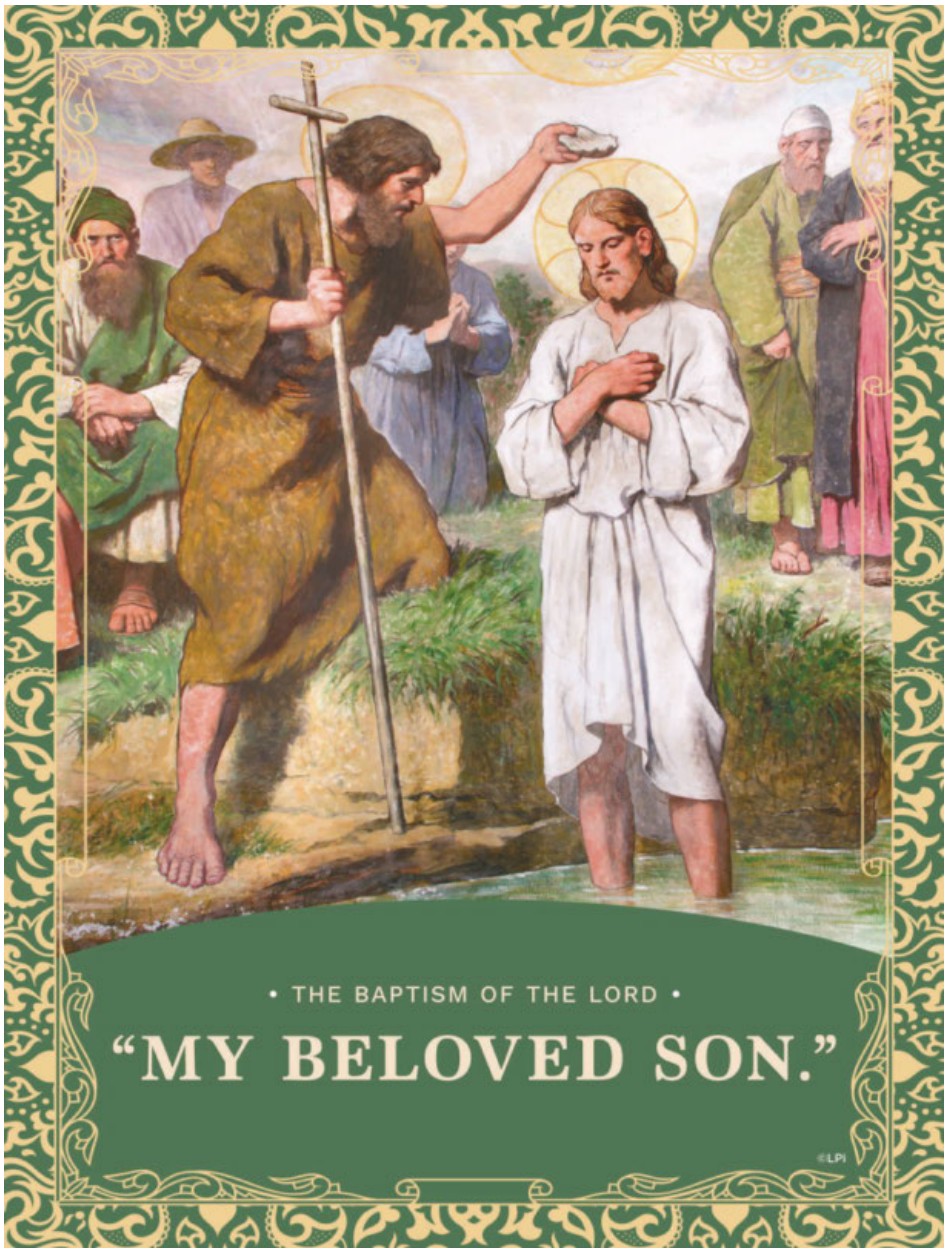
Mon.- Thur.:	9:00 am - 7:00 pm
Friday	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday:	9:00 am - 1:00 pm

MASSES:

Monday:	9:00 am
Wednesday:	9:00 am
Friday:	9:00 am
Saturday:	8:30 am
Sunday Vigil Mass:	4:30 pm
Sunday:	8:30 am
	11:30 am
CONFESSIONS	3:30 pm on Saturday

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday:	4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Benediction:	5:45 pm



January 12th, 2025



FROM THE DESK OF FR. RICH

This weekend we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In his gospel, Luke makes the special status of Jesus very clear to the reader. Although He is like others baptized by John, sharing fully in John's conviction that repentance is necessary for salvation, Jesus is also unique. Marked by the Spirit now as the Messianic servant of God, He will also come to be recognized as God's beloved Son. As Jesus emerges from the water, something amazing happens: the heavens open, a dove descends upon Him and a voice from the heavens cries out, "You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased."

It must have been clear to those present at this moment that Jesus was more than an ordinary man – He is the chosen one of God, with a purpose and a mission and upon Him is God's favor.

He is indeed more than an ordinary man. He is the Son of God, and when we make a conscious choice to follow Him by responding to our call at Baptism, amazing things happen in our lives, too. All we need to do is open our eyes and ears, to see and hear the great things that come with a relationship rooted in Christ.

Although the secular world may have tossed out their trees and taken down all the festive decorations the day after Christmas, the Christmas season officially ends today with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord.

What better opportunity than today to remind all in our community of the significance and meaning of the Sacrament of Baptism and to remind all in our parish of the guidelines and understanding that should accompany those wishing to celebrate a baptism for their child or as an adult here at Queen of Peace.

Sacrament of Baptism

Congratulations on the planned baptism of your child! The Queen of Peace Parish Community welcomes her registered families to celebrate with great faith and joy the baptism of their children and is pleased to be the church where this first Sacrament will be celebrated. The Sacrament of Baptism is normally administered on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 1:00 p.m.

Baptism is the first sacrament of Christian Initiation. It is the sacrament that frees a person from original sin and makes that person a member of the Body of Christ and His Church, thus beginning the way to a new life in Christ. It is administered by a priest or deacon pouring Holy Water on the person's head "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." One must be baptized before receiving any other sacraments. Baptism is the foundation for all ministry and life in the church and confers a commitment to follow Christ and spread His message throughout the world. Furthermore, in baptism, one is incorporated into the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, and thus participates in the gift of the resurrection and eternal life with Christ. Infants can be baptized soon after birth. At the time of baptism, parents vow to practice their faith and provide a Catholic upbringing for their child (ren). Adults who have never been baptized take part in the OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults), and will typically be baptized during the Easter Vigil Mass.

Selecting a godparent or sponsor: The duties of godparents are much more than just ceremonial. The principal responsibility of a godparent is to give witness to the Catholic faith by his or her words and

actions, thus parents need to find practicing Catholics to faithfully serve in their role as godparents. As noted in the Code of Canon Law, "insofar as possible, one to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who is to assist an adult in Christian initiation, or, together with the parents, to present an infant at the baptism, and who will help the baptized to lead a Christian life in harmony with baptism, and to fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it" (Canon 872). **In selecting godparents, the Catholic Church requires:**

~ A godparent must have received the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation themselves;

~ A godparent or sponsor must be at least 16 years of age;

~ A godparent must be living a life consistent with faith and morals as taught by the Catholic Church;

~ A godparent should be a registered, active Catholic in their parish church. A non-Catholic, baptized Christian should also be a registered, active member of their Christian faith community.

~ Preferably there are two practicing Catholic godparents, however, minimally, there must be one Catholic godparent; a non-Catholic, baptized Christian may be chosen as a Christian Witness.

If this is your first child, both parents are required to participate in our Baptismal Preparation Session prior to the baptism of your child. This Session is also recommended for any godparent who has not previously participated in a Baptismal Preparation Session.

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Finally, I want to offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to a group of volunteers that go about providing service and ministry to all those who attend Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction on Monday evenings here at St. Eugene Church. These are the men and women, some of whom who have been doing this for over twenty-five years, who set-up, organize, take down and assist with our prayerful Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as well as Benediction at the end of Adoration. I cannot thank you enough for your selfless dedication and commitment to this beautiful ministry here in our parish. It is due to your commitment and those that attend Adoration and Benediction that we are able to offer and continue this meaningful and prayerful experience for all in our parish. God bless you all!

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On Monday the Church transitions from the Christmas Season into a short 7 ½ week period called Ordinary Time before the start of the Lenten Season that begins on March 5th this year with Ash Wednesday. May these days and weeks be opportunities for each of us to grow more deeply in our faith and relationship with Christ and with one another. Have a great week ahead everyone!

Also, I would like to sincerely thank that those in our parish who so kindly and generously remembered your parish priests this Christmas with your thoughtful cards and supportive and heartfelt messages, gifts, and homemade treats. Please know that we are truly grateful for your kindness.

Fr. Rich Yanos

QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH - MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 11, 2025

8:30 am Mass at St. Eugene Church
- People of the Parish
- S.I. For Mike & Nicole
- S.I. For Matthew & Damian, Nicole, Darek & Patrycja

4:30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass - Mass at St. Eugene Church
- Joseph & Dominica Donato
- Eileen & Kay Egan
- Wayne J. Greco & Bernice Hujar
- Helen & Walter Wojtas
- Florence Panfil
- Jason Hadary
- Jarek Szczepanski
- John Tomasso

Sunday, January 12, 2025

8:30 am Mass at St. Eugene Church
- Callahan & La Pietra Families
- Mirno Della Santina
- Louise Zittman
- Maria & Matthias Rempala

10:00 am Mass at Our Lady, Mother of the Church
- Bill & Marty Hogan
- Jozef & Stefania Rebacz
- Donato (Donald) Parente
- Raul & Jaime Esparza
- Virginia Lazzarini

11:30 am Mass at St. Eugene Church
- People of the Parish
- Pearl & George Giovannoni
- Maria Biancorosso
- Maria Colletto
- Concetta Caranfa
- Star & Sean Ballog
- Phillip & Mildred Genovise
- Elsie Gray
- Concetta Cassata - Anniversary

Monday, January 13, 2025

9:00 am Mass at St. Eugene Church
- Joseph Cwiklik
- Josephine Nardi - Blessings
- S.I. Konrad Sniezek
- Jarek Szczepaniak

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

7:00 am Mass at Our Lady, Mother of the Church
- Juan Diaz
- Marlene & Vince Vitucci
- Jarek Szczepaniak

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

9:00 am Mass at St. Eugene Church
- John Rog
- Jarek Szczepaniak

Thursday, January 16, 2025

7:00 am Mass at Our Lady, Mother of the Church
- S.I. Michael, Nicole, Matthew & Damian

Friday, January 17, 2025

9:00 am Mass at St. Eugene Church
- Starr Deliah Ballog B-Day Remembrance

Saturday, January 18, 2025

8:30 am Mass at St. Eugene Church
- Imre & Linda Hollosi

4:30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass - Mass at St. Eugene Church
- Awana & Grow Families
- Phillip & Mildred Genovise
- Savanah Khaled
- Terry Schultz
- Salvatore Giacona
- S.I. Salvatore Manzella
- Jarek Szczepaniak

Sunday, January 19, 2025

8:30 am Mass at St. Eugene Church
- All Fathers & Donald Families
- Catarina DiBartolo
- Leokadia Miklewicz - Well being
- Florence Porada - Thanksgiving

10:00 am Mass at Our Lady, Mother of the Church
- People of the Parish
- Marianne Aiken - Special Intention
- Mary B. Barry
- Art Bastian
- Mack Beckner
- Nunzio Evola
- Donato Parente
- Nicola Troiano

11:30 am Mass at St. Eugene Church
- Brendan McCoy
- Hillard Mike Michalek
- Michael Michalek





Pancake BREAKFAST

January 12, 2025
7:30am-11:00am

ST. EUGENE CHURCH
SHAUNESSY CENTER

This is a MORE THAN A PANCAKE BREAKFAST.
Menu includes:

All you can eat Pancakes, French toast,
single servings of scrambled eggs,
hash browns, sausage, baked apples
and surprise specials of the day

Coffee, tea, milk and orange juice.

Suggested Donation is
$10-Adults,
$7-Children 5-12
Children under 5 are free.

(Additional Donations are Appreciated)

Interested in Joining the Knights of Columbus?
Please contact JOE MARLEY
AT 708-702-2726 OR MARLEY-J@COMCAST.NET



Collection date: weekend of January 18 & 19

OCIA
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

BECOMING CATHOLIC — OCIA (FORMERLY RCIA)
ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is the process for adults who desire to join the Catholic faith and for those seeking more information on the Catholic Church. OCIA can also be a method for Catholics to complete their reception of the initiation sacraments. The manual used in the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults states that the rite is designed for adults "who after hearing the mystery of Christ proclaimed, consciously and freely seek the living God." The manual also states when speaking about those in the process "By God's help they will be strengthened spiritually during their preparation and at the proper time receive the sacraments fruitfully."

WHO IS OCIA FOR?

- Non-Catholics who want to find out more about the Catholic Faith
- Those who want to join the Catholic Church through Baptism, or Profession of Faith
- Those who were baptized Catholic as infants but never received religious education, Confirmation, or First Eucharist.

The preparations for Christmas include buying or making gifts for those whom we love. You can give no better gift than the gift that God has given to us: his Son, Jesus. Invite someone who is not Catholic to attend Mass with you at Christmas. For information about the RCIA, contact the Parish Office at 773-775-6660 or Fr. Carlton at rcarlton@archchicago.org for any questions.

Schedule of Liturgical Ministers

Date	Celebrant	Extraordinary Minister	Altar Server	Lectors
Saturday, 01/18 4:30 PM - SE	Rev. Jacek Dada	R. Cantal- WB L. Feist- B Celebrant / D. Sulimowski - C T. Crivlare - O M. Meo - WO F. Klus - Cup B M.B. Glynn - Cup B	H. Wyszkowski B. Villena A. McGovern	J. Sclafani
Sunday, 01/19 8:30 AM - SE	Rev. Robert Carlton	M. Cozzo- WB B. Czubek- B Celebrant / J. Cardella - C G. Bermas - O P Draniczarek - WO M. Unger - Cup B J. Pomis - Cup O	C. Brown S. Kerr J. Rog	C. Mikucki
Sunday, 01/19 10:00 AM - OLMC	Rev. Jacek Dada	J. Villanueva - AB M. D'Alessandro - AC C. Capps - TB R. Molas - TB R. Catalano - TC	G. Pilch J. Pilch	W. Kaczmarczk - 1st P. Vega - 2nd
Sunday, 01/19 11:30 AM - SE	Rev. Ed Pacocha	D. Hernandez - WB U. Pawlowski - B Celebrant / J. Mroszczak - C F. Pacia - O T. Moore - WO B. Berggren - Cup B A. Mroszczak - Cup O	L. Acierno C. Rodriguez M. Clancy	P. Wagner

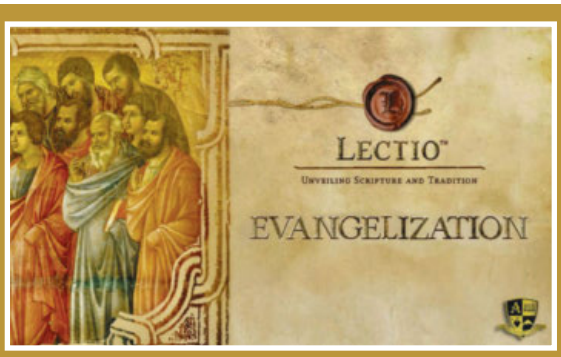
Liturgical Decorating at Queen of Peace Parish

St. Eugene Church:
Friday, January 17, from 6:30 until 9:00 p.m.
Take down all the Christmas decorations, rearrange flowers and put up Ordinary Time banners and altar cloths.

Our Lady, Mother of the Church:
Saturday, January 18, from 1 until 4 p.m.
Take down all the Christmas decorations.

Please call the rectory to leave your name, phone number and email address and we will get back to you!

Thank you,
The Liturgical Decorating Committee



How is Jesus working in our lives to fulfill his call to evangelize?

How are we called to respond in the midst of conflict, rejection, and outright persecution?

There is no better place to look for guidance in the New Evangelization than the Acts of the Apostles.

This chronicle of the Church in action gives us the blueprint for the life and mission of the Church today.

In *'Evangelization and the Acts of the Apostles'*, Dr. Mary Healy combines Bible study with Church teaching and practical wisdom to show how modern Catholics can effectively impact people for Jesus Christ.

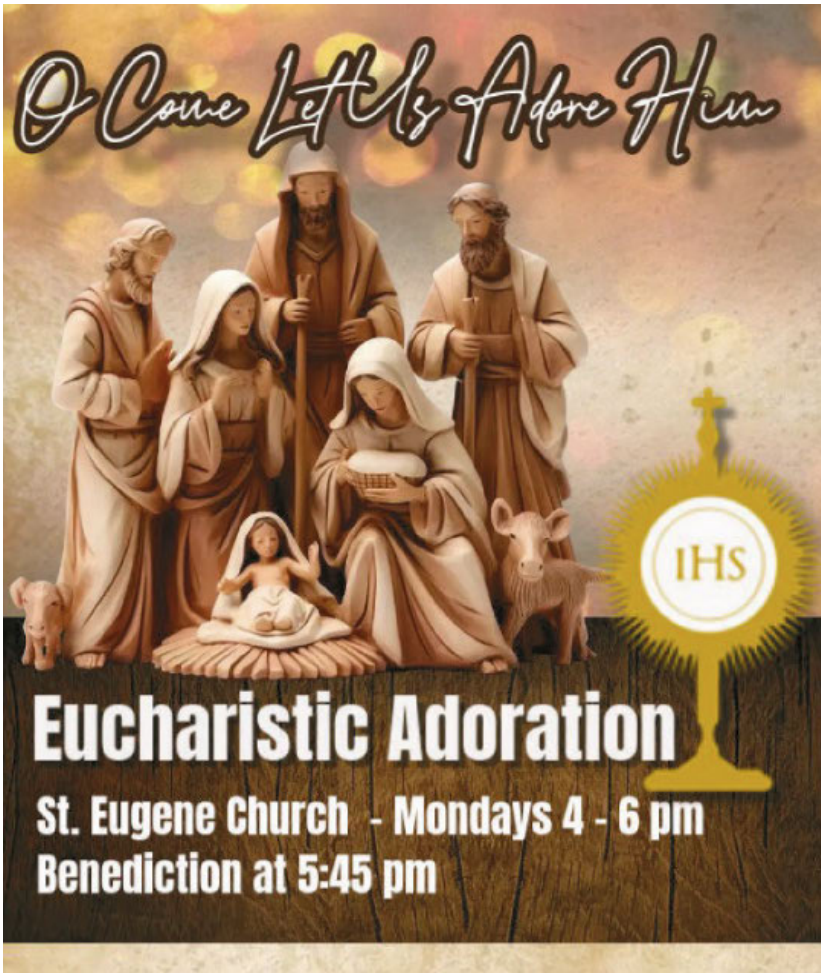
Join us for this 10-part Adult Faith Formation series on

Tuesdays at 10am, or
Thursdays at 6:30pm

starting January 21st & January 23rd.

Please, register in the rectory.
The cost is $25.
We will meet at Room 110 at school.

- *Fr. Jacek A. Dada*



"If you are able you should occupy yourself in looking at Christ who is looking at you, and you should speak, and petition and humble yourself, and delight in the Lord's presence."

-- St. Teresa of Avila

The Eucharistic Adoration committee is in need of volunteers to help on Mondays from 4 - 6pm.

If interested please come to the church around 3:15pm on Mondays to observe or call the rectory to leave your name and phone number.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024

4:30pm SE	$ 2,743,00
8:30am SE	$ 3,231.50
10:00am OLMC	$ 2,340.00
11:30am SE	$ 2,738.00
5:00pm OLMC	
Simbang Gabi	$ 452.00
Mail	$ 1,317.00
Total Physical	**$ 12,821.50**
Online Collection	$ 5,060.01
Grand Total	**$ 17,881,51**
Repair & Maintenance	$ 2,099.00

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024

4:30pm SE	$ 3,971.00
8:30am SE	$ 2,866.50
10:00am OLMC	$ 3,376.00
11:30am SE	$ 3,330.00
Mail	$ 5,964.00
Total Physical	**$ 19,507.50**
Online Collection	$ 1,865.01
Grand Total	**$ 21,372.51**
Christmas	$ 99,928.50

Thank you for your Support!



SECOND COLLECTIONS

January 12
Sacred Heart / St. Eulalia Parish Sharing

January 19
School Support

Medjugorje and the Treasures of the Adriatic Trip.

April 21 - May 2, 2025.
Please contact Fr. Rich at 773-775-6659 for more information or to request a brochure.



Queen of Peace Parish will be starting a youth group after the New Year and will be joining with the group at Immaculate Conception Parish to start.

If interested, please email Fr. Carlton at rcarlton@archchicago.org



Bulletin Submissions:

Bulletin requests must be sent 2 weeks prior to the desired bulletin weekend to mgeurtsen@archchicago.org
We reserve the right to edit.
Submissions will be placed in the bulletin if space allows and pending administration approval. Please call the parish office for the holiday schedule. *Thank you.*

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Come join us to make a difference in peoples lives. We crochet shawls, lap robes, baby blankets, crosses and even scarves and hats when there is a need. If interested we meet the first and third Wednesday of every month. Any questions please reach out to Pam at 773-685-7586 or 773-848-4586.

Bible Study

Wednesday in St. Eugene School-room 110 from 10:00 to 12:00.
Questions or comments please feel free to email Frank at fjlizak@comcast.net
Hope to see you there!

Knights of Columbus

If you are interested in joining the Knights of Columbus, please contact Joe Marley at 708-702-2726 Marley-j@comcast.net



The Friendship Club

will be meeting on Tuesday, January 14, at 11:00. This will be our Happy 2025 Party. Our lunch will be an Italian Beef Sandwich with Potato Chips and a Frozen Fruit Bar for dessert. Our speaker will be Gail Niksic who will speak about downsizing. Senator Martwick will have a table of information for your review. After lunch, Bingo will be played. Hope to see you there.

Greetings Queen of Peace Parishioners:

Happy New Year! I hope this message finds all of you well.

Just a quick note to start off the year with 2 items of interest:

1) I ask that folks who submit any check donations for the parish please utilize the name of *Queen of Peace Parish* versus St. Eugene or Our Lady, Mother of the Church. Queen of Peace is the name recognized by the bank. This will hopefully avoid any issues with the acceptance of your kind offerings by Parkway.

2) For any of you that participate in on-line giving, whether it be Give Central or We Share, please note that all of your contributions have been inputted into our internal database. This means that your end-of-year tax letter will reflect the donations from both cash, check, and now on-line. The good news is you do not have to generate any other file from the other venues to have the record of your kind giving for the Parish.

If you need for us to generate a tax letter for you to include with your annual IRS submission, please let us know. Note that there is a simple form statement request included in this bulletin (see form below). We are happy to accommodate your request.

With truly grateful hearts, we thank you for your faithful and generous support of our parish!

Take care, and blessings to all of you!

Lisa Keeney
Lisa Keeney

✂

2024 Year - End Charitable Donations Statement Request

Please PRINT your First and Last Name _____

Phone number _____

Address _____

Envelope ID # _____

Queen of Peace Fundraiser Dinner



In honor of the feast day of Our Lady Queen of Peace, the Young Adults group is having a dinner that will raise funds to support their group and Queen of Peace Parish.

The event will take place on Saturday,
January 25, from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM with authentic Mexican food being provided.

Tickets will be sold for $30 after all masses the weekends of January 11 and 18.

Tickets must be purchased in advance by January 20.

This is a parish-wide event.

All are welcome to attend. Please come and support our parish.

QUEEN of PEACE
PARISH

SAVE THE DATE

PARISH MISSION

May 4-6, 2025

Mark your calendars for this opportunity to renew your faith and grow spiritually.

LOCATION

Our Lady, Mother of the Church | 8747 W. Lawrence Avenue, Chicago

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Fr. Tom McCarthy, O.S.A.



Fr. Tom McCarthy, O.S.A., is an experienced teacher, administrator, retreat director, and parish mission preacher. He is currently in his 14th year as Vocation Director for the Midwest Province of the Augustinian Order and is Director of St. Rita of Cascia Shrine Chapel in Chicago. Fr. Tom is also the Prior of the Pre-Novitiate Community of St. Clare of Montefalco Friary in Chicago.

Queen of Peace parishioners drove up to visit Jean Rogers at the Milwaukee Catholic Home. It was fun!
(Pat and David Peterson, Jim Summers & Jean Rogers)



THE GIVING TREE 2024



Thank You!

Dear Queen of Peace Family,

To all the volunteers who donated their time to make sure that every name on the giving tree list was taken, may God bless you!

To everyone who took a name or donated gifts and money to enhance the gifts, may God smile upon you!

To everyone who wrapped, decorated, organized, checked and re-checked the finished gifts, May God hold you in the palm of His hand!

And to all of you, May God fill you with the joy that you so lovingly gave to the children throughout the New Year!

Thank you,

Lonnie Muehlfelder

Queen of Peace

In honor of her January 24th feast day,
we are having a
Personal Hygiene Drive for the Little Sisters of the Poor
January 25—26

The collection will take place before each Mass in the gathering space at each worship site.
Below follows a list of specific items needed.

- Kleenex
- Mouthwash
- Deodorant for both men and women
- Shampoo
- Men's razors
- Dish soap (such as Dawn in bottles)
- Paper towels
- Paper napkins



Along with your regular food shopping, perhaps you can begin to gather a few of these items and be ready to assist the Sisters. Thanking you in advance for your time and consideration.

The Liturgy Committee, Sharing Parish Ministry, and Social Concerns Ministry.

Rosaries for an Increase in Baptisms

As we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord this Sunday, let us pray that more people will be baptized. About three months ago, the Vatican released statistics showing a decline in baptisms. For instance, there were over 18 million baptisms worldwide in 2000, but only over 13 million baptisms in 2022. Please pray at least one Rosary this week for an increase in baptisms, with Rosary Guild members Emily A., Lori G., James H., John I., Lita J., Evelyn K., Terri K., Gilda M., Lonnie M., Mary M., Ted M., Josephine N., Emilie P., Stefania P., Jean R., Demi S., and Shirley S.

Mother of Perpetual Help Devotion: Mary, Our Model

This devotion is prayed on Tuesdays after the 7 a.m. Mass.

Living Rosary

People pray a decade or more of the Rosary daily for the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for the glory of the Most Holy Trinity, and in honor of St. Philomena, the patron of the Living Rosary. Please contact the parish office if you would like to be a part of the Living Rosary.

Joyful Mysteries	Luminous Mysteries	Sorrowful Mysteries	Glorious Mysteries
Annunciation - Ted M.	Baptism of Jesus - Barb R.	Agony in the Garden - Jean R.	Resurrection - Lita J.
Visitation - Barb R.	Wedding at Cana - Mary M.	Scourging at the Pillar - Jean R.	Ascension - Marsha G.
Nativity - Josephine N.	Proclaim the Kingdom - Ted M.	Crowning with Thorns - Mary M.	Descent of Holy Spirit - Camille C.
Presentation - Karen R.	Transfiguration - Emily A.	Carrying of the Cross - Ted M.	Assumption of Mary - Camille C.
Finding in the Temple - Mary M.	Institution of Eucharist - Emily A.	Crucifixion - Demi S.	Coronation of Mary - Camille C.



Queen of Peace Parish

St. Joseph's Table Committee

The Queen of Peace Parish St. Joseph's Table Committee would like to invite you to consider joining the St. Joseph's Table Committee or helping on the day of the event.

The St. Joseph's Table is a parish event that honors St. Joseph by raising funds for charity by serving traditional non-meat foods to the public and selling bakery items from the St. Joseph's display table.

Scheduled Meetings

Planning meetings are held in the Shaunessy Center Meeting Room, which is on the east end of St. Eugene campus, at 7:00PM on the following dates:

- **Wednesday, February 5, 2025**
- **Wednesday, February 19, 2025**
- **Wednesday, March 12, 2025**
- **Wednesday, April 2, 2025**

Event

The St. Joseph's Table will be held on Saturday, March 22nd, 2025, with setup on Friday, March 21st.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Full Committee member
- Help with planning and acquiring donations.
- Event Volunteers (March 21st and 22nd)
- Setting up/Take Down
- Food Line Servers.
- Kitchen Help.
- Clean up.
- Greeters.

Donations

Donations of homemade bread, desserts and your favorite dish are welcome.

For More Information Contact:

Russell Sparacino – 708.557.5059 or Sal Sparacino – 630.768.8375

Readings for the week of January 12, 2025

Sunday:
Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 (1)/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Monday:
Heb 1:1-6/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9/
Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday:
Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/
Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday:
Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/
Mk 1:29-39

Thursday:
Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11/
Mk 1:40-45

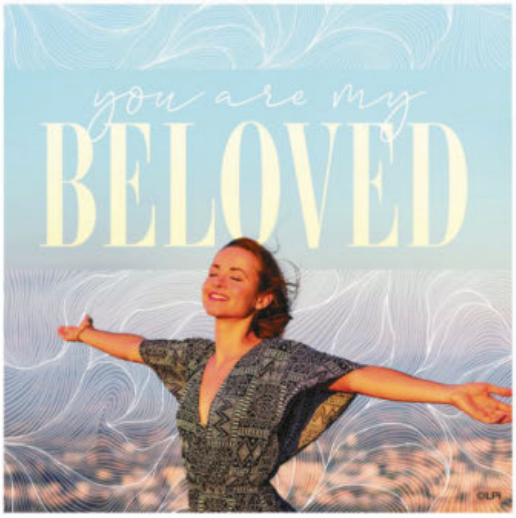
Friday:
Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8/
Mk 2:1-12

Saturday:
Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday:
Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 (3)/
1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

In my second year of theology studies, I went to confession to a priest visiting the seminary for a three-day retreat. My heart wasn't in it. I was going through the motions. I confessed my sins and waited for his response. The priest said, "For your penance, I'd like you to go into the chapel and repeat the words **'You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased'** (Luke 3:22) until they mean something to you." Easy penance, I thought.

But to my surprise, I struggled to say those words. I sensed a strong interior resistance blocking them. How could God be well-pleased with me? He couldn't be, I thought. A battle within me ensued. Two hours later, the resistance vanished, and I found myself able to speak, and claim as my own, those marvelous words. I emerged from the chapel with a new, deep, peaceful conviction that I was indeed God's beloved son.

Those words are a precious gift from heaven to all of us. Jesus' baptism, which we celebrate this week, offers them to us. Are we willing to receive these words anew? Many things can block this deepening of our baptismal identity: failings, sins, disappointments, traumas, problems, and so on. Yet God's love is always greater. This week I challenge you to prayerfully repeat these words over yourself — or perhaps over someone you're struggling to love — until those words find a home in your heart.

— Father John Muir

Queen of Peace Parish

The Combined Parishes Office:

St. Eugene Rectory
7958 W. Foster Avenue. Chicago, IL 60656
Ph. (773) 775-6659 Fax (773) 775-2832
churchoffice@st-eugene.org

Please contact the St. Eugene Church Rectory Office for:
Sacrament of Baptism, Marriage, Anointing of the Sick, Funerals & Rite of Christian Initiation (OCIA)

Our Worship Sites:

Our Lady, Mother of the Church
8747 W. Lawrence Avenue. Chicago, IL 60656
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Rev. Gregory A. Rom - *Retired Resident Assistant*
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Rev. Ed Pacocha - *Retired Assistant*

Deacon Ted & Mrs. Mary Marszalek
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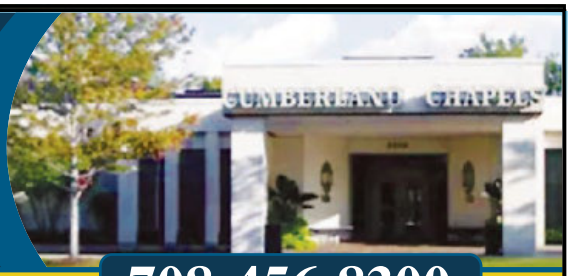
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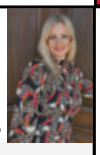
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