

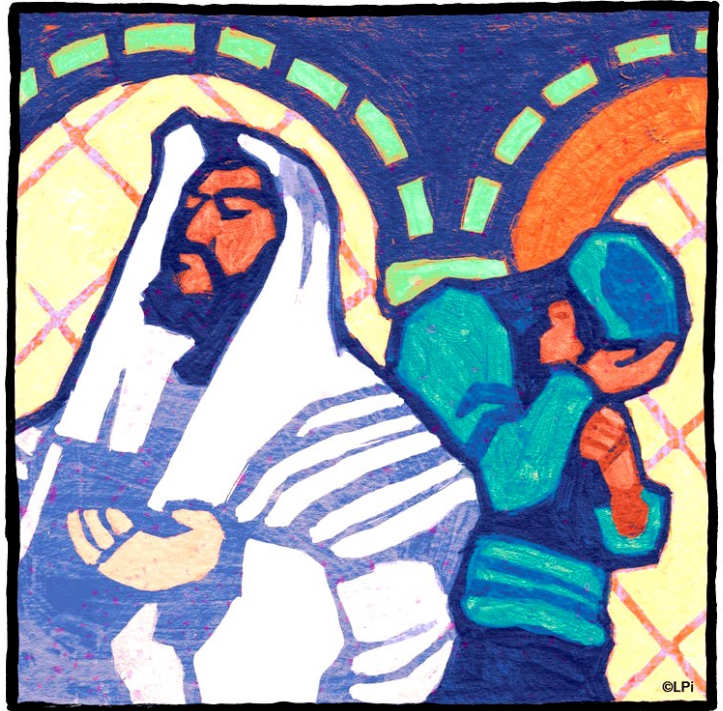


SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA-SAINT LUCY AND SAINT GILES CATHOLIC PARISH

OCTOBER 26, 2025

**30TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

"But the tax collector stood off at a distance... and prayed, 'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.' I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former, for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."
- Lk 18:13a, 13c-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 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.orgWebsite: 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, 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. 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**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**

Last week I attended two events that highlighted the gifts and

strength of our Oak Park Catholic communities and neighbors working together. With Migrant Ministry moving out of the Saint Edmund School building and pivoting their ministry to what are the more immediate needs for migrants today, a luncheon was held to thank the volunteers. Over 90 volunteers attended. These were people from our various religious congregations in Oak Park and beyond as well as those affiliated with other churches. I offered a special prayer of thanksgiving for the building that served us so well in a desperate time of need.

Then I attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for our repurposed Saint Catherine of Siena-Saint Lucy rectory now the Bridge Center. Through Migrant Ministry, we extended welcome and compassion to those seeking safety, dignity, and a place to belong. Now at the Bridge Center, we officially join with our partners, Housing Forward and Faith and Fellowship, to create a ministry for the emotionally challenged. This will offer a new shared space of healing, connection, and renewal for our most vulnerable neighbors.

As Pastor, I am so proud and pleased of the work so many have done to share these visions and help to make them a reality. This is possible through prayer support, volunteer efforts, and monetary contributions. THANK YOU!

In my comments at both events, I spoke of what these ministries and the effort behind them have meant to me, and what they

remind each of us; Christian hope is not passive – it moves us to act, to serve, and to build bridges of mercy where others see walls. Together, we live the Gospel call to be signs of God's love in our world today.

In a world where so many struggle with fear, uncertainty and isolation, the Bridge Center, as well as our Migrant Ministry, stand as signs of LIVING HOPE in ACTION. Here all will find welcome, understanding, and hands and hearts that care and can help direct them to needed resources. God's love is not confined to a church building but moving into the world, crossing boundaries, healing divisions, and building bridges between people.

What our world needs more of is what we are already doing: living hope through action!

Saturday, November 1, is All Saints Day, usually a holy day of obligation. Since it falls on Saturday this year, it is not a holy day of obligation, so special Masses will not be added. There is always one Mass on Saturday morning at Saint Giles at 8:00 AM, and all are welcome to attend.

On Saturday, November 1, the evening vigil Masses at Saint Giles at 4:30 PM, and Ascension at 5:00 PM will remember all souls, especially those who died this past year. Their names will be read, and candles lit in their memory.

Have a blessed and safe week ahead.

Oh, and Happy Halloween! 🎃

With you a Christian. For you, a priest.

F. Carl

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, Irene Camasta, Timothy Carraher Carwinski, John Celarek, Lucille Dalbis, Nancy D'Agnolo, Carole DiCicco, Andrea Dickson, Paula Dote, Baby Margaret Mary Doyle, Katherine Fisher, George Fleming, Jim Fletcher, Kitti Foley, Mary Ellen Frank, Baby Ford Gallagher, Sr. 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 Marcy Jackson.



WEDDING BANNS

- I Janelle Knippen and Bill Hilger
- II Eileen Bustamante and Michael Brady

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.catholiccommunitiesofoakpark.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.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SAINT GILES CHURCH

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27

6:30 AM The Deceased of the Parish

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

SAINT SIMON & JUDE, APOSTLES

6:30 AM All Parishioners & Benefactors

8:30 AM Edward V. Turner

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29

6:30 AM Alex Palmieri
Joey Cocco
The Deceased of the Shaker Family

8:30 AM Anne Froning Laboe

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30

6:30 AM Susan Gritton

8:30 AM Jane Greiff

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31

6:30 AM John Moses
Pat Naples
Owen Petrzeika

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

ALL SAINTS DAY

8:00 AM Rita Pope

*4:30 PM All Parishioners & Benefactors
All Souls Mass

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED - ALL SOULS DAY

8:00 AM All the Faithful Departed

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

10:30 AM All the Faithful Departed

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

SAINT EDMUND CHURCH

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED - ALL SOULS DAY

5:00 PM Oak Park Catholic Parishes Mass



BUILDING COMMUNITY WITHIN OUR PARISH

Join us for an evening of
Prayer, Reflection and
Discernment of your
Unique Gifts.

"Find the place within you where your deep gladness meets
the world's Deep Need. (Frederick Buechner)

Hosted by the Parish Pastoral Council

Monday, November 3 - 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM
McDonough Hall, Saint Giles Campus
1101 Columbian Avenue, Oak Park

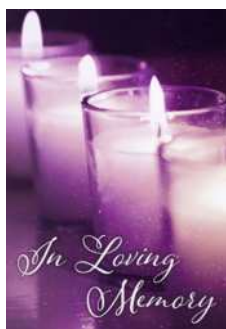


ALL SOULS' DAY, MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

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. or call the office at 708-383-3430.
Additions must be received by 9:00 AM, Wednesday, October 29.



NOVEMBER, THE MONTH OF REMEMBRANCE

During the month of November, you are
invited to bring pictures of your
beloved who have died. These will be
displayed around our church. The
photos will be displayed on the Mary
and Joseph altars. Bring pictures of
your deceased loved ones that you
would like to include in the display to
church when you come for either a
Sunday or weekday Mass. Boxes will be

in the back pew in the gathering space for you to place the
pictures, and they will then be arranged on the Mary and
Joseph altars by our staff. Please write your name and phone
number on the back of your pictures so that they can be
safely returned to you at the end of November.

At the Family Mass Community celebrations, you may place
the photos on the November Shrine as you enter the gym.



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

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

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

For information, contact Geri Tapling
griefshare@stgilesparish.org

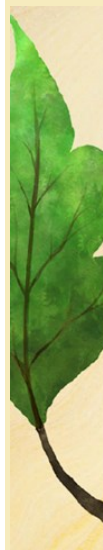
GriefShare

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



THE SAINT GILES COMMUNITY GARDEN DONATED 600+ POUNDS OF PRODUCE TO BEYOND HUNGER THIS YEAR!



Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers and all who have donated supplies.

Please keep us in mind next spring if you have any used pots, tools, seeds, plant divisions, etc.

Donation inquiries can be made to Trista Allgood at tbakale@gmail.com

GATHERING FOR CLEAN ENERGY

workshop presented by Faith In Place,
hosted by H+O+M+E and Vine and Branches

Sunday, November 2 - 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM
in Saint Edmund's Murphy Hall

Join us for A Gathering for Clean Energy, a powerful and grounding workshop where residents, business owners, and people of faith come together to lead, listen, and share in the movement for clean, community-powered energy.

Whether you are curious about renewable energy for your home or business, this workshop will provide the tools and community connections to move forward confidently.

Contact l.kelley@ascensionoakpark.com for more information.



JOIN US
ONE IN LOVE MINISTRY

Saturday, November 8 - 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
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

OUR PARISH WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP

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

	October 12, 2025	
	Weekly Total	YTD Collection
Envelopes	\$ 11,218.00	\$ 201,594.23
Loose—Total included in YTD count	\$ 2,192.00	
Online Giving 10/7/2025–10/13/2025	\$ 10,812.00	\$ 167,933.63
Total Collections	\$ 24,222.00	\$ 369,527.86

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, October 11, 2025

4:30 PM - 188

Sunday, October 12, 2025

8:00 AM - 165, 10:30 AM - 228, Family Mass - 153

Total Mass Count - 734

PLANNED GIVING

What Will Your Legacy Be?

If your family's needs are being met, please be a light to others by considering a gift through your individual retirement account (IRA) in support of our parish. By naming Saint Catherine of Siena-Saint Lucy and Saint Giles as a beneficiary, you will provide crucial financial support to our parish and the entire value of your gift will be transferred to us free from federal estate and income tax. It costs nothing to change the beneficiary on your retirement plan and will mean everything to our future parish community.

Please contact your parish IRA administrator, Carol Coleman at 708-383-3430, Ext. 419 or ccoleman@stgilesparish.org for more information, or contact, Deacon Greg Vogt, Philanthropy Officer, Archdiocese of Chicago at 312-995-0686 or gvogt@archchicago.org



THIS WEEK AT SAINT GILES SCHOOL

Blue Ribbon Celebration

Our school had an unforgettable National Blue Ribbon Award Celebration Week, filled with spirited activities to honor this prestigious national recognition! The campus was a sea of blue as students, staff and families came together to celebrate our shared success and dedication to academic excellence. Festivities throughout the week included engaging school wide events Like:

- Decorating the campus in blue to showcase our school pride.
- Buddy breakfasts, fostering connections across different grade levels.
- A dedicated "Wear Blue to School" day, where everyone proudly displayed our award pride.
- A fun and competitive school-wide rock paper scissors contest. An exciting all-school assembly that culminated in our special "Lion's Leap" reward: the chance to pie the principal!



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16 SAINT GILES ORGAN CONCERT

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 save the date!

YOUTH MINISTRY OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, November 9
Saint Edmund—Back of Murphy Hall
10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, and 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Come check out our new Youth Ministry room! We're excited to open this special space created just for teens to gather, grow in faith, and build friendships.

Contact: Maria (Cooky) Perez-Eraci, Director of Youth Ministry mperezraci@spiritandlightcenter.org or 708-370-3674.

SPREAD WARMTH THIS WINTER

The annual Coat Drive sponsored by The Women of the Parish will take place November 3 through November 9. Collection bins will be in the Church and around Saint Giles Campus beginning November 3. Help those in need keep warmer and dryer this winter by donating your clean, gently worn winter coats and accessories. Monetary donations may be made through GiveCentral.



IMAGINE HOW IT WOULD CHANGE OUR
THEOLOGY IF WE DIDN'T LOOK UP
TO HEAVEN FOR GOD,
BUT SAW GOD IN THE
FACE OF NEIGHBORS.
REV. DR. CALEB J. LINES

FOOD COLLECTION FOR THOSE IN NEED



The next FOOD FIRST collection will take place on Sunday, November 2. Please bring your donations of canned or shelf-stable food and paper products with you to the 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM Sunday Masses at Saint Giles Church. Donations may be brought to the altar during the Offertory.

Saint Giles Church weekly collection also continues. Please bring your donations of canned or shelf-stable food and paper products to the Saint Giles shrine in the gathering space at the church or to the covered bins located at the back door on the north side of the Parish Center.

Thank you for your generosity to these collections, and thank you to the stewards for their work in delivering these items to our local pantries.

DRIVERS NEEDED

Looking for an early New Year's Resolution? We can always use new drivers for the Food Pantry. Commitment is approximately 1.5 to 2 hours two or three times per year. The 2026 ministry consists of picking up donations at the Saint Giles Shrine (back of Church), and the outdoor bins behind the Parish center followed by delivery to one of our five sharing pantries.

The 2026 schedule will be out soon. If you are able to commit or have any questions, please contact Vik Petrolunas at 708-417-6096 or Vik.Petrolunas@sbcglobal.net.

Drivers – thanks as always for your wonderful service. Please verify your participation for 2026, and let me know if you have any anticipated conflicts, or your situation has changed. Thanks, Vik

COME TO THE TABLE

**Thursday, November 13 –
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM
Murphy Hall on the
Saint Edmund Campus**



As we approach the season of Thanksgiving, a time when families gather in gratitude around their dining room tables, we invite you to join us and explore the mystery we celebrate every time we are around the Eucharistic Table.

Come and reflect on what we see and hear when we are at Mass – signs, sounds, objects, gestures. Explore with us how these mysteries form and feed us as people of God.

We look forward to hearing what draws you to the images we see and words we hear during the Mass. We hope that together we will discover rich food for thought that we can ponder and share with children and family members.

Offered by Laura Kelley and Christine Ondrla. For more information, email lkelly@spiritandlightcenter.org.

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**

**Thursday, Oct 30
St. Edmund Church
and Green
188 S. Oak Park Ave**



THE NEXT SPIRITUAL CLASSICS: *MR. BLUE*, A NOVEL ABOUT A MODERN SAINT FRANCIS

Come to the next Spiritual Classics gathering on Tuesday, November 4 at 7:00 PM in the Ascension Parish Center Dining Room, when we will discuss Myles Connolly's intriguing novel, *Mr. Blue*. Donna Ioppolo will lead the discussion. All Oak Park parishes are welcome.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like if Saint Francis of Assisi lived today? What would he think about today's large cities, the sight of poor and homeless people, the unimaginable riches of the wealthy, and the tech gadgets that fill our lives? Myles Connolly envisioned a modern-day Saint Francis when he wrote *Mr. Blue*, a novel about a young man who decides to take Christianity seriously.

In the novel, the mysterious Mr. Blue lives in a packing box on a New York City rooftop, embraces the poor as his wisest companions, and distrusts modern technology's promise. He foregoes money and power and serves the poor. The novel explores how self-giving is possible and still inspires readers today, almost a century after it was first published in 1928.



Thanksgiving Day
Turkey Trot
November 27, 2025
Oak Park, Illinois

SGFMC TURKEY TROT THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27 - 9:30 AM

For over 40 years, we have celebrated the Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning. Now is the time to get ready for the FORTY-THIRD running of the Turkeys to once again celebrate and gather on Thanksgiving morning.

We need 60-65 volunteers to pull this off each year. We will be sending requests to last year's volunteers, but we are also looking for more participation. Volunteers, please contact Jack Lesniak (jack0329@comcast.net).

This year's Turkey Trot proceeds will go to: Companions Journeying Together Inc., Aunt Mary's Story Book prison ministry. and The Neighborhood Bridge. The Neighborhood Bridge is a community-based nonprofit dedicated to connecting families in the Austin community with essential resources and supportive services. Through our Advocate Program, Essentials Pantry, and collaborative partnerships with local schools and organizations, we work to ensure that families have the tools and opportunities they need to thrive.

General Turkey Trot Info:

- Use the QR code below to sign-up.
- The race will take place on November 27 starting at 9:30 AM in front of the Saint Giles gym, 1034 Linden, Oak Park.
- Entry fee is \$25 plus a small processing fee. Race day registration increases to \$30.
- The event is limited to about 450 participants.
- Race packet pick-up is on Wednesday, November 26 at SGC Gym from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, and 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM on Race Day.
- Long-sleeve commemorative tee shirts are available in adult sizes for \$15.
- Age groups are: 0-9, 10-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+. The 0-9 age group will be charged a reduced entry fee of \$10.
- Finish medals will be awarded to the top three male and female finishers, and ribbons to the top three finishers in each age group.
- A timing system has been secured that will give runners instant finish times. We are looking for a few major donors to offset the cost.

Questions?

Contact Jack Lesniak -
jack0329@comcast.net or
Red at jlesniak@oprfs.org.



SEEING THE FACE OF CHRIST IN THE OTHER: GRACE AND COURTESY IN THE ATRIUM AND BEYOND.

with Laura Kelley and Mary Ellen Lesniak

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATECHIST ENRICHMENT

This session is open to all adults: Catechists, Parents, and all from our community!

Saturday, November 1 - 9:00 AM

**Murphy Hall on the Saint Edmund Campus
188 S. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park, IL 60302**

It has been said that when we teach children about Grace and Courtesy, we are nurturing the foundation of a harmonious and compassionate society. Join us as we consider ways to foster these skills in the CGS atrium, offering to our children, and ourselves at any age, a path forward in civil discourse, problem-solving, and respect for each other.

Laura Kelley – Co-Coordinator, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

As a wife and mother of two teenagers, I embrace the fullness of an active and vibrant home and work life. My two degrees from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign are in Music Education, and I happily taught music for over 20 years. Children + Music + God has always equaled joy to me, so it was a perfect fit to begin working in 2022 for Spirit and Light as the Co-Coordinator of the beautiful Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program. I am grateful for the CGS training I have received in Levels I, II, and III, along with Level T (Toddler) formation. Leading catechists, caring for the special classrooms with their materials, and introducing children between the ages of 1 and 12 to the love of the Good Shepherd all strengthen my commitment to our Lord. Additionally, the work I do with the Moms' Faith Sharing Group, H+O+M+E Team, Lifelong Learning Committee, and Children's Liturgy of the Word, makes me excited to see how our Catholic Communities of Oak Park and neighbors collaborate to build the Kingdom near and far!



Mary Ellen Lesniak – Saint Giles Family Mass Community Liaison

I spent over thirty years as an educator, teaching fourth through eighth grades for 12 years (eight at Saint Giles School) and serving as an Adult and Family Literacy instructor and coordinator for 18 years. I led a nationally recognized Family Literacy Program and consistently focused on empowering parents as primary educators.



My volunteering in Church Life and my professional experience share a core belief: parents play a crucial role in shaping their child's faith and education. Since moving to Oak Park in 1976, Saint Giles Family Mass Community has supported that belief, involving the entire family in church life. Over the past 40 years, I've served on the Pastoral Team, Coordinating Board, and the Liturgy Team. My most valued role is as a catechist, volunteering from my children's grade school years through teen confirmation groups. I became Baptism Coordinator for Family Mass, and eight years ago began coordinating all Sacraments and serving as Liaison to the parish's Catechesis of Good Shepherd Program.

Last year, after completing my catechist training for Toddlers, we began the Little Lambs atrium for toddlers and their parents in Saint Edmund's Murphy Hall. I am also trained in CGS Levels I, II and III, and I serve as a catechist in the Level II and III atriums at Saint Giles.



REGISTRATION IS OPEN
FOR THE 2026
SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA
-SAINT LUCY AND SAINT
GILES ASP MISSION TRIP!



Trip Dates: July 18 to July 25, 2026

**Kickoff Meeting: November 2, 2025 6:30 PM at
McDonough Hall**

Saint Giles' ASP Service Project has been around for over 20 years. ASP is more than a trip to Appalachia to repair buildings—it is a service project built on relationships with the following benefits:

- Meaningful interactions with the families we serve
- Teamwork among our crews
- Getting to know and work with ASP Staffers
- Meeting others and learning about the culture in the county we serve

This trip would not be possible without the generosity of our **Adult Leaders'** time and talent, who co-partner to lead work crews. If your teen is planning to attend, this is a wonderful opportunity to have a truly memorable **shared service experience** with them as an adult participant. (Please note that parents and their teen will reside at the same county center but will be assigned to separate work crews.) Adult volunteers don't have to have a child on the trip to participate! Adults need to be 21 and older – if you participated as a teen, **please consider coming back as an adult volunteer!**

**TEENS, DON'T DELAY!
LAST YEAR WE HAD A WAITING LIST
AS EARLY AS THE NIGHT OF THE KICKOFF MEETING!**

Go to the ASP page on the parish website: <https://www.catholiccommunitiesofoakpark.org/scsl-sg-asp/>

or go to the home page and click on **Serve & Support** and **ASP – Appalachia Service Project**. Registration links can be found at the bottom of the page. Please read the page before registering. Any questions can be sent to asp@stgilesparish.org.



PEACE, POWER, AND PASSION AFTER YOUR DIVORCE

Surviving Divorce was created to bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. It is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later. It will help them find answers to their questions, restore hope, and begin authentic healing. It includes personal testimonies of Catholic men and women who have experienced the breakdown of their families. As they witness to their pain and the healing power of Christ in their lives, participants will laugh, cry, and identify with their journeys from heartache to healing.

Surviving Divorce will help you:

- Work through the emotional upheaval of separation and divorce.
- Find personal healing and hope.
- Discover a deeper understanding of God's love for you.
- Gain wisdom and comfort from experts and others who share your experiences.
- Navigate new concerns like custody, court hearings and finances.

**Meeting Twice Monthly on
Thursdays at 7:30 PM
Starting November 13
Saint Giles Campus
Dore Parish Center Living Room
1025 Columbian Avenue, Oak Park**

**Join us on this powerful journey to
hope and healing!**

Registration is not required,
but appreciated.

For more information, please contact:
Chris Malagoli, cvmalagoli@yahoo.com
708-912-4378

Tobin Counts, atlantacounts@att.net
678-571-5220

MIGRANT MINISTRY UPDATE: MIL GRACIAS, CENTRO SAN EDMUNDO!



Recently volunteers, parish staff members, and pastors of local churches gathered in the beautiful, wooden-arched, second floor gymnasium of the Saint Edmund School building to share memories, bid farewell to Centro San Edmundo, and bless

the beloved community of volunteers that had formed there through the Migrant Ministry. Yes, we can talk about number of migrant visits (over 20,000), immediate needs met (distribution of clothing, shoes, bedding, and toiletries), and services provided (immigration support, ESL, and social services), but that won't capture the magic and the LOVE experienced over the past 22 months since the center opened in January 2024.

Volunteers shared memories of little girls twirling in pretty dresses, boys clutching new soccer balls, women selecting warm puffy coats, and men standing straighter and prouder in their new clothes. The center embodied donations with dignity. We celebrated holidays with homemade Easter decorations, a Halloween parade of happy children in costumes, and a Christmas toy "free store." Centro San Edmundo was a place of joy.

Among the volunteers, a tight community was formed. Brought together from different faith centers with a desire to serve migrants, volunteers developed close friendships. They supported each other through different life events, including the birth of a child and the tragic death of another volunteer.

Although Centro San Edmundo is closed to migrants, store rooms are available and volunteers will be filling special orders for coats and clothing until we are able to move to our new location at Boulevard Presbyterian. Meanwhile, immigration support services, ESL, and social services continue in Murphy Hall. We are pausing all but financial donations now, and will alert you when we can accept 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>).

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 Saturday, 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.catholiccommunitiesof oakpark.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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