

ST. MOTHER THEODORE GUERIN PARISH



August 23, 2026

TAKE UP HIS CROSS.

— MATTHEW 16:24 —

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

©LPI



MISSION STATEMENT:

"To do God's will as a unified, vibrant parish, and to foster an intentional relationship with Jesus through worship, witness, service, discipleship, stewardship, and community."

ST. CELESTINE CHURCH and St. Mother Theodore Guerin Parish Office

3020 North 76th Court, Elmwood Park, Illinois 60707
708-453-2555 stguerinparish.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday: 8:30 AM to noon and 12:30 to 8 PM;
Friday: 8:30 AM to noon and 12:30 to 5 PM
Saturday: 8:30 AM—12:30 PM; Sunday: closed.

MASSES Monday through Friday 8 AM
Saturday Mass 4:30 PM (Reconciliation 3:30 PM)
Sunday Masses 7:30, 9, and 11 AM
Chapel open daily 8:30 AM to 5 PM

ST. CELESTINE SCHOOL

3017 North 77th Avenue, Elmwood Park, Illinois 60707
stcelestineschool.org 708-453-8234

Follow Us On

Facebook: St. Mother Theodore Guerin Parish

Instagram: @StGuerinParish

YouTube: Subscribe to Saint Mother Theodore Guerin

Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 29

4:30 PM +Carl and +Rose Rossi
+Bruno Gutkowski
+Linda Poe, 1st Anniversary
Maggio and Rinella Family
+Nery Rodriguez

Sunday, August 30

7:30 AM +William Ketcik, Birthday
+Guillermo Arellano
+Thomas Denis Smith
+Thomas H. Smith

9 AM +Geraldine Lustro

11 AM +Roman and +Anna Romanyuk
+Eleanor Masciola
+Angelina Alongi
+Arlene LaMantia
+Robert Paprocki

8 AM Monday, August 31
Faithful Departed

8 AM Tuesday, September 1
People of the Parish

8 AM Wednesday, September 2
+Ciriaco Fernandez, Anniversary

8 AM Thursday, September 3
+Fr. Bernard White

8 AM Friday, September 4
+Joan Psak
+Frank J. Bradkowski, 11th
Anniversary

Saturday, September 5

4:30 PM +Carl and +Rose Rossi
+Robert Paprocki
+Arnold and +Catherine
Carlstrom
+Nery Rodriguez

Sunday, September 6

7:30 AM People of the Parish

9 AM +Judy Iovinelli

11 AM +Roman and +Anna Romanyuk
+Joe Geringer
+Laverne Dunaway
+Raymond Dunaway
+Elizabeth Stemper
+Angelina Alongi
+Helena Golab
+Jozefa Powrozek

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, September 5

4:30 PM
Servers Christian O.
Henry V.
Mary V.
Lector Sylvia Stacey
Euch. Ministers Perlita Domingo

Pat Strabley
Barbara Miller
Grisel Lopez
Patricia Rinella
Peggy O'Donnell

Sunday, September 6

7:30 AM
Servers Evan V.
Elijah V.
Peighton V.
Joseph K.
Lector Tim Orr
Euch. Ministers Minnie Reillo
Mary Kay Macchione
Maria Mojek
Michelle Doyle
Doti Geringer
Ken Doyle

9 AM
Servers TBA
Lector Danny Hesslau
Euch. Ministers Mary Princivalli
John Madden
Daniel LaCour
Michael Wittrock
Mary Graf
Maryann Dibari

11 AM
Servers Marshall M.
Sarah P.
Lector Gissell Araujo
Euch. Ministers Mary Sullivan
Skip Marcucci
Sheila Klich
Kathy Iversen-Jaroch
Alice Carella
Lynn Loftus

Bulletin Deadlines

Please send information to Kim at
khagerty@stguerinparish.org.

September 13 is due on Tuesday,
September 1 at 9 AM

September 20 is due on Wednesday,
September 9 at 9 AM

Parish Weekly Events

Tuesday, September 1

7 PM Mother of Perpetual
Help Devotion in the
Chapel

Wednesday, September 2

4 PM Athletics in the Gym
6:30 PM Fr. Stan Book and Bible
Study in Fireside Room
7 PM Baptismal Prep Class in
the Staff Room

Thursday, September 3

4:30 PM Troop 47943 in the
Annex
4:30 PM Athletics in the Gym
6:30 PM Boy Scouts Committee
in the Lower Meeting
Room

Friday, September 4

3 PM Divine Mercy Holy Hour
in the Chapel

Sunday, September 6

All Masses Grandparents Blessings

Need help? Many services are provided
by **Catholic Charities**. Call **312-655-7700** or go to **catholiccharities.net**.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse
1-833-234-6343
Child Abuse
1-800-422-4523
National Domestic Violence
1-800-603-4357
Sexual Assault
1-888-293-2080
Problem Gambling Hotline
1-800-522-4700
Poison Control
1-800-222-1222
Suicide Prevention
Call or text 988
Elder Abuse
1-855-800-1409
www.AddictionResource.net
1-844-597-0006

St. Mother Theodore Guerin Parish

St. Celestine Church and Parish Office **708-453-2555**
3020 North 76th Court, Elmwood Park, Illinois 60707
stguerinparish.org

Rev. Ton Nguyen, Administrator x5029
tnguyen@stguerinparish.org

Rev. Paul Eruva, Associate Pastor x5030
peruva@archchicago.org

Rev. Eugene Gratkowski, Pastor Emeritus, St. Cyprian
Rev. Fil Ngwila, **Rev. Stan Ilo**, Priests-in-Residence
Deacon Michael DeLarco x5031
mdelarco@archchicago.org

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday, 8:30 AM—noon
and 12:30—8 PM; Friday 8:30 AM—noon
and 12:30—5 PM; Saturday, 8:30 AM—
12:30 PM; Sunday closed

Laurie DePillo, Business Manager x5015
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khagerty@stguerinparish.org x5012

Eric Mueller and **Bob Vessini**, Maintenance

Mary Murphy, Coordinator of Religious Education for
Children and Adults with Special Needs
murphyme2000@gmail.com

Lois DeFelice, Ministry of Care
loisdefelice@gmail.com

Michelle Doyle, Food Pantry
mdoyle@stcelestineschool.org. Open 4—6
PM two Thursdays a month. Check
Weekly Events or website for dates.

Baptisms and Baptism Preparation Classes: Contact
Ruthanne Swiatkowski, x5017. Baptisms
are at 12:30 PM on the 2nd and 4th
Sundays of the month. Class held on the 1st
Wednesday of each month at 7 PM.

Masses and Reconciliation: see cover.

Weddings: Please call a year in advance of preferred
date and talk to Deacon Mike DeLarco
before a wedding date can be reserved.
Participation in marriage preparation is
essential.

Holy Hour: First Friday of each month at 3 PM

Mother of Perpetual Help Devotional Tuesdays at 7
PM in the Chapel.

Rosary: Second Wednesday of the month at 7 PM in
the chapel and after the morning masses.

St. Celestine School 708-453-8234
3017 North 77th Avenue, Elmwood Park, IL 60707

Sheila Klich, Principal
sklich@stcelestineschool.org

Jennifer Ebervein, Secretary

Nicole Nayder, Financial Secretary

From the Administrator's Desk: Fr Ton Nguyen**Can You Hear the Joy?**

As I hurried toward Northwestern Hospital one evening, a voice suddenly interrupted my steps: "You're the priest!"

I stopped and looked around, trying to figure out where the voice was coming from. "Yes, I am a priest. How can I help you?"

A couple approached me smiling. "You're the priest we saw earlier at Mass! We're from Detroit, just visiting Chicago." And just like that, we started talking.

They began sharing their faith journey—how reading Scripture and listening to Catholic talks, including Bishop Robert Barron and Word on Fire, had helped deepen their relationship with Jesus. Their growing faith had also given them a renewed joy in living their vocation to marriage. Meanwhile, I knew I needed to keep moving. Someone at the hospital was waiting to be anointed! So we walked and talked, making our way from Michigan Avenue toward Huron. The more they shared, the more excited they became—and the more energized I became too. It was late. I was tired. Yet inside I kept thinking, "Yes! Yes! Yes! You get it!"

Why was I so excited? Because without realizing it, this couple was evangelizing me! They reminded me of Jeremiah describing the Word of God as a fire burning within his heart that he simply could not hold inside. They had encountered Christ, and the joy of that encounter naturally overflowed into conversation. That is evangelization. Bishop Barron describes evangelization not simply as sharing ideas about Christianity, important as that may be, but as introducing someone into a friendship with Jesus Christ. At its heart, Christianity is about walking personally with Christ. Once we know Him not simply as an idea, but as Someone who knows us, loves us, forgives us, and walks with us, something begins to change. We naturally want others to know the Friend we have discovered.

And that brings me back to us at St. Mother Theodore Guerin. How do we create opportunities for these encounters and conversations? Sometimes they begin very simply—with food, friendship, laughter, Scripture, or sitting around a table together.

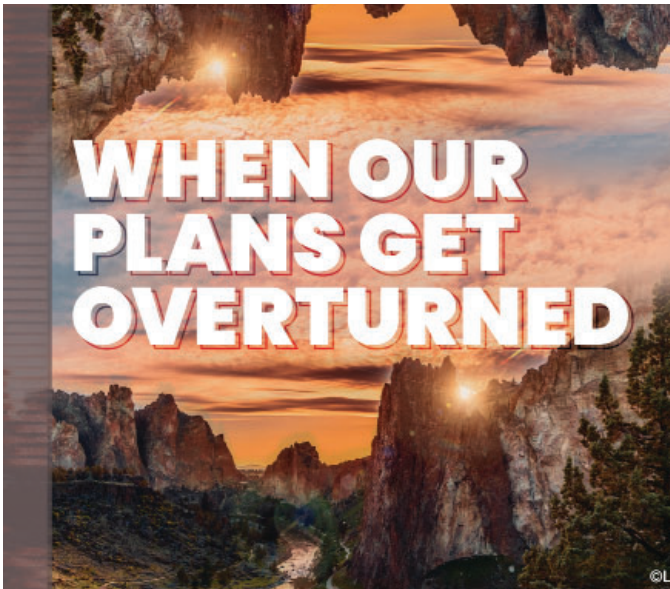
And, oh boy, do we have opportunities coming! Our Taste of St. Guerin is coming up on September 12. Soon we will begin Fireside Chats with Your Priests at the rectory—small gatherings of about eight parishioners for wine, cheese, and conversation. Beginning October 4, we will launch Coffee & Cake after the 11 AM Mass as another opportunity to build community. We also have *Lectio Divina*, Bible study, and many other groups where friendships can grow and faith can be shared.

These are not simply events to put on our calendars. They are opportunities to encounter one another—and perhaps to help someone encounter Christ. So come. Bring a friend. Start a conversation. Share your story. And most importantly, keep walking personally with Jesus. When our hearts are truly alive with Him, people will eventually hear it in the way we speak, see it in the way we live, and experience it in the way we love.

I cannot wait to continue walking this journey with you. I love being a priest!



JMJ,
Fr. Ton Nguyen



Worship and Meditation

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time / August 30, 2026

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

I say to myself, I will not mention him,
I will speak in his name no more.
But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart,
imprisoned in my bones. (Jer 20:9)

Psalm:

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God. (Ps 63)

Second Reading:

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God,
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.
(Rom 12:1)

Gospel:

"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it,
but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Mt 16:25)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970
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ary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission
on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.*

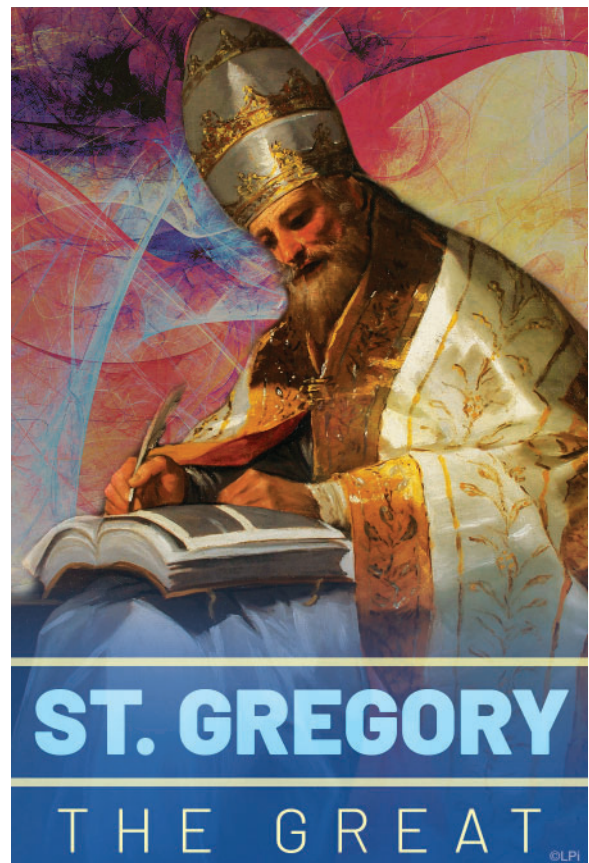
WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

Readings for the week of August 30, 2026

Sunday:	Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Rom 12:1-2/ Mt 16:21-27
Monday:	1 Cor 2:1-5/Ps 119:97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102/Lk 4:16-30
Tuesday:	1 Cor 2:10b-16/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14/Lk 4:31-37
Wednesday:	1 Cor 3:1-9/Ps 33:12-13, 14-15, 20-21/Lk 4:38- 44
Thursday:	1 Cor 3:18-23/ Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 5:1- 11
Friday:	1 Cor 4:1-5/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39-40/Lk 5:33-39
Saturday:	1 Cor 4:6b-15/Ps 145:17-18, 19-20, 21/Lk 6:1-5
Next Sunday:	Ez 33:7-9/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7b, 7c-9/Rom 13:8-10/ Mt 18:15-20

Observances for the week of August 30, 2026

Sunday:	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday:	
Tuesday:	
Wednesday:	
Thursday:	St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church



Liturgical Life

(Practicing) Catholic: Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

To Carry the Cross

Carry the cross? Absolutely. I'm happy to! Hand it over. Here's the thing: I just might... set it down for a second, from time to time. That's okay, right?

How else am I supposed to have both hands free to gesture in anger? I can't do that if I'm carrying the cross. Well, fine, then let me just shift its weight, so I can catch my breath and say what I think about this person who's got it all wrong — I'll just lean it against the wall here. No? Okay, fine, I won't put it down! I'll keep holding it. That's better, actually. Then I can use it as a weapon.

What? Am I doing this "Christian" thing wrong?

"Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it," Jesus tells us in today's Gospel. "But whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

This is not an affirmation of the paradox that if you no longer care about something, you can finally have it once and for all. It's not a judgment about the worthlessness of life in this fallen world or the futility of trying to preserve that life.

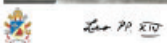
It's merely a statement about priorities.

When Peter says, "God forbid!" at the thought of suffering, God is not his priority. His own safety is.

When I say, "God forbid!" at anything that comes from the mouth of God, it's a reminder to look at my hands — because they've probably put down the cross.

How merciful is our Lord — he never takes my cross from me, even when I walk far away from it. He always lets me pick it back up. In his dear and sweet goodness, he even helps me lift its weight. And he gestures, in case I've forgotten: "This way. Follow me."

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Pray with Pope Leo

Launched through the Pope's worldwide prayer network, the "Pray with the Pope" Campaign fosters a deeper spiritual communion through digital connection and shared, contemplative prayer.

September: For the care of water.

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.



Priest Vestments

Question:

Why do priests wear vestments? Do they have a special meaning?

Answer:

Vestments are clothes worn for a specific purpose. Priests will joke that they cover a thousand flaws. But our own manner of dress often corresponds to what we do. We dress up for special occasions, and for special guests. We wear certain clothes for golf, for outdoor activities, and years ago, we even had our "Sunday best" clothes we wore just for Church. Vestments are much the same, and each one has a meaning. The alb is a reminder of the baptismal garment. The stole is a symbol of ordained ministry and authority within the Church. The chasuble reminds us that we are on a pilgrimage of faith, passing through this life towards heaven.

Priests wear vestments for two basic reasons. First, they draw attention to the importance and solemnity of the act of worship. The color of the vestments indicates the season of the year or the feast being celebrated. Secondly, vestments draw attention to what the priest does, rather than who he is. In the celebration of the Mass, the focus is on what we do together, on our common unity, and on the mystery and person of Christ.

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Gospel Meditation

Matthew 16:21–27

Do you know what it is like to be thrilled by the power of Christian faith one moment and then utterly fail in it the next? I do. That is Peter in today's Gospel. After last week's bold confession, he now hears Jesus speak of suffering and death, and something in him recoils. He takes Jesus aside and tries to correct him. Jesus responds with the shocking rebuke, "Get behind me, Satan."

Peter is the mirror of every disciple. We love Jesus until he contradicts the script we have written for our lives. Peter does not reject Jesus. He rejects a suffering Jesus. So do we, whenever we avoid a hard responsibility, resist a demanding relationship, or cling to comfort instead of choosing love. We want a Lord who supports our plans, not one who overturns them.

Yet Jesus does not discard Peter. He redirects him. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." In effect, Jesus says, stop trying to lead me. Let me lead you. Discipleship does not begin with heroism or clarity but with surrender. It means trusting that God's path to life often passes through places we would never choose. Peter is all of us. We move from insight to confusion, from confidence to correction. That is why we should have hope. Jesus patiently teaches us again and again. Trust me. Get behind me. Follow me. When we stop fighting the crosses that come and start carrying them with him, we discover a freedom deeper than comfort and a love stronger than fear.

— *Father John Muir*

Virtues, Explained!

Zeal, Explained!

Zeal gets a bad rap these days, as we most often hear this word associated with extremists whose adherence to a belief system leads them to violence. In Scripture, we hear Paul condemn those whose "zeal for God" lacks discernment (Romans 10:2), so we know this was a problem in ancient times as well.

But no one acting in violence or hatred is practicing virtuous zeal, which refers to an all-consuming love for the Lord: "Zeal for your house has consumed me," writes the Psalmist (Psalm 69:10), referring to a religious devotion that has deprived him of all his worldly status.

If anyone's "love" of God leads him to sin, he is not actually motivated by love of God. A burning and all-consuming love of God has, for its object, God Himself — and closeness with God is impeded by anything contrary to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

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Imago Divina, Explained!

Imago divina (Latin for "divine image") is an extension of the ancient practice of lectio divina ("divine reading"). Imago divina is, in a sense, praying with one's eyes, or using the medium of artwork to assist in lifting the mind to God.

Believers have always connected with the divine through visual representations of faith. This can be seen in the frescoes that adorn the walls of the catacombs, in the glory of Rococo architecture, and in the stained glass windows of a simple country church. "Art is capable of making visible our need to go beyond what we see and it reveals our thirst for infinite beauty, for God," said Pope Benedict in 2011.

In practicing imago divina, just like with lectio divina, the faithful "read" (or view), reflect, respond and rest with the image, inviting the Holy Spirit to move them accordingly.

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Religious Ed and Catechist Openings!

The St. Mother Guerin Religious Education Program helps our students build their connections to God through prayer, incorporate God into their everyday lives, and recognize opportunities to enhance their relationship with God.

We welcome children to learn about Jesus, the Catholic faith and prepare for the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation.

Religious Education is offered to students in Grades 1—8 who during the week attend a public or home school setting. Students meet at St. Celestine School twice a month on Saturdays from 9:30 to 11:30 AM.

Classes start September 19. Registration for the 2026—2027 school year is available online. The link to register online is: <https://stguerinparish.org/religious-education/> and registration forms are also available in the St. Celestine Pastoral Center.

Also, if you would like to help as a catechist, please contact our Director of Lifelong Faith Formation, Ruthanne Swiatkowski at 708-453-2555 x 5017 or rswiatkowski@stguerinparish.org.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is a process by which adults explore the Catholic faith and ordinarily become members of the Church. The program consists of several months of instruction in the teachings, beliefs, customs, and practices of the Catholic faith.

Those who complete the process receive the sacraments, usually Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation, or a combination of those, at Easter.

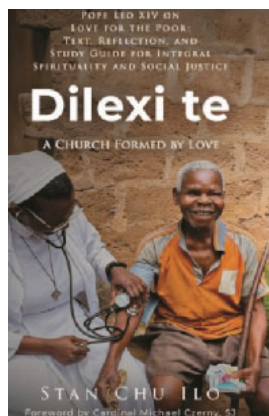
WHO IS THE OCIA INTENDED FOR?

- Adults and teens who have never been baptized.
- Adults and teens who have been baptized in another Christian denomination.
- Adults and teens who were baptized Catholic but never received First Communion or Confirmation.



Teen Classes meet on Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 PM beginning on September 22. Adult Classes meet on Thursdays from 7 to 8:30 PM beginning on September 24. The Sacraments are celebrated at the Easter Vigil. Please contact our Director of Lifelong Faith Formation, Ruthanne Swiatkowski at 708-453-2555 x 5017 or email rswiatkowski@stguerinparish.org for more information.

Study with Fr. Stan Ilo



Now that Fr. Stan has been called to the Vatican by Pope Leo to be the co-director of a new initiative of the Dicastery called The Church of the Sheaves: Equipping the Saints for Mission as Gift Exchange, his time at the parish is more limited. Despite that, he would like to lead a study of the Pope's apostolic exhortation, *Dilexi te: (I Have Loved You)* on Wednesdays, September 2 and 9, October 7 and 14, and November 11 at 6:30 PM in the Fireside Room.

Most of us have no idea what an apostolic exhortation is, and often magisterial documents are read only by theologians or clergy, while the laity remain untouched by their transformative potential. Father Stan says that *Dilexi te* belongs to the whole People of God, that it is not a document for the shelves of seminaries but for the hearts of believers.

He should know, because he wrote the official commentary for the Vatican. We will read Fr. Stan's book, *Dilexi te: A Church Formed by Love* which contains the full text of the Exhortation and a biblical study and guide for a parish group.

We will order the book, so please call the parish to reserve your book and your spot in the study! The phone number is 708-453-2555 and the cost of the book is \$15.

Lectio Divina: Listening to the Voice of Christ

Have you ever wished you could pray more deeply with Sacred Scripture or better recognize God's voice in your daily life?

Join us for Lectio Divina: Listening to the Voice of Christ, a weekly hour of prayer centered on the living Word of God. Through a simple and guided format, we will slowly read Scripture, spend time in silent prayer and reflect together on how the Lord is speaking to each of us through His Word.

No prior Bible study experience is necessary. Whether you are opening the Bible for the first time or have prayed with Scripture for years ... all are welcome to join.

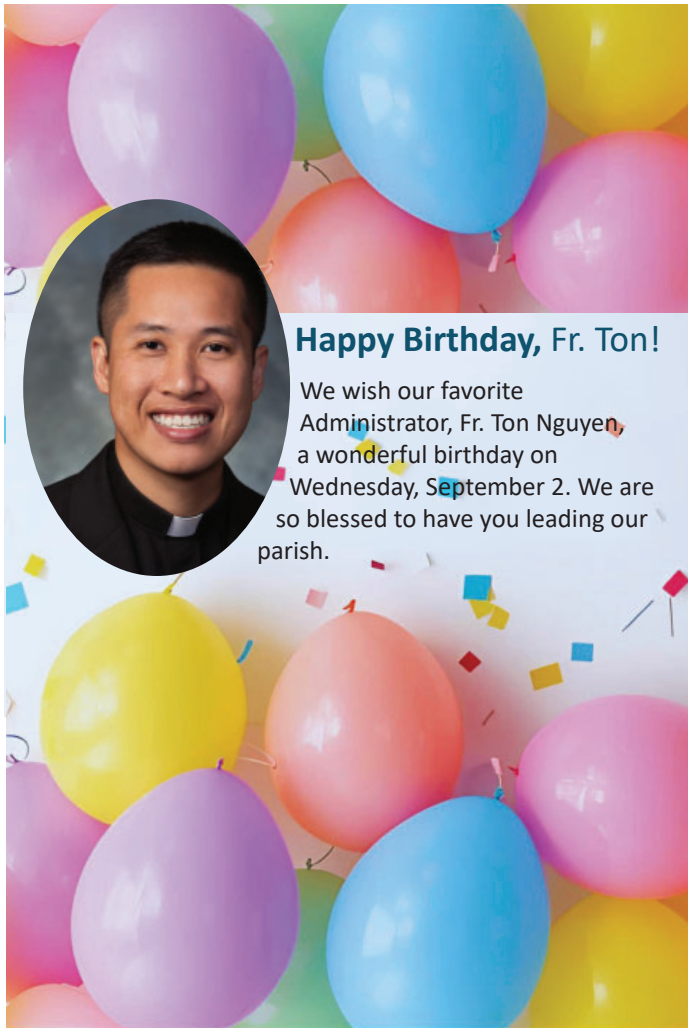
This ministry will be facilitated by Danny Hesslau, parish deacon candidate, who is currently in formation for the diaconate. Together we will learn and grow in one of the Church's oldest and richest traditions of prayer.

When: September 14, 21, 28, and October 5 at 6:30 PM

Where: Chapel

Bring: A Bible (*New American Bible* Revised Edition preferred), if you have one.

"Indeed, the word of God is living and effective." Hebrews 4:12



Happy Birthday, Fr. Ton!

We wish our favorite Administrator, Fr. Ton Nguyen, a wonderful birthday on Wednesday, September 2. We are so blessed to have you leading our parish.

Weekly Stewardship

Sunday, August 16, 2026

Weekly Budget	\$8,610.00
Envelopes	\$4,731.00
Loose	\$1,889.00
Total Weekly Giving:	\$6,620.00
Budget Deficit or Overage:	\$1,990.00

Special Collection:

Capital Improvement	\$2,300.00
Assumption	\$1,073.00

Sunday Giving FY 2027 (July 1—August 16, 2026)

Fiscal Year to Date: **\$62,010.00**

Year-to-date numbers may vary from the total published in the weekly bulletin due to variations in the dates of turning in envelopes, e-giving, and NSF checks.

1 Chronicles 29:14: "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should have the means to contribute so freely? For everything comes from you and from your hand we have given you."

Fireside Chats with Your Priests

Come. Share. Listen. Dream Together.

As I continue getting to know St. Mother Theodore Guerin Parish, I would like the opportunity to get to know you and hear your story. Join us for a small, informal evening at the rectory to share faith, build relationships, and talk about our hopes for the future of our parish.

Our Conversation:

- Get to Know One Another — Share your story and what you love about our parish.
- Listen—What are your hopes and dreams for our parish?
- Share Faith—Where is Christ present in your life, and how can our parish help you grow?
- Look Ahead—What would we like our parish to look like in three years?
- Take the Next Step—How can we grow together as disciples who make disciples?

What to Expect

Eight parishioners + our priests • informal conversation.

This is not a meeting, class, or presentation—just an opportunity to sit together, listen, share, and get to know one another.

- Time: Thursdays, 6:30–8 PM
- Location: Parish Rectory
- 3005 N. 76th Ct., Elmwood Park
- Choose a Date and Sign Up: Scan the QR code to choose a Fireside Chat evening, go to the website stguerinparish.org, or call the parish office.

Space is limited to 8 parishioners per evening so everyone has an opportunity to share. Everyone Has a Story. I Would Love to Hear Yours.

Dates:

- September 10
- September 17
- September 24
- Oct 1
- Oct 15



JMJ, Fr. Ton

Save the Dates

- Wednesday, September 2 and 9 at 6:30 PM with Fr. Stan ***Dilexi te: A Church Formed by Love*** Book, Bible Study, and Discussion
- Friday, September 4: 3 PM **Divine Mercy Holy Hour**
- Sunday, September 6: **Grandparents Blessings** at all Masses
- Monday, September 7: **Parish Office** Closed
- Saturday, September 12 4–9 PM **Parish Taste**
- Sunday, September 13 2:30 PM at Holy Name Cathedral: **Archdiocesan Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass**
- Monday, September 14 6:30 PM in the Chapel **Lectio Divina**
- Sunday, September 20: **Catechetical Sunday**
- **Friday, October 2: 3 PM Divine Mercy Holy Hour** followed by extended adoration and confession
- Sunday, October 25 **Craft Fair** 8:30 AM in the Gym and Annex
- Tuesday, November 17: Watch **The Chosen Season 6** after 8 AM Mass on Tuesdays

Our students received blessings at all the masses the weekend of August 15—16 as they prepared to return to school. Those attending the 11 AM Mass also received a special Backpack Blessing.



Holy Hour September 4



A Holy Hour will take place at St. Celestine Church on Friday, September 4 at 3 PM. A Divine Mercy Holy Hour takes place on the first Friday of each month at St. Celestine Church. Included are the Divine Mercy prayers, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and time for quiet Adoration. The hour concludes with Benediction.

Come Join the Adult Choir

I'd like to invite school parents and parishioners to join the Adult Choir. We meet on the first three Wednesdays of the month from 6:30—7:30 PM, and we sing at the 11 AM Mass on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. It's personally and spiritually rewarding to worship at Mass through singing, and there are other benefits of joining the choir.

- You have no homework for one hour and fifteen minutes.
- You get to sing great songs.
- Choir people are fun to hang out with.
- You get me as the Choir Director.
- Singing is an excellent stress reliever.
- Let someone else help the kids with their homework one night a week!
- It's a great workout for your brain.
- You don't need to buy any equipment.
- You'll learn a lot of choir jokes.

Parents, I know you are very busy. I will even give this a special name. It's called "Come When You Can." You will never be fired if I don't see you on a Wednesday or Sunday.

Please call me at 708-453-2555, email me at ckamptner@stcelestineschool.org or come to our first choir practice on Wednesday night, September 16 in the Music Room of the school at 6:30 PM. You can enter off the gym entrance. I hope to see you on September 16.

Craig Kamptner
Director of Music Ministry

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



MARRIED IN 1976?

HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR THE ANNUAL GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS?

Couples celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary from across the Archdiocese of Chicago are invited to gather together for the Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass that will be celebrated by Cardinal Cupich on **Sunday, September 13, 2026 at 2:30 p.m.**

The mass will be celebrated at Holy Name Cathedral, 735 North State Street, Chicago, IL 60654.

Please email gwa@archchicago.org or contact your parish office with any questions. To register online, please visit pvm.archchicago.org/events/golden-wedding.

Pray for Them

Sick

Please remember the following people who are seriously ill. If you wish to add a name with the person's permission, please call the parish office. Names remain on the list for 4 weeks.

Michael Binder, Sue Brink, Tom Busleta, Mary Coronado, Ellison Deehr, Elene Dimperio, Michael Garcia, Tammy Garcia, *Luciana Giamarusti, Maciej Gondek, Dorota Gondek, Thomas Gruber, Grace Hensley, Rachel Hindery, *Mark Hroma, Kathryn Knipp, Kathy Johl, Adele Johnson, Juliette Jimenez, Lisa Kostrzeski, Justine Kucera, Robert Kucera, Kathy Mizejewski, George Moskaliuk, Sandra Moskaliuk, Efrem Munoz, Martha Munoz, Ron Nichols, Gregory Olsen, Carolyn Paprocki, Gerard Palattao, Elliot Perez, Kathy Sassolino, Morgan Schlanger, Joseph Serwa, John Sheahan, Mary Skelly, Michele Soronto, Sue, , Colleen Schlanger, Thomas, Jeffrey Tomek, Judy Virgilio, Clarence Wagner, Lillian Wardzala, Jim Wazorick, Danyll Wolcotte, Ron Zalesny
*recently added

Faithful Departed

Military

Col. Stephen Acosta, Marines; Staff Sgt. Lawrence G. Campbell, Air Force; Senior Airman Cory McCambridge, Air Force; Lt. Col. Peter Anderson, Army; Sgt. Kenneth G. DiCristifano, Army; Spec Michael Migliorisi, Army; Pvt. John Cerrone, Marines; PFC Paul J. Lagoda, Marines; PFC Sophia M. Garcia, Marines; Lt. Robert Reynolds, Army; Staff Sgt. Alberto Boy, Marines; Staff Sgt. Natalie Borrini, Air Force; Cpl. Brian Macaluso, Marines; Lnc. Cpl. Meghan Jennings, Marines; Lnc. Cpl. Michael Casanave, Marines; Pvt. Nicolas Casanave, Marines; ABEAN Melanie Hodges, Navy; PFC Vincent Negron, Marines; Pvt. Matthew Meyer, Army; Master Sgt. Scott A. Cross, Air Force; Dario Rodriguez, Air Force; Ensign Devon Zych, Coast Guard; Lnc. Cpl. Andrew D. Nordlie, Marines; Luis N. Burciaga, Army; PFC Rudy De La O, Marines; Jose Flores, Jr., Air Force; Carmelo Flores, Air Force; AB Ethen N. Ortiz, Air Force; Lnc. Cpl. Michael Joshua Barajas, Marines; Sgt. Cody Krawczyk, Army; Lnc. Cpl. Jake Kola, Marines; Airman Kaden Turocy, Air Force; A1C Rhian Frnzn Vengua, Air Force; Private Nicholas Drust, Jr., Army; Private Jesse J. Mendoza, Army; Lnc. Cpl. Edward Romano, Jr., Marines; A1C Jose Manuel Lagunas, Jr., Air Force; A1C Jordied Velez-Rosado, Air Force; Pvt. Noah Wardisiani, Army; Capt. Montgomery Smith, Air Force

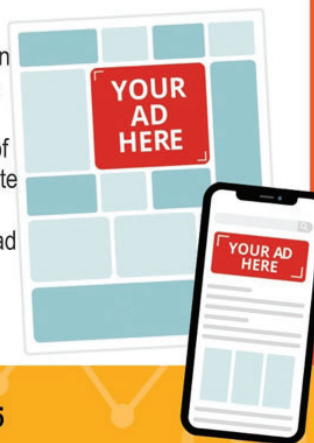
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SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for August 30, 2026

Matthew 16:21-27

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Twentieth-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: costs of discipleship. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

TO SHOW
SCRIBES
GOD FORBID
SATAN
FOLLOW ME
MY SAKE
ANGELS

JERUSALEM
RAISED
HAPPEN
HUMAN
TO SAVE
FORFEIT
GLORY

SUFFER
REBUKE
GET BEHIND ME
CROSS
LOSE IT
SON OF MAN
REPAY

TWO REBUKES

S	O	N	O	F	M	A	N	A	M	U	H
L	C	D	I	B	R	O	F	D	O	G	A
E	J	R	E	B	U	K	E	D	E	K	P
G	E	E	I	L	Y	T	Y	T	L	W	P
N	R	F	L	B	A	I	B	D	F	L	E
A	U	F	Y	A	E	E	E	G	T	R	N
T	S	U	W	O	H	S	O	T	I	E	A
O	A	S	H	I	I	O	S	J	E	P	T
S	L	E	N	A	N	L	J	O	F	A	A
A	E	D	R	G	A	G	L	O	R	Y	S
V	M	Y	S	A	K	E	D	F	O	C	H
E	M	W	O	L	L	O	F	D	F	B	O

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St. Mother Theodore Guerin Parish Taste

Food Fest and Entertainment

Saturday, September 12 from 4 to 9 PM

St. Celestine Church 3020 N. 76th Court, Elmwood Park

American, Filipino, Italian, Mexican, Polish, and Vietnamese food

Raffles (Win a 65 inch TV!), music, fun for kids!

CAN YOU HELP?

The parish is seeking donations for our upcoming fundraiser, the Parish Taste, on Saturday, September 12. This has always been a wonderful community-building event, and we hope you will be a part of it in some way.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Can you give a few hours of your time to helping at the Taste? We'll need people to help set up, to clean up and take down the tables and chairs, to bake desserts, and to staff the food booths. Call the parish office to volunteer. School parents, you can get hours for helping.

BEVERAGE DONATIONS NEEDED

Please drop beverage donations in the back of the church or at the Pastoral Center. Beverages needed: 12 ounce cans of Coke, Diet Coke, or Sprite and 16–20 ounce bottles of water.

DONATIONS NEEDED

Do you want to donate to the Taste? We will recognize donors of \$100 with signs at the Taste, on the website, on Facebook and Instagram, and in the bulletin. You can choose to help subsidize one of the food booths, entertainment, the drinks, the raffles, or provide other needed supplies or donate where it is needed. Contact our Business Manager, Laurie DePillo, at 708–453–2555 or email lauriedepillo@stguerinparish.org.

BAKERS NEEDED

We need cookies, bars, and cupcakes for the Sweets Table at the Taste. Please bring your donations to the Pastoral Center on Friday, September 11 by 5 PM or on the day of the Taste by noon. Questions about desserts? Call Lynn Schmidt for more information at 708–453–2555 or email lschmidt@stguerinparish.org.

GIFT CARDS NEEDED

We are looking for gift cards to be donated for use in the raffle baskets for the Taste. You may drop them off in the collection basket at church or at the parish office.

Parish Staff Spotlight: Business Manager, Laurie DePillo

Laurie DePillo, our Business Manager, is a long-time parishioner. She grew up in Broadview as the second oldest of six kids and attended St. Eulalia and Lindop grammar schools and Immaculate Heart of Mary High School with her sister, Karen who at 10 months younger was in the same grade as Laurie. She started working at St. Celestine School as a teacher's aide when her son Michael was attending and then moved to the parish office as bookkeeper. She has been the parish Business Manager since 2018, a very challenging time to navigate the joining of the parishes.

but meeting so many different people and working for Archbishop Jeff Grob, Fr. Paul Cao, and now Fr. Ton. Her favorite parish event is the Golf Outing where she can be found flying around on a golf cart making sure all the details are being handled.

Laurie doesn't like to sit still and enjoys crocheting, watching Bravo, and baking in her free time. Her foccacia and coffeecake are legendary at the Pastoral Center. She and her husband of 28 years, Carm, a former Elmwood Park police officer, have a chihuahua named Chelsea and enjoy spending time with their grandchildren and extended family.



Laurie's favorite part of working for the parish is not trying to figure out how to pay the bills or fit events into the calendar,

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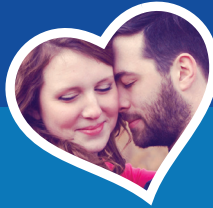
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