



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

# <image>

# 6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors, Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow." - Mt 5:33

# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

This coming Saturday is the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter. Yes, there is a feast for St. Peter's chair. And, yes, it celebrates an actual and physical chair which is believed to have been used by St. Peter. It is in a unique reliquary in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. The most noticeable marker would be the Holy Spirit stained glass window which many of us have seen pictures of even if we have not seen it in person. Underneath that famous stained-glass window is a large reliquary made of bronze created by the famous artist Bernini. In it is a wood chair.

About fifteen years ago, I had the privilege of concelebrating a Sunday Mass at the altar underneath the Chair of St. Peter. From my vantage point, the Chair of St. Peter was a massive shrine high above my head. I could not help but be reminded of the grandeur of God and the great sacrifice that St. Peter had given by his martyrdom.

The Chair of St. Peter is not the only relic of St. Peter that is enshrined in the basilica named after him. Underneath the main church, there lies the site



that is believed to be the exact location where St. Peter was crucified. The story goes that St. Peter was crucified in the city of Rome hanging upside down because he did not feel worthy enough to die in the exact same manner as the Messiah. The obelisk that stands outside of the basilica in St. Peter's Square is an archaeological artifact that dates back to the exact time of St. Peter's death and stood near the spot where the saint was executed.

The wood chair that is believed to have been used by St. Peter in the exercise of his ministry as Bishop of Rome is encased in a larger than life reliquary that is itself shaped like a large throne. The wooden chair inside the reliquary dates back to the early centuries around the time when St. Peter lived and died in Rome. Like most relics, we will never be able to determine exactly whether or not it was actually used by St. Peter but the point to the relic is much greater than simply determining its place in history.

The Chair of St. Peter symbolizes the authority that St. Peter was given when Jesus entrusted to him the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven as we read in Matthew 16. It was at that point when Jesus said to St. Peter, "You are 'Rock' and on this rock I will build my church, and the jaws of death shall not prevail against it. I will entrust to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven." Jesus then gives to St. Peter the authority to act in the name of God Himself in matters between heaven and earth. This essentially made St. Peter into the first pope even if the first Christians did not use that term.

The word "pope" comes from the Latin "pontifix" which simply means "bridge." As a bridge, St. Peter became the connection between the Church on earth and the Church in heaven. He became the link that united the Church with Jesus the true head of his Church. All other popes who have followed after St. Peter are entrusted with the same responsibility. St. Peter was called to provide the People of God with a direct access and link to the Savior.

As we know well, St. Peter did not always do this to the best of his ability. Immediately after his famous profession of faith, St. Peter is addressed by Jesus with the words, "Get behind me Satan!" St. Peter did not want Jesus to suffer and die in the way he had predicted. We also know that he had denied knowing Jesus right before the crucifixion. St. Peter was a human being who had flaws and committed errors. Likewise, all of the popes after him are also flawed human beings who are also capable of making errors. Still, the Chair of St. Peter stands as a reminder that Jesus entrusted to St. Peter—and the popes who have shared in his ministry—the awesome responsibility of being a bridge that provides a direct link to the Savior.

The Feast of the Chair of St. Peter is celebrated on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The authority given to St. Peter by Jesus is a reminder that God has chosen all of Jesus' followers to be instruments through which God's People might come to know God's own love, presence, and action in their lives. Even if the wooden chair in the reliquary at St. Peter's Basilica may not be the actual chair upon which St. Peter sat, it is still points to the reality that the Church will forever be connected to Jesus the Savior through the ministry and mission of St. Peter the first "bridge."

#### PRESENTATION AND BLESSING OF OUR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES



On Sunday, February 23, at the 10:30 Mass, Father will invite our Confirmation candidates to come forward for a blessing, as they begin their final preparation to celebrate

the Sacrament on Pentecost. Please join us to pray for them and their families.

#### 1000 PAPER CRANES...

is our current project for the spring. Sadako Sasaki 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 a 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.

# **COLLECTION REPORT**

#### February 9, 2020

Sunday Envelope Budget	\$8,942.00
Sunday Envelope Actual	\$2,777.97
Loose Money	\$ 882.00
Total Collection	\$3,659,97
Variance	(\$5,282.03)
Weekly Budget Amount	
Envelopes Used	

#### TAIZE LENTEN SERVICE Friday, March 6, 2020 7:30-8:30 pm

The Benedictine Sisters invite you to a Taize Lenten Prayer Service. We will sing with accompaniment by live musicians, listen to scripture and a reflection, take time for payer and light candles.

This quiet, contemplative time can be a meaningful addition to your Lenten

observance.

St. Scholastica Monastery is located at 7430 N. Ridge Blvd., Chicago, 60645, near public transportation.



Please register by email: communication@osbchicago.org.

#### Readings for the week of February 16, 2020

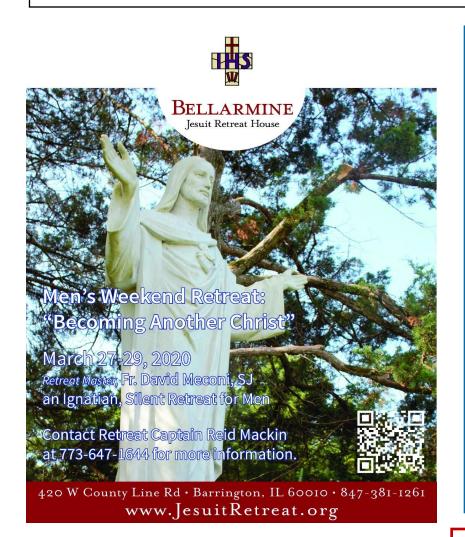
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Sunday:	Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18,
	33-34 [1b]/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or
	5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37
Monday:	Jas 1:1-11/Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76
	[77a]/Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday:	Jas 1:12-18/Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19
	[12a]/Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday:	Jas 1:19-27/Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5 [1b]/
	Mk 8:22-26
Thursday:	Jas 2:1-9/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [7a]/
	Mk 8:27-33
Friday:	Jas 2:14-24, 26/Ps 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
	[cf. 1b]/Mk 8:34–9:1
Saturday:	1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/
	Mt 16:13-19
Next Sunday:	Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10,
	12-13 [8a]/1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48

# 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.



#### ANGEL HAIR IS RETURNING TO SMM! Saturday, March 21, 2020 SMM Activity Center 8:00 am until 2:00 pm

Please help by doing one or more of the following: \*Volunteering as a barber or haircutter \*Volunteering in some other capacity \*Donating gently used clothing. \*Donating small travel sized toiletries. \*Making a monetary donation to help the cause. Questions... please contact Fr. Tirso at 773-764-0615 or tvillaverde@archchicago.org. Lenten Series **THE ART OF PAUSING:** Reclaiming the Sense of Balance in our lives. Sunday, February 23rd 3 to 4:30 pm

In our intensively active, highly mobile and socially interconnected society, we seem to have lost the simple pleasure of pausing. For all who feel overworked and overwhelmed, there are ways to pause periodically and still be productive. Looking to ancient contemplative practices and some modern-day ones, we will explore how to slow down, seek balance and allow our souls to catch up with the rest of our lives.

Judith Valente, who is an award-winning author, print & broadcast journalist a former religion correspondent for PBS-TV, former staff writer for The Wall Street Journal, poet and essayist, will deliver this lecture.

RSVP with Sister Benita Coffey, OSB: 773-338-2413, x 327.

Sponsored by the Benedictine Oblates and open to the public.

For directions to the monastery and more information: www.osbchicago.org/programs.

#### 2020 NORTHSIDE CATHOLIC ACADEMY SOIREE SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND

#### **Event Details:**

Ravenswood Event Center, 4043 N. Ravenswood Avenue, Chicago.

#### **Tickets and RSVP:**

Tickets are \$125 person or \$1250 for a reserved table of 10. If you require a vegetarian meal, please indicate in the pulldown box when purchasing tickets. Tickets must be purchased by February 14th. Visit the website, northsidecatholic.org to purchase tickets.

# FOCUS ON THE WORD

#### CYCLES OF FAITH 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

People are not property. We cannot exchange them at will or simply use them for our own designs and purposes. What does the word "commitment" mean to you? We can begin to understand its meaning by looking at some synonyms: dedication, devotion, allegiance, loyalty, faithfulness, fidelity, and bond. Commitment is primarily about relationship, and Jesus is all about relationships. How our lives affect others, how we treat our brothers and sisters, how we resolve conflict, and how we view the vows of marriage. Jesus' teachings on obeying the commandments, murder, reconciliation, marriage, divorce, and adultery all stem from the sacredness of commitment. All of this has a God connection.

We can easily see one another as interchangeable and dispensable. We treat so much of our lives this way. What works today may not be what I want tomorrow. We search and search for the right thing only to find our hearts still restless in the end. Is real happiness achievable this side of the grave? Sometimes we expect too much out of others and want our relationships to fill a hole that we must figure out how to fill ourselves. Any seasoned married couple will tell you that their love for one another changes as time passes. Even though the understanding of romance changes as life changes, the dedication, devotion, allegiance, loyalty, faithfulness, and fidelity all remain and even deepen.

Some relationships can be hurtful, and God does not want us to live with abuse or pain. Also, how a relationship develops is sometimes out of our control, and we become the victim of someone else's decision. But we can't be self-focused in our relationships and see them exclusively as self-fulfilling ends. We are companions on life's journey with varying depths of relationships being enjoyed by all who are with us along the way. We have the freedom to choose. God asks us to do so wisely, with right judgment and thinking.

# +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.

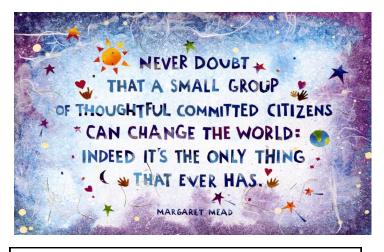
# **REST IN PEACE**

Our blessed Lord has called home **Remy Esquireres** and **Colleen Farrow** for whom we promise our prayers that they may live in joy in His presence.



# WORSHIP CALENDAR

#### MASS INTENTIONS Sunday, February 16 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30 am George Meyers Felicidad Umali 10:30 am Apolonia Gutierrez Dionico Gutierrez Mary Marren Alfonso De La Cruz James Ricker Julita Trovela Marie Schmid Margaret Lykins Monday, February 17 Jeffrey Cobarrubias 8:00 am **Tuesday, February 18** 8:00 am Deceased members of SMM Wednesday, February 19 8:00 am Deceased members of SMM Thursday, February 20 8:00 am Deceased members of SMM Friday, February 21 St. Peter Damian 8:00 am Brother of John Geier Joan Green Saturday, February 22 Chair of St. Peter 8:00 am Deceased members of SMM 4:00 pm Ann Donohue Sunday, February 23 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30 am Don Tres George Meyers 10:30 am Scout Sunday Julita Trovela Peter Justino Wallis



## 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

# LITURGICAL ROLES

SMM serves, prays and celebrates.

#### Sacristans Monday, February 17 A Volunteer Is Needed Wednesday, February 19 Anne Schaefer Saturday, February 22 Mila Cobarrubias

## Lectors

#### Saturday, February 15

4:00 pm	Mary Fallon & Maureen Varallo	
Sunday, February 16		
8:30 am	Richard Schaefer & Peter Scheidt	
10:30 am	Leonard Kohl & Peter Johnston	

# **Eucharistic Ministers**

## Saturday, February 15

4:00 pm M. Varallo, J. Moylan, G. Lindor & D. Cole

## Sunday, February 16

8:30 am M. Neba, R. Hardy, L. Honda, J. & T. Murtaugh, B. Russell & L. Igboanugo

10:30 am B. Bingham, T. Linwood, L. Ibekwem, A. Baldonado, M. Grigsby, V. Onyeaghala & A. Luciano

## Lectors

#### Saturday, February 22

4:00 pm Julie Ashbach & Judy Moylan Sunday, February 23 8:30 am Bernadette Edom & T. Murtaugh 10:30 am Scouts

## **Eucharistic Ministers**

#### Saturday, February 22

4:00 pm B Alban, A. Alban, M. Neba, D. Cole, G. Lindor, M. Varallo & M. Fallon

## Sunday, February 23

- 8:30 am P. & R. Mackin, J. Murtaugh,
  - B. Russell, C. Chima &
    - L. Igboanugo
- 10:30 am B. David, A. Baldonado,
  - Y. Malicay, V. Onyeaghala,
  - G. Potucek, K. Conorquie &
  - J. Seruelo