

# St. Thecla Catholic Church

6725 W. Devon Ave. Chicago, IL. 60631

The Nativity of the Lord

December 25, 2011



THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH

## Weekly Parish Information

### 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](mailto:parish@saintthecla.org)

**School:** 6323 N. Newcastle  
(773) 763-3380

### Mass Intentions

<b>Mon. Dec. 26th, 8:30 a.m.</b>	+Luke John McLoughlin
<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	Mass in Polish
<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	Mass in Polish
<b>Tue. Dec. 27th, 8:30 a.m.</b>	+Elizabeth Bednarz
<b>Wed. Dec. 28th, 8:30 a.m.</b>	+Elizabeth Bednarz
<b>Thu. Dec. 29th, 8:30 a.m.</b>	+Edwin A. Wojcik
<b>Fri. Dec. 30th, 8:30 a.m.</b>	+Ellen Coddington
<b>Sat. Dec. 31st, 8:30 a.m.</b>	+Stacey Trepelas
<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	For the Parishioners
<b>Sun. Jan. 1st, 8:00 a.m.</b>	+Edward Saraniec
<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	+Al, Ray, George, Chester, Bob
<b>11:30 a.m.</b>	Mass in Polish

+ denotes deceased, SI - denotes special intention

## 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.**

"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 25, 2011

### Thoughts on Giving

Nativity of Our Lord

"She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." - Luke 2:7

Where is Jesus in your life? Have you made room for Him or is He still in the manger wrapped in rags? If we are living our lives like all the rest of the modern and commercial world, we may be leaving Jesus out. It might be time to pick up this Infant Child and make Him a priority in our lives.

### Weekly Contributions:

December 18, 2011

Due to the upcoming holidays and earlier bulletin deadlines, the totals from the December 18th collection will be printed in next week's bulletin.

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](http://www.parishpay.com) or by calling 1-866-parish-1.



REMEMBER  
ST. THECLA PARISH IN YOUR WILL

[www.parishgift.org](http://www.parishgift.org)  
Your Gift, Your Parish

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** - All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God (Isaiah 52:7-10).

**Psalm** - All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God (Psalm 98).

**Second Reading** - God has spoken to us through the Son, the very imprint of God's being (Hebrews 1:1-6).

**Gospel** - The Word became flesh; from his fullness we have all received grace (John 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]).

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

<b>Monday:</b>	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
<b>Tuesday:</b>	1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
<b>Wednesday:</b>	1 Jn 1:5 - 2:2; Mt 2:13-18
<b>Thursday:</b>	1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
<b>Friday:</b>	Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]
<b>Saturday:</b>	1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18
<b>Sunday:</b>	Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21



### Welcome to our Faith Recent Baptisms

**Connor James Basso**  
son of James and Kimberly (Otterson) Basso

## 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.



### "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](http://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**

## Parish Calendar for this week and special holiday office hours.

**Monday** - Parish Office Closed

**Tuesday** - Parish Office Closed

7:30 p.m. Knights of Columbus Officers mtg. - Parish Office Dining Room

**Wednesday** - Eucharistic Adoration 1:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.,  
Benediction 6:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. - Church

**Thursday** - 9:30 a.m. Al-Anon mtg., St. Joseph the Worker

**Friday** - Office hours 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Saturday** - Office hours 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Sunday** - New Year's Day - Happy New Year!

**Monday** - Parish Office Closed



**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, Ken & Bernie Buck, Kenneth Ellinger

### Litany of Humility

*Rafael Cardinal Merry del Val (1865-1930),  
Secretary of State for Pope Saint Pius X*

O Jesus! Meek and humble of heart, **Hear me.**  
From the desire of being esteemed, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the desire of being loved...  
From the desire of being extolled ...  
From the desire of being honored ...  
From the desire of being praised ...  
From the desire of being preferred to others...  
From the desire of being consulted ...  
From the desire of being approved ...  
From the fear of being humiliated ...  
From the fear of being despised...  
From the fear of suffering rebukes ...  
From the fear of being calumniated ...  
From the fear of being forgotten ...  
From the fear of being ridiculed ...  
From the fear of being wronged ...  
From the fear of being suspected ...

That others may be loved more than I,  
**Jesus grant me the grace to desire it.**

That others may be esteemed more than I ...  
That, in the opinion of the world,  
others may increase and I may decrease ...  
That others may be chosen and I set aside ...  
That others may be praised and I unnoticed ...  
That others may be preferred to me in everything...  
That others may become holier than I, provided that I may  
become as holy as I should...



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**During the past week** my brother Jeff and I visited the Christkindlemarket at the Daley Plaza. What a treat to see each shop filled with either great food or hand crafted gifts. The best part, however, is the Christmas crèche, the Menorah and a Christmas tree. Kudos to our city for having the courage to display these images in spite of the political correctness stuff. At the crèche an off duty Chicago police officer his wife and three small children were looking at the manger scene while he read to them the Gospel we hear on Christmas Day. *Mary wrapped Jesus in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.* We don't know if they were aware of the fact that several of us adult bystanders were attentively listening too. When we act on the grace God gives us and we speak the Truth of Christ, the gift of hope comes to us in many unexpected and surprising places. And this is the genesis of Christmas.

**God is in the process** of creating new heavens and a new earth. Beginning with the teachings of the prophets, and continuing with the Blessed Mother's "yes" to be the bride of the Holy Spirit, and then the Son the King born in poverty, crucified, died, buried and then He rises from the dead. Furthermore we are given the age of the Holy Spirit and Holy Mother Church calling us to be one in Christ's teaching and to prepare ourselves to be ready for the completion of this process at the end of time.

**The truth of Christmas** allows us to renew our faith in God and this plan. Christmas lets us see the most powerful person in the entire cosmos of an infinite universe as a helpless and dependent infant. We can all relate to Him, He is approachable, and he comes to us before the end of time. Can we open the inn of hearts, minds and souls once again? In a huge universe the human looks infinitely small, yet he and she are created from the *dust* of the earth (or call it incredible DNA molecular structures) with the hand of God. Jesus took on the dimensions of our humanity with his divinity to remove all sin, greed, estrangement, discouragement, paranoia, and depression. Let the gift of Christmas nudge us away from these negative dynamics. The materialism of the season or a nostalgic longing for something will only create an illusion.

**Instead ask for the gift of faith** so as to share in God's vision of reality. Be a member of the Body of Christ who will do anything for the Lord to bring about the new heavens and earth. Start seeing life through the eyes of Jesus. Not with a self serving perspective but as an instrument of Christmas Light bringing a word of hope or offering a sincere prayer on behalf of another who suffers. Difficulties do become gifts; desired changes might not be instant but the seeds are planted, and unwelcomed changes are no longer seen as cruel but necessary. Catholic Christianity by its very nature is mystery a sacred mystery, that if we are humble and open, so much of what we can't see or understand is revealed and explained to us. We are to comprehend all the intricacies of the solar system to the ones in a small cell of DNA and to know that all of creation is filled with God's divine intelligence, and love.

As St. Paul stated all are created for Him and through Jesus Christ. Blessed Mother Theresa wrote; It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you. Yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brothers and sisters and offer them your hand. St. Augustine wrote; God became man so man could become God. So with hearts filled with gratitude and joy we greet each other and every person we meet with **Merry Christmas**.

**For Christmas I send much love and joy to you and your loved ones. – Fr. Gene**



**Wishing you a Blessed Christmas  
and a Happy and Prosperous 2012!  
St. Thecla Parish Staff**

### **Addressing our Financial Needs Planned Offertory Program to Begin in January**

**On the weekend of December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>,** 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 1<sup>st</sup> graders (who are now in 2<sup>nd</sup>) 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.

## 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](mailto: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!

## *Thank You!* 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.

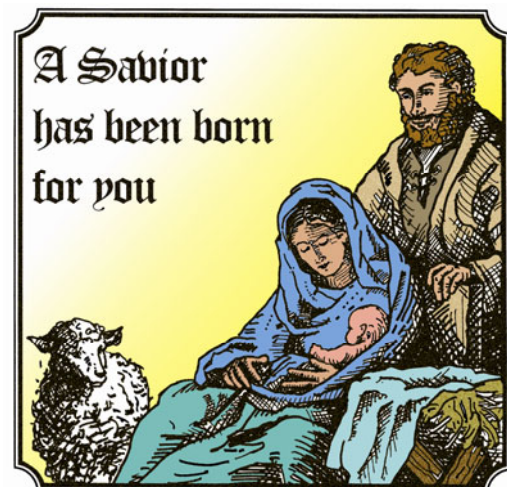
Two very generous families also gave their time and talent to make this event possible. Mrs. Theresa Grella, her sons Alex and Jacob along with Mr. Marion Sebastian greeted and recorded the purchases of many individuals from our parish who participated in this fundraiser. Ace is more than just a place 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



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## Saints and Special Observances

<b>Sunday:</b>	The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
<b>Monday:</b>	St. Stephen
<b>Tuesday:</b>	St. John
<b>Wednesday:</b>	The Holy Innocents
<b>Thursday:</b>	St. Thomas Becket
<b>Friday:</b>	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
<b>Saturday:</b>	St. Sylvester I



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

- Mr. & Mrs. Jack Laszcz  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Sonnefeldt  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Cinkues  
Mrs. Severine Alongi
- Alongi Family
  - Wlodarczyk Family
- Miss Virginia Swierczynski
- Anthony, Frances, Henry Swierczynski
- Mrs. Mary Dugan
- William Dugan
  - David Dugan
  - Paul Laurence
  - Mulqueen Family
- Sharon Keane  
Judy A. McDermott  
Mr. & Mrs. William Labuz
- Walter & Joseph Labuz
  - Tom Tonelli
- Annie Nash  
Mrs. Mildred Lewan
- Casimer & Monica Jablonski
  - Karen Lewan
- Mr. & Mrs. John Kielar
- Zbigniew Urban
- Stella Kielar
- Alexander Kielar
- Mr. & Mrs. John Edens  
Mrs. Wanda Marshall
- Catherine Burgul
  - John L. Marshall
  - Bernice Norris
  - Victoria Koval
- Marilyn A. Kapuscik
- Edward & Lottie Kapuscik
  - Helen & John Strong
  - Kapuscik Family
  - Wiencek Family
- Mr. & Mrs. Brigido Pingad  
Mrs. Arlene Prugar
- A. & A. Bryk
  - R. & R. Prugar
- Mr. & Mrs. David Dempsey
- The Poor Souls
  - Patricia R. Dempsey
  - Josephine Brownfield
- Mr. & Mrs. Gino Belcaster
- The Nowak Family
  - The Belcaster Family
  - The Orzechowski Family
  - The Rogalski Family
- Mr. & Mrs. Wieslaw Przybyslawski  
Mr. & Mrs. David Schimpf
- Stacey Trepelas
- Mrs. Jadwiga Chudzynski
- Stanley Chudzynski
  - Jane & Marian Kaczmariski
- Dianne Strobel  
Mr. Pawel Osuch  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Buck  
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Pierzchala
- Joan & Robert Musker
  - John & Helen Pierzchala
- Mr. & Mrs. John J. Savage  
Catherine McLoughlin
- Luke J. McLoughlin
  - Tom & Mary Buckley
- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Conway
- Terry Mayer
- Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Eckert
- John Schauderna
  - Ed Schauderna
  - Lenora Schauderna
- Mr. & Mrs. John O'Grady
- John & Betty McMahon
  - Fr. Dan O'Sullivan
  - Fr. John O'Brien
  - Kay Innis
- Mr. & Mrs. A Borghi
- Kate & Dennis Frawley
  - Cathy, Mick, Doreen Cowley
  - Teresa, Peter, John Borghi
  - Pat O'Brien
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Boksa  
Mrs. Eleanora Kulm
- Mr. & Mrs. Kris Gielniewski
- Waclaw & Waclawa Gielniewski
  - Helena Szczechowicz & Jozef Szczepanik
  - Stefan, Maria, Andrzej & Zofia Kowalski
  - Janina & Jan Warzel
  - Bronislaw & Maria Korba
- Mrs. Florence Kontek
- Bruno Kontek
  - Virginia & Walter Kmiec
  - Chester & Frank Dzierlinga
  - Alice & Ted Alwin
- Dr. & Mrs. Anthony Lam
- Maria Lam
  - Peter Chu
  - Rosemary Kwok
  - S.C. Lam
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Palmert
- Joseph & Wanda Krozel
- Stephanie Hill
- George R. Hill - Joan & Susan Kowalczyk
  - George & Mary Hill - Frances Zechner
  - Joseph, Stefania & Edward Kania
  - Leonard & Josephine Quick
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael G. Tomeczko
- Michael J. Tomeczko
- Mr. & Mrs. William Brandenburg
- Will Brandenburg
- Nancy Haran
- Thomas Michael Haran
  - Frank & Francine Halpin
  - Susan O'Leary
- M. Gerrie Davey
- Mr. & Mrs. John Hacker
  - Mr. & Mrs. James Davey
  - Tom & Rita Meegan
  - James Davey Jr.
- Mr. Jozef Murtas
- Maria Murtas
  - Jerry S. Murtas
- Maria P. Arevalo  
Mr. Norman Kwidd
- Deb & Jean Kwidd
  - Ruth Kissane
- Mrs. Pelagia Mietek

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Donatello	Mrs. Alice Mae Norton	Mr. & Mrs. George Plodzien
• Frank A. Donatello	Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Kortas	• Deceased members of the Plodzien Family - Paul Sr., Veronica, Robert, Paul Jr., & George
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bryant	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Lewandowski	Mr. & Mrs. Edward Przybyslawski
• Robert Comiskey	Geraldine Cuny	Mrs. Catherine Vedner
• Robert & Agnes Bryant	Miss Diane Olejnik	Mrs. Helen Wilk
Miss Lenore Grow	• Bruno, Olga, Richard Olejnik	• George Wilk
• Leonard, Margaret & Howard Grow	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Nalepa	Mrs. Monika Chabrowski
• Bill, Annette & Dan Grow	Mrs. Anne Depa	Mrs. Wladyslawa Kielar
Mr. & Mrs. Jozef Penar	• Depa Family	Mr. & Mrs. James Russo
Mr. & Mrs. Wieslaw Zurek	• Barwacz Family	• Dvoratchek Family
Mr. & Mrs. Mieczyslaw Lydka	Mrs. Carmen Grau	• Monahan Family
Grzegorz Burzawa	Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Skura	• Salzinger Family
Albina Humanicki	• Maria & Stanislaw Skura	• Russo Family
Mrs. Anne Gosciniak	• Maria Rebach	Gisele Piekarski
Mrs. Rita Addante	• Ludwik Wiselka	• Maria Piekarski
• Fred Addante	• Irena & Czeslaw Kramarz	• Julian Piekarski
• Victoria & Edward Kaszubowski	• Jozef, Maria & Janina Lucarz	• Christine Sova
	Katarzyna Dabek	• Wanda Niedzwiecki
	• Jozef Dabek	• Janina Popieluch
	• Michal Pazik & Jan Pazik	• Daniel Popieluch
	• Stanislaw & Marcin Pazik	• Stasiu Popieluch
	• Ewa & Kazimierz Dabek	• Adryene Bates

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

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Christmas 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“God is closer to us than we are to ourselves,” said St. Augustine, and that closeness, through the power of the Holy Spirit in the wondrous mystery of the Incarnation, becomes visible in Jesus Christ. It also becomes visible in how we treat each other and how we radiate the hope Christ brings to the world. The Word made flesh reconciles God and his human family and all creation; that is God’s interpretation of the Christmas crib.

The giving of oneself to others constitutes the nature of God; therefore, Jesus never comes alone. To genuinely celebrate his birth, we cannot put individuals or entire peoples in boxes in order to dismiss them from our lives. Likewise, if we climb into a box to separate ourselves from others by our attitudes or actions, the Word made flesh cannot speak to us, transform us or save us. Moreover, if we allow our faith to be boxed in by our secular age, it becomes a personal hobby without any public presence, witness or role.

By her response, “My soul magnifies the Lord” (Luke 1:46), Mary shows complete trust and faith in God; her active cooperation with God is a model for all. As Pope Benedict emphasizes in *God Is Love*, “In these words she expresses her whole program of life: not setting herself at the center, but leaving space for God, who is encountered both in prayer and in service of neighbor - only then does goodness enter the world.”

God has spoken and the eternal Word is made flesh. With the courage born of our faith, we proclaim in word and action, in our very flesh and bone, that Jesus Christ our Savior is born.

It is our turn to speak, to one another and to the world. A blessed Christmas to all of you and to all those whom God has given you to love - Merry Christmas!

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.  
Archbishop of Chicago

## 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)

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](http://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.



## Pro-life



"The mystery of the Incarnation reveals the specific value of the dignity of human life. God gave us this gift and sanctified it when the Son became man and was born of Mary. Life is a gift that must be protected, from conception until natural death. With all my heart I join people involved in various initiatives aimed at respecting life and promoting a new social awareness." Pope Benedict XVI. Choose the culture of life.

**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*

On the first Wednesday of each month, representatives of the pro life committee gather at Eucharistic Adoration at 5:30 p.m. to pray vocally for an end to abortion and the reconciliation of all those involved one way or another. All are invited to join us.

Every month on the first Saturday, pro life volunteers from our parish gather at Elston and Carmen to pray outside the Albany clinic of Family Planning Associates (a late term abortion clinic) to pray for a change of heart for all involved in the abortion industry and in support of the sidewalk counselors who diligently attempt to discuss alternatives to abortion with abortion bound women and those accompanying them. At this time we witness publicly for the Gospel of Life. All are welcome and encouraged to join us. We usually gather between 10 a.m. and 12 noon. Come for all or any part of that time if you can.



Is God calling you to walk in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi? The Secular Franciscan Order is a religious order within the Catholic Church open to diocesan clergy and to married and single members of the laity. Secular Franciscans work together in local fraternities to deepen their own spirituality and to strive to conform their lives more fully to the Gospel of Christ. If this appeals to you, please call Mary Hobbs at 847-207-3511 or Dale Blum at 773-774-7779 for more information. St. Juliana Fraternity, SFO. See [www.ilsfo.org](http://www.ilsfo.org) for complete fraternity listing.

Boże Narodzenie 2011

Drodzy Bracia i Siostry w Chrystusie,

Święty Augustyn powiedział, że „Bóg jest bliżej nas, niż my siebie samych”, a także, że dzięki mocy Ducha Świętego bliskość ta uwidacznia się w osobie Jezusa Chrystusa w cudownej tajemnicy Wcielenia. Staje się ona również widoczna w tym, jak traktujemy siebie nawzajem i jak promieniujemy nadzieją niesioną światu przez Chrystusa. Słowo, które stało się Ciałem jednoczy Boga z Jego ludzką rodziną i całym stworzeniem; tak Bóg rozumie Bożonarodzeniowy żłóbek.

Składanie siebie innym w ofierze stanowi naturę Boga, dlatego Jezus nigdy nie przychodzi sam. Aby prawdziwie uczcić Jego narodziny nie możemy szufladkować ani pojedynczych osób, ani całych społeczności, aby następnie usuwać ich z naszego życia. Z drugiej strony, jeśli przez nasze postawy i czyny zaszufiadkujemy samych siebie, izolując się od innych, to Słowo, które stało się Ciałem, nie przemawia do nas, nie przemienia nas i nas nie zbawia. Ponadto, jeśli pozwolimy na zaszufiadkowanie naszej wiary przez sekularyzm obecnych czasów, to wiara stanie się naszym osobistym hobby nieobecnym w życiu publicznym, niedającym świadectwa i nieodgrywającym żadnej znaczącej roli.

Odpowiedź, jakiej udzieliła Matka Boża „Wielbi dusza moja Pana” (Łk 1, 46), jest odzwierciedleniem Jej wiary i absolutnego zaufania Bogu; Jej aktywne współdziałanie z Bogiem powinno być dla wszystkich wzorem do naśladowania. Papież Benedykt XVI, w encyklice „Bóg jest miłością”, powiedział: „w słowach tych zawarła Ona program na całe życie: aby nie umieszczać siebie w centrum, lecz pozostawiać miejsce dla Boga, którego spotykamy zarówno podczas modlitwy jak i wtedy, gdy służymy bliźniemu - tylko wtedy dobro przychodzi na świat”.

Bóg przemówił i odwieczne Słowo stało się Ciałem. Z odwagą zrodzoną z naszej wiary głosimy słowem i czynem, całym naszym jestestwem, że narodził się Jezus Chrystus, nasz Zbawiciel. Teraz nadeszła kolej, żebyśmy przemówili do siebie nawzajem i do świata. Wam wszystkim oraz tym, którzy dzięki miłości Bożej są obecni w Waszym życiu, życząc błogosławionych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia—Wesołych Świąt!

Szczerze oddany w Chrystusie,  
Francis Kardynał George, O.M.I.  
Arcybiskup Chicago



*Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia*

Życzą Ks. Gene, Ks. Artur oraz pracownicy parafii Św. Tekli

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



### Intencje Mszalne

**niedziela, 1 styczeń, 11:30 a.m.**

Za parafian

**sobota, 31 grudnia**

5:00 p.m. Msza Św. w jęz. angielskim

**niedziela, 1 styczeń**

**Uroczystość Świętej Bożej Rodzicielki Maryi**

Porządek Mszy Św.

8 i 10 a.m. Msza Św. w jęz. angielskim

11:30 a.m. Msza Św. w jęz. polskim

**Niedziela 25 grudnia**

**Boże Narodzenie**

„Pójdźcie narody, oddajcie pokłon Panu”. W jaki sposób Bóg wzywa Ciebie do miłowania Go i służenia Jego Imieniu? Exploring Priesthood Weekend to rekolekcje dla studentów collegów oraz starszych mężczyzn, które mają na celu pomoc w rozeznaniu powołania do życia kapłańskiego. Rekolekcje EPW odbędą się od 13 do 15 stycznia 2012 roku w Wyższym Seminarium Duchownym w Mundelein. W celu rejestracji prosimy o kontakt z ks. Brianem Welter'em pod numerem telefonu: 312-534-8298 lub drogą mailową na: [bwelter@archchicago.org](mailto:bwelter@archchicago.org). Więcej informacji na stronie internetowej: [www.ChicagoPriest.com](http://www.ChicagoPriest.com).

## 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](mailto:parish@saintthecla.org). Note - articles subject to editing. For more information call Anna at (773) 792-3077. **website: [www.saintthecla.org](http://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.**

# St. Thecla School First Grade Christmas Pageant

