

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA-SAINTE LUCY AND SAINT GILES PARISH



On that day, a shoot shall sprout
from the stump of Jesse,
*and from his roots
a bud shall blossom.*

~ Isaiah 11:1

DECEMBER 4, 2022 • Second 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

A note from Fr. Robert



One of the great spiritual masters is St. Ignatius of Loyola, who founded the religious order known as the Society of Jesus or the Jesuits. St. Ignatius formed the Jesuits principally with the goal of helping souls in mind. Although in the centuries since, the Jesuits have grown into a worldwide order that runs ministries and schools in many countries including the United States. Ignatius' main gift to the Church was his Spiritual Exercises, which also had, at its core, the goal of helping souls. Two of the main methods of prayer in the Spiritual Exercises are the Ignatian Examen and Ignatian Contemplation. These ways of praying have been enormously helpful to many people throughout the centuries, and it may be worth discussing the basics of them as an invitation, at the beginning of our new Church year, to try them if they may be helpful for you.

The main goal of the Ignatian Examen is to assist people in discerning the movements of God in their lives and also to discern where God is really calling them. The Examen is a prayer that should be done several times a week at the end of the day, if not daily, so that in the totality of the prayer over a period of time, one can see the consistencies of where they are being drawn and, in that, more fully realize where God is in their lives. The Examen, then, is a prayer that begins with gratitude and offering thanks to God for the day that one has had. There are different ways of doing the prayer but a helpful one is to structure it into several parts, each lasting no more than three minutes, so that the total prayer would take approximately eleven to twelve minutes.

Begin by taking a minute to still yourself and recognize that you are in the holy presence of God.

Then, for two minutes, recall two or three specific things from the day that you are grateful for. These can also be things that you normally take for granted. It is important that they be specific rather than just general feelings.

Then, take a full minute to ask God to be with you as you review your day asking God for wisdom and guidance as you review the day.

Next, spend three minutes going through some specific events of the day where you have done well and were at your best. Also review parts of the day when you may not have been at your best. Three minutes in something like this can seem like a long time but it is important not to rush through the prayer and to spend the full period of time on each part.

Next, take two minutes and imagine that Jesus is with you and have a conversation with him about some points during the day that you may regret - whether it is a conversation you had with a family member or not following through on something that you said that you would do or something similar.

Take two minutes more to continue this conversation with Jesus about a thing or two that you would like to make an effort to change for tomorrow and in the future.

Finally, conclude by saying the Our Father.

This method of prayer has been helpful to many people and might be something to try as a new Advent spiritual practice.

--Fr. Robert Carlton

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, Resident.....Ext. 308

Rev. Thomas E. Unz, Resident.....Ext. 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 Administrator.....Ext. 420

Matthew Brophy, Director of Parish Operations.....Ext. 102

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

Sue Kaszynski, Director of Music and Liturgy.....Ext. 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: religioused@stgilesparish.org

Kelly McCreary,

Faith Formation Administrative Assistant.....Ext. 101

Peggy Plastina,

Coordinator, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.....Ext. 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, Principal.....mbigane@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

ST. GILES CHURCH MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 5

6:30 — † The Deceased of the Parish

Tuesday, December 6

8:30 — † Consuelo Andres

Wednesday, December 7

Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

6:30 — † Mario Cupello

† John Moses

† Rev. Anthony Gabriel

8:30 — All Parishioners and Benefactors

Thursday, December 8

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30 — † John Mohrleim

Friday, December 9

6:30 — † Steven Thomas Hammer

† Owen Petrzelka

† Susan Gritto

Saturday, December 10

8:00 — † Bill Rice

† James Hannon

*4:30 — † Donald Draz

† Frank Senese, Jr.

† Gloria Fye

Sunday, December 11

Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 — † George Antoon

† Howard and Elizabeth Hansen

† The Deceased of the Shaker Family

10:30 — † All Parishioners and Benefactors

**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, December 6

8:30 — † Luke Podraza

by Elaine and Jim Podraza

Wednesday, December 7

Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

8:30 — † Judge Laurence Silberman

by Tom and Pat Nelson

Saturday, December 10

5:00 — † Pat Gleason

by Cynthia Weaver

Sunday, December 11

Third Sunday of Advent

*9:00 — † Deceased Members of the Vincent Family
by the Vincent Family

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

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, Patricia Crotty, Lucille Dalbis, Andrea Dickson, Wanda Farmer, Mike Fenske, Katherine Fisher, Carol Frank, Mary Ellen Frank, Jim Gallagher, Earl Gallermo, Grace Gryzlo Goodmanson, 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 Janice Handel, Isidoro Antonolli, and Joana De Santo.

FOOD COLLECTION FOR THOSE IN NEED

This weekend is **FOOD FIRST** weekend at St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy Church. 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.

Welcome
our new friends

We are very pleased
to welcome
the following new parishioners:

Lori and Tom Thomas, Jacqueline and Ryan Manfredini.



**Volunteers are needed
to help set up St. Catherine-St. Lucy Church
for the Christmas Season!**

Set up will take place immediately after the 9:00 am
Mass on Sunday, December 18.

Please join us! In gratitude, the SCSL Liturgy Committee.

Spiritual Life and Worship



Senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests have devoted their lives to prayer, service and works of mercy. Most ministered for little or no pay. Today, their retirement savings are not enough to help with nursing care, medications and other necessities. Your donations will help hundreds of US religious communities provide for their aging members. Please give generously.



BAPTISMS in our Parish

"Little ones, the Christian Community welcomes you with great joy into our family of faith."

Giuliana Gia Ray, Michael and Alessandra (Ressa) Ray; **Sophie Grace Ranck**, Matthew and Nicole (Coppola) Ranck; **Luca Alexander Olenek**, Jeremy and Juliana (Marks) Olenek; **Lillian Kelley Pratt**, **Rose Marie Pratt**, and **Maximus Allen Pratt**, Geoffrey and Traci (Lloyd) Pratt; **Anthony Howard Birch Maginot** and **Thomas Romero Birch Maginot**, Peter and Kelly (Birch) Maginot; **Aiden Santiago Diego Dominquez**, Domingo Juan Diego and Lidia Dominguez; **Welles Weston Tanner**, Weston and Lisa (Nolan) Tanner; **Elijah Avery Adames**, Charles Adames and Theresa Velazquez; **Louella Jo Benke**, Brad and Lauren Hepner Benke; **Silas James Finnerty**, Brian and Kelly (Hepner) Finnerty; **Michael Golden Hepner**, Brian and Rosemary (Garrigan) Hepner; **Layne Monroe Worner**, Nelson and Bryna (Barron) Worner; **Arya Kalamkar**, Anand and Melissa (Wagner) Kalamkar; **Aria Amri Manfredini**, Ryan and Jacqueline (Smith) Manfredini.



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.**

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.

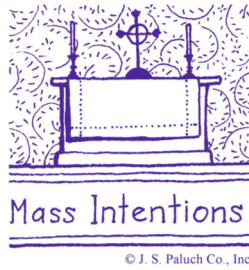


<https://us02web.zoom.us/>
Meeting ID: 865 8895 7490
Passcode: 634955

Parish Life

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.



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!



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@stcatherinestlucy.org. Thank you!

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

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, December 12.**



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.

Lifelong Formation

Christmas Eve Opportunities for Children



St. Catherine-St. Lucy Campus

Children Go Where I Send Thee - Be a part of St. Catherine-St. Lucy's rich tradition...The Children's Christmas Eve Mass! Children act out the Gospel as it is read aloud. No lines. Sign up for the part you want. In memory of Rick Carter...best director ever!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4fafa82ca7fc1-christmas>

December 24 at 4:00 pm
St Catherine St. Lucy Church
38 N. Austin Blvd.

Practices are Dec. 11 and 18 at St. Catherine-St. Lucy Church from 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Call Jean with questions. 708-606-7243
lunamama6@gmail.com

FAMILY MASS

All Children are invited to participate in the proclamation of the Gospel during the Family Mass Christmas Eve liturgy at 7:30 pm.

There is one short rehearsal--with angel and shepherd costume distribution--at 9:00 am in the St. Giles Gym on December 24.

For more information, contact
katiekralik@gmail.com

St. Giles Campus

Oh, Come All Ye Angels and Shepherds - come out and be part of the Christmas Eve Mass! Sign up at the link below. Children will act out the story as it is read aloud. There are no lines.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4fafa82ca7fc1-christmas1>

December 24 at 3:00 pm
St. Giles Campus
1025 Columbian Avenue

Practice is December 23 9:00 am
 Contact Kelly with questions
kmccreary@stgilesparish.org

Help Light the way for Christ!



St. Catherine-St. Lucy and St. Giles Parish is joining Ascension-St. Edmund Parish to share the light of Christ in Oak Park through Luminaria.

Order your Luminaria Kits today! (a kit includes six candles, six white paper bags, and enough sand for all).

The cost is just \$10 per kit.

Please access the online order form at www.ascensionoakpark.com/apps/news. The deadline to order is December 11. Payment will be made when Luminaria are picked up. Cash or check will be accepted at pick up. No change will be made.

Luminaria pick-up will be on the Ascension campus out of Fr. Rex's garage (just south of the parish playground).

Friday, December 16 from 3:00 pm-5:00 pm
Saturday, December 17 from 1:00 pm-5:00 pm
Sunday, December 18 from 8:00 am-12:00 pm

Thank you for supporting this Religious Education fundraiser. Please make checks payable to Ascension Church.

Faith & Fellowship

Thanksgiving Dinner: Love + Gratitude = Service

Recently I was gifted with the opportunity to experience Scripture in real time. For Christ lives and acts in real ways – Emmanuel, centuries later. Long ago, Jesus asked Peter, “Do you love me?”



When Peter reassures the Lord of his love, Jesus challenges him to act upon that love: “... then feed my sheep.” I witnessed the youth of today do this with complete dedication, delight, and enthusiasm. The students from St. Francis High School in Wheaton – the “Spartans” – prepared, served, and cleaned up turkey dinner for us in the Rectory dining room at St. Catherine-St. Lucy. With it, they brought the light of service to our hearts: Partners, Catechists, CTU interns, guests. They were a fresh reminder of what it means to be Christian, and these Spartans brought us all an abundant example of what it means to be grateful. When the heart is filled with gratitude, it overflows into the life of others in the form of service.

Rick Phillip, OFM – CTU Field Ed Student

PLEASE HELP THE HOMELESS THIS CHRISTMAS EVE

For over 27 seasons our community has generously and willingly served the local homeless community with a full dinner with all the trimmings, festive decorations and personal gifts. This Christmas, we may be returning to a bit more of what we know as “normal,” yet the needs of those we serve remain. In a continuing effort to protect them and our parishioners, our parish faith community will keep in place the plan that we implemented two years ago.

On Christmas Eve we will provide dinners and gifts to our brothers and sisters at Franciscan Outreach in Pilsen and Housing Forward in Oak Park, but will continue to do so in a safe environment. We ask that this Christmas, more than ever, you help us to bring the joy of the season to the homeless.

How you can help

100 newly purchased wrapped sweaters (no used sweaters, please). Mark the outside of the box with the following: M (men), W (woman) and the size. **Please note that 80% of the people we serve are men, size L or XL.** Please deliver gifts to MY HOUSE by Thursday, December 22.

Cooked, whole turkeys/hams.

Rolls and butter, corn, paper plates, cups and silverware.

Milk and pop. All food and dinnerware should be delivered to my home (see address below) by 1:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24.

About 20 Children’s gifts. These do not need to be wrapped, but should be delivered to MY HOUSE by Thursday, December 22.

No time to shop but want to help?

Please consider donating a \$25.00 gift card to a local grocery or clothing retailer and our elves will do the shopping. If you’d prefer to write a check, please make it payable to St. Giles, marked “homeless” and deliver to the Parish Center. Donations can also be made through GiveCentral by scanning the QR Code here.

Questions

Please reach out; I’d love to hear from you. My information follows.

lynnfarrell6@gmail.com

312-848-3998 – cell

630 N. Elmwood, Oak Park

There will be a box on my porch for gifts!



We are deeply grateful for your kindness. Wishing you and yours a healthy and Merry Christmas and a safe New Year.

Lynn Farrell

SENIOR CORNER

December is here. And we, the Seniors, are looking forward to a *fun-filled* afternoon on St. Nicholas Day, December 6, which is this coming Tuesday, for our annual **Christmas Party**. The party will start at noon in McDonough Hall on the St. Giles Campus with a warm catered lunch followed by special entertainment and, as always, interesting conversation and fellowship. This will certainly put us in the "Christmas Spirit." If you forgot to make your reservation and wish to do so, **you must call Joan Wojcik 708-771-4783 today** to see if there is still seating available. There is a \$15 fee for this gathering.

As in the past, at our Christmas Party we always collected children's 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!!

The Prayer Shawl Ministry received many new shawls/blankets and there were others that got distributed before they ever made it to the Parish Center. We pray for all those receiving the shawls/blankets and ask all of you to keep the recipients in your prayers. On Veteran's Day, many beautiful knitted/crocheted hearts in red and purple were taken to Hines VA Center. Since then, we have learned that their hospice unit has many patients who have no family and no visitors. We have now delivered a pile of lap blankets.



At the beginning of the month, our stash of scarves, hats and other items were distributed to various groups needing warm items. Then at our monthly meeting, the crates and boxes started to fill up again. We will find a way to distribute them at our December meeting.

All of this is because of your generosity. Thank you! We can always use donations of yarn and/or money. Again, this year we will have a table at the Holiday Art and Craft Fair. Yarn and craft items that were donated but not useable for our mission will be available for a donation.

To receive a shawl or lap blanket for a loved one or to have one sent, call the Parish Center office at 708-383-3430, or come by during business hours. All items are lovingly made and intended to provide warmth and embrace the recipient through the prayers of a loving Parish faith community and the presence of a loving God.

May you be enfolded in God's love,
Margie Rudnik, for the Prayer Shawl Ministry

Compassionate outreach "stunningly appreciated"

When Margie Rudnik joined the Prayer Shawl Ministry a half dozen years ago when she retired, she didn't expect that she would soon become coordinator of this ministry of 30-35 knitters and crocheters. Their creations and prayers have reached out to people in need of comfort or encouragement throughout the Chicago/Oak Park area and as far away as the Pacific Northwest, the U.S. Mexican border, Italy, and many places in between. Nor did Margie realize that in addition to creating prayer shawls and lap blankets for those who were ill, grieving, or celebrating milestone occasions, this merry band of yarn crafters would soon be making hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, blankets, and many other necessities for refugees, the disabled, homeless, and U.S. veterans. "The makers are incredibly generous, with their time, their talent, and even with materials," says Margie. Also, many people donate yarn or funds to purchase yarn or cover shipping expenses.



These knitted and crocheted items carry not only comfort and warmth, but also the prayers of the makers, the concern of the givers, and the prayers of St. Catherine-St. Lucy and St. Giles parishioners.

The joy of these connections keeps Margie enthusiastic as coordinator. But what has been even more unexpected is the way that people have responded. "I have been overwhelmed by how these precious representations of our support and prayer have been stunningly appreciated," said Margie. Many people have responded with heartfelt letters of gratitude after receiving prayer shawls or lap blankets while they are grieving the death of loved ones. Others who are enduring serious and chronic illnesses have found great comfort in keeping the shawls with them through tough times.

Margie has found that the prayer shawls and other items are given and received as a visible sign of God's love. "It is humbling to see how people receive these signs in the way intended. It never fails to convey God's love," she says. "Some people have called me in awe that this sign of love and prayer has arrived at the moment when they were most in need of support."

For more information about the Prayer Shawl Ministry and how you can participate, contact Margie. To receive a prayer shawl or lap blanket for a loved one or someone else who needs a special sign of our support and God's love, call the Parish Center at 708-383-3430 or email Margie at margaretrudnik@gmail.com



1:1 Empower Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Matching Donation Program Begins Dec. 1, 2022

The Archdiocese of Chicago has once again secured matching donors for the Empower Illinois Scholarship Program. St. Giles will receive an additional \$1 for every dollar that you contribute between Dec. 1, 2022 and until funds run out (typically the first week of January). Here's how the program works:

REGISTER with the State of Illinois at mytax.illinois.gov, unless you already have an online account. It usually takes 10-14 days to receive a letter with the ID number required to set up an account, so click on the "Sign up Now!" button in the Login box to start the process as soon as possible.

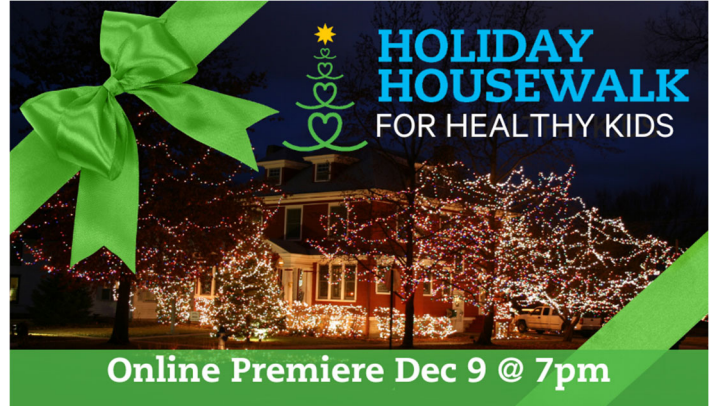
RESERVE your tax credit for the current calendar year (2022 if you donate in Dec and 2023 if you donate in Jan.). Once your account is set up, log into your online account at mytax.illinois.gov (Empowerillinois.org will eventually take you to the same page.). Click on the link to your individual account under the "Accounts" tab. Then, under "I Want to" in the top right corner of the page, select "Contribute to Invest in Kids". Navigate through the form, selecting Cook County, Empower Illinois as the scholarship granting organization, and the amount you will be donating (to all schools). **You will have the opportunity to select St. Giles when you make your donation.** You will then receive your Contribution Authorization Certificate under your mytax.illinois.gov account correspondence tab almost immediately.

DONATE: Make your donation between Dec. 1, 2022 and Jan. 10, 2023 (So that we can get our 1:1 matching funds).

You will receive 75% of your donation that can be used as a tax credit on your Illinois tax bill. Last year, we were able to secure the full \$75,000 in matching funds due to our generous donors which helped 17 children in need! Here is a [step by step guide](#) to make your donation

Contact **Michele Bibbey**, Business Manager at St. Giles School or **Carolyn Burke**, parent advocate with any additional questions.

OPRF Infant Welfare Society Holiday Housewalk



The Saint Giles Rectory will be featured this year as one of the visiting locations during the Annual Holiday Housewalk of the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society. From December 9 through January 9, the tour of five homes in Oak Park and River Forest can be viewed by ticket buyers on any smart device or TV. All the homes, and especially the St. Giles rectory, will be beautifully decorated and architecturally stunning.

Proceeds from this exclusive online tour helps children in need access medical, dental and behavioral health services through the OPRF Infant Welfare Society and Children's Clinic. To support this important work by viewing the Housewalk, please purchase a ticket at <https://onecau.se/ph651>

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!

YOU MAY BRING A BOTTLE OF WINE TO SHARE.

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

SCAN THE QR CODE TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS NOW!





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.)



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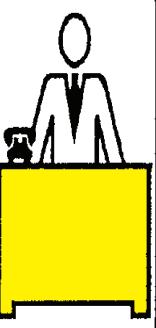
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