

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA-SAINT LUCY AND SAINT GILES PARISH



They shall beat their swords
into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
*one nation shall not raise the sword
against another.*

~ Isaiah 2:4

NOVEMBER 27, 2022 • First Sunday of Advent

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA - ST. LUCY CHURCH
38 NORTH AUSTIN BOULEVARD, OAK PARK

DAILY MASSES THIS WEEK: Tuesday and Wednesday at 8:30 am

WEEKEND MASSES: Saturday at 5:00 pm (Confession prior to Mass, 4:00 to 4:30 pm); and Sunday at 9:00 am

ST. GILES CHURCH
1045 COLUMBIAN AVENUE, OAK PARK

DAILY MASSES THIS WEEK: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:30 am;

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 8:30 am; Saturday at 8:00 am (Confession following Mass, 8:30 to 9:00 am)

WEEKEND MASSES: Saturday at 4:30 pm and Sunday at 8:00 am and 10:30 am

Fr. Carl's Corner



A blessed first week of Advent to all! As we begin our new liturgical year, we are already being bombarded with urgent reminders to get ready for Christmas. But we gather here today to begin a different kind of preparation. Over the next four weeks (and we have a full four weeks this Advent), we will recall how Jesus comes to us. He comes as an infant lying in a manger. One day he will come like a thief in the night, as our judge and Savior at the end of time. Now that's a lot to think about and quite heavy as we see Christmas decorations go up, attend joyful festivities and trim our Christmas trees! But this is in fact the truth

behind our hope and joy recalled during the Advent season.

As we get busy with all the Christmas planning and holiday shopping, let's keep in mind and in heart God's most wonderful gift to our world, our homes and hearts - Emmanuel, GOD IS WITH US!

This Advent, I invite all to try and take two ten-minute periods each day, one in the morning and one in the evening, to sit quietly in prayer, read and reflect on the birth of Christ, say a decade of the rosary or whatever else may be best for helping you stay focused on the true meaning of the season. Use this as a chance to prepare well for the birth of Jesus.

And a final challenge, invite someone who's been away from Mass to join you at Mass! Remind them, this is where Jesus is physically present among us in the gift of the Eucharist, and the gift of our community at prayer.

I am happy to report that our Music and Liturgy department heads and Fr. Rex, Fr. Robert and I, have met to discuss a 5:00 pm Sunday evening Mass for the two United parishes in Oak Park and the larger Catholic Faith Community. We are planning a 5:00 pm Mass to be celebrated at the St. Edmund Church site. This is the center of downtown Oak Park with ample parking and many restaurants nearby. We are looking to begin on Sunday, January 22. I wanted to give you a heads up as many have approached me about adding an evening Mass at St. Giles Church. This seems to make the most sense. More information will follow in the weeks to come.

A couple of weeks ago, you received a letter asking to consider an increase in your offertory to support the many aspects of running our parish and continuing our vital ministries. Many have already made an increase and I am grateful for your support. If you have not yet done so, please consider what you may be able to do.

Our parish is blessed in the generous prayers offered, the volunteer time shared and the financial support given. Thank you!

Be safe, stay well.
With you a Christian for you a priest.

Fr. Carl

Little Blue Prayer Books will be available for your daily prayer during Advent. Pick up a book at the doors of St. Catherine-St. Lucy and St. Giles churches this weekend, November 26/27.

The Parish of St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy and St. Giles Oak Park, IL 60302

St. Giles Campus Parish Center Office

1025 Columbian Avenue

Phone 708-383-3430 Fax 708-383-8644

..... E-mail: stgiles@stgilesparish.org

..... Website: stgilesparish.org

Business Hours:

Monday thru Friday, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Evening reception: Monday thru Thursday, 4:30 - 8:00 pm

Lauren Locke, Sr. Sue Paweski and Sue Croke, Receptionists

St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy Campus Rectory Office

38 North Austin Boulevard

Phone 708-386-8077

..... E-mail: parish@stcatherinestlucy.org

..... Website: stcatherinestlucy.org

Business Hours:

Saturday, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm; Sunday, 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Other times by appointment.

Chemetha Baker, Weekend Receptionist

Rev. Carl Morello, Pastor.....Ext. 422

Rev. Robert Carlton, Associate Pastor

Rev. Edward P. Salmon, ResidentExt. 308

Rev. Thomas E. Unz, ResidentExt. 313

Mr. John (Lois) Henricks, Deacon

Mr. Loretto J. (Carlotta) Madonia, Jr., Deacon (retired)

Mr. Kevin (Marci) Morgan, Deacon

Mr. William (Abbie) Pouncy, Deacon

Mr. John (Barbara) Walters, Deacon

Sharon Bresnahan, Accounts AdministratorExt. 420

Matthew Brophy, Director of Parish OperationsExt. 102

Carol Coleman, Business Manager.....Ext. 419

Sue Kaszynski, Director of Music and LiturgyExt. 423

Marci Madary, Director of Lifelong Formation.Ext. 404

Connie Rakitan, Program Director, Faith & Fellowship

Alex Ryan, Liturgy Coordinator.....Ext. 403

Julius White, Praise Choir

Rachel Faulman, Parish Administrative Assistant

and Bulletin Editor.....Ext. 401

..... E-mail: stgiles@stgilesparish.org

.....-or- parish@stcatherinestlucy.org

Lifelong Faith Formation

and Religious Education of Children

Phone 708-383-3430 Fax 708-383-8644

..... E-mail: religouesd@stgilesparish.org

Kelly McCreary,

Faith Formation Administrative AssistantExt. 101

Peggy Plastina,

Coordinator, Catechesis of the Good ShepherdExt. 408

St. Giles School

1034 Linden Avenue

Phone 708-383-6279 Fax 708-383-9952

..... E-mail: office@stgilesschool.org

..... Website: stgilesschool.org

Meg Bigane, Principalmbigane@stgilesschool.org

St. Catherine-St. Lucy School

27 Washington Boulevard

Phone 708-386-5286 Fax 708-386-7328

..... Website: catherinelucy.org

Sharon Leamy, Principal.....sleamy@catherinelucy.org

Spiritual Life & Worship

We Pray For . . .

Those who are hospitalized or homebound, including: Steven Acevedo, Patrick Ahearn, Coletta Ali, Jane Baker, Phyllis Baker, Joe Bigliotti, Danita Bowie, Herbert Breidenbach, Phil Calabrese, Tiffany Church, Patrick Cibula, Ray Cimms, Steve Cizmar, Lucille Dalbis, Andrea Dickson, Wanda Farmer, Mike Fenske, Katherine Fisher, Carol Frank, Mary Ellen Frank, Jim Gallagher, Earl Gallermo, Grace Gryzlo Goodman, Janice Handel, Deacon John Henricks, Bill Holmes, Phillip Jones, Rosie Julion, Donna Kanapes, Patrick King, Marie Koko, Paul Koko, Hardie Kressler, Kathleen Kroker, Kimberly Lester, Jake Lofgren, Gabriela Machado, Jim Madden, Virginia Madden, Carlotta Madonia, Mary Mamolella, Patricia McDonald, Tom McHugh, Sr. Louise Noesen, Matt O'Connell, Phyllis Pappas; Amelia Patterson, Cary Phillips, Bob Quane, Maureen Sansone, Mary and Paul Schleitwiler, Colleen Rowley Schramm, Carole Sheehan, Sr. Carol Spiegel, Nina Stanley, Sarah Such, Phyllis Swanson, Joann Taylor, LaNedra Vaughn, Shirley Venerable, Meg Welch, Nancy Wesclitz.

(Names will be periodically removed from this listing in the bulletin and also from the list of recurring intercessions spoken at weekend Masses. Others have received a Prayer Shawl representing the prayers for healing by the Parish community. Please contact the parish office to include someone on this prayer list or to request inclusion in the weekend Mass intercessions, or to request a Prayer Shawl.)

And for those of our family members and parishioners who have died, especially Lea Gbeyetin, mother of Aubierge (Aubi) Batcheoumba.



FOOD COLLECTION FOR THOSE IN NEED

The **FOOD FIRST** weekend at St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy Church is next weekend, December 3/4.

Please bring your donations of canned or shelf-stable food and paper products with you to that weekend's Masses. Donations are brought to the altar during the Offertory.

St. Giles Church weekly collection continues. Please bring your donations of canned or shelf-stable food and paper products to the St. Giles shrine in the gathering space at the church or to the covered bins located at the back door on the north side of the Parish Center.

Thank you for your generosity to these collections, and thank you to the stewards for their work in delivering these items to our local pantries.



ST. GILES CHURCH MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, November 28

6:30 — † The Deceased of the Parish

Tuesday, November 29

8:30 — † Helen and Justin Fitzgerald
† Elizabeth Groff

Wednesday, November 30

Saint Andrew, Apostle

6:30 — † Marilyn Hammer
† Bill Rice
† The Deceased of the Shaker Family
8:30 — All Parishioners and Benefactors

Thursday, December 1

8:30 — † Matt Griffin
† Jane Greiff

Friday, December 2

6:30 — † Anthony Villasenor
† The Deceased of the Shaker Family
† Anthony M. Nugent

Saturday, December 3

Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

8:00 — † Virginia Nimer
† Brent Whiston
*4:30 — † Elizabeth and Sam Jantelezio
† Rose Jantelezio
† Louis and Elizabeth Toth
† James P. Mulson

Sunday, December 4

Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 — † Genevieve and Sophia Abraham
† Hugh McElwain
† The Deceased of the Shaker Family
10:30 — † Joseph Doorley

**This Mass will be live-streamed from the St. Giles website, stgilesparish.org.*

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA-ST. LUCY CHURCH MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday, November 29

8:30 — All Parishioners and Benefactors

Wednesday, November 30

Saint Andrew, Apostle

8:30 — † Luke Podraza
by Elaine and Jim Podraza

Saturday, December 3

Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

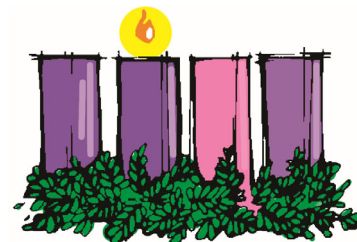
5:00 — † Jerry Rice
by The Yee Family
† Dorothy Zimmerman
by Evie Stockinger

Sunday, December 4

Second Sunday of Advent

*9:00 — † Patty Goeb
by Cynthia Weaver

**This Mass will be live-streamed. Please email parish@stcatherinesstlucy.org to receive the live-stream link.*



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Spiritual Life & Worship

2022 Advent and Christmas Prayer and Reflection:

Weekly Confession at St. Giles Church

Saturdays, 8:30 – 9:00 am

Weekly Confession at St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy Church

Saturdays, 4:00 – 4:30 pm

Taizé Prayer at Ascension Church

Friday, December 2, 7:30 pm

Blessing of Light and the Creche at St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy Church

Friday, December 9, 6:30 pm

Reconciliation Service at St. Edmund Church

Monday, December 12, 7:00 pm

Advent Circle Garden

(a meditative prayer experience, open to all)

McDonough Hall on the St. Giles Campus

1101 Columbian Avenue, 2nd Floor

Sunday, December 18, 11:30 am – 2:00 pm

Monday, December 19, 4:00 – 9:00 pm (Prayer Service at 7:00 pm)

Tuesday, December 20, 7:30 – 9:00 pm

Wednesday, December 21, 7:30 – 9:00 pm

MASS SCHEDULE:*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday, December 17

4:30 pm at St. Giles Church,

5:00 pm at St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy Church

Sunday, December 18

8:00 am and 10:30 am at St. Giles Church,

9:00 am at St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy Church

CHRISTMAS EVE: Saturday, December 24

3:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass at St. Giles Church

4:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass at St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy Church

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass at St. Giles Church

7:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass (Family Mass) in the St. Giles School Gym – *Carols begin at 7:00 pm*

10:30 pm Christmas Vigil Mass at St. Giles Church –
Carols begin at 10:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY: Sunday, December 25

8:00 am and 10:30 am at St. Giles Church,

9:00 am at St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy Church

***Certain Masses may be live-streamed; times to be determined.
Please see our website, stgilesparish.org, for further information,
and to find links to online or live-stream events.**

Annual Mass Book for 2023 is now open!

We have now opened the 2023 Mass Book for intentions for the St. Giles Church worship site and the St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy Church worship site. Those wishing to schedule a Mass for the intention of someone who has died or for a special intention may come to the Parish Center office on the St. Giles Campus during weekday business hours to schedule a Mass intention for either worship site.

In addition, the St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy Rectory office is open on Saturday from 9 am to 4:30 pm and on Sunday morning from 8:30 am until 12:00 pm for scheduling Mass intentions for St. Catherine-St. Lucy Church worship site.

You may also send your requests to us by contacting Rachel at stgiles@stgilesparish.org.

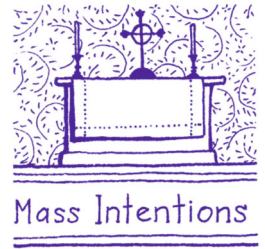
Mass intentions will be scheduled on a first-come basis. The suggested donation for a Mass intention is \$10.00.

At this time, as we continue to progress through the unification of our respective faith communities into one new Parish entity, we are opening up the Mass book for each site only through June 30, 2023. Once future Mass schedules are determined at each worship site, future dates will be available for Mass intercessions.

Please be advised that the Mass Book fills up quickly. Therefore, if specific dates are important to you, you should schedule them as soon as possible. (If you have already sent in date requests, please know that they have been held and will now be entered in the Mass Book.)

There are three intentions open for each Mass (except where the intention of the parish "All Parishioners and Benefactors" appears).

All Holy days and all holidays are designated for the intentions of the parish; no individual intentions may be added to those days.



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Praying the Rosary on Zoom Fridays at 7:00 pm

Join Deacon Kevin and Marci Morgan on Zoom to pray the Rosary on Friday evenings at 7:00 pm.

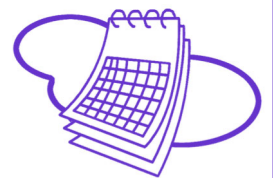


**<https://us02web.zoom.us/>
Meeting ID: 865 8895 7490
Passcode: 634955**

2023 CALENDARS NOW AVAILABLE

The 2023 religious-themed calendars are now available compliments of Sciaraffa Funeral Directors, P.C. You can find them all the entrances of both Church worship sites.

Thank you, Julie and Jerry Sciaraffa!



Lifelong Formation



Advent Wreath and Candle Fundraiser for Religious Education Programs

*Lord God, let your blessing come upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light be a sign
of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.
May he come quickly and not delay.
We ask this through Christ our Lord
Amen*

Advent Wreaths and Candles will be sold at the end of all Masses at St. Catherine-St. Lucy Church, St. Giles Church and at the St. Giles Family Mass Community this weekend, November 26/27

Advent Wreath \$12.00
Advent Candles (a pack of 4) \$8.00
Cash and Check only

All proceeds will go to support our Religious Education programs.



Faith & Fellowship

She Won't Be Coming Back

We were stunned when we went to Central Plaza to pick up Jessica to be told that she was discharged. We were happy when we found out that – having turned 65 years of age – she has transferred to an assisted living residence. And we were thrilled to learn the details when we paid her a visit. Jessica now lives in a neighborhood much more pleasant, and safer, than her former Austin location. Her studio apartment is attractive, comfy, and contains homey touches such as placemats on the dinette table and matching bathroom towels and shower curtains. It's as neat as a pin. When asked if she'd like us to pick her up for her Monday Night F/F group, she was clear in saying she'd rather not. She'd love for us to come see her, but Central Plaza is no longer a part of her life, and neither are we. She has moved forward, and is not looking back. And we thank God.

Religious Education Reflections

Family Religious Education gathered on November 13.

While early, we spent time talking about Advent and its deeper meanings. As a part of the discussion, we talked about the Jesse Tree, which highlights Jesus' ancestors as depicted with special ornaments. The families looked up particular scripture passages and made ornaments to create their own Jesse Trees in their homes.



Parish Life

The Giving Tree at St. Catherine of Siena -St. Lucy Church

As you shop this season, please remember the children whose wishes go unanswered by bringing an unwrapped toy or children's book to put under the Giving Tree at St. Catherine-St. Lucy Church. The gifts will be delivered to Catholic Charities on Austin Avenue in Cicero for their annual Celebration of Giving in December. We will have the Giving Tree up in the welcoming area of the church on the weekends of November 26/27 and December 3/4. All gifts will be delivered to Catholic Charities on Monday, December 5. Questions? Please email Rachel at the parish office at parish@stcatherineslucy.org. Thank you!



*The Peace & Justice Committee
of the St. Catherine of Siena and St. Lucy Community*

A Saint's Devotion to Mary

The book that made a decisive turning point in the spiritual life of John Paul II, originally written in 1712 but lost until it was discovered 130 years later, and considered the greatest book on Marian spirituality ever written – St. Louis de Montfort's *True Devotion to Mary* is the Spiritual Classics choice for December 6. The Lifelong Learning and Adult Faith Formation Committee at Ascension-St. Edmund invites you to join the discussion over Zoom on Tuesday, December 6 at 7:30 pm.

Montfort believed that by praising, loving, and honoring Mary, one was truly loving and honoring God and Jesus Christ. *True Devotion to Mary* is St. Louis de Montfort's classic statement on the spiritual way to Jesus Christ through the Blessed Virgin Mary. Beloved by countless souls, this book sums up the entire Christian life, showing a way of holiness that is short, easy, secure, and perfect—a way of life chosen by Jesus.

To participate, just send an email to llaaffc@ascensionoakpark.com with the name of the book in the subject line. You'll receive a return email before the discussion with a link for the Zoom meeting. For more information and links to obtain the book, go to www.ascensionoakpark.com/apps/pages/athome. Reading the book is not required in order to join the discussion – feel free to just come and learn more about St. Louis de Montfort and his inspiring devotion to Mary.



© Annika Nelson

An Evening of Reflection at Ascension Church

The Ascension Women's Cooperative invites you to attend an ADVENT Evening of Reflection on Thursday, December 1, in Ascension Church at 7:00 pm.

Our one-hour presentation by Sr. Roberta Popara, OP will focus on **"Having a Mary Christmas: inviting trust and faith into your heart and home this Advent."**

Sr. Roberta, a Dominican Sister of Sinsinawa, is a dynamic retreat leader and has returned to the Chicago area after 17 years of retreat ministry in Florida.

Please grab a girlfriend/your sister/your neighbor and begin your Advent with a memorable evening -- light refreshments will be served after the presentation.

Time for Caring and Sharing: CCW Sharing Tree at St. Giles Church



For many years, the CCW has coordinated a Christmas tradition, the Sharing Tree. Through this ministry, we are given the opportunity to think about the needs of families, who are very much like us, however face significant financial needs. Our hope is to make this Christmas season a little brighter for them. Again this year, we will provide gift cards for families to purchase gifts and/or food or other needs. For those who are able, we are asking for donations of gift cards to Jewel, Walmart or Target. You can also make a donation (checks payable to St. Giles CCW) in any amount which we will apply towards purchasing gift cards. Mail or drop off your donation at the Parish Center, 1025 Columbian Ave., Oak Park, IL 60302 or drop it in the Offertory collection at weekend Mass at St. Giles Church. You can also visit www.stgilesparish.org to make your monetary donation through GiveCentral, or just scan the QR Code that is shared here. So that we have sufficient time to purchase and allocate the gift cards to those needy families, please respond by Monday, November 28.

We are sure you agree that the Sharing Tree is one of the traditions that makes our Parish so special. Anything you can offer will be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your generosity. If you have any questions, please contact Madeleine Butler at 708-267-7572 or Pat Micucci at 773-237-4691.





***St. Catherine-St. Lucy and St. Giles
Women's Christmas Party!***

**CCW WILL BE HOSTING OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9 AT 6:30PM IN McDONOUGH HALL.**

ALL WOMEN OF ST CATHERINE-ST LUCY AND ST. GILES ARE WELCOME.

**FRIENDS AND RELATIVES OUTSIDE OF OUR PARISH
ARE WELCOME TO JOIN AS WELL!**

**THE EVENING WILL INCLUDE AN ITALIAN DINNER, DESSERTS, SIGNATURE
COCKTAIL AND BEAUTIFUL GIFT BASKETS WILL BE RAFFLED!**

TICKETS ARE \$25 IN ADVANCE AND \$35 AT THE DOOR.

**SCAN THE QR CODE
TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS NOW!**

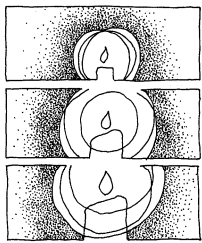


Parish Life

SENIOR CORNER

Now looking forward to December... All Seniors are invited to a *fun-filled* afternoon on St. Nicholas Day, Tuesday, December 6, for our annual **Christmas Party** in St. Giles McDonough Hall. The party will start at noon with a warm catered lunch followed by special entertainment and, as always, interesting conversation and fellowship. So join us and get into the "Christmas Spirit". Make your reservation now, by contacting **Joan Wojcik at 708-771-4783**. Reservations must be in by Friday, December 2. That day is fast approaching, so don't delay. For this gathering there will be a \$15 fee.

As in the past, at Christmas we always collected children toys or books to be delivered to Catholic Charities. We are happy to tell you that the tradition will continue. If you would like to donate an item please bring your unwrapped gift on December 6 and know that you will help make a child's Christmas brighter!!



St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy
and St. Giles Parish

Holiday Art and Craft Fair

Saturday, December 3
11:00 am ~ 4:00 pm

Sunday, December 4
10:00 am ~ 2:00 pm

McDonough Hall (2nd floor)
on the
St. Giles Campus

1101 Columbian Avenue
Oak Park
(directly north of the church at
the corner of Greenfield and Columbian)

Free Admission

Intercultural Immigrant Ministry (IIM)

A joint ministry of the Catholic Parishes of Oak Park.

IIM will begin hosting a single woman from El Salvador in January 2023. She is currently living at Bethany House in Hyde Park and has received her work papers.

Please consider being a mentor for this woman. The Beyond Bethany Mentoring Program training will be held at the St. Edmund Campus, 188 S. Oak Park Ave, Oak Park on Saturday, December 3 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. To register, contact Darlene Gramigna at 773-213-2240 or darlenegram@gmail.com.

To make donations for the people we are hosting, there has now been a fund started at our parish. Please make out a check to St. Giles Parish and note that it is for the St. Giles Refugee Fund in the memo line.

For more information, please email us at immigrantministry@gmail.com or email Margie Rudnik at margaretrudnik@gmail.com.



REMEMBRANCE POINSETTIAS

Honor Your Deceased Loved Ones

Decorate Our Churches

for the Christmas Season

Support St. Catherine-St. Lucy and
St. Giles' 2023 ASP Trip

St. Catherine-St. Lucy and St. Giles Parish ASP will be selling Remembrance Poinsettias during the Advent Season. Poinsettias may be purchased through GiveCentral by scanning the QR Code, or by a check mailed or dropped-off to the Parish Center Office on the St. Giles Campus (1025 Columbian Ave., Oak Park, IL 60302).

Poinsettia plants purchased in memory of deceased loved ones will decorate our churches during the Christmas season as a reminder of the love of our family and friends who have passed away.

Your donations will be used to purchase plants for church decoration, and the profit will assist ASP in meeting our fundraising goals. *Thank you for your support!*

The names of those honored will be published in the parish bulletin after Christmas and also will be included on our website.

Enter the name(s) of the person(s) you wish to honor in the space provided.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY! The cost is \$25 per plant.

I would like to donate _____ plants (# of poinsettias) in honor of:

Enclosed is my total donation of \$_____ (\$25 per plant)

Please make checks payable to **St. Giles ASP** and return to the Parish Center Office no later than **Tuesday, December 20.**

Name and address of donor:

☐ *I prefer to donate anonymously.*

(Name and address will only be used for receipt purposes.)



Food For Thought

Jesus the Protagonist

*The coming of Jesus into the world
is the most important event
in human history.”
(Malcolm Muggerage)*

It's twenty centuries after his birth,
and Jesus continues to hold a place
in the hearts of over two billion globally.
His method of dialogue and teaching
provided much enduring appeal:

Asked lots of questions; told stories in parables.

He answered questions by asking questions;
Preferred indirect answers to direct.
Some were rhetorical—he'd challenge or provoke.
His questions helped him enter more fully
into people's lives, by looking at their hearts,
and asking them about their fears and their faith.

Jesus probed into some not asked before:

*For what is a man profited
if he shall gain the whole world,
and lose his soul?”*

A lawyer asked him who was his neighbor;
Jesus asked what “good neighbor” meant to him.
The man was led to respond that a good neighbor
is one who shows mercy (the Good Samaritan).

His primary method of creating meaning:
metaphor, simile and dramatic action,
tended to replace logic and reasoning.
Truth in parables was disclosed to those sincere,
but not those unwilling to be honest.
By telling stories, his words were more memorable.

Stories ask us to enter another world;
They ask us to form our loves. Parables ask us—
actually, require us—to think and to ponder.
Jesus used questions and stories to awaken us,
to whet our appetites, to invite us to draw nearer,
so we open up more fully to God's purposes.

with Jesus' powerful depictions of a Father
who loves prodigals, tax collectors and Samaritans,
people were comforted, and felt safe following him.
They know they can trust this God of justice and love.

No one can reach that place of Jesus spiritual
superiority. We don't earn God's grace...it's a gift.

Jesus was after our hearts, not just our minds;
He was after lives changed, not just intellects grown.

Our questioning hearts in the face of evil
are not an affront to faith; Jesus simply says:
“Wait: all will be revealed.”

Trauma to us can be a difficult chapter
in a larger, more redemptive story;
It can be life-giving.

Christmas is meaningful, because it situates
each of our lives—the joys and the sorrows,
the hope and the despair, the dramatic and mundane—
in a larger narrative. Not only did God author it,
the Son of God became a protagonist.

Tom Lynch. tgl7714@gmail.com 11 / 27 / 22

Source: NYT: Peter Wehner.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Help and encouragement after the death of
a spouse, child, family member, or friend

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and
support group designed to help you rebuild your
life after losing a loved one. Our group is led by
caring people who have experienced grief and
want to help you through the
difficult days ahead.

We know it hurts, and we want to help.

Contact Us Today

Wednesdays, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Beginning January 18, 2023

McDonough Hall on the St. Giles Campus

1101 Columbian Avenue, 2nd Floor,

Oak Park, IL 60302

Contact Geri Tapling, 708-223-4912

griefshare@stgilesparish.org



But wait! There's more!

Want to know **ALL** the latest parish news? Sign up for the
weekly parish e-news
through **flocknote**! Just
scan the QR Code here
to sign up, and the
information you need will
be right in your inbox!



Anthony's
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