

AFTER JESUS WAS BAPTIZED,
HE CAME UP FROM THE WATER AND BEHOLD,
THE HEAVENS WERE OPENED FOR HIM,
AND HE SAW THE SPIRIT OF GOD
DESCENDING LIKE A DOVE
AND COMING UPON HIM.

MATTHEW 3:16



THE
BAPTISM
OF THE LORD

JANUARY 12, 2020

MORSELS & TIDBITS FROM THE PASTOR



Rev. Artur Sowa, Pastor

January 12, 2020

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.

Sunday gospel in everyday English

Jesus then appeared, arriving at the Jordan River from Galilee. He wanted John to baptize him. John objected, “I’m the one who needs to be baptized, not you!”

But Jesus insisted. “Do it. God’s work, putting things right all these centuries, is coming together right now in this Baptism.” So John did it.

The moment Jesus came up out of the baptismal waters, the skies opened up and he saw God’s Spirit—it looked like a dove—descending and landing on him. And along with the Spirit, a voice: “This is my Son, chosen and marked by my love, delight of my life” (from Matthew 3).

Notes on the Scripture

The celebration of the feast of the Baptism of the Lord concludes the Christmas season. In the Gospel reading, we hear how the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus and how God was “well pleased” with his “beloved Son.” The descent of the Spirit onto Jesus and the voice of God from heaven mark the final epiphanies of the Christmas season.

This provides us a wonderful opportunity to pause for a moment and consider what our own individual baptisms mean to us. Is baptism just about getting to heaven or is there something far deeper behind this gift of water and the Holy Spirit? When Jesus was baptized, God told him he was his Son. When we are baptized, God claims us as his sons and daughters too. What does being baptized mean to you?

Christ Renews His Parish

CRHP Retreat is coming next month, both for men and women. I realize we still try to cool down after the Christmas busyness, but I invite you to consider marking your calendars and joining this retreat. It is a great opportunity to deepen your connection with God and other parishioners. Please check the bulletin or call the office for more information.

Happy Anniversary to our Knights

The Knights of Columbus is the world’s largest Catholic fraternal service organization. Founded by Michael J. McGivney in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1882, it was named in honor of the explorer Christopher Columbus. Originally serving as a mutual benefit society to working-class and immigrant Catholics in the United States, it developed into a fraternal benefit society dedicated to providing charitable services, including war and disaster relief, actively defending Catholicism in various nations, and promoting Catholic education. We are very pleased to have our Council here at SFA as they celebrate their 4th anniversary

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Artur Sowa".

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS

Monday, January 13

- ◆ SWPM, 12:00 pm (GR)
- ◆ Human Concerns Commission, 7:00 pm (GR)

Tuesday, January 14

- ◆ Cancer Support Group, 10:00 am (NR)
- ◆ Prayer Shawl Ministry, 12:30 pm (SFR)
- ◆ Youth Ministry Meet the Parents, 4:00 pm (SFR)
- ◆ Religious Ed, Grades 1-8, 4:30 pm (SFC)
- ◆ Knights of Columbus Officer's Meeting, 6:30 pm (NR)
- ◆ Adult Faith Formation, 7:00 pm (SFR)
- ◆ Religious Ed, Grades 5-8, 7:00 pm (SFC)
- ◆ Knights of Columbus Business Meeting, 7:30 pm (GR)

Wednesday, January 15

- ◆ Overeaters Anonymous (OA) Meeting, 9:30 am (GR)
- ◆ Youth Ministry Meet the Parents, 4:00 pm (SFR)
- ◆ Religious Ed (B), Grades 1-8, 4:30 pm (SFC)
- ◆ Continuation Committee, 7:00 pm (GR)
- ◆ Wedding Workshop, 7:00 pm (CH)

Thursday, January 16

- ◆ St. Vincent de Paul Committee, 7:00 pm (GR)

Friday, January 17

- ◆ Boy Scout Pack 400 Meeting, 6:45 pm (UH)
- ◆ AA Meeting, 7:30 pm (NR)

Saturday, January 18

- ◆ Boy Scout Pack 400 Pit Day, 10:00 am (UH)
- ◆ Marian Movement, 10:00 am (NR)
- ◆ Bring a friend to Church, 5:15 pm Mass & Coffee and... (CH, GR)

Sunday, January 19

- ◆ Bring a friend to Church for all Masses & Coffee and... (CH, GR)
- ◆ Youth Ministry Retreat, 10:00 am (SFC)
- ◆ Boy Scout Pack 400, Pine Wheel Derby, 1:30 pm (UH)

SAVE THE DATE



OPEN HOUSE FOR NEW FAMILIES/NEW STUDENTS

**COME AND VISIT YOUR TWICE-AWARDED BLUE
RIBBON PARISH SCHOOL!
3- and 4-year old Pre-K thru 8th Grade**

Sunday, January 26, 1:00pm -- 3:00pm

Kindergarten (full day) Presentation at 1:15pm

**3- and 4-year old Pre-K (full day and half day)
Presentation at 2:00pm**

**All Grade Levels
(PK-8th Grade)–Tours and Opportunities to
Speak with Teachers**

Plus Visit and Shop the BOOK FAIR!!

**Cardinal Joseph
Bernardin Catholic School
9250 West 167th Street, Orland Hills, IL 60487**

**We are a Christ-centered School for Children in
Grades Pre-K3-8**

**We are a twice-recognized
“Exemplary High Performing
National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence”**

For more information, visit www.cjbschool.org or email
Mrs. Cynthia Devlin at cdevlin@cjbschool.org or telephone
708-403-6525, extension 127



SEE PAGE 4 FOR MORE INFORMATION

EDUCATION & FORMATION COMMISSION

RESPECT LIFE

“An unexpected pregnancy can be a difficult and frightening time, and it’s important that your friend knows you are thinking of her and supporting her. ... don’t forget the most important thing is to pray. Even if it’s just a quick two-second prayer, prayer is the most effective way we can help. Pray for her, for her child, and for guidance in how you can give her the best possible support.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
“10 Ways to Support Her When She’s Unexpectedly Expecting” (www.respectlife.org/support-her)

INTERNET SAFETY NIGHT

Parents are invited to join us as we continue Cardinal Joseph Bernardin School’s theme of “Internet Safety” this year. A representative from the Illinois Attorney General’s Office will present information on Cyberbullying and how to keep your child safe while online. We will have a panel discussion with CJB Alum and a presentation from Allstate Insurance on Internet Safety. To wrap-up the night, expert and author Diana Graber will be speaking with us, providing more information on the topic. We hope to see you there!

January 16, 2020
6:30pm-8:30pm
Cardinal Bernardin School
9250 167th Street
Orland Hills, IL

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Catholic School is a
TWICE Recognized Exemplary High Performing National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

WE ARE YOUR PARISH SCHOOL!

OPEN HOUSE – SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020

1pm-3pm

Am I eligible to attend Cardinal Bernardin School? Where is it located?

CJB is a “regional” Catholic school sponsored by St. Francis of Assisi, St. Julie Billiart, St. Stephen Deacon & Martyr, and St. Elizabeth Seton. CJB also welcomes children from other parishes, as well as children from households whose parents are seeking a Christ-centered educational environment. Please share this news with your neighbors and friends! CJB is adjacent to St. Elizabeth Seton Parish – at 9250 W. 167th Street in Orland Hills.

Do you have Pre-K and Kindergarten classes?

Yes! We offer half-day and full-day 3PK and 4PK! Kindergarten is full-day. Half-day 3PK is Monday-Thursday (select either 7:40a-10:40a or 11:40a-2:40p.) Half-day 4PK is Monday-Friday (select the AM or the PM option). Our full-day PK and Kindergarten programs are, of course, Monday-Friday. Full-day hours are 7:40a until 2:40p. CJB Administration reserves the right to combine 3- and 4-year old Pre-K students if class sizes warrant doing so.

Where and when may I get registration materials? How do I register?

“Open registration” is happening now! We will accept applications until all spaces are filled. Our registration application is available online at www.cjbschool.org. To register, submit the online application, then mail (USPS) or drop off an *original* birth and baptismal certificate (*originals will be returned*), and a family registration fee of \$250. For Grades 1-8, include a copy of the 2019-20 first semester report card and all standardized test scores.

What is the tuition fee?

Parishioner tuition for 2020-21 will be announced soon. Current year in-parish tuition (K-8) is \$5,400. Non-parishioner tuition is \$6,320. Full-day 3PK and 4PK is \$5,785. Half-day 3PK tuition is \$3,125. Half-day 4PK tuition is \$3,700.

Is Financial Aid available?

Financial aid is available for qualifying in-parish families (K-8). When you complete our online application, you will have an opportunity to complete the financial aid application. Financial applications must be submitted by mid-March.

Is there a “Before and After School” Program?

Our Extended Day Program opens at 6:30a and closes when the school day begins; it re-opens at 2:40p and closes for the night at 6:00p. The hourly-rate (\$8/hr for one child; \$10/hr for two or more children) is invoiced monthly. All registered students may attend the Extended Day Program.

When may I register?

Registration for new families is happening RIGHT NOW.

Additional questions may be directed to the Director of Enrollment, Cynthia Devlin, at 708-403-6525 ext. 127 ...or via email at cdevlin@cjbschool.org Call Mrs. Devlin to arrange a tour!



Christmas 2019



Thank you to our 4th Graders for sharing the Christmas Gospel Story on Christmas Eve. And the PARENTS that helped with the children.

Jeffrey Bryant, Landen Cooper, Brayden & Sydney Czerniuk, James Deneen, Adrian Duncan, Olivia Healy, Claire Hosty, Leo Nemes, Molly Piko, Martin Pikula, Collin Plouzek, Emily & Hailey Ratkovich



A special THANK YOU to Richie Pikula for helping with the lights; to our Altar Servers Hailey and John Dwyer, Alex and Andrew Lubinski; and to our wonderful CHILDRENS CHOIR that helped us tell the Christmas Story.

The "Angel Fund" Collection January 25/26

Five years ago, CJB's sponsoring parishes began a special collection known as the "Angel Fund." This collection is taken up one weekend during the year at the start of Catholic Schools Week. The Angel Fund is meant to assist parishioner families who may need a bit of help in sending their children to CJB. Last year, nearly 20% of our students received some type of financial aid from various sources.

As you would understand, many other families are in need. CJB is so very grateful to our sponsoring parishes who subsidize each student who attends CJB. Any donation you are able to make is greatly appreciated! **This special collection will take place the weekend of January 25 and 26.**

Thank you for your kindness.



A voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

-Matthew 3:17
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SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI
X-TREME
 YOUTH MINISTRY
 ENCOUNTER CHRIST BE A DISCIPLE

**8th Grade
 Come
 and See**

Sunday January 12
 7:00-9:00PM
 Youth Room (Lower
 Level of Church)
 No Registration, No
 commitment, just come
 and see.



SFA Youth Ministry...
*Where Teens
 Encounter Christ and
 live their faith as
 disciples of Jesus.*

*Because you are just
 as much a part of the
 Body of Christ as
 everyone else.*

Come and See...
 A night for 8th
 graders to check out
 SFA Youth Ministry

- ♥ Prayer Experiences
- ♥ Explore your Faith:
- ♥ Fun: Kahoot, The Ball Pit, and more.
- ♥ Friends: Everyone is welcome.
- ♥ Food

**Come and
 See 2**

A second night
 for 8th graders to
 check out
SFA Youth Ministry:

**Sunday January 19 in
 St. Francis Center**

6:00 PM dinner
 7:00 PM Games
 7:30 Adoration
 8:00 Reconciliation
 8:30 Free Time
 9:00 Go Forth

That's Deep

Teen Sharing & Lunch
 Sunday January 12, & 26
 @ 11:30 AM in Youth
 Room



**REFLECTION
 FROM NCYC 2019**

By, Cecilia Kolbash

I decided to go on this NCYC trip not really having any idea what to expect, besides the fact that there would be thousands of people, lots of walking, and long but fun days. I knew the three other girls I was going with, but not too well, and I didn't really know what to expect from

this trip or what I would gain. I was a bit nervous in the beginning to be going to an unfamiliar place with people who I really only knew the surface of. But, when I got there, everything changed. I got to know the girls I went with more, and now we are all close. I met so many new people and learned so much. I went to workshops and keynotes that really spoke to me, and I stood in a stadium with 20,000 people and worshiped, and cried, and laughed. But, most importantly I learned so much about myself and my relationship with God.

On the last day, I was asked: "What's one thing you would use to describe this trip?" I said creme brulee. At first, I won't lie, I only said this because I really wanted some creme brulee. But, when I started talking about it, it made sense. Creme brulee, is like a cream covered with a hard caramelized top, that you have to break open to get to the good stuff, or at least I think that. This resembled my trip to NCYC because I really had to break out of my comfort zone, and stop sitting on the surface to really indulge in the good things and lessons I was going to learn, and the fun I was going to have. When I first arrived, as I said, I was nervous, this entire trip was going to be out of my comfort zone, as I don't like crowds, loud noises, and really trying new things is hard for me sometimes. So the first day I was there, I was kidding just skimming the surface, staying where I was comfortable, and not really taking much in as I could. Yes, I was having fun, but I wasn't really taking in the whole experience. Then, the second day is where it all changed for me. We went to the keynotes, and I got to really know the girls I went with. The keynotes really spoke to me, and I had lots of fun. But, what really changed this trip for me was adoration. It was



one of the most beautiful things I have ever experienced, I could really feel God's presence, and it was prominent that so many other people in that stadium could too. I was bawling my eyes out, and really opening myself up to God more than ever before, and I have typically always given myself to God, and have always followed him. But, this adoration, this moment, was different. And that's when I broke through the surface, and from then on, went out of my comfort zone, and really gained a full understanding, of why I was supposed to be there, and I learned so much about myself. And throughout the rest of the trip, with the other keynotes, walking around, singing songs with hundreds of other people as we walked down the streets, getting to know the lovely, wholehearted girls I went with, to hearing stories, sharing moments, all the way to the closing mass, I had never felt more alive, or more sure of who I was and my relationship with God, than in those moments.

So, all in all, if you get the chance to go to NCYC, do it. Even if it's out of your comfort zone, or you're not sure. Simply do it. Break the surface, break out of your comfort zone, and go. Because it will be some of the best, most appreciated moments of your life. Words can't describe what this trip has done for me, and for tons of other people, because it truly changes your life and your relationship with God. As it did for me.

HUMAN CONCERNS COMMISSION

Creation Care Corner



*"... to defend the earth
and to safeguard water
is to protect life."*

— Pope Francis

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP RECOMMENDATION:

Plastic waste is a huge and growing problem. Only 9% of the 9 billion tons of plastic produced has been recycled. There is very little demand for the plastic you do recycle. 40 % of all plastic is designed to be used once and tossed. Plastic doesn't decompose easily and can last 100s of years. The waste clogs landfills and waterways, and poses hazards to animals and fish life. It breaks up into ever smaller microplastics getting into our air and food chain with unknown health effects.

What you can do:

- Say NO to single-use plastic. Carry your own cups, bags, to-go containers, utensils and forget the straws.
- Say NO to bottled water and pop. Carry refillables.
- Choose more biodegradable/recyclable materials like glass, paper, cardboard and metal instead of plastic... and then recycle those items.
- Avoid products with excessive packaging, excessive plastic packaging, and parts. If it leaves behind plastic trash, try not to buy it.

Recycle what you can't refuse, reduce or reuse.

KNOWLEDGE & PRAYER SERIES
2020

MASS FOR LIFE



SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2020
5:30 P.M.

ST. MICHAEL PARISH
14327 HIGHLAND, ORLAND PARK



SPONSORED BY THE MULTI-PARISH RESPECT LIFE MINISTRIES OF
Our Lady of the Woods - St. Francis of Assisi - St. Michael - St. Bernard's -
Our Mother of Good Counsel - Annunciation Byzantine Catholic



Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Academy in Freeport Grand Bahama has reopened, but many of the homes of students there were destroyed by the hurricane.

Safe drinking water is expected to be available by June 2020. The church and school are also serving as a distribution site for the island.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!



First Look for Charity – February 7

Cruise on over to First Look for Charity, the exclusive preview night of the Chicago Auto Show, at McCormick Place in **Chicago** on **Friday, February 7**. Join Catholic Charities private, pre-event reception at 5:30 p.m. and

enjoy cocktails, gourmet food, musical entertainment, private coat check, and raffle. The Auto Show floor opens from 7 to 11 p.m. with live entertainment, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, an all-access pass to the premier display of

vehicles and a chance to win a new car.

Proceeds benefit Catholic Charities Maternity and Adoption programs and Neighbors in Need Fund. Tickets are \$275 per person. Be sure to select Catholic Charities

of the Archdiocese of Chicago when purchasing your ticket. The dress code is black-tie, and tuxedo attire is mandatory for men. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.catholiccharities.net/firstlook.

Adult Faith Formation

AROUND FOR AWHILE, by Fr. Ed Upton

Currently, the Archdiocese is engaged in a process called **Renew My Church**. There are a number of significant concerns that required the establishment of this project. Every parish will be involved and all have been grouped to work with neighboring parishes. Planning will be done in these groupings; dates have been given when each parish grouping will begin specific planning. Much is involved, but I will not go into the details in this reflection; that information will be provided to each parish and parishioners before their individual process begins.

I want to reflect on one concern that was an impetus for **Renew My Church**: the decline in the number of active priests. This decline has occurred in the United States, Canada, and Europe. The question facing the church is: how will we pass on the faith with fewer and older priests? These are my reflections and may or may not be shared by all.

The decline in priests has been, over the years, gradual and slow. Today, the shortage is obvious. Just to set the picture: when I was ordained in 1969, 38 men were ordained for the Archdiocese; in 2019, 8 priests were ordained.

In **Renew my Church**, one of the strategies studied has been to explore the feasibility of the consolidation of parishes. In this scenario,

two parishes are joined as one, with a single pastor. Each parish church may remain open for sacramental use, but the organizational elements are merged to form a new canonical parish. The process is more complicated than this, but I briefly describe it because this is one way to deal with the priest shortage.

My thought here is simply to look at the current priesthood shortage; I provide no solution.

At the center of every parish, is the Eucharist. The expectation of the church is that Catholics gather weekly as a community; that community formed around the Lord's Table. We listen to the Word of God and are nourished by His Body and Blood. We join in song and response. We become a community of faith and prayer; this community nourishes us to reach out in lived out faith.

It is my belief that the leader of the community (parish) needs, by definition, to be the one who gathers the community in the Eucharistic celebration – the Mass. By virtue of this responsibility and mission, he is the leader. That specific leadership does not mean he does everything, knows everything, but it does designate the principal focus of the parish and the person who has the spiritual and temporal responsibility. But while this pastoral responsi-

bility is clear, the church demands these clergy responsibilities are shared. He is the leader who gathers and shares.

In these days of decline, some have asked can the understanding of priesthood be expanded. The questions usually are – will married priests be allowed? Can deacons be priests? Will women be ordained?

Regarding priests being married - a few Protestant ministers have chosen to become Roman Catholic priests. In some cases, they were married. The church has ordained them and they remained and serve in parishes. In some parts of the Catholic community, the possibility of married priests is under study.

To state the obvious, deacons as deacons are not priests and so they do not share the same ministries as a priest. This is not meant to be a negative, just to describe the reality. A deacon may be a parish administrator, but that should be temporary. Of course, if a deacon wishes to be ordained a priest, after additional study, that is possible.

Will women be ordained priests? I do not know. Currently, the church stands in opposition. Who can predict the future?

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER AND LECTOR TRAINING

Training for New Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors – Part 1

Monday, January 13
7-9 PM

Training for New Eucharistic Ministers – Part 2

Monday, January 20
7-9:30 PM

Training for New Lectors – Part 2

Monday, January 27
7-9:30 PM

Part 1 is the same for both Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers.
New Eucharistic Ministers must attend on **both January 13 and 20**.
New Lectors must attend on **both January 13 and 27**.
If you wish to join both ministries, you must attend all three evenings.

Please register with **Pat** in the Worship Office at pchuchla@saintmike.com
or 708-873-4652.

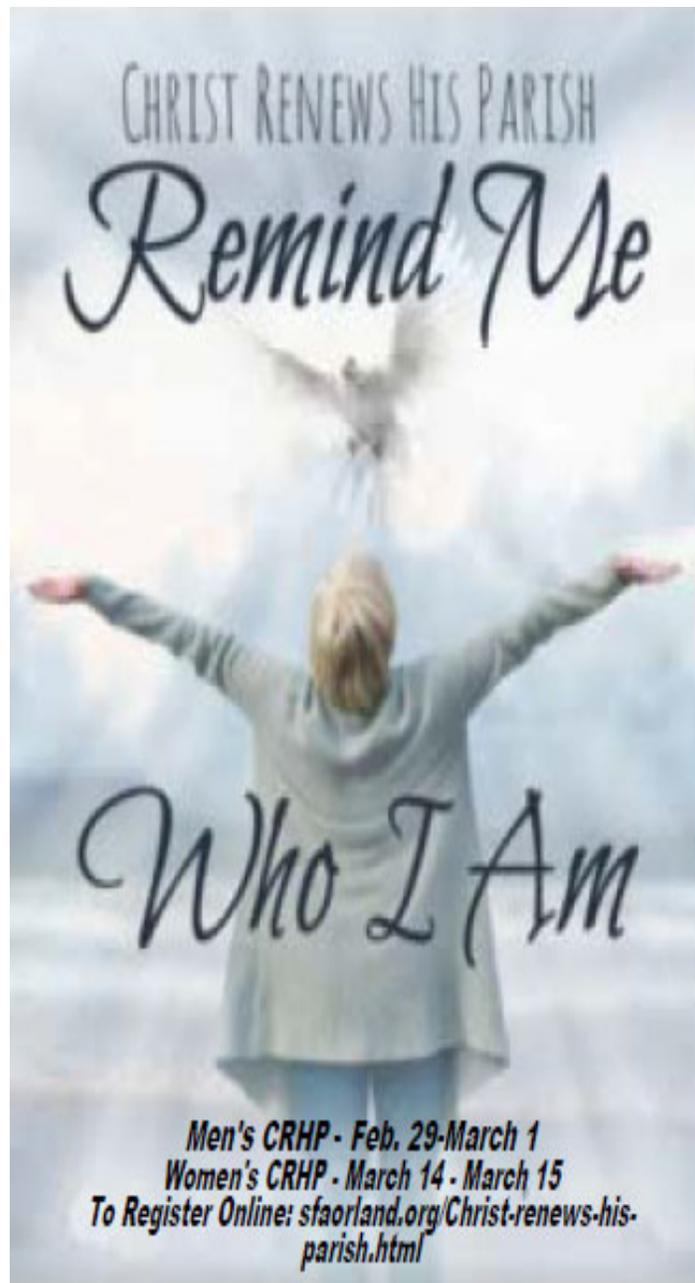
ARE YOU INTERESTED in becoming a MINISTER OF PRAISE?

What does it mean?

As a Minister of Praise you promise to pray and offer your sacrifices and sufferings and joys for the needs of the parish, the universal church and all prayer requests listed in our parish book of intercessions (located near the chapel).

The pastor or designated parish staff member sends all ministers of praise a letter each month naming specific prayer intentions for that month. All parishioners are assured of being prayed for daily.

To Apply simply complete a form (located in the narthex pamphlet rack) and drop it off at the office or place in the collection basket. Thank you for considering this wonderful ministry.



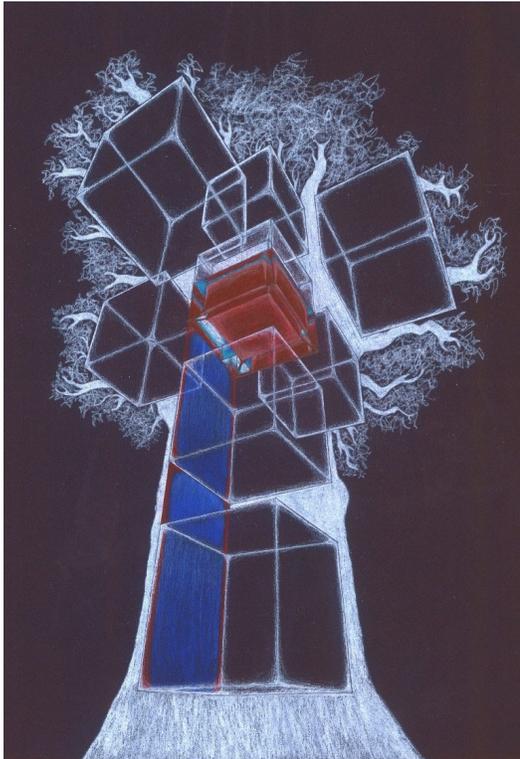
ART & THEOLOGY: My Ruminations on the Good, the True, and the Beautiful

By, Rev. Jay Suero

Something is "beautiful only because the delight that it arouses in us is founded upon the fact that, in it, the truth and goodness of the depths of reality itself are manifested and bestowed, and this manifestation and bestowal reveal themselves to us as being something infinitely and inexhaustibly valuable and fascinating." (Hans Urs von Balthasar)

True beauty draws us out of ourselves toward the transcendent. The more beautiful an encounter is, the more the divine presence is made manifest to us. Thus, there is none more beautiful than that of the Incarnation of Christ. My hope with my drawings is to point to that fundamental importance of beauty as a vehicle to journey into the mind of God.

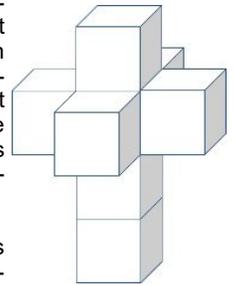
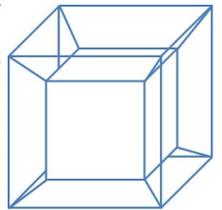
Every month I will share an art piece of mine along with a description of the theological reflection that went into it so as to hopefully provoke theological reflection of our own.



Arbor Vitae Hypercubus

The name is Latin for Hypercube Tree of Life. In this drawing I went back to geometric symbolism. The cube can be seen as a symbol for the Trinity. The basic formula of the Trinity is that it consists of three persons yet is one divine substance. The number one, cubed ($1 \times 1 \times 1$) is still one. The cube is also a heavenly symbol. The inner sanctuary of the Temple in the Old Testament, the Holy of Holies, where the Ark of the Covenant was kept and where the presence of God manifested had cubic dimensions (1 Kgs 6:20). The New Jerusalem, the Kingdom of God, the heavenly reality that awaits us is also described in cubic dimensions in Revelations 21:16. The cube in some sense represented perfection with its equal sides and equal proportions.

Taking inspiration from Salvador Dali's *Corpus Hypercubus* (Hypercube Body in Latin) I wanted to work with the idea of the hypercube. A hypercube is a 4 dimensional object (top-right picture). To conceptualize this, think of zero dimensions as a single point. 1 dimension consists of two points connected together forming a line. 2 dimensions consist of two lines connected together forming a square. 3 dimensions consist of two squares connected together forming a cube. Theoretically then, 4 dimensions consist of two cubes connected together forming a hypercube. However, because we can only perceive things at most three dimensionally, we cannot actually perceive a 4 dimensional object. On the other hand, just as we can take a cube, unfold it, and lay out the six sides that have been formed in the cube flat in order to perceive it in a 2 dimensional way, we can also take a hypercube, unfold it, and lay out the 8 cubes that have been formed in the hypercube spatially in order to perceive it in a 3 dimensional way (bottom-right picture). Dali's painting illustrated a hypercube unfolded with Christ crucified in front of it. He used this concept as a symbol of the incarnation in which God, who transcends our reality, enters into the lower reality of humanity to make his transcendent reality known to us through our own flesh.



For this drawing I used both models of the hypercube (folded and unfolded). The unfolded model, with the 7 cubes surrounding though completely separate from the center 8th cube, illustrates God's transcendence beyond our human reality. At the same time the folded model, with all the cubes within the center cube, illustrates God's immanence within our reality especially through the incarnation in which God now walks among men allowing Himself to be known through the person of Jesus Christ.

Also, looking at the folded hypercube, imagine its construction. You would draw a cube and then a smaller cube within it and then to form the hypercube you would connect the corners together with a line. I imagined this as an analogy of the incarnation as well. The larger cube is our cubic reality and the smaller cube within it represents God entering our cubic reality becoming a cube like one of us. When he does this he connects our reality to himself and draws us into the transcendent reality of God just as the two cubes connect themselves together by the corners they immediately transcend into a higher dimensional object becoming a hypercube.

Something else going on in the drawing is that the folded hypercube in the middle is half filled with water. Under the surface of the water are all these refractions giving this a sense of chaos, but as you rise above the water there is this transformation into a pure and simple cube. There is also this transition from different colors to the color white. White is a transcendent color because it encapsulates the wavelengths of all other colors. So this movement from below to above the surface is a symbol of transformation from our human reality to the divine reality through the waters of baptism.

Furthermore, below the surface of the water the center cube is covered in blood as a symbol of the heart of Jesus. This blood and water pour out from the side of it making reference to Christ's divine mercy on the cross. It is also a reference to the temple in Ezekiel where water flowed out from its side and how blood from the temple sacrifices flowed from the side as well, identifying Christ with the temple. Before Christ, the temple was the place of worship, for the presence of God dwelt there. However, Christ has identified himself as the new temple to whom we now bring our worship for he is the very presence of God made visible to us.

Lastly, surrounding all these geometric figures is the form of a tree to give it a more organic feel. This is in reference to the tree of life spoken of in Revelations 22:1-2. Christ's crucifixion on the cross is sometimes referenced by early Church Fathers (such as St. Irenaeus) as his death on a tree which bore the fruit of salvation. It stands in direct contrast to Adam and Eve who took the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil which allowed death to enter into the world. Instead through Jesus and this new tree, the tree of life, eternal life has now entered into the world making death obsolete.

PARISH LIFE COMMISSION



BUNCO RETURNS

WHEN: 2ND AND 4TH
THURSDAYS OF THE
MONTH

NEXT MEETING: January
23, 2020

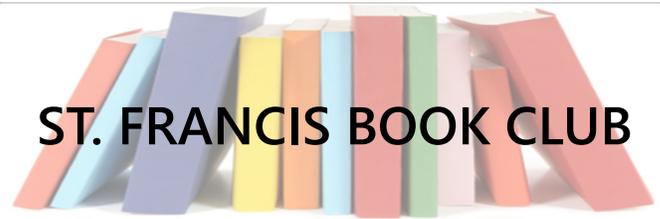
TIME: 1:00 – 3:00 pm

WHERE: GREAT ROOM

WHAT: INFORMAL BUNCO

SFA: PARISH WILL PROVIDE DICE AND
SCORE CARDS

YOU: BRING A SNACK TO SHARE AND A DE-
SIRE TO HAVE FUN



ST. FRANCIS BOOK CLUB

The SFA Book Club meets the third Tuesday
of the month at
1:00 pm in the Niehaus Room

The book for January 21, 2020 is
The Whole Town's Talking
by, Fannie Flagg

The book selected for February 18, 2020 is
Becoming
by, Michelle Obama

The SFA Book Club always welcomes
new members.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Invites All Parishioners to BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH

All Masses - January 18th and 19th 2020

This is our continued effort to share our Catholic faith with those in our community!

Jesus calls all of us to be his Disciples; to spread the Good News and invite others to share in our worship.

Following each Mass there will be a COFFEE AND... in the Great Room to continue our fellowship.

If available, please drop off a food item to share in the Great Room prior to each Mass.



**The Social Committee
at St. Francis of Assisi
cordially invites you to attend
our Polish Polka Dance on
February 1, 2020.**

Please come for an evening of dinner,
dancing and fellowship!

Dinner will promptly be served immediately
following the 5:15pm mass.

Music will be provided by Bernie II Polka Generations
from 7pm-11pm.

Tickets will be on sale the weekends of
January 18, 19 and 25, 26.

Tickets: \$20 per person, includes a Polish dinner catered by
Polonia Banquets. Menu to be served: Wild Rice Stuffed
Chicken Breast, Stuffed Cabbage, Polish Sausage, Potato
Dumplings, Sauerkraut and California Blend Vegetables),
dessert and coffee.

Cash bar for beer, wine and soft drinks.
No tickets will be sold at the door.

KNIGHT'S CORNER

Tootsie Roll Drive Recap

Thank you to all those who purchased a tootsie roll during our event in the Fall. With your generous donations the Knights of Columbus, we were able to donate several hundred dollars to each of the following local charities: Shady Oaks Cerebral Palsy Camp, Carl Sandburg High School Occupational Intellectual Program, and the Village of Orland Park – Park District Special Recreation Program.

Without your continued support, the Knights of Columbus would not be able to support such great organizations. We are humbled by your generosity and sincerely appreciate it.



Interested in joining the Knights?
Contact:
JoinKofC16369@gmail.com

SICK RELATIVES & FRIENDS

Names of sick relatives and friends normally appear in the bulletin for 6 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.

Mariola Baron
John Brogan
Mary Calhoun
Rita Costanzo
Dylan Dryer
Jeanine Duda
Rochello Gonzalzo
Patricia Hebda
Louis Kearns
Vera Kelly
Virginia Lesnet
Debbie Lipien
Sylvia Lukas
Rosemary Odewald
Giovanna Picciolini
Marge Stevens
Louis Tassone
Denise Umporowicz
Carl Walsh
Delphine Zielinski

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 11

5:15 PM Rose Koetzle, rq. by The Family and William Arzbaecher, rq. by Family and Helen Capriglione, rq. by Jim & Cathy Arzbaecher and Camille Drage, rq. by Jim & Cathy Arzbaecher and Jose Nieto, rq. by Debbie & Bob Tucker

Sunday, January 12

7:30 AM Marie Jeanne Skorup, rq. by Emil Skorup and Mark Bennecke, rq. by Marje Curran and Mary T. Foley, rq. by Mike & Tom Foley

9:00 AM Schweiger & Norris Families, rq. by the Family and Helen Capriglione, rq. by Kay & Jerry Saletta and Charles (Guy) Spagnoli, rq. by Kay & Jerry Saletta and Thomas Gallagher, rq. by Ray & Marian Peregoy

10:30 AM Frank Zito, rq. by Barb Moser and Denny Niswonger, rq. by Leanne & Jim Hahn and Ralph Tassone, rq. by John & Sheila Pacholski and Genoveva de Leon, rq. by Rosalinda Santos and Nicanor de Leon, rq. by Rosalinda Santos

12:00 PM People of St. Francis

Monday, January 13

7:45 AM People of St. Francis

Tuesday, January 14

7:45 AM People of St. Francis

Wednesday, January 15

7:45 AM Cosmo & Pauline Ciarrocchi, rq. by Family and Tyler Burnett, rq. by Kathleen Matthews (Grandma)

Thursday, January 16

7:45 AM Mary T. Foley, rq. by Mike & Tom Foley

Friday, January 17

7:45 AM Dorothy Gensler, rq. by Family

Saturday, January 18

5:15 PM Leon Czub, rq. by Family and Dennis Niswonger, rq. by Jan Ota and Hlen Capriglione, rq. by Dolores Grekowicz and Anatasia & Joseph Sopata, rq. by John & Virginia Zbos and Lauren Zbalinger, rq. by Debbie & Bob Tucker

Sunday, January 19

7:30 AM Marie Jeanne Skorup, rq. by Emil Skorup and Mary T. Foley, rq. by Mike & Tom Foley, Dennis Niswonger, rq. by Regina Knapp and Helen Capriglione, rq. by Bill & Ann Carroll and Marie & Bob Burns, rq. by Dave & Mary Burns

9:00 AM People of St. Francis

10:30 AM People of St. Francis

12:00 PM Florence & Joseph Chiappetta, rq. by Phyllis Napoles and William Kennedy, rq. by Mary Ellen Kozeluh and Elizabeth Vaicaitis, rq. by McGovern Family and Sharon Hajik, rq. by John & Sheila Pacholski and Zephyr Lyric, rq. by Brindza Family



*In Our
Thoughts
and Prayers*



Tom
Dryer

Zuzanna
Jaskula

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-19; Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17

Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Please visit the St. Francis Liturgical Minister Web Terminal for the most up to date schedule or to volunteer.

	January 18 5:15 PM (Mass)	January 19 7:30 AM (Mass)	January 19 9:00 AM (Mass)	January 19 10:30 AM (Mass)	January 19 12:00 PM (Mass)
Presider	Rev. Rich Young	Rev. Artur Sowa	Fr. Jay Suero	Rev. Artur Sowa	Fr. Jay Suero
Deacon	Mike Kiley	John Donahue	Daniel Carroll	Michael Pindelski	Mike Kiley
Sacristan	Ann Czarny	Dolores Grekowitz	Kathleen Biederman	Marjorie Curran	Jean Nielsen
Lector	Pat Trebe (1) (sub requested) Diania Kufra (2)	Gerald Saletta (1) Richard Klein (2)	Betty Kameron (1) Vincent Pryor (2)	Lynn Pajon (1) John Pacholski (2)	Nancy Palacz (1) Warren Winker (2)
Eucharistic Minister	Mary Burmeister Ann Czarny Lisa Kacerovskis Mike Kiley Lorraine Martenson Katherine Nicholson Cynthia Patrick Peter Piazza Alice Rzeszutko Richard Rzeszutko Tricia Vidinich Rev. Rich Young	Paula Belski Kathleen Boland John Donahue Michael Doyle Patricia Doyle Lisa Freisleben Dolores Grekowitz James Pedersen Rev. Artur Sowa Dominic Zambuto	Steve Alessi Harriet Antkiewicz Kathleen Biederman Daniel Carroll Nancy Celeski Jocelyn Mangila Cheryl Pryor Casimir (Casey) Pytel Fr. Jay Suero Judee Tan David Trzesniewski Anthony Vassolo	Rita Beckwith Michael Curran Linda Higgins Rob Klein Toni Klein Sharon Moe Janice Ota Sheila Pacholski Michael Pindelski Mary Ann Schillaci Rev. Artur Sowa Brian Whiteford	Cathy Kara Mike Kiley Robert Long Jean Nielsen Marilyn O'Sullivan Joan Ondrus (sub requested) Margaret Sabadosa Fr. Jay Suero Carmelita Tangonan (sub requested) Thomas Wieczorek
Altar Server	Gianna Elizondo Nicholas Elizondo Jayden Tan	Moira Conway Mark Freisleben Nicole Freisleben	Kathleen Johnson Jimmy Piko Brendan Siemiawski (sub requested)	Anthony Picciolini Chris Vittori Gabi Vittori	Patrick Curran Josh Kane Ryan Kane
Usher	Joe Czarny (HU) Nancy Sullivan Lawrence McGrenera Renee Farrell Mike Zoladz Roxanne Zoladz	Martin Powers (HU) (sub requested) Luke Hosty Bud Wyman Mary Ann Wyman	Wayne Kameron (HU) Lori Simard Brian Barrett Roger Malinowski Diane Mackowiak Peter Walsh	Wade Walder (HU) John Higgins John Higgins, Jr. Gregory Fifer George Kelley James Winters	Don (David) Hodson (HU) Rosalie Hodson Laura Tucco Marianne Laff

Parish Stewardship

	<u>01/05/2019</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Budgeted	\$ 23,480.00	\$ 633,960.00
Collected	<u>\$ 27,114.00</u>	<u>\$ 627,964.00</u>
Net	\$ 3634.00	(\$ 5,996.00)

Please consider signing up for electronic giving.

Go to our website, www.sfaorland.org and press the "Donate Now" button.

You can also use the yellow form in your envelope packet or call the office to sign up: 708-460-0042

HOLY MATRIMONY

With joy, we announce the marriage of

Anthony Olivo & Julianne Bartosz
December 31, 2019

May your lives always be blessed with God's love!



We joyfully welcomed the following children into our Christian Community:

January 5, 2020

Oliver Marek Stepien
Son Marek Stepien & Anita Bieszke

Sambor Marek Stepien
Son of Marek Stepien & Anita Bieszke

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Community

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

MASS SCHEDULE: Saturday - 5:15 PM; Sunday - 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 PM and Monday-Friday at 7:45 AM

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

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

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

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

DEACON DANIEL CARROLL, **Permanent Deacon**
(dcarroll@sfaorland.org)

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

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

DEACON MICHAEL PINDELSKI, **Permanent Deacon**
(mpindelski@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 8:30 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 & Operations: Jim Hahn (jhahn@...)
Parish Accountant: Kathleen Biederman (kbiederman@...)
Receptionists: Marge Curran (mcurran@...) & Ann Carroll (acarroll@...)
Comm. Coordinator: Allison Domenick (adomenick@...)
Liturgy Coordinator: Gina Vitucci (gvitucci@...)
Facilities Maintenance: Monika Czajczyk, Al Becker
P.T./Weekend Maintenance: Eric Franklin, Michael Higgins, Kevin Moe, Ryan Reid, Ryan Johnson
Bulletin Editor: Jill Hickey Topf (bulletin@sfaorland.org)

MUSIC Phone: 708-460-9831
Director: Leanne Stoterau (music@sfaorland.org)
Assistant Director: Anne Madden
Accompanist: James Draudt
Children's Choir Co-Director: Anne Hayes

Religious Education Cantor: Angela Reynolds (remusic@...)
Cantor for Parish Funerals, Weddings: Gina Vitucci

YOUTH MINISTRY
Phone: 708-460-0042
Youth Minister: Matt Toohill (sfyg@sfaorland.org)

The Religious Ed Offices are located in the St. Francis Center, up the hill, west of the church. Religious Ed office hours ar Monday thru Thursday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM. The Religious Ed offices are closed on Fridays.

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@...)

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

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 Baptism usually takes place on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month at 1:30 PM. Prior to the Baptism, parents need to call the office to make arrangements. A baptismal conference will be set up with the parents.

CARDINAL JOSEPH BERNARDIN CATHOLIC SCHOOL Our elementary Catholic regional school is located on the campus of St. Elizabeth Seton parish at 167th & 94th Ave. For registration information, contact the school at 708-403-6525.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Sessions are held on alternating Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays for Grades K-8, and on Saturdays for Grades 1-8, at the St. Francis Center (on the hill). Grades K-4 meet from 4:30 to 6:00 PM and grades 4-8 meet from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Saturday sessions meet from 8:30 - 10:00 AM. Children's Liturgy of the Word meets on Sundays during the 9 & 10:30 AM Masses for children 4-year-olds to 4th grade, September-April. Call 708-460-0155 for more information.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Communal celebration of the Sacrament will be held during Advent and Lent. Individual confessions are heard on Saturdays at 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM.

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 Anointing is celebrated every Monday, immediately after the 7:45 AM Mass. 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.