

ST. CATHERINE



OF SIENA ST. LUCY

MAY 24, 2020

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

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

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Telephone: 708-386-8077

Email: aparedascsoffice@comcast.net

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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 we celebrate the feast of Ascension of our Lord. Jesus Christ was both human and divine and was sent by his Father to restore the broken relationship that was brought by our sins. After Jesus rose from the dead, He "presented Himself alive, (Acts 1:3) to the women near the tomb (Mathew 28:9-10), and to His disciples (Luke 24:36-43), and also to more than 500 others (1 Corinthians 15:6). In the days following His resurrection, Jesus taught His disciples about the kingdom of God (Acts 1:3). Then forty days after the resurrection, Jesus and His disciples went to Mount Olivet, near Jerusalem and there, He promised His followers that they would soon receive the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth. He instructed the Apostles to remain in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit had descended on them. Thereafter Jesus blessed them and He ascended into heaven. This account of Jesus' ascension is found in Luke 24:50-51 and Acts 1:9-11.

The Ascension of Christ to heaven was important because: it signaled the end of Christ's earthly ministry that God the Father had lovingly sent His Son into the world and now the Son was returning back to Him; and Ascension signified Christ's success in His earthly work. The glory of Jesus' had been veiled during His sojourn on earth but only one brief exception at the Transfiguration which is recorded in (Mathew 17:1-9). The Ascension experience symbolized Christ's exaltation by the Father (Ephesians 1:20-23). And the One with whom the Father was well pleased (Mathew 17:5) was received up in honor and given a name above all names (Philippians 2:9). Christ Ascended to heaven to prepare a place for us (John 14:2); this indicated the beginning of His new work as High Priest (Hebrew 4:14-16) and Mediator of the New Covenant (Hebrews 9:15); and it set the pattern for His return. When Jesus comes to set up the Kingdom, He will return just as He left-literally, bodily, and visibly in the clouds (Acts 1:11; Daniel 7:13-14; Mathew 24:30; Revelation 1:7). In today's first reading from the Acts of Apostles (Acts 1:1-11), we are told that when the Apostles had gathered together, Christ appeared and promised them that the Holy Spirit will come upon them and they will be his witnesses not only in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria but to all corners of the world. Once He told them these words, and while they were gazing into the skies, Jesus was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.

We have received the Holy Spirit that was promised to the Apostles during our own baptisms and confirmation. The Holy Spirit strengthened the Apostles, it gave them courage that they were lacking and begun spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. After the Ascension of Christ, for the first time the Gospel message will move to other parts of the world. To be a witness literally means to die for something that you believe in and indeed many of the Apostles will be martyred in course of their evangelization ministry because of their belief in Jesus. We need to preach the Gospel of Jesus and be living witnesses in our communities. Let us also remember the many brothers and sisters who experience difficulties in bringing the message of Christ to others. Last Tuesday, May 19th, I celebrated 13 years of priesthood ordination and thank you for your support and prayers while ministering at the community. 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

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.

“Pushed” Out to Mission

There is a delightful character in the original *Dr. Dolittle Tales* called the “Pushmi-Pullyu.” It is a beast with two identical halves, with a head at each end. No matter which direction the beast walks, one end is the “push me” and the other is the “pull you.” Today’s feast is a bit like that in the life of the church. In the book of the Acts of the Apostles, it is the ascension of Christ that calls for the Holy Spirit, which consequently sends or “pushes” the church out on its mission. This is the message that we hear from the angels today as they tell the friends of Jesus not to look up into the clouds, but to get busy. It is the message of Jesus himself in Matthew’s Gospel, as he sends them out to baptize. He also tells them, “I am with you always, until the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). And it is this message, confident in faith that Jesus has ascended to shouts of joy, that “pulls” us along to our final destiny. The life of the faithful disciple, sent into the world on mission, will one day know the same risen, ascended glory.

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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.



The time of tomorrow's Mass for
Memorial Day
here at St. Catherine- St. Lucy
will be announced.

Faith and Fellowship

(Several weeks ago, we printed a letter received from Jeff Nesbitt, a member of our Wednesday Night F/F group. We have recently learned that Jeff has contracted Covid-19; he is in isolation at his nursing home and doing OK – please remember him in your prayers.)

I have been a part of F&F since 2005, and each Tuesday I go to three Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Facilities on the West Side. The pandemic has forced a quarantine and now that I no longer have my weekly visits, I realize how greatly my time with the residents has enriched my life. Our time together involves singing and scripture reading (most always from the Gospels) when different residents are always eager to take a turn reading. We then all pray a psalm and then prayers of intercessions and thanksgiving, all showing a deep spirituality. Some pray for family, some for residents at their facility, some for current events. Some are thankful for waking up this day or for food and shelter. They really know how to pray!

What is nourishing for me is knowing that many of the residents look forward to this opportunity for enriching and sharing their faith. Now that we can no longer have these get-togethers, I feel the loss deeply. And I'm sure the residents do as well.

Don Gimbel,
F/F Catechist

Weekly Mass Intentions

At this time, we would like to reiterate all our parishioners that we are honoring their requested Mass Intentions by mentioning your loved ones at our daily Masses via Facebook and YouTube.

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

500 CLUB WINNER

\$ 25.00

May 24, 2020

NADINE THOMPSON,

250



Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab;
Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21;
Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-36ab;
Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11;
Jn 17:20-26

Friday: Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab;
Jn 21:15-19

Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11:4, 5, 7;
Jn 21:20-25

Sunday: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34;
1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

Today's Readings

First Reading — Jesus tells the disciples that they will be witnesses to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:1-11).

Psalm — God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord (Psalm 47).

Second Reading — May the Father of glory give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation (Ephesians 1:17-23).

Gospel — Jesus instructs the Eleven to baptize and teach people of all nations (Matthew 28:16-20).

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: The Ascension of the Lord;
World Communications Day

Monday: St. Bede the Venerable; St. Gregory VII;
St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi;
Memorial Day

Tuesday: St. Philip Neri

Wednesday: St. Augustine of Canterbury;
Shavuot (Jewish observance)
begins at sunset

Thursday: Julian Calendar Ascension

Friday: St. Paul VI

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 25
7:00pm †

Luke Podraza
By: Elaine and Jim Podraza

Tue. May 26
7:00pm †

Robert Schappert
By: Ministry of Care

Wed. May 27
7:00pm †

Gertrude Steinf
By: Tom Nelson

Thurs. May 28
7:00pm †

Nellie Baker
By: Ministry of Care

Fri. May 29
7:00pm †

Gerome Russo
By: Lawrence Russo

Sat. May 30
7:00am †

Harvey Page
By: Ministry of Care
Bradley Cousineau
By: Michelle Darang-Coleman

Sun. May 31
11:00am †

Richard Keefe
By: Donna Kanapes



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

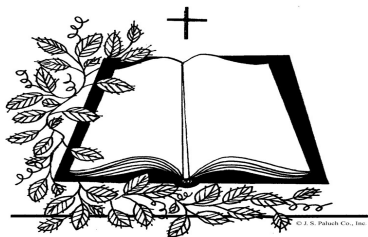


Praying for the Sick In Our Parish

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, Jeff Nesbitt, Dee Norman, 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.

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 31, 2020 — PENTECOST SUNDAY

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11

Pentecost was a Jewish feast that celebrated the beginning of the harvest. It took place 50 days after the feast of Passover. Jewish pilgrims came to Jerusalem from all over the ancient world for the celebration. Today we hear how Pentecost became a Christian feast.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

Paul's first letter to the Corinthians responds to a letter they wrote to him. They had asked him how to deal with the diversity of gifts in the community, and the rivalries and jealousies that inevitably arose. In today's passage, he uses a comparison that we will recognize immediately.



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.

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

..# We are working on drive-through celebrations for both our 8th graders and our kindergarten class. We also hope to have an official ceremony for our Class of 2020 later in the Summer.

..# Don't forget our contest for best craft kit. Once your child has completed the project, send a picture in to Mrs. Courier at jcourier@catherinelucy.org. Deadline is May 30.

..# A classroom exchange will be scheduled the week of June 8. Parents can drive through the lot to pick up personal items belonging to their children and return textbooks or other school materials. Details will be out at a later date.

..# Although we are still hoping to host a summer camp, the very earliest we can open is July. Watch for updates.

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!



Spiritual Options for Summer 2020...

Looks like the Summer will bring a continuation of social distancing, to help everyone stay safe - **but staying at home doesn't have to mean staying the same...**

The Well Spirituality Center's Summer Retreats and Programs on Zoom will enable us, like never before, to connect with new people, fascinating ideas, and expansive spirituality from all over the country and around the world. Here's a link to view The Well's Summer lineup.

Please share this with friends! And help out by signing up early...

<https://csjthewell.org/retreats/>



The Ascension of the Lord

*He was lifted up,
and a cloud took him from
their sight.*

Food for Thought

A Culture of Care

We note Pope Francis' master work "Laudato Si," and celebrate its fifth year anniversary. We include thoughts from Season of Creation, and Greta Thunberg's outlook for earth's station.

Francis wrote with sensitivity and insight; He views our social and environmental plight as one complex crisis that encompasses both, and left unchecked will show obdurate, fatal growth.

The Pontiff's plan calls for an integration that battles poverty; restores dignity; with a format that will halt environmental degradation. He promotes a "Culture of Care" for every nation.

When we feel God's calling us to intervene with others in these social dynamics, embrace the green. We should know it's all part of our spirituality—an exercise in sanctifying charity.

Season of Creation tells us be open to a sense of freshness, wonder, gratitude and awe; let intense numbness from life's frequent pressures flutter by. Feel a child's delight on seeing his first butterfly.

Greta Thunberg is a teenage social activist; to climate change deniers, she's an exorcist. "Humanity is facing an existential redirect from climate change. No one's too small to have an effect."

5/24/20. TGL

Source: NCR Columns

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 apomaredascsloffice@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

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

"It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth . . . and the right of every child to be born."

—Birthright International



Freedoms' Memorial

*The day is set aside to honor those
who took the chance to die.
But they have died in vain if we ever
forget the reason why.
Freedom can be like time
slipping away before we even know.
But we all the choice
more, a duty to battle freedom's foe.
Let us give thanks this day
to all those brave
who paid the highest cost.
Not take it for granted
and realize it easily could be lost.*

—Del "Abe" Jones

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.

Archdiocese of Chicago Domestic Violence Outreach Awareness – Services – Prevention

Fighting Domestic Violence During the Covid-19 Crisis

Experience and data teach us that financial crises, home confinement and prolonged stress exacerbate the frequency and intensity of domestic violence. It is no surprise that the Covid-19 pandemic has made life more dangerous for many already at risk in our country. The Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline reports that calls for help have increased 50% in March, from 60 to 90 a day. Some victims were about to leave their abuser, but now he is home all the time, and they have less opportunity to free themselves. Some are in counseling, and now in-person services are unavailable. Some abusers are more angry by loss of work or home quarantine and thus more threatening to their partners. If you know or suspect someone is a victim, please check on them! If they are in immediate need, help them call 911, the National DV Hotline: 800-799-7233, the Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline: 877-863-6338, or another reputable DV resource to help them connect with support and services.

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

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 call 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.