

December 3, 2017
First Sunday of Advent



ST. CATHERINE

OF SIENA **ST. LUCY**

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. George Omwando, Pastor
Rev. John J. Carolan, Pastor Emeritus
Ms. Gail Rohmann, Music Director
Sr. Marion Cypser, RSM, School Co-Principal &
Mrs. Sharon Leamy, School Co-Principal
SUPPORT STAFF

Ms. Patricia Pomykalski, Business Manager
Mrs. Amanda Pomareda, Office Manager / Adm. Ass't.
Mrs. Fannie Cooper, School Secretary

CONTACTING THE PARISH

Rectory: 38 N. Austin Blvd.; Oak Park, IL 60302
Telephone: 708-386-8077
Email: apomaredascsoffice@comcast.net
Web: www.stcatherinestlucy.org
Hours: 8:30 AM-8:00 PM—Monday, & Thursdays
Tuesday, Wednesday, & Fridays: 8:30 AM—4:30 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM—4:30 PM; Sunday 8:30 AM—12:00 PM
School - 27 Washington Blvd.; Oak Park, IL 60302
Telephone: 708-386-5286

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Masses:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday - 8:30am
Word Service with Communion, Thursday, 8:30am

Weekend Masses:

Saturday Morning - 9:00am
Saturday Evening - 5:00pm
Sunday Morning - 8:30 & 10:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday at 4:00 PM to 4:30 PM; or by appointment.

Baptisms

Baptism of infants and young children is celebrated on the 2nd and 3rd weekends of the month. Parents are asked to attend a Baptism preparation session/class prior to the ceremony. Please call the rectory to register for the preparation and set a baptismal date.

Thoughts from Our Pastor



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today, having just ended our Liturgical Year last week with the celebration of the Solemnity of Christ the King, we now begin a new Liturgical Calendar -- the season of **Advent**. Advent calls every follower of Christ to prepare for the second coming of the Son of God. But unfortunately, this season of Advent coincides with the season of heavy shopping accompanied with the infamous luring slogan “door busters”. It is not unusual to hear people these days tell me that TV and newspapers are flooded with commercials. For instance, on Thanksgiving Day, I picked up our delivery newspaper as usual but it was loaded with different advertisement materials. Shopping is not such a bad thing, but the way this season is dominated by deals will make you think that the world has come to an end. I just want you to know that businesses are not non-profit organizations. They are out there to get your money or entice you buy that which you do not necessarily need..

During this season of **Advent**, I want you to remember that as disciples of Christ, we have been given gifts that we need to share with others faithfully. It is not bad to do shopping or reward ourselves with a nice, warm, recently-designed coat; but we should never be distracted from this season that calls us to examine our hearts and open them for Christ. If Christ is going to be born, He is going to be born in your heart, and hopefully He does not find you busy and with no time for Him. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

Perhaps the best-known of all Advent symbols is the **Advent wreath**, a custom which originated among German Lutherans but was soon adopted by Catholics. Consisting of four candles (three purple and one pink) arranged in a circle with evergreen boughs (and often a fifth, white candle in the center), the Advent wreath corresponds to the four Sundays of Advent. The purple candles represent the penitential nature of the season, while the pink candle calls to mind the respite of Gaudete Sunday. (The white candle, when used, represents Christmas.) The light represents Christ, who entered this world to scatter the darkness of evil and show us the way of righteousness. The progression of lighting candles shows our increasing readiness to meet our Lord. Each family ought to have an Advent wreath, light it at dinner time, and say the special prayers. This tradition will help each family keep its focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

Advent as a season of anticipation brings a lot of expectations about the coming season of Christmas. Some of them will happen and some of them will not. As our lives unfold like a mystery story, there is one thing we can expect for sure. Because of Jesus, we have been forgiven. More than we could ever expect, God’s love and grace have been given to us. It has been given to us in the mystery of God born as a baby in a manger. It has been given to us in the mystery of God dying on the Cross. God’s grace and love have been given to us in the mystery of Christ’s resurrection. In these things, the birth, death, and resurrection of God, are found the greatest mysteries of life. Amen!

May God bless you.

Rev. George O. Omwando

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

WE THE PARISHIONERS OF ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA-ST. LUCY PARISH, SEEK TO DEEPEN OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOD AND TO CELEBRATE GOD’S PRESENCE IN WORD AND SACRAMENT. BY ACCEPTING ALL INTO OUR FAMILY WE SEEK UNITY IN CHRIST AND SEEK TO PROCLAIM HIS GOOD NEWS IN THE DISCIPLESHIP OF OUR LIVES.

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS:

Parish Pastoral Council

Madonna Sloan and Joyce Wade,
Co-Chairs

Parish Finance Council

John McGuire

Spiritual Life Commission

Faith & Fellowship:

Connie Rakitan

Liturgy Committee:

Cantors: Gail Rohmann

Celebration Choir: Gail Rohmann

Praise Choir: Julius White

Greeters & Ushers: Jim Lewis

Ministers of the Eucharist:

Jeanne Visteen

Ministers of the Word:

Jeanne Visteen

Servers: Kathy Paoli

Ministers of Care: Shelby Boblick

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

(RCIA): Fr. George O. Omwando

Women’s Ministry: Shelby Boblick

Human Concerns Commission

Peace & Justice Committee:

Mary and Martin Senica

Transportation Committee:

Tom Farwell

Education Commission

Baptism Com.: Fr. G. Omwando

Bible Study: Russ McCaughey

Religious Education of Children:

Christine Wedekind

St. Catherine/St. Lucy School:

School Board Chair: Natasha Lee

Parish Development & Services Commission

Collection Counters: Carol Kallok

Facilities Committee: Kevin Kell,

Amanda Pomareda

Fundraising Committee:

Pat Nelson / Cynthia Weaver

(cont’d from pg. 1)

Weddings - Please contact a parish priest to set a wedding date. Allow at least 6 months for preparation.

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a sacramental process, celebrated in the midst of this Faith Community. This process assists adults, as well as children over the age of 7, in learning about the Catholic Faith. Through its witness, worship, service, and teaching our Faith Community offers the invitation and support necessary for initiation into the Catholic Church.

Ministry to the Sick, Hospitalized and Shut—Ins

Please notify the Parish Office so that we can visit and minister to your confined loved-ones.

Newcomers

Please fill out a registration form after Mass, or come by the Rectory Office during the week.

**Two Great Events!
T O D A Y**

**Family Mass - 10:30 Worship
St. Catherine-St. Lucy Church**



Children from our school and religious education program will lead this service as readers, gift bearers, choir members, and other parts of the worship service.

This is a wonderful opportunity for St. Catherine-St. Lucy to come together and celebrate the blessing of our children.

Pancake Breakfast with St. Nick

before and after the 10:30 Mass at Maguire Hall

Pancakes, sausage, juice, coffee and tea will be served. Volunteers parents will be flipping and serving the all-you-can eat pancakes. St. Nicholas will be stopping by to meet and greet young and old alike! He has even agreed to have pictures taken, so come and join our Religious Education and school family, and bring your camera. Donations will be accepted.



Parish Calendar

Monday, December 4

2:30-6:00 PM - Day Care - C
4:00 - 6:45 PM - Voice Lessons - CH
6:30-9:30 PM - Faith & Fellowship - LMC

Tuesday, December 5

9:00 AM - Bible Study - RRT
11:30 - 3:00 PM - Voice Lessons - CH
2:30-6:00 PM - Day Care - C
7:00 PM - PPC-Agenda - RTR
7:30-9:00 PM - Praise Choir - MMR

Wednesday, December 6

2:30-6:00 PM - Day Care - C.
6:30 PM - Cantor Rehearsal - CH
6:30-8:00PM - Religious Education - LMC
7:30-9:00 PM - Celebration Choir - CH

Thursday, December 7

1:00-3:30 PM - Faith & Fellowship - LMC
2:00 PM - Day Care - C
4:00 - 8:00 PM - Voice Lessons - CH
6-8 PM - A.A. - RD
7:00-9:30 PM - Faith & Fellowship - LMC

Friday, December 8

8:00 AM - Flowers delivered for sale - CH
2:30-6:00 PM - Day Care - C

Saturday, December 9

9:00AM-12:00PM— Holiday Basket Program - M
4:30 PM - Christmas Flower Sale - CH



500 Club Certificates

Certificates are \$25 each and will be included in every weekly drawing from October 29th, 2017 through October 21st, 2018. The prize each week is \$25 except for three weeks when the prize is \$500. **If we sell all 500 certificates, there will be a 4th drawing for \$500.** Purchase forms have been mailed to registered members of the parish and are available in the back of church. This is a fun way to support the parish and it is open to everyone, not just members of our parish community. Pass the word. Thank you!!!

~ The Fundraising Committee

Save the Date

Sat.-Sun, Dec. -9-10
Christmas Flower Sale

Sat. Sun. Dec. 16-17
1. *Gift Cards Pick-Up*
2. *Fair Trade Sale in Church*

FOODFIRST IS THIS WEEKEND



**Friday, December 8, 2017
Mass at 8:30 AM
ONLY**

Mass Intentions for the Week

- Mon. December 4**
 8:30 † Mary Cotter
 By: Parishioners
- Tue. December 5**
 † Deborah Cassin
 By: Martha and Robert Cannon
- Wed. December 6**
 8:30 Judith M. Hebstritt (Health)
 By: Tom and Pat Nelson
- Fri. December 8**
 8:30 Sister Mary Ralph (Health)
 By: Dave Grayson
- Sat. December 9**
 9:00 Ron Page
 By: a Parishioner
- 5:00 † Reverend Elizabeth Bynum
 By: Donna Kanapes
- Sun. December 10**
 8:30 **FOR THE PEOPLE OF OUR PARISH**
 8:30 † Zach Best
 By: Larry Russo
- 10:30 † Vera Berger
 By: Donna Kanapes

Readings for the Week

- Monday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
- Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
- Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
- Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
- Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
- Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8
- Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

Saints and Special Observances

- Sunday: First Sunday of Advent
- Monday: St. John Damascene
- Wednesday: St. Nicholas
- Thursday: St. Ambrose;
 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- Friday: Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Saturday: St. Juan Diego

Our Parish Stewardship
St. Catherine-St. Lucy Church



<u>November 19, 2017</u>	\$	5,693.00
On-Line GiveCentral	\$	1,582.00
Weekly Budget	\$	7,308.00
DEFICIT	\$	- 33.00
<u>November 26, 2017</u>	\$	4,007.00
On-Line GiveCentral	\$	4,252.00
Weekly Budget	\$	7,308.00
SURPLUS	\$	951.00

Online donations can be made to St. Catherine-St. Lucy Parish at www.givecentral.org

Thanks for your continued financial support!

Today's Readings

First Reading — We are the clay and you, O Lord, are the potter: we are the work of your hands (Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7).

Psalm — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

Second Reading — God is faithful; by God you were called to fellowship with the Son (1 Corinthians 1:3-9).

Gospel — Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. (Mark 13:33-37).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass. © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

DECEMBER 10, 2017

<u>5:00 PM</u>	<u>8:30 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
Altar Servers		
Michael Giometti Mark Thomas	Tom Frank	Grace McGuire
Ministers of the Word		
Christine Wedekind Dan Brown	R. Smith-Quinn Jeanette Cannon	Pat Nelson Michelle Agbefe
Ministers of the Eucharist		
Chemetha Baker Susan Kumler Carol Brown Pat Koko	W. Washington Bill Cragg Marjorie Fields Claudia Zinanni Kevin Kell Kathy Mortell	Scarlett Evans John McGuire Doris Brown Jan Kieckhefer Kim McGuire Mary Howard

1st & 2nd Readings for the Upcoming Sunday are offered. Their sole purpose is to help us all of us "receive" and "hear" the word of God.

DECEMBER 10, 2017— SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

The passage from the book of Isaiah begins with God calling upon the prophet to encourage the Jewish people who are exiled in Babylon. The prophet is to tell them that they will be returning home soon, and the road of the return will pass through the desert. We will also hear God call the *people* to proclaim from a mountaintop the goodness of God.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

The second letter of Peter was written nearly 100 years after Jesus' death and resurrection. At an earlier time, Christians had expected the Lord to return in glory quickly. But by this time, they had lost confidence that the Lord would return at all. The author doesn't want people to abandon their hope, and gives a positive interpretation to this delay.

Update Personal Info

We are asking you to please update us with your cell phone number and e-mail address. Many people have cancelled their landlines and have not given us their new number. Please contact Amanda at 708-386-8077 or apomaredascsoffice@comcast.net



Bible Study - Tuesdays 9:30 AM

Please consider in joining us every Tuesday at 9:30 AM only for Bible Study in the Rectory. If you are trying to find answers to your daily life questions, or are willing to have an hour of peace and knowledge about our religion, please come. It is totally free.

Parish Advent Penance Services



Sunday, December 10 at 11:45 AM

Monday, December 11 at 7:00 PM

*Prepare for the coming of
our Lord!!*

Communion & Anointing of the Sick

Please call the Rectory at 708-386-8077 to let us know if you or a member of your family is in need of the sacrament of anointing of the sick or would like to have Holy Communion brought to your house or nursing home or both.

Remember a Loved One

We have the 2018 Mass book available. Mass intentions are only \$10.00. Please come to the Rectory to request your Masses. Remember your loved ones or any other special occasion.



Praying for the Sick In Our Parish

Coletta Ali, Gregory Ballew, Ernestine Bishop, Shelby Boblick, Rev. John Carolan, Brittany Crayton, Michael Cypser, Lillian Czaplicki, Anita Evenson, Lorri Fisk, Marcus Hall, Phillip Jones, Donna Kanapes, Paul Koko, Kate Kroker, Ron Page, Albert Parker, Charles Powell, Jr., Ann Protz, Elias Rojas, Carlton Shanks, Kate Shoefflin, Sue Vanek, and Diane Ward

The name of your close relative will remain on this list for four weeks. After that, you will have to call us again to reinstate it into the list. If you wish to include a name of a sick member of your family here, please call Amanda at the rectory during office hours. Thank you.

27 W. Washington Blvd.
Oak Park, IL 60302

708-386-5286

School News



- ..# We are so looking forward to sharing Mass and breakfast with our parish family today! Thank you to Mrs. Connie Rakitan, Mrs. Christine Wedekind, and all our special volunteers.
- ..# This Wednesday, our school choir will sing at the Rush—Oak Park Hospital during their tree-lighting ceremony. The festivities start at 3:30pm.
- ..# The school's Christmas Liturgy is set for Wednesday, December 13, at 10:15am, in church. Visitors are welcome.
- ..# Our school choir has once again been invited to sing at the tree lighting ceremony at Rush-Oak Park Hospital on December 6 at 3:30pm. Join us if you can.
- ..# Our National Junior Honor Society is sponsoring a toy drive for Sarah's Inn. Toys and donations are being collected through December 15.
- ..# Our annual Christmas raffle will be held on December 15. Check out our prizes – you never know what will catch your eye!
- ..# Our last day of school is Wednesday, December 20. A special Christmas concert starts at 10:15am; students dismiss for vacation at 11:30am

Bequests

PLEASE consider remembering our parish in your will or trust. We have been blessed in the past by the generosity of so many parishioners and I am hopeful this will continue into the future.

-Father George



Will be in the sanctuary this weekend. As you shop this season, please remember the children whose wishes go unanswered by bringing a toy or children's book to put under the tree. They will be delivered to Catholic Charities for their toy showers Saturday, December 9.

Little Blue Books For the Seasons of Advent and Christmas

These popular books are available now in the back of the church. You will be ready to begin the readings this season of Advent and Christmas. As usual, we are asking a voluntary donation of \$1 per *Little Blue Book*.



Christmas Flower Sale!

Christmas flowers and plants will arrive next weekend of **December 9 and 10!** Put Poinsettias, Cyclamen, Christmas Cactus, Green Plants and beautiful baskets on your gift list. Flowers will be sold after all the masses.

Holiday Food & Gift Basket

The Holiday Food and Gift Basket (HFGB), provides assistance at the holidays to low-income families and individuals living in the Oak Park and River Forest area. Program participants receive gifts in December purchased by sponsors wishing to brighten their holiday season. If you are interested in sponsoring an individual or family, please visit the HFGB webpage: <http://www.communityofcongregations.org/hfgb.html>



Christmas Shopping

New this year will be shopping at Ten Thousand Villages in Oak Park from **Sunday, December 3rd– Friday, December 8th** during the normal hours of the store. This gives you 6 days to shop and the parish will receive 15% of your sale. All you have to do is mention St. Catherine-St. Lucy Parish to the cashier prior to the ringing up of your sale. You can shop one day or each day! Hours will be Sunday 12-5, Monday-Friday 10-7. This is an opportunity to shop with purpose.

Ten Thousand Villages address is: 121 N Marion St, Oak Park, IL 60301



2017

Holiday Schedule

St. Catherine—St. Lucy Parish

Vigil of Christmas (Christmas Eve)

Sunday, December 24, 2017
8:30 AM & 10:30 AM
5:00 PM - Family Christmas Mass
(Prelude at 4:30 PM)

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25, 2017
8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

Solemnity of Mary,

Mother of God

Sunday, December 31, 2017
8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

New Year

Monday, January 1, 2018
10:00 AM - Only

Gift Drop Off is at the United Lutheran Church, now through Thursday, December 7, for delivery to recipients on Saturday December 9th.

Annual Posada

**Friday, December 15 ||| 7-9 AM
101 W. Congress, Chicago, IL**

Join us to walk and pray in solidarity with our immigrant sisters and brothers who - as the Hoy Family sought a place to stay - are seeking legislative shelter, "Posada". Let us show support for DACA families.

For more information visit:
www.catholicsandimmigrants.org



Give Central allows our parish to provide its parishioners a safe and convenient way to make regular, automatic electronic contributions and can also be used for special events and other collections.

We understand that most transactions today are done electronically. We want to provide you with that same convenient option at church. You can go directly to our website: www.stcatherinestlucy.org to be able to find the link to *GiveCentral*



You are the potter

