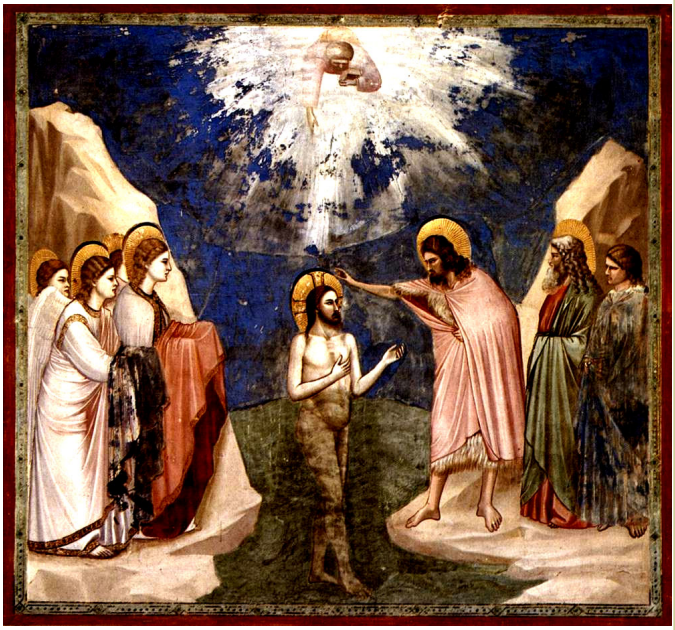
SAINT ISAAC JOGUES PARISH

8149 Golf Road, Niles, IL 60714 ♦ 847.967.1060 ♦ Fax: 847.967.1070 ♦ Website: http://sij-parish.com

The Baptism of the Lord
January 12, 2014

"THE DESCENT OF THE DIVINE"



The Baptism of the Lord dramatizes the Incarnation as a continuing revelation. Being born established the fact: the Word was made flesh. The Baptism by John shows us the reason **WHY.** Incarnation goes far beyond any other intervention of God in human history. It is like all interventions in that it involves the "descent of the divine" into the realm of Creation. It is infinitely more because this intervention fully includes IDENTIFICATION.

Today's Gospel shows John the Baptist totally shocked by Jesus. John had leaped in his mother's womb in homage to the unborn Savior. He had recognized Him as the "Lamb of God." Fr. Robert Barron describes John's "shock" as "cognitive dissonance." Why should the sinless Messiah enthusiastically accept a "Baptism of Repentance"? John is embarrassed:

> *"I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?"*

Jesus tells John nothing more than

> *"Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."*

John is a prophet. Like all prophets, he recognizes that he has been chosen to speak God's Word and announce God's Will. Trust, not understanding, is what God expects of him.

After Jesus is baptized by John, we are told "the heavens were opened." The "Descent of the Divine" takes place. The Spirit of God hovers above Jesus as a dove. The voice of the Father is heard to announce, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

The Word, as proclaimed, often inspires visual artists. Byzantine theology is particularly rich in its iconography. The "vision" is not only one of the "Descent of the Divine," but of the transformation of all Creation. The miracle at the Jordan is not only the inauguration of Jesus' public ministry, it foreshadows the Death and Resurrection in symbolic terms. The worship of the Eastern Church makes this clear:

> *". . . Today through the presence of the Lord the waters of the Jordan are changed into remedies; today the whole universe is refreshed with mystical streams; today sins of mankind are blotted out by the waters of the Jordan River; today paradise has been opened to mankind, and the Sun of righteousness has shone upon us ... "*

The Byzantine "sense" of the Baptism of the Lord more than suggests a "New Creation" and a "tidal wave" of Grace. It is a beautiful recognition of what is about to happen through Christ's saving Mission. But somehow that Mission seems a *fait accompli* in the East.

Western art is less visionary and heaven infused. Giotto's fresco of the Lord's Baptism never lets us forget the event from a human vantage. While Giotto's "realism" does not provide a "snapshot," it seems to capture a sublime moment when heaven and earth meet. Lord Kenneth Clark offers insights into Giotto's stylistic gifts.

> *(Giotto) makes his figures vividly credible because he wishes us to feel more intensely the human drama in which they are involved . . . He is the supreme dramatist of human life in all its diversity . . . Giotto was, above all interested in humanity: he sympathized with human beings and his figures, by their very solidity, remain on earth.*

Giotto's masterpiece, many critics argue, is the Arena Chapel. The chapel is also known as the **Cappella degli Scrovegni.** The Scrovegni family were bankers, not necessarily an honorable profession at a time when usury - - loaning money at high interest - - was considered a serious sin by the Church. Enrico Scrovegni commissioned the decoration of the Chapel - - some say - - as reparation for his father's conviction of usury or perhaps his own guilt. Giotto did more than forty frescos depicting the life of the Blessed Virgin and Our Lord as well as

a magnificent Last Judgment. The Baptism of the Lord, with Christ's identification with sinners, seems remarkably **apropos** in a chapel donated by the Scrovegnis. Giotto depicts his patron as the Last Judgment with the elect. He is shown presenting a model of his chapel to three angels. Meanwhile, less fortunate usurers are shown hanging by the strings of their money bags.

I believe the Incarnation, the ultimate "Descent of the Divine," is brought into clear focus by the Baptism of the Lord. It is not only heavenly manifestations that make us aware of this, but the profound humility of the Lord's IDENTIFICATION with sinners.

-Fr. Luczak

Welcome New Parishioners!

Mr. & Mrs. Ray Lara

ON BEHALF OF LIFE… PRAYER, DIAPER DRIVE, WITNESS

January 22nd is the observance of the Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion in our nation. That day is designated as a day of prayer for the legal protection of unborn children. As part of our parish observance:

There will be a Holy Hour for Life this Thursday, Jan. 16, 7-8 p.m. in the Church. We are collecting packages/ boxes of diapers for the Women's Center of various sizes (newborn and up) in the Holy Family Room next weekend, January 18-19. This is a big need for them as they assist women to keep their babies. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

We also encourage those who are able to participate in **March for Life Chicago**. It will be **next Sunday, Jan. 19 beginning with a Rally at 1:00 p.m. at the Federal Plaza,** 50 West Adams, in Chicago. Speakers include Francis Cardinal George, Congressman Dan Lipinski and others. After the rally, the group will walk to the State of Illinois Building, 100 West Randolph, and conclude about 3 p.m. The March for Life is for those who cannot attend the one in Washington, DC. "Marching together in hope, we call upon religious, civic, and community leaders to renew every effort to build a nation that affirms the authentic dignity of women, the gift of children, and a culture dedicated to protecting life at every stage of development in law and love.

Religious Education

First Communion Preparation meeting for Mrs. Winans class is on Monday, Jan. 13th, at 6:45 p.m. At least one adult from each family is to attend. Home materials and calendars will be distributed.

Permission slips for the Jan. 25 Retreat for Confirmation Year I (Mrs. Faso's class) are ***due by Monday, Jan. 20th***. Families are also reminded there is a meeting for parents/guardians that same day of Jan. 25 at 4 p.m. Then students and parents/guardians will attend the Parish 5 p.m. mass in church.

RE Catechists and Assistants are reminded of the ***Cluster Catechist Formation Morning*** on ***Saturday, January 25th, in the Holy Family Room.*** Gathering is at 8:30 and the program will run 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Our speaker will be Kate Ristow from ***Catechist Magazine***.

RCIA

Adults interested in being baptized, received into the Catholic Church or completing their Catholic Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation are invited to call Dee Stanton, 847/966-1180 for more info.

TEEN GROUP

The next Teen Group meeting is Sunday, January 26th. We'll be talking about the Bible and our faith. February activities include our Popcorn Sale the weekend of Feb. 1-2 and our preparation of sack lunches for the homeless on Feb. 23. March will have us attending the Youth Awards Banquet in support of those teens from the parish who will be recognized, helping at the St. Joseph Table, and going bowling. A lot is happening! Come be part of all or some of the activities. For more information, please contact Mrs. Stanton, 847/966-1180 or email her at sijre2004@yahoo.com.

Raising Faith-Filled Kids • One Word at a Time

Continue

I remember the day we brought our eldest daughter, Judy, home from the hospital. As I held my newborn daughter, I felt tremendous peace and joy. And then she started to cry. Immediately I had two thoughts: First, shouldn't there be someone here who knows what they're doing? And second, I became terrified with the realization that I was officially on parent duty for the rest of my life.

Becoming a parent changes your identity forever. You are for now and always this child's mom or dad. This is an enormous privilege and an enormous responsibility. The trick is to "just keep showing up"—to begin each day with a prayer that I can provide what my children need and the commitment to, as best I can, do what love requires. —*Tom McGrath*

YEAR OF STRONG CATHOLIC PARENTS

The ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO in partnership with LOYOLA PRESS.

For more parenting resources: www.loyolapress.com
www.CatholicParentsChicago.org

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BIBLE STUDY

Bible study resumes Wednesday, January 15th, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 6 of the school. We will begin Part II of our study on Israel's Story. This is a combination study and faith sharing group. No previous Bible Study experience is necessary and you need not have done Part I of the study in order to join us! The fee for materials is $10, but all are welcome whether you can cover the fee or not. For more information, please call the RE Office, 847/966-1180.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Loving God, hold all who serve and protect our country in your hands. Bless them and their loved ones. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

• United States Air Force	Mason Janzen, Breanna Dexter
• United States Army	Gale Renner, Aisha Fernando
• United States Marines	Lance Renner, Gian Patrick Reyes
• United States Navy	William B. Dexter, Timothy Kelly
• Illinois National Guard	Nathaniel Janzen
• Iowa National Guard	Christopher Dexter

If you have a loved one or friend whom you would like our parish community to pray for as they serve our country, please contact the RE Office, 847/966-1180 or sijre2004@yahoo.com with their name and branch of military service to the RE Office. Thank you!

ST. JOSEPH TABLE PLANNING MEETING

The St. Joseph Table Planning Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 15 at 7 p.m. in the Holy Family Room. If you cannot come, please contact Santa DiFranco or Dee Stanton, 847/966-1180. Grazie!

Altar Flowers

"96 Year Celebration of the life of Cleopatra Pactol"

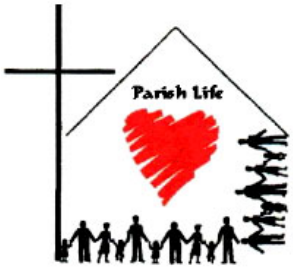
"In Loving Memory of Richard Noble"
Theresa Noble

The Spiritual Life Commission will meet this Tuesday, January 14th, at 7 p.m. in the RE Office.

SPRED TEAM...

will meet on Wednesday, January 22nd, at 7 p.m. Please call Dee, 847-966-1180, if you cannot attend.

PARISH LIFE COMMISSION



The Parish Life Commission will meet this Monday at 8:15 p.m. in Room 26 of the school.

Share YOUR Faith

Support the Collection for the Church in Latin America

Catholics in Latin America and the Caribbean face many challenges when it comes to sharing their faith; yet, the light always shines through and hope arises. In the Diocese of San Miguel, El Salvador, the youth of Holy Family Parish are at high risk for violence and gang activity. In response, the parish designed a youth enrichment and leadership program to address young people's need for critical-thinking skills and values education. The parish hopes to help the youth living in these high-vulnerability areas create a culture of solidarity and peace within their neighborhoods. The parish currently engages a group of 75 young adults. They will become youth leaders to spread the gospel message in their neighborhoods and break the cycle of violence.

In Ecuador, the Diocese of Loja organized a three-day formation program for their catechists, many of whom work in isolated areas. More than 2,500 catechists gathered from around the diocese to participate in training sessions on rural ministry, bible instruction, and other areas of catechesis. One of the participants, Andrea, said that the experience was informative and enriching and that the catechists were able to meet each other and share their diverse experiences. She said that the sessions fortified her spirit so that she can go back to her ministry in the parish and better serve the people in the diocese.

The Collection for the Church in Latin America, through projects like these youth and young adult ministry programs, as well as catechesis programs, empowers the people of Latin America to deepen their faith and share it with each other and the world.

For more information on how you can help the Church in Latin America, visit *www.usccb.org* and search "Church in Latin America."

Collection for the Church in Latin America | Office of National Collections
3211 Fourth Street NE | Washington, DC 20017-1194 | (202) 541-3346 | *www.usccb.org/nationalcollections*
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TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Through the centuries, artists and craftspeople have depicted Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River by John. At first in mosaics and frescoes, and later in tapestries, stained glass, and paintings, the scene is familiar. Jesus is standing waist-high in flowing water. Above him, standing on dry land, John the Baptist pours water over Jesus. The first artists to depict this were sketching from memory. This is exactly how most people were baptized in the early days: as adults, standing or kneeling in the water, with water poured over their heads.

This method of baptizing, called immersion, is the favored way today. An adult enters a font, or an infant is lowered a bit into the water supported by a parent's hand, and water is poured or splashed over them. The treasures of baptistry art attest that submersion, or plunging beneath the water's surface, is not really in our tradition, and that "infusion," the mere pouring of a few drops of water, yields too narrow an understanding of what it means to be plunged into Christ's life. Jesus Christ has gone before us into the water, and waits for us there with abundant gifts. No wonder the tradition calls for abundant symbols!

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

SAINTS & SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord
Monday: First Week in Ordinary Time; St. Hilary
Friday: St. Anthony
Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary;
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	1 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-19; Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday:	1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday:	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday:	1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45
Friday:	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday:	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17
Sunday:	Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Isaiah speaks of the Servant whom the LORD upholds; he shall bring forth justice to the nations (Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7).
Psalm — The Lord will bless his people with peace (Psalm 29).
Second Reading — Jesus was anointed by God with the Holy Spirit; he went out healing and doing good (Acts 10:34-38).
Gospel — A voice comes from heaven proclaiming Jesus as the beloved Son, with whom God is well pleased (Matthew 3:13-17).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

St. Isaac Jogues Men's Club

Chili Nite

The next Men's club meeting will be Wednesday, January 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Hall. It will be "Chili Nite" with a new chili chef, Chuck Napravnik. Come taste his ingredients of hot spices with Wally's chili recipe. The cost for the remaining four meetings is $25 and for this meeting alone is $5. Come in out of the COLD and enjoy the HOT CHILI with new and old acquaintances!

December was a Merry month for the St. Isaac Jogues Men's Club. On Dec.16, Santa and six elves from the Men's Club spread Christmas cheer by giving Ice Cream and Candy Canes to all the children from Religious Education. Everything was purchased with a gift certificate donated by the store manager of Meijer Grocery on Golf Road.

At our annual Christmas party on Dec. 18, we enjoyed a great Christmas meal that Ed Mikeska hosted. At this meeting, we collected more than $500 to donate to the victims of the Washington City Tornado.

Workshop for Family Members/Loved Ones who have lost a developmentally disabled adult

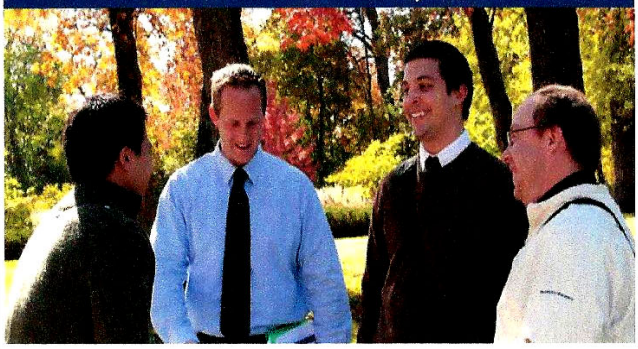
Sponsored by Advocate Medical Group and
Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care Grief and Loss Center

Saturday, January 18, 2014
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Adult Down Syndrome Center
1610 Luther Lane, Park Ridge

Suggested Fee: $15, To register: Contact Merrily Smith or Grace O'Conner at 847-318-2303

EXPLORING PRIESTHOOD WEEKEND

JANUARY 24-26, 2014



EXPLORING PRIESTHOOD WEEKEND

A retreat designed to help men who are, **college age and older,** discern God's call to priesthood. Throughout a weekend of prayer, discussion, and group interaction, men begin to understand God's movement in their life.

PRESENTATIONS ON

- Practical steps for discerning a vocation
- Values of priesthood
- Vocational journeys of priests and seminarians and how they came to understand God's call
- Seminary life, academics, and formation

WHERE

Mundelein Seminary –1000 East Maple Avenue Mundelein, IL. Located about 30 miles north of Chicago, easily accessible by car or train.

CONTACT:
REV. FRANCIS BITTERMAN
VOCATION DIRECTOR
312-534-8298
fbitterman@archchicago.org

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

<u>Help us to support the Church's Initiative on marriage</u>! Couples who make Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekends not only rediscover the joy, intimacy & romance in their relationships, but also become more active in their parish. Together, we are making marriages, families and our Church stronger & healthier. **Would you like Worldwide Marriage Encounter couples to speak about how to improve marriage at your masses on weekend? We are scheduling witness talks and Parish Marriage Enrichments. Contact Kathy and Lloyd Christensen at (773) 284-9242 or wwme.chicago.gary.area@comcast.net.**

Mass and Healing Service
Thursday, January 16, 2014

St. Peter's Church
8116 Niles Center Rd., Skokie, Il.
(1 block north of Oakton)

Celebrant: Fr. Bob Sears
Sponsored by:
Light-of-the-Risen-Christ Prayer Group

Beginning at 7:15 p.m. with songs of praise & worship. Prayer teams available for any individual seeking additional intercession after Mass & Fr. Sears's personal/individual blessing of each attendee.

Parking: 1/2 block north of St. Peter's Church (in school lot)

For more info, phone: Kevin Patterson (847) 724-1218
or Jack Stoelinga (847) 486-0663

Rainbow Grief & Loss Center

Sunday, Jan. 26 at 2:00 p.m.

Interfaith Memorial Service

is a prayer service for family and friends whose loved ones were served by Rainbow Hospice and/or who participate in our Grief Groups. All community bereaved who wish to remember their loved ones are welcome. ***Registration requested.***

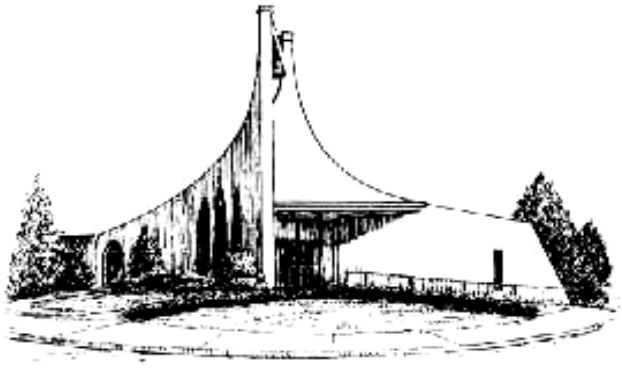
Held at: ***St. Stephan Protomartyr Church***
1280 Prospect Ave., Des Plaines, IL 60018

Sunday, January 12	
7:30 a.m.	Richard M. Arendt ✞
9:00 a.m.	*For the Living & Deceased Members of SIJ*
	Ann Maloney ✞
10:30 a.m.	Robert Biebrach ✞ Tom Denning ✞
	Boleslaw Sienkiel ✞ Shirley Klein ✞
	Mildred Skuran ✞ Judy Degrazia ✞
	Leonisa Rosales ✞ Eileen Lepatan ✞
	Aurelio Libot ✞ Virgilio Basa ✞
12:00 p.m.	Clara Alberti ✞
Monday, January 13	
8:00 a.m.	*Purgatorial Society*
	Richard Noble ✞
Tuesday, January 14	
8:00 a.m.	Holly Koz ✞
Wednesday, January 15	
8:00 a.m.	Mildred Skuran ✞
	Marie Wenderski ✞
	Tom Denning ✞
	Exaltacion S. Virtusio ✞
Thursday, January 16	
8:00 a.m.	Janet Grant ✞
Friday, January 17	
8:00 a.m.	Helen Polinski ✞
Saturday, January 18	
8:00 a.m.	*Communion Service - No intentions*
5:00 p.m.	Jim Smith ✞
Sunday, January 19	
7:30 a.m.	Mary Drabik ✞
9:00 a.m.	Eleanor Lutz ✞ Boleslaw Sienkiel ✞
	Marguerite Smoczynski ✞
	Joseph Godlewski ✞ Toni Yonk ✞
	Mari Zaccaria ✞
	Ma Elena Yrasuegui ✞
10:30 a.m.	*For the Living & Deceased Members of SIJ*
	Eduardo & Serafin Roriguez ✞
12:00 p.m.	William Bear ✞

Liturgy Next Weekend	
January 18-19	Celebrant
Reconciliation 11:00 a.m.	Fr. Janas
5:00 p.m.	Fr. Luczak/Deacon Paul
7:30 a.m.	Fr. Kennedy/Deacon Rod
9:00 a.m.	Fr. Kalas/Deacon Rod
10:30 a.m.	Fr. Kalas/Deacon Paul
12:00 p.m.	Fr. Janas/Deacon Paul

Altar Servers

5:00 p.m.	Yuriy Martyniuk Joanne Areno Mark Mangurali
7:30 a.m.	Vijay Thomas Christina Jimmychan Jude Jimmychan
9:00 a.m.	Trisha Bonto Matthew Bonto Samuel Ratner
10:30 a.m.	Jeffery Kurian Maya Gherman Julia Jaroslawski
12:00 p.m.	Matthew Ledsma Imani Garner Lawson Matthew



PASTOR: Rev. Andrew Luczak

PASTORAL STAFF:
Lori Herbert, Business Manager
Dolores Stanton, Director of Religious Education
Lisa Hall, Music Director

DEACON COMMUNITY:
Deacon & Mrs. Robert C. O'Keefe
Deacon Rod Ranola
Deacon & Mrs. Paul M. Stanton

WEEKEND LITURGY PRESIDERS:
Rev. Ron Kalas
Rev. Bernard Kennedy, O.F.M.
Rev. Philip McGlynn, O.S.M.
Rev. Camillus Janas, O.F.M.

Eucharistic Celebrations:
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30, & 12:00 Noon
Monday - Friday: 8:00 AM
Saturday: 8:00 AM & 5:00 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Saturday, 11:00 - 12:00 Noon or anytime by request.

Sacrament of Matrimony: Must be registered for six months prior to setting the wedding date with an additional six months for necessary preparation. Note: The following wedding times can be scheduled:
Friday at 5:00 p.m.;
Saturday at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.;
Sunday at 3:00 p.m. (Ceremony only)

Sacrament of Baptism: Second and fourth Sunday of each month at 1:30 PM. Baptism Preparation Session must be completed before Baptism. Contact the Parish Office as soon as possible for details.

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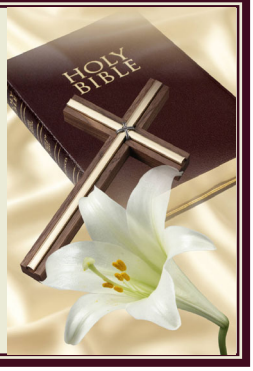
Sarah Maugliani (A/P, Bulletin Editor)

Religious Education. 966-1180
Renata Jaroslawski (Staff Secretary)
Ministry Center. 965-6911

Parish School:
St. John Brebeuf School. 966-3266

In Memoriam

Mari Zaccaria
Rosa Stella
Jean Kong



Pray for...

JIMMY RANCICH
CECILE SEAGRAVES
THERESA WOLF
MARGE PODRAZIK
BOB WALHAUS
LEON RONDINET
AL CASACCHIA
BRIAN BOWER

ALTAR FLOWERS CAN BE A BEAUTIFUL TRIBUTE

We are now extending our Altar Flower arrangements from the weekend of January 12th through March 2, 2014. Parishioners are invited to decorate the altar with flowers in honor or memory of a loved one. There can be two arrangements each week. Your name and intention will be listed in the Bulletin. The cost of a flower arrangement will be $50. After Pentecost, Altar Flowers will be available from the weekend of June 15th through Thanksgiving Day, November 27th. Dates fill up quickly, so please book well in advance. Please call the Rectory at 847-967-1060 for arrangements.

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS
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CONTACT PERSON
Sarah/Janet

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

THANK YOU!