

## Our Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Church

### MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4:00 pm English

Sunday 7:30 am English

9:00 am Polish

10:30 am English

12:00 pm Polish

4:00 pm English

Tues- Fri 8:00 am English

### FIRST FRIDAY

8:00 am English

7:00 pm Polish

### CONFESSION

Saturday 3:00-3:45 pm English 1st Friday 6:00-6:45 pm Bilingual

### PARISH OFFICE

(F) (D)

16043 South Bell Road Homer Glen, IL 60491

708-301-6246

office@omgccc.org

www.omgccc.org

Tues, Wed, Fri 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Thurs by appointment





Mass Intentions

**TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 9 8:00AM**Elsie Wagner†

**Wednesday September 10 8:00**am Fletcher Merkel†

**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 11 8:00**AM Harper Moyski†

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 12 8:00am Marianna & Franciszek Bryja†

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13 4:00PM John Millert

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14 7:30**AM Craig Smith†

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14 9:00**AM Maria Marta Cyganska†

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14 10:30**AM Robert Mikols†

Sunday September 14 12:00pm Andrzej Bryja†

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14 4:00PM**Robert Mikols†

### SAINTS AND OBSERVANCES

September: Dedicated to the Seven

Sorrows of Mary

Mon: The Nativity of the Blessed

Virgin Mary

Tues: Saint Peter Claver

Fri: The Most Holy Name of Mary Sat: Saint John Chrysostom

### WATCH MASS ONLINE!

Our Sunday Masses are now streaming on our youtube channel. www.youtube.com/
@OurMotherofGoodCounsel

### **Upcoming Dates**

Parish Picnic (no 4:00 PM Mass)

SEP 9-13 Photo Sessions in the Narthex

First RE Class at Homer Jr High



Sanctuary Lamp Intentions Sept 7th - 13th

> George Billy † Angeline Billy †

Welcome our new Parishioners: The Nowobilski Family The Maj Family The Staszel Family The Komperda Family



1:00 PM - 8:00 PM

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# Spiritual Adoption Program "I like to listen to my Mommy's voice" 8 Months

In the last two months the baby continues to gain weight. She is developing a layer of fat that will keep her warm after she is born. In the 9th month she will shift to a head-down position, preparing for birth. Her lungs are now fully developed and capable of making the transition to breathing air. After birth she will continue the human growth process for many years to come. She is about 18 inches in length.

Your baby's mother appreciated the prayers you have said for her and her baby throughout the pregnancy. It has not been easy, but your prayers have given her the grace she needed to bring her baby to term.

### **BAPTISM**



God Bless Julia Maria Gil who received the Sacrament of Baptism on August 31st!



### **FAITH FORMATION**

For further information on any of the items below, or on the Religious Education program, please contact Janet Litterio in the Faith Formation Office at 708-301-0214 or faithformation@omgcc.org

Visit our parish website omgccc.org for the RE schedule and other Faith Formation information throughout the year. Simply click on the Religious Education link once you enter the site.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 10 - CLASS SEPTEMBER 17 - CLASS SEPTEMBER 24 - OFF

> OCTOBER 1 - CLASS OCTOBER 8 - CLASS OCTOBER 15 - CLASS OCTOBER 22 - CLASS OCTOBER 29 - OFF

Classes are not scheduled for September 24th, however we will have a gathering in church for 7th grade parents beginning at 7pm.

Classes at HJH start promptly at 6 pm. Always enter and exit the building through Door A/main entrance.

Students will be dismissed though Door A. Grades 5-8 will be dismissed at 7:20, Grades 1-4 at 7:30.

Students may not leave class early because of sports or other extra-curricular activities.

Our R.E. calendar dates are posted weekly in this column of the bulletin. In addition, you can find our yearly calendar posted on our parish website-www.omgccc.org and the dates are posted within our Family Handbook which is also available on our parish website.

We ask you call in your child if they are sick and cannot attend class. You may email me, call the Faith Formation Office, or the R.E. cell phone— 1 708 288-8265. If you do not call your child in as absent, you will receive a courtesy call after we collect attendance sheets at the beginning of each class.

Please keep our students, parents and catechists in your prayers as we begin another school year sharing our faith with our young people.



# St. Joseph's Corner

"So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:33).

These words may not strike us as strange, at least not as strange as Jesus' earlier exhortation to hate one's father and mother, wife and

children, brothers and sisters. But Jesus is not speaking about emotions here. The Prince of Peace, the embodiment of love who gave Himself entirely on the Cross for us, would never advocate hostility toward those we love. Once again, we encounter the limits of language in conveying the depth of His teaching.

### The Language of "Hate"

The word translated "hate" in this passage is the Greek  $\mu$ I $\sigma$ έ $\omega$  (mise $\bar{o}$ ), which usually means "to hate." But in this context, a Semitic idiom is at work. In Aramaic speech, familiar to both Jesus and His listeners, "hate" could mean not loathing, but preferring one thing less than another. This idiom appears elsewhere in Scripture—for example, when God says, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated" (Malachi 1:2–3, cited in Romans 9:13). The point is not literal hatred, but divine preference.

So Jesus is not commanding us to despise family, but revealing the radical demand of discipleship: God must come first—before our possessions, before those dearest to us, and even before ourselves. This is the true cost of discipleship, and it is not optional.

### The Rich Young Man

We see this truth play out vividly in the encounter with the rich young man (Mark 10:17–22). He came to Jesus sincerely, asking what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus, looking at him with love, invited him to sell his possessions, give to the poor, and follow Him. But the man went away sad, for he had many possessions. He was willing to keep the commandments, but he was not willing to pay the cost of discipleship.

The rich man's sadness shows us what happens when we try to cling to both Christ and our attachments. He calculated the cost and walked away, thinking it was too high. But the truth is that the cost is not up for negotiation—it is the very definition of following Jesus. To prefer anything, even good things like wealth or family, above Him is to turn away from the very life we seek. For the rich young man, keeping the commandments was not enough. For us as well, external righteousness or mere rule-keeping is not enough. Following Christ requires total surrender.

### Ordered Attachments

This sharp contrast makes Jesus' point clear. We must love and prefer the things of God so much that, by comparison, it may appear that we disregard everything else. In reality, the issue is our disordered attachments—even to things that are not worldly or evil. An overprotective parent, for example, may cling to even the noble duties of family life in such a way

that they become an obstacle to serving God freely.

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. We never need more than what God provides. When we think that we need more, we elevate our will above His. And when we imagine that others need us more than they need God, we place ourselves in His place.

### Counting the Cost

Jesus leaves no ambiguity in the Gospel. His images of building a tower or waging a war may not strike us with the same force today as they did two thousand years ago, but for His listeners, they carried immense weight. To fail in either endeavor meant more than shame; it could bring financial disaster or destruction at the hands of a rival king.

The cost, then, is not a barrier to discipleship. It is discipleship. What holds us back is not the weight of the demand—for His yoke is easy and His burden is light—but the attachments of our hearts. And the greater truth is this: the cost of holding back is far higher. To cling to anything before Christ is to lose not only the thing itself, but also the life that only He can give.

There is no middle ground. The choice is total surrender to Christ, or walking away sad like the rich man, clinging to possessions that cannot save.

The choice before us is stark but simple. We can cling to what we think we cannot live without, and walk away sad. Or we can let go, renounce all, and discover the joy of a life that cannot be taken from us. Jesus does not ask for part of us. He asks for everything, because only by giving Him everything do we receive everything in return. Through surrender, we receive our identity and mission.

### Our Mission as Husbands & Fathers

For husbands and fathers, this is not an abstract challenge. It happens in the small sacrifices of daily life—giving up our own comfort, our own plans, our own pride—for the sake of our families and for Christ. Our vocation to provide for and care for our families is never meant to come before God, but to flow from Him. Every act of fatherly love is first an act of service to God, who entrusted these souls to our care. Each time we choose humility, each time we loosen our grip on self-will and attachments, we step more fully into true discipleship.

St. Joseph shows us the pattern. He did not hesitate when God called him to take Mary as his wife, to flee with her and the Child into Egypt, to labor quietly in Nazareth. He gave everything without negotiation. In doing so, he received everything: the joy of guarding Jesus and Mary, and the honor of being remembered as a faithful father.

So let us take the lower place. Let us renounce whatever keeps us clinging. Let us surrender all to Christ, trusting that the cost of discipleship is not loss, but gain, not emptiness, but fullness—the only path to the banquet of life with Him forever.

-Sebastian Abbinanti (Parish Pastoral Council Member)



# Bishop Hicks' Column September 2025 The Leo Effect: Reflecting After 100 Days



In the world of leadership, there is a common practice: after the first one hundred days in office, we pause to reflect. What direction is this new leader taking us in? What tone has been set? Where might we be headed?

In these early months, we are beginning to see the kind of shepherd God has given us. The "Leo Effect," as I like to call it, is the fruit of his presence. It is the blessings, the new stirrings, and the hopeful signs already emerging in our Church and in our world.

At a recent Presbyteral Council meeting, one of our Augustinian priests told me that, since Pope Leo is himself an Augustinian, they have noticed a marked increase in young men expressing interest in the priesthood. That is the Leo Effect in action. These are ripples of inspiration that move from Rome all the way to local parishes and communities like ours.

Another question I have been asked many times in recent weeks is this: will Pope Leo XIV choose Chicagoland as the first place he visits? People have wondered if he might return to his roots in the south suburbs, visit his old neighborhood in Dolton, grab a slice of his favorite pizza, or even celebrate Mass at White Sox Park. As wonderful as that would be, and as much as I would personally love to see it, I usually remind people that his first stop is more likely to be a place in urgent need of healing, reconciliation, or peace. Perhaps the Holy Land, perhaps Ukraine, or perhaps another corner of the world that needs his pastoral presence. But who knows? The Holy Spirit guides these journeys, and for now we simply wait in joyful anticipation.

People close to Pope Leo have said, "He listens more than he talks." That in itself is part of the Leo Effect. In an age of noise and constant headlines, the witness of a leader who listens deeply is striking. His way of leadership is not rooted in quick soundbites but in steady gestures of closeness and compassion. Early in his pontificate, he celebrated Mass with the homeless and then shared a meal with them. He has spoken often of the "fire of love" that must burn within us, not a fire that remains hidden, but one that spreads outward in compassion, justice, and peace.

Another sign of the Leo Effect is his bridge-building across cultures. Born in the United States, formed as a missionary in Peru, and shaped by the Augustinian spirit of community and humility, Pope Leo embodies the universality of the Church. His very life story unites North

and South America, English and Spanish, tradition, and modernity.

Pope Leo has also expressed concern about pressing global issues. He has spoken about the moral questions surrounding artificial intelligence, reminding us not to allow technology, money, or power to displace God. He has called for peace in conflict zones, urging the world to pursue reconciliation. He has also reminded us that the greatness of the Church is not measured in status or wealth, but in holiness and service. Recently, he approved a new Mass for the Care of Creation, highlighting his commitment to safeguarding our common home and encouraging all believers to pray and act for the protection of God's earth.

At the same time, he has shown deep respect for tradition. When he walked out onto the balcony of St. Peter's, he reclaimed the use of the mozzetta, a traditional papal vestment symbolizing continuity with history. He also revived the ancient practice of personally bestowing the pallium on new archbishops. These gestures remind us that while Pope Leo leads the Church into new challenges, he remains anchored in her history and symbols. His leadership balances continuity with creativity.

Many have also noted his warmth and relatability. He is approachable, enjoys simple pastimes like baseball, tennis, and word games, and speaks plainly from the heart. These touches of humanity remind us that the pope is not a distant figure but a pastor walking with his flock.

The Leo Effect is nothing less than the Holy Spirit reminding us that God is alive and active in His Church. And just as the world pauses after one hundred days to reflect on a leader, let us pause to recognize the Spirit's work through Pope Leo XIV. As we pray for our new Holy Father, let us also commit ourselves to being open to the impact the Leo Effect can have on our own lives, to become people of unity, compassion, and love that set the world aflame.



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### Getting Ready

**CLOTHING:** Solid colors work best and will make you look thinner.

**HAIR:** Be yourself, avoid changing your hairstyle or cutting your hair right before your session.

**JEWELRY:** If you have jewelry that has special meaning to you, wear it!

**MAKE-UP:** Apply make-up as you would normally for an evening out. Pay special attention to your eyes: they're the focal point in a portrait!

**GLASSES:** If you wear eye glasses all the time, you'll want to wear them in your portraits. Don't worry, we'll take care of any glare.

### RETOUCH:

Universal offers portrait retouching that can soften facial lines and correct blemishes.

### We Make it Easy!

Allow 45-60 minutes for professional photography and portrait previewing.



### What can I bring?

- You may invite extended family members for a multi-generational photo.
- Bring your pets, we know they are an important part of the family!
   Please check with your church.
- Bring props that express you and your family's personality, e.g., instruments, sports equipment and hobby items.

Share your portraits with family & friends!





There is still time to register for a photo session! Each participating family will receive a free 8x10 print and a complimentary directory.

Photo sessions are Sept 9th-13th in the Narthex. Our online scheduler is live on the weekdays.

- Go to the Church Directories website (www.ucdir.com)
- Click on the RED box "Photography Session Sign-Up"
- Enter church code: il417 and password: photos
- · Click on the desired photography date
- Click on the Reserve Time button beside the desired appointment time

### Altar Server Training - Grades 3 through 8

We will be offering Altar Server training in church on Tuesday, September 23rd and Thursday, September 25th from 6:00pm - 7:30pm.

All current altar servers are welcome to join us on

Thursday to help with training and enjoy a pizza party.

Strengthen your relationship with Jesus by helping the priest with Mass. You can have a better understanding of Mass, and deepen your faith and relationship with Jesus.

RSVP to Mrs Nolan: bhawk21@comcast.net or Mrs. Litterio: faithformation@omgccc.org





# Interested in becoming Catholic?

The first OCIA meeting is September 16th. OCIA will gather every other week until the Easter Vigil. If you are over 18 and are interested in becoming a fully Initiated member of the Catholic Church, please join us!

Gain a deeper understanding our Catholic Faith while you discern if God is calling you to receive Baptism, First Communion, and/or Confirmation



Email faithformation@omgccc.org or call 708-301-0214 to learn more

Sept 13/14	Sat 4:00pm	Sun 7:30am	Sun 9:00am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 12:00pm	Sun 4:00pm
Eucharistic Minsters	Jeff Dusak Ed Wereldsma Mary Westberg	Mary Ann Mesich Patti Mulligan Monica Shaub Mike Gatto	Jasia Para Ryszard Kloc Katarzyna Karpiuk	Dawn Nolan Ellen Dudycha Julie Sochacki	Agata Świętosławska	Mary Keene Janet Litterio
Lector	Jen Dusak	Patti Mulligan Bill Shaub	Grazyna Staszel	Art Smigielski	Kazimierz Wilk	Janet Litterio
Sacristan	Donna Swiniarski	Mary Ellen Fitzpatrick	Bożena Bisaga	Dawn Nolan	Andrzej Kas	Janet Litterio
Ushers	Dennis Foley Roger Sendra	Jim Mulligan Tony Angelo	Sławomir Budz Witek Szaflarski Stanisław Smalec Czesław Bisaga	Art Smigielski Carol Shimkus Andy Smigielski Tom Lorang	Eugeniusz Blachut Wiesław Mos Andrzej Kas Artur Leja	Mary Keene Jim Mulligan

### PARISH STAFF

Very Rev. Grzegorz P. Podwysocki

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Rev. Michael Flynn Rev. Maciej Stelmach

Mass Assistants

### Naomi O'Malley

Parish Operations & Ministry ParishMissionMinistry@omgccc.org

### **Janet Litterio**

Lifelong Formation FaithFormation@omgccc.org

Tues - Thurs: 9am-3pm

### Małgorzata Siuta (Po Polsku)

Polish Ministry
PolishMinistry@omgccc.org

### Anna Siwiec-Sitkowska

Music Ministry

### Victoria Petecki

Digital Media

### Paula Bucciferro

Accountant

### SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION



**Baptism:** Baptisms are scheduled the 2nd Sunday of the month at 1:00 pm (Polish) and 1:30 pm (English). Please contact the Parish Office before booking a venue.



**Marriage**: As members of Our Mother of Good Counsel, couples should contact the Parish Office at least six months before the wedding to allow time for preparation.



**Funerals:** Call the Parish office to schedule an appointment to make preparations for Mass.



**Eucharist For Homebound:** If you are unable to attend Mass please contact the Parish Office for the Sacraments of the Eucharist. Our Homebound ministry would be happy to assist you.



**Anointing of the Sick & Hospital Visits:** Please contact the office if you or a loved one is in need of anointing. Please do not wait until prognosis is imminent.



**Religious Education:** We offer religious education classes for grades 1-8. Call the Faith Formation Office for more information. Classes meet Wednesday, 6:00-7:30PM September through March.



**Newcomers:** Welcome to our Parish! Please stop in the Parish Office or visit our website for a Parishioner registration form. We are so happy to have you.



**Religious Life:** Considering Religious Life? For more information about vocations for the Religious Life, please contact: vocations@dioceseofjoliet.org



**Prayer Request Line:** Submit your intention to omgcprayers@gmail.com, and our prayer warriors will discreetly pray for you intention.

### CMAA PLEDGE REPORT

Thank you for joining the CMAA effort! If we reach our goal, 70% of the amount over our goal will be returned.

Donor count: 149 (+1)

PARISH GOAL: \_\_\_\_\_ \$42,600 AMOUNT PLEDGED: \_\_ \$47,870 (+50) AMOUNT PAID: \_\_\_\_ \$44,462 (+50) REMAINING BALANCE: \$3,408 2025 REBATE: \$1,303

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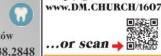
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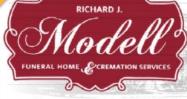
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# 10

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BROKER | Parishioner

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