

St. Catherine of Alexandria

The Nativity of the Lord

December 25, 2023



Merry
Christmas!

AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH

JOHN 1:14

Merry Christmas

My Dear People of St. Catherine & Guests,

As we celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas, let joy be born in our hearts not just this Christmas day, but in our lives throughout the year. Let us inspire this world, which can seem so lost in darkness, with the light of Christ in the light of our joy. Let us welcome family and friends. Let us welcome strangers and travelers in our midst, who may join with us to celebrate the Eucharist. Make room in the pews. Greet them with a welcoming smile and a gracious hospitality, those like Mary and Joseph, who sought room at the inn.

Pope Francis states: *"The human heart desires joy. We all desire joy, every family, every people aspires to happiness. But what is the joy that the Christian is called to live out and bear witness to? It is the joy that comes from the closeness of God, from his presence in our life. From the moment Jesus entered into history, with his birth in Bethlehem, humanity received the seed of the Kingdom of God, like the soil receives the seed, the promise of a future harvest."* Angelus, December 14, 2014, St. Peter's Square

Thank you for joining us to worship our Savior born as a child. I welcome you and your loved ones this Christmas and every Sunday throughout the year. Let the light of Christ into your lives that your hearts may grow in the joy of celebrating the Eucharist.

My thanks to all of you who have been faithful parishioners. It is with humble joy that I give thanks for the honor of serving as your Pastor for my 11th year. Thank you for all your support and prayers, and for the many ways you give of your time, talent and treasure to St. Catherine of Alexandria.

May God bless you this Christmas. May any darkness in your lives be removed by the light of Christ. May your hearts be filled with the Joy of Christ's birth and may you be missionaries of that joy to others.

On behalf of myself, Fr. Fred, and the staff of St. Catherine's, may Christ's Joyful Peace & Love be yours at Christmas and throughout the New Year.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Dennis Zioneck





Monday, January 1, FEAST OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
4:00 PM (Anticipated on Sunday, December 31)
8:30 AM & 10:00AM

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Saturday, January 6, 2024: 4:00 PM
Sunday, January 7, 2024: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM (Live-streamed), 11:30 AM & 6:00 PM

Keep "Christ" in Christmas!

The Nativity of the Lord

Our hearts are aglow with the joy of Christmas! Our senses are alive with the season, from the rich smells of evergreen and gingerbread to the feel of crisp air on our skin and the warmth of a loved one's embrace. At some point in the holiday hustle and bustle, take a few moments of quiet. In the silence, reflect on the other senses of the season. Imagine the cool damp of an animal stable, the earthy smell of hay and feed, and the crisp night air blowing in softly. Imagine kneeling beside an exhausted, joyful mother and a relieved, protective father. Imagine an infant wrapped in cloth scraps held out to your open arms. Imagine holding the infant Jesus. As his eyes meet yours, welcome into your heart the greatest gift of Christmas.

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

“TO YOU GOD ENTRUSTED HIS ONLY SON;
IN YOU MARY PLACED HER TRUST;
WITH YOU CHRIST BECAME MAN.
OBTAIN FOR US GRACE, MERCY
AND COURAGE. AMEN.”

- POPE FRANCIS

O Come, Let Us Adore Him



Pope John XXIII's Christmas Prayer

O sweet Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas. Put into the hearts of men and women this peace for which they sometimes seek so desperately and which you alone can give to them. Help them to know one another better, and to live as brothers and sisters, children of the same Father. Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness and purity. Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness. Join them all together in your love. And give us your heavenly peace. Amen

SUPPORT
St. Catherine



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<https://www.givecentral.org/location/302event/20836>

St. Catherine of Alexandria Church & School
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Oak Lawn, IL 60453
Rectory Office: 708-425-2850
School Office: 708-425-5547

The Rectory Office is located at:
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Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453



Rectory Office Phone: 708-425-2850
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Monday through Friday: 8:30am to 8:00pm
Saturday: 10am to 2:00pm

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Director of Music Ministry & Liturgy: Phil Caffee
708-425-3110 pcaffee@scaoaklawn.org

Fr. Lion Center: 10600 S. Karlov Ave.
708-423-5747

Mission Statement

St. Catherine of Alexandria is a Catholic community, rooted in faith, family and friendship. We are responsive to the needs and concerns of those around us. We live out Jesus' words, "Come, follow me," and invite others to join us.

Pastor

Rev. Dennis Ziomek dziomek@scaoaklawn.org

Associate Pastor

Rev. Fred Pesek fpesek@scaoaklawn.org

School Principal

Ms. Kristine Owens kowens@scaoaklawn.org

Director of Music Ministry & Liturgy

Mr. Phil Caffee pcaffee@scaoaklawn.org

Coordinator Family Faith Formation

Mrs. Sandra Bustamante sbustamante@scaoaklawn.org

New Parishioners: We welcome you!

Please call the Rectory Office at 708-425-2850
between the hours of 8:30am to 4:00pm to register.

There is a parish registration form available on our
parish website: parish.scaoaklawn.org

Weekend Masses: Saturday: 4:00pm
Sunday: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:30am and 6:00pm

Weekday Masses: Monday through Friday at 8:30am.

6:30am Communion Service: Tuesday, Wednesday,
and Thursday; enter into the North lot wooden doors.

Adoration Chapel: Monday - Friday, 3:15pm to 6:15pm;
10600 S. Karlov Ave.

Confessions: Saturdays from 3:00pm to 3:45pm.

Baptisms: 2nd & 4th Sundays at 1:00pm.
Schedule subject to change.

Weddings: Please call the rectory office at least six months in
advance of the date you plan to marry.

Office for the Protection of Children & Youth
312-534-5254

SCA St. Vincent de Paul Society
Cell Phone 630-750-2348 Email: SVdP@scaoaklawn.org

**If you are a victim or survivor of domestic abuse
seeking help: National Hotline**
1-800-799-SAFE (7233) 1-800-787-3224 (TDD)

Live Stream Mass

The 9:30am Mass on Sunday is live streamed. Live streams are
always accessible on the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/stcatherinesoaklawn>.

You do not need a Facebook account to access the
Facebook link.

Additionally, they are accessible in the late afternoon at:
http://www.parish.scaoaklawn.org/streamed_masses.

Also, go to parish.scaoaklawn.org and select Streamed Masses.

St. Catherine's YouTube Channel:

 **SCA Media**



SCA Parish Instagram Page

Search for it on Instagram with the handle
[@saintcatherineofalexandria](https://www.instagram.com/saintcatherineofalexandria).



**St. Catherine of Alexandria has a
FACEBOOK PAGE.**

Like and Follow us on Facebook
St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish