Notes from Fr. John

Today we celebrate the Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. Once again, these November readings at the end of the Church year speak to us about the end times whether personal, our death, or corporate, the end of the world. In either case there are some things we can learn from the readings. First, we need to be prepared to meet God on any day. We do not know when we will be called home to God, so live each day as if it is the last. Secondly are good works will be a sign that we are on the right path. Our works do not buy us salvation; Jesus Christ did that for us by dying on the cross. But our actions, attitudes and words show God and the world that we have either accepted Jesus’ gift or not. Let us not be surprised when the end comes.

When Cardinal Cupich decided to make all of our church property in the Archdiocese of Chicago gun free, it caused much conversation and talk. What is fascinating is that very little concerns the loss of life each and every day in this country, but rather the conversation centers on the right to bear arms. After the church killings in Texas the Cardinal was once again asked about security. Here is some of his response; “Cupich called the church shooting the height of insanity and called for legislation banning high-powered weapon. We don’t need military weapons in our society. We’re not supposed to be at war with one another. Let’s make sure we don’t have weapons to declare war on each other. The reason after so many mass shootings that such weapons are still available, Cupich said, is greed. Quite frankly, its because there’s too much money; this is very lucrative business, he said. And let’s not be naive about it, this is a money issue. And it is not thinking about the Second Amendment. It is about people who want to make money on these weapons and really don’t care about the human cost.” We have included Cardinal Cupich’s official statement in this bulletin.

I guess I have two things to add to the Cardinal’s response. First, I agree with the Cardinal that more money and not less has to be allocated for mental health. But to claim all the death in this country is attributed to mental health is false. The second piece is we choose to idolize gun ownership and refuse to legislate sensible gun control. I have never met a skilled hunter who has fought for semi automatic weapons to kill a deer or take down a turkey. Until we choose to demand more of our legislators, daily violence will be a way of life for us and our children.

Finally, this week we invite you to two celebrations to offer thanks to God for the blessings we have received. The first will be this Tuesday at 7:00 PM at St. Kieran. The choirs and parishioners of St. Agnes, St. Kieran and St. Irenaeus parishes will join together for prayer and song. If you can, you are encouraged to bring hats, mittens or gloves for those in need. The second is our Thanksgiving Mass at 9:00 AM on Thanksgiving morning. Start the holiday by giving thanks to God with family and friends.
Statement of Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, on the Sutherland Springs, Texas Tragedy  
November 6, 2017

Once again, we must extend our condolences to families suffering the horrific loss of loved ones to an act of madness. It would dishonor those lost and those who mourn to simply participate in the routine exchange of sympathies underpinned by the sense of futility and hopelessness that has befallen our country.

We must recognize that the factors that produce these tragedies will not change unless we take direct action to change them.

Comprehensive national gun control policies will not prevent every shooting, but it will prevent some.

Access to mental health care — in legislation founded on the principle that health care is a right not a privilege — will not prevent every shooting but it will prevent some and will mean we will have fewer podium speeches about our thoughts and prayers.

Let it be our firm resolve to act and to advocate and to end this hideous blot upon our nation.

Honor the memories of the many thousands of gun violence victims by holding accountable those who could have done something and did not, who called for study instead of steps toward progress, and who gave those Pope Francis has called merchants of death more regard than the dead children, the dead men and women we mourn today.

The time to demand action is now.

CONGRATULATIONS AND SALUTATIONS!

We send out our best wishes to Karla Porrata, who received the Chicago Heights Rotary Club Student of the Month (November) Award on November 9, 2017. Karla was nominated by her teachers for this prestigious honor, which was conferred during the monthly Chicago Heights Rotary Club Luncheon held at Olympia Fields Country Club.

Karla is a student at Bloom Trail High School in Chicago Heights enjoying her sophomore year of studies, majoring in mathematics and science, and maintaining a 4.78 GPA. She is a current member of the NJRROTC (Naval Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps) with the rank of PO2C (Petty Officer Second Class.) Parishioners are sure to know Karla, and her sister (Leilany), as they are former students of St. Kieran Catholic School, serve as acolytes at Mass and liturgies, and volunteer to serve at our special events.

Kudos to Karla! Keep up the good work! Your parish family is very proud of you!
The combined Choirs of St. Agnes, St. Irenaeus, and St. Kieran Churches invite you to join us for
Thanksgiving Evening Prayer and Song
Tuesday, November 21, at 7:00 pm at St. Kieran Church
We will be collecting donations of men’s socks, hats, and gloves for distribution to PADS and RESPOND NOW.

HOLIDAYS FOOD DRIVE
December 09/10
CATHOLIC CHARITIES FOOD PANTRY AT ST IRENAEUS CHURCH
FOOD ITEMS REQUESTED

**Can/Jar Items**
- Soup
- Tomato Sauce & Paste
- Spam
- Tuna
- Chicken
- Ham
- Salmon
- Jelly
- Corned Beef Hash
- Ravioli, Beef-a-Roni
- Beef Stew
- Chili with Beans
- Tamales
- Pork & Beans
- Vegetables
- Whole Fruit/Vegetable Juices
- Vegetable Oil

**Box/Bag Items**
- Cereal
- Rice
- Mashed Potatoes
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Hamburger Helper
- Crackers
- Oatmeal
- Pancake Mix
- Grits
- Dry Pasta
- Bisquik

**Condiments/Other**
- Mustard
- Ketchup
- Mayo/Miracle Whip
- Powdered Creamer

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Monthly Food Drives for the Holidays

In order to deliver food to the Catholic Charities Food Pantry in time for the holidays, we will be changing our collection weekends as follows:

**Christmas Food Drive:**
Food donations due December 09/10

The January, 2018, Food Drive will be held on the normal last full weekend of the month, January 27/28. The Outreach Committee again thanks all of our parishioners for their overwhelming response to our monthly Food Drives.
St. Kieran Catholic Church
Evening of Reflection

You are invited for an Evening of Reflection to be held for all Liturgical Ministers on Wednesday, November 29, beginning at 7 PM in Crawford Hall.

A very special prayer service is being planned to help us celebrate our different ministries as one Body of Christ. Planned Breakout Sessions will give each person an opportunity to express any concerns, ideas, and to learn about the upcoming movement of our liturgical space from the church to Crawford Hall.

Please make every effort to join us for this evening planned for you!

If you know anyone who may interested in joining any of our Liturgical Ministries or any parishioner who would like to learn more about the upcoming move, please bring them with you!

RSVP by calling the Rectory Office at 708/755-0074
Flowers are delivered every Thursday to decorate the Holy Family Shrine in the back of our church. Flower arrangements are ordered and delivered by Hofmann Florist in Chicago Heights.

If you would like to have flowers dedicated to the memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a special occasion, or just to decorate the Shrine, you may order them from the Rectory Office by completing the form below. Cost per flower arrangement is $25, which is our cost; checks should be made payable to “St. Kieran Catholic Church.”

Orders and remittance may be placed in the weekly collection basket, mailed to the Rectory Office or dropped off at the Rectory Office. You will receive a confirmation of your order. We would like to extend our thanks to all of our parishioners for helping to decorate the Shrine on a weekly basis.

I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER A FLOWER ARRANGEMENT FOR THE HOLY FAMILY SHRINE FOR THE FOLLOWING:

(1) NAME OF PERSON OR EVENT
    ____________________________
    FIRST DATE CHOICE
    ____________________________
    SECOND DATE CHOICE

(2) NAME OF PERSON OR EVENT
    ____________________________
    FIRST DATE CHOICE
    ____________________________
    SECOND DATE CHOICE

If you have been attending Mass here at St. Kieran, but have not registered . . .

NOW IS THE TIME!

Come and join our parish family.

Fill out this form and give it to an usher or call the rectory at 708-755-0074. We will happily send you a registration form.

Name: ______________________________

Address: ____________________________

Phone: ______________________________

Email: ______________________________
ST. KIERAN PARISH MASS BOOK
NOW OPEN FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2018

The Parish Mass Book is now open for Mass intentions for year 2018. Masses may be celebrated in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special event. Masses are open for the following days and times:

- Daily Mass (Tuesday through Friday)  8 AM
- Weekend Masses
  - Saturday (anticipated Mass)  5 PM
  - Sunday  8 AM, 10 AM
- Holy Days (Day of Feast)  8 AM, 7 PM

If you would like to have a Mass celebrated, please complete the form below and return to the Rectory Office (weekly collection, mail, or walk-in.) Stipend donation is $10 per Mass; please make checks payable to “St. Kieran Catholic Church” and enclose with the form (DO NOT SEND CASH BY MAIL.)

We will send a confirmation to you of your Mass dates; please allow two weeks for processing. Thanks to all of our parishioners for supporting the continuing efforts of St. Kieran Church.

MASS REQUEST FORM FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2018

PERSON REQUESTING MASSES: _____________________________________________________

STREET ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP: _____________________________________________________

TELEPHONE NUMBER: ____________________________________________________________

(1) MASS INTENTION

REQUESTED BY

FIRST CHOICE DATE & TIME  SECOND CHOICE DATE & TIME

(2) MASS INTENTION

REQUESTED BY

FIRST CHOICE DATE & TIME  SECOND CHOICE DATE & TIME

(3) MASS INTENTION

REQUESTED BY

FIRST CHOICE DATE & TIME  SECOND CHOICE DATE & TIME
ST. AGNES
LIVE NATIVITY

St. Agnes invites you to celebrate
the nativity story!

Friday, December 15th
presentations at 6:30 p.m. & 7:15 p.m.

The nativity story will be read at each presentation
and the St. Agnes Choirs will accompany
the reading of the nativity story.

Come be a part of this most wonderful story
and also visit the camels, sheep, cows,
donkeys, goats and more!

Refreshments will be provided in Isaiah hall
following each presentation, hosted by the
St. Agnes Home and School Parent Association.

Do you know of a Catholic medical professional
interested in serving internationally?
Please help us spread the word about our Fall
Retreat!

We are offering a Retreat/Seminar at Loyola
Stritch, in Chicago September 15–17 for Catholic
Doctors, Dentists, Physician Assistants and
Nurse Practitioners and their spouses, who have
considered this service option.

The weekend provides the opportunity to reflect
on the call to serve in light of faith, hear about
the specific locations currently seeking medical
professionals, hear from doctors and their
spouses who have served at these locations, and
includes presentations on the Theology of Mis-
sion, common medical issues faced, and the
practical aspects of service related to visas and
licensing.

Since 1959, Mission Doctors has worked with
to make it possible for Catholic Doctors to
share their professional skills as they live their
faith, in response to requests we receive from
Bishops and Religious orders in Mission.

Those interested are invited to visit the web site
to learn more: www.MissionDoctors.org/loyola,
complete an application, and register for the
weekend.

If you have any questions, please contact Elise
Frederick at efrederick@missiondoctors.org or
call to 213-368-1875.

St. Agnes has hosted a Shawl Ministry group for a
number of years. They are a small group of knitters
and crocheters who make baby afghans for fami-
lies who are baptizing, shawls for the sick or home-
bound and neck scarves for PADS guests. A lot of
the work may be done at home, but they meet
once a month for about an hour at St. Agnes,
usually on the last Thursday of the month at 10 AM
for a cup of coffee, company, and to pray while
they work.

If you’re interested in joining the group, please
call Ann at 756-2635 or Kay in the parish office at
St. Agnes at 709-2694.

P.S. Plenty of supplies are available, so please
think about coming to learn how to knit or just for
the fellowship!
St. Lawrence O’Toole Parish
4101 W. St. Lawrence Ave Matteson, IL 60443
Tel: (708) 748-6090
Fax: (708) 748-4055

St. Lawrence O’Toole’s 9th Annual Holi-Daze Fundraising Bazaar Craft Show
Crafters & Direct Selling Companies

Date: Sunday, November 26, 2017
Location: St. Lawrence O’Toole’s Sullivan Center
4101 St. Lawrence Avenue
Matteson, IL 60443
Time: 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM
Set up will be from 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM (Mass will be going on, so you MUST be respectfully quiet at this
time – instructions for unloading and parking will be included with the confirmation letter.)
Breakdown will be from 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM – the Facilities must be completely clean and clear by 4:30
PM. Anyone who breaks down before 2:30 PM will not be allowed to participate in future events – NO
EXCEPTIONS.

Fees: There are three levels of Booths, and they are as follows. Please specify which booth you would
like to reserve:
• $30 for an 8’ x 6’ booth with chair
• $40 for an 8’ x 6’ booth with 6’ table and chair
• $50 for a 12’ x 6’ booth with a 12’ double table and chair
• $5.00 for space with electricity

Other requirements:
A donation of an item of your business or craft (value of at least $20.00) is required by ALL participants
to be included in the raffle drawing.
Exhibitors are to supply their own table cloths and skirting.
All tables must be covered to the ground on all four sides.
A flyer will be distributed the day of the event with a list of ALL participants, with their contact information, so please
make sure that all of your information is included and correct on the application.
PLEASE NOTE: THIS CRAFT FAIR IS FOR CRAFTERS AND DIRECT SALES COMPANIES ONLY! Also, only ONE VENDOR per
Company will be allowed. Booth will be filled as the applications come in (DUPLICATES WILL BE RETURNED.)

PAYMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN November 6, 2017

Please complete the form and mail or drop off at:
St. Lawrence O’Toole Church
Attention: Craft Fair
4101 St. Lawrence Avenue
Matteson, IL 60443

**St. Lawrence O’Toole will not be held responsible for any loss, damage, defacement or destruction of property
displayed by any of the exhibitor. St. Lawrence O’Toole will not be held responsible for any
personal injury to any vendors or their helpers. Vendors WILL be held responsible for any
damage to St. Lawrence O’Toole property.**

www.slotoole.org
**Ministry Schedule for November 25 & 26, 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Deacons</th>
<th>Communion Ministers</th>
<th>Altar Servers</th>
<th>Lectors</th>
<th>Greeters</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Dave Dutko</td>
<td>Raymond Brower</td>
<td>Kamsi Emechebe</td>
<td>Barbara Dutko</td>
<td>Barbara Fonfara</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Briana Narcissi</td>
<td>Zachary Murphy</td>
<td>Sue Habegger</td>
<td>John Jaworski</td>
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<td>Gordon Moberg</td>
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<td>Judi Patzelt</td>
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<td>Tom Narcissi</td>
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<td>Joshua Shlosberg</td>
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<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Gene Labelle</td>
<td>Connie Bulbeta</td>
<td><strong>Served by adult parishioners</strong></td>
<td>Karlene Henshaw</td>
<td>John Jaworski</td>
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<td>Maura Flanigan</td>
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<td>Natalie Cuti</td>
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<td>Ann Marie Gornick</td>
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<td>Kevin Deenihan</td>
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<td>Pat Hand</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Emil Vasek</td>
<td>Susan Alessandrini</td>
<td>Elijah Jean-Simon</td>
<td>Karla Porrata</td>
<td>Barbara Sterning</td>
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<td>Carlos Porrata</td>
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<td>Dona Amadio</td>
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<td>Rick Schulp</td>
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<td>Edward Funches</td>
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<td>Brenda Wesley</td>
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Monday, November 20 – Weekday
8:00 a.m. • Communion Service

Tuesday, November 21 – Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8:00 a.m. • Rev. Thomas Kelly, req. by St. Kieran Catholic Church

Wednesday, November 22 – St. Cecilia
8:00 a.m. • Betty Kramer, req. by Frances Wilhelm

Thursday, November 23 – St. Clement I, St. Columban; Blessed Miguel Agustín Pro; Thanksgiving Day
9:00 a.m. • For the people of St. Kieran Catholic Church

Friday, November 24 – St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc and Companions
8:00 a.m. • NO MORNING MASS

Saturday, November 25 – St. Catherine of Alexandria; Blessed Virgin Mary
9:00 a.m. • Communion Service
5:00 p.m. • 50th Wedding Anniversary of Elmer & Carole Joyce
• Living/Deceased Family, Friends, Benefactors & Students;
  req. by Sister Santina DeLuca
• Robert Falcioni, req. by Louise Narcisi and family

Sunday, November 26 – Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
8:00 a.m. • Bill & Vivian Purcell, req. Mindy & Terry Purcell
10:00 a.m. • Philip Oleksy, req. by the St. Kieran Choir
• Living/deceased members of the Knights of Columbus Council #997

Change your BATTERIES!

What's Happening This Week
Come Join Us!

Monday, November 20
8:00 a.m. Communion Service (C)
5:00 p.m. St. Agnes Athletics (FF/H) to 9 PM

Tuesday, November 21
8:00 a.m. Daily Mass (C)
7:00 p.m. Combined Choirs
Thanksgiving Prayer Service (C)

Wednesday, November 22
8:00 a.m. Daily Mass (C)
5:00 p.m. St. Agnes Athletics (FF/H) to 9 PM

Thursday, November 23
9:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Day Mass (C)

Friday, November 24
8:00 a.m. NO DAILY MASS

Saturday, November 25
9:00 a.m. Communion Service
5:00 p.m. 50th Wedding Anniversary of Elmer & Carole Joyce
• Living/Deceased Family, Friends, Benefactors & Students;
  req. by Sister Santina DeLuca
• Robert Falcioni, req. by Louise Narcisi and family

Giving Tree will be up this weekend at all Masses

Sunday, November 26
8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass (C)
10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass (C)
Giving Tree will be up this weekend at all Masses

Happy Thanksgiving

Elmer & Carole Joyce
50th Anniversary
(November 25)

Jim & Joanne Rosbach
35th Anniversary
(November 26)

Heavenly Creator,
In this season of gratitude and abundance,
we give You thanks for our many blessings
as we pray for all who struggle
with hunger and want.
Be with them in the dark of night,
when all hope seems lost.
Keep their faith strong
as they await relief.
And let Your goodness flow through our hearts and hands
as we reach out to one another
in the full, true joy
of Thanksgiving in Christ.
Amen
**Parish Mission Statement:**
St. Kieran Parish is a Catholic community within the Archdiocese of Chicago. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, nourished by Scripture and Sacrament, we are called by Christ to become disciples and stewards. Through worship, fellowship, catechesis, and service to all God’s children, we embrace our Lord’s challenge to live as family and be his witnesses, beginning here in Chicago Heights.

**Parish Staff:**
- Rev. John Siemianowski, Pastor
- Rev. Thomas Kasputis, Associate Pastor
- Rev. William O’Mara, Resident Associate
- Deacon Eugene Labelle, Senior Deacon
- Deacon David Dutko
- Deacon Emil Vasek

**Weekend Masses are celebrated Saturdays at 5 PM; Sundays at 8 AM and 10 AM**
**Weekday Masses are celebrated Tuesday through Friday at 8:00 a.m.**
**Communion Services are celebrated on Mondays at 8:00 a.m. and on Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.**
**The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated on Saturdays at 4:00 p.m.**

**Rectory Office, 708/755-0074:**
- Hours of Operation: 9 AM to 3 PM (Monday—Thursday)
- Sandy Vasek, Office Manager, stk-business@comcast.net
- Sheila Porrata, Bulletin Editor, stk-bulletineditor@comcast.net
- Emily Hernandez, Parish Secretary, stk-parishsecretary@comcast.net

**Religious Education Office, located at St. Agnes, 708/754-0713**
- Teri Klopp, Coordinator, stk-reoffice@comcast.net

**Director of Music:**
- Mrs. Joanne Rossbach, 708/755-0074

**Parish Ministries:**
- Knights of Columbus: David Nozar, 708/267-8253  Visit our website: www.knights997.org

**SACRAMENTAL/IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** Contact the Rectory Office to make arrangements. Regular Baptismal Sundays are the first and third Sundays of the month at 11:30 a.m.

**SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY:** Contact the Rectory Office at least six month prior to date of marriage.

**SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST TO THE HOMEBOUND:** Please contact the Rectory Office to set-up visits.

**ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION:** For adults who wish to know more about the Roman Catholic faith, please contact the Rectory Office and the Director of Religious Education will contact you.

**NEW PARISHIONERS:** To become a member, please contact the Rectory Office for a registration form.

**BULLETIN/PARISH CALENDAR:** Bulletin information should be submitted by email to the Bulletin Editor. Contact the Office Manager for arrangements to use parish facilities.