

December 10, 2017
Second 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

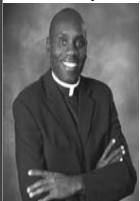
Sacrament of Reconciliation

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 is the 2nd week of Advent, and our first reading comes from prophet Isaiah. It is so inspiring, especially in light of the events that have happened in our nation recently through shootings of innocent people. Listen to what the prophet is telling the Israelites: "Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem..." Those words spoken many centuries ago by the prophet give us hope in the events that are happening not only in this nation but also all over the world. These are the words for the people who lost their loved ones in Las Vegas, at the First Baptist Church in Texas, the killing of innocent Mosques in Egypt, and many others. Are these the signs of the world coming to an end? The answer is no, but I tend to think that we have put aside Christ or removed Him from the public square and in our daily conversations in the name of freedom of religion.

Every action has a consequence! The Israelites at the time of prophet Isaiah knew better. Once God freed them from the suffering they went through under the pagan country Egypt, they quickly forgot about what God did for them. They neglected the least in their community, and the religious leaders were more concerned with their own welfare than that of the people. Once they were in this atmosphere, the people forgot or ignored God, and threw aside the Commandments that they had received through their leader Moses -- and I suspect they were very happy. But their happiness was short lived; they were captured by warring neighboring pagan nations and forcefully exiled in the end. In summary, the nation was littered with sin everywhere, and God abandoned them finally. In this cry of lamentation, the people were literally weeping. They needed help even though at the beginning they appeared not to accept their responsibilities and ask for forgiveness quickly. God is merciful and considerate as He will respond to them swiftly. He will comfort them from their self-inflicted miseries and spiritual wounds.

Advent gives us a great opportunity of expectation and of preparing for the second coming of our Lord Jesus in our hearts. We need to prepare our hearts so that we can meet Him directly. Christ is not very strange to us. We know Him by reading our Bibles, and by participating in the Eucharist and in the sufferings of our brothers and sisters in Christ. The prophet knows that the Israelites were feeling depressed, having witnessed the destruction of the Temple and having been taken into exile. Isaiah informs me or you without any fear that it is God who will comfort us in our trials, temptations and struggles. We as nation or community should come together and learn to trust each other in any events confronting us in this society. The world is not a perfect place and I would be naïve to think that it will be perfect in the future. But I am optimistic that we are making progress in the way we relate to each other. Let us treat other people with respect as they have the same desires, ambitions, and dreams as any one of you/me, whenever we encounter each other in places of work, church, or amusement parks, etc. People want to be loved, they want to be appreciated, and they want to feel that they are somebody important in our society! They want to be respected regardless of their social conditions or orientations. That is what Christianity is all about. Our actions to people should not be mere words but accompanied by deeds. That is my prayer and message during this second week of Advent. 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.

NOTE - Corrected Schedule

**Parish Advent
Penance Services**



Wednesday, December 13 at 7 PM
Sunday, December 17 at 11:45 AM
*Prepare for the coming of
our Lord!!*

Parish Calendar

Monday, December 11
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 12
9:00 AM - Bible Study - RRT
10:00 AM - FR Com. Meeting - RD
11:30 - 3:00 PM - Voice Lessons - CH
2:30-6:00 PM - Day Care - C
7:30-9:00 PM - Praise Choir - MMR

Wednesday, December 13
10:15 AM - School Christmas Serv. - CH
2:00 PM - Staff Meeting - RDR
2:30-6:00 PM - Day Care - C.
6:30-8:00PM - Religious Education - LMC
7:00 PM - Advent Reconciliation - CH
8:00-9:00 PM - Celebration Choir - CH

Thursday, December 14
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 15
2:30-6:00 PM - Day Care - C

Saturday, December 16
6:30 PM - Ugandan Christmas Party - M



**Christmas Flowers
Sale Today!**

This weekend Christmas flowers and plants will be on sale for your delight. Put Poinsettias, Cyclamen, Christmas Cactus, Green Plants and beautiful baskets on your gift list. Flowers will be sold after all the masses.

Fair Trade: Next Weekend
*Are Fair Trade coffee, tea and
chocolate on your Christmas list?*

Buying Fair Trade is a way to help the poor to help themselves. Please check your gift list to include Fair Trade coffees, teas, & chocolates.

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*.

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



**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

★
★ **500 CLUB WINNER** ★
★ \$ 25.00 ★
★ **December 10, 2016** ★
★ **ROBERT E. BYRNE,** ★
★ # 263 ★

Save the Date
Sat. Sun. Dec. 16-17
Gift Cards Pick-Up
Sat. Sun. Dec. 16-17
Fair Trade Sale

Mass Intentions for the Week

Mon. December 11

8:30 † Isabel Roman
By: Amanda Pomareda

Tue. December 12

† Joseph Hollins
By: Grace Bishop

Wed. December 13

8:30 † Rev. Harry Rynard
By: Dave Grayson

Fri. December 15

8:30 † Nancy Knowles
By: Tom Nelson

Sat. December 16

9:00 † Rose Lawler & Margaret Frank
By: Tom and Carol Frank

5:00 † Yeuk Ping Yee Camana
By: The Yee Family

Sun. December 17

8:30 **FOR THE PEOPLE OF OUR PARISH**

8:30 Bob Serritela (*Health*)
By: A Friend

10:30 † Pat, Mary, and Bonnie Hughes
By: The Hughes Family

Our Parish Stewardship
St. Catherine-St. Lucy Church



December 3, 2017	\$	6,665.00
On-Line GiveCentral	\$	4,777.00
Weekly Budget	\$	7,308.00
SURPLUS	\$	4,134.00

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 — The rugged land shall be made a plain; the rough country, a broad valley (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11).

Psalm — Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation (Psalm 85).

Second Reading — Conduct yourselves in holiness, hastening the coming of the day of God (2 Peter 3:8-14).

Gospel — I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:1-8).

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.

Readings for the Week

- Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of The Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
- Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
- Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
- Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Saints and Special Observances

- Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent; International Human Rights Day
- Monday: St. Damasus I
- Tuesday: Our Lady of Guadalupe; Hanukkah begins at sunset
- Wednesday: St. Lucy
- Thursday: St. John of the Cross
- Saturday: *Las Posadas* begins

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

DECEMBER 17, 2017

5:00 PM

8:30 AM

10:30 AM

Altar Servers

Steve Legatzke	Miles Jackson	Ian Elsen Leslie Agbefe
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Ministers of the Word

Paul Knight Mary Rose Nauss	Peter Barber Wrenetha Julion	Bill Sullivan, Jr. Br. J. Kilikevce
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Ministers of the Eucharist

Jack Kernan Pat Koko Brenda Fojtik Dan Brown	Claudia Zinanni Walter Washington Fannie Cooper Gordon Bell Annie Rowan Ginny Jones	Terry Sullivan Kim McGuire Pat Long Jan Kieckhefer Scarlett Evans Diana Cameron
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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 17, 2017–
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

First Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-2, 1011

The last part of the book of Isaiah contains the words of a prophet who preached after the Jews returned from exile in Babylon. They found their temple destroyed and the city leveled. In today's reading, the prophet describes how God called him to encourage the people in this desperate time.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Our second reading comes at the end of Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. Just as a parent might give last-minute instructions as their child heads out the door, so Paul has a list of last-minute instructions for these people whom he loves.



**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.

Pray For Our Deceased



Jennie Ford

May she rest in peace!

**A kind and faith-filled
parishioner**

*May the angels lead Jennie
into Paradise !*

**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.



**Praying for the
Sick In Our Parish**

Coletta Ali, 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.

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.

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

27 W. Washington Blvd.
Oak Park, IL 60302

708-386-5286



School News

- ..# The Family Mass last Sunday was a beautiful way to begin the Advent season. Thank you again to Mrs. Rakitan, Mrs. Wedekind, our amazing parent volunteers, and our incredible students!
- ..# The school's Christmas liturgy has been moved to Friday, December 15, at 10:15am. Please join us if you can.
- ..# The Christmas raffle also falls on Friday, December 15. Stop by to put your ticket in the basket for one of our fabulous prizes.
- ..# Our National Junior Honor Society is sponsoring a toy drive for Sarah's Inn. Toys and donations are being collected through December 15.
- ..# Our last day of school is Wednesday, December 20. A special Christmas concert starts at 10:15am; students dismiss for vacation at 11:30am. School opens on January 8, 2018.



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*

News of Comfort

In a time of preparation, much of it having to do with material things, it is good to hear the words of Isaiah, "Comfort, give comfort to my people, / says your God" (Isaiah 40:1). In a time of such stress and rush, when our usual burdens are augmented by piles of Christmas preparations, we can choose to slow down, take some time to heal, and appreciate the enormous gift we are about to receive. Christ, the Son of God, has become one of us, and knows our human limitations. Yet God, even now, is freeing us from the burdens that our inattentiveness to our God and to our deepest inner longings have heaped upon us. The Lord comes, not as a king with mighty armies, but as a shepherd leading the flocks with care and tenderness. Isaiah prophesies good news: our oppression is over, our sins forgiven. The savior we have awaited is coming, not the first time, but in the end times, as our salvation.

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Religious Education

A great big thanks to all who came to the *St. Nick Pancake Breakfast* and all who volunteered their time to make this a wonderful way to start Advent and welcome Jesus into their lives. Without the help of volunteers we wouldn't have been able to proceed with a fun event.

The people who helped, Laura Swider-Lozaro, Anthony Lozaro and Ariana Lozaro, Matt Quilty and Cora Quilty, Rocio and Teresa Diaz, Juan, Esteban and Sebastian Perez. J., Ava and Aaron Konecki. Pierre Priestly, Carol Davis, Charlene and Brian Pure, Steve Clay and his family, Fred Rogers (aka - St. Nick) and his family. Pat Holihan, Olivia Aberon, Don Kumler and the Smith family, Darius and Domingo from the school and various other individuals who I didn't get their names. Families from both St. Catherine-St. Lucy School and our Religious Education program working together. Thank you for helping to make this successful.

The **family mass** was wonderful and thank you to all who helped make it a prayerful experience for us all. I look forward to what our Christmas celebration will be like. The voices of our children and their readings were awesome.

Again I can't say it enough, thank you and if I missed adding your name, I apologize, but you know who you are and thank you.

Please Consider HELPING

As has been our tradition, all in the parish are invited to help in the preparation of our beautiful church for Christmas! Perhaps you can help out on one or all (!) of the following dates:

"Cleaning of the church" Saturday, December 16th between 8:00 and 10:30 AM;

"Decorating the church" (trees, wreaths, crèche) Monday, December 18th, between 4:00 and 6:30 PM;

"Placement of Christmas Flowers in the church" Saturday, December 23rd, between 10:00 and 12 noon.

This weekend's 2nd Collection is for the
Retirement Fund for Religious Collection

Many elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests worked for little to no pay, and their religious communities do not have enough money for their care.

Generations of Catholics recall with gratitude their work in Catholic schools, hospitals, and social service agencies. Yet years of ministering for little or no pay came at a price, and now their religious communities lack adequate savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide prescription medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

Please support the Retirement Fund for Religious collection at Mass on this weekend. Learn more at retiredreligious.org

Pray For Our Deceased



Gregory Ballew

May he rest in peace!

Brother of Michael Ballew,
 receptionist at SCSL
 and a kind and faith-filled
 parishioner

*May the angels lead Gregory
 into Paradise !*

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

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

Gift Cards

The Final pick-up takes place this weekend and on Dec. 16-17.

Buy Your Gift Cards At
St. Catherine-St. Lucy
 This Christmas
 (or cards for your personal use)
 In the Church Gathering Area




















DEC.

St. Lucy

December 13th is the feast day of St. Lucy. St. Lucy was a virgin martyr during the earliest centuries of Christianity under its worst persecution at the hands of the Roman Empire, therefore making her one of the most glorious saints in heaven.

She is of such renown that she is one of the saints mentioned by name in the Roman Canon of the Mass, one of only seven female saints listed.

Lucia means “light,” a fitting name for a young woman who was known to visibly glow and radiate in her love for her spouse, Jesus Christ. Falling during the Advent season—and thus a long, dark winter—there are many beautiful traditions associating this saint with the meaning of her name, the story of her life, and her glorious position in heaven. Her feast day is celebrated with candles, torches, and even bonfires.



Pro-Life: America's Deadly Silence!

Abortion is the most common, least regulated medical procedure and the number one killer in America. More lives are lost each year through abortion than all deaths due to cancer, heart attacks, accidents, AIDS, natural disasters, wars, illness and diseases combined.

The savagery of war, the atrocities of the Nazi holocaust, graphic violence, natural disasters and critical and bloody medical procedures are routinely shown on the media. But never an abortion!

Women are denied critical information on the risks of an abortion, including increased risk of Breast Cancer, Post Abortion Syndrome, the sale of body parts etc.

The truth about abortion has been censored by the media, silenced by our courts, politicized by our politicians and even silenced in our churches and schools. Babies in the womb have no voice except yours and mine. We cannot remain silent any longer!

—Pro-Life Articles Author