



ST. JOSAPHAT PARISH

A church to come home to since 1883

RE-OPENING OUR CHURCH & WELCOMING PEOPLE BACK

The Archdiocese of Chicago, in consultation with the city of Chicago and state of Illinois elected leaders and health officials, has announced that parishes can move into the next phase of reopening our parishes. We will be allowed to increase our capacity to 60% and will be adjusting our seating capacity to reflect this change, allowing people to sit in every other pew. We will continue to make the choir loft available as well. Everyone in attendance will still be required to wear a mask the entire time they are in the church and sanitize their hands as they enter and as they approach for Holy Communion. Parishioners will still need to sign up for reservations to attend Mass. This is necessary so we can continue to do contact tracing—if there is an instance of someone attending Mass who later tests positive for COVID-19, we must be able to inform fellow attendees.

In the hopes of more people attending Mass, we will be inviting **fully vaccinated** parishioners to serve as Eucharistic Ministers. This will allow us to distribute Communion safely and efficiently. If you previously served as an EM at our parish, have been vaccinated, and would like to return to this ministry, please email Tina Smat at office@stjosaphatparish.org and indicate your preferred Mass times in your email. As always, if for some reason you prefer to receive communion from a Deacon or a Priest, you are welcome to step into our line no matter where you are seated.

We are also allowed to have Altar Servers again; however, since we are about to enter into the summer months and families travel quite a bit and many kids attend camps, we will wait to retrain our Altar Servers when school begins. Please know that I am very excited to welcome our young parishioners back to this important ministry.

On Monday, May 17th, from 7–8 pm over Zoom, we will have a Parish Leadership Summit on the theme of “Radical Hospitality.” The goal of our Summit is to discuss ways that we can welcome people back to church. For many people, it has been over a year since they’ve had the opportunity to come to attend Mass or receive the sacraments. What can we do to welcome people back?

How can we help them feel safe when they return? And how can we ensure that everyone who enters our doors feels welcome no matter who they are or what has been going on in their lives? In other words, how can we better live up to our parish motto of being, “a church to come home to?”



Please join us for this very important discussion by signing up on our parish website: stjosaphatparish.org
Look for the link on the main page for Leadership Summit on “Radical Hospitality.”

As you can imagine, I am incredibly excited that we are moving closer to normal operations and are able to welcome more people back to church. But I know that simply announcing that we can fit more people into church doesn’t mean that they will automatically come. We have to be intentional about being a welcoming church. And we **all** have to see ourselves as missionary disciples whose mission is to invite people to join our community and to enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

God Bless,

Fr. Francis

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

May 16, 2021

First Reading Acts 1:1–11

Responsorial Psalms 47:23, 6–7, 8–9

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Second Reading Ephesians 1:17–23

Gospel Mark 16:15–20

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

1ST: Acts 1:1–11 2ND: Eph 1:17–23 GOSPEL: Mk 16:15–20

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. A day that marks the moment our Lord Jesus was raised into heaven as he spoke his last words on earth. A bittersweet moment for the apostles as Jesus completes his earthly mission, yet they are left with a promise AND a mission.

It is the same mission and promise that we have received. We are called to share in this new life with Jesus by sharing the Good News of our salvation. This is not something we will undertake on our own, since we are called to cooperate with the grace of God that sends us forth.

Pope Francis preaches that the Ascension directed the eyes of the apostles to heaven, just as it directs ours today. It is Jesus drawing us into the mystery of our own baptism as we look to God as our Father, knowing that we are called to one day join him in heaven as well. It is only through Jesus that any of this is possible. His sacrifice for us has allowed us to be called sons and daughters of God so we too may look to heaven as our true home.

If we believe and profess one baptism, we are saved because we trust in the mercy of God.

The Church does not condemn anyone eternally, but pours out the balm of God's mercy on all those who ask for it with a sincere heart. We participate in this work through our baptism, by heeding the call to go out to the world as a witness of Jesus.

The work of the Church, started by the apostles, continues to this day. Each of us is qualified to proclaim the Gospel in our lives through the power of baptism. As we cooperate with the Holy Spirit, we bring others to encounter the Lord so they may believe as we do that he is still with us. Although our eyes may gaze towards heaven waiting for the Lord, we are called to keep our eyes on the earth to find him also in all those we serve.

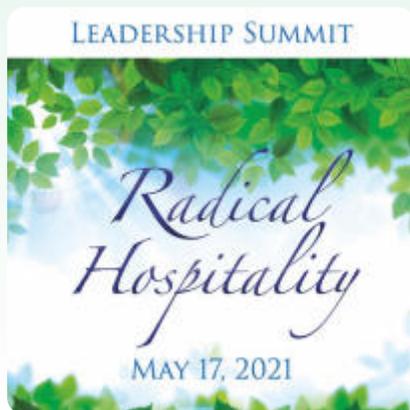
— *Andres Rojas, Seminarian*



A CHURCH TO COME HOME TO

ALL ARE WELCOME

All are invited to the next Parish Leadership Summit on Monday, **May 17**, from 7–8 pm on Zoom. The Vision of St. Josaphat Parish (see our website) contains an essential component: “lay leaders are formed and empowered.” We want to invest in our parishioners and create a culture of leadership. We want to give you skills to make your ministry stronger. Join us!



FOR OUR CHILDREN

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Calling all explorers finishing PreK3–4th Grade... Join us for an entertaining week following Jesus, the Light of the World! We meet an hour a day on Zoom, June 14–18. Sign up at stjosaphatparish.org.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Early-bird registration is open! Our program is for all children not attending Catholic school, and it runs 2–3 times per month from August to April. Sign up at stjosaphatparish.org > Kids.

ST. JOSAPHAT SCHOOL

We are now accepting **applications** for the 2021–22 school year! Visit the school website: stjosaphat.net

MASS INTENTIONS

Fr. Francis is praying his daily Mass for us and these intentions this week:

- MONDAY** Parishioners of St. Josaphat
TUESDAY † Purgatorial Society
WEDNESDAY Living and Deceased Mothers and Fathers
FRIDAY † Dennis Ginosi
SATURDAY † Bob Votik
SUNDAY
 8 am: † Dradyne Robyne Eudeikis
 10 am: † Louis Barlock

THIS WEEK

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|--------|------|----------|---|
| Mon. | 5/17 | 8:00 am | School Mass (<i>closed to the public</i>) |
| | | 7:00 pm | Parish Leadership Summit (<i>Zoom</i>) |
| Tues. | 5/18 | 8:00 am | School Mass (<i>closed to the public</i>) |
| | | 10:00 am | Faith Sharing: Breaking Open the Word (<i>Zoom</i>) |
| | | 7:00 pm | Holy Hour of Prayer* (<i>Church</i>) |
| Wed. | 5/19 | 8:00 am | School Mass, Watch Live on Facebook |
| | | 6:00 pm | Lector Meeting (<i>Church</i>) |
| Thurs. | 5/20 | 8:00 pm | Alpha Marriage Course (<i>Zoom</i>) |
| Fri. | 5/21 | 8:00 am | Mass* (<i>Church</i>) |
| Sat. | 5/22 | 5:00 pm | Mass* (<i>Church</i>) |
| | | 6:00 pm | Unity Reception, by invite only (<i>Community Park</i>) |
| Sun. | 5/23 | 8:00 am | Mass* (<i>Church</i>) |
| | | 10:00 am | Mass* (<i>Church</i>) or Watch Live on Facebook |
| | | 6:00 pm | Youth Group (<i>Zoom</i>) |

*Reservations required

Pre Cana is offered online by the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Baptismal Preparation Class is offered virtually via Zoom the second Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. Sign up on our website. Our next class will be June 7.

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS

THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Mary Louise Koehl, Adalberto Jacinto Nogueira, Margie Perzynski

REST IN PEACE

Luanne Paglia (*grandma of SJS students James & Oliver Brumwell*)



We're most in need of men's L or XL white t-shirts.

WHO'S NEW IN THE PEW?

We warmly welcome new parishioners Robert & Melissa Hann, Lito & Beth Vila-Garcia and Family, James & Dana Hirchak and Family, Neil & Megan Basecke and Family. If you are new to the neighborhood and have not yet registered, please register through our website at stjosaphatparish.org.

AN ESSENTIAL MINISTRY

We are looking for volunteers to greet people **before** Mass and clean pews **after** Mass. If you want to help make our church more welcoming, please sign up on the parish website > **How Can I Help?**

WEEKEND RETREAT

Visit Mundelein Seminary Friday, May 28–Sunday, May 30 for a Memorial Day Weekend Retreat. Full details and registration: www.usml.edu/retreat

SUNDAY OFFERING

In order to give you a better understanding of our financials, we are now publishing year-to-date (vs. weekly) Sunday Giving numbers.

FISCAL YEAR 2021 THROUGH MAY 13, 2021

Budget.....	\$578,218.17
Actuals.....	\$598,304.83
Difference.....	\$20,086.66

DO YOU NEED TO TALK?

If the pandemic has you feeling anxious or depressed, please call the Catholic Charities Counseling Support Line at 312.948.6951 Mon.–Fri. from 8:30 am–4:30 pm.

COMING IN JUNE: CHILDREN'S BOOK DRIVE!

DIRECTORY

PARISH STAFF

Phone.....773.327.8955
 Pastor Rev. Francis Bitterman
frfrancis@stjosaphatparish.org
 Pastoral Associate/
 Dir. Evangelization...Mrs. Mary Jane Sullivan
maryjane@stjosaphatparish.org
 Deacon Dcn. Pat Casey
 312.316.7515, pcasey@sidley.com

More on our website: *Welcome > Directory*

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