

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA-SAINT LUCY AND SAINT GILES PARISH



LORD,
IN YOUR
GREAT
LOVE,
PLEASE
ANSWER
ME.

Psalm 69

JUNE 25, 2023 • Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA - ST. LUCY CHURCH
38 NORTH AUSTIN BOULEVARD, OAK PARK
WEEKEND MASS: Sunday at 9:00 am

ST. GILES CHURCH
1045 COLUMBIAN AVENUE, OAK PARK

DAILY MASSES: 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



It was a cool but beautiful evening for the first of our summer courtyard concerts. A healthy crowd gathered to hear *The Island of Misfit Toys*; an Oak Park-based band that played the lively music of the 1960's through today. Our next concert is scheduled for July 21, the third Friday of July, at 7:00 pm in the courtyard. Members of the Lyric Opera will share their voices and musical talents. This will be their third time joining us and their performance is sure to be a crowd pleaser. While the concert is free, a free will offering will benefit the work of the Infant Welfare Society. Plan to join us.

As we continue our journey in Renew My Church with Building a New Reality in our united parishes and our larger Catholic Community, today's readings offer some good guidance and words of reassurance. The first reading establishes the theme that runs throughout today's scripture passages: We can always rely on the Lord! In the face of enemies on all sides, long suffering Jeremiah puts his trust in the Lord. The psalmist turns to the Lord, whose kindness is constant. Saint Paul points out that God's grace, given by Jesus on the cross, is greater than the sins of humanity. Jesus then assures his disciples that God watches over them to the smallest detail. In this time of change and renewal, where do we need to seek God's word to reassure us as well?

I have heard many folks express concern for me as I take on a greater leadership role in our two united parishes here in Oak Park. I have also heard concerns for the parishes, how we identify ourselves individually and now looking at a new reality. What will this mean for us? Yes, there are many questions and honest concerns. Let me remind you of something Jesus once said, "My Peace I give you." (John 14:27)

Remember, when you feel yourself starting to worry about whatever, if you are stewing over a certain situation or person, act out of your belief that your prayer for resolution will be answered. Substitute positive, encouraging thoughts for negative ones. Let us practice patience and act with love by assuming the best in others. And let's all remember; God is in control!

Where charity and love prevail... there God is ever found. As you may recall from previous bulletins, we have extended the use of the rectory on the St. Catherine-St. Lucy site for Housing Forward as an overnight shelter for the year. Following the mission of reaching out to those in need, we are hoping to arrange for the migrants living in the nearby Austin Police station to have a place to shower twice a week. I will keep you posted on the arrangements and what is planned.

Have a safe and blessed 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 Thursday, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm,

Fridays, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm (June 16 through August 11)

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: religiously@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, June 26

6:30 — † The Deceased of the Parish

Tuesday, June 27

8:30 — † Sam Zell

Wednesday, June 28

6:30 — † Owen Petrzela

8:30 — All Parishioners and Benefactors

Thursday, June 29

Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

8:30 — † John Kucera

Friday, June 30

6:30 — † Tony Orr

† Betty Shaker

Saturday, July 1

8:00 — † Mary Jane Gage

2:30 — Wedding: Margaret Carey and Louis Cairo

4:30 — † Rev. Thomas McDonough

† Jackie Sundheim

† Gretchen Esther

† Dina Goldstein

Sunday, July 2

The Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:00 — † Elizabeth and Sam Jantelezio

† Mary Rita Bresnahan

† Katie Ferro

*10:30 — † Rose Fico

† Darlene Burnett

5:00 — Oak Park Catholic Parishes Mass at St. Giles

**This Mass will be live-streamed from the transitional parish website, stgilesparish.org.*

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

Sunday, July 2

The Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

9:00 — All Parishioners and Benefactors

WEDDING BANNS

I Elizabeth Henricks and Russell Clifford

III Margaret Carey and Louis Cairo

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

6/18/2023

	Total	YTD
Envelopes	\$ 9,901.00	\$ 828,831.87
Loose	\$ 1,419.45	
Electronic*	\$ 7,085.50	\$ 570,898.26
Total Giving	\$18,405.95	\$1,399,730.13

*6/13/23-6/18/23

We are now at the end of our fiscal year. Currently, we anticipate a deficit in the Sunday Offertory of **\$75,075**. If you have been waiting to donate or sign up for GiveCentral, now is the time to do it! Help us narrow the gap. Your support is appreciated and critical to maintain and operate all that we do. If you need assistance with GiveCentral, contact Sharon at the Parish Center, 708-383-3430 Ext. 420. We could not be here without you!

We Pray For . . .

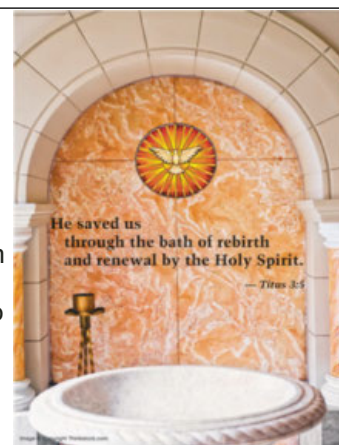
Those who are hospitalized or homebound, including: Steven Acevedo, Patrick Ahearn, Coletta Ali, Jane Baker, Jori Baker, Phyllis Baker, Marissa Becker, Kyle Becnel, Joe Bigliotti, Danita Bowie, Herbert Breidenbach, Melissa Brumund, Phil Calabrese, Tiffany Church, Patrick Cibula, Ray Cimms, Patricia Crotty, 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, Ginny Jones, Phillip Jones, Patrick King, Marie Koko, Pat Koko, Paul Koko, Hardie Kressler, Kathleen Kroker, Kimberly Lester, Dennis LeValley, Gabriela Machado, Jim Madden, Virginia Madden, Deacon Lorry Madonia, Mary Mamolella, Patricia McDonald, Anne Muldihill, Sr. Louise Noesen, Matt O'Connell, Amelia Patterson, John Poplett, Bob Quane, Patricia Reardon, Tom Rezek, Lillian Ricci, Dennis Rusin, Maureen Sansone, Paul Schleitwiler, Barbara Schulz, Colleen Rowley Schramm, Carole Sheehan, Sr. Carol Spiegel, Nina Stanley, Sarah Such, 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 Josephine Maraffino.

Our Baptism Preparation Team is looking for new members

Do you love babies? Do you enjoy meeting new people? Then this is the ministry for you! The Baptism Preparation Team is looking for individuals and couples to help prepare first-time parents for their child's Baptism. The preparation classes are held once a month on either a Monday or Tuesday evening and take place in the prayer space behind the altar. Training and support will be provided. For more information, please contact Sharon at the Parish Center at 708-383-3430, Ext. 420.



Remaining Dates of 2023 and All of 2024 Mass Intentions for St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy and St. Giles Parish

<i>Requestor's Name</i>
<i>Mailing Address</i>
<i>Phone Number</i>
<i>Email Address</i>

We are accepting requests for 2023 (July - December) and 2024 Mass Intentions beginning Monday, June 26, 2023.

- ◆ Please include your Name, Address, Phone Number and Email Address.
- ◆ **This form is available at each church site, and on our provisional website at stgilesparish.org.**
- ◆ **Include your \$10.00 offering per Mass Intention with this form. Please make check payable to either St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy OR St. Giles as is applicable.**
- ◆ There will be up to three Mass Intentions per Mass.
- ◆ All requests will be recorded in the Mass Book in order of receipt.
- ◆ If the date of your request has already been fully reserved, we will assign another date as close as is possible for you.
- ◆ **We are unable to guarantee dates and times as requested.**
- ◆ We will notify you of your 2023 Mass Intentions by email or by U.S. Mail.

How to Submit your Mass Intentions request:

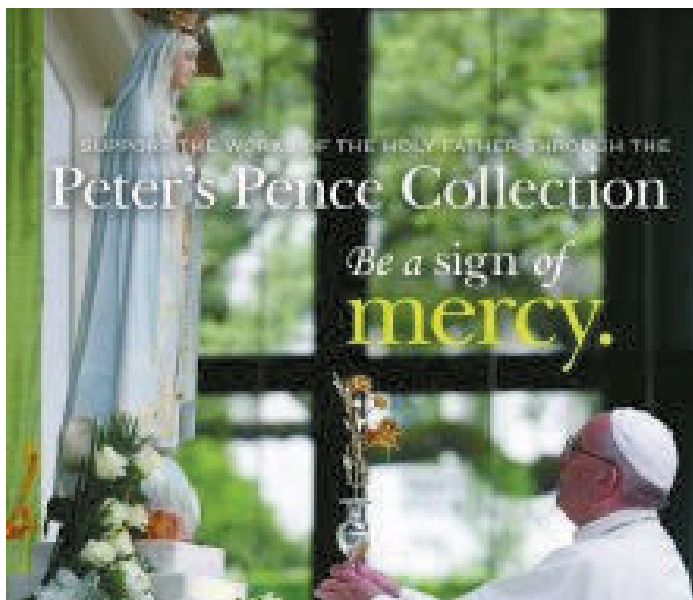
- ◆ **Email preferred:** reception@stgilesparish.org
- ◆ **Place in Sunday Collection Basket in envelope marked "Mass Intentions Request."**
- ◆ **U.S. Mail:** St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy and St. Giles Parish
1025 Columbian Avenue, Oak Park, IL 60302
- ◆ **Drop off through the mail slot at the Parish Center Office on Columbian Avenue.**

Questions? Please contact a member of our Reception Team:

reception@stgilesparish.org, or 708-383-3430

	<i>Requested Date</i>	<i>Mass Time</i>	<i>Church: SG=St. Giles OR SCSL=St. Catherine-St. Lucy</i>	<i>Intention for:</i>	<i>Deceased? Yes / No</i>
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

Parish Life



Second Collection Next Weekend: Peter's Pence

Next weekend, July 1-2, we will take up the Peter's Pence Collection to support the Universal Church and the work of the Holy See which includes helping Pope Francis to carry out his charitable works. These works benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression and disasters. Support for such papal efforts is rooted in the scriptural message to take care of the poor and expresses unity with the Holy Father. For more information, visit www.obolodisanpietro.va/en.html. Please be as generous as you are able.

UNBOUND at this weekend's Masses

Please welcome Rev. Bernard Robert Bonnot, who will be with us to celebrate Masses and tell us about the work of Unbound, a lay Catholic sponsorship ministry that helps children and elderly in 18 developing countries. To learn more, visit Unbound online at www.unbound.org.



UNBOUND



WHO WE ARE

Unbound is an international development organization founded by lay Catholics and grounded in the Gospel call to put the needs of the marginalized and vulnerable first. We build relationships of mutual respect that bridge cultural, economic and religious divides. We work side by side with people of diverse faith traditions in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

HOW WE WORK

We believe the surest path out of poverty is a self-directed one. Sponsored individuals and families use your support to work toward goals like education, dignified housing, better nutrition and developing livelihoods. Mothers lead the way in our programs through active participation in small groups. From accessing microloans to starting small businesses and forming their own credit cooperatives, mothers are creating paths to self-sufficiency for their families.



AVAILABLE NOW!

PRINT & DIGITAL AD SPACES

Build your business and help us grow a vibrant faith community!

Larry Steiner from LPi, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our church in the upcoming weeks. As a valuable member of the business community, we invite you to expand your reach and grow your business with a print ad in our parish bulletin and/or a digital ad featured on ParishesOnline.com.



LPi Larry Steiner
800-950-9952 x2102
lsteiner@4lpi.com

The Emergency Overnight Shelter is Now Year-Round!

St. Catherine of Siena - St. Lucy Church
38 N. Austin Boulevard in Oak Park



**VOLUNTEERS ARE A KEY PART OF OPERATING OUR
EMERGENCY OVERNIGHT SHELTER
FOR INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.**

The opportunities for this shelter are:

- > **Site Captain**
Site captains recruit and manage a team of volunteers from their congregation to fill volunteer needs and/or meals for a night of shelter operation.
- > **Evening Shelter Host** (6:30 pm–10:00 pm)
Volunteers help get set-up for the evening, greet the shelter guests as they arrive help them to set up their sleeping area, host dinner, and interact with clients until lights out.
- > **Overnight Attendant** (10:00 pm–5:00 am)
Volunteers support staff in ensuring a safe experience for the shelter guests.
- > **Breakfast Host** (5:00 am–7:00 am)
Volunteers serve a light breakfast, help shelter guests exit and assist with light clean-up.
- > **Meal Provider** (To be delivered at 7:00 pm)
Volunteers donate and deliver a hot dinner meal, and/or a continental breakfast and/or a sack to-go lunches for 15 people.

To sign up, please scan the QR code to access the interactive calendar. Additional job descriptions and volunteer requirements can be found on the calendar.

For additional information, contact Cherrell Jackson at cjackson@housingforward.org

Parish Life



The IMAGINE Campaign

*Imagine all the people
Livin' life in peace.*

June is Gun Violence Awareness Month and local congregations will be displaying orange banners with the words "Imagine a world without gun violence." The Catholic Parishes of Oak Park are joining in this effort to blanket Oak Park and River Forest with this life-affirming message. The image will also be displayed on yard signs.

The campaign was inspired by the timeless song, "Imagine," written by John Lennon, himself a victim of gun violence. The banners have an orange background, the color hunters wear when they don't want to get shot. The Waging Peace team at First United Church designed the image.

Our children are forced to **imagine** an active shooter and practice the actions they would take. Let's change the narrative and **imagine** a world without gun violence, taking actions to make that a reality. We can do this. There are many gun violence prevention groups to join and important legislation to support.

A local vendor is providing the banners and yard signs at a deep discount because he so believes in the cause. If you are interested in purchasing a banner or yard sign, scan the QR code to reach an order form. The banners come in various sizes and prices; the yard signs only cost \$14. Any questions, email Celine Woznica at celinewoznica@gmail.com

*You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one.*



A Community Conversation with Fr. Greg Boyle, SJ: *Forgive Everyone Everything*

Join us on Thursday, July 13, at 3:00 pm at the St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy Gym (Maguire Hall) in Oak Park for a community conversation with Fr. Greg Boyle, SJ.

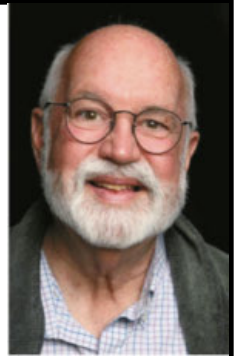
Fr. Greg Boyle is the founder of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, the largest gang reentry program in the US, and a New York Times bestselling author.

RSVP required, please scan the QR code or go to this link:
<https://m.signupgenius.com/#/showRSVPSignUp/904044fafac28a1fe3-fgreg>

When: July 13, 2023 at 3:00 pm
Where: St. Catherine-St. Lucy Gym
38 N. Austin Blvd, Oak Park

Donations are welcomed: proceeds will go to support the opening a new social services community center on the St. Catherine-St. Lucy Campus.

"There's no denying how difficult things can be. But the way out to the place of resilience, the place of restoration, the place of not allowing your heart to be hardened by resentment, relies on one thing: forgive everyone everything." Fr. Greg Boyle



Intercultural Immigrant Ministry Update

Members of the Catholic Parishes of Oak Park (C-POP) continue to serve the immediate and long-term needs of the asylum-seekers who have migrated to our country. Our application to Catholic Charities to accompany a second asylum-seeking family has been accepted and we will be meeting this week to begin the process. Finally, outreach continues to meet the immediate needs of the migrants sleeping on the floor of the District 15 Police Station in Austin. It is anticipated that starting June 27, the migrants will be taking showers on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at St Catherine-St Lucy's rectory. Volunteers are needed to help transport the migrants from the police station to St. C-St. L, coordinate the showers, and visit with the migrants waiting their turn. For more information contact Celine Woznica at celinewoznica@gmail.com or Margie Rudnik at margaretrudnik@gmail.com.

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

Faith & Fellowship

"We All Family"

The other day there was a funeral at St. Catherine-St. Lucy, and a number of the people who attended were parishioners who hadn't been around for awhile. One of our Catechists was there, too, and was surprised when a some of the returnees asked, *How's Faith and Fellowship?* The Catechist thought it was nice of them to ask, but she recognized that it was more than being nice, or polite, or even interested. It was more like they were inquiring about a beloved family member, and the tone of a few even hinted that with the recent parish changes, all may not be well with Faith & Fellowship. The Catechist was happy to report "so far, so good" – but she was even happier to realize that their question was rooted in this truth: *We all family, and we love each other.*



Parish Life

Prayer Shawl Ministry

For the past 4 years, the Prayer Shawl Ministry has received a check for \$200 from the Royal Neighbors of America insurance company through their Difference Maker Fund project. The project is designed to make a difference in local communities through volunteerism. We are grateful for this contribution and have used the money to purchase yarn. Attached is a photo of a few of the members in their Royal Neighbor t-shirts.

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

To receive a shawl or lap blanket, call the Parish Center office at 708/383-3430, or come by during business hours.

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



CHAOS – St. Giles Youth Group

What is CHAOS you ask? Hard to describe but here goes:

It is a youth group that meets once a week in The Alley – a special room located at the back of the Parish Center on the St. Giles campus. Our primary focus is building community and being radically inclusive of all teens. The teens describe The Alley as their safe place – a place where they can be themselves, hang out, have fun, develop relationships that support all parts of their lives, including the exploration of their faith and spirituality – and all without judgement. We also promote community service and outreach programs, such as the Appalachian Service Project and Housing Forward.

CHAOS is a unique program led by teens, supported by youth ministers, who empower teen leadership that is rooted in the Spirit of Love and Compassion for all.
Peace.

Teen Leaders: Mary, Rachel, Kaden,
Callie, Luisa
Annette and Frank Hulefeld,
Youth Ministers

hulefeldannette@gmail.com







ST. GILES SCHOOL

Preschool

SPOTS AVAILABLE!

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

Parish Life

Meet the members of our new Parish Finance Council



John G. Bruun

I am a life-long resident of Oak Park. I received First Communion and Confirmation at St. Catherine of Siena Church. My wife, Theresa, and I were married there in 1968. I graduated from St. Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa with a degree in Business Administration. We have been members of the Family Mass Community of St. Giles since 1973. For the past twenty-five years I have been a volunteer with the AARP TaxAide program helping seniors and low-income people file their income taxes. I have my own business, Bruun Tax and Bookkeeping Service, LLC. I have managed the finances of the Family Mass Community since 2002 and have served on the parish Finance Committee and the Facilities Committee.



Dan Delaney

Dan Delaney and his wife, Maureen, have lived in Oak Park for over 30 years; they have two daughters, Kiley and Caitlin, who are graduates of St. Giles School. Dan served on the Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee at St. Giles, serving as the chair of the Finance Committee for the last ten-plus years. Dan grew up in Elmhurst, where he attended Catholic grade school and high school. He is an attorney who works on commercial litigation matters at a large law firm.

Kevin Kell

Kevin and his wife Peggy have lived in Oak Park since July 1977. Both are retired now enjoying grandchildren and being active. Upon moving to Oak Park, they became members of the St. Catherine of Siena–St. Lucy Parish. Kevin's involvement with the Church has been with the Pastoral Council, Facilities Committee, Finance Council, Eucharistic Minister, and a member of the Renew My Church Committee. He is looking forward to assisting in Building a New Reality.



Thomas A. Schouten

I was born and raised in Chicago in the far south side Roseland neighborhood.

I married Susan Olsen at St. Catherine of Siena Church in 1975. St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy Parish and Oak Park have been home for us ever since. We have three adult children and four grandchildren.

At St. Catherine-St. Lucy, I have been and continue to be a Lector, Eucharistic Minister and Altar Server. I have also served on the Parish Council.

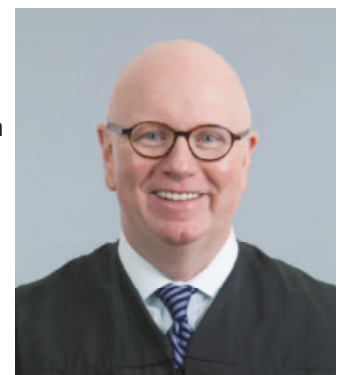
For 32 years I worked for the Social Service Dept of the Circuit Court of Cook County as a Caseworker, Supervisor and Administrator. Following this I worked for five years as a self-employed handyman. I retired in 2008 and for the past 15 years have been a regular volunteer at the Oak Park River Forest/Beyond Hunger Food Pantry.

I am looking forward to helping to build our vibrant, new parish community.



Judge William B. Sullivan

Bill Sullivan is a lifelong and fourth generation member of St. Catherine of Siena–St. Lucy Parish. His great-grandparents co-founded the parish in the 1880's. Bill lives in Oak Park with his wife, Cheryl, the Principal at Beye School in Oak Park, and his three children: Cali (second year law student at Columbia University in New York); Patrick (2023 graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign); and Megan (2023 graduate of Miami of Ohio University). Bill is a Circuit Court of Cook County Judge, having served in the Chancery Division for the past seven years. He was a long-time member of the St. Catherine-St. Lucy Finance Committee prior to the parish merger.



Parish Life



Parish Center Office Hours for the Summer

Summer hours will now begin on Fridays. The Parish Office will close at 1:00 pm on Fridays beginning Friday, June 16 through Friday, August 11.

A blessed, happy, and fun-filled summer to all!

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 "Do Not Be Afraid"

"The Lord is with me, like a mighty champion. My persecutors will stumble, they will not triumph. In their failure they will be put to utter shame, to lasting, unforgettable confusion."
(Jeremiah 20:13)

Jeremiah wavers between fear and faith in his turmoil, but he comes down on the side of faith that God will be with him. His concept: That his sufferings are from God testing him, but God will be vengeful towards his detractors, ideally for him to watch and savor.

The hope that God will protect the righteous and smite the wicked runs through Hebrew Scripture. Many Christians think that of Jesus today. Such extreme thinking defends prejudices, war and capital punishment, insisting it is godly to punish evildoers.

Such thinking is tragic, but is understood: Who would not want cruel bullies to suffer? Persistent persecution calls for vengeance. What's the gospel antidote for this thinking? As Jesus sent his disciples out to preach, he said to "fear no one," that truth will win out.

"Don't be afraid of those who kill the body, but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can kill both the body and the soul."
(Matthew 10:28). The implication's that we should fear God, whose destructive power can do much more harm than crosses and daggers.

"All who take the sword will perish by the sword." He never promoted vengeance of any kind. Perhaps it was a warning to his disciples: Physical harm's nothing next to the power revenge has to eat away one's spiritual, psychological and bodily well-being.

He said hatred and vengeance do more harm to the perpetrator than to the victim. With no tit-for-tat, he begins from God's love. He would likely remind us our prowess comes from attitudes motivating our actions. Wit can cut an adversary off at the knees.

Such exercises tip a delicate balance; They do not change the world. Love of enemy does, disarming and nourishing everyone involved. Paul taught the Romans what changes history is the overflowing gift of Jesus Christ. May it flower among us!

Tom Lynch. tgl7714@gmail.com. 6/25/23

Sources: NCR, M. McGlone, 6/25/23;
Jeremiah, 20:10-13;
Matthew 10:26-33.



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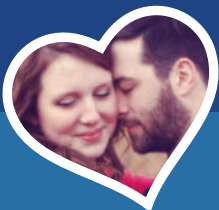
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