

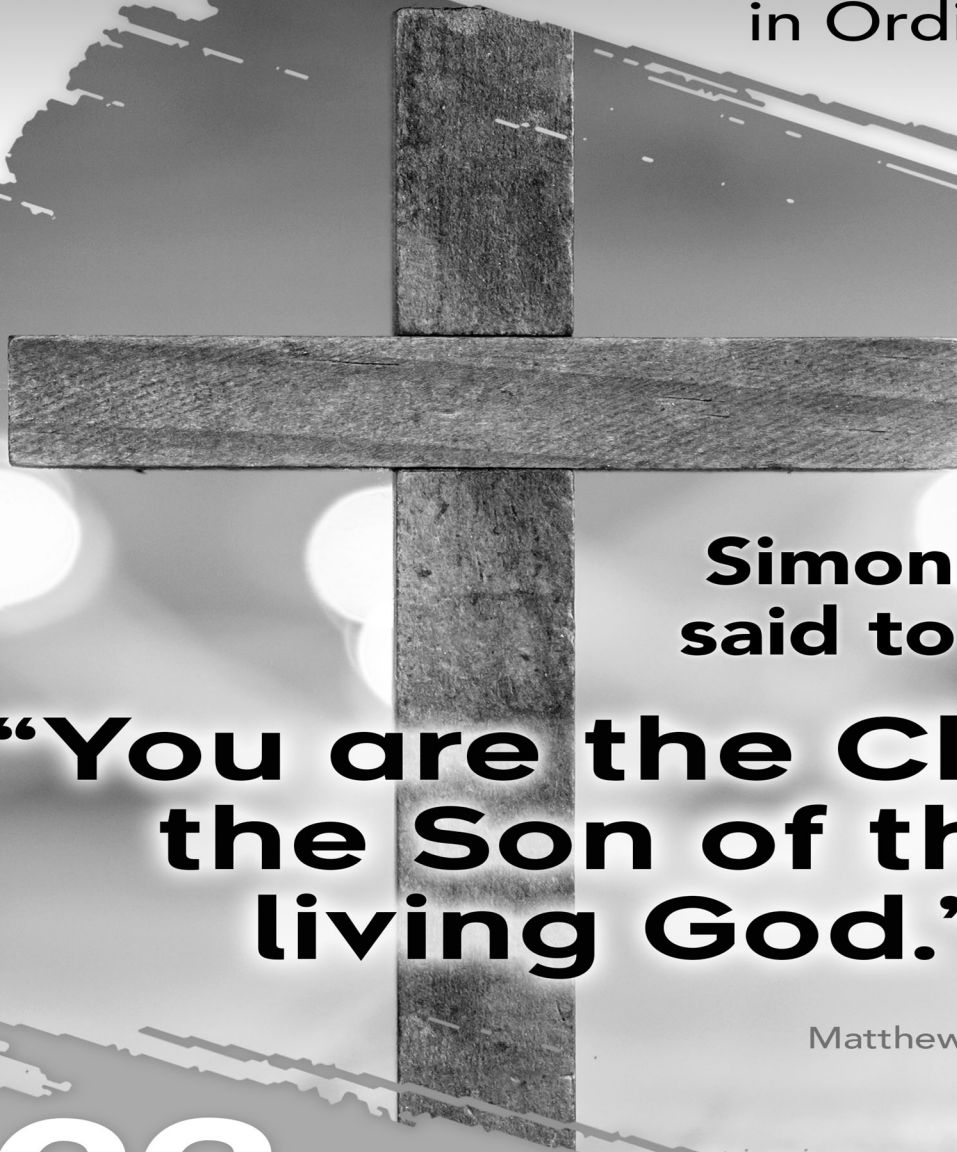
St. Walter Church Chicago • Blue Island

The small parish that does things in a big way.

Fr. Jim Mezydlo—Pastor

Church 11722 Oakley Chicago, IL 60643 (773) 779-1515

Twenty-First Sunday
in Ordinary Time



**Simon Peter
said to Jesus,**

**“You are the Christ,
the Son of the
living God.”**

Matthew 16:16

AUGUST
23
2020

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Mission Statement

We, the Catholic Christian community of St. Walter, embrace our call to imitate Jesus Christ. Enlightened by the Catholic tradition, we live this through prayer and worship; stewardship and service.

Parish Contact Information

Pastor Rev. James Mezydlo
11722 S. Oakley Avenue
Chicago, IL 60643
Phone: 773-779-1515 Fax: 773-779-0381
Hours: Mon.-Fri 9am-4pm
(Please call for an appt. after 4pm)
Email: StWalterChgo@gmail.com
Website: www.stwalterparish.com

Adoration Chapel

The Adoration Chapel is closed for the time being.

Carmelite Sisters Residence

St. Gerald's Convent
9310 S. 55th Court
Oak Lawn, IL 60453 Phone: 708-422-0280

St. Walter School

Ms. Veronica Skelton Cash—Principal
11741 S. Western Avenue
Chicago, IL 60643
Phone: 773-445-8850
Fax: 773-445-0277
Website: www.stwalter.org

Reminder:

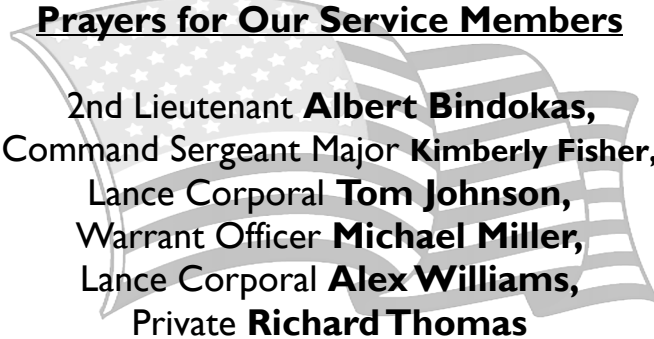
Mass Schedule

Mass will be celebrated publicly at 9:30AM Sunday for the time being.

Reconciliation

By appointment only.

Prayers for Our Service Members



2nd Lieutenant **Albert Bindokas**,
Command Sergeant Major **Kimberly Fisher**,
Lance Corporal **Tom Johnson**,
Warrant Officer **Michael Miller**,
Lance Corporal **Alex Williams**,
Private **Richard Thomas**

Give to Change Lives—

Our neighbors across Chicagoland who live in poverty have been especially burdened by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since it has started, Catholic Charities has been there for them answering the most urgent request.

Please give to the Catholic Charities collection on August 30, 2020 to feed, comfort, shelter, and care for the most vulnerable among us and to connect them to Catholic Charities' network of services that will guide them as they work through extraordinary challenges.

[Please note: This collection was originally scheduled for Mother's Day.] Learn more or make a gift at www.catholiccharities.net.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, August 23

9:30am Mary JoAnn Luetkemeyer, Manuel Piloni and
Deceased Members of the Piloni and
Orlanzino Families

Monday, August 24

7:00am Our Homebound Parishioners

Tuesday, August 25

7:00am Mark Gulzinski

Wednesday, August 26

7:00am Richard Fencel

Thursday, August 27

7:00am Walter Sawchuk

Friday, August 28

7:00am Manuel Piloni

Sunday, August 30

9:30am Mary Ann Jankowski and Mark Gulzinski

*If you would like a mass said in honor of
somebody for a donation of \$10
please call the rectory at
(773) 779-1515.*

Bulletin Information —Bulletin articles must be submitted by Monday at noon in order to be considered for the bulletin. Drop information at the rectory or email articles to Jack McLaughlin at: stwalterbulletin@gmail.com

August 23, 2020

Twenty-first Sunday of Ordinary Time

PARISH RE-OPENING

Our parish continues to move forward with reopening efforts in accordance with the plan announced by Cardinal Cupich and the bishops of Illinois, as well as the governor's Restore Illinois plan. I want to provide you with an update on our progress and priorities.

St. Walter is certified for Phase II of the Archdiocese's re-opening process which allows for the church to provide Mass with limited attendance. Maximum possible attendance is 20% of the church's capacity, so approximately 48 people. Our parish is also approved to celebrate Baptisms, Reconciliation, weddings and funerals, as well as Eucharistic Adoration and private prayer. Currently, we offer 9:30am Mass on Sundays. We still do not have enough volunteers to offer additional weekend Masses.

Our staff and team of volunteers have been working hard to keep everyone's well-being – both physical and spiritual – the foremost priority in all that we do. It has been wonderful to see people stepping forward to put their time and energy toward keeping our parish family strong during this time.

REMINDERS ABOUT MASS

Attendance is by reservation only so we rely on our parishioners to call us each week. If your name is not on the list, our team may not be able to seat you. Please call the Rectory at **(773) 779-1515** each week to reserve your spot - if possible, before 5pm on Fridays **Why do you need to do this?** There are two reasons: we want to accommodate everyone who wants to attend and need to manage the limited spots we have available. And for contact tracing purposes should an attendee test positive for COVID. We ask that you continue to provide your phone number as well for this reason.

We continue to follow three important safety guidelines of: sanitizing (as we enter church and before we receive Holy Communion), wearing masks, and social distancing (six feet apart). Enter church through the entrance by the parking lot so that our volunteer team can direct you. At this time, we are not using the 118th Street entrance.

NOT READY TO RETURN?

It would be great to have all of you return but we also understand that some of you are not able, not ready yet, or unsure. That is why we will continue to provide Mass recorded at St. Walter posted on our website and to our Facebook page. Beginning this weekend, we will move to livestreaming Mass, so you can join us for the livestream at 9:30am or view it at another time.

Prayers for the Sick—

Janet Brown, Robert James Bonner, Mary Kay Delaplane, Elizabeth Bethel, Marie Roche, Rosanne Heeran, Rita Passafiume, Lisa Stewart, Sr. Mary Teresa, Susan Dowse, Shirley Hennessy, Martha Morales, Bonita Hughes, Lorraine Zagar, Maria Oguendo, John Klinker, Patricia Packett, Paul Rinkevich, Cecilia Rinkevich, Richard Keehan Jr., Connie Mazzacavello, Mary Kay Strasser, Jose Guzman, Rosemary Campione, Cheryl Philippi. To add a name from our prayer list or have someone visit you, in your home or at the hospital, please call the rectory at **773-779-1515**.

Announcement from the School Reopening and COVID-19 Taskforce, Office of Catholic Schools

Since June, when Cardinal Cupich shared our intent to reopen schools, the Archdiocese has made in-person learning its top priority, but only if it could be done safely.

An entire team of dedicated Archdiocesan staff has been working since April on a strong, health-and-safety focused plan overseen by local medical experts. The plan aligns with all of the guidance from the state, city of Chicago and county health departments and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Teams at each school have been doing everything possible to implement the plan to make school buildings welcoming and safe.

Each of our schools has a plan to allow for in-person learning, as well as virtual or e-learning, where and when needed.

But these are truly unprecedented times for us all. The challenges COVID-19 presents are real, and we have the humility to acknowledge that we may have to adjust these plans if needed. But with God's grace, we will learn together and adapt together. It is the strength of our community – that which makes us the Church – that will carry us forward.

I would like to make a special note of thanks to our teachers and principals. We would not be having a conversation about Catholic education ministry and what was best for children if our teachers and principals were not dedicated to doing what's best for our students and families.

Like all essential workers who have served to help their community during the pandemic, our teachers are serving our families, our neighborhood and that parish and for that we are incredibly grateful.

We will continue to communicate with you over the next weeks about the progress of our school reopening efforts. In the meantime, I ask you to join me in praying for our principals, teachers, and school families.

This Week At Saint Walter School.....

Live Faith. Learn Tradition. Achieve Excellence.



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



August 5, 2020

Dear Catholic School Parents and Guardians,

This morning, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) announced a change in their planned reopening of school buildings. They have chosen to conduct classes via full-time remote learning for the first 10 weeks of the fall.

The Archdiocese of Chicago believes strongly that our reopening plan, which provides for full-time in-person learning, is in the best interests of children and our mission. In-person learning is essential for the intellectual, emotional, physical and spiritual growth of our students. Our reopening plan maximizes the safety of our students and employees while allowing the resumption of in-person learning. It is therefore our intention to remain committed to our plan to offer five-day, in-person learning in addition to a remote, e-learning, option for those students who are unable or whose parents are unwilling to return to classrooms.

In designing our reopening plan, we consulted guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as input on safely reopening and important mitigation efforts from the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), state health officials and infectious disease experts on our own task force. CDPH has recognized that our school system is different from CPS and supports our specific plan to reopen. If this guidance were to change, we would adjust our plan accordingly.

In the meantime, schools are working hard to implement health and safety requirements ahead of the start of the year. Schools are also preparing a virtual learning option with support from the Archdiocese. More information about virtual learning will be released to parents in the days ahead.

I realize this is a time of anxiety and stress. Know that we deeply care about the needs of our child and are looking forward to the year to come. If you have questions, I encourage you to contact your school's principal or the Archdiocese at ReopenSchools@archchicago.org.

Thank you for your partnership and trust.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Rigg, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Catholic Schools
Archdiocese of Chicago



WE ARE CALLED...

The theme for our school year is *We Are Called*, which evokes the unique calling that God has for each of us. We all have a vocation, a specific calling to holiness. God's callings can be found throughout Sacred Scripture, from the accounts of the prophets to the sending forth of the apostles at Pentecost. The Blessed Mother and other saints provide us with wonderful examples of how we should discern and accept God's call in our lives.

Please join with all parish and school communities in the Archdiocese of Chicago to pray for a safe, healthy and fruitful school year for all students, their families, principals, teachers and school and religious education staff. May we, together, discern God's call for us in each moment, each word, each action.

Let us pray ...

We are called to be *disciples* who teach our children, our students and one another with prayer, service and generosity.

We are called to be *stewards of wisdom* who model acts of kindness and words of hope in our homes, our places of work and in our classrooms.

We are called to be *advocates of radical hospitality*, inviting all people of good will into our parishes, our schools and into our hearts.

We are called to be *beacons of hope* for those in our parish and school communities who feel helpless, lost, and alone. May we provide comfort, guidance, and hope to everyone who may need support of any kind.

We are called to be *models of gratitude*. May the God who blesses us give us abundant rest for the heart, power for virtue, wisdom for life, and patience in trials.

We are called to be *inspirers* of joy in renewal. We pray that the God of renewal lead us forward in joy to enter into Christ's love in trust, openness, and faith.

We are called to love, serve, and know God!

Through the intercession of the Blessed Mother, may we have the docility to hear God's call and the humility to accept it as true grace.

Amen.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED—

The Reopening Co-leadership Team and our Volunteer Captains need additional people to step forward and serve in various capacities so that our community may continue to pray, celebrate and worship together. In order to progress along our parish reopening plan, our Set-up, Greeting and Cleaning Teams need folks who can offer about two hours per service per week. Please prayerfully consider lending your time to this important ministry and contact Fr. Jim to discuss your willingness to help. Our team will ensure that you are properly trained and can serve with your safety as priority #1. We will need additional trained volunteers to be able to provide Saturday Mass.

GIVING REMINDER—

Thank you to those who have continued to contribute to our St. Walter parish family. We are grateful to be remembered during this challenging time. It is imperative that all of us support our parish with our prayers and our financial support. We ask that you consider maintaining your regular weekly donation level.

Contributions can be dropped off at the rectory or donated online. If it is more convenient, you can donate online as so many have done.

Here at St. Walter, we have two options for online contributions:

1. Using Our Sunday Visitor which can be accessed through our parish website or directly at www.osvonlinegiving.com/4913
2. Through the Archdiocese's website www.archchicago.org/home and click on the red **DONATE** button at the top of the home page. Once you reach the Giving section of their website, **"Universal Offertory Program"** is the first choice. If you would prefer to set up direct debit from your bank account, please speak with Diane Mulcrone in the rectory. She would be happy to assist you with this process.

Publication Available—

September issue of "The Word Among Us" is available at Church this Sunday or simply call the rectory during the week.

Pope Francis' August Intentions for 2020—

The Maritime World

We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.

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