

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA-SAINTE LUCY AND SAINT GILES PARISH

# TREASURE



“The kingdom of heaven  
is like a treasure buried in  
a field.”

MATTHEW 13:44

JULY 30, 2023 • Seventeenth 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, 10:30 am and at 5:00 pm

## Fr. Carl's Corner



Dear Parishioners,

More than ever, as we enter this next phase of *Building A New Reality*, we have an opportunity to recall this fact. As followers of Jesus, we're each called to take our place in the Kingdom of God and help build it up. This is exactly what we are trying to do in creative and new ways with our united Religious Education Program, the *Spirit and Light* collaborative, and also with the Feasibility Study that has been taking place the past year in how best to repurpose the Rectory on the St. Catherine-St. Lucy campus. We are creating some new initiatives that may interest and encourage others to participate as Church in new and attractive ways.

As we hear more about these opportunities, consider these suggestions to do your part.

**Find your gifts:** What special gifts do you possess? In addition to talents and skills, these can include wisdom from life experience or a particularly deep faith. Discern your gifts and ask God where he wants you to use them.

**Cultivate gratitude:** Write down everything for which you are grateful in a "Blessing List." Review it and add to it regularly, especially when tempted to gossip about others, when tempted to jealousy or discouragement and anger because of changes you don't agree with.

**Practice humility:** St Thomas Aquinas said, "Humility means seeing ourselves as God sees us: knowing every good we have comes from Him as pure gift. Let others have the best place, the last word. Imitate him who is "gentle of heart."

**Be ready to serve:** Any act of service can build up our parish, neighborhood and community. Small or great, everyone can contribute something. Give of yourself.

**Strive for the higher gifts:** Jesus asked every one of us to love God and each other. Without love, St. Paul said, "I gain nothing."

As we step into year two of *Building A New Reality* in our parishes and community as church, we can be sure we are on the right path if we walk in humility, service and charity while truly striving to love God by caring for and loving each other.

A good question to ponder for us, as individuals and as community, might be: *What new things might Jesus be inviting me toward in my life and as a member of this faith community?*

Having requested more immediate help and support from the Facilities and Building Department of the Archdiocese, Murphy Hall on the St. Edmund campus is once again open for the community to use. The church remains closed at this time. However, reports are soon due on the work to be done and the bidding process to hire the company to handle the repairs. Soon we will have a better idea when the process can begin and a timeline for re-opening the Church. In the meantime, continued patience is needed. I have been asked about removing the fencing surrounding the front of the building. This is a safety and liability concern, and the fence cannot be taken down at this time. I realize this has been a process... and it continues.

Have a safe and blest week ahead. With you a Christian for you a priest.

*Fr. Carl*

# Spiritual Life & Worship

## ST. GILES CHURCH MASSES FOR THE WEEK

### Monday, July 31

6:30 — † The Deceased of the Parish  
† Msgr. Lawrence W. Frawley (7-31-1964)

### Tuesday, August 1

#### Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

8:30 — † Tom Bell

### Wednesday, August 2

6:30 — † Cres Castaneda  
8:30 — † Deceased of the Parish

### Thursday, August 3

8:30 — † Robert Bull and Teresa Verlotto  
† Mary Rita Bresnahan  
† Celia Sifuentes

### Friday, August 4

#### Saint John Vianney, Priest

6:30 — † Owen Petrzelka  
† Steven Thomas Hammer

### Saturday, August 5

8:00 — † Rose Jantelezio  
4:30 — † Sean Varner

### Sunday, August 6

#### The Transfiguration of the Lord

8:00 — † Sean Varner  
† Len Tyrrell  
† Mary Rita Bresnahan  
\*10:30 — † Rose Fico  
† Richard Carey  
5:00 — *Oak Park Catholic Parishes Mass at St. Giles*

*\*This Mass will be live-streamed from the St. Giles website, [stgilesparish.org](http://stgilesparish.org).*

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

### Sunday, August 6

#### The Transfiguration of the Lord

9:00 — † Bernie Kouri  
by Evie Stockinger



### 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.

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



### 2023 Missionary Cooperation Plan – August 5-6

Each summer, parishes traditionally host a missionary representative who will speak and seek contributions in support of their cause. Next weekend, August 5-6, our parish will host Sr. Perpetua Chime, OP who will share information on the work of the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena in Gusau, Nigeria. A second collection will be taken up. The needs are great and your generosity is appreciated.

## 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, Viola Cleo Bradshaw, Herbert Breidenbach, Melissa Brumund, Phil Calabrese, Patrick Cibula, Ray Cimms, Patricia Crotty, Lucille Dalbis, Bill DeBiase, Eugenia de Morales, Andrea Dickson, Wanda Farmer, Mike Fenske, Katherine Fisher, Tom and Carol Frank, Mary Ellen Frank, Jim Gallagher, Earl Gallermo, Michael Gallo, Marcial Gomez, 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, Gabriela Machado, Jim 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, 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 Henry Karpinski, father of Carolyn Johnson.



# Parish Life



## **Catholic Parishes of Oak Park Migrant Ministry**

Thank you so much for your willingness to provide lunches for the migrants at the District 15 Police Station. We have enough volunteers or donations to cover all the Fridays in July and August and many other days as well.

By way of background: Chicago has received over 11,000 new arrivals, 32 buses arrived between June 14 and July 9. On June 27, there were 4,988 residents in 12 shelters and more than 650 awaiting placement and sleeping on the floor at police stations.

This week, we will meet the new family we will be hosting. They have been vetted by Catholic Charities who will be handling case management. We need members for the team hosting this family. **Would you be interested in accompanying a migrant family?**

We continue to welcome migrants to the St Catherine-St Lucy Rectory on Tuesdays and Thursdays for showers. We have great need for socks and new underwear for women, men, and children. Here are the recommended sizes:

### **Men:**

- Small and Medium boxer briefs, patterned or colored
- Small and Medium sleeveless and/or short-sleeved T-shirt's, grey or black colors
- Small ankle or crew socks, grey, black, or white

### **Women:**

- Small or Medium underwear (most of the women are young)
- Small or Medium sports bras
- Small ankle or crew socks, any color

### **Boys or Girls:**

- Small, Medium, and Large underpants.
- Small, Medium, and Large boys' socks

If you would like to bring any of these items with you to Mass, we will have baskets placed in the gathering space of each church for you to place your donations.

If you would like to help and prefer to donate, you can do that through the GiveCentral link on the St. Catherine-St. Lucy and St. Giles website ([stgilesparish.org](http://stgilesparish.org)) -- click through to Migrant Ministry.

**Margie Rudnik, [margaretrudnik@gmail.com](mailto:margaretrudnik@gmail.com), or Celine Woznica, [immigrantministry@gmail.com](mailto:immigrantministry@gmail.com)**



## **Faith & Fellowship**



### **Come to the Cookout – Eat and Help!**

On Sunday, August 13, Faith & Fellowship will hold our annual cookout on the lawn of St. Catherine-St. Lucy Church. It will be our first since Covid put the kibosh on this traditional event – so we're all excited!

Of course, it takes a village to have a cookout, and we could use some people-power...

- shopping with us for menu items
- putting up/taking down tables and chairs
- transportation to and from Central Plaza and Columbus Manor
- assisting with grilling
- serving food
- cleaning up
- hanging out

This will be a great opportunity to help, to have fun, and to get to know Faith & Fellowship! Contact Connie Rakitan – [faith\\_fellowship@hotmail.com](mailto:faith_fellowship@hotmail.com) or 708-383-9276.



## **Be an angel!**

### **Make a difference!**

The Dominican Literacy Center is in need of tutoring volunteers for the 2023-24 sessions.

The Dominican Literacy Center offers tutoring in speaking, writing, and reading of English to immigrants and Citizenship exam preparation. It is unique in that it offers tutoring on a one-to-one basis (one student with one tutor). Sanitizing protocols are consistently followed.

A time commitment of 1 and 1/2 hours per week is all that is necessary. Classes are held at the Dominican Literacy Center, which is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at 1503 Rice St. in Melrose Park. Classes are offered in the morning and afternoon.

The tutor-training sessions will be held on Aug. 22, 24, 28, and 30 at our Center (1503 Rice St. in Melrose Park) from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm.

To volunteer or to find out more information, please call the Dominican Literacy Center at: 708-338-0659. Thank you!

*Sr. Judith Curran, O.P. and Sr. Beverly Jeanne, O.P.*

# Parish Life



## Theology on the Green **Visiting the Imprisoned: Kolbe House Jail Ministry**

Speaker: Emily Cortina

St. Giles Courtyard

**Sunday, July 30**

6:00 pm (following 5:00 pm Mass)

Visiting the imprisoned is one of the corporal works of mercy that gives us the most trouble, yet "the challenge of curbing crime and reshaping the criminal justice system is not just a matter of public policy but is also a test of Catholic commitment" (USCCB). Join us for this session to learn more about what "justice" looks like in today's legal system, explore how our Catholic faith challenges us to imagine justice differently, and consider ways that each of us can respond to the call to meet Jesus in our brothers and sisters in prison.

Kolbe House is the jail ministry of the Archdiocese of Chicago, providing ministry to individuals in Cook County Jail and in prisons across Illinois, as well as to men and women recently released from incarceration and to families. Responding to the Gospel mandate, "I was in prison and you visited me," Kolbe House seeks to foster hope, healing and faith in God's merciful love to all who are affected by incarceration.

*Emily Cortina is the Coordinator of Outreach and Formation at Kolbe House. Her vocation turned towards justice ministry when she met her husband, who had received visits from a Kolbe House chaplain while incarcerated. Through relationships with youth in detention, women and men in jail and prison, and families with loved ones incarcerated, Emily has become convinced of God's unconditional love for each of us and of the transformative power that the Catholic Church can have in building a world marked by justice. She and her husband have three young children and live in Chicago's Lower West Side.*



### Upcoming **Theology on the Green**

Sunday, August 6 – Margie Rudnick and Celine Woznika speaking on Immigration Issues and Realities

Sunday, August 13 – Anne Keenen Gallagher speaking on Conscious Dying

Light refreshments will be served and be sure to bring a chair.

**See you on the Green!**

### **Spiritual Classics In-Person Discussion on Cardinal Bernardin's *The Gift of Peace***

*Starting in September, Spiritual Classics will be meeting in-person once a month at the Ascension campus in the Parish Center.*

*The Gift of Peace* by Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, a former Archbishop of Chicago, will kick off Spiritual Classics for the 2023-2024 year, on **Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 7:30 pm in the Ascension Parish Center Dining Room.** The discussion will be led by Jeff Wood. All from the Oak Park parishes are welcome.

In the last two months of his life, Cardinal Bernardin made it his mission to share his personal reflections and insights on a string of traumatic events in his life, including his battle with pancreatic cancer, a false accusation of sexual abuse, reconciliation with his accuser, and his decision to discontinue chemotherapy and live his remaining days as fully as possible. Bernardin tells his story openly and honestly, and shares the profound peace he viewed as a gift from God.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the Spiritual Classics discussions, send an email to [laffc@ascensionoakpark.com](mailto:laffc@ascensionoakpark.com). Reading the book is not required in order to join the discussions – feel free to just come and learn more about Cardinal Bernardin's inspiring thoughts as he approached the end of his life.

## Oak Park Catholic Religious Education

We are excited to announce an update to all the Religious Education programs in the Oak Park area! Historically there were separate Religious Education offerings in each of the four Oak Park Catholic Churches as well as the Family Mass Community. Over the past few years, there has already been some collaboration between those Religious Education departments. This year, that collaboration will be even stronger.

With a unified Religious Education, families will be able to discern which Religious Education model works best for them, empowering parents to truly be the first teachers of their children. Religious Education will be more responsive to unique situations. Some classes have a Montessori style learning environment with experiential opportunities. Others have a more traditional classroom and use a text book. One has families coming together to share prayer and engage faith.

Catholic families across Oak Park and surrounding areas will be able to get to know one another better, creating a broader community and stronger sense of identity.

Sacramental preparation for First Communion, First Reconciliation, and Confirmation are a part of this collaboration. While most children will receive sacraments at their home parish, with a unified preparation program, families can now select the day and time of the classes that work best for them.

This unified Religious Education is a part of *Spirit and Light: A Catholic Collaborative for Living Faith*. It is a catechetical resource for the Catholic Community in Oak Park and the surrounding areas. Its mission is welcoming all and sharing Christian faith within the Catholic context.

Here is a listing of our 2023-24 program offerings.

PREP (Preschool Religious Education Program) is designed to give pre-school children (ages 3-5 years - PK3, PK4 and K) an introduction to basic Catholic Christian Principles.

PREP (PK3, PK4 and K) at St. Giles Campus in the Gleeson Building, Rooms A & B  
Classes offered on Sunday during Mass at 10:30 am

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (CGS) is a faith formation program based on the Bible, the Liturgy of our Church, and the educational principles of Maria Montessori. Children and Catechists gather to further experience their relationship with Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and their life in the church. The CGS program has three multi-age levels for children in grades Pre-K through 6th.

CGS - LEVEL I - 3 to 6 Years Old (PK3, PK4 and K)

CGS - LEVEL II - 6 to 9 Years Old (Grades 1, 2 and 3)

CGS - LEVEL III - 9 to 12 Years Old (Grades 4, 5 and 6)

At Ascension Campus in the Parish Center; and at St. Giles in the Dore Parish Center (Level I and Level II) and the Gleeson Building (Level III).

Classes offered at various times on Sunday mornings, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday afternoons and evenings, and Saturday mornings. See upcoming registration for more details.

FAMILY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION is an opportunity for the entire family, parents and children in Grades 1-6, to grow in faith. The child along with parents attend a monthly meeting where there is time for family conversation as well as age-appropriate activities. The remainder of the month, students work with parents at home using a text book.

Family RE - Catechesis (Grades 1-6) at St. Giles Campus in McDonough Hall  
Monthly Meetings on Sundays from 9:00 to 10:15 am

TRADITIONAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (TRE) is a text-based faith formation program for Grades 1 – 8. The program is designed for students to learn about our Catholic faith, teachings, and traditions.

TRE (Grades 1-8) at Ascension Campus in the School Building  
Classes offered on Sundays (9:00-10:15 am) or Tuesdays (6:45-8:00 pm)

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY is a religious education opportunity for 7th and 8th Grade students. Learning occurs primarily through discussion and activities at tables with a table leader. Students meet in person twice a month and have an at-home activity once a month.

Middle School Ministry (Grades 7-8) at St. Giles Campus in McDonough Hall  
Meet twice a month on Wednesdays (4:30-5:45 pm or 7:00-8:15 pm) with a monthly at-home activity

SPRED (Special Religious Development) is a program of the Archdiocese of Chicago whose purpose is two-fold: the inclusion of the developmentally disabled into the liturgical and community faith life of the parish and the formation of a small faith community where both special friends and their catechists nurture their faith. Ages 6-10 years old.

SPRED at St. Giles Campus  
Classes are offered twice a month on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:15 pm

*Registration for SPRED will not be online - Contact the Spirit and Light RE Office for more information and registration.*

**Sacramental Preparation** is a parish-wide endeavor, with children from the Religious Education programs and our parish schools coming together to prepare for these most important steps in their faith journey. The First Communion, Reconciliation, and Confirmation preparation sessions are in addition to the Religious Education classes and school religion curriculum. Preparation sessions will be available at Ascension and St. Giles churches. The children will ordinarily receive sacraments at their home parish, but with a unified preparation program, families can choose which site, day and time for preparation sessions will work best for them.

*Spirit and Light* is a team of people: coordinators of various programs who are responsible for their specific areas yet support one another. The entire team is here for the children, families and all parishioners. Please feel free to contact them.

Director: Dr. Marci Madary, [mmadary@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:mmadary@spiritandlightcenter.org)

Director of Administration: Christi Walkup, [cwalkup@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:cwalkup@spiritandlightcenter.org)

Evangelization: Alex Ryan, [aryan@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:aryan@spiritandlightcenter.org)

Sacrament Coordinators:

Terri Monaco, [tmonaco@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:tmonaco@spiritandlightcenter.org)

Alex Ryan, [aryan@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:aryan@spiritandlightcenter.org)

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Team:

Rachel Faulman, [rfaulman@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:rfaulman@spiritandlightcenter.org)

Laura Kelley, [lkelly@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:lkelly@spiritandlightcenter.org)

Peggy Plastina, [pplastina@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:pplastina@spiritandlightcenter.org)

Traditional Religious Education Coordinator: Terri Monaco, [tmonaco@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:tmonaco@spiritandlightcenter.org)

Family Religious Education Coordinator: Tim Smyth, [tsmyth@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:tsmyth@spiritandlightcenter.org)

Middle School Ministry Coordinator: Marci Madary, [mmadary@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:mmadary@spiritandlightcenter.org)

PREP and SPRED Coordinator: Kelly McCreary, [kmccreary@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:kmccreary@spiritandlightcenter.org)

Family Mass Community Liaison: Mary Ellen Lesniak, [mlesniak@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:mlesniak@spiritandlightcenter.org)

Faith and Fellowship: Connie Rakitan, [crakitan@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:crakitan@spiritandlightcenter.org)

Administrative Support:

Kelly McCreary, [kmccreary@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:kmccreary@spiritandlightcenter.org)

Sue Santin, [ssantin@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:ssantin@spiritandlightcenter.org)

## Commonly Asked Questions

Q: Where will the classes be held?

A: Family RE, Middle School Ministry, and PREP will be on the St. Giles campus. Traditional Religious Education will be on the Ascension campus. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd will be on both the Ascension and the St. Giles campuses. Additionally, preparation for First Communion, Reconciliation, and Confirmation will be held on both the Ascension and St. Giles campuses.

Q: If I am a member of Ascension and St. Edmund Parish, can my child attend Religious Education on the St. Giles campus?

A: Yes. Any child can attend any Religious Education offering.

Q: If I am a member of St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy and St. Giles parish, can my child participate in sacramental preparation on the Ascension campus?

A: Yes. Families can choose the sacramental preparation that is best for their child and the family schedule.

Q: How do I best choose a Religious Education class for my child?

A: There are a number of considerations. How does my child best learn? How much structure does my child need? How involved do I, as a parent, want to be? What day and time allow for consistent participation? To help sort this out or find out more information about a particular program, contact the appropriate person on the *Spirit and Light* team.

Q: Does this unification of Religious Education change my current status as a parishioner at a particular parish?

A: No. Where a person is a parishioner is not impacted by this unification.

Q: How is this paid for?

A: The Religious Education tuition covers some of the costs. As a vital ministry in the Catholic Church, Religious Education will be supported by both parishes. As in years past, there will be opportunities for families to help defray the program costs via small fundraising projects in the upcoming year.

Q: Is there a benefit to volunteering in the Religious Education program?

A: Yes! Adults have the joy of sharing their faith and witnessing the students grow in theirs. Volunteers in our programs are participating in creating the Church of the future. Additionally, catechists, assistants, table leaders, and mentors in the programs get 50% off their child's Religious Education tuition.

Q: Is *Spirit and Light: A Catholic Collaborative for Living Faith* just Religious Education?

A: No. The unified Religious Education is a part of *Spirit and Light*, but the collaborative also includes adult faith formation, evangelization, and other opportunities. An example is Faith and Fellowship, which is adult catechesis for those with severe mental illness.

# Parish Life



## **Our Next Concert in The Courtyard at St. Giles! Dennis O'Brien with John Paruolo, Pete Kruse and Jim Cerceo**

**Friday, August 18, 2023 at 7:00 pm**

*"This has become one of my favorite concerts of the year! The beautiful courtyard at St. Giles is a perfect setting for live music and I love performing in the town where I was born.*

*St. Giles has had a full summer of musical shows and we are honored to be part of their concert series.*

*Call it a mini Ravinia! Bring your beverage of choice, lawn chair, blanket and munchies. We will be performing our classic musical covers and enjoying the beautiful outdoor night sky while you enjoy the great music! I'll be with John Paruolo, Jim Cerceo and Pete Kruse."*

*-- Dennis O'Brien*

(Note: the concert will be moved indoors to McDonough Hall in case of inclement weather.)



## **FOOD COLLECTION FOR THOSE IN NEED**

The next **FOOD FIRST** collection at St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy Church will be on **August 6**.

Please bring your donations of canned or shelf-stable food and paper products with you to the 9:00 am Sunday Mass. 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. Edmund Church Construction Update**

July 20, 2023

Dear Parishioners,

This is a weekly update on the construction progress at St. Edmund Church from Fr. Carl Morello and Deacon Gerald Keenan, Chief of Parish and School Operations.

- Many of you have asked for the names of the advisory committee comprised of various parishioners. They include Tim Blatner (Ascension, legacy parish), Susan Viselli (St. Edmund, legacy parish) and Tom Wheeler (St. Edmund, legacy parish). The names had not been published as we were waiting for our first official meeting to take place. That meeting came in the form of a walk-through of the church and Murphy Hall which took place last week. Susan Viselli, longtime parishioner and parish leader, has provided a summary of the committee's observations from our walk-through in a letter to parishioners of Ascension and St. Edmund which is in this week's bulletin.
- We are happy to announce that Murphy Hall, one of the fully accessible spaces on the St. Edmund campus, will reopen on Saturday, July 29! The reopening will kick off with a fun hospitality event following Ascension's Saturday Mass. Fr. Carl will be on hand to welcome everyone. This is an opportunity to come together as a unified faith community, mingle with our pastor and enjoy this much used space. The invitation can be found in this weekend's bulletin. We are grateful to Fr. Carl for prioritizing the reopening of the social hall. In this way, we can continue our important work in a space where every member of our community can partake in our parish offerings with no worry about accessibility.
- Once the assessment report for the construction work is made available, we plan to schedule several gathering opportunities where we can share and discuss the information with all of you.

Thank you for your ongoing support. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to Fr. Carl directly with any questions or concerns.

With gratitude for each of you,  
Maria Allori  
Director of Development

# Parish Life

## Food For Thought

### Hugs for the Advocate

God came to Solomon in a dream, and promised to give Solomon whatever he might want. Solomon replied: "...Give your servant an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong. For who is able to govern this vast people of yours?" The Lord was pleased that Solomon made this request... "Because you have asked for this—for understanding so that you may know what is right—I do as you requested. I give you a heart so wise and understanding that there has never been anyone like you up to now, and after you there will come no one to equal you."  
(1 Kings 3:7-12)

The seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit have stood the test of time, being unchanged from what was taught us in grammar school:

Wisdom, understanding,  
counsel and fortitude,  
knowledge and piety,  
and also fear of the Lord.

To those we well might add  
prudence and compassion,  
justice, sobriety;

All taught with words or maybe the sword.

The Spirit likely rode with *Joanne d'Arc*;  
Inspired St. Catherine of Siena;  
Helped to raise the flag on Iwo Jima;  
Led our Founding Fathers to light from dark.  
Isaiah, the first to write of the Gifts,  
names Justice as the Spirit's prime schema.

Wisdom, as written in its Bible book,  
goes about seeking those worthy of her,  
and shows herself to them quite cheerfully.  
Refreshing as a cool summer brook,  
Wisdom is more beautiful than the sun,  
and above all the order of the stars.

Wisdom is reflected in the faces  
of the wise, as says the book of Proverbs,  
and supports the just in treating the poor.  
He who sets bounds to his words in all cases  
is wise: close your lips and no one will know  
that you're a fool!

At Baptism and Confirmation,  
the importance of the Holy Spirit  
as an Advocate makes us more attuned  
to God's voice, as our body's a station  
for the Gifts to strengthen us each day  
to become the person that God created.

Today's readings offer some lessons:  
Wisdom is a divine gift already given  
that can be deepened. It is a virtue  
necessary to control aggressions  
and show smart leadership. Rudderless ships  
of state cannot sail wisely or with purpose,  
and must be transformed or dismantled.

Tom Lynch. [tgl7714@gmail.com](mailto:tgl7714@gmail.com). 7/30/23

Sources: NCR, Carol Dempsey, 7/30/23;  
Various bible sources, including  
Job, Proverbs, Wisdom, St. James,  
John, Colossians, and Isaiah;  
"Who's Who In the Bible, Reader's Digest



## Wednesday Night Bible Study

**New Series beginning  
Wednesday, August 2!**

**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 **Letters of St. Paul!** 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 **Alex Ryan**, [alexryan@stgilesparish.org](mailto:alexryan@stgilesparish.org)  
for more information!



## CHAOS - St. Giles High School Youth Group

It's a bit difficult to describe what **CHAOS** is and how important it is to the high school students who attend. In the words of one of the teen leaders: "It is a place where I feel safe, seen, heard, and totally respected." Other participants feel that in addition to having so much fun, the relationships they develop have deepened their relationship to God and a growing awareness for community service and outreach programs.

In other words, it is a ministry rooted in the Spirit of Love and Compassion.

Our primary focus is building community and being radically inclusive (she/her, he/ him, they /them) Together we create a safe space where teens can be supported in all aspects of their lives, without judgment. We are a unique program, led by teen leaders, supported by two "senior" Youth Ministers!

**CHAOS meets every Thursday evening from  
7:00 pm to 9:30 pm - in the Alley (room at the back of  
the Parish Center - right off the alley).**

Peace.

Teen Leaders: Mary, Rachel, Kaden, Callie, Luisa

Youth Ministers: Annette and Frank Hulefeld

[hulefeldannette@gmail.com](mailto:hulefeldannette@gmail.com); [fhulefeld@comcast.net](mailto:fhulefeld@comcast.net)

Don't hesitate to contact Annette or Frank for information.





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