“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” — John 14:6

WEEKEND MASSES (Suspended until further notice)
Saturday: 8:00 a.m., 4:30 p.m. (anticipated), Sunday: 7:45, 9:30, 11:15 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
If I’ve heard the question asked once, I’ve heard it asked many times -- Why is God allowing this pandemic and the suffering it has, is and will cause for so many? Why are we being punished? To say this is God’s will suggests that we are somehow like chess pieces that God directs. The truth is, bad things happen, like germs, viruses, atmospheric conditions, human error, or just plain chance, which account for so much of what is often outside of our control. It helps, at this time, to pause and remember that God is always present, and GOD WILLS OUR GOOD! Evil is not God’s doing.

Pause today and take time to reflect on this truth: God is always present! God loves us deeply and cares about our concerns right down to the hairs on our head. (Read and pray over Matthew 10:30.) God urges us to respond as best we can to a world we can’t control. We can trust, however, that God will let us learn and grow through our experiences, no matter how overwhelming or unpleasant, like our present pandemic. When fear, uncertainty or questions like “why is God letting this happen,” threaten to overcome your peace of mind, heart and soul, stop and say to yourself, GOD WILLS OUR GOOD! Continue to repeat this until you feel God’s gift of peace.

It is never God’s will that we should suffer. The ways of the world are not always in harmony with God’s ways. Another truth, hard to embrace, is that what we see as bad or evil in the world, God can use for good. I think about the many small and large acts of kindness and self-giving in stories shared during our present health crisis. Just look at the men and women on the front lines, doing their jobs as our first responders.

In the week ahead, let’s keep our eyes open to the presence of God all around us in the compassion and goodness of others. And let’s remember to be that presence for someone who might just need us to remind them, in some small act of kindness, GOD WILLS OUR GOOD!! I’m reminded of this each time I walk through the courtyard and see and stop to read the touching prayer ribbons blowing in the breeze from the trees. So inspiring, and such a neat reminder we are together in spirit and prayer.

Have a blessed and safe week ahead. With you a Christian. For you a priest.

Parish Donation Options available through GiveCentral

Again, a heartfelt thank you to all who use GiveCentral or have mailed in or dropped off their Sunday Offertory and Easter donations. During these challenging times, we still need and count on your support. For others, now may be the time to consider using GiveCentral, our online giving option. Sign-up is easy; visit www.stgilesparish.org and click on the blue “givecentral online giving” box on our home page. Then simply follow the detailed, but easy, instructions and link. Or you are now able to text a donation to St. Giles! GiveCentral has set-up a text-to-give number 708-258-1063. Simply text, Donate, to make or set-up Sunday Offertory giving. Text, Easter, to make a special Easter gift. It’s a great way to ensure your donation is received even when you cannot attend Mass, allowing St. Giles consistent cash flow to pay bills and plan for the future. For questions or assistance, contact Sharon in the Parish Office at 708-383-3430, ext. 420 or sbresnahan@stgilesparish.org.

2020 Saint Giles Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

OPEN MEETING DATES: 5/11, 6/8, and 8/18
START TIME & LOCATION: 7:30 p.m., 3rd floor Parish Center, 1025 Columbian
PPC HOME PAGE URL: http://www.stgilesparish.org/pastoral-council/
CHAIR: Jim Gates CONTACT: jgates939@gmail.com VICE CHAIR: Maudette Carr
MEMBERS: Pat Carew, Marci Madary, Kathleen Mullaney, Margaret Murphy, Alex Ryan, Maria Samatas, and Ed Siderewicz
We Pray For . . .

Those who are hospitalized or homebound, including: Mary Pat Baubly, Marty Blake, Tim Bock, Jan Brent, Erva Bruno, Deirdre Buckingham, Luciana Butera, David Campbell, Angela Cary, Paul Chan, Drew Christien, Tony Cocco, Thomas Coleman, Anthony Costa, Ann Cyr, Daniel DeMartine, Donna DiGilio, Andrea Dickson, Nancy Abram Donaldson, Paul Frauenfelder, Mary Jane Gage, Vicky Gallermo, Jim Gibson, Laura Gruber, Mary Frances Hegarty, Deacon John Henricks, Paul Hoffman, Annette Hulefeld, Frank Hulefeld, Karl Humowiecki, Tim Kenny, Helen Kiefer, Jason Kurtz, Dorothy Lane, Ann Mackin, Angela Madden, Mary Mamolella, Giuliana Mason, Patricia McDonald, Kathy Nardi, Sister Louise Noesen, Mary Kay Olson, Anne O’Neill, Colin O’Shea, Amelia Patterson, Owen Petzelka, Bob Quane, Joanne Quane, William Rios, Jr., Fr. Ed Salomon, Charles Serpe, Catherine Shilaga, Pat Sikorski, Marianne Tagler, Frank Trankina, Mary Ann Trankina, Kathy Varner, Wendell and Shirley Venerable, Nancy Wesclitz, and Deacon Gerry Zych.

(Some names have been removed from our listing in the Arrow but are continuing to be prayed for through the Prayer Circle. Others have received a Prayer Shawl representing the prayers for healing by the Parish community.)

And for those of our family members and parishioners who have died, especially Carmine Bottiglieri, Cecilia Melaragno, mother of Keith Melaragno, and Norman Zych, brother of Deacon Gerry Zych.

Parish Offerings - We will get through this Together!

Since Holy Week, we’ve continued to look for interesting ways to stay connected during this pandemic. We have added more content for each week besides our weekend Masses via the parish YouTube channel and other social media outlets.

On Monday or Tuesday, you will now find “Your Weekly Retreat,” a mini retreat based on the scripture from the weekend liturgy.

On Wednesdays, we share a personal message from one or more of your fellow parishioners.

"Fridays with Fr. Carl" was just launched where a glimpse of what might be coming up the following week or sharing some good things that are going on around our parish.

Some of this content is embedded in the parish website: www.stgilesparish.org and highlighted in our weekly E-News. The website is a one-stop location to sign up for the parish E-News, see the weekend’s Mass, register for GiveCentral’s online parish giving, check out the latest news from the Archdiocese, submit a virtual Prayer Ribbon, learn ways to help the greater community, and to follow us on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Catholic Charities – “Second Collection”

Traditionally on Mother’s Day, we take up a second collection for Catholic Charities in an effort to help fund the programs and services they offer to women and children around the Archdiocese. This year, amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, the needs are urgent and continue to grow. Catholic Charities will be there as they always have with food, housing, financial assistance, and ongoing support. Your help is needed now more than ever. Please use the envelope in your monthly packet as you would if we were worshipping together. Mail it in or drop it off at the Parish Center and we will be sure to pass it on. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

Masses for the Week

( Intentions will be offered in private Masses by our priests)

Monday, May 11
6:30 — Robert and Irene Hilliard
8:30 — Deceased of the Parish;

Tuesday, May 12
6:30 — Mary and Merrill Sklenar Family
8:30 — Sr. Mary Dolorene Tolton

Wednesday, May 13
6:30 — Erva Bruno
8:30 — Mary Christien

Thursday, May 14
Saint Matthias, Apostle
6:30 — Mary Louise Lackner
8:30 — McIntagert Zwisler Family; Bud Cederoth

Friday, May 15
6:30 — Mercedes M. Grassberger; Deceased of the Daley and Archibald Families
8:30 — Dr. Robert Hammer

Saturday, May 16
8:00 — Joannie Donovan; Frank Chlumecky
4:30 — Marge Giacalone; Joe “Murph” Murphy

Sunday, May 17
Sixth Sunday of Easter
7:45 — Jerry Klonke; Shirley Zamito
9:30 — Sheryl Govedarica
11:15 — All Saint Giles Parishioners and Benefactors
5:00 — Robert Lescher; Rose Marie Hannon and Family
Blessings to all the mothers of St. Giles

Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you give life and care for your Church. Bless these women, as we celebrate this day in their honor. May they be strengthened as Christian mothers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor and appreciate them with a spirit of profound respect. May the example of Mary, mother of Jesus, inspire them to live their vocation as Christian mothers and call their children to faith. Guide and protect them in challenging times and help them to continue to trust in you all the days of their life. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thank you for all you do every day to be the Church in the world!

Prayer Ribbons @ St. Giles

Pope Francis has always had a very special devotion to Mary, Undoer of Knots. In 2015, when he visited the US, outside the chapel of the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia, a spiritual art installation was created where people could tie white strips of paper with written prayers on them to a latticework. The petitions ranged from healing for themselves or family members, world peace, the elimination of poverty, protection for the environment, the preservation of families and thousands of other requests to "undo the knots" of these issues.

While we are not able to recreate this exactly, we are blessed with many healthy, young trees in the parish courtyard and would like to encourage all parishioners, and welcome all others, to write a prayer petition on a strip of ribbon or paper (any color) and stop by the courtyard to tie these on a branch of one of the trees there. Please make sure to give other visitors a safe social distance while leaving your petition. We'd like to include these petitions collectively in each Mass going forward and keep everyone updated with photos of our growing prayer space. #togetherstgiles

Virtual Prayer Ribbons: Family and friends who don't live in the area may leave a virtual prayer ribbon by visiting: www.stgilesparish.org/prayer-ribbon
Social Justice

Here I Am
Keeping Connected @ St Giles

In anticipation of creating a more robust communication system, we are launching “Here I Am – Keeping Connected @ St. Giles” with a simple Google form that we are asking all parishioners to fill out so that we can make sure we have the most current information for all members of our faith family.

By answering these few simple questions, it will help us ensure you are receiving important information as it becomes available and allow the parish records to be updated as appropriate. There is also a final question that allows you to put forward anything you’d like held in prayer by all of us in community.

Thank you in advance for taking a few minutes to complete this! You can copy this URL to your browser to submit the form:

https://forms.gle/fVYqsbPQxxCUrYEW7

Or, visit our website:
http://www.stgilesparish.org/keeping-connected/

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY,
FR. ED, FR. CARL AND FR. TOM

May is traditionally the month that priests celebrate the anniversary of their ordination. On May 7, Fr. Edward Salmon will be celebrating his 61st anniversary! Also on May 7, Fr Carl Morello and Fr. Thomas Unz, classmates in the seminary, will be celebrating their 37th anniversary! We thank you for celebrating the sacraments and sharing your love of the Lord with us and our families here at St. Giles. May God continue to bless you as we wish you well on your milestones in ministry to God’s faithful ones.

FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE NEEDY

We are grateful to those who responded to Fr. Carl’s recent message calling us to continue to provide for our local food pantries. In our second week of our new way of collecting donations, we gathered enough to make a much-needed delivery to Catholic Charities Cicero Food Pantry. Teen volunteers from our Youth Ministry, Marielle Janosky and Will Kornowske, collected the food from the Parish Center and made the delivery to Catholic Charities.

Thank you for all your support!

The need for donations continues! Three of the five food pantries that we have regularly contributed to are still accepting donations: St. Martin DePorres, Vital Bridges, and Santa Maria Addolorata. In addition, we are now also making donations to the Catholic Charities food pantry in Cicero.

Please bring your donations of canned or shelf-stable dry goods and paper products to the covered bins located at the back door on the north side of the Parish Center at 1025 Columbian. Members of the St. Giles Youth Ministry and the staff are regularly emptying the bins and bringing the donations inside to prepare them for pick-up.

Items that are needed:
Canned fruits and vegetables,
Canned or dried beans,
Mac-n-Cheese, Rice, Pasta,
Oatmeal and breakfast cereals,
Canned tuna, chicken and other meats/fish,
Canned soups, stews and chili,
Toilet paper and paper towels,
    Peanut butter,
    Powdered milk,
    Personal care products such as soap,
    toothpaste, deodorant and shampoo.
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