



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 8, 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:



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
Living God's All-Inclusive Love

Vigil of Solidarity with Minneapolis –Sunday, Feb. 8th, 1PM - 848 Lake St.

"In solidarity with the people of Minneapolis, we will honor the lives of all those who have died at the hands of ICE as we sing and pray for peace and justice." (OUTDOORS - dress warmly)

Help Immigrant Detainees in Illinois



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



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



<https://chicagobond.org/>



Funding for the Department of Homeland Security/ICE runs out on February 13.

"This is the moment when movements either break through or break apart. When the pressure gets intense, politicians look to see how closely people are still watching and how hard people will continue to fight. We need to show them we're not going anywhere." <https://front.moveon.org/>

Keep the pressure on Congress: DEFUND ICE (At issue: ending warrantless arrests; protections for schools, churches, and hospitals; mandating ICE officers unmask; and independent investigations into ICE abuses.)



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>

Tell Target: ICE OUT NOW



<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/tell-target-ice-out-now/>

1. Demand ICE must leave Minnesota now.

2. Any officer who kills a civilian must be held legally accountable. That starts with legitimate investigations and charges by local officials.
3. Exercise the company's 4th Amendment rights and publicly post signage denying entrance to on-duty immigration agents who do not have signed judicial warrants as required by law, as well train staff on how to respond when immigration agents arrive at stores.
4. Demand: NO additional federal funding for ICE in the upcoming Congressional budget, and ICE should be investigated for human and Constitutional violations of Americans and our neighbors.
5. Restore company commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and honor their commitments to the Black community.



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>



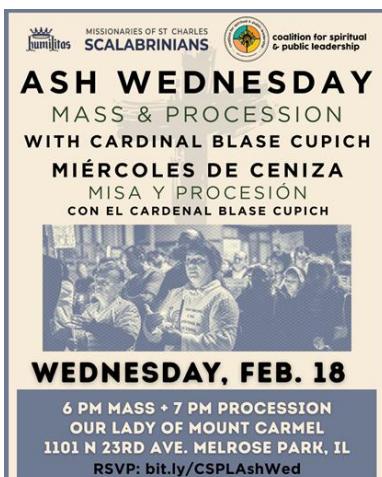
Reimagine Justice Illinois: Immersive Restorative Justice "Circle Keeper" Training – March 5th & 6th, 12th & 13th - Chicago Freedom School (1727 S. Indiana Ave.) <https://www.rjillinois.org/>



"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)

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



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*”.



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:



Protect the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

“Tribes were meaningfully involved in developing the management plan, which provides a clear roadmap for protecting and conserving nearly 2 million acres of slot canyons, stone arches, sacred petroglyph panels, plants for medicines that Native peoples continue to use today, and ecosystems for animals and pollinators. ...Some Utah Representatives want to open up these sacred ancestral lands to development and harmful resource extraction...” <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/grand-staircase-escalante-national-monument/>



Tell State Legislators: PASS THE ILLINOIS FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT ACT (SB130/HB3961) (Interfaith Green Network formally endorsed this legislation in March of 2024)
Sign HERE: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScu64EVBfXgxDGr0H6SSjsIyz6P>

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

VOTE!! 267 days until the mid-term elections

General Primary Election: March 17, 2026

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/>

...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=uSin7g1MJA>



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



"More than 195,000 MoveOn members signed [our petition demanding that the NFL stop ICE](#) from targeting fans, workers, and communities at Super Bowl LX despite DHS Secretary Noem's threats that ICE would be 'all over' the event. And on Tuesday, we delivered those signatures to NFL HQ in Manhattan to demand accountability from one of the most powerful sports leagues in the world.

Just hours after our petition delivery and press conference, the NFL's Chief of Security announced that there would be **no ICE operations at the Super Bowl** this Sunday." ***This is what people power looks like!!***