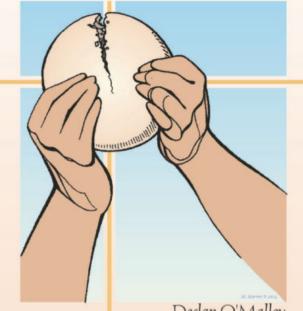
## May God bless our First Holy Communion Class of 2024

May 4, 2024

Luke Barry Alice Broderick Patrick Buker Katherine Burg Colin Carey Mara Carey Nia Carson Eleanor Casey Jack Ciciora Ethan Cisneros Maeve Connors Olivia Davidson Charlotte Degnan Leah DiFilippo Henry Erwinski Henry Florence Benjamin Halpern Camdan Hantson Luke Harrigan Robert Hassan Ir.

John Hayes
Joaquin Hudson
Michael Hughes
Grace Hurley
Katrina Klimowski
Nora Larmon
Dax Leonard
Mark Lyons
Henry Malloy
Timothy McDonald
Maxine McHugh
Neala McNicholas
Kadence Milakovich
Robert Nowicki

Declan O'Malley
Eoghan Peloquin
Aiden Quinn
Connor Rech
Noah Reyes Jr.
Henry Rhoades
Kaitlin Roberts
Seamus Russell
Sadie Samansky
Lyla Schiavone
Beatrix Speedwell
Luke Stathis
Katherine West
Madeline Winter





## Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

# St. John Fisher Parish

10234 South Washtenaw Avenue Chicago, IL 60655

(773) 445-6565

www.stjohnfisherparish.net

hy are so many of us surprised when someone unlike us (Catholic Christians) does something good and holy? This notion is not particular to our time and situation. Over two thousand years ago such a happened and is retold in today's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles. We have to remember that the first believers in Jesus Christ were all Jews. Jesus' own ministry was concentrated primarily among them. It follows, then, that the early disciples saw it their business to restore Judaism to a faith that would accept Jesus as their Messiah.:

A strange thing happened, however. Among the people the disciples were preaching to were some non-Jews who were attracted to their message. So, the question had to be raised: Would a pagan have to become a Jew before becoming a Christian? A great controversy arose in the early Church. Saint Peter was a proponent of requiring one to become a faithful Jew before they could be baptized. Saint Paul believed the opposite: If one was inspired (by the Holy Spirit) to accept the Christ, there was no need to become a Jew before they could be baptized.

This argument comes to a head today in the Acts of the Apostles. It involves Peter, and a gentile Centurion named Cornelius. The Acts portrays Cornelius as "devout and God-fearing along with his whole household, who used to give alms generously to the Jewish people and pray to God constantly." Acts 10:2 Remember, Cornelius was a commander in the Roman army who was also a pagan. The question, then, is how could he and his household be so good and holy if they were pagans?

Both Cornelius and Peter had visions of what was to happen. Cornelius is told, by an angel, that his good works have been recognized by God. He is

to send messengers to Peter with instructions to bring him to Cornelius' house and to listen to what Peter had to say. Peter also has a vision in which it is revealed to him that all that God has made can no longer be called "profane." Upon arriving at Cornelius' home, Peter proceeds to proclaim, "You know that it is unlawful for a Jewish man to associate with, or visit, a Gentile, but God has shown me that I should

not call any person profane or unclean." Acts 10:28 "Then Peter proceeded to speak and said, "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him." Acts 10:34-35 Peter then proclaims the kerygma -the proclamation of Christ's Passion. Death, and Resurrection. While he was preaching, the Holy Spirit came upon the entire household, and they began "speaking in tongues and glorifying God." Then Peter responded, "Can anvone withhold the water for baptizing these people, who have received the holy Spirit even as we have?" Acts 10:46-47 Immediately, Peter ordered that



the entire household should be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

So, to answer the question "Why are so many of us surprised when someone unlike us (Catholic Christians) does something good and holy?" is quite simple: The Holy Spirit. We cannot control where the Spirit goes or how it moves or how it motivates people to do things. Remember, imagine how surprising it was to the people of Israel that a Persian King (a Gentile, a pagan) was inspired by God to free them from captivity in Babylon. The Holy Spirit is always a few steps ahead of us!

Last Saturday was a joyous day in both of my parishes: Our Second Graders received their First Holy Communions! First, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Cajetan, and later, at 1:00 p.m., at St. John Fisher. It

was marvelous to see the joy on their faces! Let's continue to keep them in our prayers, and perhaps, take a moment to recall our Communions and relive that joyous faith lives. moment in our Congratulations and God's continued blessings upon our First Communion Classes of 2024!



Fr. Ken



### **Pro Labore Dei**

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard at lunches this weekend. The next lunch making session is on **June 1**<sup>st</sup> at 9:15 a.m. in the rectory basement. We'll have specific needs in future bulletins.

The food collection in the church parking lot continues every Saturday morning from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m.

## The ITEM OF THE MONTH for May is <u>Canned Vegetables</u> of any kind.

Other foods and diapers size 4, 5, and 6 are also much appreciated to bolster our pantry.

Please call Pam O'Mara (773) 612-0281 or Jerry & Pat Hayes (773) 203-7881 with any questions.



## **Holy Moments**

We have fifty complimentary copies of Matthew Kelly's book *Holy Moments: A Handbook for the Rest of Your Life.* We invite you take one per family while supplies last.



## SUNDAY OFFERTORY

Sunday, April 28, 2024 ...... \$4,367.10

Thank you for your stewardship in support of St. John Fisher Parish!

## **Blooming for Babies Mother's Day fundraiser**

On Saturday, May 11, and Sunday, May 12, the Respect Life Committee will be selling beautiful bouquets of fresh-cut flowers after all Masses to benefit the life-saving mission of The Women's Centers. There will be a beautiful selection of arrangements to choose from with prices for all budgets to help vulnerable moms and their babies. In celebration of the Center's 40th anniversary, they will have a gorgeous one-of-a-kind bouquet, a perfect gift for moms, aunts, grandmothers, or any

special woman in your life. Please plan to support this wonderful event.

For more information, visit their website at www.gotwc.org. Thank you for your consideration!



Rectory: 10234 S. Washtenaw Avenue

Chicago, IL 60655

Phone: (773) 445-6565 Fax: (773) 445-1644

SJF Parish Website:

www.stjohnfisherparish.net

#### **Weekend Liturgies:**

Saturday 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

School: 10200 S. Washtenaw Avenue

Chicago, IL 60655

Phone: (773) 445-4737

Fax: (773) 233-3012

SIF School Website:

www.sjfschool.net

## Office of Religious Education Children's Faith Formation

echermak@sjfschool.us

Weekday Morning Liturgies: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:15 a.m.

## St. John Fisher Parish Mission Statement

We, the Catholic Community of St. John Fisher, formed by the gospel, nourished by the Eucharist, and united by love, are called to celebrate the kingdom of God and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and action.

### Join a Ministry

There are several ways that you can serve the Lord and assist St. John Fisher. The liturgical ministries of lector, Eucharistic minister, art & environment, and ushers/greeters enrich our Mass celebrations. If you are interested in liturgical ministries and other ways that you can get involved in St. John Fisher, please call the parish office at (773) 445-6565.

### **Initial Training for Liturgical Ministers**

Part I — All Liturgical Ministers

Date: Saturday, May 18, 2024 Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

## Part II — Extraordinary Ministers of Communion (Eucharistic Ministers)

Date: Saturday, May 18, 2024 Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Presenters: Kathy McNicholas &

Jeanne Lassandrello

Incarnation St. Terrence Parish 5757 W 127<sup>th</sup> St., Crestwood, IL 60418

## Taller de José (St. Joseph's Workshop)

The support of the St. John Fisher parish community is much appreciated by all of the staff, volunteers, and clients at Taller de José. The generosity of your parish provided our community resource center with a generous donation that will help us to continue to serve the most vulnerable in our community. Individuals like Angie, Martin and many others will continue to benefit from the support and accompaniment that we are able to offer them as they seek answers, solutions, and guidance in reaching their goals of a more stable life.

Whether it is in accessing healthcare, legal advice, or financial resources, we pledge to walk with, both physically and emotionally, every individual that comes through our office doors. Thank you for making our ministry of accompaniment possible. May God bless you and your family this Easter season.

Please help Taller de José in accompaniment. You can donate at www.tallerdejose.org.

## Stewardship in Support of SJF

As stewards of our faith, you can express your gratitude for God's gifts and help ensure that God's good work on earth continues by considering a charitable gift annuity. When you establish a charitable gift annuity with the archdiocese, not only will you receive fixed payments for life, but you can designate our parish as the remainder beneficiary.

#### How It Works:

- 1. Make a gift of \$10,000 or more to the Archdiocese of Chicago. Fund your gift annuity with cash, securities, or a QCD from your IRA.
- 2. Receive fixed payments for life for yourself or a loved one age 60 or older. Payment rates are based upon the age of the annuitant at the time you establish the gift annuity.
- 3. Enjoy immediate and future tax benefits, including a federal income tax deduction for a portion of your gift, if you itemize. You can schedule payments according to your financial needs, and a portion of each annuity payment will be tax-free (through life expectancy).
- 4. The funds remaining after your lifetime will support our parish or school as designated by you.

If you would like more information on charitable gift annuity to St. John Fisher, please contact Lynn O'Connor at (773) 445-6565.



## Partner Gathering Wednesday, May 8

5:30-7:30pm

St. John of the Cross Parish
5005 Wolf Road, Western Springs
We look forward to gathering to build community

and share and update on Catholic Charities.

Visit <u>catholiccharities.net</u>.

## **Pray the Rosary**

Saint John Fisher Parish is celebrating our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year from late 2023 through late 2024. We launched the saying of the rosary in October 2023 as one of the activities to celebrate our jubilee.

Please attend the next recitation of the rosary:

## Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the church

The luminous mysteries are generally prayed on Thursdays. The season after Easter is a perfect time to focus on the Luminous Mysteries:

- Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan
- The Wedding at Cana
- The Proclamation of the Kingdom
- The Transfiguration
- The Institution of the Eucharist



## Our Drop of Water— Immigration Issues

In October 2022, the Sanctuary Working Group asked Mercy Sisters Pat Murphy and JoAnn Persch to help an asylum-seeking mother and five children from Sierra Leone. They brought the need to the Chicago Mercy Justice Committee, who agreed to find funds, housing, and other family needs.

They founded CATHERINE'S CARING CAUSE, named for Sisters of Mercy foundress Catherine McAuley. CCC has situated nine families in homes with a mentor who helps enrolling kids in school and assisting with medical and legal issues. We are currently searching for two more homes. We need your help to raise funds and seek mentors.

Go to <u>catherinecareschicago.org</u>, contact Carol Conway, <u>cairec49@yahoo.com</u> or call 708-227-3560. Thank you!

### We Are Bread

We are bread for one another whenever we give new life to one another:

When someone is hungry and we give food.

When someone is hurt and we give healing,

When someone is sad and we give kindness.

When someone is lonely and we give friendship When someone is sorry and we give forgiveness.

When we come to communion we are saying thanks

for all those who have been bread for us.

"I am the bread of life... and the bread that I shall give is my own self for the life of the world."

Shortly before he died,

Jesus had a special farewell meal with his friends.

He told stories that gave him new life, by helping them to understand and care more about themselves and others.

He broke bread that gave them new life, by sharing himself along with the bread.

And he asked them to remember him in this way.

After Jesus died, his friends were lost without him. But slowly they came to realize that he was still with them, especially when they met to tell the stories and to break the bread together.

When we come to Mass and communion, we remember with thanks who Jesus was, when we tell the stories about him and the stories he told, and when we share the special bread and ourselves with one another.

"On the night before he suffered, he took bread into his hands, gave thanks, blessed it, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'This is my body which is given for you.""

J. Norman King
Experiencing God All Ways and Every Day
Winston Press





Office of the Archbishop 835 North Rush Street Chicago, IL 60611-2030 312.534.8230 archchicago.org Catholic Charities
Mother's Day Collection
is next weekend,
May 11–12.

Spring 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

May is a month to remember and celebrate the mothers and mother figures in our lives. These women—on whom all generations depend—are essential to the fullness of God's plan for human life.

May is also the month when we celebrate the important work of our Catholic Charities. Helping mothers in need is core to our Catholic faith and a cornerstone mission for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Whether they be single mothers, mothers of children with special needs, foster mothers, or mothers who are migrants, we help them and their children.

Your generous donation to the Mother's Day Collection for Catholic Charities enables this urgent work. Catholic Charities was founded more than a century ago by the Archdiocese to help those in need in Cook and Lake counties. As the largest provider of human services in our region, Catholic Charities serves nearly 400,000 people annually. This tremendous reach of services is only possible through your generous support.

Each year I call on our parishes to support Catholic Charities, and so I encourage you to be generous by contributing, either:

- In-person during the second collection on Mother's Day weekend, May 11-12
- Online at <u>catholiccharities.net/donate</u>
- By mail to Catholic Charities, P.O. Box 8275, Carol Stream, IL 60197-8275.

Thank you for your on-going support and partnership. May Mary, our Mother whom we honor in May, continue to inspire us to take up the mission of her Son with joyful enthusiasm.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mane Card Cool
Archbishop of Chicago

## Show Single Moms They Are Not Alone!

Being a mom today can be hard, especially when struggling to make ends meet. At Catholic Charities, we help mothers across Cook and Lake counties overcome challenges and find stability all year round-so they and their children can thrive. We accompany anyone in need, serving nearly 375,000 individuals and families annually.

### Gail's Story:

Family Self-Sufficiency is one of Catholic Charities most effective and beloved programs. Gail\* is a 2019 graduate from the program. She shared, "When I first started, my exact thoughts were, 'This is a program for people trying to keep it together'. It challenges the participant to set goals and make game plans to achieve them while creating a custom work plan that caters to the specific life circumstances." She goes on to say, "To date, I have accomplished every goal that my case worker and I set." Since leaving the program, Gail continues to work toward goals based on the near- and long-term needs for her children and herself.



\*Name changed to protect privacy

Please support the Second Collection on Mother's Day, May 12th, or anytime at: https://www.catholiccharities.net/give/fy24sp/



## The Signs of Baptism: Oil

Your engine's frozen up," the guy in the overalls said.

"What do you mean 'frozen'?" the kid exclaimed with a mixture of surprise and sarcasm. "It's 95 degrees out!"

The older guy answered patiently, "You've got a bad oil leak. There's nothing left to lubricate the engine. Without the oil, the moving parts got too hot and they expanded. They couldn't move anymore. Your engine is all locked up, jammed up, frozen up. This car isn't going anywhere."

When we are baptized and confirmed, we are anointed on our heads with chrism, a fragrant oil. Monarchs and priests are also anointed, as are altars and churches when they are consecrated for their sacred purposes. In every case, the meaning is the same: We call upon the Holy Spirit to be present and active in this person's life, through this person's ministry, in this sacred place. Oil is used because it is an ancient custom, a sacramental sign that has many symbolic meanings. But perhaps for us car-dependent folks the clearest meaning is this: Without the Holy Spirit, we are all locked up, jammed up and frozen up.

One translation of the Pentecost sequence puts it this way: "Light most blessed, shine on the hearts of your faithful—even in their darkest corners; for without your aid we can do nothing good, and everything is sinful."

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## National Eucharistic Revival

- The U.S. bishops launched a three-year National Eucharistic Revival in June of 2022 to bring us all to the reality of Christ's living and active presence in the celebration of the Eucharist, and how we take his presence into the world around us.
- This is a grace-filled movement in our own journey of spiritual renewal in the Archdiocese of Chicago to proclaim the celebration of the Eucharist as the source and summit of the Christian life, to assist all of us to encounter again and again the Risen Lord in the Eucharist, and to deepen our discipleship in sharing in his work of redeeming the world eucharisticrevival.org

redeeming the world, won on the cross.

- The Revival will include a two-month National Eucharistic Pilgrimage from May through July passing through communities in the U.S. Not only will this be a powerful public witness to belief in the Eucharist, but it also provides a chance for broad participation of Catholics, particularly those unable to attend the National Eucharistic Congress in July. There are four pilgrimage routes, all converging in Indianapolis, that will embark from four different corners of the country, forming a cross upon the U.S. map.
- The Archdiocese is on the Marian [northern] Route of the Pilgrimage. The route is named in honor of Our Lady of Champion—formerly Our Lady of Good Help. The shrine in Champion is along the route, as well as several other Marian sites, including our own Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Des Plaines, IL.
- For four and a half days, June 26–30, special events and Eucharistic celebrations will take place throughout the Archdiocese.



- In this time of Resurrection and Archdiocesan renewal, ask the Risen Lord how he would like you to participate.
- Please visit the websites (see the QR code above) to find out what is happening across the Archdiocese.
- This is a movement not to be missed. In this time of Resurrection and Archdiocesan renewal, ask the Risen Lord how he would like you to participate.

### **National Eucharistic Congress**

Learn more at EucharisticCongress.org.

What: 10<sup>th</sup> National Eucharistic

Congress

**When:** July 17–21, 2024

Where: Lucas Oil Stadium,

Indianapolis, IN

## Parental Blessing on a Child's First Holy Communion

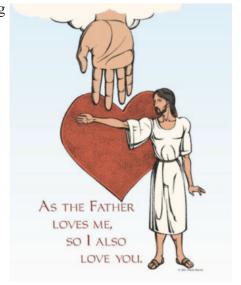
Dearest child, we love you very much, and that is why this day is so important to us. We have been proud since the first time we held you in our arms, and we are especially proud of you today.

When we are not fair with you, we are sorry, and we hope you always remember we love you. On this, your First Communion Day, you meet Jesus in a special way. From this day on, you will be able to receive Jesus every time that you go to Mass.

Nothing could make us happier. Because we love you, we want this day for you. We promise to continue to be proud of you, to love you and to share Jesus with you.

We ask God to bless you today in a special way.

May the blessing of our loving God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—be with you today and always. Amen.





## Rest in Peace

Please remember especially in your prayers this week:

John "Jack" Foran
John Conlon
Patrick Ryan
Gerald Quinlan
CPD Officer Luis M. Huesca
Meredith Sterling
Victims of Gun and Domestic Violence
Victims in Ukraine and the Middle East

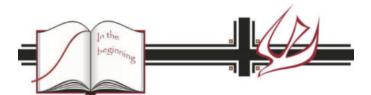
### **Bulletin Deadline**

Items are due at the office by Friday at 2:00 p.m., nine days before the target bulletin (note earlier deadlines near holidays). Please use digital formats of **Word**, **JPEG**, or **simple text** in an email. We cannot always fit full-pages, so half-page and quarter page options make it more likely to run. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Submit articles to:

sifparishchicago@gmail.com

## Prayer Support for Our Military Personnel

We keep parishioners and all those who are serving in the military in our prayers, especially: MSG Kevin Daley; CPL Thomas Leonard, USMC; Daniel Wagner; Pvt 1st Class Michael Carroll, USMC; Lt. Col. Eric Dougherty, USMC; Lance Cpl Kevin Butler, USMC; Lt. Brad Brunaugh; Pvt. Christopher Dinaso; PFC Ryan Hensley; PFC Steven Folliard; Captain Michael McCann, US Army; Kevin Roche; Steve Ayon; Pvt. Anthony Schmidt; PFC Terrance Wilson, US Army; Lance Cpl Brennan C. McDonald, Jr., USMC; Sgt. Robert Brennan Carroll, USMC; Lt. Cmdr. Patrick F. McInerney, USN.; Captain Patrick Tierney, USMC; Kyle Sellers, USAF; LCPL Jack Fitzpatrick, USMC; CA Christopher Chirillo, USA; Timothy Kelly, USN; Ensign Peter Smagur USN; 2 Lt. Bridget Bentley, USA; Matthew C. Adas, USN; Airman William L. Murray; Andrew Mitchell Cullen, USMC; Major Andrew C. Piech, USMC; Lance Cpl. Joseph Killeen, USMC; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Collin Rook, USMC.



## **Readings for the Week**

Sunday: Acts 10:25–26, 34–35, 44–48 / Ps 98:1, 2–3, 3–4 / 1 Jn 4:7–10 /

Jn 15:9–17

Monday: Acts 16:11–15 / Ps 149:1–6, 9 /

Jn 15:26—16:4a

Tuesday: Acts 16:22–34 / Ps 138:1–3, 7–8 /

Jn 16:5–11

Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22-18:1 /

Ps 148:1–2, 11–14 / Jn 16:12–15

Thursday: Acts 18:1–8 / Ps 98:1–4 /

Jn 16:16-20

Friday: Acts 18:9–18 / Ps 47:2–7 /

Jn 16:20-23

Saturday: Acts 18:23–28 / Ps 47:2–3, 8–9, 10 /

Jn 16:23b-28

May 12: Acts 1:1–11 / Ps 47:2–3, 6–9 /

Eph 1:17–23 or Eph 4:1–13 /

Mk 16:15-20





### **Masses and Intentions**

Monday, May 6

8:15 a.m. Susanne O'Malley – *John Burke*Mary Howley – *Ray & Mary Ann Kroll* 

Tuesday, May 7

No Mass (8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Cajetan)

Wednesday, May 8

8:15 a.m. Kathy Hickey, David & Mary Liston – *Liston Family* 

Charles Hayes – Family

Thursday, May 9 (Ascension is Sunday)

No Mass (8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Cajetan)

Friday, May 10 ......St. John of Avila;

St. Damien de Veuster

8:15 a.m. Mary Maher – Family

Frank & Mary Perkins – Family

Saturday, May 11

4:00 p.m. For the People of St. John Fisher Parish

Sunday, May 12..... The Ascension of the Lord

8:00 a.m. All Mothers, living and deceased 11:00 a.m. All Mothers, living and deceased

Note: Saints in italics indicate

optional memorials.

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presiders
May 11 4:00 p.m.	Daniel Brennan	Michael Kozek	Fr. Ken Budzikowski
May 12 8:00 a.m.	Thomas Broderick	Jean Cusack	Fr. Marty Marren
May 12 11:00 a.m.	Essie Carson	Katie Conway	Fr. Marty Marren

If you wish to generously remember St. John Fisher Parish/School in your will, ensuring its growth and vitality for years to come, you may include the following general statement:

I give (the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_)\* to St. John Fisher Parish/School, located in Chicago, Illinois.

Please contact pastor Fr. Ken Budzikowski at (773) 445-6565 or Brendan Keating, Sr. Director of Planned Giving at (312) 534-5271 or bkeating@archchicago.org for more information.

\*You may also give a percentage of your estate, or a specific asset.

#### **PARISH PRIESTS**

Rev. Kenneth Budzikowski ......Pastor Rev. Martin Marren ...... Associate Pastor

#### **DEACONS**

Deacon Robert Carroll Deacon Raymond Reilly (Retired) Deacon Couple Clayton and Betty Kort (Retired)

Mrs. Maura Nash ...... Principal

Elena Chermak, D.Min. ..Dir. of Religious Education echermak@sjfschool.us

Phil and Amy Switalski ...... Music Directors philnamy1992@gmail.com (708) 687-3302

Parish E-Mail: sjfparishchicgo@gmail.com

Parish Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9:00 am-7:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am-4:00 pm Sunday 9:00 am-12:00 noon Baptisms: A Baptismal Preparation Program is a requirement in the Chicago Archdiocese. Contact the rectory for more information and dates and times the classes will be held.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession):** Saturdays 3:00 to 3:45 p.m. or by appointment

**Marriage:** Arrangements are to be made at the Rectory at least six months before the wedding. The Archdiocese requires a marriage preparation program (Pre-Cana, Discovery Weekend, etc.).

**Communion for Homebound Parishioners:** Members of our parish family who are ill or homebound, please call the parish office and a Minister of Care will bring communion to your

home at your convenience.

New Parishioners: We welcome you! Please introduce yourself to us. We ask that you register in the rectory office. Parishioners—Please keep your contact information updated.



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