



SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA-SAINT LUCY AND SAINT GILES CATHOLIC PARISH



AUGUST 31, 2025

**22ND SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

"Rather, when you hold a banquet,
invite the poor, the crippled, the
lame, the blind, blessed indeed
will you be because of their
inability to repay you. For you will
be repaid at the resurrection of
the righteous."
- Lk 14:13-14

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA- SAINT LUCY CAMPUS

38 North Austin Boulevard
Oak Park, Illinois 60302
708-383-3430
www.catholiccommunitiesofoakpark.org

SAINT GILES CAMPUS

1025 Columbian Avenue
Oak Park, Illinois 60302
708-383-3430
www.catholiccommunitiesofoakpark.org

MASS SCHEDULE AT SAINT GILES CHURCH

Daily Masses

Monday through Friday at 6:30 AM
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday at 8:30 AM
Saturday at 8:00 AM
(Confessions following the
8:00 AM Mass on Saturday)

Weekend Masses

Saturday at 4:30 PM,
Sunday at 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Family Mass Community

Sunday at 10:00 AM in McDonough Hall

Saint Giles Campus Parish Center Office

1025 Columbian Avenue. Oak Park, Illinois 60302

Phone: 708-383-3430

E-mail: stgiles@stgilesparish.orgWebsite: www.catholiccommunitiesofoakpark.org**Summer Business Hours:**

Monday - 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Tuesday - 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Wednesday - 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Thursday - 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Friday - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

The office will not be open on Saturday.

Lauren Locke & Sister Sue Paweski,

Daytime Receptionists

Kathleen Coleman, Everett McCreary &**Madelyn McCreary,** Evening Receptionists**Saint Catherine of Siena-Saint Lucy Campus**

38 North Austin Boulevard, Oak Park, Illinois 60302

Phone: 708-383-3430

E-mail: stgiles@stgilesparish.orgWebsite: www.catholiccommunitiesofoakpark.org**Rev. Carl Morello, Pastor** - Ext. 422**Rev. Edward P. Salmon, Resident** - Ext. 308**Rev. Thomas E. Unz, Resident** - Ext. 313**Rev. Vittorio Bruscella, Pastoral Assistant** -
vittoriocmf@libero.it**Mr. John (Lois) Henricks, Deacon****Mr. Loretto J. (Carlotta) Madonia, Jr.,**
Deacon (Retired)**Mr. Kevin (Marci) Morgan, Deacon****Mr. William (Abbie) Pouncy, Deacon****Mr. John (Barbara) Walters, Deacon****Mary Boss, Bulletin Editor** - mboss@archchicago.org**Matthew Brophy, Director of Parish Operations** - Ext. 102**Carol Coleman, Business Manager** - Ext. 419**LaVerne Johnson, Parish Administrative Assistant** -
Ext. 401, stgiles@stgilesparish.org**Sue Kaszynski, Director of Music & Liturgy** - Ext. 423**Julius White, Praise Choir****Spirit & Light****Dr. Marci Madary, Director of Spirit & Light** -
mmadary@spiritandlightcenter.org**Rachel Faulman, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd &**
Out-of-Grade Sacraments -faulman@spiritandlightcenter.org**Cooky Perez-Eraci, Director of Youth Ministry** -
mperezeraci@spiritandlightcenter.org**Tim Smyth, Faith & Fellowship Program Director** -
tmsmyth@spiritandlightcenter.org**Alex Ryan, Evangelization & Sacraments**
Alexryan@spiritandlightcenter.org**Saint Giles School**

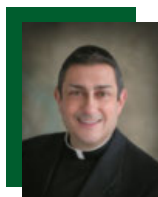
1034 Linden Avenue, Oak Park, Illinois 60302

Phone 708-383-6279 — Fax 708-383-9952

E-mail: office@stgilesschool.orgWebsite: stgilesschool.org**Meg Bigane, Principal** - mbigane@stgilesschool.org**Saint Catherine-Saint Lucy School**

27 Washington Boulevard, Oak Park, Illinois 60302

Phone 708-386-5286 — Fax 708-386-7328

Website: catherinelucy.org**Sharon Leamy, Principal** - sleamy@catherinelucy.org**FATHER CARL'S CORNER**

As we begin a new season of school, choir, Religious Education,

and many of our other church activities that bring us together to build community and unity in our parishes, let us remember WORDS can BUILD - or BREAK - BRIDGES.

"The way we communicate is of fundamental importance." These are the words of Pope Leo who makes this point, that our words can build up or tear down, open hearts or shut them tight. In a noisy world, choosing how we speak is one of the most important choices we can make. Manners matter. Real communication does not bulldoze others. It does not chase agreement at all costs. It doesn't feed off competition. A healthy conversation makes space for different viewpoints while still seeking the truth. Winning an argument might feel good, but it rarely changes hearts. And changing hearts is the point.

Speak the truth - with love. Truth isn't always popular. Sometimes it is hard. But truth, spoken in love, loses its offensive power. As Pope Leo put it, we must never separate "the search for truth from the love with which we must humbly seek it." This is especially vital when carrying out spiritual works of mercy like counseling the doubtful, instructing one in faith or admonishing one who has hurt or offended us. The goal isn't just to be right, it to bring people closer to God, the ultimate Truth we live by.

Ditch the stereotypes. People don't fit neatly into boxes. When we lean on lazy labels, we lose the chance to see each other clearly - and only deepen divisions. As Pope Leo said, "Let us disarm communication

of all prejudice and resentment ... let us disarm word, and we will help disarm the world. When we try to put some of these guidelines into practice in our community and parish life, we bring about a better sense of unity and peace. If we cannot find that here, how can we have hope for this to be a reality in the world?

Let's keep this in mind as life ramps up in the parish.

Something to remember is why we bless ourselves with Holy Water often coming in and out of Church. A curious adult asking about our Catholic faith and rituals recently asked me this question after Mass one morning. The practice of blessing oneself with Holy Water harkens back to the washing rituals of the Old Testament Jews, who had to bathe before entering the temple. Today when we bless ourselves with Holy Water coming in and out of Church, it recalls our own Baptism. It was at our Baptism that our souls were washed clean of original sin, and we were officially made members of the Church. Having received the gift of faith we have become temples of the Holy Spirit, places where God dwells. In blessing ourselves we renew our baptismal promise. If you are not in the habit of doing so, bless yourself with Holy Water and be reminded of this beautiful ritual and tradition.

There are many things happening in our parishes and within the community. Please be sure to check our new website for details as well as the bulletin and e-News. Have a great week ahead and a blessed and safe Labor Day weekend to all.

With you a Christian. For you, a Priest.

F. Carl

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Those who are hospitalized or homebound, including: Manuel Aguilar, Patrick Ahearn, Mark Andersen, Jane Baker, Phyllis Baker, Katie Barnicle, JoAnn Boyle, Eloise Brown, Melissa Brumund, Phil Calabrese, Timothy Carraher Carwinski, Lucille Dalbis, Nancy D'Agnolo, Carole DiCicco, Andrea Dickson, Paula Dote, Baby Margaret Mary Doyle, Katherine Fisher, George Fleming, Jim Fletcher, Kitty Foley, Baby Ford Gallagher, Sr. Regina Gallo, Deacon John Henricks, Lois Henricks, Jennifer Hoyt, Joe Karas, Maureen Killacky, Hardie Kressler, Lynn Locke, Rossana Lopollo, Deacon Lorry Madonia, Linda Malloy, Marilyn Maggio, Lauren Marshall, Lynne Tallon Matassa, Chuck Mauter, John Megall, Paul Michael, Dave Mills, Joseph Musso, Sr., Jamie O'Reilly, Amelia Patterson, Lorenzo Perez, Patrick Pollard, Gia Rapacki, Hannah Rice, Peg Sabatino, Gregory Sherwood, Deborah Sobreira, Anita Spina, Eleanor "Elle" Taylor, Regina Thorpe, Shirley Venerable, Nancy Wesclitz.

Names will be removed from this listing in the bulletin after six months and from the intercessions spoken at the weekend Masses after four weeks. Also, some parishioners have received a Prayer Shawl to represent the prayers for healing by the Parish community. Please contact the Parish Office to include someone on this prayer list, or to request someone's inclusion in the intercessions at the weekend Masses, and/or to request a Prayer Shawl.

And for those of our family members and parishioners who have died, especially Neil Hartney, brother of Bruce Hartney, Victoria Curran, Colleen Doyle, daughter of Mike and Trudy Doyle, and Grace Veronica Tobin

LABOR DAY MASS



On Monday, September 1, the Catholic Communities of Oak Park will celebrate Masses at Saint Giles Church at 8:30 AM and at Saint Edmund Church at 8:30 AM to ask God's favor upon all workers. Please join us as we thank God for human labor and celebrate the dignity of the worker.

There will not be a 6:30 AM Mass at Saint Giles on September 1.

WEDDING BANNES

- II Lindsey Decosola and Louis Morello
- III Jacquelyn Neel and Jeffrey Chase Dickinson

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SAINT GILES CHURCH

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 LABOR DAY

8:30 AM All Parishioners & Benefactors

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

6:30 AM All Parishioners & Benefactors

8:30 AM The Deceased of the Parish

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 SAINT GREGORY THE GREAT, POPE & DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

6:30 AM Joey Cocco

8:30 AM All Parishioners & Benefactors

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

6:30 AM All Parishioners & Benefactors

8:30 AM George Keller

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

6:30 AM Owen Petrzela
Camille Sarrouf
Joseph Zaccariello

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

8:00 AM Dawn Marotta
Geneva Royal

2:30 PM Wedding: Jacquelyn Neel
& Jeffrey Chase Dickinson

4:30 PM All Parishioners & Benefactors

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 AM Edward "Eddie" Sitzman

10:00 AM Family Mass in McDonough Hall

*10:30 AM Lynn Galuska-Elsen
Tommie Lewis
Sheila Gummerson

*This Mass will be live-streamed from the new parish website www.catholiccommunitiesofoakpark.org.

SAINT EDMUND CHURCH

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 LABOR DAY

8:30 AM Oak Park Catholic Parishes Mass

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 PM Oak Park Catholic Parishes Mass

ATTENTION ALL WOMEN OF SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA–SAINT LUCY AND SAINT GILES - CHANGE IS GOOD!

Since the early 1990's, CCW (Council of Catholic Women) has been bringing the women of our parishes together through social and spiritual gatherings and fundraising efforts. We made friends while connecting to our faith community.

Over the past few years, attendance at CCW events and participation at the leadership level has decreased. Women of both Saint Giles and Saint Catherine of Siena-Saint Lucy have met to discuss how to address this change. After much discussion the following themes came out:

1. Women want to continue to gather for faith and fellowship.
2. The current structure of CCW does not work today.
3. We feel more women of all ages will participate if we do away with the Board, Committees, etc. model and rely on different women working on events on their own time.

We will call ourselves The Women of Saint Catherine of Siena-Saint Lucy and Saint Giles. Our first gathering will take place on Friday, September 19 prior to the courtyard concert. Look for details in the bulletin and online.

Other events planned include the following:

1. An annual coat drive
2. Christmas party on Thursday, December 11, 2025.
3. Barefoot Contessa on Saturday, January 31, 2026
4. A Springtime Social and Service Day

This is an exciting time for the women of our community as we adapt to the changing demands of women's time. If you are interested in helping with any events or have ideas or suggestions, please reach out to Elsa DePalma at elsadepalma@gmail.com.



COURTYARD CONCERTS AT SAINT GILES!

Summer Concerts in the courtyard at Saint Giles Church are back! Our very own "Minivinia" season is in full swing with some of our favorite musicians from our parish community.

The final concert of the season will take place on Friday, September 19 at 7:00 PM and will feature the Island of Misfit Toys with Jay Harris. The Island of Misfit Toys is an Oak Park-based band playing your favorite hits from the 70s to today.

Bring your chairs, blankets, and refreshments to enjoy on the lawn of the Saint Giles Courtyard. Admission is free.



LADIES - LET'S GET SOCIAL! YOU'RE INVITED!

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA-SAINT LUCY AND SAINT GILES WOMEN'S GATHERING

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 - 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

In the Saint Giles Courtyard Before the Concert

Wine, Beer and Light Bites Provided.

Welcome New Parishioners!

Make New Friends!

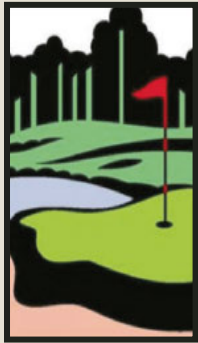
Catch up with Old Friends!

Stay to enjoy the band: The Island of Misfit Toys

Questions?

Want to Help?

Contact Jeanne Gallo at 312-882-2087



81ST ANNUAL MEN'S SOCIETY GOLF OUTING

Monday,
September 15

The Preserve at
Oak Meadows

We are looking for a few new committee members to help plan and run the event. If you are interested in helping out, please send a note to mike@bibbey.com.

Get ready to tee off and have a swinging good time. This event will support the Saint Giles School general scholarship fund which helps families in need provide a Catholic education.

So bring your clubs, your witty repartee, and most importantly - lots of cash for the raffle tickets! The main event is a 4-man scramble, let the best crew win!

This event is NOT exclusive to Saint Catherine of Siena-Saint Lucy and Saint Giles parishioners. Please bring your friends, neighbors, associates, and clients for a fun-filled day on the golf course.

Register today at StGilesGolf.com



SPIRIT AND LIGHT - RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are excited to announce that registration is now open! Sessions begin the week of

September 7! For more information about our programs and calendars, please visit our website.

How to receive an Electronic Registration Form

On August 6, 2025, we sent an email with an electronic registration form to all families who had a child registered in our program during the 2024-2025 school year. The email was sent through our Flocknote platform from our "Spirit and Light" Religious Education Office. If you did not receive an email on August 6, please contact us at sreligioused@spiritandlightcenter.org.

If you are a new family to the program, please visit <https://re.stgilesparish.org/PasswordCreationNewFamily.php>, and follow the prompts.

We look forward to seeing familiar faces and new ones this Fall!

Thank you,

The Faith Formation Team

Email - sreligioused@spiritandlightcenter.org



OCIA COMPANION SPONSOR

A Companion Sponsor for OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) is a parishioner who would like to accompany a person who is preparing

to receive the sacraments. While the individual will have a formal sponsor who they choose, a Companion Sponsor plays a vital role in helping the person understand what it means to live as a Catholic and assist in integrating the individual into the life of the Catholic community.

A Companion Sponsor is expected to connect with the person one or two times each month. Activities may include (but aren't limited to) the following:

- Attend mass together
- Share a meal
- Go to speakers or other events in the Oak Park Catholic parishes
- Go to a Catholic baptism, funeral, or wedding
- Take a walk
- Talk about faith
- Participate in volunteer service

Companion Sponsors will receive training prior to being paired with an individual and will continue to be supported while they work with a person.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Marci Madary at mmadary@spiritandlightcenter.org.



Scan me!

16th Annual Parish Rummage Sale September 15-20, 2025

Location: Gleeson Building (2nd level- McDonough Hall)
1101 Columbian Ave, Oak Park



Come help us make this the BEST RUMMAGE SALE EVER!

We need your help! We are seeking volunteers for the Parish Rummage Sale!

September 15, 16, 17, and 18

Can you spare an hour or more to help with drop-off, sorting items, and setting up?

Need service hours? Bring your form, and we are happy to sign off that you donated your time!

September 19 and 20

Can you help with the sale? Assistance is needed with refreshing tables and shelves, helping to load items into the elevator, and helping with the sale as needed.

Drop-Off Dates and Set-Up Hours:

Monday, September 15 - 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Tuesday, September 16 - 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM
Wednesday, September 17 - 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM
Thursday, September 18 - 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
McDonough Hall - Second Floor of Gleeson Building

REMINDER: We cannot accept cribs, expired car seats, recalled baby items, large furniture or exercise equipment, construction materials, non-working electronics, TVs, or household paint/chemicals.

Sale Dates and Times:

Friday, September 19 - 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Saturday, September 20 - 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM
with a bag sale from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Questions or to Volunteer, Contact the Coordinators:
Marlene Panebianco at 708-431-8115 or Marlene117@att.net
Carol Rossi at 773-237-5804 or cg12345b@yahoo.com

Clear out your attics, closets, cabinets, drawers, basements, and garages; somebody else can use what you no longer need!

SENIOR CORNER



Our year will start on Tuesday, September 9 with a special 11:30 AM Mass celebrated by Father Tom at Saint Giles Church.

After Mass, a light lunch will be provided in McDonough Hall. If you would like to bring a dessert to share, please feel free to do so. Beverages (ice tea, coffee and soda) will be provided.

We will have time to share stories, laughter, conversation and renew friendships. We will also be collecting our membership dues (\$25) for this new season. We hope to see all of you after our summer break. Bring a friend! All are welcome!

Please RSVP to Joan Wojcik at 708-771-4783.



**JOIN US-
ONE IN LOVE
LGBTQ+
MINISTRY**

Saturday, September 13 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at Saint Giles Parish Center, 1025 Columbian Avenue, Oak Park.

ONE IN LOVE LGBTQ+ Ministry meets the second Saturday of each month.

Please join us for a safe and respectful conversation. You are free to share your story, resources or whatever is in your heart that day, or just listen to others with an open heart.

We offer a friendly and safe place for the Catholic Communities of Oak Park and our Neighbors, where we welcome LGBTQ+ individuals, their partners, families and allies to share through deep listening circles.

If you have questions, please contact: Kathie Nash at kathienash1023@att.net

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR GAZA SEPTEMBER 6-7, 2025

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Office of the Archbishop

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Daily, we hear heartbreaking stories of suffering from Gaza. So many innocent victims, including those who belong to Christian communities, face violence, dire living conditions, and hunger. Our Holy Father Pope Leo has said "Gaza is starving," as he called for a cease fire. In a particular way, the faces of Gaza's hungry children make an indelible impression on our hearts.

Perhaps we feel helpless to address this complex story that involves international players. There is, however, a pathway for us to respond. Two very reliable agencies of the Catholic Church are already there providing vital emergency humanitarian relief and medical and psychological care for the sick, malnourished, and wounded. They are the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

On the weekend of September 6-7, the parishes of the Archdiocese of Chicago will take up a special collection that will be promptly forwarded to CNEWA and CRS.

Whatever you can give will go far to alleviate the suffering of our brothers and sisters in the Middle East. I know the compassion and generosity of the people of the Archdiocese of Chicago. In the name of all those who will benefit from your support, I thank you.

Finally, let us pray urgently for the gift of peace in our wounded world, a peace which only the Lord can give.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Chicago

PARISH E-NEWS

Want to know all the latest parish news? Sign up for the weekly parish e-news via our broadcast email program, Flocknote!

To sign up, just scan the QR Code here or go to this URL in your browser:
<https://stgilesparish.flocknote.com/ENews>, and the information you need will be right in your inbox.



OUR PARISH WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP

For Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

August 17, 2025

	Weekly Total	YTD Collection
Envelopes	\$ 9,548.00	\$ 90,887.25
Loose—Total included in YTD count	\$ 919.10	
Online Giving 8/2/2025–8/18/2025	\$ 11,346.38	\$ 78,288.48
Mail Collection	\$ 4,572.00	
Total Collections	\$ 26,385.48	\$ 169,175.73
Summer Mission Collection		\$ 6,623.00

Those wishing to make their donations online through GiveCentral can find the link and easy-to-follow instructions on the church website:
www.catholiccommunitiesof oakpark.org/giving

Contact Carol Coleman at the Parish Center, 708-383-3430, Ext. 419 with any questions or for assistance. We could not be here without you!

MASS COUNT

Saturday, August 16, 2025

4:30 PM – 156

Sunday, August 17, 2025

8:00 AM – 160, 10:30 AM – 262, Family Mass – 160

Total Mass Count – 738

PARISH WEBSITE

[HTTPS://WWW.CATHOLICCOMMUNITIESOFOAKPARK.ORG](https://www.catholiccommunitiesof oakpark.org)

The new website launched on July 1 and replaces the two previous websites. Each legacy website has a landing page that will notify visitors of the change. The new website is a work-in-progress as we continue to add content and updates. Administrators, Hugo Lugo and Marybeth Granholm, will remain as primary contacts for each parish.

As you begin to explore the website, please share your feedback with us. We hope the website reflects the vibrant, welcoming spirit of our Catholic community.





Join us on September 6 at the 4:30 PM Mass at Saint Giles Church as we bless the mission of Solidarity Bridge and meet their team members.

For patients in Bolivia and Paraguay, untreated health issues can seriously limit their ability to work, care for their families, and pursue their dreams. Rooted in the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, for over 25 years, Solidarity Bridge has worked in partnership with the medical communities in these countries to increase access to safe, essential, and timely surgical care.



Learn more about Solidarity Bridge at: SolidarityBridge.org



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



MARRIED IN 1975?

HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR THE ANNUAL GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS?

Couples celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary from across the Archdiocese of Chicago are invited to gather together for the Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass that will be celebrated by Cardinal Cupich on Sunday, September 14, 2025 at 2:30 PM. The Mass will be held at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago, Illinois.

Please email gwa@archchicago.org or contact your parish office with questions. To register online, please visit pvm.archchicago.org/events/golden-wedding.

We hope to see you there!

MIGRANT MINISTRY— BACK TO SCHOOL TIME



There's nothing like the smell of newly sharpened pencils, the perfect points of new crayons, and stiffness of new notebooks as children collect supplies for a new school year. And so it was for the migrant children who came to Centro San Edmundo

recently for a Back-to-School Carnival organized by the North Berwyn Girl Scouts and the distribution of school supplies made possible by generous donors including Old Saint Pats and the First Congregational Church of LaGrange.

Children picked a backpack in their favorite color, and then augmented the basic school supplies already in the backpack with their specific needs according to their grade level. Then onto the carnival where the Girl Scouts had organized various floor games and distributed lots and lots of prizes. The children were very happy and the Scouts pleased with the immense success of the carnival, an activity they created and carried out as part of their Silver Award requirements, the highest award in Girl Scouts. Thank you, donors and Girl Scouts!



Pivoting has been our hallmark in the Migrant Ministry. Services in the Saint Edmund school building will end on October 9 and will move to another space. Until further notice, we will pause donations on Monday, September 15. Immigration and ESL will move across the street to Murphy Hall, and we are still seeking a location for the "free stores."

Our work would not be possible without the volunteers and your generous donations. Here is our updated AMAZON WISH LIST (<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3VKSYQWISEBOM>) and QR code. WE ARE NOW COLLECTING WINTER CLOTHING. For more information, email immigrantministry@gmail.com.



To donate online through GiveCentral use the link below OR send donations to Saint Catherine-Saint Lucy and Saint Giles Parish, 1025 Columbian, Oak Park, IL 60302. Include a note that the donation is for the "Migrant Ministry". Thank you for your generous hearts! (<https://www.givecentral.org/customizable-online-giving/444/event/36149>).

the Neighborhood



HELP US BUILD A BRIDGE TO SUPPORT THE AUSTIN COMMUNITY

Pantry Volunteers Needed: We are launching a volunteer-staffed Essentials Pantry in the former rectory at Saint Catherine of Siena-Saint Lucy in mid-August. Families from our five partner schools in Austin will be able to receive household necessities, such as cleaning supplies, toiletries, and baby products. Volunteers are needed to receive, stock, and deliver items to the schools. The commitment is fewer than four hours per week. To volunteer, contact Pantry Coordinator Christine Wedekind at christine.wedekind@aol.com.

Become an Advocate: We are also recruiting volunteers to serve as Advocates—trained companions who walk alongside families as they navigate services and pursue their goals. This unique role provides meaningful one-on-one support and connection. To learn more, we invite you to attend our Bridge Breakfast on September 6 or contact Jeanne Gallo at jeanne.gallo@theneighborhoodbridge.org

You're Invited: Bridge Breakfast on September 6: Join us at our next Bridge Breakfast on Saturday, September 6 at 8:30 AM in the Tutoring Center at Maguire Hall. There you'll learn more about our programs and how you can get involved. Sign up at theneighborhoodbridge.org/volunteer.

The Neighborhood Bridge, born out of the Renew My Church initiative, is dedicated to connecting Austin families with the services they need to thrive. Learn more at: www.catholiccommunitiesofoakpark.org/the-neighborhood-bridge.

HOUSING FORWARD HOUSING FORWARD NEEDS YOU!

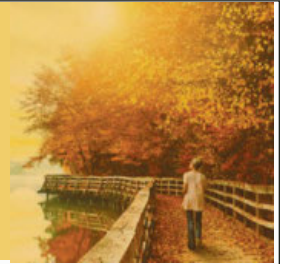
In case you didn't know, Housing Forward is scheduled to open a new emergency overnight shelter with 40 beds in September at 112 S. Humphrey Avenue in Oak Park. This is twice as many beds as have been available at the Saint Catherine of Siena-Saint Lucy Rectory.

The new facility will offer additional space for clients to receive wraparound services, updated bathrooms and showers, and an industrial kitchen on-site with a communal eating area. This means additional volunteer opportunities to not only provide meals, but serve and interact with guests, similar to the prior PADS model, but without the distraction of traveling locations!

Interested in volunteering or learning more? Contact Cherrell Jackson at 708-338-1724 X 201 or cjackson@housingforward.org.

Grieving the death of a spouse?

*Or do you know
someone who is?*



Your life has changed forever.
The daily emotions and challenges can seem
too hard to bear.

We are here to help.

At this seminar you will hear

- Practical advice from others who've been there
- What to expect in your grief
- How to cope with life without your spouse
- Why it won't always hurt this much

LOSS OF A SPOUSE

Saturday, September 13, 2025 - 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Grace Lutheran Church

7300 W. Division St. - River Forest

Light refreshments will be served.



To register, call 708-366-6900 or email gracechurch@gracriverforest.org

Co-sponsored by Grace Lutheran Church and St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy and St. Giles Catholic Church



Grief Support Group

*Help and encouragement
after the death of a loved one.*

At a Grief Share group, you'll find understanding, guidance, relief, and a safe place to navigate the challenges of grief. Come join us!

Tuesdays
September 16 to December 9, 2025
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Saint Giles Campus, McDonough Hall
1101 Columbian Ave., Oak Park
708-223-4912
griefshare@stgilesparish.org

griefshare.org





DID YOU KNOW?

THE SAINT GILES COMMUNITY GARDEN HAS GROWN 900 POUNDS OF PRODUCE TO DONATE TO LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES?

Curious to see what is growing?

The garden is located behind the parish center.

Or join us at the OPEN GARDENS WALK
Sunday, September 14 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

HELP US CONTINUE TO GROW OUR IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY!

We are looking for the following:

- seeds (fruit, vegetables, herbs)
- native plant divisions
- pots and planters (new or used)
- volunteers

Have something else? Email us! Email Trista Allgood -
tbakale@gmail.com to let us know what you have to donate
and to schedule pickup/drop-off.



VINE AND BRANCHES IS WAITING FOR YOU!

Vine and Branches is the climate crisis
committee of Saint Catherine of Siena-

Saint Lucy, and Saint Giles Parish. We responded to the call from Pope Francis' Laudato Si encyclical to care for and to heal Earth through education, awareness, advocacy, spirituality, and action. Just these past months, we've collected batteries for recycling and, in collaboration with Ascension and Saint Edmund H.O.M.E. climate care group, we continue to collect plastic toward the TREX bench. We celebrated Earth Day with a Creation Liturgy. Our goals include coordinating a Sustainability Fair on April 19, 2026 at Saint Giles McDonough Hall. (We need more vendors!) Our Saint Giles Community Garden is looking for more volunteers and will participate in the Open Gardens Walk on Sunday, September 14. Our Spirituality goals include a Creation Liturgy and a Day of Reflection that is in the works for the coming year.

One Home One Future is comprised of faith-based organizations and congregations across the country united in caring for Earth. Vine and Branches is a member. We receive monthly resources to support our mission to educate, advocate and act.

Our next meeting will take place on Sunday, September 7 at 1:30 PM on Zoom. Contact Sister Sue to join Vine and Branches at spaweski@spsmw.org. We need YOU!!

OPEN GARDEN WALK



Come visit us at our community congregational gardens where we grow fresh produce to support our local food pantries. The Open Garden Walk will take place on Sunday, September 14 from

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Oak Park Catholic parishes, Temple Har Zion and Oak Park Temple B'nai Abraham Zion. Meet the gardeners who will be happy to answer questions about this ministry.

CREATION CARE CORNER

World Day for the Care of Creation 2025

Pope Leo XIV, following in the footsteps of Pope Francis, issued the 10th World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on September 1, initiating the Season of Creation.

Pope Leo harnesses the images and biblical references of the positive transformational power of "the seed": grain and flowers springing up by chance in unexpected areas. Peace, hope, and righteous action will be the seeds that will help us bear fruit in a world where God's creation is being degraded. It is clear that various parts of the world are being ravaged by injustice, violations of international law, grave inequalities and the greed that fuels them. The results include deforestation, pollution, and the loss of biodiversity and life. The poor and marginalized are being harmed the most.

Leo exclaims, "Nature itself is reduced at times to a bargaining chip, a commodity to be bartered for economic or political gain. As a result, God's creation turns into a battleground for the control of vital resources." Now is the time for action. Protecting creation is not a secondary aspect of our Christian experience. He tells us this will take time, perseverance, cooperation and love, but will bear the fruit of enhanced justice and renewal - especially if that love mirrors the Lord's own self-sacrificing Love.

In closing the prayer, Pope Leo encourages Catholics and people of good will to continue to be inspired by the Encyclical Laudato Si'.

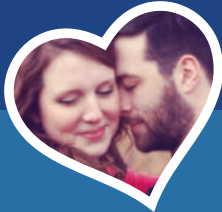


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