

# WALKtheTALK

SGFMC Action for Justice News

This is a limited compilation of **CURRENT** opportunities for action. **Additional suggestions are welcomed at:** [marynpaul@comcast.net](mailto:marynpaul@comcast.net) we will make every effort to share them as quickly as possible.

## DECEMBER 2023

*"Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me...."*



JOIN US IN HONOR OF GUN VIOLENCE VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS  
HOT CHOCOLATE AND LIGHT SNACKS WILL BE SERVED  
SUPPORTED BY:  
NATURE120  
OAK PARK-AUSTIN AREA MOMS DEMAND ACTION  
MOTHERS ONA MISSION 28  
NEIGHBORSPLACE

*"Peace in the Garden"* (Honoring gun violence victims and survivors.)

**Saturday, 12/9, 9-11AM , Mercy Community Garden 4910 W, Quincy. (Note: Oak Park-Austin Area Moms Demand Action are community partners with the garden.)**



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK  
848 LAKE STREET, OAK PARK  
7PM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

**2023 Candlelight Peace Vigil to End Gun Violence – Tuesday, December 12, 7PM First United Church of Oak Park (848 Lake Street)**

#### LOCAL SPONSORS:

- Moms Demand Action Oak Park-Austin Area • Waging Peace of First United Church of Oak Park
- Gun Violence Prevention Team of Unity Temple UU Congregation • Mothers OnA Mission28
- Ascension-St Edmund Peace & Justice Committee • Gun Responsibility Advocates
- Community of Congregations • Catholic Parishes of Oak Park
- Live Free-Community Healing Resource Center • Congregations Networking for Social Justice

**Join the Monthly Prayer Vigil to End Gun Violence:** Please join us on **Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM** (following the 5PM Mass) on the **Ascension Parish Green (808 S. East Ave.)**

**Annual New Year's TAIZE PRAYER FOR PEACE – 7:00 PM, Monday, January 1, 2024 – ASCENSION CHURCH – 808 S. East Ave., Oak Park**



FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA

Keep the pressure on **to reinstate the Assault Weapons Ban H.R. 698 / S. 25**  
**CONTACT: Your two senators and one House representative (look up).**

**Script:** "Hi, I'm contacting you from **Illinois** about the urgent need for common sense gun laws. A majority of Americans [favor a reinstatement of the federal ban](#) on assault-style weapons, and the shooting in Maine is the latest tragedy underscoring the [call for reform](#). I urge you to do everything in your power to ensure passage of the Assault Weapons Ban of 2023 (

**FOR YOUR REFERENCE... (please post and share these numbers widely!)**

- o Trevor Line (for LGBTQ teens and young adults) 1-866-488-7386
- o National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: **DIAL 988** – 24/7, toll-free everywhere



**sarah's inn**  
together strong

<https://sarahsinn.org/> and the 24-HOUR CRISIS LINE: 708-386-4225 (phone) / 708-669-6149 (text). Sarah's Inn provides comprehensive services for families impacted by domestic violence. Families get the support they need to find safety, rebuild their lives, and heal.



<https://www.cawc.org/about-programs/> Multi-lingual shelter, hospital services, education and outreach programs, counseling, court advocacy, and more! [**CAWC 24-HOUR HOT LINE: [773.278.4566](tel:773.278.4566)**]

- o **National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233**
  - [Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline](#) 1-877-863-6338
  - National Sexual Assault Hotline (all ages) 1-800-656-4673

***"Let us pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country." – Pope Francis***



**CATHOLIC  
MOBILIZING  
NETWORK**

**Urge President Joe Biden and his administration to honor the sanctity of life by prioritizing an **end to the federal death penalty**.** <https://catholicsmobilizing.org/biden-end-federal-dp>



**DEATH PENALTY  
ACTION**

"The following link is to an updated list of **currently scheduled executions** in the United States. **Select the prisoner's name to sign the petition** which will be delivered on your behalf to the respective state's government officials". <https://deathpenaltyaction.org/take-action/execution-petitions/>

**URGENT ACTION NEEDED:**

January 25, 2024 at 6:00 pm CT: [Kenneth Smith in Alabama](#)

February 1, 2024 at 10:00 am CT: [James Ryder in Oklahoma](#)

**TRACK THE CANDIDATES HERE:** <https://deathpenaltyaction.org/2024candidatepositions/>

***"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me..." Matthew 25: 35***

**\*\*EMERGENCY HELP FOR NEW IMMIGRANTS\*\*** **ITEM DONATIONS FOR MIGRANT MINISTRY - Drop off Mondays from 9 am to 12 pm at Washington Boulevard entrance to St. Catherine-St. Lucy Church.** Please do not leave any donations outside of these hours. **Only these items are needed: winter jackets, sweatpants especially for men and boys, leggings for women, hoodies, and layering items, socks, gloves, hats, blankets, suitcases, and sleeping bags. We continue to need new underwear for men, women, and children. For men boxer briefs in small and medium. For women underwear and sports bras in small and medium. For children underwear in all sizes, particularly for boys. We ask you please to stick to this list.**

[AMAZON wish list: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3VKSYQWISEBOM?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3VKSYQWISEBOM?ref=wl_share)]



"Volunteers are a key part of operating our emergency warming shelter for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness. The volunteer opportunities for this shelter are:"

- **Evening Shelter Host:** Volunteers help get set-up for the evening, greet the shelter guests as they arrive, help them to set up their sleeping area, host dinner, and interact with clients until lights out;
- **Overnight Attendant:** Volunteers support staff in ensuring a safe experience for the shelter guests;
- **Breakfast Host:** Volunteers serve a light breakfast, help shelter guests exit and assist with light clean-up;
- **Meal Provider:** Volunteers donate a full hot dinner, and/or continental breakfast, and/or sack-to-go lunches for 15 people.

<https://www.housingforward.org/get-involved/volunteer>



**848 Lake Street, Oak Park** – "A variety of volunteer shifts are available, during weekday, evening, and weekend hours. We offer 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."

<https://www.gobeyondhunger.org/volunteer>



"We welcome **volunteers** to assist with the day-to-day operations that make Oak Park Community Fridge possible. Become a fridge manager to maintain our fridge, stock the fridge by distributing food from our partners, and help with behind-the-scenes operations." <https://www.opfridge.com/volunteer>



"**The Night Ministry** is a Chicago-based organization whose mission is to provide human connection, housing support, and health care to members of our community who are unhoused or experiencing poverty..."

<https://www.thenightministry.org/other-ways-to-support>

***"The Earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof..." Psalm 24:1***



**Natural Resources Defense Council:** stop the Dakota Access Pipeline once and for all.

"Submit your public comment to the Army Corps of Engineers and join the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in demanding a new, unbiased Environmental Impact Statement that adequately assesses the environmental impact of the Dakota Access Pipeline." <https://action.nrdc.org/letter/2380-dapl-comment-period-act-102723?initms=WB>



**- SAVE THE DATE! 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Catholic Youth Climate Summit – Sunday, February 25, 2024, 9AM-4PM – St. Ignatius College Prep – 1076 Roosevelt Rd., Chicago (more info to follow soon).**

...and more...


**RACE CONSCIOUS DIALOGUES** <https://raceconsciousdialogues.org/> The primary focus is working with the privileged majority in the context of affinity groups, in a four-part workshop series. Topics include whiteness, socialization, social identity, dominant narratives, privilege, racism interruption, solidarity, systems of oppression and more.

**\*WINTER 2024\* COHORTS**

**FOUNDATIONAL COURSE on WHITENESS & ANTI-RACISM**

**VIRTUAL: Thursdays 9AM-12PM: January 25TH- February 15TH**

**IN-PERSON: Sundays 2PM-5PM: January 21ST- February 11TH in Oak Park, IL**

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO 

## XVIII ANNUAL POSADA


### Seeking Immigration Reform

Friday, December 15, 2023 | 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
101 West Ida B. Wells Drive, Chicago, IL 60605

Join us in walking and praying in solidarity with our immigrant sisters and brothers who—as the Holy Family sought a place to stay—have been knocking on the doors for legislative shelters, or “Posada,” year after year. This year Pastoral Migration from the Archdiocese of New York and Baltimore will join us simultaneously to elevate our voices for immigration reform.

**ROUTE**  
USCIS Chicago Field Office (101 West Ida B. Wells Drive, Chicago, IL 60605)  
Metropolitan Correctional Center (71 West Van Buren Street, Chicago, IL 60605)  
DePaul University (6 East Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60604)  
Federal Plaza (West Adams Street and South Dearborn Street)  
Old St. Patrick's Church (700 West Adams Street, Chicago, IL 60661)

To livestream the Posada via FB Live on December 15, visit the Pastoral Migration Facebook page ([facebook.com/pastoral.migration](https://facebook.com/pastoral.migration)). For more information, please visit [pvm.archchicago.org/annual-posada](https://pvm.archchicago.org/annual-posada). For any questions, please contact Mauro Pineda at [mpineda@archchicago.org](mailto:mpineda@archchicago.org) or Raymundo Valdez at [rvaldez@archchicago.org](mailto:rvaldez@archchicago.org).



**SAVE THE DATE! Coming to St.Giles, Monday, March 11, 2024 – FR. JOHN DEAThe Gospel of Peace: A Commentary on Matthew, Mark, and Luke from the Perspective of Nonviolence** - Offers a first ever commentary on the Synoptic Gospels from the perspective of active nonviolence, in the tradition of Gandhi and Dr. King. Walks through every line of the three synoptic Gospels pointing out Jesus’ practice and teachings of nonviolence each step of the way. This commentary brings a new approach to the Gospels and is a resource for those who preach and engage in social ministries, and an inspiration in this time of permanent warfare, gun violence, racism, poverty and climate change