



PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor, Rev. Tirso Villaverde
Pastor Emeritus, Rev. James Barrett
Residents, Rev. Harold Murphy
Michael Okoro, C.S.Sp.
Deacon, Michael Neba
Accountant, Jim Masini
Religious Ed, Cynthia Splatt
School Principal, Christine Huzenis
Music Ministry, Steve Burke
Howard Schneider

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend

Saturday 4:00 pm Sunday 8:30 am & 10:30 am **Weekday** Monday-Saturday 8:00 am

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays from 3:00-3:30 pm.

An appointment can also be made by calling one of the priests.

OFFICES

Rectory (773) 764-0615
2324 W. Chase
Hours: Monday-Thursday
9:00 am-12:00 pm & 1:00-5:00 pm
Friday by appointment
Parish Website:
www.smmchicago.org/parish

Parish School (773) 271-2008
Northside Catholic Academy

Activity Center 7341 N. Claremont Holy Hands (773) 764-0615, ext. 27

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

When I was first ordained, I remember that a big deal was made about when the Mass book would be opened. That is, there was a date—usually in the fall—when it would be announced that the parish office would be accepting intentions for Masses throughout the coming year. I remember that on the day the Mass book was opened, a long line of people would form outside of the office door at least a half hour before the office was scheduled to open! In their hands, they carried their respective list of names, dates, and monetary offerings.

In fact, the day before, the office staff made ready the entry way to the offices by setting out coffee and treats. Those in line could wait anywhere from ten to thirty minutes before it was their turn to schedule their Mass intentions. At first, I thought that the office staff was just being crazy until the first time I actually witnessed it with my own eyes. The office staff was correct. It was a crazy morning in the office as the line of people extended to outside the front door and to the sidewalk! It was like the "Black Friday" of parish offices.



Why was the reason for the long long line and why did people get there before the office opened? It was for the sole purpose that people wanted to make sure that their loved ones got scheduled as Mass intentions on their preferred dates. The longer one waited the less of a guarantee that the date he or she wanted would be available. People, therefore, got to the office as early as possible when the Mass book was opened in order to ensure that they got the first pick of dates. Those were, of course, the days when there was a limit of three intentions per Mass. Obviously, times are much different nowadays.

Today, intentions seem to be few and far in between. As we can see just from our own parish schedule of Masses, the majority of daily Masses are offered for "the deceased parishioners of St. Margaret Mary." There are no longer the lines that extend well out the office door of people wanting to make sure they are able to pick their dates. Nowadays, people come to the office on any day and virtually any day of the year is available for a Mass intention. So why do we have Mass intentions in the first place and why the monetary offering?

In the ancient Church, the Eucharist was only celebrated on Sundays—the Lord's Day. Yet, even in that early time of the Church's history, the faithful would bring up in the offertory procession various gifts beyond the bread and wine that were to be offered on the altar. The gifts would include anything and everything that the Church could use to advance the mission imperative entrusted to her by Christ himself. In time, the offerings began to include monetary donations that were used not only to help the poor but also to provide for the financial wellbeing of the clergy. Added to this, there arose the custom of votive Masses that were celebrated by monks and other priests on days other than Sundays. These Masses were offered for specific intentions which were oftentimes requested by people who would make a donation which was almost seen as a contractual agreement between them and the priest celebrating the Mass.

In time, however, the Church had to put strong restrictions and regulations on this practice. Obviously, the custom had lead to the idea that people were "buying" a particular Mass. Sadly, this language is still sometimes used today as people will come to a parish office and say to the receptionist, "I would like to *buy* a Mass." The restrictions and regulations put forth by the Church then and even now are all meant to teach the faithful that Masses and other sacraments are never "for sale." Instead, we currently understand this custom in the sense that the faithful are requesting that a particular Mass be offered for an intention and the person requesting subsequently makes an offering (customarily in the form of a monetary donation).

There is more to say about this but I am seeing that I am running out of space in one article. It will be concluded in the next issue.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Our next project, for spring:

1000 PAPER CRANES.

Sadako Sasakik survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, but at age 11, she was diagnosed with leukemia. In the hospital, Sadako folded Origami Paper Cranes. There is a legend that if you fold 1000 paper cranes, your wish will come true. Sadako wanted to get well, but she was also wishing for Peace in the World. She died at age 12, but her legacy endures.

Do you fold Origami? And, do you have paper? Gift paper is good. Let us know. Our world is so in need of peace.

ANGEL CLOSET:

As spring approaches, we are preparing to celebrate First Communion and Confirmation with our children and teens. Do you have clothes that your children have outgrown? We already have a donation and if you would like to donate a dress, veil, a suit jacket or shoes, please bring them to the rectory during office hours. Dresses for Confirmation can be any color.

AN INVITATION!

We would like to start a Queen of Hearts Raffle at SMM...but to do so means many volunteers will be needed. This fundraiser has the potential to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the parish. But,



it will only be successful if we get a minimum of 25 people to join the committee.

There will be an informational meeting after each of the Masses next weekend, January 25th & 26th. Please join us and learn how you can help in this fundraising effort.

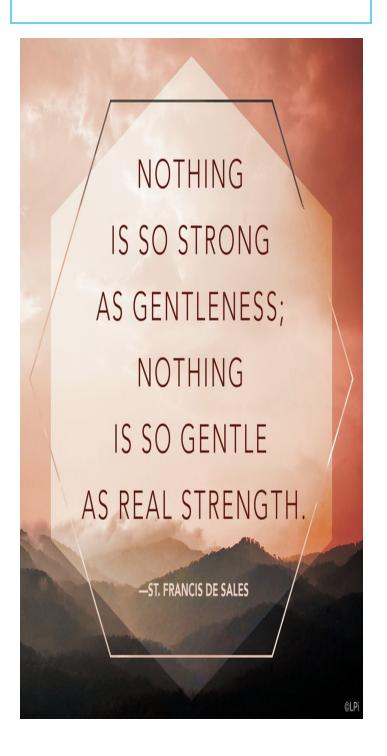
CLASSIFIEDS

FOR RENT: sm office spaces \$300-\$600/mo, perfect for 1-8 person office, quiet environment, 24 hr access, Neal Gallo, 773-743-6565 or Neal.gallo.gznm@statefarm.com; NEEDED: handiman/computer tech, Peg, 773-274-7534

COLLECTION REPORT

January 12, 2020

| Sunday Envelope Budget | \$8,942.00 |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Sunday Envelope Actual | \$2,367.63 |
| Loose Money | \$ 714.98 |
| Total Collection | \$3,082.61 |
| Variance | (\$5,859.39) |
| Weekly Budget Amount | |
| Envelopes Used | 94 |



PARISH & COMMUNITY EVENTS

EXERCISE CLASS meets in the Activity Center on Tuesdays & Fridays from 9:30am to 10:30am. For more information, call Bernadette Dunne, 773-764-9422

BOY SCOUT TROOP 923

Come join the fun! Boys aged 11 and up are welcome to join Troop 923. We meet every Tuesday from 7:00 to 9 pm in the Rectory Hall. Contact us by email at HaveFun@BoyScoutTroop923.org or by voicemail at 312-772-4923.

D'VINE AFFAIR

The 19th annual d'Vine Affair returns to The Union League Club of Chicago on Sunday, January 26th, from 2 to 6 pm. This elegant event features over 90 vitners from around the world pouring more than 250 of their premium wines. Popular features include a craft & imported beer tasting room, a silent auction featuring unique experiences and special wine offerings, the live auction of a barrel of wine, a "Stock Your Cellar" raffle, and gourmet hors d'oeuvres and desserts.

A special Wine Appreciation Seminar will be presented by Kevin Bratt, Concept Wine Director at Joe's Seafood, Prime Steak & Stone Crab at 2:00 pm.

A Beer Appreciation Seminar will be presented by Samu Rahn, Specialty Import &

Craft Brand Manager for Louis Glunz Beer, Inc. at 2:45 pm.

Reservations are \$125 per person. Proceeds from the d'Vine Affair benefit Catholic Charities Self-Sufficiency Programs in Cook and Lake Counties.

Make your reservations today by visiting www.catholiccharities.net/divine or by contacting Dave Gardner, Director of Regional & Program Events, at 312-655-7907 or dgardner@catholiccharities.net.





FOCUS ON THE WORD

CYCLES OF FAITH 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

On the cusp of fame, power, or influence, would you turn it down? Today's Gospel again features John the Baptist. Controversial but popular, John has gathered quite a group of followers. He has disciples. People come from near and far to be baptized by him. Pharisees and government leaders are drawn to his preaching. If John was another man, a lesser man, he would have claimed his own greatness. Instead, John the Baptist is a witness to humility.

"The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Behold the Lamb of God ... he is the one of whom I said, "A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me."... the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known.'" Rather than point to himself, John points to Christ. John could have grasped at what he had accumulated. He could have seen Jesus as a Messianic competitor. Instead, John knows who he is. He knows his place as forerunner. Because John knows who Jesus is. "I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

A life of humility, a life for others, can be challenging to live. So much of our culture is built around achievement and individualism. We can justify it, too, in pursuit of "greater goods" and higher ideals. In the process, however, we might miss our own participation in the kingdom of God. John, for all of his humility, was not an afterthought. In another Gospel passage, Jesus calls him "the greatest prophet," even the greatest of men. Why? Because he fulfills the mission given to him by God: to announce the coming of the Messiah. We too are prophets and forerunners. Our witness to the Gospel is meant to point people to Jesus. Consider your own mission this week. To whom are you called to announce the good news of the Son of God?

+PARISH DEVOTIONS+

OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA

Every Wednesday at 8:30 am.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every Friday following 8:00 am Mass until 7:00 pm.

Please enter the middle door, school side.

(Become a regular, call

Mila Cobarrubias at 773-814-4282 or

Judith Seruelo at 773-764-0247.)

Mass at 7:00 pm on First Fridays;

Vespers and Benediction at 7:00 pm

on all other Fridays.

HEART OF THE SPIRIT PRAYER MEETING

Every Friday at 7:30 pm in Rectory Hall.

DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Every 1st Friday of the month beginning with Mass at 7:00 pm. Fellowship follows after Mass. Contact person: Terry Luciano, 773-677-7347

FATIMA ROSARY

First Saturday of the month immediately following 4 pm Mass.

SACRAMENTS

Marriage: Arrangements should be made at least three months in advance.

Baptisms: On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month immediately following the 10:30 am mass. Please make arrangements at least one month in advance.

Preparation class held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the rectory

R.C.I.A

Program/Process for adults interested in the Catholic Faith (Sept.-April). Call the Rectory for information.

NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome our new parishioners and invite them to register at the rectory.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, January 19 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 am George Meyers

10:30 am Living Members of Nwanah Family

Julita Trovela Marie Schmid

Monday, January 20 Ss. Sebastian & Fabian

8:00 am Chris Murtaugh

Michael Maloney

Tuesday, January 21 St. Agnes

8:00 am Deceased members of SMM

Wednesday, January 22

8:00 am Mary Mahoney

Thursday, January 23 Ss. Marianne Cope & Vincent

8:00 am Deceased members of SMM

Friday, January 24 St. Francis de Sales
8:00 am Deceased members of SMM

Saturday, January 25 Conversion of St. Paul

8:00 am Deceased members of SMM

4:00 pm Ann Donohue

Sunday, January 26 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 am Don Tres

George Meyers

10:30 am In Thanksgiving

Julita Trovela Rafael Zavala



Readings for the week of January 19, 2020

Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10

[8a, 9a]/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

Monday: 1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21

and 23 [23b]/Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28

[21a]/Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b,

2, 9-10 [1]/Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a,

10b-11, 12-13 [5b]/Mk 3:7-12

Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11 [2a]/

Mk 3:13-19

Saturday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc,

2 [Mk 16:15]/Mk 16:15-18

Next Sunday: Is 8:23–9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/

1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

LITURGICAL ROLES

SMM serves, prays and celebrates.

Sacristans

Monday, January 20 A Volunteer Is Needed Wednesday, January 22

Terri Luciano

Saturday, January 25Mila Cobarrubias

Lectors

Saturday, January 18

4:00 pm Mary Fallon & Art Blumberg

Sunday, January 19

8:30 am Peter Scheidt & Peter Johnston 10:30 am Leonard Kohl & Ryan Madayag

Eucharistic Ministers Saturday, January 18

4:00 pm M. Neba, A. Blumberg, M. Varallo,

J. Moylan, G. Lindor, D. Cole &

J. Ashbach

Sunday, January 19

8:30 am P. & R. Mackin, L. Honda, R. Hardy,

L. Igboanugo & J. & T. Murtaugh

10:30 am B. Alban, B. Bingham, T. Linwood,

L. Ibekwem, A. Baldonado, J. Grigsby & Deacon J. Cerna

Lectors

Saturday, January 25

4:00 pm Lee Draus & Art Blumberg

Sunday, January 26

8:30 am Richard Schaefer &

Janet Murtaugh

10:30 am Betty David & Tasha Fernandes

Eucharistic Ministers

Saturday, January 25

4:00 pm A. Alban, B. Alban, D. Cole,

G. Lindor, J. Moylan, M. Varallo &

M. Fallon

Sunday, January 26

8:30 am M. Neba, B. Russell, R. Mackin,

L. Igboanugo, T. Murtaugh &

R. Hardy

10:30 am B. Skiles, Y. Malicay, V. Onyeaghala,

G. Potucek, K. Conorquie, J. Seruelo & T. Fernandes