



Our Lady of the **WAYSIDE PARISH**

434 W. Park Street
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
Phone: (847) 253-5353
Website: olwparish.org



Senior Christmas Party Smiles. These lovely ladies (Ann Stubing, Shirley Deger, Ginny Lamich) have been OLW parishioners since Father O'Hara was pastor!

December 31, 2023
Feast of the Holy Family



Meet Our Lady of the Wayside's New Operations Director



Greetings Our Lady of the Wayside Parishioners,

I am both honored and excited to accept the role of Operations Director and to become a part of Our Lady of the Wayside team. My wife, Mary Jeanne and I moved to Arlington Heights and registered as parishioners in 2021. Our connection to OLW, however, dates back thirty-six years, when MJ and I were married here! In no small way, we truly have come home.

I come to Wayside with a BA, an MBA, and over forty years of business management experience. My business concentration covered sales, sales management, manufacturing & plant operations and corporate. I managed sales teams as well as multiple plant operations. God has blessed me with success in each position by working closely with those I managed as well as with other team members. The valuable experiences gained along the way, I now carry with me as I begin my new roll at Wayside.

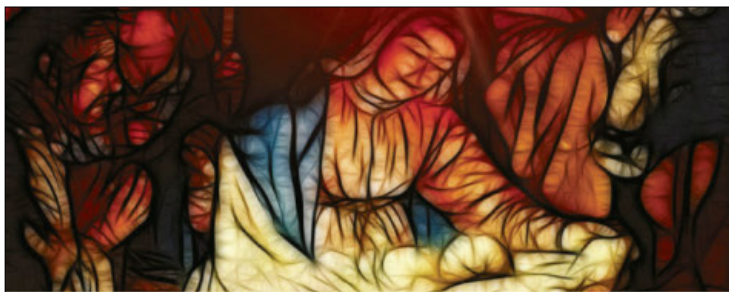
At the same time, I have an even longer history of serving the Catholic Church in several capacities. In my youth, I volunteered at our parish, was an altar boy, sorted donated clothes and participated in teen retreat programs. All were fundamental to how I grew up. As an adult, I served on the Parish School Board, Pastoral Council, Finance Committee and as an advisor to the Pastor of the California parish MJ and I belonged to for 25 years. I am also proud to be a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus, and held numerous leadership positions including Grand Knight of the council in California. Since rejoining Wayside, I have participated in several ministries, groups and activities including, the Grotto Project, the Celebrate 70! Cardinal Cupich Reception, Golf Outing and Oktoberfest, the Hospitality Ministry, the New Parishioner Welcome Reception, the That Man is You (TMIY) Men's Group, the Senior Christmas Party, and the Knights of Columbus.

Some have asked why I am taking on this important roll at Our Lady of the Wayside. My answer, quite simply, is I feel the Holy Spirit has guided me here. Many years ago, I decided my life would be better if I simply "rowed the boat" and let God do the steering. This is my way of 'trusting in the Lord'. So far, it seems to have worked out pretty well, and for that I thank Him every day. I look forward to working with Fr. Marat, Principal David Wood, Vicariate Ops Director Marvin Sabido, the outstanding staff that serve OLW Parish, and with many of you.

So, as my journey begins here, I will simply 'keep on rowing' trusting full well that the God, and our Holy Mother and patroness, Our Lady of the Wayside, will guide us.

Vivat Jesus,

Patrick J. Fitzgerald



CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WITH OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE!

HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Saturday, December 30, 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 31, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Sunday, December 31, 5:00 pm (Vigil), 6:00–11:00 pm

(Adoration), 11:00 pm (New Year Spiritual Celebration)

Monday, January 1, 9:30*, 11:30 am

*The rosary will be recited before the 9:30 am mass in honor of our Holy Mother.

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday, January 6, 5:00 pm

Sunday, January 7, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am, 6:00 pm



Connections to Care is a not-for-profit organization with the sole goal of providing reliable, volunteer-based accompanied transportation for older adults to get to their medical and dental appointments.

Volunteers pick up the older adults at their home, drive them to their appointment, assist them in the medical office, wait with them and then drive them home.

Connections to Care is asking for donations to continue this valuable service to the community. Please visit the website of www.connectionsstocare.org to donate directly and you can help older adults remain healthy, independent and connected.

It's more than a ride — it's a connection!

SIGN AND SOURCE OF LOVE

The Feast of the Holy Family – Year B



Father Arthur Marat

What kind of meaning does the Holy Family have for contemporary families: for mothers, fathers and children? To this family belonged the Child Jesus—a Child loved by Mary and Joseph. He, along with Mary and Joseph, created a union that was held together by respect and love. Difficulties and sufferings awaited this

Child and His parents, who had anticipated His coming. Yet, nothing could disturb them, because the Child Jesus knew that He was loved. He knew that He was the object of particular care. And His parents trusted and placed their hope in God. Mary and Joseph were ready to follow the Child Jesus along the way marked out by God. They were ready to accompany Him for His entire life. And this Child developed and grew in wisdom.

We can imagine that the life of the Holy Family is one of poverty and simplicity. Yet, it was full of love. Like any other child, Jesus had to learn to walk, to talk, to work, to pray and to love his parents. And like any other parents, Mary and Joseph had to learn how to be parents. We can imagine that Mary and Joseph surrounded Jesus with their care and love as they taught Him a sense of humor, how to relate to other people, how to cope with difficulties, and how to work.

Like the Holy Family, Our families also must be signs and sources of Love, where we are nurtured, cared for, and formed to face the difficulties and sufferings of life with hope.

Our families must be places of support and love—where each of us feels welcomed and grows in faith. The Holy Family is for us a sign of Love. For the rest of the world, the Holy Family might be a sign of contradiction. But for us, it is a sign of Love and a reminder of the Trinity. Therefore, let us try to follow the example of the Holy Family. **Let us invite Mary, Joseph and Jesus into our homes so that we might learn from them how to live in a family of faith, of hope, and of love, especially in times of suffering and difficulties.**

Yours in Christ,
Father Arthur

Farewell and Thank You...



Dear Wayside Parish family,

I have been called to spend the majority of my time in my own family ministry. My mother is quite ill and is on her final journey home to our Lord. My daughter recently gave birth to her first child and the first grandchild. Our little Elias (Eli) is a joy and a light during some of the harder times of caring for my mom.

As my time comes to a close as a lay minister at OLV parish, I am grateful for this opportunity to pause and offer you all a great big, heartfelt THANK YOU for welcoming me into the heart of the parish and for allowing me to stretch and grow personally and professionally. Each parish group I have worked with has provided fellowship and opportunities for service that I did not know were possible. Thank you for making it all not only possible but reality!

To school leadership, teachers, and families: thank you for sharing your students at monthly family Masses and Faith into Action service opportunities and weekly school Masses. Your graciousness in adapting to changes in how we celebrate special sacraments and beloved school traditions was a blessing. It was challenging to start from scratch, but heartwarming to see how it all worked because we all worked together.

To parish families: thank you for rolling with changes to the religious education program, for being open to trying new opportunities, and for volunteering so generously. Your kindness and helpfulness means so much to me.

To catechists and volunteers: without you much of what I was able to establish in the parish would not have happened. Your support, time spent, and willingness to take action embodies, in all the important ways, servant leadership. You all have inspired me and will continue to inspire me for the rest of my life.

To parish leaders and staff: thank you for teaching me what I needed to know, supporting me when I needed a 3rd (and 4th and 5th) hand, filling in for me when I learned over and over again I am physically incapable of being in two places at once, and for listening when I needed to share. I will miss seeing you daily and sharing parish life with you.

To Fr. Arthur: thank you for your support in the programs for which I was responsible. Without your leadership and your trust in me, the parish would not have such a robust religious education and faith formation program. I am confident the program will continue to succeed with your continued support.

Please keep me and my family in your prayers as I will keep you all in mine.
May the light of God surround you always,

Danielle Pitzer

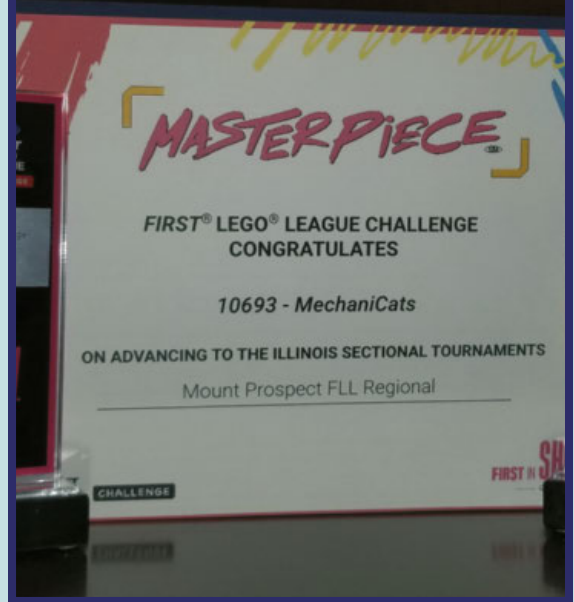
PS: Details of a REP succession plan will be shared with parishioners after the New Year Holiday.



For more photos, scan the QR code with your phone camera or visit:
<https://bit.ly/3GTcy7m>



#expandingtalents



Congrats OLW Robotics Team
Girls Team advanced to Sectionals.
Both teams won awards.

#fosteringfaith



Scenes from around OLW
this Advent Season



December was an action-packed month for Christmas Concerts and Nativity Plays!
Scan the QR Codes below to watch the videos, or visit our Website's Photo Gallery Page.



**Our Lady of the
Wayside School**
**CHRISTMAS
CONCERT
2023**



<https://bit.ly/4at19bS>



**OUR LADY OF THE
WAYSIDE SCHOOL**
**NATIVITY
PLAY 2023**



<https://bit.ly/3NDjk4S>

Our Lady of the Wayside preschool presents... 

**NATIVITY
STORY
2023**



<https://bit.ly/47XfueZ>



Our Lady of the Wayside's
Religious Education Program (REP)
Presents:

**Christmas
Nativity Program
2023**



<https://bit.ly/48IUH10>

✂ Cut and save this as a reminder!

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Soiree

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OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE

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OF THE
WAYSIDE
PARISH



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Vicariate I Ministry Commission

An Evening of Education and Advocacy

SUPPORTING ASYLUM SEEKERS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Monday, January 22, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Holy Family Parish, 2515 Palatine Road, Inverness

Hosted by WELCOME THE STRANGER Ministry



A Viator House of Hospitality Presentation

Featured Speakers:

Fr. Corey Brost, C.S.V, Br. Michael Gosch, C.S.V. and
Kelly Albinak Kribs, Attorney

Questions? Contact Myra at myrabuettner@outlook.com

Register at bit.ly/AsyupdJan24



Spirits Lifted at the Christmas Carols Sing-a-long



To see more photos visit:
<https://bit.ly/3TByLD>
 or scan the QR code.



Knights of
Columbus®

Grotto Action Update



The Knights of Columbus, Holy Rosary Council, are **in action** here at Our Lady of the Wayside. The Knights are more than just those guys in the funny hats and capes. At the request of Fathers Arthur and Gilbert, they are building a grotto on the south side of the church, located between the rectory stairs and the stairs leading to the priests sacristy. Landscaping is nearly complete.

The Grotto budget is \$30,000. The Knights secured the services of a landscape architect, horticulturist/artist, a tree removal service and a landscaper to insure the work is done properly. The statue of the Blessed Virgin (pictured), is scheduled to arrive from Italy next March. Target completion is May 1, 2024.

The Knights secured pledges and donations from numerous generous individuals and now ask for your help in meeting the goal. We still have invoices to pay and work to complete the project. You will see your donation to the Knights of Columbus **in action**, for years to come.

Thank you for support
and generosity.

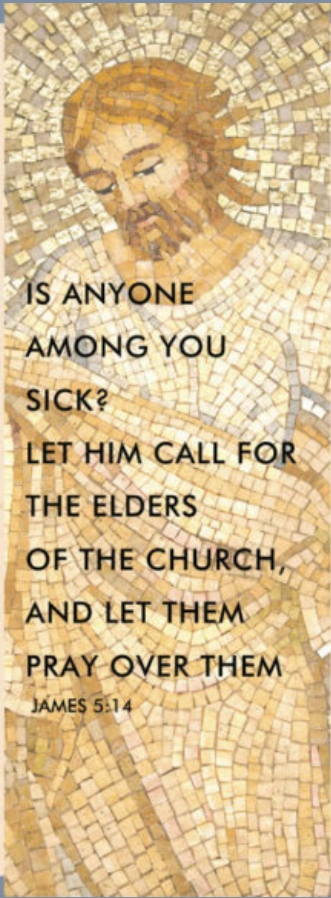
Patrick J. Fitzgerald,
OLW Parishoner
PGK,
Holy Rosary Council



PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO:

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 (or use the QR Code)





IS ANYONE
AMONG YOU
SICK?
LET HIM CALL FOR
THE ELDERS
OF THE CHURCH,
AND LET THEM
PRAY OVER THEM

JAMES 5:14

Meeting Mental Health With Grace

A mental health ministry for Our Lady of the Wayside, St. Edna, and St. James.

Join us...

Grace Prayer Circle

A monthly prayer service on the 1st Wednesday of the month for those living with mental health concerns and their loved ones.

Submit a name. We will pray. Join us.

Prayer requests can be submitted to the multi-parish ministry via
voicemail: 847-253-5390
email: mentalhealthministry@stjamesah.org

All are welcome to join us as we pray:
Wednesday, January 3rd from 7:00 - 7:30 pm
St. James School Chapel

Check out our Mental Health Ministry Webpage for resources and education at bit.ly/olwmentalhealth.

OLW's Healthy Eating Jumpstart for Those 55+

Join health and wellness coach Catherine Marsden.
Set your intention and commit to your own healthy
eating 5-Day Jumpstart in 2024!

DATE: Monday, January 8, 2024

TIME: 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

LOCATION: Neumann Room, Parish Center

Questions? Please email Kathy O'Neil, RN, BSN
at parishnurse@olwparish.org or
call Kathy at 224-518-1780.



Bible Study

In Person & Online / Friday Morning 9:30



Join us for lively discussion of
next Sunday's readings:

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:1-6

Matthew 2:1-12

Join us in the Cabrini Room of the Parish Center
or email biblestudy@olwparish.org for a sign-in code.

For a sample video, visit: <https://bit.ly/46I6WIb>

Before You Jump Into Your New Year's Resolutions, Try This

The beginning of a new year can be an exciting time. We start the year feeling motivated about all the big changes we'll make in the coming months. However, many of us find that motivation is fading by the end of February.

I truly believe that one of the biggest reasons we don't keep these resolutions is because we jump right in and end up feeling overwhelmed.



This year, take some time to come up with a plan that can help set you up for success. Here are a few steps to get started.

Try a positive change. When we start telling ourselves we can't do something, it feels a little restrictive and can actually be demotivating. By reframing the behavior as something healthy you can add to your life, you're starting on a more positive note that won't make you feel deprived. For example, if you want to stop eating dessert, try adding in more fruits and vegetables at meals first. If you want to stop watching tv at night, try adding in a walk or another form of physical activity. Start paying attention to the benefits of making these positive changes, and you'll feel more motivated to keep them going.

Figure out your real "why". When you think about your goal for the upcoming year, dig a little deeper and determine why this goal is important to you. For example, if your goal is to lose weight, think about how you will feel and what you can accomplish once you reach that goal. Maybe you want to be able to be more active with your family or feel more confident. Often, the underlying reason for wanting to reach that goal is more motivational because it connects us to our core values. When life starts to get busy, remembering your "why" can help you keep going.

Create a plan. Jumping right into a new behavior can end up being frustrating and overwhelming. Instead, try breaking your goal down into small, manageable steps. When working with health coaching clients, I ask them what actions they would need to take to accomplish their goal and then to pick the three most important. That's the starting point. Once you have those actions, you can turn them into short-term goals. Try weekly goals or monthly goals so that you start establishing habits and see some progress. As you start to accomplish these shorter-term goals, you'll build confidence towards reaching your overall goal.

Find a way to stay accountable. Tracking your goals helps you stay focused. I encourage clients to try writing in a journal so that they can also note what helped support them and what was challenging. Think of this as a learning opportunity. When you find that something supports your goal, you can use that strategy in the future. If something was challenging, try coming up with a plan to overcome that challenge if it comes up again. Many people also find it motivating to look back and see how far they've come during the year.

Article contributed by: Sarah Sommer

31 December 2023

WORD OF THE WEEK

Vocation \vō-ˈkā-shən\

A summons or strong drive to a particular course of action, career, or occupation; a divine call to consecrated life or diocesan holy orders.

Pronunciation: <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-vocation>

CONTEXT

Many people mistake our work for our **vocation**. Our **vocation** is the love of Jesus.

—Mother Teresa

No **vocation** is born of itself or lives for itself. A **vocation** flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people.

—Pope Francis

Everybody, no matter what **vocation** they're looking at, should add music as an essential to their curriculum. Music can be a very important part of your soul and your growth as a human being. It's so powerful.

—Quincy Jones

WHY IT MATTERS

Each of us, through our Baptism, is called by God to follow the path of love. Our unique and particular response is our **vocation**. The church generally refers to four types of **vocations**: marriage, single life, holy orders, and religious life. It is up to each of us to discern the **vocation** that will give us the greatest sense of fulfillment and joy and lead us to holiness.

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church: The Beatitudes express the **vocation** of the faithful and shed light on the actions and attitudes characteristic of the Christian life (1717).

From *Vita Consecrata*: In the unity of the Christian life, the various **vocations** are like so many rays of the one light of Christ, whose radiance brightens the countenance of the Church.

RELATED WORDS

Discipleship | Charism | Consecrated Life

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Vocation: Does everyone have one?

Vocation is one of those words that tends to elicit a host of questions. What does it mean that God "calls" us? Does God plan our lives? Is free will a polite fiction, when God has our destiny all worked out in advance? The short answers are: Our freedom is real, human history has no blueprint, and God is prepared to greet any choice we might make with a constellation of grace and possibility. So feel—really and seriously—free.

Yet we say God calls us. To what, if not to particular things? God calls us to fullness of life. God wants you to be everything you can be, to the height and breadth and depth of your being. God wants you to be fully alive, which means loving, giving, expressing, and radiant—just as God is. We're made in the image and likeness of God. So answer that call, and you have stepped into your vocation for sure.

—Alice Camille, from *Questions Catholics Ask* <https://tinyurl.com/QCA-vocation>

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD (JANUARY 1)

Bring Christ to bear

We begin the new year in the glow of the Christmas season of new life. Our focus today, however, is not so much on the child Jesus in the manger but on his mother, Mary. We bring to mind and heart the woman who said yes: Yes to being the Mother of God. Yes to becoming a vehicle for God to become incarnate in the world. It is fitting to honor Mary and walk with her as we enter resolutely into the new year.

READINGS: Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21 (18 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/010124.cfm>). "*The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!*"

FAITH IN ACTION

How does God call us to be bearers of Christ? We can start with offering Christ and all others the fullness of our love.

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY:

5:00 pm Saturday, January 6, 2024

Presider: Fr. Arthur Marat & Deacon Jerry Brennan

7:30 am Sunday, January 7, 2024

Presider: Father Arthur Marat

9:30 am Sunday, January 7, 2024

Presider: Fr. Arthur Marat & Deacon Paul Onischuk

11:30 am Sunday, January 7, 2024

Presider: Fr. Arthur Marat & Deacon Jerry Brennan

6:00 pm Sunday, January 7, 2024

Presider: Fr. Mark Augustine & Deacon Peter LeTourneau

GOSPEL MEDITATION:

December 31, 2023

The Feast of the Holy Family

I remember the first time my older sister asked me if I wanted to hold her newborn son. Terrified, I told her I didn't think it was a good idea. My résumé had nothing to suggest I would be a qualified baby holder. But she warmly told me, "I'll help you hold him." It struck me that she is baby's mother. She is the one who decides who is qualified to hold him. I took him in my arms and soon I began to feel comfortable with that tiny little warm cooing creature in my arms, and soon I no longer feared holding him. Now, twenty-seven nieces and nephews later, holding a newborn child is one of the great joys of my life.

Do we sometimes think that Jesus is given only to the highly qualified, special religious people? In the Gospel of Luke today we hear about the presentation of the Lord in the temple. The newborn son of God is passed around like a baton in a relay race, not guarded like a precious jewel or a breakable china dish. We can see him going from the arms of Mary to Joseph, then to the priest performing the ceremony, then to Simeon the old man, then to Anna the old widow. Each one receiving him and then handing him to the next. A tidal wave of joy and thanksgiving follows wherever he is placed.

Believe me, you are qualified to hold Jesus in your arms. How can I say that with such confidence? Because the mother decides who is qualified. The Blessed Virgin, embodied in the Church, holds him out to you and me. She rejoices to place him in our arms to hold, and to hand him on, too.

— Father John Muir ©LPi



Pray for the Sick

Gloria White Bonomo, Helene Bottalla, Bill Brewer, Marie DeSanto, Victoria Haddock, Donna Hames, Theresa Hansen, Valerie Lund, Mary Mader, Carol Maglietta, Daniel & Delores McCloy, Larry McKone, Cherie Miskey, Frances Pitzer, Marianne Saas, Stacey Scott, Fr. John Topper



Pray for the Deceased

Deceased Parishioners of Our Lady of the Wayside

SACRED LITURGY:

Monday, January 1, 2024

9:30 am – Deceased Members of Our Lady of the Wayside

11:30 am – Deacon Robert O'Keefe, Roberta O'Neill

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

8:30 am – Deceased Members of Our Lady of the Wayside

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

8:30 am – Deceased Members of Our Lady of the Wayside

Thursday, January 4, 2024

8:30 am – Rosa Caruso

Friday, January 5, 2024

8:30 am – Mary Beth Santangelo

Saturday, January 6, 2024

8:30 am – Deceased Members of Our Lady of the Wayside

5:00 pm – Armella Maguire, Robert J. Epifano, Frank Greifenstein

Sunday, January 7, 2024

7:30 am – Deceased Members of Our Lady of the Wayside

9:30 am – Bill Deger

11:30 am – Greta Saelens, Arthur Benker, Melvin Rotor, Mary Therese Keating

6:00 pm – For the Living and Deceased Members of Our Lady of the Wayside

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Monday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34

Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

**OUR PARISH
OFFICE WILL
BE CLOSED**

**MONDAY
JANUARY 1**



Happy New Year!!



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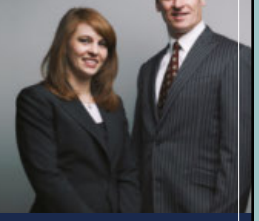
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2 Corinthians 5:7

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434 W. Park Street
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
Website: www.olwparish.org
Email: officeservices@olwparish.org

PARISH OFFICE AND RECTORY:

Monday thru Friday, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Saturday and Sunday, 8:30 am – 1:00 pm
Phone: (847) 253-5353
FAX: (847) 253-9810

SCHOOL OFFICE:

Phone: (847) 255-0050
FAX: (847) 253-0543

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE:

Phone: (847) 398-5011

WEEKEND EUCHARISTIC LITURGIES

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am and 6:00 pm

DAILY EUCHARISTIC LITURGIES

Monday through Saturday: 8:30 am

Daily and Saturday Vigil Masses are livestreamed
on the parish YouTube and Facebook pages.

Mr. Bud Trunk
Chairperson, Parish Pastoral Council

Neal Loughery
Chairperson, Parish Management Council

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Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesdays at 9:00 am – following 8:30 am Mass.

Tuesdays Together (Through May 30, 2024)

6:00 pm – Mass
Adoration & Confession (immediately following Mass)

Holy Communion for the Homebound & Hospitalized

Please contact Kathy O'Neill at the parish office.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Adults interested in learning more about the Catholic faith in order to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and/or Confirmation, please call the parish office.

Pray the Rosary

Monday through Saturday at 8:00 am – preceding 8:30 am Mass.

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

Homebound or ill wanting to receive this Sacrament and the Eucharist, please contact the parish office.

Sacrament of Baptism

Contact Deacon Peter LeTourneau at the parish office to schedule a baptism. A baptismal preparation session is required for your first child.

Sacrament of Marriage

Contact the parish office at least six months prior to a preferred date for necessary preparation.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 9:30–10:30 am. Or, contact the parish office to schedule a time.

