



ST. CATHERINE

OF SIENA ST. LUCY

MARCH 14, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. George Omwando, Pastor
Mrs. Sharon Leamy, Principal
Mr. Julius White, Praise Choir Director

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

Web: www.stcatherinestlucy.org

Hours: 8:30 AM-4:30 PM—Monday through Friday

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, and Friday - 8:30am

(Please enter the Church by Washington Blvd. 2nd door to the West)

NO Thursday Mass

Weekend Masses:

Saturday Morning - 8:30 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)



From Rev. George O. Omwando, Pastor



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have been saved by the blood of Jesus, another one yells, “Jesus is my personal savior” and the people respond “Amen.” You must be one of those lucky folks if you haven’t come across someone and ask you this question: Are you saved? Catholics hate to be asked any question that pertains their faith, sacraments, or the bible in a public place. Let us get to the basics. Are you saved? Do you regularly pray before you go to bed? In the morning? When did you recite your rosary? Do you have own a rosary? Do you have a bible in your house? Do you read the bible regularly or do you read the lives of saints? Have you ever been to confession lately? Do you go to church regularly? My goal in this article is draw to your attention to the simple things that we are supposed to do as Catholics to improve our relationship with God who loves us unconditionally. Lent could be a good time to commit and do one of these simple devotions above.

What do you do when a stranger asks you in the plane or in the train or on a cruise ship whether you are saved or not? Do you keep quiet or ignore the person as some of us do occasionally. If you say yes, the stranger may ask you more questions and you may not be able to answer them for fear of getting embarrassed. Are you one of those who think that they do not know much about the bible and get scared when you see someone carrying the bible? Catholics know more about the bible but what they do not know well is memorizing scripture passages and applying them in situations. Even if you do not read the bible individually, by regularly attending Mass and listening to sermons you will get to know the bible somehow. To me, it is not important that you are not able to memorize many Scripture Passages, but the most important thing is to believe that the bible is an inspired word of God meant to transform the followers of Christ. It doesn’t matter how many Passages you are able to memorize but if you cannot apply them in the daily life by loving God and your neighbor, then your faith is questionable.

In case one asks you whether you are saved or not, tell them that yes, you are saved but you are still working on your salvation daily because when Jesus died on the cross he saved us, when you were baptized you were saved and salvation is ongoing. Salvation is not static; it is something we keep working on until the day when we can be in heaven, then we can say with certainty that we are saved. Finally, God’s love clearly isn’t based on our spiritual condition or our moral predisposition. It isn’t based on our behavior or our attitude toward him but God’s love for mankind is universal and unconditional. He loves everyone. And this is one of the things that set him apart from every other god held up by every other world religion. What set’s Christianity apart from other religions is the concept of incarnation, the idea that God took human form in Jesus and freely came to live amongst sinners.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, there is nothing we can do to make God love us more. There is nothing we can do to make God love us less. God’s love is not merely some abstract concept. It isn’t just a philosophy or a theological construct. God’s love was made manifest in this world through the person of Jesus Christ the only Son of the Father. Jesus Christ came into this world to reveal to us the love of God in human form. God bless you and let us pray for one another were move closer to the Holy Week.

— 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
Secretary: Andrea Legatzky
Celebration Choir: TBA
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): Vacant

Women’s Ministry: Shelby Boblick

Human Concerns Commission

Peace & Justice Committee:

Kevin Morgan

Adult Education Commission

Baptism Com.: Fr. G. Omwando

Bible Study: TBA

Religious Education of Children: TBA

St. Catherine/St. Lucy School:

School Board Chair: Natasha Lee

Parish Development & Services

Commission

Collection Counters: Vacant

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.



Mass Intentions for the Week

Mon. Mar. 15		
8:30	†	Luke Podraza By: Elaine and Jim Podraza
Tue. Mar. 16		
8:30	†	Burton Natarus By: Tom and Pat Nelson
Wed. Mar. 17		
	†	Francisca Rivera By: Tom and Pat Nelson
Fri. Mar. 19		
8:30	†	Riah Milton By: Donna Kanapes
Sat. Mar. 20		
8:30	†	Luke Podraza By: Elaine and Jim Podraza
5:00	†	Robert S. Protz, Sr. By: Christine & Edward Wedekind
Sun. Mar. 21		
8:30		FOR THE PEOPLE OF OUR PARISH
8:30	†	Sue Vanek By: The Konecki Family
10:30	†	Jean Creedon By: Tom and Pat Nelson

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday:	Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday:	Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30
Thursday:	Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47
Friday:	2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rm 4:13:16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Saturday:	Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53
Sunday:	Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-15; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33
	Alternate readings (Year A): Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday:	Fourth Sunday of Lent; Second Scrutiny; Daylight Saving Time begins
Wednesday:	St. Patrick
Thursday:	St. Cyril of Jerusalem
Friday:	St. Joseph; Abstinence
Saturday:	Spring begins

2020 Statement of Contributions

For tax purposes you can **request** now a list of your 2020 Statement of Contributions. Please call or e-mail Amanda at 708-386-8077, via e-mail at: apomaredascsoffice@comcast.net. Thank you.

Today's Readings

First Reading — The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of the chosen people (2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23) or *1 Samuel 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13a*.

Psalm — Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you! (Psalm 137) or *Psalm 23*.

Second Reading — By grace you have been saved (Ephesians 2:4-10) or *Ephesians 5:8-14*.

Gospel — The Son was sent by God so that the world might be saved through him (John 3:14-21) or *John 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]*.

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.

Parish Events

All special events in the church and school remain canceled as a precaution against the spread of the COVID

Our Pastor keeps on observing all health precautions and distancing as we minister to you.

Please contact or email us if we can be of any assistance to you at 708-386-8077 Monday-Friday. from 8:30 am | to 4:30 pm

For emergencies, call 708-560-6109 after hours.



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.

You can go directly to our website: www.stcatherinestlucy.org and under Steward & Giving tab you will be able to find the link to *GiveCentral*

1st & 2nd Readings for the upcoming Sunday are offered to help all of us.



**MARCH 21, 2021 —
5TH SUNDAY OF LENT**

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The prophet Jeremiah ministered at a difficult time in Jewish history. Jerusalem, their beloved capitol, had been destroyed, and most of the people taken captive to far-off Babylon. In this gloomy setting, Jeremiah expresses the conviction that the Lord will raise up a new leader from the line of David to restore and rebuild their homeland.

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

The letter to the Hebrews was written to a Christian community that had become dispirited and whose faith was faltering. Jesus is presented in today's passage as a model of suffering and a source of strength in time of need. (This passage is also part of the second reading on Good Friday.)

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



Praying for the Sick In Our Parish

Colletta Ali, Gigi Bridges, Gianna Calderon, Jeanette Cannon, Betty Graf, Dave Grayson, Kathy Feulner, Theresa Hancock, Bill Holmes, William Johnson, Phillip Jones, Donna Kanapes Paul Koko, Hardie Kressler, Kathleen, Kroker, Coralia Morgan, Georgine Mullen, Raul Perez, Vince Saunders, Chuck Scott, Katie Shoevlin, Tom Sterr, Sam Vaccaro, Sr. Teresita Weind, and Paul Winterhalter.

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.

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.

2021 Mass Book Open

If you have a loved one who is ill or has passed away ... or any special occasion or petition you'd like to bring before the Lord ... consider offering your prayers at a Mass.

Our book is open for personal intentions for the remainder of this year and for the 2021 year.

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

— John 3:17

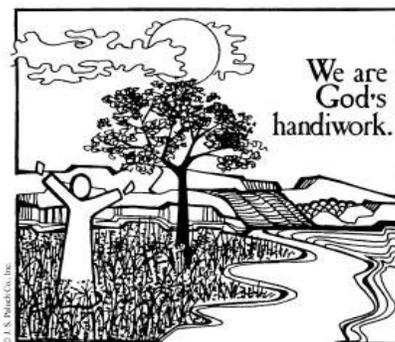
27 W. Washington Blvd.
Oak Park, IL 60302
708-386-5286



School Scoop

..#We're working our way back! As our teachers are fully vaccinated, we'll bring the students back for in-person learning, with all the safety protocols in place. First up – 7th Grade came back last Monday! As of today, we have confirmed the following dates for class re-entry: Grade 6-March 22; Grades 5 & 8 – April 12. The rest of the grades will be rolled back after April 12.

..#Most of our staff was vaccinated last Saturday, thanks to the Village of Oak Park.



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

Catholic Charities Counseling Support Line

If the pandemic has you feeling anxious or depressed and you would like to talk with a counselor, please call the Catholic Charities Counseling Support Line at 312-948-6951 anytime Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Health care workers in particular are encouraged to reach out. Spanish speaking counselors are available.

The Parish is Open for Masses

As you know, St. Catherine-St. Lucy has passed certification by the Archdiocese of Chicago to begin offering public Masses on a limited basis. SCSL parishioners are encouraged to update us with your current e-mail in order to receive the weekly notifications of our reopened Sunday Masses and other liturgies as they are scheduled. Each email will contain the link that is needed to sign up in our reservation system on *SignUp-Genius*. **NOTICE:** We wanted to let everyone know that if you sign-up for Mass after Friday, they will not be on the sign-up sheets.

- ..#Please come 15 minutes before mass starts.
- ..#Enter the church by Austin Blvd. only.
- ..#Exit the church by Washington Blvd. only.
- ..#Mandatorily wear a mask.
- ..#Your hands will be sanitized once you enter the church.
- ..#Sign-up at the entrance.
- ..#From this weekend on, entrance to Sacristy's bathroom is prohibited.
- ..#You will be assigned where to sit within the church.
- ..#No congregational singing.
- ..#Avoid touching the pews.
- ..#Follow the signs inside the church.
- ..#Please sit on the pews that are marked.
- ..#No Sign of Peace is permitted.
- ..#You will receive a Worship Aid, which will be discarded after each mass.
- ..#Communion will be received only on your hands.
- ..#After Mass, sanitize your hands.
- ..#You are NOT allowed to gather or stay in church after mass.

These guidelines were developed by the Catholic Conference of Bishops of Illinois, based on the State of Illinois

Stations of the Cross At St. Catherine-St. Lucy



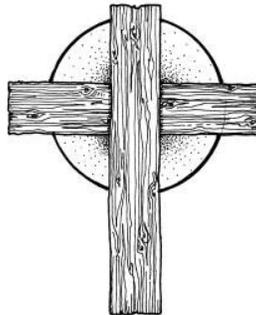
The Stations of the Cross is held every Friday at 7:00 PM in Church through Lent. Won't you please pick up your little 30 minute cross and come and pray with us, as we honor Jesus Christ and thank Him for accepting a painful death on His Cross for us.

Lenten Regulations

(from Now to the Paschal Triduum)

Fasting and Abstaining From Meat

One of our Lenten Practices uniting us with Catholics around the world! Fridays during Lent are days of abstaining from meat. Good Friday is a day of abstaining from meat and fasting.



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Mass Times

To attend one of the open Masses at St. Catherine—St. Lucy you must pre-register through our *Sign-up Genius* reservation system. A new link to the sign-up page is sent out each week for the next weekend's Masses. To receive this link, please contact Amanda at 708-386-8077 during office hours or via e-mail at: apomaredascsoffice@comcast.net

Pass the Link to your Friends!

By just forwarding to friends who may not be on the church email list.

NOTICE: We wanted to let everyone know that if you sign-up for Mass after Friday, they will not be on the sign-up sheets.

Signs of Lent

Laetare Sunday

This weekend is Laetare Sunday, a celebratory day in the more austere season of Lent. Laetare Sunday is always the fourth Sunday of Lent. It comes from the Latin introit for the day, "Laetare Jerusalem" which means Rejoice, O Jerusalem. On this day, the Priest may wear rose instead of purple and flowers may be placed on the altar. Let us rejoice in the coming of our salvation!

CRS Rice Bowl

A Story of Hope from Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste is a small Asian country, slightly larger than the state of Connecticut. It's on the other side of the world near Australia, and it's one of the world's newest countries—only 18 years old. In comparison, the United States will be 245 years old this year! More than one-third of people in Timor-Leste don't have reliable access to enough nutritious food. This especially affects children and their ability to develop to their full potential. With training from CRS, families are starting home gardens to grow different vegetables, beans and other foods that are rich in nutrients like vitamin A and iron. Parents attend nutrition groups in their communities where they learn how to build and improve their gardens.

Eliza and her husband Paulino have six children. After participating in her community's nutrition group, she and Paulino started a home garden and began growing different crops based on the rainy and dry seasons.



Food for Thought

Come to the Light

*For God so loved the world,
He gave His only Son,
so all those who believe,
might have eternal life.
Through love banners unfurled,
our victory would be won.
From God's Son we receive
a freedom from all strife.
In God's glorious judgment,
the Light was sent to earth.
Those whose works were evil,
preferred darkness to light.
It's timely now in Lent,
that truth show us it's worth.
Smoothly, no upheaval,
works done through God's true might.*

3/14/21. TGL

Source: John 3:14-21

**Feast of Faith
Lent, a Season
of the Word**

Each year on the First Sunday of Lent we hear one of the Gospel accounts of the temptation of Jesus. In Luke's account, the devil cites the scriptures repeatedly, urging Jesus to interpret them in a false, self-serving way—if God sends angels to protect those whom God loves (as it says in Psalm 91), then prove it! But Jesus resists this insidious temptation by turning to scripture passages that tell of right relationship with God—living by God's word, trusting in God, and worshipping God alone.

Jesus himself listened to the inspired word of God and let it shape and form him. Through the liturgy, we do the same. The readings we hear at Mass can teach us, but that is not their primary function. Rather, the scriptures are meant to reveal the Lord to us, to let us experience his presence, and to form us in our Christian identity. Christ's presence is realized by his spoken word, "since it is he himself who speaks when the Holy Scriptures are read in the Church" (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 7). In the readings proclaimed at Mass, we hear the voice of Christ himself.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S.



St. Patrick, (flourished 5th century, Britain & Ireland; *feast day March 17*), patron saint and national apostle of Ireland, credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland and probably responsible in part for the Christianization of the Picts and Anglo-Saxons. He is known from two short works, the *Confessio*, a spiritual autobiography, and his *Letter to Coroticus*, a denunciation of British mistreatment of Irish Christians.

St. Joseph - (*feast day March 19*), We know Joseph respected God. He followed God's commands in handling the situation with Mary and going to Jerusalem to have Jesus circumcised and Mary purified after Jesus' birth. We are told that he took his family to Jerusalem every year for Passover, something that could not have been easy for a working man.

Since Joseph does not appear in Jesus' public life, at his death, or resurrection, many historians believe Joseph probably had died before Jesus entered public ministry. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, the Apocryphal Date for Joseph's birth is 90 BC in Bethlehem and the Apocryphal Date of his death is July 20, AD 18 in Nazareth.

Joseph is the patron saint of the dying because, assuming he died before Jesus' public life, he died with Jesus and Mary close to him, the way we all would like to leave this earth. Joseph is also patron saint of the Universal Church, families, fathers, expectant mothers (pregnant women), travelers, immigrants, house sellers and buyers, craftsmen, engineers, and working people in general.

