

WALKtheTALK

SGFMC Action for Justice News

This is a limited compilation of **CURRENT** opportunities for action. **Additional suggestions are welcomed at:** marynpaul@comcast.net We will make every effort to share them as quickly as possible.

"Thus says the Lord GOD: Cry out full-throated and unsparingly, lift up your voice like a trumpet blast." -Isaiah 58: 1

Week of January 18, 2026

PEACEMAKERS:

**** Monthly Prayer Vigil to End Gun Violence – Saturday, January 31st, following the 5PM Mass – in the North transept of ST. EDMUND CHURCH, 188 S. Oak Park ****

**** Monthly TAIZE Prayers for Peace – Friday, Feb. 6th -7:30PM at Ascension Church, 808 S. East Ave****

TAKE ACTION:

JANUARY

18 - 289 DAYS UNTIL THE MID-TERM ELECTIONS

THERE'S STILL TIME!! Congress has not yet funded DHS/ICE

"Congress must fund the Department of Homeland Security **by January 30**, and spending bills require 60 votes in the Senate -- meaning Democrats have leverage to demand restrictions on ICE. Call your Senators at (202) 224-3121 and tell them: **No vote for DHS funding without serious guardrails on how ICE operates and accountability for agents who use excessive force.**"

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=A%20mighty%20GIrl>

the Neighborhood



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

"We have needs for people with expertise in external communications. Specifically, we are looking for volunteers with experience in **managing social media accounts, graphic design, interviewing and article writing, and photography.** If you have one or more of these skills and want to learn more about our Communications Committee, please reach out directly to Mary Beth Hausken at: mbhausken@theneighborhoodbridge.org .

Also: recruiting volunteers to serve as Advocates - trained companions who walk alongside families as they navigate services and pursue their goals. This unique role provides meaningful one-on-one support and connection. To learn more, we invite you to attend our **next Bridge Breakfast on Saturday, February 7, 2026 at 8:30 AM in the Tutoring Center at Maguire Hall.** <https://theneighborhoodbridge.org/volunteer>

FOOD. CLOTHING, SHELTER:



COMMUNITY FRIDGE PROJECT - LOCATIONS:

Boulevard Presbyterian Church 607 Harvard; Oak Park

Edwin Gale House, 124 N. Kenilworth, Oak Park

Grace Episcopal (located in the back of the Grace parking lot on the West side of the building.)

A House in Austin; 533 N Pine Avenue, Chicago

Food donations are always welcome – NO open packages, NO fresh meat (no lettuce, salad greens, or tender vegs when temps are below freezing – THANKS!)

OR - monetary gifts can be sent to [this link](#). Please denote Community Fridge Project on the memo line! <https://www.communityofcongregations.org/give/>



FOREST PARK COMMUNITY FRIDGE - 7640 Jackson Blvd (Howard Mohr Community Center) <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=779820051658017&set=pcb.779820098324679>

-Please no open or expired items

-Make sure home packed items are dated and list any allergens

-Please separate larger donations into smaller containers for cleanliness and ease of distribution

-Please avoid glass containers

MORE INFO?? fpfridge@gmail.com MONETARY DONATIONS: <https://gofund.me/ae01524c>



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY! First MONDAY of Every Month

Join the women of Saint Catherine of Siena-Saint Lucy and Saint Giles to help provide a ***continental breakfast*** for our clients on the **first Monday of each month**. (This is a great service opportunity for teens and families and can be shared between households.)

* Choice of muffins, doughnuts, instant oatmeal, or cereal for **40 people**, plus fruit (no apples, please)

* 2 Gallons of milk, and juice or bottled water for **40 people**

Next opportunity to volunteer is available on **February 2, 2026** - Sign up for the monthly dates online SignUpGenius Form: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0944AAAE2EA2FA7-58142351-stgiles#/
/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0944AAAE2EA2FA7-58142351-stgiles#/)

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@housingforwar or via phone at (708) 338-1724 ext. 201



MIGRANT MINISTRY - NEW SITE opens January 20th!

Donations are accepted on Monday mornings from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Saint Bernadine School, 815 Elgin, Forest Park. Please, only seasonal (winter) clothing, boots, coats, and bedding.

"In addition to social services, ESL, and immigration support, we will be providing resources for the migrants on what to do if a family member is detained, forms for temporary custody of children, how to track a detained family member, Know Your Rights education, and other supportive efforts."

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".

BEYOND

HUNGER

“Volunteers are critical to every aspect of our operation, providing over 2,000 hours of collective time every month...We offer volunteer shifts that run the gamut, including data entry, repacking, serving Pantry guests, and unloading delivery trucks. We hope to provide a volunteer opportunity for everyone, at every ability level.”

COMPLETE THE NEW VOLUNTEER FORM HERE: <https://www.gobeyondhunger.org/volunteer>

Drop-Off hours at the Food Pantry: 848 Lake St., Oak Park, IL) 9am-4pm Monday-Tuesday & Thursday-Friday. <https://www.gobeyondhunger.org/donatefood>

DONATE HERE: <https://www.gobeyondhunger.org/donate>

CREATION CARE:

Creation Care Corner

Taking action to protect God's great gift to us,
Mother Earth



“Let ours be a time remembered for... the firm resolve to achieve sustainability... and the joyful celebration of life.”

— Pope Benedict XVI

THIS WEEK'S STEWARDSHIP RECOMMENDATION: Be Salt Wise This Winter.

Salt can infiltrate and permanently pollute groundwater and streams. Use the minimal amount needed.

1. **Shovel** - Clear walkways and other areas before the snow turns to ice.
2. **Scatter** - If you use salt, scatter it so that there is space between the grains. A 12-ounce coffee mug of salt is enough to treat an entire 20-foot driveway.
3. **Switch** - When pavement temperatures drop below 15 degrees, salt won't work. Switch to sand for traction or a different ice melter that works at lower temperatures (i.e., calcium chloride).
4. **Store Correctly** - Store ice melting products in airtight containers to maintain maximum effectiveness.

For information, visit: www.wisaltwise.com.



Recycle holiday lights...

...by dropping them off in a bin located in the lobby of the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd.
The bin is available during regular business hours Monday through Friday **through the end of January.**

VOTE!!

General **Primary** Election: **March 17, 2026**

December 17, 2025: First day to apply for a vote by mail ballot.

February 5, 2026: First day to vote early or by mail.

February 17, 2026: Last day for regular (paper) voter registration.

February 18, 2026: First day of grace period for in-person voter registration and voting at election authority and early voting sites; continues through Election Day.

March 1, 2026: Last day for online voter registration. Grace period registration is still available at election authority and early voting sites.

March 12, 2026: Last day for election authority to receive vote by mail applications.

March 17, 2026: Primary Election Day! Polls are open from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm.

>>**TEENS**: If you will turn 18 on or before the date of the General Election (Nov. 3, 2026) REGISTER NOW! << **Illinois Online Voter Application**: <https://ova.elections.il.gov/>

*****FYI*****

CAPITOL NEWS **ILLINOIS**

- New USPS rules may disrupt vote-by-mail processes in the 2026 election, Illinois county clerks warned.
 - The rules change the postmarking and transportation processes, potentially disenfranchising voters who follow previous guidelines.
 - County clerks recommend that voters mail their ballots **no later than a week before Election Day**.
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FULL ARTICLE HERE:

<https://capitolnewsillinois.com/news/recent-postal-service-changes-could-disrupt-mail-in-voting-county-clerks-warn/>



Walk the Talk “*Lights in the Darkness*”



Now more than ever, we need to search for, and lift up, those people, businesses, groups, and organizations whose work is a light of **hope** in the darkness. Here’s ours for this week – **send yours** to marynpaul@comcast.net

INDIVISIBLE Major thanks to everyone who took action and spoke out...

“**Avelo Airlines**: After massive grassroots pressure on Avelo Airlines the small carrier announced **it would cease running deportation flights**. This is a win!”

“**Spotify**: Spotify announced last week that ICE ads are no longer running on its platform. The company’s statement was a little vague on the particulars, so we’re urging its new leaders to clarify if it will refuse to run ICE propaganda for good...”
