



JANUARY 2024
January 1-31

**SAINT MARY OF THE LAKE
AND OUR LADY OF LOURDES
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

WELCOME TO OUR *Parish Community*

PASTORAL STAFF

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Maintenance & Facilities

SERGIO CIENFUEGOS

MARIA PATINO

AMALIO SANTIAGO



Our Two Places of Worship

PARISH CHURCH
SAINT MARY OF THE LAKE
4220 N. Sheridan Road,
Chicago, IL 60613



CHAPEL
OUR LADY OF LOURDES
4640 N. Ashland Ave,
Chicago, IL 60640

MASS TIMES

SAINT MARY OF THE LAKE

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday Vigil
4:30 PM - English
Sunday
8:30 AM - English
10:30 AM - English
12:30 PM - Spanish

DAILY MASSES

Monday - Saturday
9:00 AM - English

RECONCILIATION

Thursdays - 7:00 PM
Saturdays - 9:30 AM

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Thursdays - 7:00 PM

PRIVATE PRAYER ST. GABRIEL CHAPEL

Monday - Friday
9:30 AM - 7:30 PM

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

WEEKEND MASSES

Sunday
9:00 AM - English
11:00 AM - Spanish

ADORATION & PRIVATE PRAYER

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto
8:30 AM - 8:00 PM

PARISH OFFICE

Saint Mary of the Lake
4220 N. Sheridan Rd, Chicago, IL 60613
(773) 280-7700
office@saintmarys.org

Monday - Friday | 9:00am - 8:00pm
Saturdays & Sundays | 9:00am - 2:00pm

A MESSAGE FROM *Father Alphonse*

GREETINGS IN CHRIST!

It is yet another New Year and a New Beginning!

Dear friends, sometimes, the beginning of the New Year can be both exciting or intimidating. But also, entering the New Year can be an opportune time to start anew with freshness of mind, body, and soul to make positive changes in our lives and in the lives of others. However, a New Year requires each and everyone of us to let go of the old self and step into the new self.

As we begin this year of 2024, we are reminded not just of the new year, but of the continual renewal God provides. Jesus Christ, through his grace and blessings, renews our hearts and minds. But, “Renewal bears fruit only if it is based on what is truly new in Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life,” (Pope Benedict XVI).

Therefore, as believers in Christ Jesus, we can find hope and strength in knowing that God is with us in all things, including the new successes and challenges we may have. In Isaiah 43:19, the Lord says, “Behold, I am accomplishing new things. And presently, they will spring forth. With certainty, you will know them. I will make a way in the desert, and rivers in an impassable place” This message from Isaiah entails that God is constantly at work in our lives, creating new opportunities and possibilities for us.

Dear brothers and sisters, there is no doubt that it is always a good thing to stop every once in a while and take a personal reflection. An Ivorian musician, Alpha Blondy, says that “science sans conscience n’est que ruine de l’âme” or *science without conscience is only ruin of the soul*. For Saint Augustine, unexamined life is not worth living. In line with these quotes, some questions can help for self-examination. “How is my body, my mind, and my soul?” “Am I where I should be with God?” “Have I reached my potential in Him?” “What is my heart desire through God?” “How can I glorify and serve Him more in this New Year?”

Dear friends, during this year, let us hope and pray that we may always be close to God in our thoughts, our words, and our actions. This prayer echoes the words of Frank Outlaw “Watch your thoughts, they become words; watch your words, they become actions; watch your actions, they become habits; watch your habits, they become character; watch your character, for it becomes your destiny”.

Dear brothers and sisters, it requires some discipline to be faithful to ourselves, have faith and trust in God. And good disciplines can produce lasting change and upward growth more than anything else. However, before anything else, prayer is very important. And most importantly, going to church for the Holy Mass, receiving sacraments, and serving others through different ministries at church are vital for getting closer to God.

Throughout this New Year, we should constantly be praying for ourselves, for our families, for our friends, for our country, for all our leaders, and especially those who need more prayers.



FR. ALPHONSE TWIZERIMANA
Associate Pastor

Dear friends, spending regular time with God should be a must for each and everyone of us during this New Year. Jesus said it best, “Man does not live by bread alone, but every word that

proceeds from the mouth of God.” (Mt. 4:4) Reading, meditating, and applying the Word of God will feed and satisfy our soul.

During this New Year, we should also devote our lives to serving others. Serving is also vital to our spiritual growth. Jesus taught us to give and it will be given to us, “Give, and it will be given to you: a good measure, pressed down and shaken together and overflowing, they will place upon your lap. Certainly, the same measure that you use to measure out, will be used to measure back to you again.” (Lk. 6:38)

When we take the initiative to give of our energy, time, clothes, food, and money, it will open the flood gates of heaven for God to pour back into our lives. However, as we give, we should always be asking God how we should do it, how we should give, and how we should serve Him more effectively.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let us remember that Jesus Christ is always with us and he is powerfully present. Therefore, let us have faith and trust in God that all will be well and that the better days ahead will be fulfilled in time.

May we continue to receive the graces and blessings we need during this entire year of 2024.

May God bless you all in this 2024.

Father Alphonse Twizerimana

LET US PRAY *Together*

MASS INTENTIONS

To request a Mass Intention in memory of a deceased loved one, for someone who is sick or for general prayers please call the parish office. Note that these requests will be mentioned in the Mass time you request and published in our monthly bulletin. Please contact the office one week in advance to request an intention. The suggested donation is \$15 per intention.

Please note that any mass intentions received after the 15th OF THE MONTH will not be published in the bulletin, however it will still be prayed for at mass.

SICK LIST

If you would like to add a family member or friend to our general Prayer List for the Sick, please contact the parish office and provide the name. These names will be published in our monthly bulletin and weekly newsletters so that our community can pray for them. There is no donation requested for these requests.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK

Marcela Rodriguez, Hector De León, Griffin Marks, Rod Reyes, Maria Estela Alvarez, Austreberta Escobar, Adolfo Ruiz Baca, Melissa Velazquez, Molly Morris, Alfredo Pinon, Rose Mueller, Michael Snyder, Angela Bates, Angelica Luviano, Lauren Troy, Jack Denihan, Maria Pardo, Rachel Hohner, Angela Turley, Mary Pilarczyk, William Himmelmann, Marilyn Trant, Vivian Morales, John Okeeffe, Benjamin Blanco, Elvira Blanco, Kenneth Towers, Rosabella Payomo, Antonio Alcantara, Joe Klochan, Sue Leach, Patrick Bentley and for all our sick parishioners and those who are in nursing homes.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

The following are prayer requests we have received from the Saint Mary of the Lake and Our Lady of Lourdes community. Please keep them in your prayers.

Deceased

† Jose Emidio Camargo
† Bill Bower
† Charlene Palmateer
† Martin R. Lucas
† Bernard M. Wever
† Elias Nadim
† Sr. Armella Trauscht, OP
† Madonna Possley
† Sr. M. Eileen McGing, OSM
† Juana Tierrablanca
† Elias Salazar
† Walter Scott
† Claude Sainso
† Juan Mercado
† All Souls of Purgatory

Health

Yolanda Contreras
Peter Gianonni
Patrick Bentley

Special Prayers

Serafin Family
McNamee Family

Anniversary

Jose & Zoila Carcamo (50th Anniversary)



For the members of our parish community who have recently passed away.

† Luz Gaitan Dyer
† Estella Reynaldo

A PASTORAL *Reflection*

BLESSINGS TO YOU IN THIS NEW YEAR!

Michael Ruzicki, Director of Sacred Music and Liturgy

While we began a new liturgical year a few weeks ago with the First Sunday of Advent, I recognize that many of us make New Year's resolutions when the clock strikes midnight on the first of January. Allow me to recommend a New Year's resolution that will have an impact on your spiritual journey – dive deeper into the Church's liturgy.

The prayers, the readings, the hymns, the gestures, the signs, the symbols, the silence – these all shape us for living as Christians out in the world.

Below are several suggestions to deepen your understanding and appreciation of liturgy. Try one. If it doesn't work for you, no problem – just try another one. Invest some time and effort as you grow in your faith journey.

Read the readings. Before you come to Sunday Mass, read the scripture readings a few times (or, at least, once) in the preceding week. You can pull them up on your phone or computer. Be sure to cross reference these readings with a study bible that includes historical context and explanations. If you do this, you will have prepared your heart and mind to welcome Christ in the spoken word at Mass. Also, be sure to read the readings once or twice after Mass to see if anything else resonates with you. While the lay faithful do not preach at Mass, how do the weekly readings influence the way you preach the Gospel (in word and deed) to the world?

Start a liturgy journal. After each Mass, spend a few moments jotting down your thoughts. Answer these questions: Where and how did I experience God in this liturgy, in these readings, in the community? What spoke to my heart – a hymn, a homily, a ritual gesture, an encounter? What did I learn from liturgy today? How am I called to live this out in the world?

Experience liturgy anew. All liturgies are public celebrations of God's Church. In the next few months, attend a special ritual (baptism, wedding, the rites of Christian initiation, Confirmation, funeral, cultural celebration, etc.). You do not need to know the people who are celebrating the sacraments. As baptized Catholics, it is our duty to journey with each other and it is our rite and responsibility to be involved in these liturgical gatherings.

Read a book. There are countless books out there that are meant to help you understand what happens at Mass. (I actually work for a Catholic publishing company focused on the liturgy. If you are interested in some reading material, please let me know.)

Join a ministry. Whether it is greeting people at the door, proclaiming the Word, distributing Holy Communion, preparing the church for Mass, singing in the choir, serving at the altar – get involved. Your baptism demands it, your community needs it.

Take the initiative. I have been a part of faith sharing groups that either [a] break open the Sunday readings and [b] teach about our faith by looking at the liturgy and the sacraments. These have shaped me into who I am today. If this is something you might be interested in forming, reach out and I will be happy to assist. We are looking for more parishioner-led initiatives.

If you would like to discuss any of these ideas further, feel free to reach out via email: MRUZICKI@SAINTMARYS.ORG.

In 2024, may your spiritual journey be blessed by the liturgy and the sacraments.



(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Step Into the Light

How strange it is to think that if not for Herod's directions, the magi would not have known where to find Jesus. They were not Jews, they knew nothing of the old prophecies. It was Herod who convened the scholars. It was Herod who pointed the way — for ulterior motives, certainly, but nonetheless, this is the part he played. It was Herod who made the Epiphany possible.

“Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance,” writes the prophet (Isaiah 60:3). A king may keep to the shadows, suspicious of the light — he may foolishly imagine he can snatch it from the sky to keep as his own possession, and, upon finding the light cannot be governed, grow to loathe it, and even seek to extinguish it once and for all.

But all his grand designs will come to nothing because there is no king so powerful that he can see in the dark. And even a man like Herod — a man so jealous that he sought to kill God — cannot prevent the breaking of day.

The Epiphany marks the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. It is a celebration of truth reaching places it was not expected to reach, of brightness illuminating corners of the world long ago consigned to shadow. It is a reminder that the battle has already been won, the night is over. All that remains is for us to decide: will we step into the light?

“See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory.”
— Isaiah 60:2

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Though the magi did not know where the star of Bethlehem would lead, they trusted that God would be with them along the way. Let us all embrace that same faith as we go about the journey God has planned for us this year.



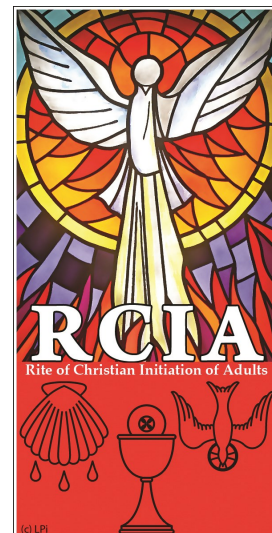
PRAY FOR THOSE PREPARING TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENTS

Please keep in your prayers the following adult **candidates**, their sponsors and families, who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year.

Jacob Koertgen
Chris Barrientos
Kimberly Sandoval
Gerardo Vasquez
Kristen Moser
Fred Naumann
In Cho

Additionally, please continue to pray for our **catechumens** who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation and be welcomed into the Church at the Easter Vigil this year.

Nat Wong
D'Angelo Coraizaca
Amy Coyago
Jaylah Arizbeth Narvaez Chanalata
Hilary Yajaira Rosas-Velazquez
Anny Aguirre Palacios
Carlos Rios



OUTREACH AND *Social Justice*

SOUP KITCHEN & SACK MEAL PROGRAM

Volunteers are needed to **MAKE SACK MEALS** and to help with service on Wednesday nights. To make this a success consistently each week, we need **80 individuals/families** to commit to donating at least once a month.

Each sack meal should contain:

- 2 lunch meat sandwiches with no condiments, cheese is optional but a nice addition
- 2 cheese sticks
- 1 bag of chips (or similar)
- 1 piece of soft fruit (for example, orange, banana, grapes)
- Dessert (cookies or candy bar)
- Beverage (juice box, can of soda, or 8 oz water bottle/ sports drink)
- Napkin

Please pack each meal in a gallon-sized plastic bag (like Ziploc). Or please use a plastic grocery bag.

DROP OFF

Wednesday between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00pm, drop off at the parish reception desk, as they will be handed out beginning at 6:00pm.

WEDNESDAY VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed to help with the distribution of sack meals, set up and serving a hot meal to our unhoused community members every week. Help is needed every Wednesday from 4:30-7:30pm.

To sign-up to make sack meals or to help on Wednesday nights please visit the parish website or contact Darlene at dkelly@saintmarys.org



LAUNDRY MINISTRY

The Laundry Ministry is a service to LGBTQ homeless youth in the community. Volunteers serve on a weekly basis to pick up bags of laundry at the Center on Halsted, and then take it to a nearby laundromat to wash and fold. This ministry is currently serving on Wednesday evenings between 3-6pm.

For more information please contact Ron Schnorbus at rschnorbus@gmail.com



FOOD FOR ALL: COME TO THE TABLE!

PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR FOOD DISTRIBUTION HAS MOVED TO THE **FIRST SATURDAY** OF THE MONTH EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2024.

Mark your calendar: **Our next food distribution will be Saturday, February 3, 2024** on the Saint Mary of the Lake Plaza, with pre-ordering on Wednesday, January 31 and Thursday, February 1.

All parishioners and friends are welcome to register and place an order for pick up on Saint Mary's Plaza!

The process is very simple:

1. Register your account by using the link on our website at www.saintmarys.org/foodforall.html (no documentation required)
2. Place your order online through the link on our website on Wednesday, January 31 and Thursday, February 1 from 12:01am-11:59pm.
3. Pickup your custom order on Saturday, February 3, 2024 between 11am and 12pm on Saint Mary's Plaza.

If you have registered, all you need to do is order online. If you have not registered, please make sure to register online through the link on our website.

For more information or if you need help, you can call the parish office or go to the parish website.



**IF YOU NEED HELP,
PLEASE REACH OUT
TO OUR PARISH
COUNSELOR TODAY**

JENNI DRESSLER
Parish Counselor

Phone/Text: 872-228-1490

Email: JDressler.Claret@gmail.com

FAITH AND *Testimony*



WELCOME THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

We gladly welcome the following children into the family of God and into the faith community of Saint Mary of the Lake and Our Lady of Lourdes, who were baptized during the **month of December**. Please pray for them and their families.

Seamus Patrick Lee

Alessia Mendoza

Chloe Jean Vega-Hawkins

Xiomara Faith Vega-Hawkins

Fiona Kathleen Emma Alexander

Kassandra Arlette Perez

Camille Eloise Montiel Salzo

Yareli Lemus Villanueva



A warm welcome to our newly registered parishioners of our parish community! The following persons and families registered this past month! Welcome to Saint Mary of the Lake and Our Lady of Lourdes!

Judith Allen
Seamus Mitchell

Annie Hart
Tessa Brueckner
Carina Oqueli

Melissa Damrongvachiraphan
Frank Buchalski
Monica Cueva
Stormy Lopez
Lenys Yorline Olivero

GIVING WITH THE HEAD AND THE HEART

Here are a few ways to maximize your charitable donations while minimizing your tax liability and saving yourself time and money in the process.

- **Donor Advised Fund (DAF):** A DAF is a type of charitable giving account: you make a donation to your DAF account, receive a tax deduction for the current tax year, and have the flexibility to direct your DAF balance as gifts to the parish at any time in the future. It's simple, flexible and tax efficient.
- **Stocks and Mutual Funds:** Giving stocks, bonds, mutual funds or ETFs to the parish rather than cash could increase the value of your gifts, cost you less money, and lower your tax bill. Donating publicly traded securities allows you to avoid capital gains taxes (which can be as high as 20% on long-term holdings) and you are still able to claim a charitable deduction for the full fair-market value of the donated securities. That stretches your dollar further than just selling the stock and giving cash.
- **Gifts from Your Individual Retirement Account (IRA):** Are you taking Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) from an IRA? You can avoid income taxes on your RMD by making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA and avoid paying taxes on the distribution. That's a huge tax advantage that satisfies part or all of your required minimum distribution. Thank you for considering St. Mary of the Lake-Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in your charitable giving plans.
- **Remember to leave the parish in your estate plans:** The parish sometimes learns that former or current parishioners, who recently passed away, left the parish in their will or named the parish as a beneficiary of some of their remaining assets. This is a remarkable way to memorialize your own legacy. With such gifts, the parish invests and uses these funds for long-term planning and investment of the parish or as the donor intends.

Thank you for your generous giving and faithful sharing with the parish. The parish administration strives to be the best stewards of your gifts. **If you are in need of any information or have questions, please contact our Operations Director, Geoff Pautsch, in the Parish Office.**



A MESSAGE FROM OUR *Archbishop*

Christmas 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we also celebrate the birth of our hope. When he came among us as one like us in all things but sin, he lifted us up to new and transformed life. In fact, he opened for us the way to share in the very life of God. One of the prayers of the Mass gives us these words: "...may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity."

The struggles that we face in our personal lives and in our wounded world do not have the last word. We are meant for more. We are meant for full and eternal life. I pray that our celebration of the Lord's birth will remind us of the glory that will carry us beyond the challenges, sometimes truly significant challenges that mark our lives and our world.

We must also remember that the Lord did not just come among us once and long ago. He continues to walk with us as we walk with each other. Our celebrations of the Eucharist remind of that. And he will never abandon his people. He is now and always Emmanuel, our God with us. Our journey is his journey. And this year, having celebrated the first of two synods of the Church, we are especially aware that he accompanies us as we accompany one another.

In this holy season, I invite you to pray. Take time, create a quiet space, look on the creche, read the gospels, and allow yourself to know that he is near and that he walks with you. If you do so, I can assure you that you will know his peace. Then, take what you learn from him to your family, to your workplace, to your community, and to entire world. The gift of Jesus, the Incarnate Word of God, is not something we can hold for ourselves. We are called and destined to share it with others.

As I celebrate the Eucharist, I will remember you and pray that you will have a living sense of the Lord among us, the one who walks with us and draws us forward into the fullness of his life.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Blase Cardinal Cupic
Archbishop of Chicago

PARISH News & Events

NAVIGATING DIVORCE MINISTRY

The Navigating Divorce ministry is offered each Sunday from 9:15-10:15 AM in-person in the Parish Office. This ministry consists of confidential small group discussion and sharing for any woman or man experiencing the various stages of grief which accompany the overall divorce process as it moves toward Roman Catholic healing objectives. Questions can be directed to Dr. Milt Kobus, at drmkobus@gmail.com.

THE COMMUNITY OF SANT'EGIDIO

The Community of Sant'Egidio is a movement of lay people dedicated to communicating and living out the Gospel through prayer, solidarity with the poor and service to peace. It was born among high school students in Rome in 1968, in the period following the Second Vatican Council and today is present in Rome, the rest of Italy, and in seventy other countries throughout the world. This ministry meets regularly on Monday nights at 6:30pm in the St. Gabriel Chapel in the parish office. **For more info please contact Krysten McOsker at krystenmcosker@gmail.com**



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Join the Young Adults Community! The Young Adults of St. Mary of the Lake and Our Lady of Lourdes are a vibrant, inclusive group of parishioners, ages 21-39, dedicated to living and growing in our Catholic faith.

For more info or questions contact YoungAdults@saintmarys.org

Scan the QR code to be added to the email list and learn more about the upcoming events.



LITURGICAL MINISTRY

Consider serving in one of our liturgical ministries as a Lector, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, Altar Server, Sacristan, Greeter or Usher. We are in need of more people to help with our Sunday liturgies. Training and formation is available to prepare you to serve in these roles. If you are interested in learning more about these ministries please contact Gabriel Mayhugh at gmayhugh@saintmarys.org.

SANT'EGIDIO

Prayer for Peace

About the Community of Sant'Egidio

The Community of Sant'Egidio is a movement of lay people dedicated to communicating and living out the Gospel through prayer, solidarity with the poor and service to peace.

About the Prayer for Peace

Every first Monday of the month we gather to pray for peace and for all the peoples in the world who are suffering because of war. During the prayer, afflicted countries will be named and a candle will be lit for peace in those nations.

Details

6:30 pm
St. Mary of the Lake
St. Gabriel Chapel
4220 N. Sheridan Rd.
Chicago, 60613

202-375-9393 | krystenmcosker@gmail.com | www.santegidio.org and www.santegidioua.org

Wise
Men
Still
Seek Him



SUNDAY COLLECTION DECEMBER 2023	DECEMBER 2-3	DECEMBER 9-10	DECEMBER 16-17	DECEMBER 23-24	DECEMBER 30-31
Total (In-Pew)	\$8,127.00	\$7,587.00	\$7,838.00	\$8,306.00	\$7,709.00
Total (Online)	\$5,447.00	\$2,629.00	\$2,999.00	\$2,134.00	\$2,604.00
WEEKEND TOTAL	\$13,574.00	\$10,216.00	\$10,837.00	\$10,440.00	\$10,313.00
TOTAL WEEKEND MASS ATTENDANCE	1191	1264	1279	937	1204

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF
OUR MISSION AND PARISH!**

DECEMBER 2023
TOTAL SUNDAY GIVING
\$55,380.00

(NOVEMBER 2023 - \$44,024.00)

AVERAGE WEEKEND MASS ATTENDANCE
IN DECEMBER 2023
1,175 people

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY
TOWARD THE CHRISTMAS
COLLECTION!**

AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024
WE HAVE RECEIVED...

\$29,436.00

TO MAKE A GIFT PLEASE VISIT
WWW.SAINTMARYS.ORG/GIVE
OR BRING IT TO THE PARISH OFFICE

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY
DURING THE MONTH OF
DECEMBER...**

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
\$1,970.00**

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS
\$1,670.00**

**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
\$3,549.00**

**SIMBANG GABI
\$686.00**

**SECOND COLLECTION
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024**

**COLLECTION FOR THE
CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA**

2023 TAX DONATION LETTERS

This year, tax donation letters will be distributed upon individual request. If you wish to request a copy of your 2023 tax donation letter, please contact the parish office at 773-280-7700 or by email at office@saintmarys.org. Letters will be available beginning the week of January 22, 2024. When requesting a letter, please indicate whether you would like a hard copy mailed to you or a PDF copy emailed to you. Thank you for your generosity to Saint Mary of the Lake and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

