



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 February 15, 2026 ♥

PEACEMAKERS

Monthly Prayer Vigil to End Gun Violence – **Saturday, February 28th, following the 5PM Mass – in the North transept of ST. EDMUND CHURCH, 188 S. Oak Park **

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

TAKE ACTION: STOP THE "SAVE" ACT!

The SAVE (Safeguard American Voter Eligibility) Act, requires all Americans to show documentary proof of citizenship (i.e. birth certificate, passport), in person, when they register to vote for the first time and every time they update their voter registration information online. This could create new obstacles for voter access.



"This bill would prevent millions of married women who have changed their names from registering and voting. Not to mention the roughly 170 million Americans without a passport and the 9% of the population that moved in the last year. It would ... enact recurring purges of voter rolls, end mail voting nationwide, and force voters to prove their citizenship when registering and show photo ID when voting."

Since last year, the SAVE Act has been amended to include a mandate for states to regularly submit their voter rolls to the Department of Homeland Security.

Passed in the House on 2/11, it needs a simple majority to pass the Senate – but 60 votes to break a filibuster! Call your Senators at 855-999-8503 and tell them to use every available procedural tool to say NO to the SAVE Act.

Help Immigrant Detainees in Illinois



<https://immigrantjustice.org/ways-to-help/>



<https://www.icirr.org/>



<https://chicagobond.org/>



Tell Congress: Don't silence dissent with tear gas

"If tear gas is too dangerous for a battlefield, there is no justification for using it against people in our cities. I urge you to introduce and pass legislation to ban the domestic use of tear gas."

Tear gas is a chemical weapon **BANNED in warfare** by both the Chemical Weapons Convention and **Geneva Protocol**. But these agreements allowed for a critical, dangerous exception: **Use by domestic law enforcement.**

<https://sign.moveon.org/petitions/tell-congress-don-t-silence-dissent-with-tear-gas>



Oppose the Federal Concealed Carry Mandate (H.R. 38 and S.65)

States have the power to decide who is too dangerous to carry a concealed weapon in public and where concealed firearms cannot be carried... H.R. 38 and S. 65 would create a federal mandate that would override state gun

laws, forcing every state to recognize every other state's concealed carry standards—including those with weak or no standards at all. This legislation would **make it easier for people with dangerous histories—like those convicted of violent crimes, domestic abusers, and stalkers—to carry a concealed and loaded gun in public in states that wouldn't otherwise let them.**

<https://act.everytown.org/sign/CCM-25?akid=317176.5417268.50RFMq&rd=1&refcode=emne>



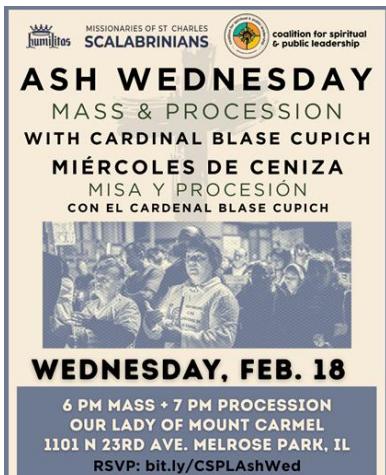
Reimagine Justice Illinois: Immersive Restorative Justice "Circle Keeper" Training – March 5th & 6th, 12th & 13th - Chicago Freedom School (1727 S. Indiana Ave.) <https://www.rjillinois.org/>



"We are restorative justice and social-emotional learning practitioners and advocates, with over 25 years of experience across Illinois... Our 4-day Restorative Justice and Circle Keeper training includes an immersive community-building circle experience, exploration of the philosophy and practices of RJ, facilitating your own circles, and planning for ways to bring RJ into your work and communities as new Circle Keepers."



coalition for spiritual & public leadership



REGISTER HERE: <https://csplaction.ourpowerbase.net/civicrm/event/register?id=444&reset=1>

Wednesday, February 18

6:00 pm – Ash Wednesday Mass

7:00 pm – Community Procession

8:00 pm – Closing

1101 N 23rd Ave, Melrose Park, IL 60160

SAVE THE DATE:



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 veggies 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. (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**

Sign up for the monthly dates online SignUpGenius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0944AAAE2EA2FA7-58142351-stgiles#/> (Next open opportunity to volunteer is available **April 6, 2026**)

OTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Individual

- Administrative Support
- Evening/Morning Shelter Volunteers (interact w/guests, clean, organize, support staff)
- Professional Services (job skills support, handyman, etc.)
- [Economy Shop](#) (sort and hang clothing, sale tags, etc.)
- Inventory/Cleaning

Group

- Evening or Morning Shelter Volunteers (interact w/guests, clean, organize, support staff)
- Meal Provider at [Interim Housing](#) or [Anderson Emergency Shelter](#)
- [House to Home Kit\(s\)](#)
- Organize a Collection Drive (hygiene supplies, snacks, paper goods, cleaning supplies)
- Cleaning/Organizing

Interested in volunteering or learning more? Contact **Cherrell Jackson** at cjackson@housingforwar or via phone at (708) 338-1724 ext. 201



The “free stores” are open. Volunteers are offering clothing, coats, boots, and bedding as well as a breakfast space and a children’s playroom. Donations are accepted on Monday mornings from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Saint Bernardine School, 815 Elgin Ave, Forest Park. Please, only seasonal (winter) clothing, boots, coats, and bedding.

To donate online through GiveCentral use the link: <https://www.givecentral.org/customizable-online-giving/444/event/36149>

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

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



“....the environment
is God’s gift to everyone.”
— Pope Benedict XVI

THIS WEEK’S STEWARDSHIP RECOMMENDATION:

Lent is coming. Consider a “fast” for Creation Care... sacrificing some comfort, giving up a wasteful practice, or modifying your actions to reduce harm to the environment. Some ideas include:

- **A Meat Fast:** How about adding a meatless Monday to meatless Fridays? What about eating only chicken when you do eat meat, or sustainably caught fish?
- **An Energy Fast:** How about turning the thermostat down 2°- 5°F lower than usual and putting that sweater on? Also, consider turning the water heater down to 120°F and limiting shower time to three minutes.
- **A “Stuff” Fast:** Consider buying only the bare minimum of essentials you need to reduce waste and simplify your life. And how about staying away from as much plastic as you can to further reduce waste, opting to switch to more recyclable materials?

VOTE!! 260 days until the mid-term elections

General Primary Election: March 17, 2026

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/>

...more...



The **Race Conscious Dialogues** are designed to deepen awareness of identity, privilege, positionality to power and more, then integrate learning with everyday life. RCD has several Spring programs and cohorts beginning on **March 1st** that will be offered in-person at **Kinfolk CoLab (405 S. Euclid Avenue, Oak Park)**.

The programs and cohorts will include:

- **Generational Trauma & Resilience**
- **Whiteness & Anti-Racism (Morning & Evening Sessions)**
- **Somatic & Emotional Work on Internalized Whiteness**

For more information and to register visit <https://www.raceconsciousdialogues.org/>

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



(Run time: approx. 25 minutes)

YOU TUBE LINK HERE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uSin7g1MJAc>

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

reasons
to be **cheerful**

DIY Diehards Building Green Infrastructure from Scratch – “Renewable-power renegades are constructing their own wind turbines...” <https://reasonstobecherful.world/diy-diehards-building-renewable-energy-infrastructure>