

St. Thecla Catholic Church

6725 W. Devon Ave. Chicago, IL. 60631

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2011

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.,
11:30 a.m. (Mass in Polish)

Monday through Saturday: 8:30 a.m.

Holy Days: Please see the bulletin

Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy:
Tuesday - Saturday following
8:30 a.m. Mass

Confessions: 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.
Sat. or by appointment

St. Thecla Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Gene Dyer

Associate Pastor: Rev. Artur Marat

Pastor Emeritus:

Rev. Gerald E. Rogala

Deacons: Mr. John X. Rottman,

Mr. Robert F. Cnota,

Mr. Steven Wagner

Director of Music: Mr. Robert Shack

Business Manager/Minister of Care:

Mrs. Joan Czerlanis

School Principal: Mrs. Carol Styka

Religious Education Director:

Mrs. M. Louise Hanley

Parish Admin. Asst./Bulletin Editor:

Mrs. Anna Piech

School Secretary:

Mrs. Bea Sansone

Office Hours and Addresses:

Parish Office Hours:

Mon. - Fri. 9:15 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Parish Office: 6333 N. Newcastle
(773) 792-3077

e-mail: parish@saintthecla.org

School: 6323 N. Newcastle

(773) 763-3380



*May it be done to me
according to your word*

A VISION FOR ST. THECLA

Be it known to all who enter here that Christ is the reason for this parish.
He is the unseen but ever-present teacher as well as the source of our inspiration.

Weekly Parish Information

Mass Intentions

- Mon. Dec. 19th, 8:30 a.m.** +Robert Swenie
Tue. Dec. 20th, 8:30 a.m. +Loretta Szmyd
Wed. Dec. 21st, 8:30 a.m. +Lawrence & Helen Meyer
Thu. Dec. 22nd, 8:30 a.m. +James Parrillo
Fri. Dec. 23rd, 8:30 a.m. **(Collective Intentions)**
 +John Podgorny Sr., +Mary Ann Szenda, +Mary Jane Wynne,
 +Walter Schreiman, +Marian Burek, +Edward Saraniec,
 +Joe Riley Family & Friends, +Elizabeth Bednarz,
 +Thomas Dougal, +Olga Parker, +John Olke
Sat. Dec. 24th, 8:30 a.m. +George R. Hill
 4:00 p.m. For the Parishioners
 10:00 p.m. Mass in Polish
 12 midnight For the Parishioners
Sun. Dec. 25th, 8:00 a.m. For the Parishioners
 10:00 a.m. For the Parishioners
 +-denotes deceased, SI - denotes special intention

Confessions this week

Monday, December 19th

9:30 to 11:00am & 7:00 to 8:30pm

There are no Penance Services as these services do not have the actual confession of sin and absolution. Note: No confessions on Christmas Eve.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading - I will fix a place for my people. I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16).

Psalm - For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 89).

Second Reading - To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever (Romans 16:25-27).

Gospel - Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word (Luke 1:26-38).

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
Tuesday: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45
Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66
Saturday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79
Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]



Sick List - Please pray for all those in nursing homes, homebound or who require extended care and those who care for them:

- Irene Zych, Nancy Samp, Rita Koch, Peter Schroeder, Norman Kwidd, Elizabeth Link, David Bergthal, Harriet Monka, Joan Lomasney, Joan Giuntoli, Mary Siuta, Teresa Jozefczak, Jolanta Tekien, Ken & Bernie Buck

Oplatki (Christmas Wafers)



We now have our supply of Oplatki in the Parish Office. The suggested offering for the Oplatki is \$1.75. We have a limited supply, so get them early before they run out.

“The promotion of the practice of stewardship is important for the mission of the Church and for the spiritual well-being of each individual Christian. Everyone benefits from the sacrificial gift one makes of time, talent and treasure.”

....Pope Benedict XVI
 The Little Burgundy Book

Stewardship

December 18, 2011

Thoughts on Giving

4th Sunday of Advent

“Do not be afraid, Mary.” - Luke 1:30

It can be a little scary to do as God asks – to give Him the first fruits of our time, talent and treasure. The comforting words the angel spoke to Mary can comfort us, too, when we strive to be good Christian stewards – “Do not be afraid.”

Weekly Contributions:

December 11, 2011



Total Collection.....	\$10,028.00
Last Year's Collection.....	\$7,204.00
Difference Over/ Short Collection	\$2,824.00
Budgeted goal.....	\$9,000.00
Difference Over/ Short Budget	\$1,028.00
Difference year-to-date Budget.....	\$11,012.00
Maintenance Fund.....	\$300.00
School Fund.....	\$55.00
Children's Envelopes.....	\$20.60
Parking Lot Fund.....	\$110.00
Sharing Parish.....	\$234.00

Thank you for your generosity to help meet our weekly financial goals.

Please remember St. Thecla in your Will.

Sign up for Automated Giving by visiting www.parishpay.com or by calling 1-866-parish-1.



**Parish Calendar for the week of
December 19th - 25th**

Monday - 9:30 a.m. Confessions - Church
1:00 p.m. Altar Server practice - Church
2:30 p.m. Kidz Can Cook, Queen of Peace
6:00 p.m. 5th grade Girl Scouts - Queen of Peace
Tuesday - 1:00 p.m. Christmas Play
6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts Webelos mtg. - Church basement
6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts Bear Den mtg. - The Cenacle
7:30 p.m. Knights of Columbus Regular mtg./Night of Reflection- Queen of Peace
Wednesday - Eucharistic Adoration 1:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.,
Benediction 6:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. - Church
11:30 a.m. School dismissal, Christmas Vacation begins
Thursday - 9:30 a.m. Al-Anon mtg., St. Joseph the Worker
Sunday - Christmas

 **A Note of Thanks**

My Thanks and appreciation goes to the hard working staff of the Norwood Ace Hardware Store. Their generosity assisted our parish with their **Shop & Share** fundraiser the weekend of December 11th 2011.

Two very generous families also gave their time and talent to make this event possible. Mrs. Theresa Grela, her sons Alex and Jacob along with Mr. Marion Sebastian greeted and recorded the purchases of many individuals from our parish who participated in this fundraiser. Ace is more than just a place with the helpful hardware man and woman. They also know how to care about their neighbors here at St. Thecla Parish!

Best wishes to all for a happy, holy and safe Christmas and New Year 2012!
-Deacon John Rottman

Thank you for your support of our **Shop and Share Day** at Norwood Park Ace Hardware, the parish made \$576.00. Again, thank you to all who participated!
-Mrs. Carol Styka, Principal



Advent Spirituality

On the weekend of December 3rd and 4th, two members of the St. Thecla Finance Council spoke at all of the weekend Masses and provided the financial state of the parish. In that talk, they presented the need for a three-pronged approach to stabilizing our parish finances that includes: *increasing our offertory collections; reviewing our fundraising plans; and addressing school revenue.* In January, we will begin our 2012 Planned Offering Program which is our appeal for increased offertory collections. We ask that you prayerfully consider the importance of your financial support of our parish.

Thank you for responding to this in a positive way. If we value the purpose of our parish we will be more willing and able to sacrifice and keep our Catholic Faith a priority. Recall last spring when we were watching the 1st graders (who are now in 2nd) perform at the spring concert and the following observation was made: *There is the class of 2018.* Let's do what it takes for the parish to be here for many future generations.

Please cut this out and post for your reference.

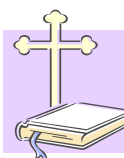
Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24

4:00p.m. – Family Mass
10:00p.m. – (Pasterka) Mass in Polish with carols beginning at 9:30p.m.
12:00a.m. – Midnight Mass with carols beginning at 11:30p.m.



Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25

8:00a.m.
10:00a.m with carols before Mass
11:30a.m. – Mass in Polish



Bible Study - Saturdays at 3:30 PM in the Parish Library at the back of Church.



Advent Vespers - Sundays at 4:00pm in Church.

Parish Office Holiday Schedule:

Fri. Dec. 23rd 9:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Sat. Dec. 24th 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Mon. Dec. 26th - CLOSED
Tue. Dec. 27th - CLOSED



Our Beloved Dead

Michal Pazik, Jan Kozera, Mary Schertler,
Longina E. Waak, Charlie Roberts

Continued on next page. . .

With one week left spend some time reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas. Our St. Thecla first grade students as well as the primary grade students in Religious Education all participated in a Christmas play. How many of us adults remember being in a Nativity play? Did our parents have us do this because it looked cute? Or was it the simplest way to hand on the Truth? How blessed we are to hand this on to our children today.

The altar table was moved back just a couple of feet. With the altar next to the first step the priest and/or deacon could not walk in front of it for certain liturgical actions. For example, incensing the altar table on solemn feast days and blessing the people from the front of the altar with the monstrance during benediction.

The next part of this article was written by Ben Stein and recited by him on CBS Sunday Morning Commentary. A parishioner emailed me a copy and it is worth reading a perspective from someone who is not Catholic talk about Christmas.

My Confession by Ben Stein

I am a Jew, and every single one of my ancestors was Jewish. And it does not bother me even a little bit when people call those beautiful lit up, bejeweled trees; *Christmas trees*. I don't feel threatened. I don't feel discriminated against. That's what they are, Christmas trees.

It doesn't bother me a bit when people say, 'Merry Christmas' to me. I don't think they are slighting me or getting ready to put me in a ghetto. In fact, I kind of like it. It shows that we are all brothers and sisters celebrating this happy time of year. It does not bother me at all that there is a manger scene on display at a key intersection near my beach house in Malibu. If people want a crèche, it's just as fine with me as is the Menorah a few hundred yards away.

I don't like getting pushed around for being a Jew, and I don't think Christians like getting pushed around for being Christians. I think people who believe in God are sick and tired of getting pushed around, period. I have no idea where the concept came from, that America is an explicitly atheist country. I can't find it in the Constitution and I don't like atheism being shoved down my throat.

Or maybe I can put it another way: where did the idea come from that we should worship celebrities and we aren't allowed to worship God as we understand Him? I guess that's a sign that I'm getting old, too. But there are a lot of us who are wondering where these celebrities came from and where the America we knew went to. In light of the many jokes we send to one another for a laugh, this is a little different: This is not intended to be a joke; it's not funny, it's intended to get you thinking.

Billy Graham's daughter Anne was interviewed on the Early Show and made this observation. 'For years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand He leave us alone?'

What do we attribute terrorists attacks and tragedies like school shootings, etc. to? I think it started when Madeleine Murray O'Hare (she was murdered, her body found a few years ago) complained she didn't want prayer in our schools, and we said OK. Then someone said you better not read the Bible in school. The Bible says thou shall not kill; thou shall not steal, and love your neighbor as yourself. And we said OK.

Then Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave, because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem (Dr. Spock's son committed suicide). We said an expert should know what he's talking about. And we said okay. Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves. Probably, if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out. I think it has a great deal to do with 'WE REAP WHAT WE SOW.'

Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to hell. Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says. Funny how you can send 'jokes' through e-mail and they spread like wildfire, but when you start sending messages regarding the Lord, people think twice about sharing. Funny how lewd, crude, vulgar and obscene articles pass freely through cyberspace, but public discussion of God is suppressed in the school and workplace. Are you laughing yet?

Funny how when you forward this message, you will not send it to many on your address list because you're not sure what they believe, or what they will think of you for sending it. Funny how we can be more worried about what other people think of us than what God thinks of us. Pass it on if you think it has merit. If not, then just discard it. No one will know you did. But, if you discard this thought process, don't sit back and complain about what bad shape the world is in. My best regards, honestly and respectfully, Ben Stein

Keep the faith, hope in God for all is possible with Him. -Fr. Gene





The following parishioners contributed to the Christmas Flowers envelope in the memory of their loved ones:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Mr. & Mrs. Paul Kane | Ms. Rose Ligeza | Mr. & Mrs. Jan Weglarczyk |
| Mr. Victor Feliciano | • Genevieve & Marion Ligeza | • Deceased members of the Weglarczyk and Luberda Family (Za dusze zmarlych z rodziny Weglarczyk i Luberda) |
| • Crispina S. Feliciano | Mrs. Eileen McGovern | Mr. & Mrs. Miroslaw Curylo |
| Gary Swierad | • Deceased members of the McGovern Family | Mrs. Helen Nowicki |
| • Mrs. Beverly Swierad | Mrs. Lucille Wujcik | • Zbigniew Nowicki - husband |
| • Mr. & Mrs. Robert Moore | • Walter Wujcik | • Jozef Ostojcki - father |
| • Michael Cipriano | • Michael Wujcik | • Lech Nowicki - brother-in-law |
| • Orin Cassata | • Sokolmski Family | • Tadeusz Ostojcki - brother |
| • Virginia Cloher | Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Leyden | Mr. & Mrs. Marek Dudzinski |
| Mrs. Elizabeth Mack | Mr. & Mrs., Thomas Kernan | Mr. & Mrs. Ted Grela |
| • Peter | • All Deceased members in our Family | Mrs. Janina Niewdach |
| Mr. & Mrs. Joseph D'Andrea | Mr. & Mrs. John L. Nelson | Mr. & Mrs. Bartosz Pieczyk |
| • Ferro - D'Andrea Family | • Ruth Sahs | • Stanislaw Bleka |
| Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Garcia | • John Bartlett | Mr. & Mrs. Radek Ferdynus |
| • Margaret Patrick | • Michael Sudis | Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Sendlak |
| Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bekielewski | Ms. Joanne Maris | • Stanislaw Sendlak |
| • Mary & Joseph Golubski | • Deceased Cappelletti Family members | • Edward Sendlak |
| • Frank & Rose Bekielewski | Mr. & Mrs. Karl Varga | • Tadeusz Dudek |
| • Cas & Rosemary Golubski | • Charles & Mary Vargo | Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth & Lori Dobis-Mischer |
| Susan Baird | • Chuck Vargo | Mrs. Larry Ryan |
| Mr. & Mrs. John Pappone | Mr. & Mrs. George Stasinos | • Mr. Larry Ryan |
| • Ann Stadnyk | • Kabosky Family | • Mr. & Mrs. James Balthezos |
| • Carmella Pappone | • Stasinos Family | • Ellen Anderson |
| Ms. Lillian Czyzewski | • Millan Family | Mr. Edward McGinnis |
| • Ava Czyzewski | Mr. Wladyslaw Zajac | • Mrs. Cecile M. McGinnis 1918-2005 |
| • Phil & Terry Schmidt | Miss Lottie Krajewski | Mr. & Mrs. Stan Niedzwiecki |
| • Agnes & Joseph Mical | • John, Sally, Irene Krajewski | • Hipolit Adamski |
| • Edward & Stephanie Mical | • Frank, Hank, Jan, Eugene, Krajewski | • CPL. +Christopher Edward Zimny U.S.M.C. 1/31/05 |
| Miss Rosemarie Wolski | • Matt & Mary Rylko | • Emilia Niedzwiecka |
| • Emilia & Edwin Wolski | • Kay & Edward Draus | • Gregory Niedzwiecki |
| Susan Delorenzo | Mrs. Ann Ziomek | Mr. & Mrs. Edward Dohnal |
| • Frank Donatello | Ms. Antoinette Holzwart | Mr. Robert Pistorio |
| Mrs. Dolores Krajewski | Mr. & Mrs. Jerzy Wesolowski | Mrs. Mary Wargo |
| • Eugene Krajewski | Mr. and Mrs. Tadeusz Kasprzyk | Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Colello |
| • Irene Krajewski | Mr. & Mrs. Tadeusz Rywak | • Lucille Colello |
| • Walter Czech | Mrs. Josephine Grela | • Evelyn Zawada |
| Maria Kieca | Mrs. Pajerski | • Irene Truchel |
| • Tadeusz Kieca | • Antoni Pajerski | Mrs. Wanda Michalak |
| • Joe & Sophie Smagacz | • Jan Palichleb | |
| Mr. & Mrs. Mark Arnold | Mr. & Mrs. Grzegorz Wasilik | |
| • Alex Griffin | | |
| • Jeffrey Arnold | | |
| • Rick Greene | | |

We will continue to publish all the names in the upcoming bulletins. Thank you for helping our sanctuary look beautiful for Christmas.

Keeping in mind

Prayer List, US Military

United States Air Force:

A1C Heather Bosh, A1C Shane Garrison,
SSgt. Adam Krey, TSgt. Richard L. Larsen,
Lt. Andrew May, 2ndLt. Peter A. Schroeder,
SrA James E. Stay

United States Army:

MAJ. Terence W. Bacon, SGT. Sean Doherty,
SGT. Rachel Hall, CPT. Michael J. Kaye,
SGT. Robert Lach, CPT. Jared Lampe,
WO. Steven Larmay, PFC. Thomas J. Lyons III,
CPT. Gina Marie Mroszczak, PFC. Raymond Rau,
PFC. Michael Spiwak

United States Marines:

LCpl. Philip E. Blais, 2ndLt. Kevin Bowler,
PFC Michael T. Brennan, Pvt. James Dinela,
LCpl. Kyle Elmer, LCpl. Nathaniel J. Juncer,
Capt. Michael C. Mroszczak, PFC Brian Pasterczyk
Capt. Craig V. Platt, LCpl. Jose Rivera,
MSgt. Richard L. Sroka, SSgt. James E. Stonehouse

United States Navy:

CAPT. Steven Stancy

We would like to keep those who are serving in the military in our prayers. Please print the name of your loved one & drop in the collection basket or return to the Parish Office. Their names will remain on the list until you notify us of their return.



**Adoration of
the Blessed Sacrament**
Wednesdays in Church,
1 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
with Benediction at 6:30 p.m.

“The hidden treasure... is Jesus himself, the Kingdom in person. In the Sacred Host, he is present, the true treasure, always waiting for us. Only by adoring this presence do we learn how to receive him properly - we learn the reality of communion”. (Pope Benedict XVI, address to Religious and seminarians, Altotting, Germany, Sept., 11, 2006)

Organize Holy Hours for Priests & Vocations

Vocations will follow!

See Pope John Paul II Eucharistic Adoration Association site:
<http://www.pjp2ea.org/pjp2ea/HolyHourPriests.asp>

December 18th

4th Sunday of Advent

In today's Gospel the angel Gabriel said to Mary "Do not be afraid..." Without understanding all that will flow from it, Mary speaks her yes. Are you called to say yes to God? Do not be afraid! Men of college-age and older are invited to an Exploring Priesthood Weekend retreat at Mundelein Seminary to learn about, pray, and reflect on the possibilities of diocesan priesthood in Chicago. The next EPW is January 13-15, 2012. To register contact Fr. Brian Welter at 312-534-8298 or bwelter@archchicago.org See www.ChicagoPriest.com for more details.



Pro-life



Worldwide, over 42 million babies are killed each year. Our God is a merciful God but He is also a just God. The world says no to God's gift of life over 42 million times a year. It's no surprise that God is holding back His blessings to a murderous world.

“Abortion kills twice. It kills the body of the baby and it kills the conscience of the mother. Abortion is profoundly anti-women. Three quarters of its victims are women: Half the babies and all the mothers.”

~Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Pregnant?
You have options.
Get the facts.
800-400-4205
ALL CALLS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

Your health and safety
are important to us.
Se habla español: 888-414-2555.

The Women's Centers

If you know someone who has lost a child or grandchild to abortion, or was in any way responsible for an abortion, and now suffers from remorse or sadness or simply doubts that God can ever forgive them, please let your friend know about the Church's post-abortion ministry, called Project Rachel. The diocesan Project Rachel office makes referrals for confidential counseling by specially-trained priests and lay counselors to help anyone involved in an abortion find forgiveness, peace, and hope once again. More information can be found at www.hopeafterabortion.com or by calling 1-888-456-HOPE. Bring the good news of peace, hope, and salvation to someone who is wounded by abortion and see their lives transformed.



GIVING TREE

Once again our Advent Giving Tree is set up in the front of Church. As in the past, each card on the tree represents a resident of the Regency Nursing Center. This year, we have been asked by Lori, the activity director at Regency, to try something a little different with our gifts.

Instead of wrapping each gift we are asked to put them in a plastic bag and add a gift tag so that the presents may be matched with a resident who can really get full use of them. After the presents are delivered to the home, activity directors will sort them, place them in the gift bags and tag them with the name of a resident who could really use it. Then, on Friday Dec. 23rd at 9:45 a.m., we can truly enjoy the happiness of those who receive our gifts.

Here are some ideas that will make the gift you give most enjoyable to the recipient:

Slippers are easier to get on in sizes 9 and larger.

While beauty products are wonderful they have to be put out of reach of residents who might not know what they are used for. A nice snow globe, personal note cards or teddy bears would be a better choice.

Clothes in larger sizes make it easier for residents to get in and out of them. So we are asked to choose clothes in size Lg., XL, or XXL.

Sweat pants, shirts and knit hats, scarves and gloves would also be welcome, especially by the male residents.

If you need any more information, or if you would like to help distributing the gifts on Friday December 23rd, at 9:45 a.m. please feel free to give me a call. If there is no answer, leave me a message and I will be sure to get back to you.

Wishing you Christmas Blessings,

Karen Glab 773-763-7543

IRA Charitable Gifts are *STILL AN OPTION* (But only until December 31, 2011)

Last year, Congress re-authorized legislation that allows you to make charitable gifts from your IRA accounts during 2011 without incurring income tax on the withdrawal. That provision is set to expire on December 31, 2011 and it might not be renewed.

The IRA Charitable Rollover provides you with an excellent opportunity to make a gift during your lifetime from an asset that would be subject to multiple levels of taxation if it remained in your taxable estate.

To take advantage of this opportunity, you must act by December 31, 2011.

To qualify:

You must be age 70 ½ or older at the time of gift.

Transfers must be made directly from a traditional IRA account by your plan provider to the parish. Funds that are withdrawn by you and then contributed do NOT qualify. Gifts from 401k, 403b, SEP and other plans do not qualify.

Your plan administrator may make the check out to the parish and mail the check to you. But you must postmark the check to us by December 31, 2011.

Gifts must be outright. Distributions to donor-advised funds, certain supporting organizations, or life-income arrangements such as charitable remainder trusts and charitable gift annuities are not allowed.

Benefits – Qualified charitable distributions:

Can total up to \$100,000;

Are not included in your gross income for federal income tax purposes on your IRS Form 1040 (no charitable deduction is available, however);

Example: Suppose John has \$500,000 in an IRA and he also wants to contribute \$25,000 to his parish. He can authorize the administrator of his IRA to transfer \$25,000 to the parish. The \$25,000 distribution to his parish will not be subject to tax and will be counted toward his annual minimum required distribution.

Rich Goode, of the Archdiocese, can provide a sample letter of instruction that you can send to your IRA plan provider. For more information, please feel free to call Rich at 312/534-7848.

**REMEMBER, Charitable IRA distributions can be made
until December 31, 2011 (after that...who knows?)**



Knights of Columbus
Father Francis A. Ryan Council 5025



Thank You for your support

Turkey Shoot Holiday Kick-off Dinner and Raffle Night

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS

Tax Statements for 2011

For tax purposes, for the calendar year 2011, all checks and money for your Sunday envelopes, received in the Parish Office after **December 31, 2011** will be deposited in 2012.

If you received a tax statement last year, one will be sent to you automatically by January 31, 2012. If this is the first time you need a tax contribution letter, please call the Parish Office at (773) 792-3077.



Volunteers from Compass will be in the back of Church to check blood pressures this weekend. They will be available after the 5:00 p.m., 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Masses. It is a quick measure you can take to monitor your health. Plan to stop by.



“Who can be afraid of a Baby?”

Fr. Rich Simon ponders this in his brief audio reflection for Christmas - and we'd like you to have a free copy.

Go to www.relevantradio.com and type keyword “baby” to listen or download.

May your Holy Seasons be truly bright!
Chicago **950AM**, Chicago West **930AM**,
or NW Indiana **1270AM**



Congratulations to the following Shamrocks who made Saint Patrick High School's Quarter One Honor Roll!

First Honors

Senior Timothy Mizones

Second Honors

Seniors Shane Barrett and Ryan Tentler
Sophomores Christopher Mizones
and Michael Ruehlmann

Freshmen Nolan Hart, Samuel Kolodziej and Daniel Walsh

The following student/s from Trinity High School, 7574 W. Division St., River Forest were named to the honor for the first block of the 2011-2012 academic year.

Nora Barry	‘14	A
Sarah Burke	‘14	A
Ashley Klauss	‘13	A
Chase Machain	‘13	A
Nora Barry	‘14	B



ST. THECLA ALUMNI

Are you or anyone you know a graduate of St. Thecla Grade School? If so, we are looking to update, add to and greatly enhance our current St. Thecla Grade School Alumni database. We are doing this so that we can properly invite ALL St. Thecla Alumni to future reunions and fun get-togethers. But we cannot invite our alumni from the past 84 years if we cannot find ALL of them... SO PLEASE HELP US!

Even if you think that we already have your contact info in our STS Alumni records, we still need your email address and we want to verify that we have all the correct data. So please take a minute to fill out and turn in the red fliers that will be located in all of the church pews.

Did any of your siblings, friends, your children or grandchildren attend St. Thecla but maybe they don't currently live in this area any longer? If so, please take a minute to provide us with their contact information too - even if it is just an email address that is very helpful too. Please feel free to use as many red alumni fliers as you need.

Why Provide Us With An Email Address: We are trying to go greener. As we re-develop our Alumni database we'd like to be able to send out reunion notices through email. By using email St. Thecla can reduce the costs.

If you do not have the contact information with you today don't worry. We will be collecting this Alumni contact data at church throughout the next month. So you can bring the contact info with you next week or turn in to the church office...

To turn in your completed form:

Please give to any usher- put it in the collection basket

Put it in the special box marked “ALUMNI” at the back of church

Take or mail to the church office - marked to the attn of: “Finding Alumni”

Email info to: parish@saintthecla.org - please put Alumni in the subject line

More to come on this in upcoming months but the School Board will be forming a ST. THECLA ALUMNI SEARCH COMMITTEE. If you would like to join this important new committee, please contact Mrs. Styka or any members of the School Board. You do not have to be a St. Thecla alumnus to join and get involved.

Thank you to all St. Thecla Alumni for your help!

“Quick Picks” will be available in the back of the Church after Sunday Masses this weekend - to help you with your Christmas shopping.

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday:	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Wednesday:	St. Peter Canisius
Friday:	St. John of Kanty
Saturday:	The Vigil of Christmas



Polskojęzyczny Program Adwentu w Parafii Świętej Tekli

Niedzielną Msza Święta w języku polskim o godzinie 11:30 a.m.

Sakrament Spowiedzi Świętej w każdą sobotę od godziny 4: 00 do godziny 4:45 p.m.

Adwentowa Spowiedź Święta:

poniedziałek, 19 grudnia 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

poniedziałek, 19 grudnia 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Okazja do cichej adoracji Najświętszego Sakramentu w każdą środę od godziny 1:00 do godziny 6:30 p.m.

sobota, 24 grudzień
4:00 p.m. Msza Rodzinna
(w. jęz. angielskim) z udziałem Chóru Dziecięcego

9:30 p.m. Kolędowanie (w jęz. polskim)
10:00 p.m. Msza w Wigilię Bożego Narodzenia
(w jęz. polskim)

niedziela 25 grudzień - Boże Narodzenie
Msze o 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (w jęz. angielskim)
oraz o 11:30 w jęz. polskim

poniedziałek, 26 grudzień - św. Szczepana
Msza o 8:30 a.m. (w. jęz. angielskim)
oraz 10 a.m. i 6:30 p.m. (w jęz. polskim)



Niedziela 18 grudnia

4 niedziela Adwentu

W dzisiejszej Ewangelii, Anioł Gabriel mówi do Maryi „Nie bój się...” Pomimo niezrozumienia tych słów, Maryja odpowiada „TAK”. Czy Bóg wzywa również Ciebie do powiedzenia „TAK”? Nie lękaj się! Studenci collegów oraz starsi mężczyźni są zaproszeni na rekolekcje Exploring Priesthood Weekend, które odbędą się w Wyższym Seminarium Duchownym w Mundelein. Rekolekcje mają na celu zapoznanie się i rozeznanie powołania kapłaństwa diecezjalnego w Chicago. Następne EPW odbędzie się od 13 do 15 stycznia 2012 roku. W celu rejestracji prosimy o kontakt z ks. Brianem Welter'em pod numerem telefonu: 312-534-8298 lub drogą mailową na: bwelter@archchicago.org. Więcej informacji na stronie internetowej: www.ChicagoPriest.com.

Intencje Mszalne

Niedziela, 25 grudzień, 11:30 a.m.

Za parafian

Duszpasterstwo Życia Wewnętrznego



Adoracja Najświętszego Sakramentu w każdą środę od godziny 13:00 do godziny 18:45.

O godz. 18:30, Nabożeństwo z Błogosławieństwem Najświętszym Sakramentem.

Grupa Młodzieżowa Arka Noego

Prowadzona w jęz. Angielskim, dla młodych, poczynając od klasy 7-mej. Wspólnota spotyka się zazwyczaj w 3-ci piątek miesiąca o godz. 19:00, w budynku Kancelarii Parafialnej.

Wspólnota Św. Michała Archanioła

Koordynator - ks. Paweł Komperda

Spotyka się zazwyczaj w 3-cią sobotę miesiąca o godz. 19:30 w Kościele.

Program Nauczania Religijnego

Program Nauczania Religijnego w jęz. Polskim prowadzony jest w parafi Św. Tekli przez Polska Szkołę im. Generała Andersa. Dyrektorka - p. Wanda Penar

<http://www.szkołaandersa.com/>

Informacje Ogólne

Adres: 6725 W. Devon Ave. Chicago, IL. 60631

Adres Biura Parafialnego: 6333 N. Newcastle Ave.

Telefon: (773) 792-3077

Sekretarka: Anna Piech

Godziny Kancelarii Parafialnej: Od pon. do piątku, od godz. 9:15 rano do godz. 16:00.

Adres strony internetowej (po Polsku):

<http://sites.google.com/site/swtekla/home>

Msze Święte

Msza Św. w tygodniu, o godz. 8:30 rano, w jęz. Angielskim.
Msza Św. w jęz. Polskim w każdą niedzielę, o godz. 11:30 a.m.
Msze Św. w Święta Obowiązkowe - prosimy sprawdzić w biuletynie na dane Święto. Szczegółowe informacje będą podawane w biuletynie tydzień wcześniej.

General information

Baptisms:

1:00 p.m. on the **First and Third Sunday** of the Month.

Baptismal Prep Class:

Will be confirmed at time of Registration of the Baptism.
Please contact the Parish Office to arrange a Baptism.

Marriages:

The Pastoral Guidelines for Marriage Preparation for the Archdiocese of Chicago ask that a minimum of 4 months be set aside for personal preparation for marriage. Couples should refrain from setting a firm date or making any other arrangements until after they have met with a parish priest or deacon to discuss marriage plans.

Bulletin Deadline: All articles must be e-mailed or dropped off at the Parish Office by 10:00 a.m. on Fridays (8 days prior to publication date). **Holidays subject to longer lead times.** Please e-mail articles to parish@saintthecla.org. Note - articles subject to editing. For more information call Anna at (773) 792-3077. **website: www.saintthecla.org**

How to Become a Catholic:

Adults or teenagers interested in receiving the **Sacraments of Initiation** (Baptism, Confirmation, or Eucharist) or those who are interested in the Catholic Faith should call the Parish Office for more information about the **R.C.I.A.** (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults).

Homebound/Communion Visitations:

St. Thecla Church has several ministers of care who can regularly take communion to those in need. Please call the Parish Office to arrange for communion for yourself or a homebound loved one.

THANK YOU, BULLETIN ADVERTISERS

This bulletin is subsidized completely by those companies whose advertisements appear on the last two pages. If you have the opportunity, you may thank them in the name of our parish by using their products or services. Should you desire to participate as a sponsor of our bulletin, you may contact **J.S. Paluch Company at 1-800-566-6170.**

Want to Register as a Parishioner? Call the Parish Office for more information at 773-792-3077.



The third grade class at St. Thecla School chose to participate in a school service project. We created Christmas themed placemats for the residents of Grosse Pointe Nursing Home. Our students had a wonderful time making the placemats as a way to give of themselves during this Advent season. We are hopeful that the placemats will bring smiles to the faces of the people that receive them. It was truly a pleasure making them. Merry Christmas! - Mrs. Tina Bull

