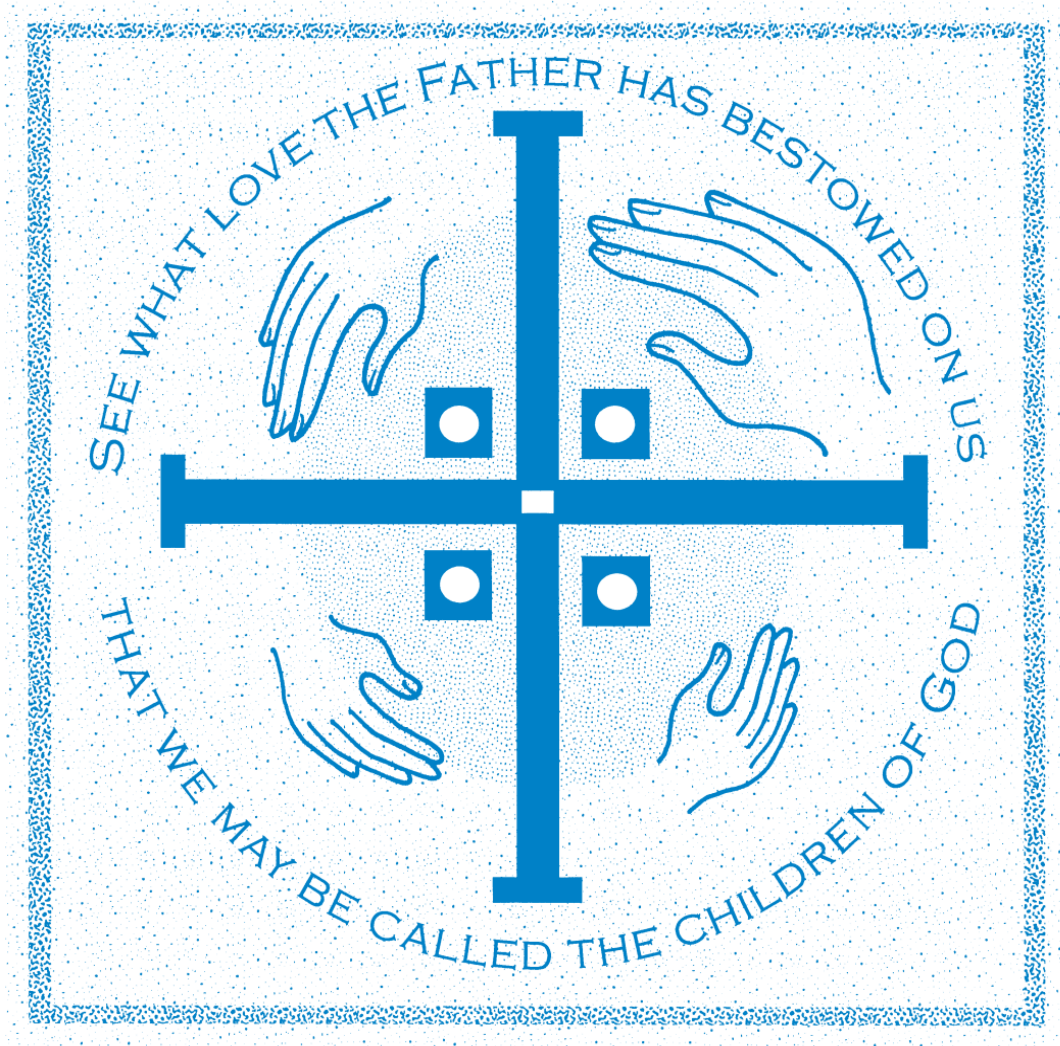
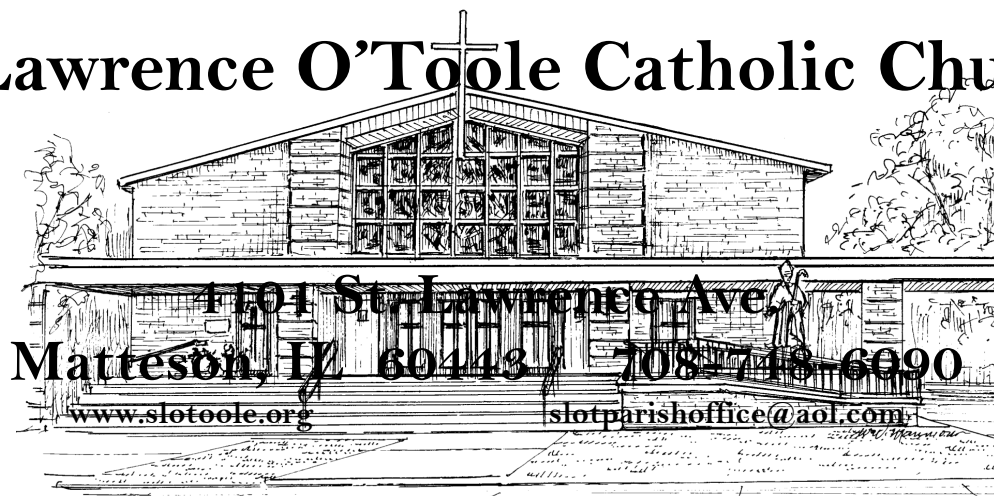

December 31, 2006

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



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St. Lawrence O'Toole Catholic Church



St. Lawrence O'Toole Catholic Community

is a community of faith longing to know Jesus and working to build God's Kingdom. We seek to provide the opportunity for the expression of our people's gifts and varied cultures, living together in a spirit of Christian joy.

We aspire to be people of prayer, vision, service and invitation.

We invite you to pray with us.

Parish Staff:

Rev. Michael A. Nacius, D. Min.

Pastor

Rev. Joseph Cook

Associate Pastor

Rev. Gregory Cholewa, OMI

Weekend Assistant

Mr. Rossini Alcos

Mr. John Rangel

Mr. Edward Winter

Deacons

Mrs. Rita Binzen

Director of Music

Ms. Jane Fagan

Director of Religious Education

Ms. Patricia Frejlich

Principal

Mrs. Pattie Gallinaro

Coordinator of Youth Ministry

Mrs. Donna Kay

Parish Bookkeeper

Mass Schedule:

Saturday:

5:00 PM (Sun. vigil)

Sunday:

8:00 & 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM

Monday – Saturday:

8:30 AM

Holy Days:

6:30 AM, 8:30 AM, 7:00 PM

Sacramental Information:

Baptisms: The first and second Sunday of each month at 1:15 PM. The third Sunday of each month at the 12:00 Mass. NOTE: Expectant parents should phone the Parish Office 2 months before the birth of your baby to arrange for required Baptismal Preparation Classes.

Reconciliation: Sat.: 4:00-4:30PM

Weddings: Arrangements for Marriage should be made by calling the Parish Office no later than four months prior to the proposed wedding date. Attending Pre-Cana is required.

Funerals: Arrangements can be made by a family member by calling the Parish Office.

Kwanzaa Celebration!

Come join us today
Sunday, December 31st, 2006
at the Noon Mass.

A reception with light refreshments will take Place
after Mass in the
breezeway.

Eucharistic Adoration Prayer Volunteers

Our parish held its first Adoration in December. Thank you to all who agreed to devote an hour or more to be in the presence of the Lord. Please remember your scheduled time for the next Eucharistic Adoration devotion on Friday, January 5, 2007. We need additional volunteers to sign up for all times, especially the 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM time slots. If you cannot make your scheduled hour, please call Deacon John at 503-9674 or the Parish Office.

Inspiring Catholic CD's New topics arriving Jan 6th:

- Millionaire to the Roman Collar
- Device Code Exposed
- Salt of the Earth
- Dating and Courtship
- How to Bring Fallen Away Catholics Back
- A Protestant Woman's Journey to the Catholic Faith
- Seven Reasons to be Catholic
- How to Teach Chastity to Teens
- Overcoming the New Age Movement
- The True Meaning of Christmas

Information regarding Our Weekly Offering amounts for the weekend of December 23rd & 24th will be published in upcoming bulletins.

As Catholics we have the responsibility and obligation to celebrate the Christmas season, not just Christmas Day. The Christmas season begins with the celebration of Jesus' birth and continues through the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, celebrated on January 8th this year. In what ways are you still celebrating the gift of Jesus? How do you share that gift with the stranger, the parishioner, the family member or friend? As you welcome the peace of Christ into your life, continue to be that peace to all those the Lord puts in your life this wonderful Christmas season.

The following poem was written by a friend and former pastor of mine. May these words, the words of Christmas songs and Scripture passages deepen our celebration of Jesus' birth this year.

"Light from Light"

Dawn's light like dew settles soft, serene
On virgin rapt in morning prayer,
Chaste soul fertile soil for Spirit to sow
Body, spirit free for heaven's Gift to bear.

Angel voice alights on receptive heart
Pregnant darkness yields to freeing grace.
'Chosen', 'Spirit', 'God's Son', 'How?', 'Yes!'
Now blessed vessel of salvation for all her race.

Humble groom withdraws from his betrothed,
Trapped in darkness of fear and doubt,
Finding angel's assurance in starlight dreams,
Submits to faith so God's plan may come about.

Creation delights with anticipation,
Sin's looming presence begins to cower.
Death, once reveling, now senses defeat,
As heaven and earth await salvation's hour.

Angel song stirs shepherds on moonlit night,
A star beckons three magi in dream-filled sleep.
Eternity's promise births earth's eternal longing
Father enfolds Mother / Child resting in slumber deep.

Passage of youth brings Light to the world
Forgiveness, healing, God's reign outpoured
Invited selfless sharing, the call to humbly serve,
Total giving of body, blood so Spirit might soar.

Light from light, age to age,
Incarnational grace flows in steady pace
Through saints and sinners, kings and peasants
To cast its thrall now on this time and place.

Dawn's light like dew settles soft, serene
On receptive heart cast in gratitude's hue
The Spirit finds fertile soil in which to sow
And Hope for the world finds a home in you.

(Fr. Larry Dowling, Christmas 2006)

Thanks to the members of the Kwanzaa planning committee and all who participated in the celebration at the 12:00 Noon mass today.

We will have one mass at 10:00 AM on New Year's Day. May 2007 be a year filled with eyes, hearts and spirits open to the blessing in life we receive from our generous God.

God bless you! See you next year!

Fr. Mike

This week at O'Toole

Sunday, December 31, 2006

8:00 AM: Mass
10:00 AM: Mass
12:00 PM: Mass

Monday, January 1, 2007

8:30 AM: Mass
Campus Closed

Tuesday, January 2, 2007

8:30 AM: Mass
9:00 AM: Scripture Study PO/K
7:30 PM: SVdP PO/C

Wednesday, January 3, 2007

8:30 AM: Mass
7:00 PM: Scripture Study PO/C

Thursday, January 4, 2007

8:30 AM: Mass

Friday, January 5, 2007

8:30 AM: Mass
6:30 PM: PADS

Saturday, January 6, 2007

8:30 AM: Mass
9:00 AM: Rosary
4:00 PM: Reconciliation C
5:00 PM: Mass

Sunday, January 7, 2007

8:00 AM: Mass
10:00 AM: Mass
12:00 PM: Mass
7:00 PM: Teen Group B3

Readings for the Week:

Monday: Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7;
Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28

Wedn: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 1:29-34

Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42

Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Mk 1:7-11 or
Lk 3:23-38 [23, 31-34, 36, 38]

Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72;
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12



**PADS Team 1 is
scheduled for Friday,
January 5, 2007.**

Teens: Danny Doerr and Alex Obanor are on the schedule to help set-up.

The Path to Holiness



The feast of the Holy Family occurs on the Sunday after Christmas. On Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus. The Holy Family celebrates the union of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as a family unit. Like most families, they had their trials and joys.

When Jesus left his immediate family to go to the Temple to teach, He didn't tell his parents. This concerned His parents like it would anyone's parents. Imagine your twelve-year-old missing! Mary and Joseph searched for Him for days and when He was found, Jesus, however, reminded them of His mission on Earth. He then also obeyed them and went home with them.

As Catholics, we can look to the Holy Family as a role model. They have qualities that make a family unit work. They also tell us that you don't need to be perfect to be a family. Joseph and Mary had faith in each other and love to build the family.

For a family to work there needs to be a few main characteristics. Love is, of course, the most important one. Love is the glue that keeps families together. The love between a husband and wife is just as important as parent to a child. Love embraces trust and safety. A family without love is not going to be happy.

Children should respect their parents. Mutual respect to others makes relationships comfortable and easier in the long run. Showing respect and love takes knowledge and experience. Children learn these in families by making mistakes along the way. It's a growing process that even Our Lord, Jesus, had to do

A Merry Christmas, a blessed New Year and Happy Kwanzaa to one and all!

F. J. J.

Doesn't church look nice?

It does thanks to the dedication of a volunteer group of ladies and our maintenance staff. Currently there are 3 teams of volunteers and we are seeking others to help. If you have 30-45 minutes free one Friday morning a month, please consider helping to keep our church clean. You will dust, change the holy water and other light tasks to prepare the church for weekend liturgies. If you would like to help call Jean Seitz at 748.4554, Pat Kistner at 748.2063 or Pat Kubas at 720.2241.

Rules for Holiday Drinking

1) Drink only if you can. If you cannot drink or have been told not to drink, or if you take medication which does not mix with alcohol, don't drink. **Just one drink can hurt you.**

2) Don't drink more than one drink per hour. If you can drink more than this without any affect, you have a symptom of the disease of alcoholism. **A high tolerance of alcohol is a bad sign, not a good sign.**

3) Don't drink if you "don't drink." Don't take a beverage to avoid hurting your host or hostess. **Not drinking is okay, too.**

Alcohol mixes better with the gasoline in a car than with the driver of the car. If you plan on having a "really good time!" then plan on not driving.

Drunk drivers kill people.

Rules for Holiday Entertaining

Are you troubled by someone's drinking? **Al-Anon Family Groups** offer hope and help to families and friends of alcoholics. In Al-Anon (and Alateen for young family members) meetings, families and friends of alcoholics come together to help each other recover from the effects of someone else's drinking. For local meeting and contact information, check your white pages for "Al-Anon," visit our Web site, www.al-anon.alateen.org, or call toll-free 1-888-4AL-ANON.

Ministers of Care Save the Date:

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, January 9, 2007 at 7PM** in the Parish Office. Deacon Ray Deabel will be our guest speaker. The theme of his presentation will be "*Bring Jesus Through the Door*". Mark your calendars and plan to attend. Don't miss this opportunity to reflect on your ministry.

Archdiocese of Chicago OFC/Youth Ministry All Night Ski Event 2007—Friday, February 9, 2007

Teens from O'Toole will join with the Archdiocese to attend this All Night Ski at Chestnut Mountain in Galena, IL. Cost is \$71.00/\$72.00 for snowboard. This includes round trip motor coach transportation, rental, lift ticket, lesson, bonfire, music and a DJ. Busses leave between 5:30 - 7:30 PM on Friday and will return around 9:30 AM on Saturday, Jan. 10th. **Permissions slips and money due January 12, 2007!**

Teens will meet again on January 7th from 7–9 in the Teen Room (B2). Happy New Year!

1) **Never** tell a guest, "Aw, C'mon, one drink won't hurt you it's Christmas." **The calendar has no effect on the effect of alcohol.**

2) Don't serve more than one drink an hour to any guest. Don't serve drinks for a long period of time before serving food. **Don't poison your guests.**

3) Don't give a guest who doesn't drink" a hard time. Don't argue with someone who says, "No thanks." **Make non-alcoholic refreshments available and let your guests choose.**

Hot coffee or cold towels only make a drunk wide awake. If a guest gets drunk, don't let him or her drive home. Get a ride, call a cab, or let them sleep.

Drunk drivers kill people.

We Pray for ~ the recently deceased

Eleanor Haskins
Sister of Barbara Cole

Veronica Bell
Mother of Arthur

and the sick

Betty Bergmann; Fred Seymour; Robert Acosta; Aaron Anderson; John B. Cook, Sr.; Richard Kucharski; Ig Zielinski; Phil Weidman; Margaret Thorne; Claude Manson, Jr.; Donna VanderLuitgaren; Marge Bearden; Emily Abbott; Robert Coffey; Jack Brzeszkiewicz; Terry Camp; Judy Thorne

Masses for the week

Sunday, December 31, 2006

Rose Thomas req. by the Gallinaro Family

Monday, January 1, 2007

Int. of John B. Cook Family

Tuesday, January 2, 2007

Tony Fornek req. by Lottie Fornek

Wednesday, January 3 2007

For the People

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Violet Brow req. by the Olney Family

Friday, January 5, 2007

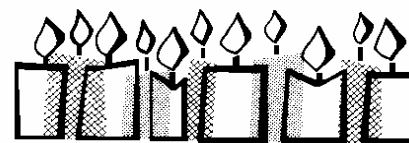
Helen Milakovich req. by Nicholas Milakovich

Saturday, January 6 2007

Fr. Mike Nacius and Fr. Joseph T. Cook

Masses for Sunday, January 7, 2007

Caroline Wojtkowski, Int. of Josephine White



Light of the World

*Generous God, you sent your son
Into this world to reveal to us
Our true identity as your
sons and daughters.
Help us to be compassionate,
As you are compassionate,
And to forgive our debtors
as we know ourselves to be
so lavishly forgiven.
Bless our families and make
them holy. Amen*

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

The Crèche

The first image of a crèche can be traced to the end of the fourth century. It is found on the wall of a burial chamber of a Christian family in Rome. The crèche, or manger/nativity scene, which we know today, is associated with St. Francis. One Christmas Eve he gathered with his friars and people from the small town of Greccio, not far from Assisi. There he created a life-size depiction of the manger scene of Christ's birth. We are told that Francis received a vision of the Christ child appearing to him in the crib of this scene.



As an image of the manger scene, the crèche serves as a picture of the great mystery of the Incarnation in one image: Christ became flesh (represented by the Christ child with his parents, Mary and Joseph) and was born into the world (the crib and the manger), to call people of every race and nation (the shepherds rubbing elbows with the magi), and to unite all creation (the ox, ass and sheep) with heaven (the star or the angel).

The power of the crèche is in its ability to draw us into this scene depicting the mystery of the Incarnation: God, in human form, entering our world, coming among us as one of us in the most vulnerable form, that of a child. The crèche is such that we are able to enter into this scene, and to see ourselves with the shepherds and the magi. Its power and grace come from its ability to engage us and to connect to in our lives, to our situations, to the joys and struggles we are experiencing whenever we enter into this holy scene.

8th Grade Confirmation Experience—Sunday, January 7, 2007 at 9:15 AM in O'Toole Hall. Confirmation candidates and sponsors are expected.

Thinking About Priesthood? If you would like to explore the possibility of priesthood, join us for a Ministry Weekend, a retreat experience designed to help men discover if God may be calling them to the priesthood. College-age and older men are invited to join us on **January 12-14, 2007**. For more information contact Fr. Joe Noonan at 847.970.4845 or jnoonan@usml.edu. For more details, see our website at www.chicagopriest.org.

New Year's Eve Communion Service at St. Irenaeus Church, corner of Indianwood and Orchard Dr., Park Forest. Sunday, December 31st at 7:00 PM.

High School Entrance Exams for 8th Grade Students:
Marian Catholic—Saturday, January 13th @ 8 AM, \$25 fee
Marist—Saturday, January 13th @ 8 AM, \$25 fee
Mother McAuley— Saturday, January 13th @ 8 AM, \$25 fee
Seton Academy—Saturday, January 13th @ 8 AM, \$25 fee
Mount Carmel—Saturday, January 13th @ 8 AM, \$25 fee
Call the schools for more information.

Liturgical Ministers

January 6 & 7

Eucharistic Ministers

- 5:00 PM:** Deacon, Jean Edgemon, Mary Gaffney, Barb Hanifin, Chuck Lewis, Mary McLain, Ann Mundy
8:00 AM: Joan Abbott, Deacon, Estella Guillermo, Frank Klawitter, Mary Olney, Donna Stella, Augustine Witt
10:00 AM: Deacon, Mary Mender, Patty Pfau, Barb Rook, Ryan Rudolf, Danny Stocker, Jane Stocker
12:00 PM: Valerie Butts, Deacon, Lajuana, Lucia West Jones, Russ Zack

Lectors

- 5:00 PM:** Annette Powell
Rose Garcia
8:00 AM: Joe Schmitt
Ann Rangel
10:00 AM: Jeff Quinn
Hermie Alcos
12:00 PM: Robert Wilson
Madeline Nabzdyk

Greeters

- 5:00 PM:** Mary Tremaroli
Sharon Twardowski
8:00 AM: Pat Kubas
Marie Ward
10:00 AM: Rosemary Ryan
Tom Ryan
12:00 PM: Kathy Shelby

Altar Servers

- 5:00 PM:** Jason Kint
Liam Mundt
Lorenzo Thomas
8:00 AM: Carlos Capetillo
Jessica Heing
Jeff Schusteric
10:00 AM: Stephanie Furlan
Ellen Quinn
Antonio Serrato
12:00 PM: Brandon Wilson
volunteer
volunteer