



Bringing Our
Faith to Life

Our Parish Life



ST. MICHAEL
IN OLD TOWN
A Redemptorist Catholic Parish

1633 N. Cleveland Ave • Chicago, IL 60614 • 312.642.2498 • www.st-mikes.org



Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 7, 2017

The shepherd leads the sheep out
into pastures of abundant life
(John 10:1-10).

Dear Parishioners,

As you can see from the front of the church, the Stained Glass Windows Restoration has begun. I have already had some inquiries as to when it will be finished. Right now, the plan is for the windows on the front of the church and the west side of the church to be completed by the end of July. I understand that the scaffolding will be moved as the work progresses from the front to the side of the church. Remember, we live in Chicago and our unpredictable weather will be a determining factor.

I want to offer a word of thanks for those whose generosity has made this project possible. Remember that this is a work in progress. So is the funding for it. The portion of the Restoration that is being covered by the pledges from *To Teach Who Christ Is* makes up just part of the overall project. More donations are always welcome and can be specified for the windows. I'll have more on this in the coming weeks. Once the windows have been finished, we are facing the challenge of the beginning the projects of the Parish Center Roof and Elevator in the fall.

Our Parish will be taking a special collection for Catholic Charities at all Masses next weekend, May 14. This is the only collection that supports Catholic Charities. Your donation will help carry out the Gospel mission to love and serve the poor and vulnerable in Cook and Lake Counties. Catholic Charities is celebrating 100 years of bringing hope and healing wherever it is most needed in the Archdiocese of Chicago. They have changed and grown over the years, and today serve nearly 1 million people annually.

Programs range from

- Housing and food
- To caring for children
- Maternity and adoption services
- After school programming
- Senior support
- Affordable senior housing
- Counseling

This Week at St. Michael

For more information or to participate in any of the activities listed below, please call the Parish Office at (312) 642-2498.

Sunday, May 7

- 9:00 a.m. Mass with Blessing of Engaged Couples
- 10:00 a.m. Religious Education Class
- 11:00 a.m. Mass with Blessing of Engaged Couples
- 12:00 p.m. Tour
- 1:00 p.m. Baptism Service
- 6:00 p.m. Mass

Monday, May 8

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- 12:00 p.m. Mass
- 7:00 p.m. Baptism Preparation Class
- 7:00 p.m. Stillpoint/Contemplative Prayer
- 8:00 p.m. ACA Meeting

Tuesday, May 9

- 8:00 a.m. Mass with Our Mother of Perpetual Help Devotion
- 12:00 p.m. Mass with Our Mother of Perpetual Help Devotion
- 12:00 p.m. Weight Watchers Meeting
- 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Wednesday, May 10

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- 10:00 a.m. Tour
- 10:00 a.m. Mom's Group
- 12:00 p.m. Mass
- 6:00 p.m. AA (Women Only)
- 7:00 p.m. Human Concerns

Thursday, May 11

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- 12:00 p.m. Mass
- 4:00 p.m. First Communion Retreat
- 7:00 p.m. Rosary

Friday, May 12

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- 12:00 p.m. Mass
- 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Saturday, May 13

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- 4:15 p.m. Confession
- 5:00 p.m. Mass

Sunday, May 14

- 9:00 a.m. Mass with First Communion
- 10:00 a.m. Religious Education Class
- 11:00 a.m. Mass
- 12:00 p.m. Tour
- 6:00 p.m. Mass

Pastor's Notes

- Veterans employment and housing,
- Family strengthening.

We are all aware of the epidemic of violence in Chicago and its suburbs. People are hurt or dying. Many feel abandoned or forgotten. There is no one solution to ending and preventing personal, domestic and community violence. Catholic Charities offers many programs that bring grace and dignity to the most troubled neighborhoods, healing deep-seated wounds and providing alternatives for a better way of life.

On Mother's Day we honor the special women in our lives who have provided us with unconditional love and shaped us into the people we are today. It is also a time for us to remember the thousands of mothers and grandmothers who live with the fear of violence every day. We can help struggling families raise healthy children safely.

Please contribute generously as you are able. Thank you for your support of Catholic Charities.

God bless us all in the coming week!

In the Redeemer,



News & Announcements

Calling all Marketing Professionals

St. Michael is forming a promotion committee to help develop a communication and action plans that support parish activities and our story in the community. If you have professional experience in marketing, communications, branding, or related fields, please consider sharing your time and talents with St. Michael. Useful experience includes: creative writing skills, advertising background, marketing background, graphic design skills, photography talents, web development skills, SEO skills, desktop publishing skills.

Parishioner Welcome Dinner

Thursday, May 18, 2017
Parish Center Cafe
6:00 p.m.

Have you registered as a parishioner of St. Michael in Old Town in the past year? If so, you are invited to join Fr. Lawson and the pastoral staff to officially welcome you to the parish family. There are no formal presentations or expectations, just have a lovely evening of cocktails, great food and opportunity to enjoy each other's company. You are welcomed to attend if you consider yourself a New Parishioner regardless of when you registered or are looking for an opportunity to meet other members of the community. For more information or to RSVP please call the main office 312-642-2498



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

Spring 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This is a special year for the Archdiocese of Chicago as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities' centennial year is truly a celebration for all of us because its great tradition of charitable care has included the support of volunteers and donors from every parish in the archdiocese. For 100 years, through every era of war, peace, poverty and prosperity, Catholic Charities has worked together with the faithful to fulfill the Gospel mission to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, welcome the stranger, comfort the afflicted, and bring hope to the hopeless.

Each year on Mother's Day, we have an opportunity to make a financial contribution to the Catholic Charities Mother's Day Collection. This year, as we face increasing violence in our communities, it is a critical time for us to come together to support Catholic Charities. With more than 150 locations throughout Cook and Lake Counties, Catholic Charities' services are intentionally located in the most troubled areas.

Through food and nutrition programs, early childhood education, alternatives for at-risk youth, trauma and grief counseling, job training, domestic violence programs, and substance abuse treatment, Catholic Charities' services are a powerful antidote the culture of drugs, gangs and violence that takes root in desperate areas.

Your donation to Catholic Charities will help the Church's efforts to promote peace, restore human dignity, and bring hope to those living with brutal violence and poverty. Please contribute as generously as you are able during Catholic Charities collection on Mother's Day. Or, make your donations directly to Catholic Charities at 721 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60654, www.catholiccharities.net/donate. May God bless you and your families.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Card. Blase J. Cupich".

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich Archbishop
of Chicago

Saint of the Day and Mass Intention

Sunday, May 7

St. Stanislaus of Crakow, Martyr

9:00 a.m. † Maggio Conceta & Salvatore DiFranco

11:00 a.m. Parishioners of St. Michael Church

6:00 p.m. † Marge McCarthy

Monday, May 8

Apparition of St. Michael

8:00 a.m. Helen Dillon

12:00 p.m. † Sr. Rita Black

Tuesday, May 9

St. Gregory Nazianzen

8:00 a.m. † Francesca Campione

12:00 p.m. St. Michael's Foundation

Wednesday, May 10

St. Antonius

8:00 a.m. † John and Marie Reiff

12:00 p.m. † William and Angela O'Connell

Thursday, May 11

Sts. Philip and James, Apostles

8:00 a.m. † Francesca Campione

12:00 p.m. Mary Pawluk

Friday, May 12

St. Pancratius

8:00 a.m. † Sigisumundo DiFranco

12:00 p.m. † Gerard Leiting

Saturday, May 13

St. Robert Bellarmine

8:00 a.m. Redemptorists at St. Michael's

5:00 p.m. † Jennifer Koch

Sunday, May 14

St. Boniface

9:00 a.m. Parishioners of St. Michael Church

11:00 a.m. † Velma Coleman

6:00 p.m. † Severina Bacer Edwards

This Week's Readings

Monday: Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4;
Jn 10:11-18

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-7;
Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday: Acts 12:24 — 13:5a;
Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8;
Jn 12:44-50

Thursday: Acts 13:13-25;
Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27;
Jn 13:16-20

Friday: Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11ab;
Jn 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4;

Ministry Schedule

| Date | Celebrant | Homilist | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Monday, May 8 8:00 a.m. Mass 12:00 p.m. Mass | Fr. Lawson Fr. Morin | Fr. Lawson Fr. Morin | | |
| Tuesday, May 9 8:00 a.m. Mass 12:00 p.m. Mass | Fr. Lawson Fr. Morin | Fr. Lawson Fr. Morin | | |
| Wednesday, May 10 8:00 a.m. Mass 12:00 p.m. Mass | Fr. Lawson Fr. Morin | Fr. Lawson Fr. Morin | | |
| Thursday, May 11 8:00 a.m. Mass 12:00 p.m. Mass | Fr. Keena Fr. Morin | Fr. Keena Fr. Morin | | |
| Friday, May 12 8:00 a.m. Mass 12:00 p.m. Mass | Fr. Keena Fr. Morin | Fr. Keena Fr. Morin | | |
| Saturday, May 13 8:00 a.m. Mass 4:15 p.m. Confessions | F. Keena Fr. Morin | Fr. Keena Fr. Morin | | |
| Date | Celebrant | Homilist | Lectors/ Servers | Eucharistic Ministers |
| Saturday, May 13 5:00 p.m. Mass | Fr. Lawson | Fr. Lawson | D. Eagan L. Scannicchio | C. Jaccarino* R. O'Brien |
| Sunday, May 14 9:00 a.m. Mass | Fr. Lawson | Fr. Lawson | Not Needed | L. Schreiber* P. Cassidy D. Dunning V. Rose |
| 11:00 a.m. Mass | Fr. Morin | Fr. Morin | C. Boeve D. Clarin | V. Classen* P. Clickener R. Graham B. Rahm |
| 6:00 p.m. Mass | Fr. Lawson | Fr. Lawson | J. Bachmann | All trained EMs present please come forward |

*Minister to prepare host/wine and assignments

Roles in the Mass

We are seeking mass greeters, additional lectors, servers, and Eucharistic Ministers for all our masses. To sign up please call Fr. Ted Lawson, C.Ss.R. at 312-642-2498.

2017 Mass Book

The Mass intention book for 2017 is open! Masses can be celebrated for persons living or deceased. If you would like to have a Mass celebrated for someone, please come to the Parish Office, 1633 N. Cleveland Ave. The stipend for a Mass intention is \$10, cash or checks only.

News & Announcements

Remember in Your Prayers

For Health and Healing:



Herbert Austin, Bernice Baumgarten, James and Nancy Brewer, Kathy Eales, Dolores Garcia, Mary Jones, Mary V. Joyce, Kendra Koepp, Theresa and Paul Kunach, Dan and Tom McGinnis, Roy Pecot, Paul Robert, Carl, Diane, and Rudy Neubek, Christine Schuman, Rev. Ken Sedlak, C.Ss.R., Marie Sineni, Drew Michael Williams, MaryAnn and Ted Wiszowaty,

Rosalie Zayia

To place or keep a name on our sick list, please call the rectory every **4 weeks** to let us know that you,

Wedding Banns

II- May 20, 2017

Ms. Joan Savage

&

Mr. Ryan Knodle

II- May 20, 2017

Ms. Jessica Scanlon

&

Mr. Owen Kramer

I- May 26, 2017

Ms. Kathrin Deutschle

&

Alfonso Otero Barba



II- May 20, 2017

Ms. Florida Levidiotis

&

Mr. Preston Bailey

II- May 20, 2017

Ms. Jessica Canfora

&

Mr. George Mavrogenes

I- May 27, 2017

Ms. Emily Gould

&

Mr. Cameron Cimala

I- May 27, 2017

Ms. Gloria Enriquez

&

Mr. Joseph Leppek

Yoga of 12 Step Recovery at St. Mikes

The Yoga of 12 Step Recovery (Y12SR) combines the practical tools of a 12 step program with yoga, addressing the physical, mental and spiritual aspects of addiction. Modeled from the meetings of 12-step programs, Y12SR is a group sharing circle coupled with an intentional, themed trauma-informed yoga practice. Y12SR meetings are open for anyone dealing with their own addictive behaviors or affected by those behaviors in others. Y12SR deepens any work participants may be currently doing or jumpstart the journey of self-discovery. Meetings are free, donations optional. Please wear comfortable clothes. More information is available at www.Y12SR.com or email Christine Kordiuk, ckordiuk@st-mikes.org or call 312-642-2498, ext. 301. This class will be meeting every other Tuesday from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. **with the next classes being held on May 16 and so on** in the Parish



Parish Life Commission

Commission Head:

information@st-mikes.org

The Parish Life Commission provides a wide variety of programs that enhance the social experience and sense of community for all parishioners of St. Michael in Old Town. Its various activities include: Young Adults group, Docents of St. Michael's (Art and History Tours), Parishioner Welcome Dinner, Gardening Group.

Church Tours

All are welcome Sundays after the 11:00 a.m. Mass in winter and after the 9:00 a.m. Mass in summer. Please meet by the Giving Kiosk on the east side of the church. Tours for groups can be scheduled by appointment by emailing tours@st-mikes.org.

Tours at Noon: May 7, 14, 21

Mom's Group

Join our welcoming group of new moms monthly at the Parish Center. They meet the first and third Wednesday of the month for a playgroup, snack and craft from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Please contact Kristina Mulhall at kristinamarie25@gmail.com

Human Concerns & Needs Commission

Co-Commission Heads:

Barbara Pope and Jeanne Sanna

Pastor's Representative: Fr. Joe Morin, C.Ss.R.

information@st-mikes.org

Monthly Meetings: 2nd Wednesday 7:00 pm, Parish Office Conference Room

Current Projects where your help makes a big difference:

Ongoing Collections

- Toiletries for Marquard Center, **non-perishable** food for Catholic Charities, Boxtops for Education and Campbell's labels for Manierre School

Food Service

- Marquard Center — Provide a baked good or cook or serve the dinner on the second Saturday of each month. Contact R. Yanku (marquard.center.volunteers@gmail.com)

Contact Krysten McOsker for the following volunteer opportunities (krystenmcosker@gmail.com)

- Deborah's Place — Cook and serve dinner on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Contact Krysten McOsker (krystenmcosker@gmail.com)

Tutoring at Manierre School

Volunteers needed for the 2016-2017 school year to

Parish Pastoral Council

2017 Parish Pastoral Council Members

CHAIR: Annie Pecoraro

VICE-CHAIR: Alice Huff

SECRETARY:

Member-at-large: Joe Tully

Member-at-large: Annie Pecoraro

Member-at-large: Andrea Mularczyk

Member-at-large: Alice Huff

Member-at-large: Jim Theisen

Commission Representatives

Communications/Special Events:

Spiritual Living: Susan Cass

Human Concerns: Jeanne Sanna

Parish Life:

Worship: Diane Kelley-Thompson

Pastor: Fr. Ted Lawson, C.Ss.R.

Parish Staff Reps: Fr. Joe Morin, C.Ss.R.

Knights of Columbus

@kofc15571 on Facebook

Knights of Columbus Council 15771 is based at St. Michael's in Old Town parish. We are a relatively

Finance Council

Council Chair:

The Finance Council advises the pastor on the tangible assets of the parish community including financial resources, buildings, and the church's grounds and provides financial oversight for all parish events. The Council consists of parishioners with skills in finance, accounting, legal, construction and architecture.

Membership is by invitation of the pastor, Fr. Ted

Financial Report for April 24—April 30, 2017

Sunday Collection

| | | |
|----------------------|----|--------------|
| Envelopes and Checks | \$ | <u>2,710</u> |
| Electronic Giving | \$ | <u>3,196</u> |
| Cash | \$ | <u>840</u> |

Total for week of April 24, 2017
\$ 6,746

News & Announcements

Mother's Day Mass Enrollment Cards

St. Michael's offers an opportunity for parishioners to remember their beloved mothers, living or deceased, or some other significant woman in your life in a spiritual way on Mother's Day. Your mother will be remembered in a monthly Mass throughout the coming year. Mass enrollment cards are available in the back of the Church. Simply fill out the card, enclose your donation, and drop it into the collection basket.

Catholic Charities Mother's Day Collection

No one should know the pain of losing a child to violence or the darkness of gang life. Struggling families have the right to healthy children, safely. Catholic Charities brings grace and dignity to the most troubled neighborhoods in the city and suburbs, healing deep-seated wounds and providing alternatives for a better way of life.

In the impoverished and violent neighborhoods that need us most, Catholic Charities is often the only place where people can go for help. Our doors are open to all. Families in crisis find new strength and the courage to build a better future.

Your Mother's Day gift will feed, comfort, shelter and care for the poor and vulnerable. Catholic Charities has provided hope for 100 years. Learn

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

One Easter a priest and a taxi driver both died and went to heaven. St. Peter was at the Pearly gates waiting for them. Come with me said St. Peter to the taxi driver. The taxi driver followed St. Peter to a mansion. It had everything you could imagine from a bowling alley to an Olympic size pool. "Oh my word, thank you" said the taxi driver.

Next St. Peter led the priest to a rough old shack with a bunk bed and a little old television. "Wait, I think you are a little mixed up" said the priest, "Shouldn't I be the one who gets the mansion? After all I was a priest, went to church everyday and preached God's word."

"Yes, that's true". St. Peter rejoined, "But, during your Easter sermons

First Holy Communion

Please join us as we welcome our Catechumens as they make the Sacrament of First Holy Communion next Sunday, May 14, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. Mass. May God bless them as they come to the table with Christ for the first time.



Blessing of Engaged Couples



Please join us on Sunday, May 7th at the 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. Mass for a special blessing of engaged couples. We hope you will join us as the St. Mike's community offers you their blessing for your lives as a couple.

THE SPIRIT OF WELLNESS by Coach Joe Cullen

Reducing Your Tummy & Ignore those TV gimmicks!

Hello St. Mike's.... As I am writing my column here, I have my TV on. Usually, I listen to music. I am viewing right now one of those commercials on how to reduce fat around the mid-section (abs) and "seat". You probably have seen these commercials, selling different sit-up or stomach crunching devices usually with a male or female model that have no body fat (unrealistic), and probably have not used the equipment themselves either. What a joke. Talk about false advertising.

These commercials (like those diet pills and brain enhancing supplements commercials) are all misleading folks. You cannot "spot" reduce an area on your body. You can perform hundreds of sit-ups per day and that will do very little to eliminate or reduce that stomach fat. Nor, can you lose weight or increase your energy by popping pills or shakes.

Now don't misunderstand, sit-ups/stomach crunches are in fact very good (when properly done) to strengthen your abdominal muscles, but it does not reduce the fat in the stomach area. The major benefit of stronger stomach muscles is the prevention of lower back injuries. Which is important. If someone has absolutely no fat on their stomach, then you could possibly develop those 6 pack abs these TV commercials promote, but that is not

realistic and 99.5% of people do not have 6 pack abs and will never develop them.

So, how do you lose the body fat around the stomach, thighs and seat?

Just EAT LESS, (reduce your portions), walk, run or bike 3 to 4 days per week, and lift weights 2 times per week. That is a total of 3 to 4 hours a week you need to spend out of the 168 hours in a given week. You've heard me say before, eat whatever you want, just EAT LESS.

So, please do not waste your time and money with the AB reducing equipment you see on TV and also those vitamins/pills commercials promising more brain power and energy. Besides, they often contain way too much caffeine, which can be harmful to you.

Ok for now St. Mike's.... Happy Mother's Day next week. I will be back in 2 weeks.

Questions or Suggested Future Topics? You're invited to contact me anytime. My office number is 773-857-7027 or my cell # is 312-972-2828. Thank you all!
E-mail: jcullen@CertifiedHealthFitness.com.

Volunteers Needed!

Wing Out is coming **June 3 and June 4** from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and we need your help in the beer stand! Volunteers will be needed to serve beer on those days. Shifts are 2.5 hours long on both days. You **MUST** be 21 years old to serve at the Wing Out. If you can volunteer please email Toni Dunning at tdunning@st-mikes.org. Questions? Call Toni at 312-642-2498.



Stillpoint

St. Michael's Spirituality Resource
Contemplative Prayer Gathering:
Monday, 7:00 pm
Parish Rectory, 2nd Floor
Director: Fr. Ken Sedlak, C.Ss.R.
kcssr148@gmail.com, @Kencssr



INNER VIEWS

Unclogging our Heart: Dying and Rising

Joseph Campbell succinctly summarized the spiritual path: "What we're seeking is an experience of being alive... so that we actually feel the rapture of being alive." The "rapture of being alive" is God loving us into existence and evolving us as love for all creation. We experience God's love in our lives in the rapture of God's loving energy flowing through us. Thoughts about God's love are not enough. Believing it to be true is not enough. At best these point to the reality that we are meant to experience.

We're looking at love, God's presence in our lives, as an energy rather than a thing. When we know that God is experienced as this loving energy we can become more receptive and aware of the actual experience of this energy as God loving us into existence.

Our heart is the energy center, that area within our being, through which divine energy focuses, distributes and flows. We feel our heart's energy all the time. Think about what it is like to feel love in your heart, or what it is like to feel inspiration and enthusiasm pour from your heart. Think about what it is like to feel energy well up in your heart making you confident and strong. Think of moments in nature when the breeze blows through us and we feel energized by all that is alive around you.

The heart controls the flow of energy by opening and closing, just like a valve. It can restrict the flow of energy from passing through or allow energy to flow freely. We experience God's love as the rapture of divine energy flowing through us, moving us to love, to pour our hearts out in affirmation and support of the goodness of each other, to bond with one another, compassionately recognizing our shared essence and woundedness, and through this to harmoniously enter into the evolution of all creation by creatively becoming more conscious and free to give ourselves. But we also experience obstructions to this free flow of divine love. We experience clogging of our heart valve, as frustration, anger, jealousy, aggression, depression, hurt, grief and so on. In Jesus' life, death and resurrection we come face to face with the Divine remedy for this clogging of our heart valve.

News & Announcements

(Continued from column at the left)

Here's the troubling but healing reality of Jesus' life, death and resurrection; Jesus doesn't die for us, Jesus dies and rises in us. This energetic flow draws us together, moves us forward toward wholeness by dying. This dying is not something we do to our self. It is the letting go that happens when the Spirit moves us to abandon our old clogged and constricted ways to open our hearts to a freer flow of energy.

God's loving energy poured into us is the energy that expands our hearts to abandon who we have become in order to make room for the more authentic relationship to the true, to reality, without it being filtered through the desire driven fantasies and constricted reactions of our ego. This is the Mystery of the Cross of Christ. This is not something done for us but actually happening within us. The pattern of transformation for all creation is always death transformed. Death and life are two sides of one coin, and you cannot have one without the other. St. Augustine described this as "the paschal mystery." We proclaim it publicly at every Eucharist as "the mystery of faith – Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again (and again, at all times and for all times.)"

So how does the victim on the cross transform us? How does the Lamb of God "take away the sin of the world" (John 1:29; note that "sin" here is singular)? How does Jesus "overcome death and darkness," as we often say? Jesus' life death and resurrection is showing us how evil is transformed into good. Jesus takes away the sin of the world by dramatically exposing the real sin— our wounded defensiveness which makes us self-centered, competitive, judgmental and violent! At the same time, he refutes the common belief that God's wrath demands our punishment. In fact, Jesus "returns their curses with blessings" (Luke 6:28), teaching us that we can "follow him" and not continue the spiral of violence. He unlocks our entrapment from within. And this happens through dying to the thoughts, attitudes, addictive egoic reactions, accusations and judgments that clog our hearts to cause us pain, which we then project onto people around us.

Jesus has set the inevitable into motion. Both the problem and the strategy has been revealed in one compelling action of Divine Love. It is not that Jesus is working some magic in the sky that "saves the world from sin and death." Jesus *is* the love, the letting go of life that releases Divine energy and reimagines the common pattern of human history. Jesus is not changing his Father's mind about us because it does not need changing (as in various "atonement theories"); he is changing our mind about what is real and what is not. The cross is not a payment required for our sins but the mystery of how our woundedness is transformed and evolves into healing and recreating the Universe. This leaves

As a human, as one of us, Jesus on the cross is immersed in our woundedness, the sin of the world, the fearfulness that drives our most destructive instincts. He refuses to stand above or outside our human dilemma. In Paul's language, "Christ redeemed us from the curse . . . by being cursed himself" (Galatians 3:13); or "God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him [together with him!] we might become the very goodness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus leads us into our woundedness so that we can release ourselves into the flow of Divine and healing Love. We find out that the feeling of separation that caused our woundedness is an illusion when we meet Divine Loving in the heart of our woundedness.

Loss and renewal is the perennial, eternal, transformative pattern. It is evolution exerting itself through chaos; our human woundedness being exposed to the energy of Divine love. It's an invisible spiral: each time we allow ourself to surrender our constricting attitudes and judgments, each time we can trust the dying, we will experience a new quality of life within our self: "How we do not know; of its own accord, the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear" (Mark 4:27-28). Paul calls this "the hidden wisdom of God . . . predestined to be for our glory before the ages began" (1 Corinthians 2:7). At first, we experience this dying and rising as something that we try to protect ourselves against. Only after years of wrestling with our life can we graciously begin to accept it as necessary and good – a grace (1 Corinthians 1:22-24).

In his life, death and resurrection Jesus becomes the iconic archetype of this deep inner drama of healing, and the evolutionary energy of the emerging

Ken Sedlak C.Ss.R., PATHWAYS / STILLPOINT

@Kencssr

A 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 own plans readily
- to embrace the greater good
- 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

News & Announcements

Spiritual Companionship Ministry



Are you:

- on a conscious spiritual journey and ready for deeper discovery?
- looking for greater purpose and meaning in life?
- have questions of the heart or soul you would like to explore?

If so, you are invited to experience the art of Spiritual Companionship. Spiritual Companionship, also known as Spiritual Direction, is an ancient tradition of discernment and discovery. The purpose of Spiritual Companionship is to nurture the inner life and connection to the Divine within the context of everyday life, inviting a deeper understanding of ourselves. Many people find a greater sense of peace, freedom, and wholeness through this experience.

Spiritual Companions are certified, trained and experienced in the art of deep listening. It is a sacred, safe, non-judgmental and confidential environment. If you are interested in exploring one-to-one companionship, you are invited to contact Juliet Beriou at jberiou@gmail.com or Susan Cass at susanpanpan@gmail.com.

Marquard Center Needs

Every second Saturday of the month, our Human Concerns and Needs Commission prepares and serves a meal at the Marquard Center, a Franciscan outreach soup kitchen at 1645 W Le Moyne St, Chicago, to over 100 homeless persons.

Volunteers from St. Michael's shop, bake cookies or brownies, prepare, cook and serve the meal each month. It takes many volunteers to keep this going and we could use YOU! If you can donate any time for this outreach program, please email marquard.center.volunteers@gmail.com.

You can sign up for a specific month that fits into your schedule or every month! The Human Concerns Commission appreciates every minute you can spare! Upcoming dates are May 13th, June 10th and July 8th. Save the date

Weight Watchers Meeting In the Parish Center!

Weight Watchers Meetings are now at St. Michael's Parish Center (1711 N. Cleveland Ave.) **Our last Tuesday class will be May 9 at Noon. After that the meetings will be held on Saturdays at 8:30 am beginning May 20th.** Come meet our new team Chris and Jean! Attend a meeting for **FREE** to see how Weight Watchers is Taking it Beyond the Scale!

Just stop by or email Melissa for more information

Moms Group Gathering

All moms are invited to the Parish Center Café on the first and third Wednesdays of every month or play and social time for moms and children. Feel free to bring what you and your child will need to enjoy the morning.

Everyone is welcome, you need not be a parishioner of St. Michael's so feel free to invite all of your friends. Enter through the 1711 N. Cleveland Ave. entrance just adjacent to the parking lot.

Music Ministry

Pastor's Representative: Fr. Ted Lawson, C.Ss.R.

Membership to the Schola Cantorum Choir or the Contemporary Choir is open to all high school, college and adult parishioners. The Schola rehearsals take place on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. It is desirable that singers have a fundamental knowledge of music and singing. If you would like to learn more about our choirs please contact Fr. Lawson to schedule a time to visit.

Spiritual Living Commission

Commission Head: Susan Cass
Pastor's Representative: Fr. Ken Sedlak, C.Ss.R.

The Spiritual Living Commission offers programs that nurture living in the presence of God. Catholic in its roots and ecumenical in its outreach, the Commission strives to assist all in their desire for meaning, purpose, and community built on the foundation of God's unconditional love. Ministries include: Rosary group, Religious Education, RCIA, Pathways/Stillpoint, and Bible

Rosary Prayer Group

Saint Louis De Montfort writes in The Secret of the Rosary, "Somebody who says his Rosary alone gains the merit of one Rosary, but if he says it together with thirty other people he gains the merit of thirty Rosaries. This is the law of public prayer. How profitable, how advantageous this is!"

Looking for a way to enrich your spiritual life? Join in praying the Rosary weekly with your fellow parishioners. The group meets on Thursdays at 7:00

Contemplative Prayer Group

Parish Rectory, 2nd Floor Chapel
1633 N. Cleveland Ave.
Monday 7:00 - 7:45 p.m.

Experience the profound impact of silent meditation in a group setting. Each week during Lent, after 20 minutes of meditation, we will explore and discuss one of 8 short lessons from Cynthia Bourgeault's new book, The Heart of Centering Prayer: Non-Dual Christianity. This practice is a wonderful way to deepen your Lenten journey!

Please email Susan Cass at susanpannicass@gmail.com or Al Krema

**Please join us for a
potluck brunch on
may 21, 2017
from 10 a.m.- noon in
the parish courtyard**

**On the last day of religious
education, let's toast to a fun,
relaxing, and safe summer**

Organized by the St. Mike's Mom's Group

**Please bring your favorite dish to share. Food can be
stored in the parish cafe/refrigerator during Mass.**

**RSVP to Kristina Mulhall at
kristinamarie25@gmail.com**