



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



SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

**25TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

"For the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon." - Lk 16:8b, 13

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.org
 Website: www.catholiccommunitiesofoakpark.org

Business Hours:

Monday - 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM
 Tuesday - 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM
 Wednesday - 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM
 Thursday - 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM
 Friday - 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
 Saturday - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Lauren Locke & Sister Sue Paweski, Daytime Receptionists
 Kathleen Coleman, Madelyn McCreary & Magdalena Francisco
 Pascual, 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.org
 Website: 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 -
 rfaulman@spiritandlightcenter.org
 Cooky Perez-Eraci, *Director of Youth Ministry* -
 mperezraci@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.org
 Website: 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**

Brothers and sisters in faith, our country is living through a difficult

season. Political divisions run deep. Too often, as we have recently seen very publicly, the anger that comes with disagreement spills over into hostility and violence that leads to death. As Christians, we must be clear: political violence is a sin. It denies the dignity of the person, it destroys the peace we are called to build, and it betrays the gospel of Jesus, who told us, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

It is not wrong to disagree about political issues. In fact, thoughtful respectful debate can be a healthy part of democracy. However, when our differences turn to hatred - when we begin to see one another as an enemy to be destroyed rather than a fellow human being made in God's image - we have lost sight of Christ's way.

Each time we make the sign of the cross at the beginning and end of our prayers, the cross reminds us that violence is never the answer. Jesus did not respond to betrayal, false accusation, or injustice with violence. He chose love, forgiveness, and truth. That same choice is being asked of us today.

What can we do personally? One simple but powerful step is this: examine our words. Before speaking, posting or sharing, ask: Does this build up or tear down? Does this reflect love, or does it sow division? Choosing restraint, respect, and kindness in our speech is a way of disarming the cycle of anger. It might seem small, but

these small acts of peace ripple outward. If enough of us commit to responding with dignity, respect, and prayer instead of hostility, then we become a leaven of hope in a divided nation. Let us pray for peace in our country, for healing across divides, and for the courage to witness to the gospel of love even when it is hard.

I invite us all to take this prayer and place it where we will see it, and pray it each day. We need peace and civility in our nation.

A Prayer for Peace in Our Nation

*Lord Jesus,
 You are the Prince of Peace.*

*You teach us to love our
 enemies and pray for those who
 oppose us.*

*Heal the divisions in our
 country.*

*Forgive us when our anger turns
 to hatred and when words and
 actions cause harm.*

*Give us courage to choose
 peace over violence, truth over
 distortion and love over fear.*

*Make us instruments of your
 peace, in our families, in our
 parish, and in our nation.*

*We commit ourselves today to
 speak with respect, to act with
 kindness, and to work for the
 dignity of every person.*

*Mary, Queen of Peace,
 pray for us.*

Amen

Let us pray for all who have lost their lives to political violence. May they be resting now in true peace, God's peace.

Have a safe and good week ahead.

With you a Christian. For you, a priest.

F. Carl

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Manuel Aguilar, Patrick Ahearn, Coletta Ali, 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, Kittie Foley, Mary Ellen Frank, 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, Joshua Washington, 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.



WELCOMING MINISTRY

All are Welcome!

Do you feel that Saint Catherine of Siena-Saint Lucy and Saint Giles needs to be a place of belonging? Would you like to find a way to bring a little hope and light into the parish?

Consider joining the Welcoming Ministry as a Greeter!

Greeters are parishioners who:

- Open doors, smile and greet all who come to Mass.
- Work with the Ushers and Hospitality ministers to ensure that each person who enters feels as comfortable and at home as possible.
- Have a loving heart and a welcoming spirit.

If you are a greeter, usher or hospitality minister - or if you would LIKE to serve in one of these ministries, come to the Welcoming Ministry Gathering on Monday, September 22 at 6:00 PM in McDonough Hall. Dinner will be provided.

Contact Julie Denise, cdenisj@yahoo.com to be added to the ministry!

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SAINT GILES CHURCH

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

6:30 AM The Deceased of the Parish

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

6:30 AM All Parishioners & Benefactors

8:30 AM James Morey

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

6:30 AM Brenda Scanlon & Sister Evangeline McSloy, RSM

Peggy Connolly

8:30 AM All Parishioners & Benefactors

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

6:30 AM All Parishioners & Benefactors

8:30 AM Connie Rakitan

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

6:30 AM Joey Cocco

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

8:00 AM Regina Cahill

4:30 PM Alicia Lupita Hernandez
Eva P. Kunkel
Jean Petrasek

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

8:00 AM Rose Jantelezio
Emily Hedges
Claire Archibald

10:00 AM Family Mass in Saint Giles School Gym

*10:30 AM Terrence B. Rice
Joanne Monahan
Miguel Mariduen

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

SAINT EDMUND CHURCH

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

5:00 PM Oak Park Catholic Parishes Mass



This week at **St. Giles School**

In school this week...

Middle School Science Gets Messy with Oobleck!

This week, our middle school scientists rolled up their sleeves for a hands-on experiment with oobleck — a strange, slimy substance made from cornstarch and water. Named after the Dr. Seuss story, oobleck is a non-Newtonian fluid, which means it sometimes acts like a liquid and sometimes like a solid, depending on how you touch it. Students tested its unique properties, asked “what if” questions, and made predictions as they explored the science of states of matter. It was a messy, laughter-filled day in the lab, and a perfect example of how curiosity leads to discovery!



Upcoming Events

St. Giles School Annual Sponsorship Program

We're excited to invite you to be a part of something truly special at St. Giles School! Our Lion's Leap Fun Run is October 3—and we would love for you to be a part of the fun! By becoming a sponsor, you'll help us raise money for important campus improvements, new academic programs, and expanded tuition support for families in need. In return, your business will be recognized in big ways—your logo will be featured around campus, in our newsletters, and on our school's social media pages throughout the year. We'd love to talk more about sponsorship opportunities and how we can partner with you this year. Please feel free to reach out to us directly at 708-383-6279 or visit www.stgilesschool.org and click “Giving” to Donate!



Sponsor Levels & Benefits

CATHOLIC VALUES SPONSOR (\$1,500)

- Company logo displayed at Lion's Leap and Black & Gold Pride, school website and parish bulletin
- Verbal recognition at Black & Gold Pride
- Dedicated social media post and inclusion in the end-of-the-year thank you social media post

LIVELONG LEADERSHIP SPONSOR (\$750)

- Company name listed at Lion's Leap and Black & Gold Pride, school website and parish bulletin
- Inclusion in the end-of-the-year thank you social media post

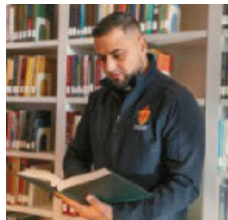
COMMUNITY BUILDER SPONSOR (\$500)

- Company name listed at Lion's Leap and Black & Gold Pride, school website and parish bulletin
- Inclusion in the end-of-the-year thank you social media post

Donate



Today!



SECOND COLLECTION - SEPTEMBER 20-21 SEMINARIAN EDUCATION FUND

The archdiocesan collection for the education and formation of our future priests.

The Seminarian Education Fund provides support for the training and education of men studying for priesthood in the Archdiocese of Chicago. The fund helps to cover the cost to educate each archdiocesan seminarian as they proceed through the various stages of formation before ordination as a priest for Chicago.

Please support the men seeking to answer God's call to a life of service as a priest for the Archdiocese 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.



PARISH WEBSITE

[HTTPS://WWW.CATHOLICCOMMUNITIESOFOAKPARK.ORG](https://www.catholiccommunitiesofaokpark.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.



OUR PARISH WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP

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

	September 7, 2025	
	Weekly Total	YTD Collection
Envelopes	\$ 12,056.00	\$ 135,331.75
Loose—Total included in YTD count	\$ 2,265.00	
Online Giving 9/2/2025–9/8/2025	\$ 13,408.99	\$ 111,891.69
Mail Collection	\$ 2,469.00	
Total Collections	\$ 30,198.99	\$ 247,223.44

Those wishing to make their donations online through GiveCentral can find the link and easy-to-follow instructions on the church website:

www.catholiccommunitiesofaokpark.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, September 6, 2025

4:30 PM – 163

Sunday, September 7, 2025

8:00 AM – 148, 10:30 AM – 280, Family Mass – 120

Total Mass Count – 711

PLANNED GIVING

Have You "insured" Our Parish?

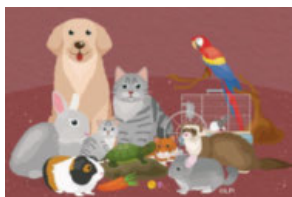
Do you have a life insurance policy you no longer need? Please consider instructing your life insurance agent to include Saint Catherine of Siena-Saint Lucy and Saint Giles as a primary or secondary beneficiary on your policy.

It costs nothing to change the beneficiary on your policy and will mean everything to our future parish community.

For more information, please contact your financial planner, attorney, or insurance representative. If you have additional questions, please contact Carol Coleman at 708-383-3430, Ext. 419 or ccoleman@stgilesparish.org, or contact, Deacon Greg Vogt, Philanthropy Officer, Archdiocese of Chicago at 312-995-0686 or gvogt@archchicago.org.



BE A PILGRIM OF HOPE AND BLESS YOUR PETS!



Saturday, October 4 is the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, and it is the day when we bless our pet friends.

This is a Jubilee Year so we are all Pilgrims of Hope. To bring our hearts together, all are invited to gather at 3:00 PM in the Courtyard to pray and sing as we honor Creation. Those who are able will walk around the block in solidarity.

Following our block pilgrimage, the Blessing of the Pets, with Deacon John, will begin at 3:30 PM in the Courtyard.

NOVENA FOR LIFE

October is Respect Life Month. The Saint Giles Respect Life Committee invites you to pray with us for a greater respect for life in our country and our world. We will be praying the Novena to Our Lady of the Rosary beginning September 28. There are two ways to pray: with daily email reminders or with a paper copy of the Novena. The copies will be in the vestibule of the Church on the d September 21st.

On Thursday, October 16, we will gather in Saint Giles Church to pray the Holy Hour for Life. Please join us

If you have any questions, please call Denise Hartney at 708-203-7437, or email at dhartney14@gmail.com.

Night of Light

Are you searching for light?

Come to reflect and pray for hope, peace, and light in the world.

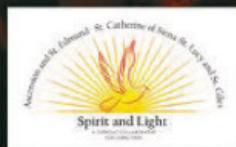
Candle Service

8 PM

Monday, Sept 29

St. Edmund Church
and Green

188 S. Oak Park Ave



ONE
IN LOVE
MINISTRY

JOIN US -
ONE IN LOVE
LGBTQ+
MINISTRY

Saturday, October 11
from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
at the 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
kathienash1023@att.net

Grief & Share

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

HELP AND ENCOURAGEMENT AFTER THE
DEATH OF A LOVED ONE.

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

Tuesdays, September 16 to December 9
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



SPRIT AND LIGHT - CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

Whoever welcomes in my name one of these children, welcomes me; And whoever welcomes me, welcomes not only me but also the one who sent me. --Mark 9:37

Today, we express our gratitude to all volunteer catechists who share their faith with the children and adults of the Oak Park Parishes through our Spirit and Light Religious Education programs. We acknowledge that serving as a catechist, confirmation mentor, table leader, volunteer, classroom aide is a significant commitment of time and treasure! Thank you to all of our countless volunteers....

Catechists pray for their students regularly, and this weekend, we pray for and bless our dedicated catechists.

CATECHISTS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Annie Breitenstein	Audrey Kane	Jolene Ostry
Kat Briones	Kate Klein	Anna Marie Parks
Susan Charrette	Cathi Knickrehm	Traci Pratt
Margaret Burk	Paul Knight	Susan Purdie
Sarah Duffy	Veronika Kolos	Deb Ruff
Scarlett Evans	Matt Krystal	Lisa Runge
Lisa Fischer	Sharon Kutta	Cony Santillan
Debra Fiumefreddo	Nicole Laroco	Joanna Siciliano
Anne Gallagher	Kelly Maginot	Mary Sluka
Keenan	Diana Martin	Susy Sullivan
Ashley Gedvilas	Sharon Morgan	Peggy Swanson
Linda Greene	Megan Mulcahy	Nicole Taylor
Mary Ellen Gruszka	Maureen O'Hara	Beth Uhen
Chloe Jablecka	Charley Nelson	Jen Wenschlof
LaVerne Johnson	Greta Ostry	Jess Wright Buha

TRADITIONAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sara Araiza	Gowri Kuda	Nelson Sinchi
Catalina Bell	Marisa Munoz	Gina Sinorella
Francine Buhrmann	Theresa Olsen	Noel Vasquez
Andrea De Armas	Julia Paston	Michael Waugh
Holly Derosa	Pat Pruitt	Sandra Zamudio
Thomas Earle	Catalina Sell	

FAMILY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CATECHISM

Sara Doherty	Sharon Payton	Josh Risley
Jane Houle	Danielle Porter	Paul Rubio
Wioletta Jablecka	Geoff Pratt	Bill Samatas
Mary Mitrovich		

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

Gerry Downey	Yesinia Maldonado	Claudia Smith
Jim Gates	Kelly McDonald	Tegan Smith
Frank Hulefeld	Zayda Medina	Vivian Smith
Bill Jany	Geoff Pratt	

CONFIRMATION

Thomas Babbo	Matt Goto	Chris Reisor
Carrie Bernarde	Annette Hulefeld	Paul Rubio
John Boyle	Frank Hulefeld	Renee Smith-Quinn
Linda Brown	Yedlin Jesuit	Michelle Uhler
Clare Clark	Lynne Kutyllo	Bill Wilson
Julie Denise		

OCIA

Pat Carew
Kathleen Gorman

SPRED

Diane Elsworth Kathy Ritten
Kathleen Ferguson Cheryl Scouffas
Sharon Morgan

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

Sharon Bresnahan
Deborah Ruff
Christine Schweih-De Foe
John Walters

YOUTH MINISTRY

Nikole Drever
Matt Goto
Julia Patson
Michelle Steinman

FIRST COMMUNION & RECONCILIATION

Katie Kralik Renee Smith-Quinn
Andrea Legatzke Jen Wenschhof
Mary Mitrovitch

PREP

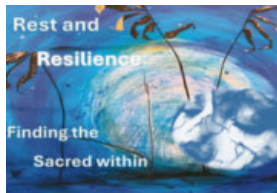
Cindy Jewell
Janet Schroeder

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

Don Gimbel Rick Leninger
Marcial Gomez Sharon Paluch
Joan Johnson

Spirit and Light: A Catholic Collaborative
for Living Faith

Spirit and Light is a collaborative among
Ascension and Saint Edmund Parish,
Saint Catherine of Siena-Saint Lucy and
Saint Giles Parish, and the Saint Giles
Family Mass Community



REST AND RESILIENCE FINDING THE SACRED WITHIN

Take time to rest and restore your resilience. Experience the grace of healing moments. Encounter the sacred that is always within you. Connect with a friendly community of women. All women of the parish are welcome.

Family Mass Community's Annual Women's Retreat
LaSalle Manor Retreat Center, Plano, Illinois

September 26 to September 28
Friday to Sunday: 2 nights, 4 meals - \$240
Saturday and Sunday: 1 night, 3 meals - \$210
Saturday only: 2 meals - \$115

Registration:

Online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/womensretreat2025> or contact Kathy Flanagan at kathymflan@aol.com or 312-659-2789

EXPERIENCING THE PSALMS

The Saint Catherine of Siena-
Saint Lucy and Saint Giles
Wednesday Night Bible Study is
starting a new series on the Psalms!



The psalms display the full color of the human experience and relationship with God. By diving into selected psalms - examining the context, reflecting on our own experiences and what they mean for us today - we will deepen how we pray with the psalms and draw closer to God.

Bible Study started on Wednesday, September 10. We meet on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center Living Room on the Saint Giles Campus (1025 Columbian Avenue) and over Zoom.

All are welcome from any parish or community - It is NOT necessary or required to attend each week. There is no need to have Bible Study experience... Come when you can!!

Please contact Maria Samatas (msamatas@me.com) or Alex Ryan (alexryan@stgilesparish.org) to get all the information.

LIVE THE LITURGY

No servant can serve two masters, and in his goodness, God gives us the ability to choose. Will we serve mammon, the riches of this world? Or will we seek true wealth, the kind that cannot be hoarded or wasted, but only given freely away?

©LPI

SPIRITUAL CLASSICS FOR OCTOBER: SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES AND HIS WAY OF DIVINE LOVE

Come to the next Spiritual Classics gathering on Tuesday, October 7 at 7:00 PM in the Ascension Parish Center Dining Room, where we will discuss Saint Francis de Sales' inspirational classic, *An Introduction to the Devout Life*. Jeff Wood will lead the discussion. All Oak Park parishes are welcome.

An Introduction to the Devout Life, written over four hundred years ago, inspires and guides Catholics in pursuing a holy life. De Sales thought that the holy life was accessible to all people at all ages and in all times. He uses clear, simple language and provides vivid references to images in nature and daily life. At the heart of his message is the conviction that God has made us for himself and that Jesus offers himself in prayer and sacrament as we grow closer to God.

Saint Francis de Sales was born into a noble French family, studied law and theology, and decided against his father's wishes to become a priest. He became the Bishop of Geneva, Switzerland during a time of battles between Protestants and Catholics, yet he achieved a universal reputation for patience and gentleness. He developed a sign language in order to preach to the deaf and he is the patron saint of the deaf.



FALL SESSIONS FOR FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION FOR OLDER CHILDREN IN 4TH THROUGH 8TH GRADE

Children who are in 4th Grade through 8th Grade and have not yet received their First Communion are welcome to join with their peers to prepare for celebrating the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion during the Fall.

Sessions begin on Monday, October 20, and will continue on Mondays through mid-December. All sessions will meet at 4:30 PM in the Parish Center on the Saint Giles Campus, 1025 Columbian Avenue.

There will be a parent information meeting on Monday, October 6, at 7:00 PM in the Saint Giles Parish Center.

Children who attend all preparation sessions and celebrate their first Reconciliation during the course of the sessions will be able to celebrate their First Communion at any of the weekend Masses in the churches in our two parishes of Ascension and Saint Edmund or Saint Catherine of Siena-Saint Lucy and Saint Giles.

For more information, please contact Rachel Faulman at rfaulman@spiritandlightcenter.org, or at 708-383-3430, ext. 421

MIGRANT MINISTRY UPDATE HOPE SOMETIMES HARD TO FIND



While not officially a part of the Migrant Ministry program many of our parishioners attend the Friday morning 7:15 AM Prayer Vigil at the Broadview Processing Center,

1930 Beach Street. Migrants continue to be detained there usually sleeping on the floor with little access to bathrooms. Recently this time and location has become a focus for protestors because that is the time migrants are bused to the airport for deportation.

On a recent Friday morning, the road was blocked, windows boarded up, a full contingent of media was there and many protestors, mostly young - but some of retired age and even one family with three small children. The crowd was noisy but quiet as we held the prayer service, except when ICE officers arrived or departed. The noisiest time was when a full contingent of about 20 National Guardsmen marched out in full battle gear including weapons.

And yet this week at Centro San Edmundo, we continue to provide clothing, breakfast, toiletries, and help with immigration forms. The migrants are always so grateful. One of our resettled men came this week to apply for a work permit. He is a very young man with a young family who is trying to help several friends with young children. We are proud of him and of our housing program which supports him.

Pivoting has been our hallmark in the Migrant Ministry. Services in the Saint Edmund school building will end on October 9, and we hope to move to another space. Until further notice, we will pause donations on Monday, September 15. Immigration has moved 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. We are currently no longer accepting donations of clothing or other items. Financial donations are always welcome and much needed. 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



BECOME AN ADVOCATE AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD BRIDGE

We are 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 next Bridge Breakfast on October 4 at 8:30 AM in the Tutoring Center at Maguire Hall. Learn more at theneighborhoodbridge.org/volunteer or contact Jeanne Gallo at jeanne.gallo@theneighborhoodbridge.org

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!

Housing Forward's new permanent emergency shelter for 40 guests is scheduled to open in October at 112 S. Humphrey in Oak Park. Many hands and hearts are needed to prepare for welcoming the guests.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Dinner Providers: Prepare hot dinner meal for 40 to be dropped off by 7:00 PM.
- Dinner providers can also volunteer for evening hosting if they want to stay and serve.
- Breakfast Providers: Donate breakfast supplies for 40 (cereal, fruit, juice, yogurt, etc.).
- Lunch Providers: Donate bagged lunches for 40 (sandwiches, chips, fruit, cookies, etc.) for guests to take with them when leaving the shelter the next day.
- Evening Hosting: 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM (shift can be split) - interact with guests, set up, and clean up.
- Morning Hosting: 6:00 AM to 8:00 AM - Assist with breakfast and clean-up..

Both INDIVIDUAL and GROUP volunteers are welcome and much needed.

Volunteers can sign up for one day, a few days, or ideally for an ongoing monthly commitment..

Interested in volunteering or learning more? Contact Cherrell Jackson at cjackson@housingforward.org or via phone at 708.338.1724 x201

WANT TO HELP BUT CAN'T VOLUNTEER?

Housing Forward needs supplies to help stock the shelter. Please consider purchasing a NEW housewarming at the link below as we prepare to welcome people into the new space. <https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/1BWAPIGR7ICM3>

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA-SAINT LUCY WORSHIP SITE



The fourth floor of the school was transformed into a worship space for the Saint Catherine-Saint Lucy student body. The first school Mass was celebrated on Tuesday, September 9 with Father Carl as the presider.

Under the direction of Mrs. Leamy and School Operations Director, Louie Weiss, and 25 gallons of paint, the fourth floor was transformed into the worship space for

weekly Mass, prayer services and other events in the school located at 27 Washington Blvd.

Special thanks to maintenance man Mike Stryczek who dedicated a few weeks of his time to make this new space look bright and cheery.

School children and faculty alike were delighted with the space. Kudos to all involved in making this space available!



CREATION CARE CORNER



"The pace of consumption, waste and environmental change... can only precipitate catastrophes..." "Truly much can be done!" - Pope Francis

Electric Vehicles: A Creation Care Benefit or Harm?

Transportation emissions in the United States are a huge source of both air pollution and carbon emissions. Any car, whether it has an internal combustion engine (ICE) or whether it's fully electric (EV) also has a heavy carbon footprint related to its manufacture. The longer you can keep from buying a new car and make use of the old one, the better. Reducing the number of cars your family uses is better yet. As such, purchasing an EV will not solve climate change, but it could help significantly.

When it's time to acquire a new vehicle, drivers minimize their footprint by purchasing the most fuel-efficient vehicle in the class of vehicle they really need. EVs have a heavier carbon footprint in manufacture than an ICE vehicle. But after 2 years of average driving (about 25,000 miles) that higher carbon manufacturing disadvantage goes away, and the EV becomes a "cleaner" option in "cradle-to-grave" and "well-to-wheel" carbon emissions. According to the US Dept. of Energy, electric vehicles today produce 46% fewer GHGs than comparable gasoline powered vehicles on a life cycle basis.

RESOURCE DOCUMENT FOR CAREGIVERS AVAILABLE FROM THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Our local council of the Knights of Columbus has completed its resource document for those caring for ailing or elderly loved ones. The document includes information on individual caregivers as well as agencies and offers insights from those who have provided or arranged for care for an elderly or ailing loved one.

The Ascension Council of the Knights of Columbus invites anyone who would like to receive the document, or offer additional insights to it, to send an email to KnightsCaregiverProject@gmail.com. We hope to collect additional names of caregivers or agencies used and recommendations by fellow parishioners so that we can regularly update the document. Please help us do so. And thank you to those who have already provided input!

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Need help? Food, shelter, housing, employment, job training, counseling, addictions, utilities, physical or mental health services, legal and financial, immigration, naturalization and refugee and senior services are provided by Catholic Charities. Call 312-655-7700 or catholiccharities.net.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse	1-800-821-4357
Child Abuse	1-800-252-2873
National Domestic Violence	1-800-799-SAFE
National Sexual Assault	1-800-656-4673
Compulsive Gambling Hotline	1-410-332-0402
Poison Control	1-800-222-1222
Suicide Prevention	1-800-273-8255
Elder Abuse	1-800-252-8966
Unplanned Pregnancy Option	1-800-712-4357
Abortion Pill Reversal	1-877-558-0333

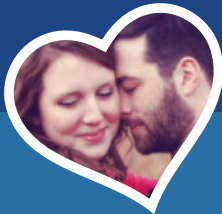


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