

The Chimes

The weekly bulletin of
SAINT MARGARET MARY

2324 W. Chase Ave. • Chicago, IL 60645



September 22, 2019

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time



25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth,
who will trust you with true wealth?" - Lk 16:11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

©LPI

PASTORAL STAFF

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

Fridays 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

I would like to thank the 30 or so people who attended last Sunday's Renew My Church parish session. I hope that it was not only informative, but also a chance for more parishioners to feel involved in the process of Renew My Church. I wanted to take this time to highlight a couple of things that came up during that session.

First, there was a request to clarify the parish debt. The parish was already in debt by the time I arrived at the parish. It was a challenge I was aware of when I agreed to be pastor. So, the debt was one of those things I inherited as the incoming pastor.

The debt was a result of several years of subsidizing the former school. I am sure that this issue will still bring up some hurt feelings from several parishioners. But, it still remains a fact that we cannot avoid. The former parish school had suffered many challenges and the parish had to give financial subsidy to the school for several years. The subsidy was needed in order to try to keep the school open. However, what resulted was that the parish itself became in debt. As more and more financial resources were transferred to the school, the parish became unable to keep up with its own ordinary expenses.

When we joined Northside Catholic Academy, the parish benefited by the fact that NCA moved to our school building. Even though the parish has the responsibility of contributing financially to the school, all of the cost of the parish to NCA is covered by the school's share of maintaining the school building and other shared spaces. For this reason, the parish is in a better situation because we are no longer incurring debt from subsidizing the school.

What adds to the challenge, though, is the fact that the parish remains unable to meet the ordinary expenses. At last weekend's parish session, I pointed out the fact that the parish currently has about 900 registered families. If the average family has about four members each, this means that we should expect to see at least 3,600 individual persons at Mass every weekend. However, our average Mass attendance has been between 500 and 600 individual persons among the three weekend Masses.

Added to this, of the 900 registered families, about 100+ families contribute to our weekly collections using the parish envelopes. And a fraction of those families take advantage of the online giving option.

All of this seemed to shock a few people at the meeting last weekend. We must, though, take note that a good portion of our current population come from countries that do not use the system of parish registration or envelopes. This is a purely American reality that many immigrant families still do not quite comprehend, no matter how long they may have been living here. Suffice it to say that the lack of people in the pews every weekend is a direct contributor to the parish's financial woes.

The solution to all of this, though, will require so much more than simply coming up with a strategy to convince people to give more in the Sunday collection or even coming up with more fund raising efforts. This is a trend that has been happening all throughout the Archdiocese and the problem has been increasing over the past several years. The culture today is no longer one that actively promotes engagement with faith. For too many Catholics today, the faith life pales in importance to careers, school and extracurricular activities of children, or even personal interests.

The solution lies in what I told the attendees of last Sunday's parish session. Our focus must first and foremost be forming ourselves and others into strong disciples of Jesus. The reason why churches were so full many years ago was that people took discipleship more seriously than they do today. So what we need to do is focus on forming people into strong disciples who will remain engaged and invested in their faith and, thus, will show concern for the life of the faith community they will call their spiritual home.

In terms of the conversation regarding the Renew My Church process, ALL parishes throughout the Archdiocese will need to go through some restructuring. We cannot afford to keep going the way we are going and expect it to last for too much longer. What it boils down to is whether we, as a parish, continue to rely purely on our own resources or if it is time that we join forces with others in an effort to strengthen the effort we, as Catholics in West Ridge, give to evangelizing and making disciples? This is precisely what the Spirit is moving us to discern through the Renew My Church process.

In the weeks and months to come I continue to invite the whole parish to be open to the Spirit of God and where God, Himself, is leading His people in this local Church. God asks us to do things that are difficult. But God will never leave us without the divine grace that will be needed to go through those challenges. This, again, is a time for all of us to grow in our trust in God and devote our selves to the greater mission of making disciples of all nations as Jesus has commanded us to do.

Fr. Tirso S. Villaverde, Jr.



Chicago Department of Health



AT NO COST (FREE!!)

Where: Margaret Mary Community Center

7341 N. CLAREMONT AVE

When: SATURDAY, October 5, 2019

Time: 3:30PM – 7:30PM



FLU VACCINE

AT NO COST (FREE!!)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

3

COLLECTION REPORT

September 15, 2019

Sunday Envelope Budget.....	\$8,942.00
Sunday Envelope Actual.....	\$3,631.70
Loose Money	\$1,005.26
Total Collection	\$4,636.96
Variance.....	(\$4,305.04)
Weekly Budget Amount	
Envelopes Used	103

BABY BOTTLE PROJECT

Beginning on October 6th, we will be participating in the Baby Bottle Project benefitting The Women's Center of Greater Chicagoland. This non-profit organization directly assists mothers and families experiencing crisis pregnancies by offering emotional, financial, material and spiritual support through counseling, clothing and monetary provisions, prayer and other aid. Each year the three locations together have over 5,000 appointments with expecting mothers. By God's Grace, The Women's Centers have saved almost 40,000 babies, and their mothers, from abortion since opening in 1984.

Please take a Baby Bottle home with you on the weekend of October 5th & 6th, fill it with your spare change, and return it the weekend of October 26th & 27th.

This is a simple but crucial fundraising effort for The Women's Centers. Please note the Baby Bottles cost almost \$1.00 per bottle and are recycled afterwards, so please return upon completion of the project.

Thank you for helping defend life, and remember to keep all pro-life undertakings in your prayers.

Also, if you are making a donation by check, please make it payable to: The Women's Center. Thank you.

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 7:15 to 9 pm in the Rectory Hall. Contact us by email at HaveFun@BoyScoutTroop923.org or by voicemail at 312-772-4923.

SAVE THE DATE
Tickets on Sale NOW!

St. Margaret Mary Feast Day!
Lights Camera Comedy

Late Nite Catechism

5 Stars review

Join us on Saturday, October 12th, 2019
Eat. Drink. Laugh.
5:30pm - 8:30pm Show starts at 6:30pm

Ticket Price \$45
includes light dinner and soft beverages

Drinks at the bar: \$5
Wine, Beer

St. Margaret Mary Parish
Activity Center
2324 W. Chase Ave
Chicago, IL. 60645
1-773-764-0615

Purchase Your Tickets
At any Mass
Stop by the Rectory.
Online:
www.smmchicago.org

PRAYER FOR "RENEW MY CHURCH"

Lord Jesus, you speak to us today as you spoke to holy men and women who have gone before us. In every age and in our own time, you call to us and say: "Renew My Church." Pour out the gift of your Holy Spirit upon us, and so enable us to hear you clearly, to listen to each other attentively, to imagine our future boldly, to discern your direction wisely, to persevere in your holy will courageously, to stay together in charity, to surrender our own plans readily, to embrace the greater good and to hand on your gifts to future generations.

May we remain in the holy company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the apostles, and all the saints. May their example and presence inspire us with patient confidence in the work of your grace.

We ask this of you who live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

CYCLES OF FAITH

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"The Seasons of Life

If you live in the northern part of our country, you see the signs all around. Leaves turn from green to yellow to orange or red, then fall and fade to brown. Birds slowly disappear for the south. Grass withers underfoot. *"To everything there is a season,"* we read in Ecclesiastes. The natural world speaks spiritual truths, if only we have ears to hear. God invites each and every one of us into the seasonal progression of our own conversion. No matter who we are, each of us has something in our life that is ready to turn. Is it an area where we're weary? A good habit we've been putting off? A familial reconciliation that needs to happen? As the world passes from one season to another, where is God inviting you to turn toward Him?



Readings for the week of September 22, 2019

Sunday: Am 8:4-7/Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8
[cf. 1a, 7b]/1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 16:1-13
or 16:10-13

Monday: Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3,
4-5, 6 [3]/Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday: Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20/Ps 122:1-2,
3-4ab, 4cd-5 [1]/Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9/Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn,
7-8 [1b]/Lk 9:1-6

Thursday: Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and
9b [cf. 4a]/Lk 9:7-9

Friday: Hg 2:1-9/Ps 43:1, 2, 3, 4 [5]/
Lk 9:18-22

Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jer 31:10,
11-12a, 13 [cf. 10d]/Lk 9:43b-45

Next Sunday: Am 6:1a, 4-7/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10
[1b]/1 Tm 6:11-16/Lk 16:19-31

+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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, September 22 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 am George Meyers
Don Tres

10:30 am Julita Trovela
Gabriel Monterio
Salvador Monterio

Monday, September 23 St. Pius of Pietreicina

8:00 am Melinda Malabo Cosare

Tuesday, September 24

8:00 am Deceased members of SMM

Wednesday, September 25

8:00 am Deceased members of SMM

Thursday, September 26 Ss. Cosmas & Damien

8:00 am John Potucek
Dr. Emmanuel Alzona

Friday, September 27 St. Vincent de Paul

8:00 am Deceased members of SMM

Saturday, September 28

8:00 am Deceased members of SMM
4:00 pm Ann Donohue
Antonia L. & Eugenio R. Dias

Sunday, September 29 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 am George Meyers
10:30 am Rosie Theil
Julita Trovela

LITURGICAL ROLES

SMM serves, prays and celebrates.

Sacristans

**Monday,
September 23**

A Volunteer Is Needed

Wednesday, September 25

Terry Luciano

Saturday, September 28

A Volunteer Is Needed

Lectors

Saturday, September 21

4:00 pm Lee Draus & Julie Ashbach

Sunday, September 22

8:30 am Bernadette Edom &
Janet Murtaugh

10:30 am Alex Luciano & Greg Umogo

Eucharistic Ministers

Saturday, September 21

4:00 pm M. Fallon, A. Alban, D. Cole,
G. Lindor, J. Moylan, M. Varallo &
J. Ashbach

Sunday, September 22

8:30 am A. Blumberg, C. Chima,
B. Russell, R. Hardy, L. Honda &
L. Igboanugo

10:30 am T. Luciano, B. David, B. Skiles,
B. Alban & K. Conoquie

Lectors

Saturday, September 28

4:00 pm Art Blumberg & Maureen Varallo

Sunday, September 29

8:30 am Richard Schaefer & Peter Scheidt
10:30 am Trish Linwood & Lucy Ibekwem

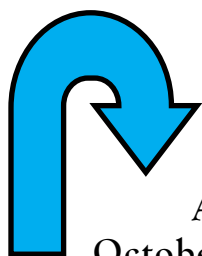
Eucharistic Ministers

Saturday, September 28

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

Sunday, September 29

8:30 am P. & R. Mackin, L. Igboanugo,
L. Honda, R. Hardy, B. Russell &
C. Chima
10:30 am V. Onyeaghala, G. Potucek
J. Seruelo, B. Bingham, M. Grigsby,
A. Baldonado & V. Malicay



All information for the
October 6th, 13th & 20th issues of
the Chimes
is due in the Rectory office
no later than 9 am on
Monday, September 30th.
Thank you!

REST IN PEACE

Our blessed Lord has called home
Maurita Baja for whom we promise
our prayers that she may live in joy in
His presence.

