



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



October 12, 2025

**28TH Sunday In
Ordinary Time**

Jesus said in reply, "Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?" Then he said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you." -
LK 17:17-19

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 Saint Giles School Gym

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. 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* -
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.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

WHILE FATHER CARL IS ON VACATION . . .***From the Desk of Operations Director, Matt Brophy:***

When I started working at the parish in January 2021, Father Carl wondered if I would have enough work to keep me busy. The first project was a broken water main to the Gleeson building that occurred over the Christmas holiday. The rest has been history!

As Operations Director my focus is on four components of parish ministry:

- Financial Management
- School Support
- Building Management
- HR Management

Today I would like to highlight one major component of my work with the two campuses, namely building management. The parish has a well-functioning Facilities Committee comprised of members of both the Saint Catherine of Siena-Saint Lucy and the Saint Giles communities. The committee meets a minimum of 6 times per year to review repairs, renovations, capital projects and other needs of each campus. A member of the committee maintains a detailed spreadsheet of work that has been completed on each campus as well as work that needs to be done. All projects and repairs are prioritized as High, Medium, or Low.

At the SCSL campus major boiler and heating repairs have been completed on the main boilers that heat the school, the former convent and the church facilities. The rectory boiler was replaced, the main parking lot was resurfaced, major plumbing repairs were completed in both SisterHouse (the former convent) and the former rectory, and the 4th floor of the school was painted for a multipurpose room to be used as a worship space along with other needs of the school. Housing Forward now leases the entire former rectory with The Neighborhood Bridge. A grant awarded to Housing Forward funded the installation of new central AC and will also fund a new roof to replace the 1964 roof on the former rectory. Faith and Fellowship continues to meet in the building celebrating the legacy of Connie Rakitan.

At the Saint Giles campus some of the repairs have included reroofing the bell tower, replacing exterior sidewalks and/or steps where there were safety or fall risks, and replacement of 12 windows on the rectory and 28 windows on the first floor of the Dore Parish Center. New rooftop AC units were installed for the Church as well as a new unit installed for McDonough Hall after ice fell from the roof and destroyed the original unit. Additional work was completed in the Gleeson building to add central AC to the preschool rooms and enhanced fire safety equipment before the two-year-old preschool opened.

As Operations Director I strive to be a good steward for the financial resources of the parish. Under the guidance of Father Carl, the Finance Committee and the Facilities Committee, I have been able to maintain and make improvements at both campus sites. On behalf of the entire faith community thank you for your generous support of our parish.

If you have any questions or concerns for me or the Facilities Committee, please call me at 708-383-3430 ext. 102 or email me at mbrophy@archchicago.org.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SAINT GILES CHURCH

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13

6:30 AM The Deceased of the Parish

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

6:30 AM All Parishioners & Benefactors

8:30 AM Dawn Marotta

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

6:30 AM Jackie Haddad
The Deceased of the Daley and
Archibald Families
The Deceased of the
Abraham Family

8:30 AM All Parishioners & Benefactors

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

6:30 AM All Parishioners & Benefactors

8:30 AM Brent Whiston
Joseph Paulus

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

6:30 AM Carlos Mazón
Owen Petrzelka
Joey Cocco

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

8:00 AM Frank Bukowski, Sr.

4:30 PM All Parishioners & Benefactors

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

8:00 AM Simon Shaker
Mildred Steffes
Kathleen Earnhart

10:00 AM Family Mass Community in Saint
Giles School Gym

*10:30 AM Elizabeth and Sam Jantelezio
The Deceased of the
Schweihs-DeFoe Family
Edilberto Gonzales
Reverend Nicholas J. Crosby
(Saint Lucy 10/19/1987)

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

SAINT EDMUND CHURCH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

5:00 PM Oak Park Catholic Parishes Mass

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Manuel Aguilar, Patrick Ahearn, Coletta Ali, Mark Andersen, Antoine Ashley, 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, Kitti Foley, Baby Ford Gallagher, Sister Regina Gallo, Deacon John Henricks, Lois Henricks, Bill Holmes, 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, Geraldine Pedersen, Lorenzo Perez, Andrew Perricone, 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, especially, Patricia Holian, Mary Ellen Frank, Julia Maldonado, John Chatfield, and Ronile Rubino.



Wedding Banns

II John Samatas &
Haley Hudler

WHERE THE
ROSARY IS
RECITED
THERE WILL
BE DAYS OF
PEACE AND
TRANQUILITY.

—ST. JOHN BOSCO

Join Mercy Associates
From Honduras to Learn about the
The Women's Forum (*Foro de Mujeres*)

Safety for Those Who Stay:
Honduran Women's Struggle Against Violence
Sunday, October 26, 7-9 PM, St. Giles Campus
McDonough Hall, 1101 Columbian Ave., Oak Park, IL

Safety for Those Who Stay

Why do people migrate? One reason is the threat of violence to themselves and their children.

The women in Honduras face extremely high levels of domestic violence and femicide.

We are asking for your support to purchase a national headquarters for **The Women's Forum (*Foro de Mujeres*)** that focuses on solutions to this problem.



Martha Isabel Sandoval

Noemí Dubón

Our speakers will share their stories and successes in supporting and caring for Honduran women.



For more information:

Dr. Marci Madary
Director of Spirit and Light
mmadry@spiritandlightcenter.org



The Saint Giles Respect Life Committee invites you to pray a Holy Hour for Life with Benediction at 7 PM on October 17. If you have any questions, please either call Denise Hartney at 708-203-7437 or email her at dhartney14@gmail.com.



On Saturday, November 1, our parish will celebrate All Souls' Day at the 4:30 PM Mass at Saint Giles Church. At Mass, we will remember all of our parishioners who have been buried from both parish churches during the past year. This Mass is an occasion to honor those connected to the parish who have died since November 2024. All are invited, especially those who have lost a loved one who was either buried from our parish or who we prayed for at our weekend Masses throughout the previous year. We will read the list of names of the departed and light candles in their memory.

If someone close to you died during this time but was buried from another place, or if you wish to include their name in the list read at the Mass of Remembrance offered on November 1, please email the information to the Parish Center at stgiles@stgilesparish.org or call the office at 708-383-3430. Additions must be received by 9:00 AM, Wednesday, October 29.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Need help? Food, shelter, housing, employment, job training, counseling, addiction, utilities, physical and/or mental health services, legal and financial, immigration, naturalization and refugee and senior services are provided by Catholic Charities. Either call 312-655-7700 or email 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



**The holidays are
challenging when you're
grieving a loss.**

GriefShare

**Surviving
the Holidays**

Provides encouragement, support,
and valuable tools to navigate the season.

Join us for this holiday seminar
Co-Hosted by: Grace Lutheran Church, River Forest, IL

Sunday, November 16
12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Saint Giles Campus
1101 Columbian, Oak Park, IL
McDonough Hall - 2nd Floor

For information, contact Geri Tapling
griefshare@stgilesparish.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.



GriefShare

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



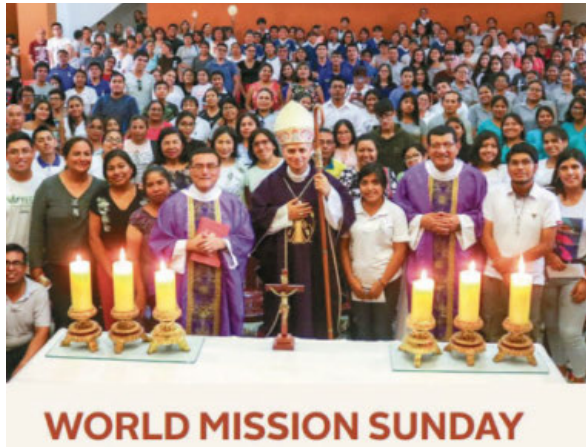
SENIOR CORNER

Pope Francis declared 2025 as a Jubilee Year. We are all invited to celebrate by making a pilgrimage to a designated "Jubilee

Church." Our Seniors will be journeying to Saint Francis Borgia Church on Tuesday, October 21, for a Jubilee visit and a tour of the church. We will carpool over to the church for our 11:30 AM visit.

Following our stay, we will venture over to Red Lobster (4401 N. Cumberland) for an optional lunch. Saint Francis Borgia Church is located at 8033 W. Addison St. Please plan on joining us for this spiritual visit and a delightful meal.

SECOND COLLECTION - OCTOBER 18-19



Support Missionaries of Hope Among All Peoples

Let us contribute to the evangelizing mission of the Catholic Church with our witness of life and prayer, our sacrifices and generosity. The collection taken this day provides critical support to 1,124 dioceses in remote and resource-limited areas. We accompany these local churches as they seek to proclaim the Gospel and celebrate the Sacraments in hope. Our offerings support pastoral and catechetical programs, build new churches, provide healthcare and education.

WeAreMissionary.org/wms

CREEDS EXPLAINED

Most Catholics can recite at least portions of the Nicene and Apostles Creed by heart – but though these are perhaps the best-known two creeds of modern times, Church tradition has yielded many more.

A creed (from the Latin “credo,” meaning “I believe”) is a summary of the most important articles of faith agreed upon by a group of people who hold them as truth. Tradition attributes authorship of the Apostles’ Creed to Christ’s 12 Apostles. The Nicene Creed originated at the first worldwide ecumenical council in Nicaea in 325 AD. The Athanasian Creed is another famous statement of belief approved by the Church, this one focusing particularly on the matter of the Holy Trinity.

All approved creeds fulfill Christ’s Great Commission to “make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19) and the need for Christians to “always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15).

©LPi

OUR PARISH WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP

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

September 28, 2025

	Weekly Total	YTD Collection
Envelopes	\$ 6,357.00	\$ 173,969.81
Loose—Total included in YTD count	\$ 1,461.00	
Online Giving 9/16/2025–9/22/2025	\$ 13,689.34	\$ 145,696.81
Mail Collection	\$ 7,533.00	
Total Collections	\$ 29,040.34	\$ 319,666.72

Those wishing to make their donations online through GiveCentral can find the link and easy-to-follow instructions on the church website:
www.catholiccommunitiesofoakpark.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 27, 2025

4:30 PM – 133

Sunday, September 28, 2025

8:00 AM – 163, 10:30 AM – 277, Family Mass – 104

Total Mass Count – 677

PLANNED GIVING

Do you have an estate plan? If not, now is the perfect time to contact an estate planning professional to begin the process. If you already have a plan in place, it is a suitable time to review it and make any needed modifications.

Please prayerfully consider remembering our parish when you update your estate plans. These gifts help to build a solid foundation for the Catholic formation of future generations. For more information, visit myimpact.archchicago.org/resources or contact our parish business manager, Carol Coleman, either by calling 708-383-3430, Ext. 419, or by emailing ccoleman@stgilesparish.org or for a free step-by-step guide to reviewing your estate plan, please contact Deacon Greg Vogt, Philanthropy Officer, Archdiocese of Chicago at 312-995-0686 or gvogt@archchicago.org.

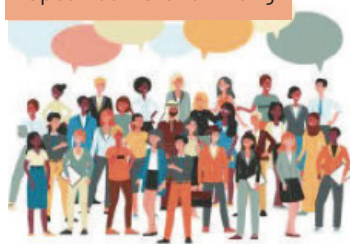


OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

START THE CONVERSATION TO END THE SILENCE THAT SHELTERS THE EPIDEMIC OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

Domestic violence occurs everyday, in every neighborhood around the world.

Speak out. Stand strong.



Start the conversation to end domestic violence.

Please talk about it.

Victims are suffering because of our silence. It could be your sibling, your co-worker, your neighbor.

Your voice may give a victim the courage to seek help.

How can we shift our culture away from blaming the victim and instead hold the offender accountable? Don't excuse the behavior.

Challenge the myths: "Survivors can just leave"; "Only certain people are victims"; "Only physical harm counts"; "Domestic violence is a private, family matter".

Question how the media portrays unhealthy relationships. Does the story sensationalize trauma or promote awareness that patterns of domestic violence are a public health crisis?

The causes of domestic violence take conscious action. When children do not receive education about healthy relationships, violence becomes normalized.

God of Peace, we pray. Amen.

Experiencing Domestic Violence: National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233); State of Illinois Helpline: 1-800-787-3224 (TDD); State of Illinois Helpline: 1-877-863-6338 (1-877-TO END DV); National Teen Dating Abuse Hotline: 1-866-331-9474.

LOCAL: Dial 911; Sarah's Inn 24-Hour Crisis Line: 708-386-4225; Between Friends 24-Hour Crisis Hotline: 1-800-603-HELP (4357); Connections for Abused Women and their Children (CAWC) 24-Hour Hotline: 773-278-4566; W.I.N.G.S. 24-Hour Hotline: 1-847-221-7725; Crisis Center For South Suburbia 24/7 Hotline: 708-429-7723; Catholic Charities Counseling 1-312-655-7725.

Learn about the mission and resources of the Domestic Violence Outreach program by logging onto www.domesticviolenceoutreach.org



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUTREACH
AWARENESS - SERVICES - PREVENTION



Organ Concert November 16 Save the Date!

To celebrate the completion of the pipe organ project the parish has scheduled an organ concert in Saint Giles Church on Sunday, November 16. Details will be coming soon, so please save the date!



This week at Saint Giles School

In school this week . . .
Blue Ribbon School 2025

This week, our ambassadors and teachers came together to celebrate with cheers in the hallways, Lion's Leap and our National Blue Ribbon Award! It's been a wonderful week for our community-full of spirit, connection, and pride in what we're building together.

Our Lions Thank You!

What a wonderful past week we've had with all of Lions' hard work and the HUGE success of our Lion's Leap. All of our community truly came together and made this year's event one of the biggest successes we have ever had. Your support is what makes our school so strong. Together, we've built memories, celebrated school spirit, and demonstrated the power of teamwork. Thank you to all who have contributed-your support is greatly appreciated.

If you have not had a chance to donate, our donation site is still open. Thank you for supporting our school!



DONATE TODAY!



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.

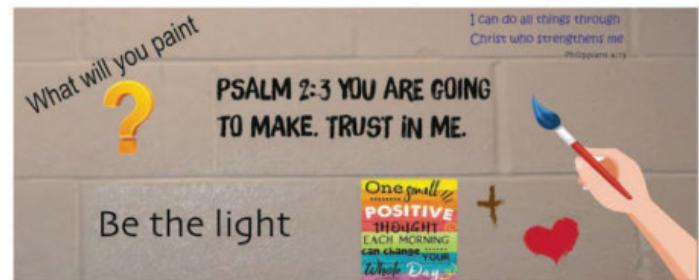
Sessions begin on Monday, October 20, and will continue on Mondays through mid-December. All sessions will meet at 4:30 PM in the Parish Center on the Saint Giles Campus, 1025 Columbian Avenue.

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

Youth Ministry



Hey teens! Come make your mark at the Youth Ministry Center by painting a brick on our wall with your favorite Bible verse or a positive saying. This is your chance to add your creativity, faith, and inspiration to a space that belongs to all of us. Bring your ideas, your friends, and let's fill the wall with hope and encouragement! If you are an artist bring your own favorite paints and brushes.



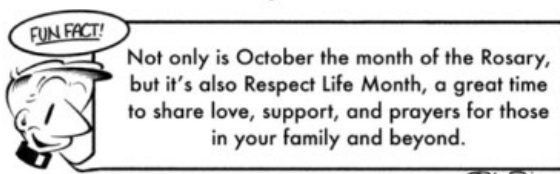
Sunday, October 19
6:30 - 8:00 PM
St. Edmund
Youth Ministry Room
Murphy Hall Annex



"What do you call a gourd's family?"



"Pump-kin."



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.

Pastors of Saint Catherine of Siena, Saint Lucy and Saint Catherine of Siena-Saint Lucy Parishes Memorial Wall



A Memorial Wall has been created in the Gleeson Building to honor the pastors of Saint Catherine of Siena, Saint Lucy and Saint Catherine of Siena-Saint Lucy Parishes. The photos hang on the wall opposite of the photos on the Memorial Wall honoring the pastors of Saint Giles Parish.

The pastors of the parishes were: Rev. Michael Foley (SC 1889), Rev. Louis A. Campbell (SC 1889-1911), Rev. John J. Bowen (SC 1911-1935), Rev. Maurice A. Dorney (SL 1911-1939), Rev. Joseph M. Morrison (SC 1935-1938), Rev. Robert C. McGuire (SC 1938-1962), Msgr. Timothy F. Rowan (SL 1939-1964), Rev. Harry C. Rynard (SC 1962-1972), Rev. Nicholas J. Crosby (SL 1972-1974), Rev. John J. Carolan (SC 1972-1974, SCSL 1974-1991), Most Rev. Edward K. Braxton (SCSL 1991-1995), Rev. Daniel J. Whiteside (SCSL 2000-12), and Rev. George O. Omwando (SCSL 2012-2021).

Please note that photos were not available for all of the pastors.

Creation Corner



We did it! All your efforts to collect plastic have paid off with a bench for Ascension and Saint Edmund Parish. It was decided that that would be the best place for it since Saint Giles campus already has several benches in the courtyard. A blessing of the bench is in the works.

A bi-monthly tip for saving our planet will be published in the bulletin. With all of the chaos of our world, we need to continue to work in our own spaces to make a difference

Local Food Systems

Where does your food come from! What native plants/crops grow in your neighborhood? How is your community effected by food insecurity? Visit the local farmers' markets and check out the Saint Giles School Community Garden! Please contact Sister Sue Paweski for more information at spsmw.org.

CREATION CARE CORNER



"The Church has a responsibility towards Creation and considers it her duty... to protect earth, water and air as gifts of God, the Creator, meant for everyone..."

- Pope Benedict XVI

Creation Care and Respect Life A Connection

Life and Dignity of the Human Person and Care for God's Creation are separate but interconnected themes in Catholic Social Teaching. These teachings call upon us to respect human life. Many examples demonstrate the relationship between environmental degradation and negative impacts on human life, which are cause for action. Poor air quality from industrial pollution and burning fossil fuels ends life prematurely for 100,000 Americans each year. Carbon pollution contributes to worsening droughts, more intense hurricanes, and flooding...all of which cut lives short or cost additional lives. Respecting human life and dignity calls us to be better stewards of the environment. In caring for the environment, we are also acting on our special responsibility to the poor, the vulnerable, and the unborn of future generations who are most affected and least heard.



POPE LEO XIV @ PONTIFEX

When it seems we have hit rock bottom, let us remember that this is the very place from which God is able to begin a new creation. This creation is made of people raised up, with hearts forgiven and tears wiped away.

MIGRANT MINISTRY UPDATE: VOLUNTEERS ARE SANCTUARY BRICKS

Last Thursday, October 9, was our last Migrant Ministry Services day in Centro San Edmundo, the former Saint Edmund School building, and a lease agreement with the



new site has not been worked out yet. The Migrant Ministry has been pivoting and adapting to a changing reality since it began in June 2023 by offering showers in the former rectory at the Saint Catherine-Saint Lucy Campus to the migrants sleeping at the Austin Police Station. Our pivot now is

crucial—more than just the “free stores”, **how do we meet the needs of the migrants too afraid and traumatized to leave their homes? Afraid to send their children to school? Their dreams of a safe and secure life in the United States at risk of being shattered?**

The free stores are paused, but our incredible volunteers are not stopping. Immigration Support Services and ESL will continue temporarily in Murphy Hall. Mentors continue to accompany the 24 families we have resettled. A training is scheduled for volunteers to learn how to accompany and support migrants attending immigration-related hearings. We have filled requests for specific clothing items from local residents for migrant families they know. Our commitment remains strong.

Padre Vittorio Bruscella, CMF, chaplain for the Migrant Ministry, recently reflected that “the word ‘Sanctuary’ no longer means a place made of bricks.” The volunteers are “a shield and refuge for our migrant brothers and sisters” and “a sign of humanity in the midst of so much violence and cruelty.” With their average age in the mid-70s, the over 500 women and men who have volunteered over the past 2½ years are indeed a living, adapting, boots-on-the-ground SANCTUARY. **¡MIL GRACIAS!**

We are pausing all but financial donations now and will alert you when we can accept other donations again. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Migrant Ministry. 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>).



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 November 1 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 NEEDS YOU!

Housing Forward provides year round emergency overnight shelter for those experiencing homelessness in two locations in our community. The parishes of Oak Park support this effort in several ways.

In October, Housing Forward will be expanding its shelter options with the opening of a new 40-bed shelter at 112 S. Humphrey in Oak Park. They are once again asking the women of Saint Catherine of Siena-Saint Lucy and Saint Giles to help by providing a continental breakfast for Housing Forward clients on the first Monday of each month, starting in October. This is a great service opportunity for teens and families, and can be shared between households.

Sign up for the monthly dates online by using the SignUpGenius Form below!

Housing Forward Breakfast Sign-Up
(<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0944AAAE2EA2FA7-58142351-stgiles#/>)

To learn more about the shelter program, and volunteer opportunities, contact Theresa Lipo at 708- 692-4404 or tglico@sbcglobal.net.

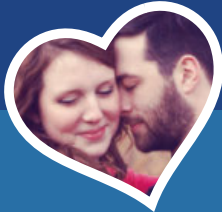


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