SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA-SAINT LUCY AND SAINT GILES PARISH



OCTOBER 8, 2023 • Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA - ST. LUCY CHURCH 38 NORTH AUSTIN BOULEVARD, OAK PARK WEEKDAY MASS: Tuesday at 8:30 am

WEEKEND MASSES: Sunday at 9:00 am and 5:00 pm (Oak Park Catholic Community Young Adult Mass)

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

From Fr. Robert Carlton



A ministry that I have been very grateful for the opportunity to participate in during my time in Oak Park has been as the Catholic chaplain for the Oak Park Police Department. For a long period of time, the department did not have a Catholic chaplain represented among the other chaplains serving there, which is a need that has now been filled.

My role with the department is to support the officers in whatever way I can and to work specifically with the Catholic officers and

assist with any sacramental needs that they may have. I have gone on a number of ride-alongs with them and look forward to doing more of that. I welcome any opportunity to get to know the officers better. My impression of the members of the department is, without exception, that they are professional, sincere, dedicated and fully committed to the citizens of Oak Park.

One of the things that became apparent to me very quickly is just how hard the officers work and how many hours they put in on a regular basis. Due to retirements and the decline in the number of people applying, which of course is true throughout the country, the department is understaffed and not running at an optimal level. This forces the officers to regularly give up their days off and time that they could have spent with their families. One officer told me how it is not uncommon for him to work his shift and then have to cover part of the next shift, which means that he will regularly work sixteen-hour days. This reality, along with how challenging police work is, can take a toll on one's mental health. This situation creates a need for the work of chaplains but also could serve as an encouragement for the community to show their support for the police and stand up for initiatives that prioritize officers' well-being and programs that provide mental health services for first responders.

We all know how much we value a simple thank you from someone at the end of a long and demanding day. Needless to say, for me, this work is very enjoyable and I hope, fruitful and something that I wish very much to continue.

-Fr. 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 708-383-3430Fax 708-383-8644 E-mail: stgiles@stgilesparish.org
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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
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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
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Sharon Leamy, Principal Sleamy@catherinelucy.org

Spiritual Life & Worship

7 e Pray For . . . Those who are hospitalized or homebound, including: Steven Acevedo, Patrick Ahearn, Coletta Ali, Anthony Arena, Jessica Scanlon Bailey, 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, 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 Rodriguez Machado, Jim Madden, Virginia Madden, Deacon Lorry Madonia, Mary Mamolella, Patricia McDonald, Leolina Rodriguez Meira, Anne Muldihill, Sr. Louise Noesen, Matt O'Connell, Mark O'Reilly, Amelia Patterson, John Poplett, Bob Quane, Patricia Reardon, Tom Rezek, Lillian Ricci, Baby Sofia Rose, Dennis Rusin, Maureen Sansone, Paul Schleitwiler, Barbara Schulz, Colleen Rowley Schramm, Carole Sheehan, Nick Sorrentino, Sr. Carol Spiegel, Nina Stanley, Sarah Such, Joann Taylor, Jose Torres, LaNedra Vaughn, Shirley Venerable, Nancy Wesclitz, Nichol Williams.

(Names will be periodically removed from this listing in the bulletin and also from the list of recurring intersessions 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 Miguel Mariduena, and Bishop Kevin M. Birmingham.

FOOD COLLECTION FOR THOSE IN NEED

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.

The next FOOD FIRST collection at St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy Church will be Sunday, November 5. 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

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

ST. GILES CHURCH MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, October 9

Indigenous People's Day

6:30 — † The Deceased of the Parish

Tuesday, October 10

8:30 — † Thomas W. Reedy

Wednesday, October 11

- † Mary L. Kessler 6:30 -

Steven Thomas Hammer

The Deceased of the Abraham Family

† Richard Fimoff

8:30 — All Parishioners and Benefactors

Thursday, October 12

8:30 — † Anto Perfetto

† Mary Ann and Terry Keshner

† Pedro Nel Castillo

Friday, October 13 6:30 — † Sofia Shaker

Owen Petrzelka

Saturday, October 14

8:00 — † Jackie Haddad

Joe Allen

† Frances Hammer

4:30 — † Jennie and Frank Cairo

† Henry Karpinski

† Theresa Martino

Sunday, October 15

The Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 — All Parishioners and Benefactors

*10:30 — † The Deceased of the Daley and Archibald

Family

† The Deceased of the Mattos Family

· William Snow

*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, October 10 8:30 All Parishioners and Benefactors

Sunday, October 15

The Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 — † Anne Solome

by Evie Stockinger

† Francis D. Wolfe, Jr.

by Tom and Pat Nelson

5:00 — Oak Park Catholic Parishes Young Adult Mass

WEDDING BANNS

ı Juliette Leger and Joseph Cibula

Amy Sullivan and Brendan Kelley



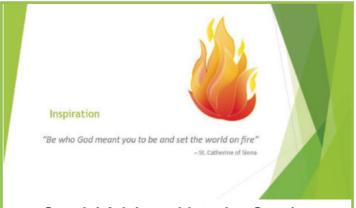


Praying the Rosary on Zoom Fridays at 7:00 pm

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**

Parish Life



Special Advisory Listening Session

The Feasibility Team for the re-purposing of the St. Catherine-St. Lucy Rectory as a powerful social ministry center will be holding a special listening session for SCSL campus parishioners who live in Austin.

October 22, 2023

We will meet in church following the 9:00 am Mass. Light refreshments will be served.

Deacon Kevin Morgan, Maudette Carr, and Mary Darnall Feasibility Team Members

Healing Prayer, Healing Song: An Ecumenical Service to Pray for Healing

Join us on Thursday evening, October 19, at 7:30 pm at Ascension Church for *Healing Prayer*, *Healing Song*: a new ecumenical prayer outreach. The service includes scripture, healings songs and prayers from various traditions, shared silence, and the opportunity for



individual prayer, laying on of hands, and anointing. A special "Healing Choir" provides musical support and songs of healing at the service. Additionally, an ecumenical and multi-cultural prayer team of pastors and other pastoral care minsters assist in this ecumenical outreach of prayers for healing, wholeness, and unity in our world. As an ecumenical service, we recognize the unifying power of Christians from different traditions, ethnicities, and races to join as one, intentionally to pray for the healing of division and for a deepening of unity in our world. The service will be livestreamed and will also be offered on November 16.

For more information, contact David Anderson at d.anderson@ascensionoakpark.com. Ascension Church is located at 808 S. East Avenue, Oak Park, IL 60304.

News from the Catholic Parishes of Oak Park Immigrant Ministry

Our new family, the Parra family, is now staying temporarily at the home of Celine and Don Woznica while we wait for the completion of the lease for their new home at an apartment in Oak Park. Many thanks to all the volunteers who have gathered and are storing household goods and furniture. We could use some volunteers to accompany the new family to various appointments and shopping trips. If you are available especially if you have some Spanish language skills, please let us know.

Right now we need blankets and suitcases for the migrants living at the police station.

We continue to welcome migrants to St Catherines-St Lucy's rectory on Tuesdays and Thursday for showers and could use some additional volunteers. We also have a continuing need for the underwear listed below. There will be baskets in the back of the church for these items.

Here are the needed items:

Men: Small and Medium Boxer briefs, patterned or colored

Small and Medium Sleeveless and/or short-sleeved T-shirts, grey or black colors

Women: Small or Medium underwear (most of the women are young)

Small or medium sports bras

Boys or Girls: Small, Medium, and Large underpants.

If you would like to help and prefer to donate, you can do that through the St. Catherine-St. Lucy and St. Giles website (stgilesparish.org) to GiveCentral and select the option for the Migrant Ministry.

To volunteer or donate items, please contact: Margie Rudnik, <u>margaretrudnik@gmail.com</u>, or Celine Woznica, immigrantministry@gmail.com

Spirit and Light Collaborative

Spirit and Light Religious Education Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



There was an air of excitement and a sense of joy as 94 children from St. Catherine-St. Lucy and St. Giles Parish and 55 children from Ascension and St. Edmund Parish returned to the atriums of the Catechesis of the Good

Shepherd. During the month of September, the children were introduced or became re-acquainted with the special rooms we call atriums, which are lovingly

prepared just for them.

As the children began to build their atrium communities, they had time to ponder two of the important components of every atrium session. Prayer,



whether individual or communal, is one of those essential parts, and so Prayer was addressed in all three atrium levels. The Bible, the sacred book given to us by God, is another vital part of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. The Bible was presented, discussed and

honored in all three levels.



During the month of October Level 1 will receive presentations on The Altar, the Sign of the Cross and the Good Shepherd.

Level 2 will also ponder the parable of the Good Shepherd, as well as the parable of The Insistent Friend. Level 2 will also examine, and practice, gestures from the Mass.

The Plan of God, the covenant that God had in mind for all

people and all things, will be presented to the children in Level 3 for the entire month.

This brief listing of presentations does not do justice to the richness and beauty of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Parents, please look for an email at the end of each month from your child's catechist. This email letter will describe the work the children are doing every month in much more detail. The letter will also contain information unique to your child's atrium session, as well as upcoming dates and other important information.

We are grateful for the trust and confidence in the Religious Education team and catechists as we have the joy of working with the children of our parishes.



NEXT - New Catholics In Conversation

NEXT is for adults who came into Catholicism through RCIA and want to continue exploring and growing their faith through small group sharing. We will dive deeper into topics of Catholic teaching and practice covered in RCIA and reflect together how they so far have helped us grow in Christ. Also, we will tackle questions and barriers we may be facing. Meetings will be the second Tuesday of the month from 7:00 pm until 8:00 pm sharp in the Parish Living Room at the St. Giles campus.

Schedule

October 10 - Belonging vs. Fitting In
November 14 - Eucharist 201:
We Are The Wheat and Grapes
December 12 - No Room?
The Christmas Story Nobody Sings About
January 9 - Eucharist 201: Taking it to The Streets
February 13 - Lent, An Interior Journey
March 11 - Growing in Daily Practice
April 9 - Resurrection
May 14 - Mary and The Bearing of Holy Love

For more information, contact Pat Carew: pat@enerstar.net

Words and Actions

Last week in the Gospel, Jesus shared a story about two sons: when called, one said "No" – but later regretted it and went to work in the vineyard; and the other said "yes" – but did not go. Reflecting on this Gospel, we are called to ask: Do our actions point to our life of faith? Living with authenticity is the core of evangelization – "To give witness with joy and simplicity to what we are and what we believe in." (Pope Francis)

This week, how can your life be witness to the love of God?

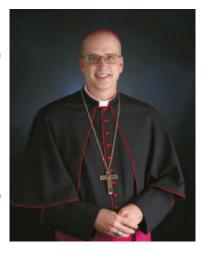
Rest In Peace, Bishop Kevin M. Birmingham

Most Reverend Kevin Birmingham passed away unexpectedly Monday, October 2, 2023. He was 51 years old, a few days shy of his 52nd birthday.

Bishop Birmingham was born on October 7, 1971 in Oak Lawn to Jeanette Ann Larsen and Joseph James Birmingham. He attended Quigley Preparatory Seminary in Chicago, Niles College Seminary in Niles and the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein.

Bishop Birmingham was ordained to the priesthood on May 24, 1997, by Archbishop Francis George, and he celebrated his first solemn Mass on May 25 of the same year at Our Lady of the Ridge Parish in Chicago Ridge.

As Bishop Birmingham stated in a Chicago Catholic interview in 2020, the Oblate Sisters of Jesus the Priest from Mexico City, who ministered at Niles College and Mundelein Seminary, arranged for his second Mass as a priest to be celebrated from the main altar at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. He made the trip to Mexico after his ordination to give thanks to Our Lady of Guadalupe, to whom he developed a devotion while he was in seminary, especially when he spent time in Morelia, Mexico, learning Spanish.



After ordination to the priesthood, Bishop Birmingham served as associate pastor at St. Peter Claver Mission in Robbins, St. Benedict Parish in Blue Island and St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Orland Park. He was pastor at St. Anne Parish in Hazel Crest (2005 – 2011) and Maternity BVM Parish on North Avenue in Chicago (2011 – 2014). Bishop Birmingham served as administrative secretary to Cardinal Cupich from 2014 to 2020.

"The Church has lost a wonderful priest and bishop today and I lost a dear friend and valued colleague," said Cardinal Cupich. "From the start of his ministry, Bishop Kevin Birmingham was a devoted and joyful priest. He felt called to serve Latino Catholics especially, and he learned Spanish in order to do so. He served in my office for six years as priest-secretary, always with dedication and attention to every detail, a role in which his reputation for kindness only grew. May we honor his memory by continuing to do as he did, and model the love God has for his children in all we do."

Most. Rev. Jeffrey Grob was consecrated as an auxiliary bishop of Chicago alongside Bishop Birmingham. He had known him his whole priesthood and worked together when Grob was in the chancery. "He was genuine, personable, funny and pastoral. He had a pastor's heart. Even after he became a bishop he did not put on airs, you saw the true man. His laughter was contagious, but in the moment, he could be genuinely concerned about an issue. Sincere and genuine: That is what drew people to him."

Bishop Birmingham was appointed director of the Department of Parish Vitality and Mission in July 2020 for a year. On Sept. 11, 2020, Bishop Birmingham was appointed auxiliary bishop of Chicago and Titular Bishop of Dolia. He was ordained a bishop on Nov. 13, 2020 by Cardinal Cupich at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago and became Episcopal Vicar of Vicariate IV. Last month, after the retirement of Bishop Joseph Perry, Bishop Birmingham was assigned to oversee Vicariate VI.

Most Rev. Robert J. Lombardo shared that he always found "Bishop Kevin" a joy to be with. "He was dedicated to God and the Church and always had a very joyful spirit. He will be greatly missed."

Sarah Machaj, senior administrative assistant in the Archbishop's Office, had worked with Bishop Birmingham from 2015 until 2020. "Bishop Kevin lit up every room he walked into and brought with him his dry wit and just a little bit of mischief," Machaj said affectionately. "He was an incredibly hard worker, but never asked for recognition. He was humble, truly kind and had a laugh that was contagious. He was the most genuine person I've ever known, and he will be greatly missed."

Survivors include his mother Jeanette A. (nee Larsen) Birmingham and his siblings: Gary (Sandy) Birmingham, Jeanne (Dave) Williams, Joleen (David) Fields, Donna (the late Mike) Green, Matt (Debbie) Birmingham, Theresa Gill, Mark Birmingham and Brandon (Elizabeth) Birmingham. He was uncle of 23 nephews and nieces, and great uncle of many.

He was preceded in death by his father, Joseph J. Birmingham, and his brother, Lawrence J. "Larry" Birmingham.

Visitation will be on Friday, October 6, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Church of Our Lady of the Ridge, 10811 Ridgeland Avenue in Chicago Ridge, and from 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm at Holy Name Cathedral, 735 N. State Steet in Chicago, with a Vigil Service for the Deceased at 7:30 pm. Cardinal Cupich will preside and Bishop Grob will be the homilist.

On Saturday, October 7, there is Visitation from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at Holy Name Cathedral, followed by the Funeral Mass at 11:00 am at Holy Name Cathedral. Cardinal Cupich will preside and Bishop Lombardo will be the homilist.

Interment to follow at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Alsip.

Notes of condolences can be sent to the Office of the Vicar General at 835 North Rush Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

Parish Life

SENIOR CORNER



Come join the St. Catherine-St. Lucy and St. Giles Seniors for a brown-bag lunch and an afternoon movie. We are meeting

on Tuesday, October 17, at 12 noon in McDonough Hall on the St. Giles campus, where we will be showing the 1943 classic, *Casablanca*, starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman. Enjoy some popcorn and a beverage while we enjoy the show. "See you at Rick's." "Here's looking at you, kid." Please call Joan Wojcik at 708-771-4783 to register.

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."

—Matthew 21:42



The Music Box

Welcome to the **Music Box**, a place to find information about music ministry at St. Catherine-St. Lucy and St. Giles Parish. It is a location for music opportunities, invitations and announcements, and our organ project updates.

Music plays a very important role in the celebration of our Catholic liturgies. It expresses our prayer, our praise and hope in ways that words alone cannot do. Singing together is a way that we enter into the prayer of our community and our church. If you were to attend multiple churches in our Archdiocese on any given Sunday, you would find the music to be sung in varied languages and styles.

On Saturday, October 14, the St. Catherine-St. Lucy Praise Choir will sing and lead the music at the 4:30 pm Mass at St. Giles Church. The Praise Choir has been a part of the community for many years. Please welcome them to St. Giles, and join them as they lead the liturgical music of that Mass in the Gospel style. Worship aids will be available so that everyone can participate in the singing.

For more information about the Praise Choir, the organ project, cantor training, and the combined Celebration Choir, please contact:



Sue Kaszynski at the Parish Office. Skaszynski@stgilesparish.org 708-383-3430 ext. 423

Watch this space for upcoming musical treasures and tidbits.

Oak Park Catholic Community

How Common Is Domestic Violence?



17th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report 2023 – Illinois Summary

On September 7, 2022, 49 out of 57 (86%) IL domestic violence programs participated in a national count of domestic violence services conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV). These statistics represent the the services they provided during the 24-hour survey period.

2,626 Victims Served

1,287 adult and child victims of domestic violence found refuge in emergency shelters, transitional housing, hotels, motels, or other housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

1,339 adult and child victims received nonresidential supportive services related to legal needs, housing advocacy, transportation, mental health, public benefits, and more.

975 Hotline Contacts Received

Domestic violence hotlines are lifelines for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, & resources via phone, chat, text, and email. Hotline staff received 975 contacts, averaging nearly 41 per hour.

199 People Educated

Local domestic violence programs provided 19 public training sessions (educational sessions provided to the public) to 199 people, addressing topics like domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

589 Unmet Requests for Services

Victims made 589 requests for services that programs could not provide because they did not have the resources. Approximately 28% of these unmet requests were for emergency shelter, hotels, motels, and other housing.

If you are a victim or survivor of domestic abuse seeking help:

National Hotline: 1-800-799 SAFE (7233); 1-800-7873224 (TDD)



& MEAL PROVIDERS FOR OUR EMERGENCY OVERNIGHT SHELTER

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 HOMELESSNES:

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



How to help the Asylum Seeker as a layperson

Immigration Attorney Ana Fuentes of FuentesPalmisano PC will be giving pointers for those interested in helping immigrants who are navigating the complex asylum process on their own

Saturday, October 21 9.00 am to 11.00 am

McDonough Hall @ St. Giles Campus 1101 Columbian Ave, Oak Park, IL 60302 Coffee and donuts will be provided

RSVP by October 16 https://forms.gle/Yi7ot8uKkHYZTvs97

Organized by Intercultural Immigration Ministry (IIM) Ascension and St. Edmund Parish



Oak Park Catholic Community



Meet Meg Kissinger,

Award-winning mental health journalist and author.

Sunday, October 8, 12:00 pm

McDonough Hall, St. Giles Campus 1101 Columbian Avenue, Oak Park

"Shame kills. Don't be embarrassed to talk about mental illness. People don't ask to have depression or anxiety or schizophrenia any more than someone with cancer or diabetes asked for their diseases. Love them. Listen to them. Try to understand them. Help them as best you can."

Meg Kissinge

Meg will discuss her book and talk with all.

Book talk is free for all ages.

THE BOOK TABLE will sell copies at the event.

Living the Mass: How Liturgy Shapes Our Lives

Each Sunday at the end of Mass, we are sent out on a mission! The priest or deacon announces: "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life" challenging us to deeply live out our faith in the world. "Liturgical spirituality" brings together liturgy and spirituality by examining how our lives are formed and nurtured by the Church's liturgy, how our "being" in the world is shaped by the way we worship.

This year, the Oak Park Catholic Community will be invited to explore Liturgical Spirituality through a ten-part speaker series. Sessions will be held on Sunday mornings between the 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM Masses once or twice a month from October through May. The first session is scheduled for **October 29 at 9:15 am** in Ascension's Pine Room. Led by Fr. Bob Hutmacher, OFM, this session will serve as an introduction to Liturgical Spirituality. Parishioners and Parish Staff from both Oak Park parishes will lead the subsequent sessions, exploring the liturgical year, signs and symbols of worship, and the parts of the Mass. Save the date for October 29! A full schedule is forthcoming. If you have any questions, please email JaneAnne Campbell at ia.campbell@ascensionoakpark.com.

Public Forum

Discussing a proposed plan for social ministry outreach to Austin residents from St. Catherine – St. Lucy campus

Since January of 2023, at Fr. Carl Morello's direction, a group of volunteers from the Oak Park Catholic Community has been studying the feasibility of repurposing the unused rectory at St. Catherine – St. Lucy (SCSL) as a base for social ministry outreach to the residents of Austin. This initiative is a direct outgrowth of the third stated outcome of Renew My Church for the Oak Park Catholic Community:

"The Archdiocese affirms the Oak Park grouping's vision to use St. Catherine – St. Lucy campus as a base for powerful ministry outreach to the West Side of Chicago... supported by the entire Oak Park Catholic community."

A primary motivation of the Feasibility Study is addressing the needs in Austin, beginning with SCSL School families. This project will be an OP Catholic Community response to our neighbors' identification of need. The Renew My Church vision offers a unique opportunity to collectively provide this support.

The volunteer group recently submitted its Feasibility Report to Fr. Carl, who has encouraged the group to share its findings with the community for feedback before a final plan is developed.

The Feasibility Study Team is holding a series of public forums throughout the community from now until late November at a variety of locations and times to engage the community as fully as possible. The public forum will feature a 30-minute presentation by members of the Feasibility Study Team followed by a question-and-answer session.

Several public forums have taken place, with others still to come. Please review the schedule of the planned forums and plan to attend the one that is most convenient for you. Please bring family members and friends.

Sunday, October 15, 12:00 noon – St. Edmund Murphy Hall Tuesday October 24, 7:00 pm – St. Luke's School Waldron Room Thursday, November 2, 7:00 pm – St. Bernardine Cafeteria Sunday, November 12, 11:30 am – Oak Park Temple Thursday, November 16, 7:00 pm – Pilgrim Congregational Fellowship Hall

We are hoping to schedule one or two more events in November.

Please register for the meeting most convenient for you to attend by scanning the QR code to the right. Please come even if you were unable to register. Questions? Please contact Feasibility Study Team co-chair Dan Doody at dan@doody.com.



Parish Life

Food For Thought Being There

"A friend is one soul abiding in two bodies." (Aristotle)

The highest but simplest command in friendship is just being there, and yet it can be one ignored 'til later in life, when we see allowing a friendship to die due to a mixed sense of values, resulted from changes in life. Herodotus' thinking was clear: "Of all our possessions, a friend's the most precious."

The longer we march through these times of conflict and divisiveness, the story's our loss of belonging, our escalating loneliness.

The remedy seems to boil down to the single virtue: presence;
A friend is there when you need him.

Eleanor Roosevelt said,

"It's true friends who leave footprints in your heart."

The temptation of absence destroys the virtue of presence, but need not come from selfishness; we're all busy.

Most men make their close friends through work, but change jobs and then they're just gone.

C.S. Lewis said that friendship gives value to our survival.

Emerson saw it a blessing of old friends, where you can afford to be stupid with them.

From the very start of creation,
God planned for people to be close.
Jesus always had his faithfuls
during his life mission on earth.
As followers of Christ, our friendships
are founded in Jesus. What draws
people as friends is that they share
the same truth. Identifying
the beauty and joy of friendships
can come with ease.

The effort to sustain and steward our friendships might not be so simple.

Jesus models a true friendship, spending time amongst disciples and friends during his walking and living with us here on earth. (John 3:22) Sharing meals with those who were close, and intentional with his presence, he grew in trust and sincerity with his friends.

Being present allows others
to reach out to us when needing help
and encouragement, "For even
the Son of Man came not to be served,
but to serve, and to give his life
as a ransom for the many." (Mark 10:45)
May we gain wisdom from our truest friends,
and find hope for true friendship in the life
and ministry of Jesus.

Tom Lynch. tgl7714@gmail.com Reference: NYT, David French, 9/25/23

Our Parish Weekly Stewardship For Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

10/1/2023	
Total	YTD
\$30,000.00	
\$20,212.00	\$209,617.10
\$ 2,247.80	
\$ 8,922.50	\$151,824.39
\$31,382.30	\$361,441.49
\$ 1,382.30	
of 10/01/23	
09/30/23 - 4:30 pm	130
10/01/23 - 8:00 am	132
10/01/23 - 9:00 am	109
10/01/23 - 10:30 am	155
10/01/23 - 5:00 pm*	60
St Catherine-St Lucy*)	
Total Mass Count	586
	Total \$30,000.00 \$20,212.00 \$2,247.80 \$8,922.50 \$31,382.30 \$1,382.30 of 10/01/23 09/30/23 - 4:30 pm 10/01/23 - 8:00 am 10/01/23 - 9:00 am 10/01/23 - 10:30 am 10/01/23 - 5:00 pm*

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!

Sacred Listening and Contemplative Coloring (SLCC)

Celebrate Autumn brilliance with Adult Coloring. Greet Winter silence with Sacred Listening. Join the SLCC to listen together to the following transformative presentations:

ALL SLCC SESSIONS WILL BEGIN ON OCTOBER 30

Monday 7:00 pm - <u>The Spiritual Journey</u> Thomas Keating (6 thirty-minute talks)

Tuesday 7:00 pm - <u>The Myth of Normal: Trauma, Illness,& Healing in a Toxic</u> <u>Culture</u> Gabor Maté

Wednesday 7:00 pm - <u>Grace in Aging: Awaken As You Grow Older</u> Kathleen Dowling Singh

Thursday 7:00 pm - <u>Hardwiring Happiness: The New Brain Science of</u>
<u>Contentment, Calm and Confidence</u>

Send me your email and home address. I will send you a zoom link and also deliver to your home ten Crayola markers and ten designs to color: Mandalas, Entangled Gardens, Good Shepherd images, and even sketches of the Pastoral team or Parish Council.

John Hynes jhynes1124@gmail.com, 708-227-2109



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