



## Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Parish

### Our Mission:

We honor the traditions of our parish and welcome all to unite in prayer and the Sacraments. Loved by God and guided by the Holy Spirit, we share the good news of Jesus Christ through joyful worship, faithful formation and dedicated service.



## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT



"She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." - Mt 1:21

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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December 21, 2025



## PARISH STAFF

**Rev. Wayne F. Watts, Pastor**

wwatts@ssjfx.org

**Msgr. Dan Mayall, Retired**

dmayall@ssjfx.org

**Rev. William J. Sheridan, Retired**

**Rev. Edward F. Harnett, Retired**

**Christopher and Binh Keefe, Deacon Couple**

ckeefe@archchicago.org

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Ministries of Care and Bereavement**

mbirmingham@ssjfx.org

**Noreen Russo, Youth Ministry Coordinator (ACTION)**

nruosso@ssjfx.org

## Saints JFX Mass Schedule

### Daily Mass

6:30 am (SFX) Monday through Friday

8:30 am (St. Joseph) Monday through Saturday

### Saturday Vigil Mass

5:00 pm

(SFX, May through October; SJ, November through April)

### Sunday Mass

8:00 am (St. Joseph)

9:30 am (SFX)

10:30 am (St. Joseph)

11:30 am (SFX)

4:45 pm (St. Joseph)

7:30 pm (SFX) Teen ACTION Mass (school year)

Confession is offered from 9:00 - 10:00 am on Saturday at St. Joseph Church.

## Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Parish Office

St. Joseph Campus

1747 Lake Avenue

(847) 251-0771

cadaniel@ssjfx.org

Hours: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday - Friday

St. Francis Xavier Campus

524 Ninth Street

(847) 256-4250

officessjfx@ssjfx.org

Hours: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday - Thursday

For emergencies outside of office hours,  
please call 708-237-6665

For additional parish information, please visit [www.ssjfx.org](http://www.ssjfx.org)

For school information, please visit [www.saintsjfx.org](http://www.saintsjfx.org)

Follow us on social media!

Instagram ([saintsjfx\\_wilmette](https://www.instagram.com/saintsjfx_wilmette)) and

Facebook ([Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier](https://www.facebook.com/SaintsJosephandFrancisXavier))



## Discover the Saints JFX App

Scan the QR code and install the app. Once installed, log in using the person icon in the upper right hand corner. Follow the instructions to register.

Are you interested in becoming more active at Saints JFX? We need you! Scan the QR code and select any ministries that interest you. The ministry leader will be in contact with details.



Dear Friends,

The Fourth Sunday of Advent is always one of my favorite liturgies to plan. While we stand at the very threshold of Christmas joy, this Sunday offers a unique intimacy, centering our hearts on the nearness of Christ's birth and the pivotal role of Mary in bringing our Savior into the world.

One of the great blessings of working with our wonderful parish choir is their ability to chant the proper antiphons. These brief, ancient scripture texts, sung before the Gathering, Offertory, and Communion hymns, draw us more deeply into the mystery of the day and illuminate the themes found in the prescribed Scripture readings.

Today's 9:30 am Mass opens with the choir chanting:

*"Skies, let the Just One come forth like dew; let him descend from the clouds like rain. The earth will open and give birth to our Savior."*

This paraphrase from Isaiah echoes what we hear in the first reading, where earlier the Lord invites Ahaz to "Ask for a sign from the Lord your God; let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky!" Following this entrance antiphon, we sing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," beautifully pairing with Isaiah's prophecy: "The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel." We hear this proclamation no fewer than three more times today; at the Gospel Acclamation, in the Gospel itself, and again in the Communion antiphon.

In today's Gospel from Matthew, we hear the Annunciation delivered to Joseph, focusing on his righteousness, his fear, and his decisive role in accepting Mary as the Mother of God. In a complementary way, the Church appoints Luke's account of the Annunciation to Mary to be sung at the Offertory. The Offertory antiphon begins:

*"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb."*

This greeting of the Angel Gabriel, cherished through centuries in prayer and song, forms the foundation of countless musical settings of the *Ave Maria*.

Once more at the onset of Communion we hear:

*"Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel."*

Following this antiphon, the choir sings "Gabriel's Message," the beloved Basque carol that traces Mary's journey from the Annunciation to the imminent birth of Christ in Bethlehem.

May these sacred texts, chants, and carols draw us more deeply into the mystery of God-with-us (Emmanuel), as we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord.

Advent blessings and Merry Christmas!

*Jonathan Metzinger*  
 Director of Music  
[jmetzinger@ssjfx.org](mailto:jmetzinger@ssjfx.org)



# Weekly Mass Schedule

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<p><b><u>Monday, December 22</u></b>          6:30 am SFX  <i>Presider: Fr. Watts</i></p> <p>8:30 am SJ  <i>Presider: Fr. Watts</i></p> <p>Intentions:          +Andy Keefe          +Jun-Gu Lee          +Tom Rees, Sr.          +Sr. Richelle Schmitz, OP          (L)Rehbock Family</p> <p><b><u>Tuesday, December 23</u></b>          6:30 am SFX  <i>Presider: Fr. Watts</i></p> <p>8:30 am SJ  <i>Presider: Msgr. Mayall</i></p> <p>Intentions:          +Javier Loidi          +Maria Uribe          (L)Rehbock Family</p> <p>9:00 am–10:00 am SJ  <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i></p>	<p><b><u>Wednesday, December 24</u></b>  <i>Christmas Eve</i></p> <p>3:00 pm SFX  <i>Presider: Fr. Watts</i></p> <p>3:00 pm SJ  <i>Presider: Msgr. Mayall</i></p> <p>3:15 pm SFX Gym  <i>Presider: Fr. Sheridan</i></p> <p>5:00 pm SFX  <i>Presider: Fr. Sheridan</i></p> <p>5:30 pm SJ  <i>Presider: Msgr. Mayall</i></p> <p>10:00 pm SJ and SFX  <i>Christmas Concert</i></p> <p>10:30 pm SJ  <i>Presider: Fr. Watts</i></p> <p>10:30 pm SFX  <i>Presider: Fr. Waithaka</i></p> 	<p><b><u>Friday, December 26</u></b>          6:30 am SFX  <i>Presider: Fr. Watts</i></p> <p>8:30 am SJ  <i>Presider: Msgr. Mayall</i></p> <p>Intentions:          +Peter DiClementi          +Joseph Rurode          +Cecilia Shin          (L)Cyrus Major Herbert          (L)Rehbock Family</p> <p><b><u>Saturday, December 27</u></b>          8:30 am SJ  <i>Presider: Fr. Watts</i></p> <p>Intentions:          +Bob &amp; Kitty Jones          +Randy Sturt</p> <p>9:00-10:00 am SJ Confession</p> <p>5:00 pm SJ  <i>Presider: Msgr. Mayall</i></p> <p>Intentions:          +Molly Harris          +Bob McNamara          (L)Joshua Barber</p> <div style="background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>+ Deceased / (L) Living              SFX - St. Francis Xavier              SJ -St. Joseph</p> </div> <div style="background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Masses are livestreamed              on our YouTube channel.</p> </div> <div style="background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Search <i>Saints JFX</i> on  <a href="http://www.youtube.com">www.youtube.com</a></p> </div>	<p><b><u>Sunday, December 28</u></b>          8:00 am SJ  <i>Presider: Msgr. Mayall</i></p> <p>Intentions:          (L)People of the Parish</p> <p>9:30 am SFX  <i>Presider: Fr. Sheridan</i></p> <p>Intentions:          +Brian Avery</p> <p>10:30 am SJ  <i>Presider: Fr. Watts</i></p> <p>Intentions:          +Elizabeth Cox          +Cheryl Tonelli McNabola          +Irv Meyer          +Domenic &amp; Carmen Savignani          +Olivia Sergot          +Liliana Suci          +Frank Thomann          +Kasha Zyla          (L)Msgr Dan Mayall          (L)Stanoi/McDonald Family</p> <p>11:30 am SFX  <i>Presider: Fr. McLinden</i></p> <p>Intentions:          +Jean Mulvihill          +Liliana Suci          +Pauline Zorza</p> <p>4:45 pm SJ  <i>Presider: Fr. Watts</i></p> <p>Intentions:          +Molly Harris</p>
<p><b><u>Wednesday, December 24</u></b>          6:30 am SFX  <i>Presider: Fr. Watts</i></p> <p>8:30 am SJ  <i>Presider: Fr. Sheridan</i></p> <p>Intentions:          +Maggie Bevenour          +Olivia Sergot          +Deceased members of the Schinler Family</p>	<p><b><u>Thursday, December 25</u></b>  <i>Christmas</i></p> <p>8:00 am SJ  <i>Presider: Fr. Waithaka</i></p> <p>9:30 am SFX  <i>Presider: Fr. Watts</i></p> <p>10:30 am SJ  <i>Presider: Bishop Kane</i></p> <p>11:30 am SFX  <i>Presider: Fr. Watts</i></p>		

**Please pray for the sick and those in need:**

- |                      |                       |                  |                    |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Carmen Albino        | Peter DiClementi, Jr. | Susan Hayden     | Marlene Miller     |
| Laura B.             | Sally Griffin         | Tiffany McGivern | Pam O'Reilly       |
| Margie Bennett       | Sheila Groark         | John McGuiness   | Christopher Patino |
| Lorraine Bixler      | Rick Hawkinson        | James Mendis     | Carla Zaramella    |
| Jim Bohlman          | Catherine Horan       | Oliver Mendis    |                    |
| Paul "PJ" DiClementi | Marian Harmon         | Eden McKenna     |                    |

*Please email [officessjfx@ssjfx.org](mailto:officessjfx@ssjfx.org) to add or remove a name.*

*In prayer and loving memory of:*

- John Cordell  
 Tim Finnegan  
 Marilyn Rotunno  
 Ofelio Torres*



**PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY, PRAY FOR PEACE**

US Air Force

Ssgt John Wesley Hobbs  
2nd Lt Luke Stenberg

US Army

Rev Chaplain Maj John Barkemeyer  
Cpt Christopher Cannon  
Cpt Ryan Cannon  
PFC Richard Carlson  
Sgt Harrison Daniels  
Maj Jason Harlan  
Pvt Ryan Higgins  
Erik Larson (Army Reserve)  
Sgt Brenda Lore Mayo  
Sgt David Lore Mayo  
SGT Seth Miller  
Col Kelly Quinn  
Lt Ryan Slattery  
Lt Col Shawn Swarz  
PFC Asher Walsh  
Lt John Williams

US Marine Corps

Pvt Stuart Corboy III  
Sgt Joseph Devroy  
Cpt Peter Dulaney  
Sgt Brandon Galgay  
Sgt Aidan Gobeyn  
Cpt Brad Gustafson  
Ssgt Walter Ramirez  
Maj William Smith  
Cpl Trevor J. Talbot  
Pvt 1st Class Stevie Williams

US Navy

Cmdr Kevin Carlson  
Lt Matthew Mah  
PO2 Kevin Morrison  
Cornelius Robert Murphy  
LTJG Hugh Rider  
Cmdr Tom Smith  
John David Tobin  
Shane Zeman

US National Guard

Liam Gobeyn  
Sgt Steven Tetzlaff  
Sgt Jackson Knott  
Lt Col Grant Swinger

*If you would like to add or remove a name,  
please contact us at [officessjfx@ssjfx.org](mailto:officessjfx@ssjfx.org).*

**Readings for the week of December 21, 2025**

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/  
Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk  
1:46-56

Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and  
14/Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:  
2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Thursday: *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29(2a)/  
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25  
*Night:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk  
2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 *Dawn:* Is 62:11-  
12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20  
*Day:* Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/  
Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and  
8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a,  
2-8

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 (see 1)/  
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

***We pray for the following special intentions  
at our Christmas Masses***

Christmas Eve

+Maggie Bevenour (all)

3:00 pm SFX:  
+Saulius George Damusis

3:15 pm:  
+Paul Gebuhr  
+Tom & Calista Gorman  
+/(L) Joe & Carol Naglich

10:30 pm SFX:  
+Jeff Malloy

10:30 pm SJ:  
+Joseph Pinnix, Jr  
(L)Rehbock Family

Christmas Day

+Maggie Bevenour (all)

8:00 am:  
+Roman Paul Kyle Berceau  
(L)Fr. Robert Ryan  
(L)Rehbock Family

9:30 am:  
+Bob & Kitty Jones  
+Max Pinnow  
+Deidre Proteau

10:30 am:  
+Arlene Carlson  
+Woody & MJ Herlocker  
+K, C & D Loutsch  
+Olivia Sergot  
(L)Fr. Brian Welter

**Saints JFX Ministry of Care**



Experienced Ministers of Care are available to bring communion to our parish sick and homebound, those in senior facilities, and Evanston Hospital.

If you or a family member would like to schedule a visit, please contact the MOC Care line at (847) 256-2273 (CARE) or email [mbirmingham@ssjfx.org](mailto:mbirmingham@ssjfx.org)

**IF YOU OR A LOVED ONE ARE IN EVANSTON HOSPITAL**

Please call our Care Line at 847-256-2273 if you would like a visit from a Minister of Care. The hospital no longer provides a list of Catholics to visit. Our ministers go on Sundays and MWF to visit, pray with, and bring Holy Communion to all who request it.

Please leave the patient's name and hospital room number on the Care Line voicemail, along with your name, relationship, and phone number; or email this information to MaryClare Birmingham at [mbirmingham@ssjfx.org](mailto:mbirmingham@ssjfx.org). We will call or email you to confirm the request.

**Sacraments at Saints JFX**

**Sacrament of Baptism**

Request form can be found on our parish website: [ssjfx.org/baptism.html](http://ssjfx.org/baptism.html)

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturday 9:00 am-10:00 am at St. Joseph Church or by appointment. Please call 847/256-4250

**Sacrament of Marriage**

Request form can be found on our parish website: [ssjfx.org/weddings.html](http://ssjfx.org/weddings.html)

Parish registration forms can be found on [ssjfx.org/join-our-parish.html](http://ssjfx.org/join-our-parish.html)

**Pray the Rosary**

Please join us to pray the Rosary at 7:30 am daily

To join online:

<https://www.microsoft.com/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting>

Meeting ID: 217 167 320 893

Passcode: PgfzMi

If you prefer to call in:

**872-215-5920**

Phone conference ID: 706 348 841#

The Rosary is also prayed at 8:00 am, Monday through Saturday at St. Joseph Church, followed by 8:30 am Mass. All are welcome.

All are invited to join the **First Saturday Devotions** group after the 8:30 am Mass at St. Joseph on the first Saturday of each month. The group will meet next on January 3, 2026.



We pray the rosary along with devotions in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary; prayer guides will be available at the church.

**Companions in Grief**

We meet the Third Thursday of each month at 10 AM  
In the Community Room at St. Joseph

**All Are Welcome**



Upcoming meeting dates:  
January 15, February 19

**The Society of St. Vincent de Paul** is dedicated to helping the poor and those who have fallen upon difficult times. If you or someone you know is in need of help, please call the parish office at (847) 256-4250 and ask for the SVDP line.

If you are calling outside of business hours, please press 7 to leave a message and we will return your call.

All inquiries are held in the strictest of confidence.



**PLEASE JOIN US ON SUNDAY!**



# Christmas Caroling

## Sunday, December 21st

Join us for 4:45pm Mass with Family Dinner to follow in St. Joseph School Gym  
Neighborhood Caroling from 6:15pm - 7:00pm

Register Today



<https://tinyurl.com/mrxssbr4>



### Wilmette Police Presentation Thursday, January 8, 7:00 pm

On Thursday, January 8, at 7:00 pm in the SJ Community Room, Community Relations Officer Carly Watson, from the Wilmette Police Department, will give a talk on safety/security topics including cyber security, home security, personal safety, and more.

The presentation, including time for questions and answers, will conclude by 8:00 pm. A short reception with light refreshments will follow. This event is organized by Guild 4 of Saints JFX Women's Club. All parishioners are welcome.

Don't miss this opportunity to meet Officer Watson and learn about these important topics!



### Stewardship Report

If you are able, please consider contributing via PushPay ([www.pushpay.com](http://www.pushpay.com))

December 7, 2025	
Collected at Church:	
Envelopes:	\$ 3,911.00
Loose Cash:	\$ 1,435.00
Electronic Contributions:	\$21,880.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$27,146.00</b>

Sunday Collection



Haiti Sharing Parish



St. Thomas of Canterbury School



*Thank you for your generosity.*

*Join Us in Waiting For and Celebrating the Coming of the Lord*

**December 24**  
Christmas Eve

3:00 pm St. Joseph  
 3:00 pm St. Francis Xavier  
 3:15 pm St. Francis Xavier (gym)  
 5:00 pm St. Francis Xavier  
 5:30 pm St. Joseph  
 10:00 pm Christmas Concert,  
 St. Joseph and St. Francis Xavier  
 10:30 pm St. Joseph  
 10:30 pm St. Francis Xavier

**December 25**  
The Nativity of the Lord

8:00 am St. Joseph  
 9:30 am St. Francis Xavier  
 10:30 am St. Joseph  
 11:30 am St. Francis Xavier



**December 31**  
Solemnity of Mary,  
Mother of God (Vigil)  
5:00 pm St. Joseph

**January 1**  
Solemnity of Mary,  
Mother of God  
9:30 am St. Francis Xavier  
10:30 am St. Joseph

*Donate Blood*  
IN MEMORY OF  
Kevin Joseph Smith Burke



Kevin Joseph Smith Burke died suddenly in July 2017 at the age of 23 of a rare heart condition. Burke competed in area regattas, half marathons, stair climbing races and triathlons. Burke was known for his kind, social and energetic personality. He would be overjoyed to know that a blood drive was held in his honor. Family and Friends invite you to join them in donating blood and help save lives!

**Super Bowl Sunday**  
**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Blood Drive**

Saint Francis Xavier  
Gymnasium  
808 Linden Ave  
Wilmette, IL 60091

Sunday, February 9, 2025  
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)  
or visit RedCrossBlood.org.

Bring a photo ID or your blood donor card, or two other forms of ID.



Scan for an appointment

**Schedule your appointment today!**

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org  
Blood Donor App | Sponsor Code: SFXWilmette



1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Blood Donor App

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**Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Parish**  
**Year End Giving**

Please keep the parish in mind this holiday season

There are various ways parishioners can financially support Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier each year

- An appreciated stock/mutual fund gift
- A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) gift from your IRA account
- A donation through your Donor Advised Fund (DAF)

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Joe D'Arco at [jdarco@ssjfx.org](mailto:jdarco@ssjfx.org).

Thank you for your consideration.

*Please consult your tax advisor for specific tax advice.*





## *Christmas 2025*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Our Christmas celebrations coincide with the beginning of winter. There is less light at this time of year and more cold than we might want. The contrast is striking for people of faith. We remember God's only begotten Son born of the Virgin Mary. He comes into a dark and cold world as its light and its warmth.

In chapter four of Matthew's gospel at the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus, the evangelist cites words of the prophet Isaiah:

*...the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region  
and shadow of death  
light has dawned. (Mt 4:16)*

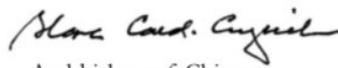
Events of this past year could suggest that all we have is indeed a cold and dark world. That seems to be the message of the wars fought around the world, of the tragic school shootings and political assassinations in our nation, and of our frayed connections with each other.

Again, for us as people of faith, the contrast is stark. We are realistic, and we know well the challenges of our world in this tense moment of the world's history. We also know, however, a larger narrative of God's love incarnate in Jesus Christ, the light that breaks the power of sin and death. Saint John wrote of him: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5) This light enlightens us and warms us. Whatever struggles we face, we are assured because he walks with us.

As you gather with family and friends and fellow parishioners, I urge you to reassure each other with our convictions of faith. Take responsibility in the world to be a sign of hope and a source of encouragement for others. In this way, you will bring Christ the light to those who need him.


Join me and pray for our world, our nation, and our local communities that we can all walk in the light.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Archbishop of Chicago



**SOLEMN VESPERs**  
for  
**MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**



TRADITIONAL MONASTIC CHANT  
WITH POLYPHONIC MASTERWORKS  
BY

**SCHOLA LAUDIS**  
CONDUCTED BY KEVIN ALLEN



**WEDNESDAY  
DECEMBER 31  
5:15 p.m.**

Featured music:

**Funk:** Virga lesse floruit  
**Josquin:** Mystical Antiphons  
**Lassus:** Ave maris stella  
**Lobo:** Magnificat Secundi Toni  
**Palestrina:** Alma Redemptoris Mater  
**Allen:** Ave Virgo sanctissima

**Monastery of the Holy Cross**  
Benedictine Monks of Chicago

3111 South Aberdeen Street  
Chicago, IL 60608-6503  
www.chicagomonk.org

**Church Teachings  
on Migration:  
Our Faith-Based  
Response**

JOIN US AS WE WELCOME  
**FR. COREY BROST C.S.V.**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
VIATOR HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY

Saturday, January 24, 2026 11:30am St. Edna Church  
2525 N. Arlington Heights Rd., Arlington Heights

All are Welcome!



Sponsored by Contemporary Theology for Women  
Contemporarytheology4women@gmail.com



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO 

**The Vicar for Deacons**


Have you ever considered the call to  
be a Deacon of the Catholic Church?

Join us at **7 p.m.** on  
**January 19, 2026** at:  
**Office of the Diaconate**  
816 Marengo  
Forest Park, IL 60130



We will provide an overview  
of the **Deacon Formation  
Program, the application  
process and information on the ministry of  
a deacon.** Men, single or married, are invited  
to attend. Wives are strongly encouraged to  
accompany their husbands. For more information  
and to register for this session, contact the Office  
of the Diaconate at **708.366.8900.**

**"Whom shall I send? Who will go for us? 'Here I  
am, send me!'" – Isaiah 6:8**

 **ECUMENISM METRO CHICAGO**

**SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, January 24, 2026, 2:00 - 4:00pm.**

Growing in Christian unity and the care for God's creation, we will gather in prayer and action for the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU)** at St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church, 6700 W. Diversey Ave., Chicago, IL 60707

This ecumenical prayer service will be grounded in the WPCU theme "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling" (*Ephesians 4:4*). This reflects the mission of EMC that "seeks to engage all the baptized, their communions and extended ministries in Chicagoland in living together with prayer, action and a coordinated voice that respects distinctions among traditions and extends God's love through Christ and the Holy Spirit, for all the world."

At the closing of the service, EMC judicatories will sign joint statements of actions which are grounded in EMC's Declaration to care, protect and preserve God's gift of creation, for all of the earth is the Lord's. (Psalm 24:1). The two statements proclaim our Christian resolve to *Protect Children, Grandchildren, Future Generations by Adopting Climate Change Mitigating Strategies and Protect Children, Grandchildren, Future Generations by Providing Clean, Safe Drinking Water* (please see attached). These statements are a clear public witness of EMC's Declaration that "taking decisive restorative action is a moral and religious imperative."

Ecumenism Metro Chicago: "Bringing Christians together for prayer, action, and the creation of a coordinated voice to provide a clear witness of Jesus Christ in Chicagoland."  
<https://eia.archchicago.org/ecumenical-relations/ecumenism-metro-chicago-emc>  
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