

ST. CATHERINE



OF SIENA ST. LUCY

**MAY 17, 2020
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**



PASTORAL TEAM

**Rev. George Omwando, Pastor
Mrs. Sharon Leamy, Principal
Chemetha Baker, Rel. Ed. Coordinator
Mr. Kraig Zeronik, Director of Music**

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

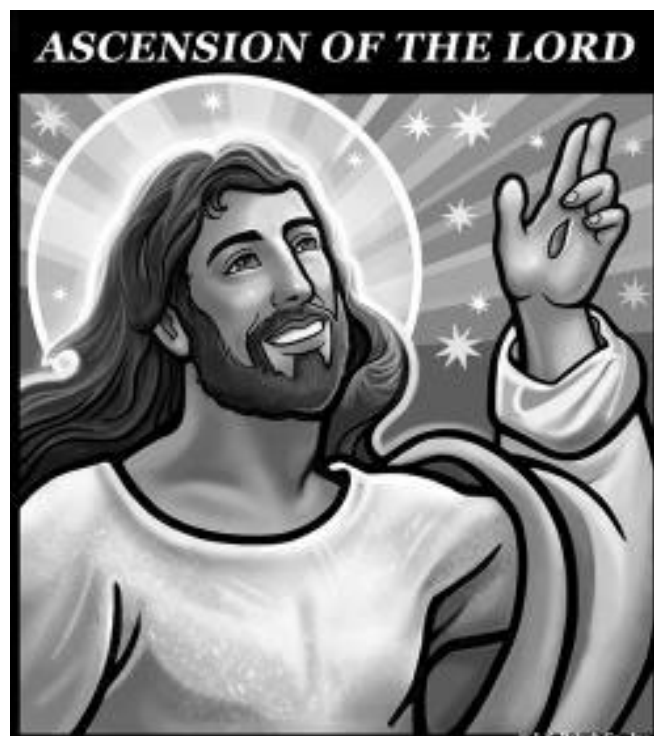
Telephone: 708-386-8077

Email: aparedascsoffice@comcast.net

Web: www.stcatherinestlucy.org

Mass Times

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL PUBLIC
LITURGIES IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF
CHICAGO HAVE BEEN CANCELED.**



Thoughts From Rev. George O. Omwando, Pastor



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today is sixth week of Easter that we continue to hear and listen to the explosive growth of the infant church beyond Palestine because of the Holy Spirit. The Holy spirit inspired the Apostles and gave them courage to move to all parts of the world as they were commissioned by the risen Lord. As the Apostles were the primary witness of Jesus' life and ministry on earth, they were not afraid of the massive persecutions that confronted them. They were not afraid of the State authorities who made life difficult in the spread of the Gospel. The LORD used the means of persecution to get the followers of Jesus out of town and into the mission field. For instance, Stephen was arrested and stoned. Afterward, Saul, who would later become the Apostle Paul, was one of the worst persecutors. Other than the disciples, the believers were scattered all over the countryside like the seeds of a dandelion are scattered by the wind. There they preached Jesus in the villages of Judaea. The Gospel was not just for population centers. It is for everyone far and near.

In today's first reading, Philip, empowered by the Holy Spirit was able to perform the same kinds of acts that Jesus had performed, gave evidence that he and all the other believers were continuing the work that Jesus had begun. Phillip, who was one of the seven appointed deacons of the church whose responsibilities were to ensure the equitable distribution of charity, was also a man who was filled with and led by the Spirit. Stephen, who was filled with the same Spirit made a remarkable defense while on trial and paid for it with his life. The Lord had other purposes for Phillip. He went into the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. The Samaritans were a group of people who lived in Samaria - an area north of Jerusalem. They were half-Jews and half-Gentiles. When Assyria captured the northern kingdom of Israel in 721 B.C. some were taken in captivity while others left behind. The ones left behind intermarried with the Assyrians. Thus, these people were neither fully Hebrews nor fully Gentiles. The Samaritans had their own unique copy of the first five books of Scripture as well as their own unique system of worship. At the time of Jesus, the Jews and the Samaritans did not deal with one another. Jesus, however, ministered to the people of Samaria preaching the good news to them. It is important to know that the Gospel was going beyond the confines of their comfort zones. And in today's Gospel, the news that the Lord was going away devastated the disciples. They felt orphaned. They felt helpless and hopeless, bewildered, frightened, and lost. *"I will not leave you orphans,"* Jesus said. *"I will come to you."* Here is "a promise of his coming which is contemporaneous with his absence." Yes, He was departing from them physically, but he would be with them spiritually in a new way. If you love me, keep my commandments. Jesus promised to send another Person, whom he calls the "Counselor." Jesus was promising to send the Holy Spirit. Jesus was foretelling the events of Pentecost. He did this to comfort his disciples. He knew they would be confused as they witnessed His crucifixion and death. Jesus wanted to let his disciples know that He would not forsake them. He cared for them. And so He made a promise. He would send the "Counselor."

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we received the Holy Spirit during baptism, may we be inspired by the activities of the Apostles as we continue our journey to heaven. May we remain strong in our faith especially during this challenging time that we are living. God bless you always.

— 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

Liturgy Committee:

Chair: Phil Kroker

Vice-Chair: Joyce Wade

Cantors: Rev. George Omwando

Celebration Choir: Kraig Zeronik

Praise Choir: Julius White

Greeters & Ushers: Jim Lewis

Parish Finance Council

Juan Perez

Spiritual Life Commission

Faith & Fellowship:

Connie Rakitan

Ministers of the Eucharist & Ministers of the Word:

Jeanne Visteen

Servers:

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:

Kevin Morgan

Adult 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

Weddings: Please contact Fr. George to set a wedding date. Allow at least 6 months in advance 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.

The Reason for Our Hope

"What is the reason for your hope?" Imagine somebody coming up to you and asking you that question. Not "What are you hoping for?" or "What are you hoping to do?" No, this isn't about our desires for possessions or aspirations for life, it's "Why do you hope?" Peter today tells us that we ought to be ready to give an answer to this question. Truth be told, few of us spend much time thinking about why we hope. Luckily, the scriptures today give us our answers. We hope because Christ suffered for us, in order that we might come to God. We hope because we know that, in the Spirit, God grants us another Advocate through Christ to remain with us always. No matter what we might hope for, whatever we might hope to do, we must always first know and proclaim the reason for our hope: the presence of God in Christ, with us through the power of the Spirit.

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On-Line & Broadcast Masses

During this difficult time, it is particularly important that the faithful have access to the grace and comfort of Holy Mass. Please see below for our online Masses. In addition to celebrating Mass online:

From St. Catherine-St. Lucy Parish

- ..# Follow us via Facebook: Monday through Friday at 7:00 PM. (unless otherwise noted). If you do not have the Facebook application on your PC or phone it is very easy to download it.
- ..# Also on Facebook, we have Mass on Saturday at 5:00 PM.
- ..# Follow us via **YouTube** every Sunday, at 11:00 AM. I usually have the links by the end of the week.

Additionally ABC7 is televising Sunday Mass in English from *Holy Name Cathedral* Sunday at 9:30 AM.



500 Club Certificates

Certificates are \$25 each and will be included in every weekly drawing from now through October 19, 2020. 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.

Certificates can be purchased through the parish website, stcatherinestlucy.org, by choosing the Give Central option. Then choose the 500 Club and follow the prompts. They can also be purchased by sending your name, address, phone number and payment to the rectory, 38 N. Austin Blvd, Oak Park IL 60302, marked to the attention of the 500 Club. Either way, your purchase will be processed and your certificates will be mailed to you.

This is a fun way to support the parish. Pass the word. Thank you !!!

~ The Fundraising Committee



Many Thanks

A thank you notice from Edwina Gateley after receiving monies from the SCSL-Women's Group who kindly donated to her due that the April 18, 2020 scheduled retreat was cancelled because of COVID-19.

Greetings, Shelby.

I received your donation from your women's group yesterday and am deeply grateful - especially at this time when all my retreats/conferences have been cancelled for the foreseeable future.

Hopefully, I will be able to come to Chicago sometime in the future and lead the retreat we had planned. We will look out for possibilities - all things pass...

Thank you to you and all the women who have supported me... Bless you all for your sharing.

Gratitude, Peace and all good,

Edwina

Faith and Fellowship Mission Accomplished

Well, it's Monday night, and the F/F group is supposed to get together. But we can't, because of "shelter in place," right? WRONG!!

The team of Catechists "met" in the St. Catherine-St. Lucy parking lot, maintaining the required six feet and dropping off notes, art items, chips, and pop for the Monday Night Partners. One Catechist assembled the treats in gift bags, and another dropped the packages off at Central Plaza.

Because the facility is quarantined, a Staff member came to the car to whisk the goody bags into the building - and with a quick "Stay safe!" the mission was accomplished. And that mission is: to bring an awareness of God's presence and love. Covid-19 is not going to stop us!



Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b;
Jn 15:26 — 16:4a

Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Jn 16:
5-11

Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22 — 18:1; Ps 148:1-2, 11
-14; Jn 16:12-15

Thursday: Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17-23;
Mt 28:16-20 (for Ascension); otherwise
Acts 18:1-8; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 16:16-20

Friday: Acts 18:9-18; Ps 47:2-7; Jn 16:20-23

Saturday: Acts 18:23-28; Ps 47:2-3, 8-10; Jn 16:
23b-28

Sunday: Acts 1:12-14; Ps 27:1, 4, 7-8; 1 Pt 4:13-16;
Jn 17:1-11a; or (for Ascension) Acts 1:1-
11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:
16-20

Today's Readings

First Reading — The people of Samaria accepted the word of God preached by Philip; they received the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:5-8, 14-17).

Psalms — Let all the earth cry out to God with joy (Psalm 66)

Second Reading — Act with gentleness and reverence toward all, so that when you are maligned those who defame you will be the ones put to shame (1 Peter 3:15-18) or 1 Peter 4:13-16.

Gospel — I will not leave you orphans, but will come to you (John 14:15-21) or Jn 17:1-11a.

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.

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Monday: St. John I

Wednesday: St. Bernardine of Siena

Thursday: The Ascension of the Lord
St. Christopher Magallanes & Companions

Friday: St. Rita of Cascia

Mass Intentions for the Week

NOTE: WEEKDAYS MASSES ARE REGULARLY AT 7:00 PM, BUT SOME ARE 5:00 PM, FACEBOOK WILL ALERT YOU.

Mon. May 18
7:00pm †

Arturo C. Alegria
By: His Children

Tue. May 19
7:00pm †

Helen Swietek
By: Connie Rakitan

Wed. May 20
7:00pm †

Luke Podraza
By: Jim & Elaine Podraza

Thurs. May 21
7:00pm †

Louise H. Butler
By: Grace Bishop

Fri. May 22
7:00pm †

Dr. Li Wenliang
By: Tom and Pat Nelson

Sat. May 23
7:00am †

Charlotte Javors
By: Ministry of Care
Rosalinda Rodriguez
By: The Yee Family

Sun. May 24
11:00am †

Mary Kay Cadematrie
By: Tom Cadematrie



Without our weekly Masses, many families are inadvertently missing their weekly commitment to support our parish. So we recommend online giving as a safe, convenient, and easy way to make gifts — whether it's for your Sunday offering or a one-time gift such as for special collections. Once you sign up, you will be able to manage your giving preferences at any time, and you won't have to worry about writing a check or carrying cash to church each week. You can manage it anywhere you have an internet connection 24/7.

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



Praying for the Sick In Our Parish

Coletta Ali, Michael Ballew, Eloise Brown, Scarlett Evans-Perez, Dwayne and Paula Evans, Dave Grayson, Phillip Jones, Paul Koko, Kathleen Kroker, Georgine Mullen, Marian McCurry, Dee Norman, Joseph Paulus, Raul Perez, Sr. Maureen Sauer, Dolores Sungail, and Annette Varga.

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.



Send us your E-Mail

Receive Our Weekly Bulletin & E-mail Updates.

We have begun to send our weekly bulletins via e-mail.

Please Contact Amanda at 708-386-8077, Ext. 122 and let her know you wish to receive one.

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.



MAY 24, 2020 — ASCENSION OF THE LORD 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Today's passage takes us back to the beginning verses of the Acts of the Apostles and sets forth the themes that Luke is going to develop throughout this, the longest book of the New Testament. His major theme is the role of the Holy Spirit, who enables the apostles to be effective witnesses to Jesus. The Holy Spirit is mentioned 57 times in the Acts of the Apostles.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

Ephesus was an ancient city located on the western coast of what is today Turkey. Paul visited there many times. Today's passage, which is near the beginning of the letter to the Ephesians, is a prayer asking God's blessings upon that community. Many thoughts in this prayer are connected to today's feast of the Ascension.

Remember a Loved One

We 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 phone numbers, e-mail address, or any other change of status. Please contact Amanda at 708-386-8077 or via e-mail at: apomaredascsoffice@comcast.net

27 W. Washington Blvd.
Oak Park, IL 60302

708-386-5286

School Scoop

..#Last week was National Teacher Appreciation Week, a time set aside to honor the amazing men and women who shape our children's lives. It overlaps Nurse Appreciation Week—two incredibly selfless, giving, loving professions. Thanks to the amazing staff at St. Catherine -St. Lucy School.

..#Last Friday was beautiful—and not because of the weather. Thank you to those families who were able to pick up supplies and donuts or drop off student work. Thank you to Enchanted Backpack, Dr. Nina Brewer-Davis, and *Marie Wheel* and the St. Catherine-St. Lucy Parish for donations.

..#Packed in the bag of supplies was a craft kit donated by the parishioners. We'd like to host a contest for the kits on three levels—beginner, intermediate, and advanced. When your child has completed the project, take a picture and forward to Mrs. Courier at jcourier@catherinelucy.org Deadline is May 30.

2020-2021 School Enrollment

Even though all schools in the State of Illinois are closed, we here at St. Catherine – St. Lucy School are working hard to prepare for next year! **Enrollment is open and we have a spot available for your child!**

I invite you to take a look around at our website and check out our social media sites – we are so proud of our vibrant school family!

Please feel free to call me with any questions – I am here to help! My cell phone number is 708-218-0370. Or via email at:

jcourier@catherinelucy.org.

Admissions Office
Mon-Fri 8am - 4pm
708.386.5286 x 105

Thank you for considering St. Catherine – St. Lucy School!





The Ascension of our Lord

Christ's Ascension marks the definitive entrance of Jesus' humanity into God's heavenly domain, whence he will come again (Acts 1:11); this humanity in the meantime hides him from the eyes of men (cf. Col 3:3).

Jesus Christ, the head of the Church, precedes us into the Father's glorious kingdom so that we, the members of his Body, may live in the hope of one day being with him forever.

Jesus Christ, having entered the sanctuary of heaven once and for all, intercedes constantly for us as the mediator who assures us of the permanent outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

- The Catechism of the Catholic Church

Regarding OUR Weekly Bulletin

..# Submissions for the bulletin must be received by Monday at 2 pm for placement in the upcoming Sunday's issue.

..# For further information, please contact the bulletin editor at apomaredascsoffice@comcast.net

..# All submissions are subject to approval by the pastor.

..# If you are interested in advertising in the Bulletin's ad pages, please contact the J.S. Paluch Co. at 800-566-6170, and reference 512113/ St. St.Catherine-St.Lucy

Food for Thought

Invitation to a New Level

We pass through stages of instability,
becoming who we are, leaving much unknown;
What lies ahead requires mobility.
Jesus' followers were worried: could they hone
a life of their own with the facility
to work without leaning on Him, as they're prone.

Jesus knew that at His death, they would question
who they were, and could they survive without Him.
Now on their way to a new level, In session
Jesus promised He'd be with them to the brim:
an introduction to the transition gem,
from being just with them, to being in them.

God is the source of all life, and our support base.
Jesus' union with the Father we're invited to share;
Our acceptance brings us energy through grace.
We trust we'll be transformed with loving care.

"Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father,
and I will love him and reveal myself to him."

5/17/20. TGL

Sources: NCR Column; John 14:15-21.



Parish Events

Until further notice, all events in the church and school are canceled as a precaution against the spread of the COVID-19 flu.

Our parish office is closed. However, we will be checking our mail, emails and voice messaging each day. Call or email us if we can be of any assistance to you if you have an emergency.

Our Pastor will observe all health precautions and distancing as we minister to you.

Please call 708-386-8077 from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm Monday-Thursday. For emergencies, call 708-560-6109 after hours.

Pro-Life

"Cardinal O'Connor preached most powerfully by his example the necessity of seeing in every human being, from the first moment of conception to the last moment of natural death and every moment in between ... the image of a God to be loved and served. What a great legacy he has left us in his constant reminder that the Church must be always unambiguously Pro-Life."
—Cardinal Bernard Law

The Eucharist and the Pandemic

At every moment of life and at every juncture of our experience, the Lord is walking with us. He is with us now in this painful time, when the Eucharist is unavailable. Yes, for now, the Eucharist is unavailable to us. But we are moving with Jesus toward the celebration of his self-sacrificing love and his self-giving generosity in the sacrament of his Body and Blood. People of faith know that the Lord is with them. They know that their lives are more than a bundle of circumstances that just happen, even in this sad time of the pandemic.

Archdiocese Chicago Virtual Pre-Cana Meetings

The Office of Lifelong Formation will be hosting virtual Pre-Cana meetings for couples preparing for marriage. You can learn more here: <https://pvm.archchicago.org/virtual-precana>

Archdiocese of Chicago

A CALL TO PRAYER Bringing a light in the midst of darkness

Are you feeling overwhelmed by the effects of the pandemic and in need of prayer? We are here to pray with you and ask God for your needs.

Who we are: Volunteers from parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago who feel called to accompany through prayer anyone who feels the need for support during this time of uncertainty and isolation.

What we offer: A phone line staffed with people from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day, as well as 24-hour voice mail and e-mail connections. Our prayer partners are here to pray with you: opening our hearts to God, asking for His blessings and peace.

312.741.3388

praywithme@calledtoprayer.org



Month of Mary Pray the Rosary

“Rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home during the month of May” – Pope Francis

Pope Francis is encouraging the faithful to pray the Rosary during the month of May, when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary.

For this reason, he says to everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity.

Coronavirus Emergency Fund (DONATE)

Assist those significantly affected by COVID-19.

The archdiocese has created a Coronavirus Emergency Fund to help alleviate the financial hardship caused by the outbreak. This fund will support ministries serving those in need and members of our community who have been negatively affected by the pandemic including parents of Catholic school students struggling to make tuition payments. Our neighbors down the street and across the archdiocese need our help at this critical moment

The Archdiocese of Chicago Is Hiring

Are you seeking an opportunity to draw closer to our Lord through your work? Consider applying your professional strengths and experience at the service of sharing Christ with others. The Archdiocese of Chicago is in the midst of exciting changes as we renew our local Church. With our competitive salary and benefit packages, the archdiocese provides many opportunities for professional and personal growth and development.

For the listing of current openings please visit archchicago.org/careers or follow us on **LinkedIn**.

The Archdiocese of Chicago, pastored by Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, has more than 15,000 employees that serve more than 2.2 million Catholics in Cook and Lake Counties. Our elementary and secondary schools comprise one of the largest U.S. private school systems and have garnered more U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Awards than any system of any type.



Universal Offertory Program (DONATE)

Support your parish at this critical time.

Parishes rely on the generosity of their members to cover expenses related to ministry, maintenance, staffing, community outreach programs and other pressing needs.

Please consider using this link or all 312.534.7959 to make a one-time or recurring gift to your parish and support the vital ministries and services it provides. Please select your parish name from the drop-down menu on the form.