The world needs
a stable influence
SAINT MARY PARISH CENTER
1012 Lake Street, Evanston IL 60201
(847) 864-0333

Parish Office is Closed
Friday, Dec. 24 & Monday, Dec. 26

Pastor
Rev. Koudjo Kunegbodzi Lokpo ext. 204
(Fr. Jean-Philippe)
klokpo@archchicago.org

Associate Pastor
Fr. Jose Manuel Ortiz, ext. 209
joortiz@archchicago.org

Director of Lifelong Faith Formation
Karie Ferrell, ext. 203
kferrell@archchicago.org

Director of Music
Dianne Fox, ext. 210
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Pastoral Associate
Deacon Chris Murphy
cmurphy@archchicago.org

Director of Operations
Arthur Roggow
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Business Manager
Leticia Montoya, ext. 212
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Deacon Ramon & Julia Navarro, x202
rnavarro@archchicago.org

Dr. Molly Cinnamon
Principal, Pope John XXIII School
(847) 475-5678
molly.cinnamon@popejohn23.org

James Holzhauer-Chuckas ObSB
Senior Director, UCYM
United Catholic Youth Ministry
(847) 719-9071 james@ucym.org

This Week at Saint Mary’s

No Religious Education Classes
Classes resume on January 8, 2023

St. Mary’s Quilting Ministry
Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Gathering Space of the Church

Charismatic Prayer Group
Fridays at 7:00 p.m. in the Church

Weekly Prayer & Worship

Sacrament of Reconciliation
No Sacrament of Reconciliation on Christmas Eve
Saturdays, 4:45 p.m. at St. Mary’s, before the 5:00 PM Mass
Saturdays, 3:30 p.m. at St. Nicholas, before the 4:30 PM Mass

Weekday Mass Schedule
Mondays-Saturdays 8:00 a.m. in St. Mary Church
NO Saturday morning mass on December 24 or December 31

Monday, Wednesday-Saturday 8:00 a.m. in St. Nick’s Chapel
Friday’s 8:00 a.m. Mass is Bilingual in St. Nick’s Chapel
Tuesdays, at 8:15 a.m. in St. Nicholas Church

Weekly Rosary
NO Saturday morning rosary on December 24 or December 31

Saturday Holy Hour
Saturdays at 7:30 a.m. before the 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Nick’s

Sunday Mass Schedule
At St. Mary, Saturday, 5:00 p.m.; Sunday, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m., First Sunday
of the month, 12:30 p.m. Haitian Mass (French)

At St. Nicholas: Saturday, 4:30 p.m. (English), Sunday, 8:30 a.m. (Spanish)
10:15 a.m. (English) & 1:00 p.m. (Spanish)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mary
Sunday afternoons, 3:00-6:00 p.m.
Friday mornings, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass until 10:00 a.m.
“Throw open the windows of the church and let the fresh air of the Spirit blow through.”
St. John XXIII

A Successful Unification Story

Did you know the pathway for our parish unification process was laid nearly 36 years ago when St Mary and St Nicholas parish schools were merged into Pope John XXIII school?

In the early 1980s declining enrollment at each parish school led the Archdiocese to mandate that they combine. A new school board was formed with six members from each parish with a one year timeline to complete the merger.

The process to select the site of the new school was difficult but there were several practical factors which shaped the decision. St Mary's school had a theater but no gymnasium, while St Nicholas had the opposite. In the end the YMCA offered to rent St Mary’s school building, and the St Mary’s PPC dedicated the rental revenue to the new school.

A decision was made to start a new school rather than combine the current faculties of each school. They began by hiring Raenita Martin as the Principal. She proved to be an excellent administrator, staying at the school for more than 20 years. Ms. Martin interviewed and hired a new teaching staff, many composed of teachers from the previous parish schools. The collaborative process between the Principal and the school board was remarkably smooth because everyone involved understood the short timeline and high stakes.

The school board initially considered a variety of names for the new school, including Evanston Catholic Academy. Fr. Cunningham, pastor of St. Mary, felt that the school should have a patron saint of its own. He suggested Pope John XXIII because he was a strong promoter of Christian unity. Fr. Cunningham donated the statue of Pope John XXIII which still stands in the lobby of the school today.

We are blessed to have a thriving Pope John XXIII parish school today and we continue to work towards the future of our new parish in the same way! Thank you to Janice Zulkey, former school board chairperson and historian of this legacy story.

May you know God’s love and peace on this merry Christmas Day!

In Christ’s love,
The Communications Team

Nativity of the Lord: Christmas

“With great longing, we have been preparing our hearts and our homes for this day on which we celebrate the birth of our Messiah and Savior. We recall that glorious night when the Blessed Mother bore Jesus into an expectant world, realizing that Jesus is also born in our heart and in our world here and now, made present through one another and in the Eucharist we celebrate. May this Good News of great joy that will be for all the people continue to be incarnated in our lives and our world.”
Pastoral Patterns; Winter 2022-2023, P25

Let us truly celebrate Jesus, the source of all light that shines in the darkness of our heart, the darkness of sins, the darkness of diseases, the darkness of desperation. Emmanuel has come to liberate us all from all this darkness. May our hearts be filled with joy and happiness. May our faith, hope and love be made stronger as never before because we have the prince of peace with us. Merry Christmas to you all and your family!

Rev. Jean-Philippe Lokpo, mccj
Pastor.
St John XXIII Parish
Christmas 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“The Word was made flesh, and he made his dwelling among us.” These momentous words from the beginning of John’s Gospel describe exactly what we celebrate at Christmas. Jesus, the eternal Son of God, has indeed come among us and become a part of our human family. He shared our joys and our sorrows. He came to know the full expanse of our human experiences, those that lift us up and those that cast us down. Through his death and resurrection, he has transformed our lives and our very world. The One born among us as Son of God and Son of Mary has given us a new birth in hope.

We know the challenges that marked his life from the very beginning. We recall how the Holy Family shared the plight of refugees, when they had to flee to Egypt to protect their newborn child from violence. These challenges find an echo in our world today. We see people flee the violence of war and oppression and crushing poverty. Their plight moves our heart to do whatever we can to alleviate their pain. Their story, framed within the story of the Holy Family, also reminds of the unfailing hand of God’s providence that leads us and saves us. And that gives us joyful confidence.

Whatever the challenges we face as individuals and communities—from war, violence, disease, injustice, natural climate disasters—we do not lose hope. We know that the Word was made flesh and made his dwelling among us. He walks with us. He sustains us. He gives us a hope that will not disappoint.

Join me in prayer this Christmas season. Let us ask God to deepen our faith in the Incarnate Word. Let us ask God to renew our hope and lift us up when we are weary. Let us ask God to keep our hearts joyful in all circumstances, because we have come to know God’s love for us.

God bless you and all your loved ones. As I celebrate the Eucharist in this Christmas season, know that I bring all of you to the altar with me.

Sincerely yours in Christ

[Signature]

Archbishop of Chicago
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
January 1, 2023

St. Mary Church  
No morning mass on Saturday, December 31  
Mass Schedule: Tuesday, December 31 at 5:00 p.m.;  
January 1 at 9:30, 11:00 a.m., Haitian Mass, 12:30 p.m.

St. Nicholas Church  
No morning mass on Saturday, December 31  
Mass Schedule: Saturday at 4:30 p.m. (English) including Kwanzaa Celebration  
Sunday at 8:00 a.m. (Spanish), 10:15 a.m. (English), and 1:00 p.m. (Spanish)

The St. John XXIII Parish Family invites you to  
The Feast of the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin and  

Kwanzaa

December 31, 2022  
4:30pm  
St. Nicholas Church  
806 Ridge Ave., Evanston

Potluck Karamu Feast to follow mass  
Please bring a favorite dish to share

For more information:  
Yvonne Smith, 224-534-7471, yvonsmith@gmail.com  
Jane Colleton, 630-939-8445, jccolleton@gmail.com
Our Stewardship Report, November 2022

Weekly Collection Goal $9,000.00
Weekend of November 6, 2022 $3,531.00
Weekend of November 13, 2022 $4,646.00
Electronic Monthly Offering $9,777.00
Weekend of November 20-27, 2022 $4,417.00
Monthly Offertory—November 2022 $22,371.00

Year-to-Date Report
Income as of November 27 (22/52 weeks) $132,819.00
Goal for 2022/2023 Budget (22/52 weeks) $198,000.00
Difference + or - -$65,181.00

Goal for the Fiscal Year 2022/2023—$468,000.00

Dear St. John XXIII Community,

Until further notice, please continue to make checks payable to “St. Nicholas Church” or “St. Mary Church.” The complicated Renew My Church process involves legal banking issues that have not been addressed yet and we do not want to have to return your checks.

Thank you for your generosity understanding.

Save the Date!
St. John XXIII Mardi Gras Party
February 18, 2022

Join the fun at the St. John XXIII Parish Mardi Gras party! Save the evening of Saturday, February 18th, 5:30 to 10 PM for an evening of dinner and dancing. We will be live, in person at Misericordia’s beautiful Jean Marie Ryan Center.

Watch for more information in early January.
We Pray for One Another & the World

Mass Intentions

Every mass is offered for the needs and intentions of someone. You may request that we support you in your intentions and your needs.

Contact the Parish Office to request a mass be offered for someone you know that is in need of prayer, for your own intentions, or for the repose of someone’s soul. The stipend is $10.

We pray for those who are sick, especially ...
Anne Teoli
Severina Labitagq
Jean Antoine
Jain Simmons

We pray for those who have died, especially ...
Justin Bieger
Teresa Naranjo, mother of Carlos Zambrano

If you have someone whose name you’d like added or removed, contact Dianne Fox, Director of Music dfox@archchicago.org

We Join Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, In Prayer

The Holy Father has designated December as a month to pray for Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organizations.

“We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.”

Join the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network: popesprayerusa.net which addresses the challenges facing humanity. We pray and work to meet the challenges of the world identified by the Pope, while walking a spiritual path called the “Way of the Heart.”