



ST. JOSAPHAT PARISH

A church to come home to since 1883

**FIFTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER
MAY 7, 2023**

First Reading Acts 6:1–7

Responsorial

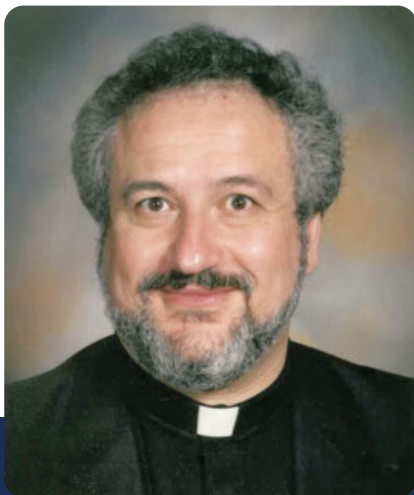
Psalm 33:1–2, 4–5, 18–19

**Lord, let your mercy be
on us, as we place our
trust in you.**

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:4–9

Gospel John 14:1–12



**CELEBRATING FR. GRASSI'S
50TH ANNIVERSARY
IN THE PRIESTHOOD!**

PAGES 3–5

First Holy Communion

GOD BLESS OUR CHILDREN!

Thomas Martin Basch

Emma Carolina Bressler

Michael Alexander Bressler, III

Luis Arthur Calzada McGivern

Claire Taylor Downing

Mildred Antoinette Flood

Analise Rose Fornal

Ella Mavi Gerhart

Gabriella Isabel Guzman

Lukas William Johnson

Karolina Idara Kaminska

Evelina Ama Kaminska

Audrey Grace Knobloch

Caroline Jane Korsch

Penn Everly Kozak

Cataleya Roos Laskov

Vivienne Paige Lawler

Anneliese Marie Leskinen

Mark Lysenko

Noah Hamilton Manheimer

Vivian Elise Matheny

Kasia McHugh

Claire McHugh

Kathleen Misner

Whitney Victoria Parrett

Sophia Marie Pawlicki

Summer Claire Pilarski

Evan Joseph Puma

Elizabeth Rusinak

Josephine Cecilia Schneider

Theodore Henry Scott

Rosaleen Marie Stacey

Evan Cooper Steele

Thomas Michael Stoessel

Ford Walczak

Caroline Eve Harpster Whalen

Tillotson June Whalen

Vivian Grace White



ST. JOSAPHAT PARISH

We warmly welcome all visitors who have joined us to celebrate!



DIRECTORY

PARISH OFFICE AND RECTORY

2311 N. Southport • Chicago, IL 60614

Phone.....773.327.8955

E-Mail.....grace@stjosaphatparish.org

Website..... www.stjosaphatparish.org

facebook.com/StJosaphatParish

PARISH SCHOOL

2245 N. Southport • Chicago, IL 60614

Phone..... 773.549.0909

E-Mail.....nmullens@stjosaphat.net

Website..... www.stjosaphat.net

PARISH STAFF

Pastor Rev. Francis Bitterman

frfrancis@stjosaphatparish.org

School Principal.....Dr. Nel Mullens

Pastoral Associate... Mrs. Mary Jane Sullivan

maryjane@stjosaphatparish.org

Deacon Dcn. Pat Casey

312.316.7515, pcasey@sidley.com

Resident Priest..... Fr. Alphonse Twizerimana

Director of EvangelizationSean O’Dea

Director of Faith Formation...Nathan Johnson

Music Director Joe Labozetta

Children’s Music DirectorBrian Acker

Director of Finance Christine Frech

Office & Facilities Manager Tina Smat

Business Coordinator Michelle Knight

Coordinator of HospitalityEmily Skafish

Parish Communications..... Sue Fedea

Parish Office Associate Dorothy Phelan

(Staff contact info on parish website)

PARISH COUNCILS

Pastoral Council..... Steve Misner

School Board..... Matt Turner

Finance Council.....Jen Kueker

PARISH INFORMATION

INFANT BAPTISM

Infant Baptisms are often celebrated on Sunday at 11:15 am. Visit our website under Sacraments > Baptism for current dates.

Baptismal Preparation Class is the 2nd Monday of the month at 7 pm in the church. Sign up on our website.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Before Mass on Saturdays from 4:15–4:45 pm, during Holy Hour on Tuesdays from 7–8 pm, or by appointment.

BULLETIN

Available on stjosaphatparish.org and through a link on the JosaFAST weekly email. Submit articles via link on parish website. Deadline is Tuesday at Noon.

JOSAFAST AND TAKE 5 FOR FAITH

Our weekly email is sent every Thursday at 5 pm. Our daily reflection is sent at 6 am. Sign up online or contact the Parish Office if you’d like to receive them.

LOW GLUTEN HOSTS AVAILABLE

Please stop by the sacristy before Mass to let the priests know, then go to the communion station of the presider of the liturgy.

HOME/HOSPITAL VISITATION & COMMUNION CALLS

If you would like someone to visit, please contact the Parish Office.

PASTORAL COUNSELING

Services are available from Miriam Wolfe, M.A., L.P.C. at 773.517.3182, and Theresa A. Nollette, LSCW, M.Div., 312.540.0320 or theresa_nollette@sbcglobal.net.

MOVING?

Email the Parish Office.

MARRIAGE

Please contact the Pastor at least six months in advance of your wedding to set a date. Parish Marriage Guidelines available at www.stjosaphatparish.org

DONATIONS

Electronic donations may be made through GiveCentral.org, or by texting SUNDAY to 312.625.5666. If you would like envelopes, or did not receive your envelopes, please contact the Parish Office.

HANDS OF MERCY MINISTRY

Contact Coordinators Kelly Smith, kellytheresesmith@gmail.com or Jean Bystedt, jean@jbystedt.com

CAREER TRANSITION CENTER OF CHICAGO

Our parish has member benefits. Reference ctcchicago.org

ASSISTANCE FOR ABUSE CASES

Allegations concerning abuse and/or neglect should be reported to the local police. Key numbers: National Domestic Violence Hotline: 800.799.SAFE; DCFS Hotline: 800.25.ABUSE; Archdiocese of Chicago Office of the Protection of Children and Youth: 800.994.6200

BLESS YOUR HOME

Fr. Francis will gladly come to bless your home. Contact the Parish Office.

EMERGENCIES

Call anytime.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Parish hours are Monday–Saturday, 9 am–5 pm. Sunday 9 am–Noon.

TROUBLE HEARING IN CHURCH?

We are pleased to offer assisted listening, using your smartphone or wifi-enabled device:

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- Connect your headphones, earbuds or hearing aid to your device.



AN ANNIVERSARY REFLECTION

The readings for today, the 5th Sunday of Easter, give us a snapshot of our Church taking its first steps, struggling with growing pains, in transition, facing many difficulties. Could it survive? The Acts of the Apostles reflects the challenge still facing us today of being one community with different languages, traditions and needs. St. Peter encourages us to “be built into a spiritual house”—sharing, all of us, a “spiritual priesthood”—called out of darkness into God’s wonderful light. If we choose to follow Jesus, “the Way and the Truth and the Light” waiting for us will be a dwelling place in God’s very own house. Until then, our Church, imperfect and flawed as it is, is called to champion justice, work for equality, strive for peace, be the voice of the silenced and care for one another no matter the needs.

Today I am privileged to look back over my 50 years as a priest, grateful for all the blessings and opportunities to be of service, and sorrowful for all the times my limitations got in the way. Serving the people of God in my varied ministries over the decades, I am able to realize how blessed I am and to appreciate the roots of my faith that are deep within me. So I share with you two gifts:

When my mother died, my brothers and their wives and I had the task of going through all her possessions. It wasn’t difficult. “Stuff” didn’t matter to her. People, specifically family, did. Next to the chair where she would crochet and pray every day, I found and took with me her prayer book written in Italian, so used that it was literally held together by scotch tape. Inside, not surprisingly, was a holy card from my sister’s funeral in 1946, which I saved. I gave the book to one of my nieces. But also, there were two other items I kept. The first was a litany taped on both sides of a piece of cardboard entitled **Lord, I Love You**. I share it with you:

LORD, I LOVE YOU

Help me acquire the habit, Lord, of speaking to you as a friend, sharing with you my joys and sorrow...

That is why from the deepest part of my heart, I now wish to say, **Lord, I love you**

Whenever I am tired, help me to say nevertheless **Lord, I love you**

Whenever I find it difficult to forgive, I will have but to think and to repeat **Lord, I love you**

When darkness hovers over me, and I no longer feel you near, I will simply call upon you, **Lord, I love you**

My daily duties will be more pleasant and my work will become prayer saying **Lord, I love you**

And when will come my judgment hour, be merciful, as you know, I will have said and repeated so many times, **Lord, I love you**



The second item was a tattered-around-the-edges card from the Scalabrini Missionaries, an Italian order of priests. Unknown to me, mom prayed this every single day:

A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

Father in Heaven,

Keep close those you have chosen to be ministers of the Word and Sacrament.

They have spent their lives, faithful to your sacred ministry.

May their service always be pleasing to you

And remembered by all.

Most of all Lord,

Never let me forget what they have done

For the least of my brothers and sisters.

I attribute any successes in my priesthood to the prayers and love of my family and all of you who shared ministry with me, allowing me the privilege of being your priest and to the presence of Jesus prodding me and pushing me, laughing and crying with me. As for my many failures, I ask for your forgiveness. Hopefully I have learned from them as well. I thank you for the last 50 years of my life. It ain’t over yet. There is still so much work to be done.

— Rev. Dominic Grassi, Pastor Emeritus



Fr. Grassi with his mom, after celebrating his first Mass as a priest.

FR. GRASSI'S LIFE, IN BULLET POINTS

- Born August 8, 1947
- The road to priesthood started with a vocation pageant in 2nd Grade. When dressed as a priest, he stated that, “before ordination, men are sent to St. Mary of the Lake ‘cemetery’” (rather than “seminary”). Ensuing laughter sealed the deal for him.
- Attended Our Lady of Mt. Carmel grammar school, Quigley North Seminary, Niles College Seminary of Loyola (BA in Literature) and St. Mary of the Lake Seminary (MDIV, cum laude). Further studies at Loyola U. He was selected to do his theologate studies in Rome, but Cardinal Cody for the third year in a row got mad at the rector there and didn’t send him. (Really.)
- Asked at what kind of parish he wanted to intern as a deacon in 1972, he stated he wanted to go back to his roots—blue-collar north side, near the lake. He was sent to St. Sabina parish instead where his supervisor promptly left the priesthood. Fr. Grassi takes no blame.
- Ordained a priest in May of 1973 and celebrated his first Mass at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel on Belmont Avenue. The adult and children’s choirs from St. Sabina sang the music which did not, as some people claimed, lead the elderly rectory cook/housekeeper to throw herself into the koi pond in the rectory front yard. At the reception following, he collected a \$50 debt from his older brother who said he would never make it to ordination. Charitably, he did not demand interest from him.
- His first assignment was St. John de la Salle parish at 103rd and King Drive, where he learned so much from a wonderful congregation and gained a special affection for gumbo.
- He was invited 15 months later to join the faculty of Quigley Seminary South HS, where over 13 years he taught Religion, Media Studies and Public Speaking. He moderated the Parents Club and Alumni Association. He served as Chair of the Religion Department, then as Dean of Formation. He also coached Freshman Soccer, which led him to hold the



award for Most Side Windows Broken Off the School Bus, driving the team around the city. When they dedicated the yearbook to him, he knew it was time to leave. While there, he lived at Holy Name of Mary parish, Immaculate Conception parish and helped out at St. Germaine parish. He was also an Assistant Chaplain at the Audy Home Detention Center.

- In 1987, he asked for and was assigned Pastor of St. Josaphat parish, where he spent 18 years attempting to make its motto, “A Church to Come Home To,” a reality. While there, he started his writing career. Maybe it didn’t stop his craziness, but surely kept him from going insane. He also was Chairperson of the Association of Chicago Priests for 5 of those years. He helped found United Power for Action and Justice organization and studied community organizing with Msgr. Jack Egan and at Fordham. He also started giving retreats for priests, deacons and parishes throughout the U.S. and Canada. After completing 2 six-year terms and getting 3 extensions, Cardinal George said it was time to move on. He counts the growth of the school and parish, the building of the community park, the repairs and remodeling of the church, and the acquisitions of a piano once played by Arthur Rubenstein and the chancel organ—while paying off the debt and no longer needed a subsidy—as his legacy. Most importantly, being involved with parishioners sacramentally was the greatest grace of those years for him.
- After a 6-month sabbatical which included a bucket trip to Italy with his brothers and their wives, plus a cooking class in a 14th century villa and reading over 50 books that his editor told him a priest should read, he was reassigned.
- 11 years followed as pastor at St. Gertrude parish in Edgewater. With its diverse population, and as President of Northside Catholic Academy, it was challenging. It was truly a church where he worked to make all feel welcomed. He continued writing, and giving retreats and talks nationally, and added involvement with workers’ rights and local justice needs as Co-Chair of O.N.E. to his ministry. Like many pastors, he dealt with



structural issues—the church tower finials were starting to “walk.” The vibrancy of the parish continued to challenge him and excite him.

- Fr. Grassi turned 70 in 2017. It was time to retire. He purchased an apartment after his mother’s death in 2005, which he moved into full time. From the bay window on the 16th floor of “the pink lady” Edgewater Beach Apartments, aided by covid restrictions and illness, he has found the time to read, write and, most of all, to pray more which he never had before, surrounded by 25 plants (give or take a few) which have replaced his now deceased cats. He averages over 80 books read annually. He writes a monthly reflection on a Sunday’s scripture readings for True Quest publications. Zoom and webinars have replaced traveling talks. Work on the sequel to his novel and other projects keep him busy. He has grown closer to three generations of family and is grateful to the doctors and staff of Northwestern Hospital. He helps out sacramentally when he is asked, at Sacred Heart Academy and at St. Gertrude, and feels greatly blessed to have been named Pastor Emeritus of St. Josaphat Parish... *coming home again.*



And a favorite hymn...

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

In remembrance of me, eat this bread.
In remembrance of me, drink this wine.
In remembrance of me, pray for the time
when God’s will is done.

In remembrance of me, heal the sick.
In remembrance of me, feed the poor.
In remembrance of me, open the door
and let your neighbors in, let them in.

Take, eat, and be comforted;
drink, and remember too,
that this is my body and precious blood
shed for you, shed for you.

In remembrance of me, search for truth.
In remembrance of me, always love.
In remembrance of me, don’t look above,
but in your heart, look in your heart,
look in your heart for God.

Do this in remembrance of me.
Do this in remembrance of me.
Do this in remembrance of me.

FR. GRASSI’S AWARDS INCLUDE:

- Mt. Carmel Academy, Distinguished Graduate
- A.I.D.S. Pastoral Care Network, Tree of Life Award
- Quigley Seminary South, Distinguished Alumnus
- Mental Illness Ministry, Founders Award
- Sheffield Neighborhood Association, Star Award
- O.N.E., John Kennedy Courage Award
- Association of Chicago Priests, Pope John XXIII Award
- National Catholic Education Assoc., Distiguated Pastor
- Chicago Sun-Times,
50 People Who Make
Chicago a Better Place



CALLING ALL CHEFS!

Hearing the call to serve those less fortunate? Always wanted to (learn to) cook for a crowd? St. Teresa Parish is seeking cooks to help prepare their **Loaves & Fishes meals**: warm dinner for the elderly and homeless in our area, served each Friday. For a 3–6 hour commitment one Friday a month, you'll meet a wonderful group of people to work with, share kitchen tips and feel great about helping those in need. For more info, contact Jean (jean@jbystedt.com) or Kelly (kellytheresesmith@gmail.com).

BABY BOTTLES FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS

It's that time again! We'll be handing out baby bottles after all the Masses on Mother's Day weekend. Take a bottle, drop your change in it for a few weeks and return it to the parish by the end of May. The money will help **Aid For Women** provide material support and counseling services for pregnant women, and assist them in accessing other community services.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - MEMORIAL DAY BBQ

Can you help spread sunshine to seniors this Memorial Day? Little Sisters of the Poor will host a BBQ for their residents, and could use our help!

Monday, **May 29**, 11 am to 1 pm

Volunteers might assist in bringing the residents outside, preparing and serving their meals, helping with clean up, bringing the residents back to their rooms and most importantly, sitting and talking with them! Many residents have few or no visitors and truly appreciate the chance to chat with someone.

Last year our Aging Committee had 10 volunteers help out, and it's hard to know who had more fun—the residents or us! If you can spare a few hours on this holiday weekend, please contact Mary Gallo (aging@stjosaphatparish.org). Note: volunteers must be 18 years old and up.

MARY JANE SULLIVAN IS RETIRING!

If you'd like to send a card or message to Mary Jane in honor of her retirement, please send to St. Josaphat Parish, Attn: Mary Jane Sullivan, 2311 N. Southport, Chicago, IL 60614 by Friday, May 19. Thank you!



PLEASE JOIN HER CELEBRATION:

Sunday, May 21, at 10:00 am Mass, followed by hospitality in the back of church

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023 SHIPWRECKED: RESCUED BY JESUS

June 12–16, 9–11:30 am, at St. Josaphat School

Families of students ages 4–10:

We hope you can join us for this year's **VBS**—it is a blast! Younger kids get their first taste of **summer camp** in a familiar setting with friends and classmates. Older kids enjoy taking the lead on **crafts and games**. All of them enjoy great **music**, share themed **snacks** and learn a little more about **Jesus' love** for them.



We invite you to register your child—and invite their friends!—by using this QR code or visiting the parish website: www.stjosaphatparish.org



\$150/child through May 15; \$200/child starting May 16.

ALPHA

Please keep in your prayers all those participating in our spring Alpha. For more information, or to join the next session, please contact sean@stjosaphatparish.org



A CHURCH TO COME HOME TO

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY Parishioners of St. Josaphat

TUESDAY Living and Deceased Mothers and Fathers

WEDNESDAY †Michael Kattricka

FRIDAY For an increase of vocations to the Franciscans of the Eucharist

SATURDAY †Don L. McKenzie

SUNDAY *Mother's Day*

8 am: Living and Deceased Mothers

10 am: Living and Deceased Mothers

THIS WEEK

Weekday Masses	8:00 am	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday (Church)
Mon.	5/8	7:00 pm Baptismal Preparation (Church)
		7:00 pm Parish Pastoral Council (Zoom)
Tues.	5/9	9:30 am Faith Sharing: Breaking Open the Word (Zoom)
		7:00 pm Holy Hour of Prayer (Church)
		7:00 pm SPRED (Parish Rectory Lower Level)
		7:00 pm PTO meeting (Red Door Room)
Wed.	5/10	10:00 am Tots Playgroup (Fireplace Room)
Thurs.	5/11	1:30 pm Vacation Bible School meeting (Fireplace Room)
		6:15 pm Alpha (Fireplace Room)
Sat.	5/13	5:00 pm Mass, Fr. Francis (Church)
Sun.	5/14	8:00 am Mass, Fr. Grassi (Church)
		10:00 am Mass, Fr. Francis (Church)

Next weekend's Special Collection is for **Catholic Charities Mother's Day**. If you donate through Give Central, you can also specify an amount for this cause by selecting this "Event" (fund) or text **Catholic** to 312.625.5666. Thank you!

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS

WELCOMED IN BAPTISM

Vivienne Paige and Dylan John, children of Patrick Lawler and Stephanie Hernandez

JOINED IN HOLY MATRIMONY

Michael Edward Alegnani and Madeline Claire Webb

THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Arky Aliano, Damien Koh, Doris Buettner, Katelyn G, Fr. Dominic Grassi, Dennis Donnelly, Caryn Allen, Theresa & Leonard Hester, Owen Marino, Mark McDermott, Judith Lauth Casey, Raymond LeeVan, Charlene Herda, John Newlin, Kelly Smith, Rodney Hardesty

REST IN PEACE

†David Groeninger

LAST SESSION!

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



EXPLORING THE DIACONATE 2022-23

The Institute for Diaconal Studies (IDS) invites all men who feel the gentle nudge of the Holy Spirit to attend an Exploring the Diaconate session. It is a time to pray, discuss, and learn more about the discernment process and the formation program that aspirants and candidates pursue. Please join us, with your wives, if married, as we explore the potential of a vocation, engage in dialogue and pray in search of the next step. All are welcome to attend any of the sessions.

RSVP REQUIRED

Contact Sr. Caroline Onuoha, DMMM at 847.837.4563 or conuoha@usml.edu

7:30-8:30 P.M.

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Our Lady of Ransom, Niles

For more information contact Deacon Bob Puhala, bpuhala@usml.edu or 847.837.4564 or visit us at usml.edu.

WHO'S NEW IN THE PEW?

We warmly welcome new parishioners The Milenkov Family; Meade & Emily Kelley. You will receive our Welcome Kit in the mail.

If you are new to the neighborhood, please register through our website at www.stjosaphatparish.org.

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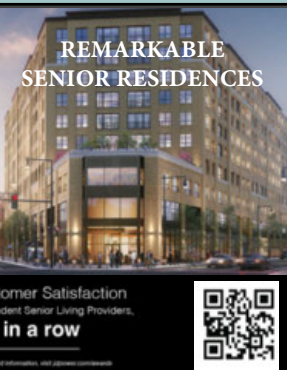
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