



**ST. CATHERINE**

**OF SIENA ST. LUCY**

**DECEMBER 1, 2019**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



**PASTORAL TEAM**

**Rev. George Omwando, Pastor**  
**Rev. Patrick Wangai, Associate Pastor**  
**Mrs. Sharon Leamy, Principal**  
**Rev. Patrick Wangai, Chemetha Baker**  
**Religious Education Coordinators**  
**Mr. Kraig Zeronik, Director of Music and Liturgy**

**SUPPORT STAFF**

**Ms. Patricia Pomykalski, Business Manager**  
**Mrs. Amanda Pomareda, Office Manager**  
**Mrs. Fannie Cooper, School Secretary**

**CONTACTING THE PARISH & SCHOOL**

**Rectory:** 38 N. Austin Blvd.; Oak Park, IL 60302  
**Telephone:** 708-386-8077  
**Email:** [apomaredascsoffice@comcast.net](mailto:apomaredascsoffice@comcast.net)  
**Web:** [www.stcatherinestlucy.org](http://www.stcatherinestlucy.org)  
**Hours:** 8:30 AM-8:00 PM—Monday, & Thursdays.  
Tuesday, Wednesday, & Fridays: 8:30 AM—4:30 PM  
Saturday 9:00AM—4:30PM; 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, Thursday and Friday - 8:30 am**  
(Please enter the Church by Washington Blvd. 2nd door to the West)

**Weekend Masses:**

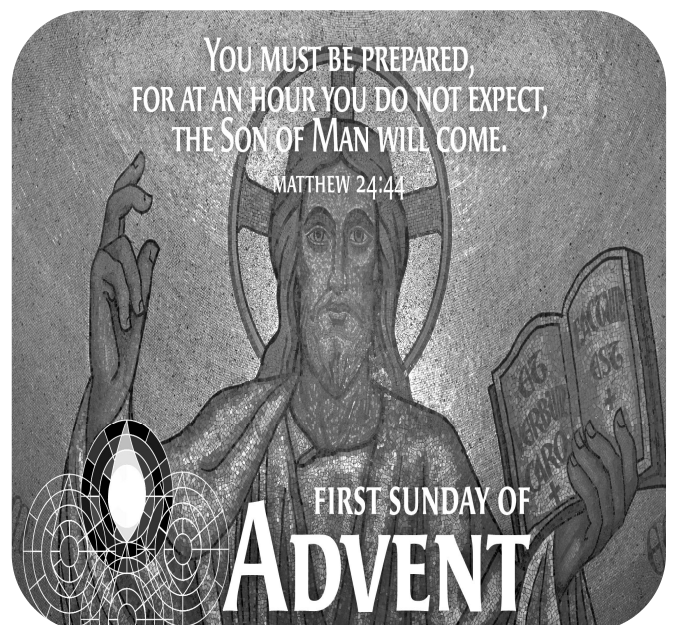
**Saturday Morning - 9:00 am**  
**Saturday Evening - 5:00 pm**  
**Sunday Morning - 8:30 & 10:30 am**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

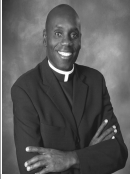
Saturday at 4:00 PM to 4:30 PM; or by appointment.

**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)



## Thoughts From Rev. George O. Omwando, Pastor



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As a community we assemble daily to celebrate the Eucharist. The Eucharist means, "Thanksgiving", or that we gather every day in our church is a blessing from God. We gather to thank and worship God, to praise Him for the gift of life among other things that He has done for us. Many people think that Thanksgiving Day which is followed by the season of shopping and huge discounts in different stores otherwise known as "Black Friday" is the reason. There is nothing wrong with shopping, but this season of shopping unfortunately corresponds with the NEW SEASON OF ADVENT which is really the most important one in our Christian faith.

What is Advent? The word "Advent" means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. Thus, Advent is far more than simply marking a 2,019-year-old event in history. It is celebrating a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God. That is a process in which we now participate, and the consummation of which we anticipate. Scripture reading for Advent will reflect this emphasis on the Second Advent, including themes of accountability for faithfulness at His coming, judgment on sin, and the hope of eternal life. Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing. There is a yearning for deliverance from the evils of the world, first expressed by Israelite slaves in Egypt as they cried out from their bitter oppression. It is the cry of those who have experienced the tyranny of injustice in a world under the curse of sin, and yet who have hope of deliverance by a God who has heard the cries of oppressed slaves and brought deliverance! It is that hope, however faint at times, and that God, however distant He sometimes seems, which brings to the world the anticipation of a King who will rule with truth and justice and righteousness over His people and in His creation. It is that hope that once anticipated, and now anticipates anew, the reign of an Anointed One, a Messiah, who will bring peace and justice and righteousness to the world. The color of Advent is purple which is the color of penitence and fasting as well as the color of royalty to welcome the Advent of the King.

In today's reading Jeremiah speaks of the restoration not simply of daily life. To a people devastated by loss, Jeremiah's prophecy offered hope for instance: "The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah" (33:14). All might seem lost, but God still is faithful. The house of David might be cut down, but God is able to bring life out of death. A branch will sprout. The same proclamation is given today to us, inheritors of Jeremiah's task. We are called to speak a word of hope and promise in a world often filled with fear and uncertainty, even despair. Especially in this season of Advent, we speak words of hope. In the midst of darkness, light is about to break in. In the midst of despair, hope erupts. After long waiting, a branch will sprout. The complete fulfillment of God's promises has not yet happened, but it is coming. Such is Advent faith, and Advent hope that I invite you to journey with me during these four weeks of Advent, Year A as we prepare for the birth of our savior. 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: Rev. George Omwando  
Celebration Choir: Kraig Zeronik  
Praise Choir: Julius White  
Greeters & Ushers: Jim Lewis

#### Ministers of the Eucharist & Ministers of the Word:

Jeanne Visteen  
Kathy Paoli  
**Ministers of Care:** Rev. G. Omwando  
**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA):** Fr. George O. Omwando  
**Women's Ministry:** Shelby Boblick  
**Human Concerns Commission**  
**Peace & Justice Committee:**  
Rev. George Omwando  
**Education Commission**  
Baptism Com.: Fr. G. Omwando  
**Bible Study:** Russ McCaughey  
**Religious Education of Children:**  
Rev. Patrick Wangai, Chemetha Baker  
**St. Catherine/St. Lucy School:**  
School Board Chair: Natasha Lee  
**Parish Development & Services Commission**  
Collection Counters: Rev. G. Omwando  
Facilities Committee: Jim Podraza,  
Amanda Pomareda  
**Fundraising Committee:**  
Pat Nelson / Cynthia Weaver

(cont'd from pg. 1)

**Weddings:** Please contact Fr. George 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.

#### **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.

#### **Funerals:**

Please call the Rectory to set up arrangements with the Christian Burial Mass.

#### **Newcomers**

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



# Mass Intentions for the Week

**Mon. December 2**

8:30 † **Dorothy Zimmerman**  
By: Evie Stockinger

**Tue. December 3**

8:30 **Sandra Woolfolk**  
By: Grace Bishop

**Wed. December 4**

8:30 † **Lee Iacocca**  
By: Tom Nelson

**Thurs. December 5**

8:30 † **Ted Marszalek**  
By: Faith & Fellowship

**Fri. December 6**

8:30 † **Luke Podraza**  
By: Elaine and Jim Podraza

**Sat. December 7**

9:00 † **Rev. John Carolan**  
By: Ministry of Care

5:00 † **Jerry Rice**  
By: The Yee Family

**Sun. December 8**

8:30 **FOR THE PEOPLE OF OUR PARISH**  
8:30 † **Arturo C. Alegria**  
By: The Fundraising Committee  
10:30 † **Willie Brown**  
By: Thom and Susan Schouten

## Readings for the Week

Monday: Is 4:2-6; 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: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31  
 Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1  
 Sunday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

## Saints and Special Observances

Sunday: First Sunday of Advent; World AIDS Awareness Day  
 Tuesday: St. Francis Xavier  
 Wednesday: St. John Damascene  
 Friday: St. Nicholas; First Friday  
 Saturday: St. Ambrose; First Saturday; Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

## Stewardship Report

Due to the bulletin early deadlines, for the Thanksgiving Holiday, our stewardship report for the week of November 24 will be shown later within the December 8, 2019 bulletin.



## Today's Readings

**First Reading** — All the peoples shall stream toward the Lord's house (Isaiah 2:1-5).

**Psalms** — Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord (Psalm 122).

**Second Reading** — It is the hour to cast off the dark and clothe ourselves in the light (Romans 13:11-14).

**Gospel** — Stay awake! Be prepared! The Son of Man will come when you least expect (Matthew 24:37-44).

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 8, 2019		
5:00 PM	8:30 AM	10:30
<b>Altar Servers</b>		
Michael Giometti	Walter Washington	David Detmer Claire Detmer
<b>Ministers of the Word</b>		
Debra Lomax McLane Lomax	Thom Schouten Peter Barber	TBA
<b>Ministers of the Eucharist</b>		
<b>Chemetha Baker</b> Susan Kumler Michelle Darang-Coleman Lessie Dean	<b>Kevin Kell</b> Annie Rowan Claudia Zinnani Ginny Jones Kathy Mortell Marjorie Fields	Scarlett Evans Bill Holmes John McGuire Renee Smith Quinn Bern Wheel Marie Wheel

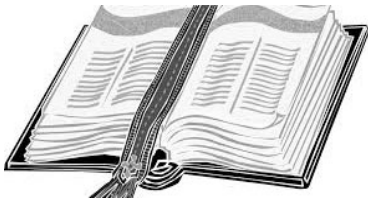


## Praying for the Sick In Our Parish

Coletta Ali, Mike Ballew, Shelby Boblick, Eloise Brown, Lillian Czaplicki, Scarlett Evans, Dwayne and Paula Evans, Dave Grayson, Kathy Feulner, Phillip Jones Donna Kanapes, Paul Koko, Kathleen Kroker, Georgine Mullen, Kathy Paoli, Albert Parker, Jr., Raul Perez, Jennifer Saldukas, Annette Varga, and Jeanne Visteen

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.

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 8, 2019 - 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**First Reading: Baruch 5: 1-9**

The setting for today's reading is the time when the Jews were captives in Babylon. The author writes of a bright future when they will return with joy to their homeland. In this passage, Jerusalem is pictured as a joyful mother, watching her children come home.

**Second Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11**

Of all the communities Paul founded the one at Philippi was especially dear to him. Wherever he was, they sent him moral and financial support to help carry on his work. Now confined to a prison cell, Paul writes to them like a proud parent.



## 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 is 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.

## Remember a Loved One

We still have many weekday Masses available in our 2019 Mass Book. **We also have the 2020 Mass Book open for your requests.** Come to the Rectory to request your Masses. Remember your loved ones or any other special occasion. Mass intentions are only \$10.00.

## 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

## Update Personal Info

Please DO NOT FORGET to update us with your new cell phone number, e-mail address, or any other change of status. Please contact Amanda at 708-386-8077 or via e-mail at: [apomaredascsoffice@comcast.net](mailto:apomaredascsoffice@comcast.net)

[www.catherinelucy.org](http://www.catherinelucy.org)  
708-386-5286



## School Scoop

- ..# Thank you to all our families who have so generously supported our many fundraisers this month. We appreciate you.
- ..# On Wednesday, December 18th at 10:15 there will be School Christmas Liturgy in Church, and you are invited!

## Next Week 2nd Collection is for



## Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.  
[retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org)

The Retirement Fund for Religious provides support for thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Your efforts encouraged people of the Archdiocese of Chicago to donate over \$1 million to the 2018 National Retirement Religious Office's Retirement Fund for Religious.

## Attention Young Readers!

We have a new resource for the younger members of our community in the book cart. There are a variety of books at various reading levels but all appropriate for church. Please feel free to take a book during mass and, as always, return it to the cart at the end of mass.

### Christmas Flower Sale!



Christmas flowers and plants will arrive the weekend of **December 14-15!** Put Poinsettias, Cyclamen, Christmas

Cactus, Green Plants and beautiful baskets on your gift list. Flowers will be sold after all the masses.

### Gift Cards Information

- « #Gift cards for Christmas will be sold for all Masses on November 30/ December 1 and December 7/8.
- « #Pick up is 2 two weeks after the order, December 14/15 and December 21/22.
- « #The gift card form will be in the bulletin on November 23/24 and in the back of church.

### XIV Annual Posada Seeking Immigration Reform

**Friday, December 13 || 7-9 AM**

**101 Ida B. Wells Parkway** (formerly Congress Parkway)

Join us to walk and pray in solidarity with our immigrant sisters and brothers who — as the Holy Family sought a place to stay — are seeking legislative shelter, - *posada* the route will begin at the Metropolitan Correctional Center (71 West Van Buren Street) and continue to DePaul University Loop Campus (11 East Jackson Boulevard), Federal Plaza and St. Peter's (110 West Madison Street).

For more information, contact Mauro Pineda at [mpineda@archchicago.org](mailto:mpineda@archchicago.org) or 312.534.8103 or Yazmin Saldivar at [ysaldivar@archchicago.org](mailto:ysaldivar@archchicago.org) or 312.534.8106.

### The Giving Tree



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 in mid—December. Questions? Please call Linda at 708-386-6389.

—The Peace & Justice Committee



### Immaculate Conception

A Holy Day of Obligation

**Monday, December 9, 2019**

**Daily Mass: 8:30 AM**

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


**grocery- restaurant - retail - specialty.....Choose from over 200 cards!**  
**Read our Gift Card article on page 3 of this bulletin!**

## Hopeful Expectation

Our liturgical year begins with the season of Advent—a time of hopeful expectation of the coming of the Lord. On the First Sunday of Advent we look forward to the end of time when we will awaken to the dawn of Christ's new day.

Today we hear Isaiah speak of a day when God's power will have brought universal peace and God's Word will have instructed all people, radiating God's "light" (teachings) into all of human society. Only when humanity walks "in the light of the Lord" (Isaiah 2:5), when all people desire to be instructed "in [God's] ways" (Isaiah 2:3), will the world be set aright and our deepest longings fulfilled. The reading from Romans calls us to "awake from sleep" for this final "day is at hand" (Romans 13:11, 12). Together this Sunday's scriptures proclaim our Christian faith that Jesus is the One who will finally come to fulfill God's plan of salvation.

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### Food for Thought...

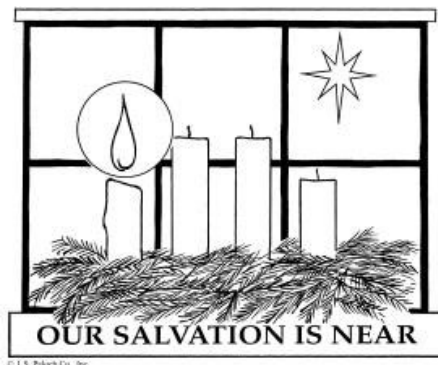
## Our Martyred Nuns

*After the historic fall  
of the shameful Berlin wall,  
Russian war crime history was put on full  
display.  
Basically unrecognized,  
is the horrid, organized  
suffring of religious sisters,  
in the deadly fray.*

*With nothing to be bartered,  
a hundred nuns were martyred,  
from the Order of St. Catherine, V.& M.  
That's just a clear example,  
and the slimmest sample,  
of tragedy recorded in this epic poem.*

*In this Thanksgiving season,  
we give to all good reason,  
to keep in mind and prayer these blessed  
martyrs*

12/1/19 - TGL



## Annual Candlelight Vigil to End Gun Violence

**December 15, 4—6 PM here at St. Catherine of Siena— St. Lucy Church**

St. Catherine-St Lucy Parish will host a Candlelight Vigil to End Gun Violence and Celebrate Hope at 4PM on Sunday December 15th in commemoration of the 7th anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy. We will honor the lives of the 700,000 Americans killed or wounded by gun violence since December 2012, but will also celebrate HOPE and the efforts undertaken by so many ordinary people and organizations to address the root causes of gun violence. The vigil is in partnership with the Newtown Action Alliance and one of hundreds of vigils nationwide. Locally the vigil is sponsored by St. Catherine-St. Lucy Parish, MOMS Demand Action Oak Park-Austin, Waging Peace of First United Church of Oak Park, Congregations Committed to Peace, Gun Responsibility Advocates, and the Ascension Peace and Justice Committee. The children's choir of St. Catherine-St. Lucy school will lead us in songs of HOPE and PEACE. All are invited. For more information, contact Celine Woznica at [cwoznica.illinois@gmail.com](mailto:cwoznica.illinois@gmail.com) or 708-383-8619.

## BREAD for all who hunger

*- an Advent interfaith bread baking day of reflection with Br. Joseph Kilikevics, OP*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019,  
10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM**

**Shem Center for Interfaith Spirituality  
708 N. Harvey Avenue  
Oak Park, IL 60302**

Gifts from the earth - whole wheat, water, honey and yeast are kneaded into loaves bringing us together to wait with all people for hunger to be satisfied. The ancient, sacred task of bread baking invites prayerful reflection on our longing for what is promised to all who wait. The bread we serve to others is a remembering of our call to be inclusive, respectful, generous, forgiving and loving. No one is excluded from a place at the table.



Give yourself the gift of a quiet day away from the busyness and stress of pre-holiday shopping malls. You will bring home the loaf you make to feed those you love.

Your \$40 donation pays for tuition, all bread baking ingredients and lunch. Take a \$10 Discount if registering before.



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](http://www.stcatherinestlucy.org) to be able to find the link to *GiveCentral*