

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA-SAINT LUCY AND SAINT GILES PARISH



***"I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.
If you know me, then you will also know my Father."***

-John 14:6-7

MAY 7, 2023 • Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

WEEKDAY MASS: Wednesday at 8:30 am

WEEKEND MASSES: Saturday at 5:00 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



Thanks to all who are able to join us for the 10:30 am Mass this Sunday. This is a special day for Fr. Ed, Fr. Tom and me as we were ordained priests 64 and 40 years ago respectively on this day and celebrate together 144 years of ordained ministry in the Archdiocese of Chicago! Be sure to stop in at McDonough Hall afterwards to continue the celebration.

This weekend, we hear in the First Letter of St. Peter that God's people are a holy priesthood. Peter shares a remarkable invitation to come to Jesus as a "living stone."

Chosen, royal, and holy are the attributes of the stones that comprise the Church. We are not part of the story by accident. Each one of us in the assembly has been chosen to be here, invited into the house of faith in some way. Many of us were first invited by our parents who saw to our baptism and religious education. Later, other mentors in the faith arose who shepherded us to the point of the religious understanding and moral formation that we now enjoy. Perhaps now, we ourselves are issuing the invitation to family, friends and community by our own examples of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

We are a priestly people. Obviously, not all of us are ordained to sacramental ministry. But all are sacramentally anointed for the service of God from our present position in the household of faith. Together, we are windows and doorways into the sacred for others.

Let us remember in our readings and celebration today, each one of us, in our own particular role, is as anointed as the priest who stands at the Table of the Lord.

As followers of Jesus, as "*believers*," let us not feed into all the negativity and cynicism and hopelessness that swirl around us today. Let us be people of hope and joy and peace because if people don't see that in us, then our faith has lost its power to make a real difference in our lives and ultimately in the world.

Believers, Peter's First Letter reminds us, know who you are: chosen, priestly, and holy in God's sight.

Have a great week ahead. With you a Christian. For you a priest.

Fr. Carl

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 (Marc) 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

We Pray For . . .

Those who are hospitalized or homebound, including: Steven Acevedo, Patrick Ahearn, Coletta Ali, Jane Baker, Jori Baker, Phyllis Baker, Marissa Becker, Kyle Becnel, Joe Bigliotti, Danita Bowie, Herbert Breidenbach, Phil Calabrese, Tiffany Church, Patrick Cibula, Ray Cimms, Patricia Crotty, Lucille Dalbis, Bill DeBiase, Andrea Dickson, Wanda Farmer, Mike Fenske, Katherine Fisher, Tom and Carol Frank, Mary Ellen Frank, Jim Gallagher, Earl Gallermo, Michael Gallo, Grace Gryzlo Goodmanson, Jennifer Hanna, Maggie Astacio Hedges, Deacon John Henricks, Bill Holmes, Frank Huss, Morton Johnson, Ginny Jones, Phillip Jones, Patrick King, Marie Koko, Pat Koko, Paul Koko, Hardie Kressler, Kathleen Kroker, Kimberly Lester, Dennis LeValley, Jim and Linda Lewis, Gabriela Machado, Jim Madden, Virginia Madden, Deacon Lorry Madonia, Mary Mamolella, Patricia McDonald, Anne Muldihill, Sr. Louise Noesen, Matt O'Connell, Amelia Patterson, Cary Phillips, John Poplett, Bob Quane, Patricia Reardon, Tom Rezek, Lillian Ricci, Dennis Rusin, Maureen Sansone, Mary and Paul Schleitwiler, Barbara Schulz, Colleen Rowley Schramm, Carole Sheehan, Renee Smith-Quinn, Sr. Carol Spiegel, Nina Stanley, Sarah Such, Cheryl Sullivan, Joann Taylor, Julie Troost, 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 Evelyn Dagostino, mother of James Dagostino.

WEDDING BANNS

- I Iolanda Bilotta and Jimmy DeVito
- I Lauren Slaton and Charles Saporito



Welcome
our new friends

We are very pleased
to welcome
the following new parishioners:

Lizette Diaz, Joe and Andrea Rossi, Janna Dettmer and Marco Amaro, Adriana De La Mora.

ST. GILES CHURCH MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, May 8

6:30 — † The Deceased of the Parish

Tuesday, May 9

8:30 — † John P. Enderle

Wednesday, May 10

6:30 — † Eugene Clervi

† Owen Petrzelka

8:30 — All Parishioners and Benefactors

Thursday, May 11

8:30 — † Roy Pena

Friday, May 12

6:30 — † Frances Hammer

† The Deceased of the Shaker Family

Saturday, May 13

8:00 — † The Deceased of the Daley and Archibald Families

† Thomas S. Murphy

*4:30 — † The Garippo, Pinto, and Sciaraffa Families

† Richard Bartozek

† Amy Kane

Sunday, May 14

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

8:00 — † The Deceased Mothers of the Parish

10:30 — † Sheila Curran

† Joana De Santo

† Sam and Rose Guzzardo

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

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

Wednesday, May 10

8:30 — All Parishioners and Benefactors

Saturday, May 13

5:00 — All Parishioners and Benefactors

Sunday, May 14

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

9:00 — † The Deceased Mothers of the Parish

BAPTISMS in our Parish

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



Molly Kennedy Kelley, Scout Clare

Kelley, Daniel and Lily (Kennedy)

Kelley; Theodore Conway Fotos,

Peter Fotos and Maura Conway;

Augustus Dawsey Raad, Jonathan

Raad and Laura Hanrahan; Brendan Estudillo, Ryan

Estudillo and Anel Gonzalez; Grayson Michael

White, Shane and Kelley (Dunbar) White.



Office of the Archbishop
835 North Rush Street
Chicago, IL 60611-2030
312.534.8230
archchicago.org

Second Collection Next Weekend!

Spring 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Mother's Day is a time dedicated to remembering all of the mothers and mother figures in our lives—the women who have fed, nurtured, taught, and sustained us. Mothers are essential in every generation, in every moment of each day, to the fullness of God's plan for human life and community.

Helping mothers in need is core to our faith, and helping mothers is a central calling for Catholic Charities. As Christ reminds us, we must care for women and children in need, especially mothers raising children alone.

Your generous donation to the Mother's Day Collection for Catholic Charities enables the Church's work on behalf of mothers. Catholic Charities helps tens of thousands of mothers each year with counseling services; food, housing, and utility assistance; adoption support; home-visit parenting support; domestic violence safe-shelter; and so much more.

Your donations are critical to this work of faith. They enable us to be Christ's hands throughout Cook and Lake counties. As the largest provider of human services in our region, the Catholic Church touches thousands of lives daily through the work of Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities relies on the contributions of Catholics who recognize and embrace the call to witness and unite in service, as one Church.

I reach out to our parishes once each year for support of Charities' work. Mother's Day is your chance to make a gift to this central, mighty mission of our Church. Please considering donating either:

- In-person during the second collection on Mother's Day, May 14
- On-line at www.catholiccharities.net/donate
- By mail at Catholic Charities, P.O. Box 8275, Carol Stream, IL 60197-8275

Please accept my sincere gratitude for your past support. I encourage you to be as generous as you can again this year, so that together we might witness a message of mercy and hope a world in need—starting with mothers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Archbishop of Chicago

Parish Life

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Mark & Sallie Smylie

View the complete list of
sponsors on our event page



HOUSING FORWARD PRESENTS



SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023

6pm-11pm

THE GERAGHTY

2520 South Hoyne Avenue, Chicago

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF CELEBRATION,
INSPIRATION, DINNER AND DANCING.

YOUR HEART CAN MEAN A HOME FOR THE INDIVIDUALS
AND FAMILIES WE ASSIST.

HONOREES

CONGREGATION PARTNER AWARD

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

COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD

Village of Broadview

ENDING HOMELESSNESS AWARD

Senator Don Harmon

CULINARY EXPERIENCE

BOKA Catering

ENTERTAINMENT

The Don Cagen Orchestra

Prayer Shawl Ministry at St Catherine-St. Lucy

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will have prayer shawls and lap blankets available at St. Catherine of Siena-Saint Lucy Church at the 5:00 pm Mass on May 20 and the 9:00 am Mass on May 21. These items are lovingly made by members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry as a reminder of God's love and the support and prayers of our parish community. If you or a family member are suffering or if you are celebrating a life event, you are welcome to choose one of these items. There is no charge, though donations are welcome.



To receive a shawl or lap blanket at other times, please call the Parish Center office at 708-383-3430 or stop by during business hours.

If you have yarn that you are not using, please consider donating it to this ministry.

May you feel the warmth of God's love,
Margie Rudnik, for the Prayer Shawl Ministry

St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy and St. Giles Parish joins Catholic Charities in support of mothers and babies across Cook and Lake counties!

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago helps families access a broad array of supports and services. Each day, Catholic Charities serves thousands of women and their children through their Family Support Program, and other behavioral health, domestic violence support, and basic needs programs. Please donate today at www.catholiccharities.net/give/mothers-2023. Your generosity brings hope and joy to the whole family as they experience St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy and St. Giles Parish's support behind them.



Parish Life



Parish Men's Society Smoker 2023

Join us for the Fourth Annual Men's Society Smoker. The evening will be filled with friendship, humor, beverages, and grilled meat. What more do you need?!

We will be awarding the Fr. Carl Morello Award for the Man of the Year. That person will be chosen by a select committee of John Gallo and the prior award winners: Fr. Carl, Pat Carew, and Frank Hulefeld. If you would like to nominate someone, send an email to johnngallo@gmail.com. You'll recognize the prior winners at the event: they'll be wearing their Men's Society MOTY tuxes.



The event will be held on Friday, May 19, 2023, at 6:30 pm in McDonough Hall on the St. Giles Campus at 1101 Columbian Avenue in Oak Park, IL 60302

Cost should not be an obstacle to coming! Pay what you can. That said, we are suggesting specific amounts to offset the costs of food and beverages. In other words, if you can pay the suggested amounts, do so!

Specifically, a single-sign-up is \$50. There is deep discount if you buy a table of eight, which goes for \$350. Those buying a table can also reserve seats for eight dudes at that table.

Please, please, please register as soon as possible so that we can get a good head count for food and beverages. Scan the QR code here to register.



We're looking forward to another great event celebrating the Men of the Parish.

--The Leadership Council



Our Parish Weekly Stewardship For Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

4/30/2023

Total YTD

Envelopes	\$ 11,023.00	\$ 723,101.90
Loose	\$ 2,536.26	
Electronic*	\$ 14,380.00	\$ 500,083.63
Total Giving	\$ 27,939.26	\$ 1,223,185.53

*4/25/23-5/2/23

Easter Collection to date	\$ 73,210.95
Holy Thursday	\$ 2,645.00
Holy Land	\$ 1,196.00

Thank you to all who continue to support St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy and St. Giles Parish. Those wishing to make their donations online through GiveCentral can find the link and easy-to-follow instructions on the church websites: www.stgilesparish.org OR www.stcatherinestlucy.org.

Contact Sharon at the Parish Center, 708-383-3430 Ext. 420, with any questions or for assistance. We could not be here without you!

Intercultural Immigrant Ministry: Planning to Host Another Migrant Family

The Catholic Parishes of Oak Park (St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy and St. Giles Parish and Ascension and St. Edmund Parish) are submitting a request for funding to Catholic Charities to partially support a second migrant family for at least six months. Catholic Charities will act as case management, ensuring that the family is complying with all legal migrant requirements and applying for any benefits to which they are entitled. They will also accompany the parish team, identifying families who will be good fits for the program, training the mentors, helping to secure an apartment, and maintaining regular communication with the parish team.

Volunteers are needed to accompany the family during their first few months in activities such as shopping, using public transportation, assisting with communication, and becoming comfortable with a new area and language. Ability to speak Spanish is ideal but not required. Finding and moving needed furniture and household items will also require volunteer assistance. Children will need to be enrolled in school and accompanied. Ongoing fundraising will be needed to support the family.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of this, please contact either Celine Woznica, celinewoznica@gmail.com, or Margie Rudnik, margaretrudnik@gmail.com.

To make donations, please write a check to St. Giles Parish and note that it is for the St. Giles Refugee Fund. Thank you for your generous heart!

Lifelong Formation

Religious Education Reflections

Middle School Ministry

The 7th and 8th grade students have been focusing on sacraments in April. We looked at the meaning of Confirmation and created various Baptismal symbols. Both Marriage and Holy Orders were highlighted in a broader conversation on vocations and God's call in our lives. Below are some of the reflections from the students.



- I learned that I have a purpose in this world that God will lead me to and that will help me feel fulfilled.
- I learned what a good marriage looks like.
- I was surprised that there are so many different roles in the church and what they do.
- That everyone has purpose, a calling. Vocations are a deep call and step to joining God.

Students were asked to interview two people regarding their vocation and how they knew their calling.

On Wednesday, May 3, the students talked about Eucharist and how to prepare for the Middle School Ministry Mass on Wednesday, May 10 at 7:00 pm in McDonough Hall.



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



The atriums of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd resumed in April, following the great feast of Easter. The presentations continued the celebration and the joy that Easter brings.

In Level 1 and Level 2 this joy was reflected in the presentation, *The Empty Tomb*. The women who went to the tomb of Jesus on Easter morning were bewildered and then euphoric when an angel told them that their beloved Teacher had been raised from the dead. The next presentation in Level 1 was on *Baptism*, introducing the concrete elements of the sacrament: the white garment, the paschal candle, the word, water and oils. *The Gesture of Peace*, during which we share Christ's peace with others in the Eucharist, was the last presentation of the month.

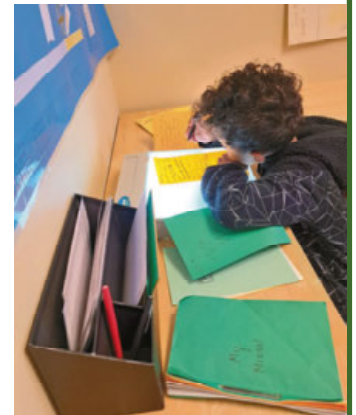
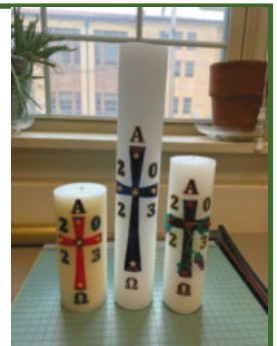


Level 2 celebrated Easter with *The Liturgy of Light*, and a blessing of the paschal candle, the symbol of Christ's resurrected light in our world. Each atrium has its own beautiful paschal candle. The last session in April was *The Eucharistic Presence of the Good Shepherd*. This presentation threads Jesus' words in the parable of the Good Shepherd with the heart of our Mass, the Eucharistic celebration – a celebration for all people, of all times.

Level 3 also celebrated Easter with *The Liturgy of Light*. This was followed by *The Story of Bread*, in which the children meditated on the Bread of Heaven, the Body of Christ, which nourishes us, body and soul. The month ended with the contemplation of the sacrament of *Baptism*, and an examination of the complete order of the sacrament.

Atrium sessions end the first week of May. The last atrium session presentation for all levels will be a *Synthesis of the Year*. This is an opportunity for the children to identify and ponder with the group, a work or material that was especially meaningful to them this year.

The CGS year officially ends with an all-atrium *Pentecost Celebration* on Wednesday, May 10, at 4:00 pm in the St. Giles Church Courtyard (weather permitting). All atrium children, of all 3 levels, and their parents/caregivers, are invited. We will celebrate both the end of the year, and the birthday of the Church. This celebration is a fitting end to a year of grace with the children in the sacred spaces of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd atriums.



Parish Life

Return Your Filled Baby Bottles Next Weekend!

It's not too late to participate in The Baby Bottle Project which benefits The Women's Centers of Greater Chicagoland. This non-profit organization directly assists mothers and families experiencing crisis pregnancies and have saved over 40,000 babies and their mothers from abortion since opening in 1984.



Please take a Baby Bottle home with you this weekend, fill it with your spare change, and return it next weekend, May 13-14. The bottles can be found in the gathering space of both Church sites. If you are making a donation by check, please make it payable to: The Women's Center. You can also go directly to their website at: GoTWC.org or call 773-794-1313 to donate.

This is a simple, but crucial fundraising effort for The Women's Centers. Please note that the Baby Bottles cost almost \$1.00 per bottle and are recycled afterwards so please return upon completion of the project. *Thank you for helping defend life* and remember to keep all pro-life undertakings in your prayers.



Faith & Fellowship



A Concert Like No Other

Recently, performing at Columbus Manor Residential Facility (where many of the Faith & Fellowship Partners live) changed the way we in the rock band from St. Francis College Prep think and play. We've played in many different spaces and venues, but that room with those people in it was truly a special experience. People have danced, smiled, and had fun to our music before, but nothing compared to the way the residents, staff, and guests all danced, smiled, and had fun (especially one guy who danced The Twist to "Jailhouse Rock"). That in return brought us so much joy and made our songs more meaningful and impactful for us. Now every time we play those songs, we'll have the spirit of Columbus Manor with us. We couldn't be more thankful for being given that opportunity, and we hope to return someday.



Women's Spring Courtyard Evening

On the agenda: *FUN, FUN & FUN!*

Tuesday, May 23, 6:30-8:30 pm
St. Giles Church Courtyard

(If inclement weather, we will gather in McDonough Hall.)

Don't miss out on a chance to connect with other women in our parish! Come on over for the evening—or just stop by for a bit!

Bring a bottle or appetizer if you can.

We hope you will join us!

Questions or interest in helping? Contact Sue Canepa (suecanepa@gmail.com) or Andrea Grote (andreagrote@comcast.net).

Wednesday Night Bible Study

**7:00 pm in the St. Giles Campus
Parish Center Living Room
at 1025 Columbian Avenue, and over Zoom**

All are welcome - It is **NOT** necessary or required to attend each week... Come when you can!!

Join us for a new series of meetings on the **Acts of the Apostles!** We'll be sending out study guides, including bible verses/chapters that will be referenced as well as questions to ponder and discuss together.



Contact **Maria Samatas** at msamatas@me.com for more information!



ST. GILES SCHOOL

Preschool

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Our Early Childhood program has limited spots open in PreK 3 & PreK 4 classrooms for the 2023-24 school year. Half-day and full-day options are available.

OUR PRESCHOOL IS A MAGICAL PLACE:

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- Learning centers for Math, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies
- Daily faith formation exploring God's creation and love for us
- 10:1 student/teacher ratio
- Dedicated preschool playground
- PreK-8 learning opportunities through cross-grade experiences with older "buddies"

CALL FOR A TOUR:

708.383.6279

MORE CONTACT INFO:

office@stgilesschool.org

www.stgilesschool.org

The Senior Corner



Join us for a special presentation on Tuesday, May 16th, **“Safety and Emergency Awareness.”** Denise Hartney and Maureen Shoevlen will describe and explain how to make our homes safer, how to prepare for and respond to an emergency situation, and how to get help when needed. This vital information will help ease our minds so we can be better prepared for emergencies when they may unexpectedly arise. A pizza lunch will be provided at noon in McDonough Hall prior to our program. Attendees may bring a dessert to share. **You must register in advance by Friday, May 12, by calling Joan Wojcik at 708-771-4783.**

Interested in serving as a Eucharistic Minister of Communion for our veterans? The Archdiocese of Military Services includes Edward Hines Jr. Veterans Administration Hospital in Hines and Jesse Brown Veterans Administration Hospital in Chicago.

You are invited to a mandated training for Eucharistic Ministers offered by Fr. Filbert Ngwila of the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Archdiocese of Military Services on Tuesday, May 16, at 10:30 am, in the Chapel area at Hines VA Hospital, located at 5000 5th Avenue in Hines, IL. The chapel is located on the 1st floor of the main hospital building.

Questions? Contact Mary Sue Egan at m.egan@comcast.net or call 708-383-1899.

Mother's Day Bake Sale

The Fraternité Sisters of Notre Dame will be back at St. Giles Church selling their French tarts, breads, cakes and cookies next weekend, May 13 and 14, after the 4:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday and both morning Masses on Sunday. Stop in the gathering space of Church to find delicious treats to compliment your Mother's Day celebration. All proceeds support their ministry to the homeless on Chicago's Westside.



But wait! There's more!

Want to know ALL the latest parish news? Sign up for the weekly parish e-news via our broadcast email program, **flocknote!** To sign up, just scan the QR Code here, or go to this URL in your browser: <https://stgilesparish.flocknote.com/ENews>, and the information you need will be right in your inbox!



Food For Thought

“Everyone Will vote—Everyone.”

“It is very encouraging to see a growing trend toward gender parity in the Synod hall. The inclusion of women in this sort of significant way will change the Church, will create new conversations, and new ways of making decisions within the Church”
(Kate McElwee, Exec. Director, Women's Ordination Conference)

The fueling of expectations among Catholic women ten years ago, prompted by the start of the Francis papacy, has blossomed into reality, creating for them a more joyous spring.

Francis had said in 2013 the contribution of women should not be limited to altar girls and heads of charities. “There must be more,” he said. And indeed there is.

While Francis remains adamant in opposing the ordaining of women to the priesthood or diaconate, the stained glass windows have been opened, and welcoming fresh breezes are in the air. For women, “There must be more” is now.

The Synod of Bishops is an assembly from all over the world, who gather in Rome to discuss issues vital to the Church, and is an advisory body to the Pope. The word Synod means “walking together,” and stems from Ancient Greek.

This past week Francis took what may be his most important step to give women a greater voice in the direction of the Church.

Changes approved will allow women and lay people to vote for the first time at a major meeting of bishops.

The Pope has been clear that the Synod will create a central deliberative body, helping him determine the Church's future. Half the 70 non-bishop voting members will be women, and five nuns will also vote. Women will total 10 % of the entire vote.

“Walking Together” has emerged as a leitmotif of Francis' pontificate.

The synod's working document is in the process of being prepared: “Enlarge the Space of Your Tent.”

New member additions have expanded it.

There's exquisite value in listening to the report. Today, women are excluded from key Church roles. LGBTQ people feel unwelcome. The Church should be a refuge for poor and migrants, not look just for the perfect.

The Church is open to all people created and loved by God. All are welcome.

Tom Lynch tl7714@gmail.com

Sources: NCR, C. White, 4/26/23;
NYT Columns, p9, 4/27/23;
TGL Bulletin Piece of 11/13/22.



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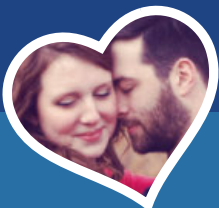
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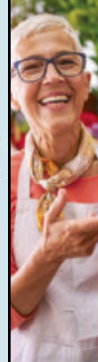
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