



December 14, 2025 • 3rd Sunday of Advent



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To be a welcoming Eucharistic community by providing resources for spiritual growth and faith development, and encouraging service and discipleship to spread the good news of God's Kingdom.

St. Patrick Church

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Pastoral Staff

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Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Dempsey, Pastor Emeritus

Email: rdempsey@stpatrick-lakeforest.org

Weekend Presiders

Rev. Lawrence Hennessey

Rev. Thomas Franzman

Rev. Jerry Gunderson

Deacon Couples

Ray and Joyce Loman

Frank and Patricia De Frank

Email: fjdefrank@sbcglobal.net

Parish Staff

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Email: jmanarik@stpatrick-lakeforest.org

Faith Formation for Youth and Children

847-234-2179

Dianne Marshall, Director of Faith Formation for Youth and Children

Email: dmmarshall@stpatrick-lakeforest.org

Yasmin Alba, Administrative Assistant, Religious Education

Email: yalba@stpatrick-lakeforest.org

Sunday Masses

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:45 am in the Main Church

Daily Masses:

Monday through Friday 8:00 am in the Little Church

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday: 4:00 pm to 4:45 pm in the Main Church
or by appointment

Sacrament of Baptism

Sundays: 1:00 pm

Arrangements must be made in advance of the date.

Sacrament of Marriage

Arrangements must be made at least six to eight months prior to wedding.

Sacrament of the Sick

Contact Fr. Patrick Kizza at 847-234-1401

Holy Communion for the Homebound

Please call the Ministry Office at 847-234-1401

Children's Religious Education and Formation

Mondays and Tuesdays, 4:30pm - 5:45pm

Contact Religious Education Office at 847-234-2179

Sacraments, Visiting of the Sick, & New Parishioner Registration

Contact the Ministry Office at 847-234-1401

Sacrament of Confirmation

Contact Dianne Marshall at 847-234-1401

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Contact the Ministry Office at 847-234-1401

Office for the Protection of Children and Youth

312-534-5254 www.archchicago.org

Bulletin Deadlines

All articles must be submitted by noon of the deadline date. Please contact the parish Ministry Office.

Bulletin Date

December 28

January 4

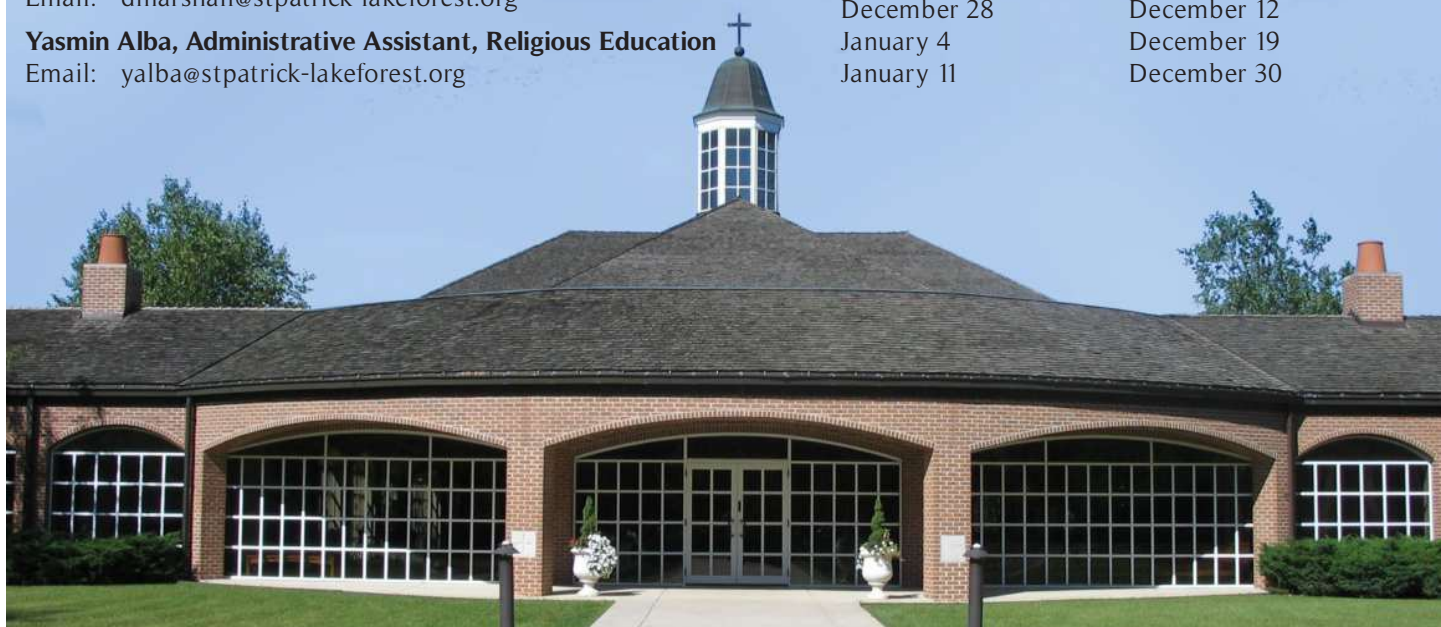
January 11

Due Date

December 12

December 19

December 30



A Letter from Fr. Patrick Kizza

December 14, 2025

The readings for this Third Sunday of Advent invite us into a deep meditation on hope—hope that blooms even in the driest deserts of our lives. Isaiah paints a beautiful image: *“The desert and the parched land will exult... they will bloom with abundant flowers.”* (Isa 35:1). God promises that what seems barren, lifeless, or hopeless can suddenly become vibrant with new life. Many of us know what “desert days” feel like: the long wait for medical results, a child struggling in school, tension in relationships, or the loneliness that creeps in after the holidays. Yet Isaiah reminds us that God is the One who makes flowers bloom where no one expected life to grow.

St. Augustine once wrote, *“God is closer to us than we are to ourselves.”* Even when we cannot see Him at work, He is already transforming our deserts into gardens. A mother once shared that during a difficult year, every prayer felt dry. But later she realized that those “dry prayers” were the very ones that strengthened her faith. She said, *“The desert made me lean on God instead of myself.”* That is exactly what Isaiah invites us to do: to strengthen feeble hands, make firm weak knees, and say to fearful hearts: *“Be strong, fear not! Here is your God.”*

In the second reading, St. James speaks directly to our modern world: *“Be patient... make your hearts firm.”* (Jas 5:8) Patience is one of the hardest Christian virtues today. We live in a culture of instant answers—instant food, instant messages, instant deliveries. Yet spiritual growth cannot be rushed. James offers the simple image of a farmer waiting for the precious fruit of the earth. No matter how much he wants the crops to grow faster, he must trust the rain, the soil, and God’s timing. As C.S. Lewis famously said, *“We must lay before Him what is in us, not what ought to be in us.”* In other words, come to God as you are, and let Him work at His pace.

The Gospel brings us to John the Baptist, who from his prison cell sends a haunting question to Jesus: *“Are you the one who is to come?”* Even the greatest prophet experienced doubt. Yet Jesus does not rebuke him. He simply points to the evidence of God’s work: the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, and the poor receive good news. Jesus reminds us that God often reveals Himself not with loud announcements, but in everyday miracles—reconciliation between relatives, healing of a long-held grief, or the unexpected kindness of a stranger. Pope Benedict XVI once wrote, *“The world is redeemed by the patience of God and ruined by the impatience of man.”* Advent invites us to enter God’s patient, gentle work in our lives.

On this Sunday of joy, I am profoundly grateful for our Religious Director and all our catechists who generously guide our children in faith. For our Advent event this year, our Religious Education students focused on the Jesse Tree, a beautiful Advent meditation on the story of salvation. They discovered how God planned from the very beginning to send Jesus as our Savior, just as He lovingly planned each of their lives. Every class was assigned a different figure from the Jesse Tree and helped tell that person’s story in salvation history by creating a visual symbol for them. These wonderful creations are now displayed in the gathering space and in the hallways on either side of the church for our parishioners to enjoy and learn from.

As we continue this Advent journey, may we learn from Isaiah, James, and John the Baptist. May we trust that God can bring life out of our deserts, that His timing is perfect, and that His presence is already healing and transforming our lives—often in ways we do not yet see.

May joy find a home in our hearts this week. Amen.

This Week

Sunday, December 14

3rd Sunday of Advent

8:00am Mass - Fr. Patrick

10:00am Mass - Fr. Franzman
Children's Liturgy of the Word

11:45am Mass - Fr. Jerry

Monday, December 15

4:30pm RE Classes - PC

Tuesday, December 16

4:30pm RE Classes - PC

7:00pm Reconciliation Service - MC

Wednesday, December 17

8:30am Prayer Group - CR

8:30am Adoration - OC

6:15pm Benediction - OC

7:00pm OCIA - YR

Thursday, December 18

9:30am Thursday Morning
Scripture Group - PC

Friday, December 19

Offices Closed at 12:30pm

Saturday, December 20

5:00pm Mass - Msgr. Dempsey

Sunday, December 21

4th Sunday of Advent

WG Egg Nog Hospitality Sunday

8:00am Mass - Fr. Franzman

10:00am Mass - Fr. Patrick
Children's Liturgy of the Word

11:45am Mass - Fr. Jerry

Monday, December 22

No RE Classes

Scripture Questions of the Week

First Reading:

The Prophet Isaiah taught his community to "be strong, fear not!" because God has planned a remarkable future where both the people and the land will be restored. *Is there a friend or co-worker who needs our encouragement this week?*

Second Reading:

James encourages his community to be patient and firm of heart in waiting for the coming of the Lord. *What are you waiting for during this Advent season?*

Gospel:

In prison, John the Baptist seemed uncertain about who Jesus is. *Who do you talk to when you have questions about Jesus?*

©LPi

This Week's Readings

Sunday:	Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
Monday:	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday:	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17
Thursday:	Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
Friday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
Saturday:	Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
Next Sunday:	Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

As you know, Sunday collections are vital to the health and sustainability of SPLF. We are always so thankful for the generosity of our parishioners.

The best way to do so right now is to donate through our Give Central Portal. Please scan the QR code to go directly to our SPLF Give Central Homepage.



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Central

Finances

Due to early bulletin printing deadlines, financials are not available and will be updated in next week's bulletin.

Our Prayers

Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 14
8:00 am

10:00 am

† Jane S. Baylor, req. Ted & Liz Brandt
† Du Nguyen, req. The Nguyen family

11:45 am

People of St. Patrick Church

Monday, December 15

8:00 am

† Roseanne Barrett, req. Ted & Liz Brandt
† Joan Speranza, req. Tom & Judy DeMint

Tuesday, December 16

8:00 am

† Judy Heraty, req. The Dick Heraty family

Wednesday, December 17

8:00 am

† Sherleen Adler, req. From her family

Thursday, December 18

8:00 am

† James Horak, req. The Lindquist family

Friday, December 19

8:00 am

† Stephen Andrusisian, req. Bruce & Beth Barger

Saturday, December 20

5:00 pm

† Dave Schilder, req. The Patty Schilder Heraty family
† Mary Ellen Kadleck, req. John & Mary Jo Sabalaskey
† Tom Sullivan, req. Pat Sullivan

Sunday, December 21

8:00 am

† Mary Margaret Reardon

10:00 am

† Gerry Manarik, req. The Manarik family
† Deceased members of the Braig family,
req. Therese Ruedig
† John Farrell, req. Tim Bea Murphy
† Eleanor Liguori, req. The Slingerland family

11:45 am

People of St. Patrick Church

Those Serving Our Country

Lt. Col. Patrick Burke, Jr., US Air Force

Son of Patrick and Patty Burke

Col. Patrick J. Fahey, USMC

Son of Tom and Marilyn Fahey

Lt. Col. Michael J. Koob US Air Force

Son of Mike and Donna Koob

Captain Colt Marcyan, US Army

Son of Ana and Carl Marcyan

Major General Stephen L. Davis, US Air Force,

Son of Karen Davis

Staff Sgt. Section Chief Joseph D. Whitley, US Army,

Nephew of Cathe Keres

Ensign Owen William Platt, US Navy,

Son of Roger and Liz Platt

Cadet Reid Walsh, United States Military Academy,

Son of Allison & Brian Walsh

Lt. JG Matthew Croisant, US Navy

Son of Tom & Kim Croisant

Midshipman Joseph Remus, US Naval Academy

Son of Laura and Mark Remus

**Midshipman Hugh Wilson Ludington, US Merchant
Marine Academy**

Son of Sarah and Steven Ludington

The Lake County Veterans and Family Services Foundation is dedicated to helping Veterans and their families get the military benefits they have earned. If you need help connecting with Veterans Administration or other related resources, please contact foundation representative Bob Gorman at robertegorman@sbcglobal.net

Our Sick

Fr. Ronnie Calkins

Joseph Zittnan

Nicole Tallarico

Carolyn Welby

Florence Gatti

Jennifer Mikell

Gianfranco Isaia

Carolyn Cimarrusti Erickson

David Kozak

Patricia Tivnan

George Kouba

Crista Olufs

Darrel Folkerts

Patrick Fitzpatrick

Martin Henson

Sheila Anderson

Jeff Neumayer

Deb Boyter

Names added to the prayer requests will remain for 1 month. To add or re-add a person please email jmanarik@stpatrick-lakeforest.org or call the ministry office at 847-234-1401.

Our Deceased

Joan Rose Lucas

Religious Education News

Faith Formation for Grades 1-9

Grades 1-7

Classes continue December 15 & 16. These will be our last classes of the year before the Christmas holiday.

Confirmation

Our next class is **Tonight** from 4:00-5:30pm for both Year 1 and Year 2 students. Year 1 sponsors and Year 2 saints are due in January!

Staff

Dianne Marshall - dmarshall@stpatrick-lakeforest.org
Director of Formation for Youth and Children

Yasmin Alba - yalba@stpatrick-lakeforest.org
Administrative Assistant to Faith Formation

Jesse Tree

The Jesse Tree is an Advent tradition which highlights key figures and stories of the salvation story. The genealogy of Jesus provides us with many inspirational people.

For Advent this year, our Religious Education students have explored many of these individuals and created our own Jesse tree ornaments, displayed around the windows in the gathering space and hallways. Please take a moment to see their work.

Advent Collection

For advent we will be collecting new winter hats and gloves at all December classes, please come add them to our giving tree!

The most fun you'll have in 2026!

TRIVIA

NIGHT

Saturday,
February 7
6:00 — 10:00 PM
O'Gara Center

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Get your team together!



Our parish will be continuing our beautiful Christmas tradition of offering parishioners the opportunity to donate the flowers that beautify our church during the Christmas season. Flowers may be donated in memory of deceased loved ones or in honor of the living. If you would like to make such a memorial, please fill out the form below, along with your gift offering in an envelope clearly marked "Christmas Flowers," and return it in one of the Collection boxes in the Gathering Area or to the Ministry Center Office during the week. The names of those you wish memorialized or honored will be published in the bulletin during the Christmas season unless otherwise requested. Donors' names, however, will not be published. When making your donation for flowers via our Give Central system, please make certain that a flower donation form is completed and submitted to the Ministry Office. Simply indicate on the form that payment was made via GiveCentral. You may feel free to call the Ministry Office as well.

Christmas Flower Donation Form

Name of Donor: _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Suggested offering: \$10 _____ \$20 _____ Other _____

(Please make checks payable to St. Patrick Church.)



Congratulations!

**Please join us in welcoming into our parish family
those newly baptized in November**

Frederick William Kramkowski, son of Joseph and Amanda
Logan Alexander Freeborg, son of Kyle & Alice
Charles Patrick Crooks, son of John & Mary Claire



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ST. PATRICK CHURCH

Join Us on:

WEDNESDAYS: 3RD, 10TH & 17TH DEC. 2025

With Rev. Fr. Patrick Kizza leading us in:

- Advent Reflection
- Praise and Worship
- Anointing of the Sick
- Benediction



5PM-6PM



St. Patrick Church, lake Forest IL 60045

CHRISTMAS BOOK PROGRAM

*Busy is not
your friend.*

Don't miss your **FREE** copy of
Slowing Down to the Speed of Joy
at Christmas Mass.

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TO
THE SPEED
OF JOY

THE SIMPLE ART OF
TAKING BACK YOUR LIFE

MATTHEW KELLY

Advent Reconciliation

Tuesday, December 16

7:00pm in the Main Church

As we enter this holy season of watchfulness and hope, parishioners are invited to our Advent Reconciliation Service. Receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a beautiful way to renew the soul, restore our relationship with God, and prepare more fully for the Nativity of our Lord.



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Are you looking for a way to slow down and find spiritual stillness amidst the Christmas rush? Our Advent courses offer a guided path to prepare your heart for the arrival of Christ.

Explore our [Advent Highlights](#) for your journey!

Scan the QR code to learn more and sign up.
Learn more about our short online courses by visiting our website: courses.usml.edu



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Vicariate I | Spring 2026

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Are you an adult who missed receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Preparation for Confirmation

for Vicariate I parishioners will be offered weekly on Mondays beginning Monday, March 16, 2026, 7–9 p.m.

St. Edna Parish, Door #2
2525 N. Arlington Heights Rd.
Arlington Heights



Confirmation Mass at St. Edna Parish on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 7 p.m.

Registration closes on Monday, Feb. 27, 2026.
Cost: \$70/person.

Contact Lorie Crepeau for information and registration: **lcrepeau@stedna.org**

847.398.3362, ext. 325.



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