

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.

## NOVEMBER 2023

### Black Catholic History Month



St. Martin de Porres – 11/3 St. Augustine of Hippo – 11/13



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

**Join the Monthly Prayer Vigil to End Gun Violence:** Please join us on **Saturday, November 25 at 6:00 PM** (following the 5PM Mass) on the **Ascension Parish Green (808 S. East Ave.)**



**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 ([H.R. 698](#) / [S. 25](#))."

**LOCAL:** DONATE YOUR TIME OR \$\$ TO SUPPORT organizations like [BUILD Chicago](#), [MothersOnAMission28](#), and [The Healing Corner](#) that are doing good work on the west side..."

[**NOTE:** Oak Park-Austin Area Moms Demand Action are community partners with **The Mercy Garden of Peace and Healing** (4912 W. Quincy, Chicago) <https://mappedchicago.org/projects/mercy-garden-of-peace-and-healing> ]



Illinois Gun Laws **HERE:** <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/browse-state-gun-laws/?filter0=210>,

**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) ]



### CAWC Adopt-a-Family Donor Pledge 2023



"Every year, CAWC hosts a gift drive to ensure clients in our programs receive holiday gifts. This is our opportunity to ensure that families we work with have the best holiday season possible.

**When you sign up to be a part of CAWC's Adopt-a-Family program, you will grant three wishes to *each* family member. Each wish should have a value of approximately \$25, so you can plan on spending approximately \$75 per person.** After signing up, you will be matched with a family and receive their first names, ages of each family member, their clothing size, favorite color, and their three wishes. **Gifts should be dropped off to CAWC between Monday, November 27th and Monday, December 11th.** Additional information about scheduling gift drop-offs will be provided along with the wish lists. [1116 N. Kedzie Ave., Chicago; 773-489-9081]

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Iaq1BIFckUmaGOZeDkqgQMPpzhdlVWxGkmclarmj>

#### ○ National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233

- [Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline](https://www.ndvh.org/) 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***



**Urge President Joe Biden and his administration to honor the sanctity of**

**life by prioritizing an end to the federal death penalty.** <https://catholicmobilizing.org/biden-end-federal-dp>



DEATH PENALTY



"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:

November 9, 2023 at 6:00 pm CT: [Brent Brewer in Texas](#)

November 16, 2023 at 6:00 pm CT: [David Renteria in Texas](#)

November 16, 2023 at 6:00 pm CT: [Casey McWhorter in Alabama](#)

November 30, 2023 at 10:00 am CT: [Phillip Hancock in Oklahoma](#)

***"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***

**Meal Providers – Breakfast for the SHELTER at St. Catherine/St. Lucy, 38 N. Austin**

**Blvd:** “We currently need 40 breakfast meals, daily. Each volunteer signup is responsible for 40 meals. If you are working in a group, please take this into account rather than the number of people you are working with.

We are providing breakfast to clients in our interim shelter location. Volunteers are needed to purchase food for breakfast meals. Food items a complete meal should be wrapped to be served individually. Food will be laid out for clients to select. Clients do have access to a microwave. **Drop off for breakfast should be before 9pm on the day you are scheduled for.** (Food will be given to clients the next morning)

The recommended breakfast items include:

- Pastry (i.e. muffin, bagel)
- Instant oatmeal or grits
- Yogurt
- Microwavable breakfast sandwiches
- Fruit cups
- **Water bottles (Note: We are now encouraging volunteers to provide cases of water rather than soda or juice)**

**Volunteers needed for the SHELTER at St. Catherine/St. Lucy, 38 N. Austin Blvd.**

1. Site Captains - recruit and manage a team of volunteers from your congregation to fill volunteer needs and/or meals for a night of shelter operation
2. Evening – 6:30p until 10:30p (3 volunteers)
3. Overnight – 10:30p until 5:00a (2 volunteers)
4. Morning – 5:00a until 7:00a (2 volunteers)

**\*MEALS needed\*:** Volunteers donate a full hot dinner, and/or continental breakfast, and/or sack to-go lunches for 15 people **Volunteer HERE:** <https://www.housingforward.org/get-involved/volunteer>

**\*\*EMERGENCY HELP FOR NEW IMMIGRANTS\*\* [CPD DISTRICT 15, 5701 W. MADISON]**

**ITEM DONATIONS FOR MIGRANT MINISTRY - Drop off Mondays from 9 am to 12 pm at St. Catherine - St. Lucy Rectory located at 38 N. Austin Boulevard** - South side door near the back of the Rectory, adjacent to the parking lot - Please do not leave any donations outside of these hours. Please focus on cold-weather items: blankets, winter jackets, sweatpants especially for men and boys, leggings for women, hoodies, and layering items, socks, gloves, hats, tents, 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.



**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>



**Support HR 1325 – ASYLUM SEEKER WORK AUTHORIZATION ACT**

<https://www.refugeesinternational.org/statements-and-news/39-national-and-local-organizations->

**Contact:** Your House representative ([look up](#)).

**Script:** "Hi, I'm contacting you from [ZIP] to ask you to cosponsor and pass the Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act ([H.R. 1325](#)), which will reduce the required waiting period for people seeking asylum to access employment. This bipartisan bill will allow our new neighbors to [support themselves and their families](#) while bolstering the U.S. workforce. Can I count on your 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>



Join a grassroots & entirely nonprofit movement of people who are giving and getting stuff for free in their own Towns. It's all about reuse and keeping good stuff out of landfills. Membership is free.

**SIGN UP HERE:** <https://freecycle.org/signup>



***Stay tuned....***

**...and more...**

**CONGREGATIONS NETWORKING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE** (Oak Park Area.

Contact **CNSJ** at [justicenetwork.op@gmail.com](mailto:justicenetwork.op@gmail.com) to receive their newsletter)

**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**