

January 7, 2024

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

OVERJOYED

AT SEEING
THE STAR

— MATTHEW 2:10 —



Rev. Artur Sowa, Pastor

January 7, 2024

The St. Francis of Assisi Community is a welcoming Christian family.

We believe in Jesus Christ and are guided by the Holy Spirit and the example of St. Francis.

We gather to celebrate, to grow in the knowledge of our faith rooted in the Catholic tradition, and to recognize our responsibility to reach out to the world.

Happy New Year

Warmest greetings to all in this New Year 2024! Friends, let this year be filled with the things that are truly good—with the comfort of warmth in our relationships, with the strength to help those who need our help and the humility and openness to accept help from others. As we make our resolutions for the year ahead, let us go forward with great hope that all things can be possible with God's help and guidance. Happy New Year!

Sunday Gospel in everyday English

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory—this was during Herod's kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, "Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We're on pilgrimage to worship him."

Herod then arranged a meeting with the scholars from the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared. Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, "Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I'll join you at once in your worship." Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time!

They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh. In a dream, they were warned not to report back to Herod. So they worked out another route, left the territory without being seen, and returned to their own country (from Matthew 2:1-12).

Notes on the Scripture

Throughout the short Christmas season, we actually celebrate several feasts and solemnities in addition to the solemnity of Christmas: the Holy Family; Mary, the Holy Mother of God; and the Epiphany of the Lord, which we celebrate today.

Epiphany, the showing forth of Jesus on earth, is a kind of second Christmas, a celebration that God became a human being, just like us. The manifestation of God-with-us is a blessing on our world, and on our humanity, which raises our life in the flesh to something profoundly holy. Traditionally, it's a time to bless the home, to remind ourselves that our earthly home is a sacred place—and that our heavenly home also awaits.

House Blessings

Every year on the Feast of the Epiphany we bless our homes. We invite you to adopt this custom in your family. A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the home's entrance, 20 + C + M + B + 24. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and 2024 is the year.

"Chalking the door" is a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. As it does we let the meaning of the symbols written sink into the depths of our heart and be manifest in our words and actions the Latin words, *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." Please, remember to take home the chalk as you leave the church and keep this wonderful tradition alive.

LITURGICAL COMMISSION

	Saturday, 5:00 PM Jan 13	Sunday, 8:00 AM Jan 14	Sunday, 10:00 AM Jan 14	Sunday, 12:00 PM Jan 14
Presider	Rev. Artur Sowa	Rev. Rich Young	Rev. Artur Sowa	Rev. Artur Sowa
Deacon	John Donahue	Michael Pindelski	Mike Kiley	Timothy McCormick
Sacristan	Ann Czarny	Barbara Basila	Cindy Lucio	Jean Nielsen
Lector	Martin Terpstra (1) Warren Winker (2)	Gerald Saletta (1) Vincent Pryor (2)	Betty Kameron (1) Sharon Rohan (2)	Carolyn Kimmey (1) Lee Trimble (2)
Eucharistic Minister	Harriet Antkiewicz William Carroll Ann Czarny John Donahue Lisa Kacerovskis Cynthia Patrick Rev. Artur Sowa Tricia Vidinich	Michael Basila Barbara Basila Gregory Fifer Michael Pindelski Cheryl Pryor Lynne Sparks Pat Trebe Rev. Rich Young	Mike Kiley Cindy Lucio Sharon Moe Marilyn Nelson Diane Ostrowski Kathleen Ostrowski Sheila Ramsey Rev. Artur Sowa	Cathy Embach Martha Jaquez Robert Long Timothy McCormick Jean Nielsen Mary Jo Noreikis Nancy Palacz Rev. Artur Sowa
Altar Server	Raphael Angelo Santos Maeve Chester Aaron Lubinski	Claire Selof Emily Selof NOT FILLED	John Curran Patrick Curran Brian Curran	Sofia Alvarez Lagunas Sabrina Geerdes NOT FILLED
Usher	Joe Czarny (HU) Richard Roberts Ann Carroll	James Pedersen (HU) Mary Ann Wyman Bud Wyman	Keith Nelson (HU) Wayne Kameron Janice Ota	Laura Tucco (HU) Jerry Ondrus Joan Ondrus
Greeter	Cathy Arzbaeher Jim Arzbaeher	Nancy Biggio Gregory Fifer	Gabby Bach Char Oliver	Mary Jo Noreikis Denise Sorpassa

This Week at St. Francis

Monday, January 8th

Grief Support, 3:30PM (GR)
Continuation Committee, 6:30PM (NR)
Women's CRHP 25, 7:00PM (GR)

Tuesday, January 9th

Prayer Shawl Mtg., 12:30PM (SFR)
Knights of Columbus, 7:30PM (UH)

Wednesday, January 10th

OA Mtg., 9:30AM (GR)
Wed (A) RE Grades 1-8, 4:30PM-6:00PM (SFC-FR)

Thursday, January 11th

Thurs RE Grades 1-8, 4:30PM-6:00PM (SFC-FR)
Men's CRHP 25, 7:00PM (GR)

Friday, January 12th

CJB Scouts Pack Meeting, 6:30PM (UH)
AA Mtg., 7:00PM (NR)

Saturday, January 13th

Sat RE Grades 1-8, 8:30AM-10:00AM (SFC-FR)
CJB Scouts Pit Day, 10:00AM-1:00PM (UH)
RCIA, 10:00AM (GR&NR)

We are grateful for the generosity of our parishioners. At the beginning of the pandemic, we made the decision to stop passing the collection basket and instead placing a basket at both entrances. We have decided to continue that practice.

Parish Stewardship Month of November, 2023

Electronic Givings \$38,502.65

Envelopes & Loose \$48,859.00

Total for November, 2023 \$87,361.65

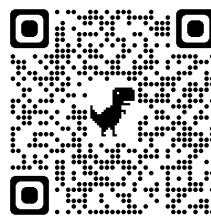
Ministry of Care Training

DAY AND DATE OF PRESENTATION:

When: Tuesdays, January 23, 30 and
February 6, 2024
4:45 PM - 8:00 PM (we will begin with a light meal)

Where: Our Lady of the Woods
10731 W. 131st
Orland Park, IL 60462.

Come to the Hospitality Room on the main floor of the church



We would ask that you consider electronic giving. It is safe, flexible, convenient and consistent. Simply scan the qr code or complete the yellow sheet in your monthly envelope packet or call the parish office.

We thank you for your continued support.



Have You Heard?

WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF A NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL!

The Church needs healing, and the world needs Jesus. The Holy Spirit is inviting us to return to the source and summit of our faith—the Eucharist.



eucharisticrevival.org

“Take; this is my body”

—Mark 14:22

The presence of Christ in the Eucharist is real, true, and substantial.

“Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love.” (St. John Paul II, *Dominicae cenae*, no. 3)



“It is called: Eucharist, because it is an action of thanksgiving to God.” (CCC, no. 1328)

Eucharist “makes present the one sacrifice of Christ the Savior.” (CCC, no. 1330)

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“And is not the enraptured gaze of Mary as she contemplated the face of the newborn Christ and cradled him in her arms that unparalleled model of love which should inspire us every time we receive Eucharistic communion?”

— Ecclesia de Eucharistia, April 17, 2003



Eucharistic Revival Opportunities

First Friday Devotion

Consider committing to 9 consecutive First Fridays between July 7, 2023 and July 5, 2024.

Attend Mass and receive Communion in honor of The Sacred Heart of Jesus on the First Friday of each month for nine (9) consecutive months.

Come to our 8:30 AM Mass at St. Francis of Assisi. A brief time of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (adoration) will follow Mass. It will include the Litany of the Sacred Heart.



Images: Catholic Exchange / St. Anthony Messenger)

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

**Welcomes all to a
presentation on**

St. Francis of Assisi,

Lover of the Eucharist

**The Most Holy Body and Blood of
Our Lord Jesus Christ**

Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024

3:30 P.M. Presentation

We welcome Franciscan Father Ed Shea, OFM to reflect with us on Franciscan Spirituality and the burning desire to enter into a closer relationship with God and our neighbor. Francis' adoration of the Eucharist lit a fire in the hearts of those who have followed in His footsteps and continues to stay lit today. Francis asked us to reflect on the humility of the Incarnation and the Cross to draw us closer to Him and all that is good. Is your heart burning for more...?

Please plan to attend.



**Guest Speaker
Rev. Edward Shea, OFM**

For more information, contact the
Parish Office at 708-460-0042

**LOCATION: 15050 South Wolf Rd.
Orland Pk, IL 60467**

Refreshments and finger foods after the presentation... Please feel free to bring a finger food dish to share.

Dear friends of St. Francis,

The families of St. Francis, in the last few months, have been very generous to me. In November, I celebrated my 80th birthday. I was overwhelmed with the words of thanksgiving and the sharing of many gifts.

This Christmas season has been similar; words of prayer, gratitude, and generosity.

There has been no time in my life when I have experienced such generosity. I have not had the opportunity to thank everyone. As the New Year begins, I want to offer a simple but sincere thank you to all who have been so generous.

You are in my prayers. And in the days away, I will pray daily.

In Gratitude,

Fr. Ed Upton

PARISH LIFE COMMISSION

WELCOME

We warmly welcome our new parishioners
(December 2023)
to St. Francis of Assisi:

Matthew & Amanda (Sadler) Yaeger
and son, Lucas

Aile Oleghe

Raymond & Judy (Pawlik) Anderson

Paul Kopec & Leigh Walls and daughter, Madelyn

John & Eileen (Hanlon) Lavin

Gregory & Janice (Binkowski) Kesner

HUMAN CONCERNS COMMISSION

GRIEF
SUPPORT

**Grief Support Group Mon.,
January 8th, 2024, 3:30-
5pm Grief Secondary Loss**

The "Primary Loss" of your loved one's death causes the intense suffering we think of as grieving.

"Secondary Losses" are the losses that connected our lives to theirs and all the ways we shared our life that no longer exist. This may include roles, family structure, financial security.

Consider joining other 'Grieving Hearts' to explore and understand ways to work through the triggers of Secondary Loss.

Facilitated by Valerie Piazza LCPC

THANK YOU to all those that served...A HUGE thank-you to the members of the Art and Environment committee for their efforts during this Advent and Christmas Season. Beginning bright and early on the day after Thanksgiving, this band of Holiday elves prepared the sanctuary for the Advent Season. Rather than shop or binge watch cable series, these hard-working volunteers hung garland, decorated pines, planted and watered and made certain our church looked its best as we began this Holy Season. Once Advent preparations were complete, Christmas decorating began. Donating hundreds of hours of their time they decorated trees, placed poinsettias, hung garlands, made bows, positioned Nativity scenes as they prepared the Chapel, narthex, Great Room, Upton Hall and the sanctuary for Christmas. Their job did not end there. Come the morning after Christmas they returned to strike all the decorations in Upton Hall. Our parish is so very fortunate that these volunteers so ably commit to the beautification of the church all to enhance the worship environment for our parish family. If you would like to join this amazing group of volunteers, please feel free to reach out to debi Ross: insidelooks@aol.com or by calling: 708-642-8799. All are ALWAYS welcome. The only requirement is a willingness to help. Thank you, Jola, Kathy, Patti, Sue K., Sue B., Gene, Larry, Howie, Fran, Joyce, Carla, Paul, Gerry, Barb, Teri, Anne and of course, Jim, Monika and Tony.





FULLY ALIVE
INCYC
NOVEMBER 16-18, 2023 INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Reflection by Nicholas Alfarah

My name is Nicholas Alfarah. I went to NCYC to strengthen my love for God. I did grow closer to God and the church. Another benefit of the trip was meeting new people. I feel like these are the two reasons God sent me there. Some quotes and important takeaways I got from the trip. The first takeaway I got was that you are not the problem to be solved, but a mystery to be encountered. This shows that you do not have to change to meet other people's expectations. Another quote is that light shines in the darkness. Even though you might have done some things in your life that you are not proud of, all you need is a little faith and the light will overcome the darkness. Thirdly, Saul lost his sight but gained his vision. Saul turned blind, but he became less spiritually blind. A parable that really meant something to me was that Jesus left his ninety-nine sheep to find the one. This shows how Jesus' ways are not our ways. One sheep is equal to 99, and the single thing that keeps me from God is me. Another one that meant a lot to me was that the church is not a museum for saints but a hospital for sinners. Whenever another human is born Jesus is born again through them. We then carry Jesus with us throughout our lives. Another takeaway from the trip is that just as science is a way we observe the world, the Eucharist is also a way we see and understand it. God is my #1 priority. We become fully alive to a greater degree when we have meaningful connections and collaborations with others. The real meaning of faith is that it is more than simply to believe, the devil believes in God. It also means listening and responding. We were also told that church is a fun place. The real meaning of that is not a permission to be immature but a call to be joyful. And lastly, friendship's real meaning is that we do not journey alone; we can only thrive in community. I know it is a lot to take in, in a short reflection, that is why anyone who gets a chance to go on the next NCYC trip should go and see for yourself what an amazing time it will be. After I got back it took me a while to really absorb it all. During that trip was a time I was closer to God than I have ever been.

CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH

Save the Date:

Men's Feb. 3/4, 2024

Women's Feb. 24/25, 2024



Hi, my name is Rhonda Okleshen, and I have been a parishioner at St. Francis of Assisi since 1997. Over the years I listened to many announcements of the CRHP retreat weekend, and the many encouraging words from former participants speaking at the Pulpit in the weeks leading up to the event. I was always curious, but

hesitant to sign up. Also, there was always an excuse not to go. Life is busy and I had something scheduled nearly every year. Then in 2019 while attending mass it hit me, my schedule was clear, and I felt like something was missing in my life. I signed up after mass. I do not regret a single minute I spent that weekend. The experience enriched my connection with God and the parish, and I have a whole new set of women in my life with whom I share a special bond. Please consider signing up for this weekend. It is truly a gift that keeps on giving.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

Youth Mission Trip 2024

with  CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP

Kansas City, KS July 6-13

Our first mandatory meeting - Jan 28, 7PM

in the St. Francis Room

(lower level of the church)

This is also the deadline to register!

Coordinator: Fr. Jay Suero - 708-460-0042 - sfyg@sfaorland.org



**SCAN FOR
MORE INFO**

**SCAN TO
REGISTER**



JUICEBOX
on YouTube

**A new
Catholic kids
show is here!**

**Grow in
the faith while
having fun!**

Juice Box is a new online children's show and YouTube channel designed to entertain kids and grown-ups alike while teaching the Catholic faith.



www.SpiritJuiceKids.com

This web series uses popular toys, stories, games, crafts, and more to introduce faith-based topics on a level that young children understand, engage with, enjoy, and (most importantly) remember. This is a safe Youtube channel that you can finally feel good about your kids watching.

YouTube

@SpiritJuiceKids





Len Cerrentano

Walter Eick

Charles Hadad

John Shields

SICK RELATIVES & FRIENDS

Names of sick relatives and friends normally appear in the bulletin for six weeks. After six weeks, the names are written into our parish book of prayers for continued remembrance. At the request of the family, Names will appear in the bulletin for a longer period.

Jerry Baldwin	Thomas Hickey
Leslie Bartosz	David Hyland
Chris Becker	Eleanor Katauskas
Sr Dolores Blahaus	Henry Kielbowicz
Janice Blouin	Laura Kopp
John Blouin	John & Mary Lejava
Rich Bonetti	Debbie Lipien
Mariano Centeno	George Lopuszynski
Michael Craig	Danilo Martinez
Ann Marie Egan	Peter Montovani
Pam England	John Moritti
Ray Farinella	Wanda Murawski
Desirea Fetkenheuer	Gwen Norvilas
Marilyn Gallagher	Randy Pope
Sandy Gibson	John Prohaska
Gerald & Elizabeth Gill	Danuta Sowa
Tori Goytia	Chuck Steffens
Carol Grunow	Kimberly Trochuck
Rich Hayes	Monika Winters

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Please keep those listed below in your daily prayers

Saturday, January 6th

5:00PM Lou Rozmanich rq. by Rich & Linda Misiorowski, Gail Saturnus rq. by Family, Gregory Vogelsperger rq. by Jim, Carmen & Anna Walsh, Norb & Lea Retis rq. by The Murawski Family, Peg & Bob Gombas rq. by Family

Sunday, January 7th

8:00AM Luis Gonzalez rq. by Kathy Biederman & Kathy Grottemeyer, Dolores Grekowicz rq. by Ted Grekowicz, Linda Huckabee rq. by Rosalie & Andy Leitelt, Anna Sroka rq. by Ray & Marian Peregoy

10:00AM The People of St. Francis

12:00PM Walter Liptak rq. by The Pytel Family, Stanley Komperda rq. by Family, Eileen Leonard rq. by Pat Leonard, Linda Huckabee rq. by Sue Campagna, Maharda Maffei rq. by Family

Monday, January 8th

8:30AM The Schweiger & Norris Families rq. by The Schweiger Family, Anna Deliowska rq. by Jean Nielsen, Tom Bakke (healing) rq. by Carol Colby, Virginia Zbos rq. by Mike & Tom Foley

Tuesday, January 9th

8:30AM Dorothy & Edward Chanda rq. by Children, David Burberry rq. by Mary Kay Burberry, Florence Bakke (healing) rq. by Carol Colby, Geraldine Zwolinski rq. by SFA money counters, Linda Huckabee rq. by Claudia Kaczmarek

Wednesday, January 10th

8:30AM Angelina Urriza rq. by The Bonoan Family, Jimmy & Hieu Phan (healing), Susan Cava rq. by Joe March, Linda Martarano & Lori Wydra (in Thanksgiving) rq. by Bella

Thursday, January 11th

8:30AM Lucy Phan (healing), JoAnn T. Dwyer rq. by Vilija & Casey Krajewski, Virginia Zbos rq. by Lee Knapik

Friday, January 12th

8:30AM Virginia Zbos rq. by Monika & Mario Florek, Margaret Johnson rq. by Marty Terpstra

Saturday, January 13th

5:00PM Dolores Grekowicz rq. by June Paciga, Mary Blaschke rq. by Family, Rose Koetzle rq. by children & grandchildren, Joseph Janachowski rq. by Teri Sankey, Michael Clavio rq. by Mick & Barb Basila

Sunday, January 14th

8:00AM The People of St. Francis

10:00AM Gail Saturnus rq. by Family, Philip & Bernadette Cederstrom rq. by Family, Theresa Rybicki rq. by Helen Hennessey, Jerome Litrenta rq. by Joan Litrenta, Nicholas Theis rq. by Tim & Sue Finger

12:00PM Maharda Maffei rq. by Family, Bishop Kevin Birmingham rq. by Tom & Adrienne Wiczorek, Anna Deliowska rq. By Tom & Adrienne Wiczorek, James Pavia rq. by Susan Campagna, Linda Huckabee rq. by Len & Mary Ann Schillaci

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

15050 South Wolf Road, Orland Park, Illinois 60467-3028

Website: <http://www.sfaorland.org> Parish office e-mail: parishoffice@sfaorland.org Parish phone: 708-460-0042

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE: Saturday - 5:00 PM; Sunday - 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM
WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE: Monday-Friday at 8:30 AM

REV. ARTUR SOWA, **Pastor**
(asowa@sfaorland.org)

SR. GAEL GENSLER, OSF, **Pastoral Associate**
(ggensler@sfaorland.org)

REV. JAY SUERO, **Associate Pastor**
(jsuero@sfaorland.org)

REV. EDWARD F. UPTON, **Pastor Emeritus**
(edfupton@aol.com)

REV. RICH YOUNG, OSA, **Weekend Presider**

DEACON DANIEL CARROLL, **Permanent Deacon**

DEACON JOHN DONAHUE, **Permanent Deacon**
(jdonahue@sfaorland.org)

DEACON MICHAEL KILEY, **Permanent Deacon**
(mkiley@sfaorland.org)

DEACON TIM McCORMICK, **Permanent Deacon**
(tmccormick@sfaorland.org)

DEACON MICHAEL PINDELSKI, **Permanent Deacon**
(mpindelski@sfaorland.org)

DEACON BRIAN WHITEFORD, **Permanent Deacon**
(bwhiteford@sfaorland.org)

The Parish offices are located in the lower level of the church. Entrance is via the walkway at the west side of the church building. Hours 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday. Evenings and weekends are by appointment. The Chapel is located at the north-east corner of the Church.

ADMINISTRATION Phone: 460-0042, Fax: 460-0136
Office Manager: Paula Belski (pbelski@sfaorland.org)
Director of Facilities: Jim Hahn (jhahn@...)
Parish Accountant: Kathleen Biederman (kbiederman@...)
Receptionists: Ann Carroll (acarroll@...), Teri Sankey (tsankey@...)
Comm. Coordinator: Allison Domenick (adomenick@...)
Liturgy Coordinator: Gina Vitucci (gvitucci@...)
Facilities Maintenance: Monika Czajczyk, Tony Candelaria

MUSIC MINISTRY
Phone: 708-460-9831
Director: Leanne Stoterau (music@sfaorland.org)

YOUTH MINISTRY
Phone: 708-460-0042 (sfyg@sfaorland.org)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

15010 Wolf Rd., Orland Park, IL 60467
Phone: 708-460-0155; **FAX:** 708-460-5086
Dir: Mary Kay Burberry, ext. 240 (mkburberry@sfaorland.org)
Coordinator: Jackie O'Malley, ext. 242 (jomalley@...)
Office Manager: Maureen Krzyminski, ext. 244 (mkrzyminski@...)

The Religious Ed Offices are located in the St. Francis Center, up the hill, west of the church. Religious Ed office hours are Monday thru Thursday, 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM. The Religious Ed offices are closed on Fridays.

CARDINAL JOSEPH BERNARDIN (CJB) SCHOOL
9250 W.167th St., Orland Hills, IL 60487
Phone: 708-403-6525
Principal: Jeanne Pagliaro
Web page: www.cjbschool.org

Our elementary Catholic Regional school is located on the campus of St. Elizabeth Seton parish at 167th & 94th Ave.

REGISTRATION Become a registered member of the parish by completing a registration form which is found in Church.

BECOME A CATHOLIC - R.C.I.A. The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Anyone interested in becoming a Catholic, please contact the parish office at 708-460-0042

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Baptisms can be arranged by appointment. A baptismal conference will be set up with the parents.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Communal celebration of the Sacrament will be held during Advent and Lent. Individual confessions are heard on Saturdays at 9:00 - 9:30 AM to allow time for sanitizing the church before Funerals and Weddings.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE Weddings need to be scheduled at least 4-6 months in advance upon approval of a priest. Couples are reminded to secure the church date before the reception hall. Please check our website for more details.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK Those of advanced age or suffering from a chronic or serious illness are invited to be anointed. A priest is available to offer the Sacrament whether the ill person is at home or in the hospital. Please call 708-460-0042. Anointing will also be offered on Mondays after Morning Mass.