

# SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA-SAINTE LUCY AND SAINT GILES PARISH



## THE STONE REMOVED FROM **THE TOMB.**

— JOHN 20:1 —

MARCH 31, 2024 • Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA - ST. LUCY CHURCH  
38 NORTH AUSTIN BOULEVARD, OAK PARK  
WEEKDAY MASS: Tuesday at 8:30 am  
WEEKEND MASS: Sunday at 9:00 am

ST. GILES CHURCH  
1045 COLUMBIAN AVENUE, OAK PARK  
DAILY MASSES: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:30 am;  
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 8:30 am; Saturday at 8:00 am (Confessions following Mass)  
WEEKEND MASSES: Saturday at 4:30 pm; Sunday at 8:00 am and 10:30 am

# Fr. Carl's Corner



Happy Easter to All! And a special word of welcome and congratulations to all in both of our Oak Park parishes who were brought into the Church at our Easter Vigils. This is a highlight of our liturgical year, helping form and bring others to know and love Christ as we share his resurrected life in community. Welcome and thank you for the blessing of accompanying you on your journey of faith, hope and love.

In this troubled world we live in, **we need Easter!** The Good News we celebrate at Easter holds a profound significance as a

beacon of hope and renewal. At its core, Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ and symbolizes for us triumph over adversity and the promise of new beginnings, personally and communally, as we continue our work unifying our parishes and becoming a new reality. In times of hardship and uncertainty, the message of Easter serves as a reminder that even in the darkest moments, there is the potential for redemption and transformation.

What an important message for us all to embrace as we near two years of unification challenges and blessings. Easter should foster for us a sense of community and solidarity, even though we may be people of diverse backgrounds, perhaps even religious beliefs, and surely political opinions. Easter transcends the divisions we often create, and instead unites us in spiritual reflection, gratitude, and compassion for each other as brothers and sisters of the same creator God. In our world, and even in our community at times, marked by division and strife, the spirit of Easter encourages empathy and understanding, inspiring acts of kindness and reconciliation that bring about our new life in the resurrected Christ.

As we begin this Easter season, let us reflect on the virtues of forgiveness, love, and sacrifice as Jesus modeled them for us. May the Risen Lord help us confront our own limitations and shortcomings offering us the opportunity for continued spiritual growth with the Resurrected Christ who is always present walking along side us. This timeless Easter message continues to give us a sense of purpose and direction amidst the chaos or turmoil that often is just part of this life.

As we walk into the Easter, let us do so with unshakable confidence. In a deep spiritual insight, the mystic Julian of Norwich famously said, "All shall be well." How true as we remember nothing can shake our inner confidence. Jesus Christ is risen today, ALLELUIA!!

With you a Christian. For you a priest.

*Fr. Carl*



**Please note: The Parish Office will be closed on Easter Monday, April 1.**

## The Parish of St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy and St. Giles Oak Park, IL 60302

### St. Giles Campus Parish Center Office

1025 Columbian Avenue  
Phone 708-383-3430 ..... Fax 708-383-8644  
..... E-mail: [stgiles@stgilesparish.org](mailto:stgiles@stgilesparish.org)  
..... Website: [stgilesparish.org](http://stgilesparish.org)

#### Business Hours:

Monday thru Friday, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm,  
Monday thru Thursday evening, 4:30—8:00 pm'  
Saturday, 9:00 am—1:00 pm

Lauren Locke and Sr. Sue Paweski, Daytime Receptionists  
Kathleen Coleman, Everett McCreary and Colleen Duffy,  
Evening and Weekend Receptionists

### St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy Campus Rectory Office

38 North Austin Boulevard  
Phone 708-386-8077  
..... E-mail: [stgiles@stgilesparish.org](mailto:stgiles@stgilesparish.org)  
..... Website (legacy): [stcatherinestlucy.org](http://stcatherinestlucy.org)

#### Business Hours:

Saturday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Sunday, 8:30 am - 12:00 pm, other times by appointment.  
Chemetha Baker, Weekend Receptionist

- Rev. Carl Morello, Pastor ..... Ext. 422
- Rev. Robert Carlton, Associate Pastor,  
[rcarlton@archchicago.org](mailto:rcarlton@archchicago.org)
- Rev. Edward P. Salmon, Resident ..... Ext. 308
- Rev. Thomas E. Unz, Resident ..... Ext. 313
- Mr. John (Lois) Henricks, Deacon
- Mr. Loretto J. (Carlotta) Madonia, Jr., Deacon (retired)
- Mr. Kevin (Marc) Morgan, Deacon
- Mr. William (Abbie) Pouncy, Deacon
- Mr. John (Barbara) Walters, Deacon
- Sharon Bresnahan, Accounts Administrator ..... Ext. 420
- Matthew Brophy, Director of Parish Operations ..... Ext. 102
- Carol Coleman, Business Manager ..... Ext. 419
- Sue Kaszynski, Director of Music and Liturgy ..... Ext. 423
- Alex Ryan, Liturgy Coordinator ..... Ext. 403
- Julius White, Praise Choir
- Rachel Faulman, Parish Administrative Assistant  
and Bulletin Editor ..... Ext. 401  
..... E-mail: [stgiles@stgilesparish.org](mailto:stgiles@stgilesparish.org)

### St. Giles School

1034 Linden Avenue  
Phone 708-383-6279 ..... Fax 708-383-9952  
..... E-mail: [office@stgilesschool.org](mailto:office@stgilesschool.org)  
..... Website: [stgilesschool.org](http://stgilesschool.org)  
Meg Bigane, Principal ..... [mbigane@stgilesschool.org](mailto:mbigane@stgilesschool.org)

### St. Catherine-St. Lucy School

27 Washington Boulevard  
Phone 708-386-5286 ..... Fax 708-386-7328  
..... Website: [catherinelucy.org](http://catherinelucy.org)  
Sharon Leamy, Principal ..... [sleamy@catherinelucy.org](mailto:sleamy@catherinelucy.org)

# Spiritual Life & Worship

## ST. GILES CHURCH MASSES FOR THE WEEK

### Monday, April 1

6:30 — The Deceased of the Parish

### Tuesday, April 2

8:30 — George Abraham

### Wednesday, April 3

6:30 — Joseph and Helen Shaker  
Owen Petrzelka

8:30 — Claire Antonette

### Thursday, April 4

8:30 — Steven Thomas Hammer  
Tom Geary

### Friday, April 5

6:30 — Joseph Mejia

### Saturday, April 6

8:00 — Babis Charalampidis

Luca Gomez Cuevas (for health)

2:30 — Wedding: Kimberly Truppa and Gino Casciola

4:30 — All Parishioners and Benefactors

### Sunday, April 7

#### Second Sunday of Easter

8:00 — Betty Shaker

Charlotte Moreth

Hector Ramirez

Jospeh and Helen Shaker

10:00 — *Family Mass Community in School Gym*

10:30 — Theresa Martino

Mary Anne and Terry Keshner

Elizabeth and Sam Jantelezio

*\*This Mass will be live-streamed from the St. Giles website, [stgilesparish.org](http://stgilesparish.org).*

## ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA-ST. LUCY CHURCH MASSES FOR THE WEEK

### Tuesday, April 2

8:30 — All Parishioners and Benefactors

### Sunday, April 7

#### Second Sunday of Easter

9:00 — Madonna Sloan

John Esposito

Kavumba Tsuma Mwalenga

## ST. EDMUND CHURCH

### Sunday, April 7

#### Second Sunday of Easter

5:00 — *Oak Park Catholic Parishes Mass*

## Mass Intentions for 2025

Those wishing to schedule a Mass for the intention of someone who has died or for special intentions may come to the Parish Center to do so. Masses will be scheduled on a first-come basis.



**There are three intentions open for each Mass (except where the intention of the parish "All Parishioners and Benefactors" appears).**

**All Holy days and all holidays are designated for the intentions of the parish; no individual intentions may be added to those days.**

**Open dates for Mass intentions are still available in the 2024 Mass Book. Please contact the Parish Center with any requests that you may have.**

## We Pray For . . .

Those who are hospitalized or homebound, including: Steven Acevedo, Patrick Ahearn, Coletta Ali, Jessica Scanlon Bailey, Jane Baker, Phyllis Baker, Marissa Becker, Kyle Becnel, Joe Bigliotti, Baby Sofia Rose Bond, John Botti, Danita Bowie, Viola Cleo Bradshaw, Herbert Breidenbach, Melissa Brumund, Pat Burke, Susan Cadero, Phil Calabrese, Patrick Cibula, Jim Cimms, Ray Cimms, Patricia Crotty, Lucille Dalbis, Bill DeBiase, Judy DesLauriers, Andrea Dickson, Virginia Evans, Wanda Farmer, Mike Fenske, Carla Michelle Rodas Ferreira, Katherine Fisher, Mary Ellen Frank, Paul Frauenfelder, Earl Gallermo, Jack Gallo, Michael Gallo, Sr. Regina Gallo, Marcial Gomez, Baby Michael Haiduke, Jennifer Hanna, Deborah Harris, Maggie Astacio Hedges, Paul Hefner, Deacon John Henricks, Bill Holmes, Ben Houghton, Ginny Jones, Phillip Jones, Joe Karas, Patrick King, Marie Koko, Pat Koko, Paul Koko, Hardie Kressler, Kimberly Lester, Gabriela Rodriguez Machado, Jim Madden, Virginia Madden, Deacon Lorry Madonia, Lynne Tallon Matassa, Patricia McDonald, Leolina Rodriguez Meira, Sebastian Mitchell, Willa Montgomery, Anne Muldihill, Sr. Louise Noesen, Matt O'Connell, Amelia Patterson, Bob Quane, Patricia Reardon, Tom Rezek, Lillian Ricci, Paul Schleitwiler, Colleen Rowley Schramm, Carole Sheehan, Maureen Sloan, Nick Sorrentino, Sr. Carol Spiegel, Nina Stanley, Samantha Struett, Sarah Such, Joann Taylor, Maria Vaccaro, Shirley Venerable, Nancy Wesclitz, Nichol Williams, LaShonda Wilson, Brenda Zych.

*(Names will be periodically removed from this listing in the bulletin and also from the list of recurring intercessions spoken at weekend Masses. Others have received a Prayer Shawl representing the prayers for healing by the Parish community. Please contact the parish office to include someone on this prayer list or to request inclusion in the weekend Mass intercessions, or to request a Prayer Shawl.)*

And for those of our family members and parishioners who have died, especially Mary Ellen Phillips, and Caroline Meister, daughter of Jean and John Meister.

## WEDDING BANNES

- II Lindsey Collier and Dominick Rauba
- III Kimberly Truppa and Gino Casciola

*St. Giles Church is looking for an additional livestream operator for our Masses in 2024. If you know someone who either has some video experience or is a college student interested in broadcasting and would be interested in streaming one or two Masses per month, please contact the Parish Office.*



Office of the Archbishop  
835 North Rush Street  
Chicago, IL 60611-2030  
312.534.8230  
archchicago.org

## Easter 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

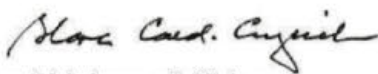
The resurrection of Jesus stands at the center of our faith. We believe, as Saint Paul says, that Jesus “died for our sins and rose for our justification.” He entered the very darkest corners of human existence, took our pain, suffering, and death upon himself, and then drew us into the fullness of risen life.

As we celebrate the Lord’s resurrection this Easter 2024, we are clearly aware of those dark corners of human existence that Jesus took upon himself. With troubled hearts, we watch war and violence unfold in the Holy Land, in Ukraine, in parts of Africa, and in our own city of Chicago. We know the crippling effects of climate change and the natural disasters that have affected so many people throughout the world. We struggle with the social and political polarization that threatens our life together.

We step back from all of this, and we can surely affirm that we need the transforming and life-giving power of the Resurrection. We also stand together as a church, a synodal church, that journeys together and reclaim our faith and trust in the power of the Risen Lord who makes all things work for the good for those who love him. We stand together in our often broken and wounded world to witness hope to all humanity, to proclaim that God’s life and not death will have the last word.

May this feast of Easter be a graced moment to rediscover and reclaim our great faith and hope in Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, who goes before us and leads us home.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Archbishop of Chicago

# *Spirit and Light Collaborative*

## A DAY AT THE RACES



3501 S. Laramie  
Stickney/Cicero, IL 60804

Join us for a fun afternoon of conversation, food and excitement at the track!

April 21  
2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

\$55.00 a Person  
(includes buffet, 1 drink ticket and a \$2.00 betting voucher)



Click on QR code to register. Visit Ascension or St. Giles Parish office to pay cash or check.

Proceeds benefit *SPIRIT and LIGHT*

### **St. John of the Cross and *The Living Flame of Love***

Two days after Easter, join us for the upcoming Spiritual Classics discussion on St. John of the Cross and his mystical writing, *The Living Flame of Love*. We will meet on **Tuesday, April 2, at 7:30 pm in the Ascension Parish Center Dining Room**. Jeff Wood will lead the discussion. All from the Oak Park parishes are welcome.

St. John of the Cross himself described *The Living Flame of Love* as “songs of the soul in the intimate communication of the union of love with God.” He captures the mystical visions of his spiritual journey, describing the transformation of the soul in encountering the pure love of God. *The Living Flame of Love* consists of 24 lines of poetry followed by St. John’s commentary, representing his teachings on the journey of the soul towards union with God.

If you have any questions, or would like more information about our monthly Spiritual Classics discussions, send an email to [llaffc@ascensionoakpark.com](mailto:llaffc@ascensionoakpark.com) or check out the [Spiritual Classics webpage](#) on the Ascension and St. Edmund website. Reading the book is not required in order to join the discussions – feel free to just come and learn more about the mystical vision of St. John of the Cross.

# Oak Park Catholic Community

the Neighborhood



## EXCITING NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD BRIDGE!

We are on track to have an Executive Director of The Neighborhood Bridge in place by July 1.

The Executive Director is key to the success of the mission of The Neighborhood Bridge: to use the St. Catherine-St. Lucy campus as a base to serve individuals and families in the Austin community by connecting them to high-quality human services to help them thrive. The Board is in the

process of screening candidates and will be interviewing finalists in the coming weeks. We are gratified by the impressive number of well-qualified candidates who submitted resumes for the position. The Executive Director will be the face of the organization, interacting with Austin area schools, connecting school families and other Austin-area residents with the service providers active in the area to meet their needs.

### We are planning on renovating the lower level of the rectory by August 15.

Initially, the lower level of the rectory will house adult education classes and a distribution center for needed supplies, as well as current ministries serving residents in the area. Future plans are to house the offices of The Neighborhood Bridge on the first floor.

### We are visiting each of our five partner schools over the next month to discuss the launch of The Neighborhood Bridge.

Before The Neighborhood Bridge was established, volunteers reached out to five schools in the Austin neighborhood (St. Catherine-St. Lucy, St. Angela, Chicago Jesuit Academy, Catalyst Circle Rock, and Christ the King College Preparatory School) to learn firsthand what the critical unmet needs of their school families were. We'll be visiting each of these schools to update them on our progress and to finalize a communication plan for each one to keep their families informed about the resources available through The Neighborhood Bridge.

### We are launching a Spring fundraising appeal to help The Neighborhood Bridge meet the goal of connecting Austin area residents with needed services by the start of the 2024-2025 school year.

With your continued help, The Neighborhood Bridge can fulfill the Renew My Church imperative "to use the St. Catherine-St. Lucy campus as a base for powerful ministry outreach to our neighbors on the West Side."

### How can you help?

Donate: <https://theneighborhoodbridge.org/donate>

Volunteer: <https://theneighborhoodbridge.org/volunteer>

Sign up to get our newsletters: <https://theneighborhoodbridge.org/>

Share the news with your friends!



## MISERICORDIA CANDY DAYS

Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27

### PLEASE VOLUNTEER!

Two or more hours of your time will make a big difference for more than 600 children and adults with developmental and physical disabilities.

To volunteer, please call Sherry & Nick Scouffas at 708-848-9497 or email them at [scouffas@hotmail.com](mailto:scouffas@hotmail.com)

Thank you!

## Spring Bake Sale

The Fraternité Sisters of Notre Dame will be back at St. Giles Church selling their French tarts, breads, cakes and cookies next weekend, April 6 and 7, after the 4:30 pm Mass on Saturday and both morning Masses on Sunday. Stop in the gathering space of Church to find delicious desserts for your entertaining. All proceeds support their ministry to the homeless on Chicago's Westside.



## FOOD COLLECTION FOR THOSE IN NEED

The next **FOOD FIRST** collection at St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy Church will be on **Sunday, April 7**. Please bring your donations of canned or shelf-stable food and paper products with you to the 9:00 am Sunday Mass. Donations are brought to the altar during the Offertory.

St. Giles Church weekly collection continues. Please bring your donations of canned or shelf-stable food and paper products to the St. Giles shrine in the gathering space at the Church or to the covered bins located at the back door on the north side of the Parish Center.

Thank you for your generosity to these collections, and thank you to the stewards for their work in delivering these items to our local pantries.

# Oak Park Catholic Community

## MIGRANT MINISTRY UPDATE: Rejoice! He has risen! Alleluia!



Such joy we experience on Easter morning when once again we can use the “A” word – Alleluia.

My Spanish is limited to about 5 words and only one that I use regularly, “Hola”. That is usually followed by “welcome” which our migrant families probably don’t understand. Then a pause to look in their eyes and then they smile.

Those tired eyes, the weary bodies, and when we offer a simple breakfast, clean clothes and shoes, and some toys for the kids - then they smile.

Then the doctor is here today, the priest is here to talk with you, sit for a minute and tell us what you need – then they smile.

We’re looking for an apartment for you, please be patient, we will help get the kids in school, and find beds for you to sleep in – then they smile.

Alleluia – then they smile. It is here that we see the Living Christ, the face of Christ. The gratitude for the smallest gift is written in that smile. And we of course smile back.

Thank you for your support of the Migrant Ministry. **Currently, we are in great need of gym shoes for children, men, and women (smaller sizes) and men’s Tshirts, sweatpants, and athletic pants.**

*We are still in need of items noted on the **Amazon Wish List** found by scanning the QR Code to the right. Items do not need to be purchased from Amazon; it is merely a list of needed items.*



**Donations may be dropped off on Monday mornings from 9 am to 12 pm at Centro San Edmundo previously known as St. Edmund School, 200 S Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park, IL. Please enter from the Pleasant Avenue door.**

If you have a question or would like to volunteer with the Migrant Ministry, please email [immigrantministry@gmail.com](mailto:immigrantministry@gmail.com).



Financial donations are accepted to support the Migrant Ministry and can be sent to the St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy and St. Giles Parish Office at 1025 Columbian Avenue, Oak Park, IL 60302. Please mark your check for the “Migrant Ministry.” Donations may also be made online through GiveCentral on the St. Giles website or by scanning the QR code at left.

Or donations can be sent to Ascension and St. Edmund Parish. Please note the Migrant Ministry on your check. Donations may also be made online through GiveCentral on the Ascension website.



**ONE IN LOVE LGBTQ+ Ministry** meets the second Saturday of each month.

We offer a friendly and safe place for Ascension and St. Edmund Parish,

St. Catherine-St. Lucy and St. Giles Parish and the St. Giles Family Mass Community LGBTQ+ individuals, their families and friends to share through deep listening circles.

**JOIN US SATURDAY, APRIL 13  
from 1:00 - 3:00 pm**

St. Giles Parish Center, 1025 Columbian Avenue

If you have questions, please contact:  
Kathie Nash [kathienash1023@att.net](mailto:kathienash1023@att.net).

## **Welcome to a sequel!**

That is how Dennis Hamm, S.J., introduces his commentary on the Acts of the Apostles.

A group of parishioners gathers on Zoom every Thursday morning from 9:30 - 10:45 am to study and reflect on one of the books of the Bible. After Easter, on Thursday, April 4, we will begin a study of the Acts of the Apostles, guided by reading the New Collegeville Bible Commentary and discussing its historical context and scriptural insights.

We invite anyone interested in learning more about this important book describing the early Church community to join us. Commentaries will be provided. Please contact Eugene Wedoff at [erwedoff@me.com](mailto:erwedoff@me.com) for further information.

We are all members of the “Sequel,” those who have come after. This is an opportunity for us all to reflect on what that means.

## Faith & Fellowship



### Stories with a Mission

Each week, we publish a little snippet describing the highlights of Faith & Fellowship, and a number of parishioners have said that they enjoy reading these brief stories. Our ministry and our activities, though, are more than ups and

downs and good deeds. We operate out of a very clear mission:

“Faith and Fellowship is called to follow the example of Jesus by bringing an

Awareness of God’s presence and care to people who experience mental illness,

And to provide them with a welcoming sense of a belonging through the

Formation of communities of faith.”

In other words – a mission with our stories.

## Food For Thought Rejoice and be Glad!

*“Jesus commissioned us to preach to the people, and testify that he is appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him, all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”*  
(Acts 10:42-3)

Candy, clothes and church, the three-C’s of Easter morn, comprised what that Holy Day meant: three boys could mourn the fasting rule that rendered candy un-attacked; But after morning mass, the treasury was sacked.

Many years later, we participate in what’s the new life of the risen Christ, whose majestic spirit and power provide meaning to our Christian world. Easter readings highlight three actions that need to happen in Christian lives.

First, if we as Christians wish to become “Easter People,” then we need to clear out the old yeast in our lives. 1Cor 5 focuses on yeast and dough, the festival of Unleavened Bread, celebrated at Passover, and linked to Easter and the Resurrection of Christ. As part of the Festival of Unleavened Bread we clear out the “old yeast” within us, transforming into Christ-like unleavened bread.  
*“This is the day the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad.” (Ps 118)*

Second, if we Christians wish to participate in Christ’s resurrection, we have to “figuratively” shed our burial clothes. John’s gospel tells us that, when Mary of Magdala, Simon Peter and the beloved disciple entered Jesus’ tomb, they found only his burial clothes. As part of his rising, Jesus had become bright and vibrant. Are we, the living, ready to change our spiritual. clothes. and “put on Christ?”  
*“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever.”*

Third, as “Easter People,” we share in the gift of new life, Christ’s resurrection. Just singing “alleluia” is not enough. In Acts 10, we’re told that the Divine One anointed Jesus with the Spirit and the power to embrace and live his holy mission of healing, teaching and liberating those in need. We too are anointed with the Spirit, to do the work of Easter, welcoming the marginalized to embrace a healing love.  
*“The right hand of the Lord is exalted; I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.”*

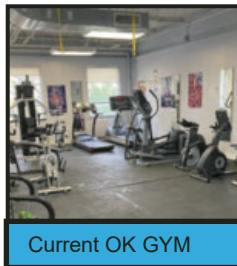
Tom Lynch. [tgl7714@gmail.com](mailto:tgl7714@gmail.com) 3/31/24  
Source: NCR, Carol Dempsey, 3/31/24

Oak Park Catholic Community and Beyond  
**Opportunity Renew –  
Children’s Lenten Project 2024**



**Turn your Lenten Fast into a Gym!** How? Take the money you did not spend on sweets, dinners out, coffee, or alcohol and donate it to the CLP’24. This year, we are raising money to refurbish a dilapidated workout room at Opportunity Knocks in River Forest into an engaging and inviting space where Warriors can meet up with their friends to work out and have fun.

Meet Warriors JoJo and John. They are pictured in front of a piece of artwork shown for an OK art show.



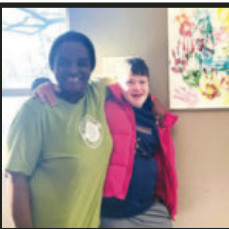
Current OK GYM

**JoJo loves OK because...**

*“Everybody is happy to see me when I come here. Art is my favorite activity.”*

**John loves OK because...**

*“I like it, it’s fun. I do cooking, farming, and Mystery Reader.”*



**Please support OK’s work by donating to the Children’s Lenten Project 2024** through Ascension and St. Edmund GiveCentral, which you can access through the parish website, the QR Code here, or by text.

Three steps to **Text your donation:**

1. Text 708-400-7396,
2. Type “knocks”
3. Send, and poof, you are on the donation page for the CLP ‘24!







## **St. Giles School Announces Strategic Partnership With Rose K. Goedert Center for Early Childhood Education**

St. Giles School is delighted to announce it will be partnering with Dominican University's Rose K. Goedert Center for Early Childhood Education, creating a dynamic early childhood program that will further strengthen the educational offerings for young learners in Oak Park and surrounding communities. Starting in June 2024, the combined preschool program will operate at St. Giles School, allowing the students and families of the Goedert Center the opportunity to continue their learning in the wake of the Center's closure at the end of this current school year.

The decision for the Goedert Center to integrate with St. Giles School comes after a four-month search for a like-minded partner. Both programs bring a long-standing history of educational excellence that seeks to seamlessly transition preschool students to kindergarten.

Key highlights of the new partnership include:

1. **Seamless Transition:** The transition from the Rose K. Goedert Center to St. Giles School will be a smooth and seamless process, ensuring minimal disruption for students, parents, and staff. St. Giles is able to accommodate every 3- and 4-year old preschool student in the Goedert Center's current program who chooses to enroll for the 2024-25 school year.
2. **Expanded Resources:** By joining forces, St. Giles School will provide enhanced resources and facilities, fostering an even more enriching learning environment – all while maintaining its 10:1 student to teacher ratio. The school is adding a summer program for preschoolers to provide continued, year-round care. The summer preschool program will be available for registration beginning summer 2024.
3. **Expertise Integration:** Pending enrollment, the collaboration aims to integrate the expertise of educators from both institutions, combining their strengths to create an even more robust early childhood education program.

"We are thrilled to welcome the families and students of the Goedert Center for Early Childhood Education into the St. Giles School family," said Meg Bigane, principal at St. Giles School. "We've been looking to expand our preschool program and this partnership offers the perfect opportunity to do so. This is a testament to our shared values and dedication to providing the best possible educational experience for the children of Oak Park and its surrounding communities."

"When the decision to close the facility at Dominican University was made last year, it became critically important to me and to our faculty that we selected a partner that matches Goedert's beliefs, culture, and educational mission: a place where our families can easily and seamlessly transition and know their children will receive the same experience they do now," said Sarah Thomas, Director of the Goedert Center. "St. Giles is that place. Our programs are strikingly similar with educational philosophies that mirror one another. I know our students will feel the warmth and support of a loving community; I have already."

The integration of the Goedert Center into St. Giles School will be effective as of June 17, 2024. Both institutions are actively working to ensure a smooth transition and are excited about the positive impact this collaboration will have on its community of young learners.

### ***For more information or inquiries, please contact:***

Meg Bigane, St. Giles School Principal, 708-383-6279, [mbigane@stgilesschool.org](mailto:mbigane@stgilesschool.org)

Sarah Thomas, Director Rose K. Goedert Early Childhood Center, 708-714-9150, [stthomas@dom.edu](mailto:stthomas@dom.edu)

About St. Giles School: For more than 90 years, St. Giles School has served the families of Oak Park, Elmwood Park, Galewood and the surrounding neighborhoods. Since the school opened its doors in 1928, its singular commitment has never wavered: providing a preschool through 8th-grade education to prepare children to be people of faith imbued with a lifelong love of learning and spirit of service to others.

About the Rose K. Goedert Center for Early Childhood Education: The Rose K. Goedert Center for Early Childhood Education has been providing high-quality education and care for almost fifty years serving as a laboratory school for Dominican University's School of Education. Housed on the University's Priory Campus, the center welcomes two to five-year-old children of Dominican students, faculty and staff, as well as children from neighboring communities.

Introducing the new

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