

Thoughts from our Pastor Rev. George O. Omwando



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Miraculous!” “Revolutionary!” “Greatest ever!” We are inundated by a flood of extravagant claims as we channel-surf the television or flip magazine pages or browse the Internet. The messages leap out at us. The products assure that they are new, improved, fantastic, and capable of changing our lives forever. For only a few dollars, we can have “cleaner clothes,” “whiter teeth,” “glamorous hair,” and “tastier food.” Automobiles, perfume, diet drinks, and mouth wash are guaranteed to bring happiness, friends, and the good life that you can dream of. And just before an election, no one can match the politicians’ promises. But talk is cheap, and too often we soon realize that the boasts were hollow, quite far from the truth.

With energetic style and crisp, well-chosen words, in our second reading, Saint James confronts this head-on. It is not enough to talk about the Christian faith, he says; we must live it. Genuine faith will inevitably produce good deeds. This is the central theme of James’s letter, around which he supplies practical advice on living the Christian life. James distinguishes two kinds of wisdom – earthly and heavenly. Then he encourages his readers to turn from evil desires and to obey God. Some of the evil desires that James mentions are: jealousy, selfish ambitions, and envy. Surprisingly, many of us are preoccupied or consumed with the things that other people have until it reaches a point that the spirit of jealousy is activated. I believe that at some point in our lives, all of us have been faced with the spirit of jealousy. However, some are mild while others are very extreme. We see individuals with a new vehicle, a new or bigger home, new clothing, a new business, a new job, a promotion, and we tend to get jealous. We are even jealous of the different gifts and abilities that others have. We also tend to be jealous when we see others appear to be prospering more than us. Jealousy is a sinful attitude and leads to division, hate, and even murder. The spirit of jealousy lines up with the plan of the Devil as he came to kill, steal, and destroy. One of the primary things we need to do is to desist from becoming obsessed with the things other people have.

One way to do this is to focus on God and yourself. Know what you want and set a plan in motion to achieve what you want and not what others have. The key ingredient is to be content with what state you are in. Even if we sometimes are used to comparing ourselves to others, we must try to recognize that each of us is unique. Therefore, do not try to imitate the gifts that others have. You also have gifts that they may not have. Some of us have gifts that we do not even realize we possess. Search deep within yourself, pray, and ask God for direction. You may find that your gifts are within you and need to be activated. Once you activate the gifts, you will realize how abundantly blessed you are and therefore have no need to be jealous. Jealousy leads to hate. Because you envy someone so much and you do not possess the things they have, you will end up hating that individual. Soon thereafter, you stop speaking to the person. Sometimes the individual does not even know why you stopped talking to him or her. It is simply because you are jealous and now have developed a hatred for that individual. Pray always against the spirit of jealousy.

This weekend we are taking up a second collection to help seminarians who are studying to be priests for the Archdiocese. Your generous support goes a long way to help them to prepare well. I know this is a very challenging time because of the on-and-off sexual abuse news, but I hope you are not discouraged by that. There are so many priests who are doing great things that you will never get to hear. Please focus on the word of God. Seek ye first the kingdom of God always. God bless you.

— Fr. George

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

Juan Perez

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.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Mon. September 24

8:30 † Virginia Keenan
By: Ministry of Care

Tue. September 25

† Mary Hayes
By: A Friend

Wed. September 26

8:30 † Alfred Bishop, Jr.
By: Grace Bishop

Fri. September 28

8:30 † Luke Podraza
By: Ministry of Care

Sat. September 29

9:00 † Winifred Ballew
By: Ministry of Care
5:00 † Harry Koko
By: The Koko Family

Sun. September 30

8:30 **FOR THE PEOPLE OF OUR PARISH**
8:30 † Andrew Shaya Mushi
By: Selena Mushi
10:30 † Susan Goeb-Miniscalco
By: Donna Kanapes

Readings for the Week

Monday: Prv 3:27-34; Ps 15:2-5; Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday: Prv 21:1-6, 10-13;
Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44; Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday: Prv 30:5-9; Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163;
Lk 9:1-6
Thursday: Eccl 1:2-11; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17bc;
Lk 9:7-9
Friday: Eccl 3:1-11; Ps 144:1b, 2abc, 3-4;
Lk 9:18-22
Saturday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a;
Ps 138:1-5; Jn 1:47-51
Sunday: Nm 11:25-19; Ps 19:8, 10, 12-14;
Jas 5:1-6; Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday: Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time;
Sukkot (Jewish harvest festival) begins at
sunset; Autumn begins
Wednesday: Ss. Cosmas and Damian
Thursday: St. Vincent de Paul
Friday: St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions;
St. Wenceslaus
Saturday: Ss. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael

Our Parish Stewardship St. Catherine-St. Lucy Church



September 16, 2018	\$ 4,022.00
On-Line GiveCentral	\$ 867.00
Weekly Budget	\$ 7,308.00
DEFICIT	\$ -2,419.00

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 wicked say: With revilement and
torture let us put the just one to the test
(Wisdom 2:12, 17-20).

Psalm — The Lord upholds my life (Psalm 54).

Second Reading — The wisdom from above is full of
mercy and good fruits (James 3:16 — 4:3).

Gospel — Whoever receives one child such as this in my
name, receives me (Mark 9:30-37).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from Lectionary
for Mass. © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on
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LITURGICAL MINISTERS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

5:00 PM **8:30 AM** **10:30 AM**

Altar Servers

Michael Giometti Miles Jackson Michelle Agbefe
Abigail G.

Ministers of the Word

Christine Wedekind Peter Barber Bro J. Kilikevici
Dan Brown Ken Blair Joyce Wade

Ministers of the Eucharist

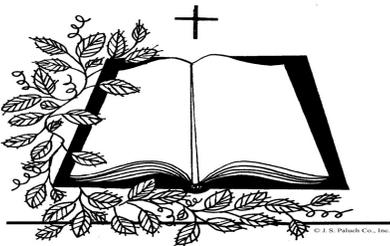
Jack Kernan	Claudia Zinanni	Jeanne Visteen
Susan Kumler	Elaine Podraza	Bill Holmes
Lessie Dean	Annie Rowan	Scarlett Evans
Era Yee	Ginny Jones	Yuna Kim
	Fannie Cooper	Diana Cameron
	Gordon Bell	Mary Howard

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.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2018 — 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Numbers 11:25-29

The book of Numbers describes the wanderings of the Jewish people in the Sinai Desert. Earlier in the book, Moses had complained to God about the difficulties of governing so many people. In response, God had directed Moses to gather 70 elders around the meeting tent to receive a share in the administrative burdens. Today's passage picks it up from there.



Second Reading: James 5: 1-6

Today we conclude our series of five readings from the letter of James. A major concern in this letter is social justice. Today, the author delivers a blistering attack, reminiscent of some of the Old Testament prophets.

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

Race, Place & Discipleship Lecture

Renowned African-American Theologian Rev. Dr. Willie James Jennings to Speak Sept. 29-30 at Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Episcopal Church is located at 924 Lake St. in Oak Park. Tickets are \$35 if purchased online, in advance, by visiting www.graceoakpark.org/ and clicking on "Events." Tickets purchased at the door are \$40 (cash and check only). Students with a valid student ID are \$20. Info? Call: 708-386-8036.



Bible Study - Mondays 9:30 AM

Our Bible Study group meets on Mondays ~ 9:30—11:00 AM in the Rectory.

We use the New Collegeville Bible Commentary from Collegeville, Minnesota. We read the scriptures, weekly psalms, and the commentary. Then we discuss it. It is an enlightening experience and totally free.

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

Theresa Adcock, Coletta Ali, Jeanette Cannon, Lillian Czaplicki, Normantha and Larry Evans, Anita Evenson, Phillip Jones, Terrie Kalina, Paul Koko, Kate Kroker, Science Meles, Albert Parker, Jr., Raul Perez, Carlton Shanks, Nsanda S. Stumps, Kate Shoevlin, June Verbillion, and Molly Dula-Weber

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're excited to host the portable dentist at school on September 27. Our students will have dental exams, as well as a mini-class on the importance of dental health.
- ..# Local Catholic high schools, along with scholarship groups, will be here on the evening of Thursday, October 4, in Maguire Hall. All junior high students are welcome to attend.
- ..# A group from Ernst and Young will be here on Friday afternoon, October 5, to conduct science experiments with our students.
- ..# Volunteers are always welcome at our school. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Mrs. Leamy: sleamy@catherinelucy.org

Pray For Our Deceased



Jeanette Alexander
May she rest in peace!

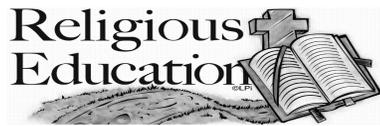
We lift her up with our prayers while we embrace Robert, her husband; Rodney, her son and extended family in a prayerful embrace.

May the angels lead her into Paradise

Remember a Loved One 2019 Mass Book is here!

We have **weekday** Masses available in our 2019 Mass Book. Please come to the Rectory for Masses. We also have plenty of *weekday* masses available for the rest of 2018 Mass book.

Please contact Amanda at the Rectory 708-386-8077 or by e-mail: apomaredascsloffice@comcast.net



If you read Fr. George's "Thoughts from our Pastor" article in the September 9 bulletin, you know that the former convent, LMC is being rented out. There was a need to clean everything out, and move items to the Rectory, and at this time I would personally like to thank the following individuals for helping to make it happen. To Richard Bongiorno, Sebastian and Estaban Perez, former Confirmand's from our parish. Darrick Allen, Mike Stryczek and Charles "Chucky" Scott, members of our parish staff. Two recent graduates from our parish school, Darius Taylor and D'Mingo Dawkins. The group of students from Wisconsin "Young Neighbors in Action". Affordable Recovery Housing, from Blue Island, who removed desks, chairs and other furniture, and to Connie Rakitan, Faith & Fellowship, and to Amanda who made sure we had a dumpsters available. If I have forgotten anyone, I apologize. Thank you all for your hard work over the summer months, it was a big job, but with everyone working together we accomplished it.

Christine Wedekind

Coordinator of Religious Education

Confirmation 2019

Last Sunday, September 16, 2018, we presented our Confirmation candidates to the parish during the 10:30 a.m. mass and they started their preparation classes after mass. This is in preparation for Confirmation with St. Edmunds students on Saturday, September 28, 2019 at St. Edmunds Parish. The students from St Edmunds will be preparing in their own parish and we will join with them at various times during the year which will bring all of the candidates together to share this faith journey. With the blessing of Fr. George Omwando and Fr. John McGivern and the prayers of members of both parishes these young people will be ready to meet Bishop John Manz and become fully initiated members of the Catholic Church.

An invitation to leave the congregation.....and join one of our choirs



I did so a number of years ago and have no regrets about doing so. I have found the experience of singing to be very rewarding, fulfilling, enjoyable and satisfying. It is also a source of comfort to me when I need it. For me, this was particularly true during when Kate was sick--the choir supported us with prayers, hugs and many other kindnesses.

As a member of the parish family, I have found it very gratifying to sing for our children when they receive the sacraments.

The choirs' role is to encourage and enrich the congregational singing and, in my opinion, the choirs have succeeded in this. Our parish has a long tradition of congregational participation in the music. I truly enjoy hearing the congregation sing with us (yes, we can hear you !).

Yes, there is commitment of time. The Celebration Choir (Gail Rohmann, director) sings at 10:30 mass on the first, third, and if there is one, the fifth Sundays of the month. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays 7:30—9:00 pm. This choir doesn't sing or rehearse in July or August.

The Praise Choir (Julius White, director) sings at the 5pm mass on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays 7:30-9:00 pm. The Praise Choir also does not sing or rehearse in July and August.

There are no auditions, requirements that you be able to read music, or have previous choral experience. Trust me when I say this--- you will be welcomed with open arms by the choir members. We are neither a clique nor an impenetrable wall.

"The only thing better than singing is more singing." - *Ella Fitzgerald*

Please consider this and see Gail or Julius if you are interested.

Peace,

Phil Kroker 



2018 Baby Bottle Project is Back!!!

Beginning on these dates, our parish will be participating in The Baby Bottle Project benefiting The Women's Centers of Greater Chicagoland. This non-profit organization directly assists mothers and families experiencing crisis pregnancies by offering emotional, financial, material, and spiritual support through counseling, clothing & monetary provisions, prayer, and other aid. Each year the three locations together have over 5,000 appointments with expecting mothers. By God's Grace, The Women's Centers have saved almost 40,000 babies—and their mothers—from abortion since opening in 1984.



Please take a Baby Bottle home with you from the church on **October 7th**, fill it with your spare change, and return it the weekend of **October 28th**

This is a simple, but crucial fundraising effort for The Women's Centers. Please note the Baby Bottles cost almost \$1.00 per bottle and are recycled afterwards so please return upon completion of the project. Thank you for helping defend life, and remember to keep all pro-life undertakings in your prayers.

Also if you are making a donation by check, please make it payable to: The Women's Center. Thank you!



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 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*

The women of Chicago's west side and of the near-west parishes are invited to gather for autumn spirituality!

Shelby Boblick will facilitate the discussion, and we'll use as a catalyst **Trouble Don't Last Always: Soul Prayers**, a book by Diana L. Hayes. *"I believe I have learned, because of my own struggles, how to see, hear, and feel the struggles of others, voiced and invoiced. This has led me to explore theology and the role of Christian Churches in the U.S. in a new and challenging way—from the bottom up. I know what it is like to be poor, to be discriminated against because of my poverty, my race, my gender, and my disabilities. These many years of struggle and pain, which continue to this day, have forged me in the fiery furnace of God's love."* (p. 6)

Diana L. Hayes will be the keynote speaker on "Difference is not dangerous; difference is Divine" at St. Catherine of Siena- St. Lucy Church on Thursday, Nov. 15 at 7 pm. It will be a special evening...not to be missed...open to all men and women...which will also feature some of our local community's black female spiritual leaders.

It matters not at all if you miss a week or two. You are welcome to join as your schedule permits. Drop-ins are encouraged! Bring your female friends, visitors, or relatives.

We'll offer duplicate sessions each Monday: one at 1 p.m. and another at 7:30 p.m. No need to come at the same time each Monday. Sessions last no longer than 90 minutes.

Mon., Oct. 1:	Week 1—Yet Do I Marvel; In the Garden; I Know What the Caged Bird Feels
Mon., Oct. 8:	Week 2—I Believe, Lord, Help My Unbelief; Thy Will Not Mine, O Lord; Let Go and Let God
Mon., Oct. 22:	Week 3—I Surrender All; Tired; I Don't Feel No Ways Tired
Mon., Nov. 5:	Week 4—I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray; That Good Night; Come, Ye Disconsolate
Mon., Nov. 12:	Week 5—One Day at a Time; Fix Me, Jesus, Fix Me; There is a Balm in Gilead

We meet in the gathering area of St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy Church at 38 N. Austin Blvd., Oak Park, IL. The church is handicapped accessible. Only the doors on Austin Blvd. will be open. There are excellent assistive listening devices available. Questions or concerns? Call Shelby Boblick at 630-240-2765

It's time to set up carpools for Oct. 20.

If you've received a confirming e-mail in the past couple days that you're attending the Joyce Rupp retreat at Siena Retreat Center in Racine, WI:

Coming Out of Exile

October 20, 2018

Joyce Rupp

9am-3pm



and you'd like to participate in a carpool, please e-mail me with: would you like a ride, or would you like to drive? if you can drive, how many (other than yourself) can go in your car? With that information, I'll follow up with carpool information in a separate e-mail.

We'll depart from the St. Catherine-St. Lucy parking lot on Sat., Oct. 20 at 7 am. It takes about 90 minutes to get to **Siena Retreat Center, 5637 Erie St., Racine, WI.** If you are uncertain whether you are registered for the retreat (on or off a waitlist), please call Siena Retreat Center directly (262-898-2590) to clarify.

The retreat will finish at 3pm, though you would certainly be welcome to stay longer to shop in the bookstore or walk the grounds. Siena has a lovely labyrinth. Please plan on getting home by 6 p.m.

NOTE: If you are coming from the south, you may want to consider exiting earlier than normal off of I-94. The construction north of Hwy 50 is "a mess" so you might want to exit at Hwy 50, not far north of the Illinois state line. Turn left (east) on Hwy 50 and proceed to Hwy 31. Turn left (north) on Hwy 31 and continue (about 16 miles) to 4-Mile Rd. Turn right (east) on 4-Mile and proceed past the stop-light at Hwy 32, past one stop sign, to the stop sign at Erie St. Turn left (north) on Erie. Siena will be on your right hand side.

Shelby S. Boblick

shelbysboblick@comcast.net

September 23, 2018
Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



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ST. CATHERINE

OF SIENA **ST. LUCY**

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. George Omwando, Pastor
Ms. Gail Rohmann, Music Director
Mrs. Christine Wedekind, Rel. Ed. Coord.
Mrs. Sharon Leamy, Principal

SUPPORT STAFF

Ms. Patricia Pomykalski, Business Manager
Mrs. Amanda Pomareda, Office Manager
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
(Please enter the Church by Washington Blvd. 2nd door to the West)
NO Thursday Communion Service until the Fall of 2018

Weekend Masses:

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

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. *(cont'd in pg.2)*