



**SGFMC Action for Justice News**

This is a limited compilation of **CURRENT** opportunities for action. **Additional suggestions are welcomed at:** [marynpaul@comcast.net](mailto:marynpaul@comcast.net) We will make every effort to share them as quickly as possible.

**JULY 2024**

***"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God..." (Matt. 5:9)***

**\*\* Monthly Prayer Vigil to End Gun Violence - Saturday, July 27th, at 6:00 PM (following the 5PM Mass) at ST. EDMUND CHURCH, 188 S. Oak Park \*\***

**\*\* Monthly TAIZE Prayer for Peace – Friday, AUGUST 2<sup>nd</sup> -7:30PM at Ascension Church, 808 S. East Ave\*\***



**FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA** "Won't you be my **GUN SENSE** neighbor? Sign up to join Illinois volunteers on **Zoom** for our Kick-Off Call...Together, we will work to get out the vote in important down-ballot races in neighboring states including MI, WI, PA, and more! Don't look back on November 6th and wish you did more to elect gun sense candidates." [IL-Statewide-2024 Gun Sense Neighbor Kick-Off \(virtual\)](#)

**Get involved in OAK PARK – AUSTIN AREA Moms Demand Action.** Join the **Facebook** group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1225839384203882/> or text **READY** to **644-33**

**Meet us at the Oak Park Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings!**



<https://www.cawc.org/about-programs/> [CAWC 24-HOUR HOT LINE: [773.278.4566](tel:773.278.4566)]

**SAVE THE DATE: Annual *Sounds of Silence* Gala - Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>** (watch this space!)



<https://sarahsinn.org/>

**Soup & Bread Fundraiser Meal – Tues. July 16, 6-9PM – Robert's Westside, 7327 Madison, Forest Park**  
**24-HOUR CRISIS LINE:** [708-386-4225](tel:708-386-4225) (phone) / [708-669-6149](tel:708-669-6149) (text)

- o **National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233**
  - [Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline 1-877-863-6338](tel:1-877-863-6338)
  - National Sexual Assault Hotline (all ages) 1-800-656-4673
- o Trevor Line (for LGBTQ teens and young adults) 1-866-488-7386
- o National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: **DIAL 988** – 24/7, toll-free everywhere

***"Let there be peace on Earth..."***



**Ways you can work for a permanent cease fire in Gaza:**

1. **Contact your members of Congress regularly.** Take a few minutes today to both [call them](#) and [send them an email](#). Here's a [sample script](#) you can adapt.
2. **Write a letter to the editor calling for a cease-fire.** [Here are some tips on effective letter-writing.](#)
3. **Take part in protests.** Download and print [our free posters for Palestine](#). Check out [our guide to protesting](#) for tips to prepare and keep you and others safe.



## "How We're Responding to the War in Gaza"

<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/our-response-israel-gaza-war?ms>



*Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA) is an interdenominational Christian organization seeking justice and peace in the Holy Land through education, advocacy, and nonviolent action.*

**LEARN MORE HERE:** <https://www.fosna.org/>



CHURCHES FOR  
MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Every Wednesday, 11:30AM-Noon CDT, [pray online with Churches for Middle East Peace \(CMEP\).](#)

No donation is required to register. <https://cmep.org/event/wednesday-prayers-for-peace-28/>

**Solidarity Sunday, July 21:** [Churches for Middle East Peace \(CMEP\)](#) and its 35 member denominations and communions call upon congregations in the U.S. and worldwide to pray for peace in Gaza and the broader Middle East as part of Solidarity Sunday. <https://paxchristiusa.org/2024/07/08/upcoming-events-to-promote-peace-and-justice-in-palestine/>

***"For I was in prison and you visited me..." Matthew 25: 36***



**Help protect minor children in Illinois. Urge your state Senator to sponsor SB 3321**

"SB 3321 will protect children during interrogation by requiring that they have a lawyer with them throughout the custodial interrogation. Juveniles aged 13 to 18 are at risk of prosecution in adult court. Depending on their statement, even being at or near the scene of an offense could trigger transfer provisions that send them automatically to adult court (and adult mandatory sentencing) based on accountability". - Juvenile Justice Initiative <https://www.jjustice.org/>

***"Let us pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country." – Pope Francis***



The following link is to an updated list of **currently scheduled executions** in the United States. **Select the prisoner's name to sign the petition** which will be delivered on your behalf to the respective state's government officials". <https://deathpenaltyaction.org/take-action/execution-petitions/>

**July 16, 2024:** [Ruben Gutierrez in Texas](#) <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/stop-the-execution-of-ruben-gutierrez-in-texas>

**July 18, 2024:** [Keith Gavin in Alabama](#) <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/stop-the-execution-of-keith-gavin-in-alabama>

**[Where do political candidates stand, on eliminating the death penalty? TRACK THE CANDIDATES HERE: <https://deathpenaltyaction.org/2024candidatepositions/> ]**

***"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me..." Matthew 25: 35***



**Centro San Edmundo (200 S. Oak Park Ave.)**

**Our Tuesday & Thursday programs** provide clothing, blankets, and toiletries to over 250 people each week, from 3 large rooms of 'free stores'. We serve a hot breakfast and provide social services, ESL classes, health care, spiritual accompaniment, and immigration support services.

To **volunteer** for any of these programs, please email [immigrantministry@gmail.com](mailto:immigrantministry@gmail.com)

**\*\*\* We need summer clothes for older girls, and pants for boys\*\***

Please click **this link** [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1P\\_7tS6lzypWEOK9Is\\_Mt0HlaMR7Cs8ts/view?pli=1](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1P_7tS6lzypWEOK9Is_Mt0HlaMR7Cs8ts/view?pli=1) for a current list of clothing and personal care items that we are accepting. We ask that you donate only the items listed...

**OR** donate through the Amazon Wish List [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3VKSYQWISEBOM?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3VKSYQWISEBOM?ref_=wl_share)  
**Donations may be dropped off on Monday mornings from 9 am to 12 pm. Please enter from the Pleasant Avenue door.**



**848 Lake Street, Oak Park** – <https://www.gobeyondhunger.org/volunteer>

"A variety of volunteer shifts are available, during weekday, evening, and weekend hours. We offer shifts that run the gamut, including data entry, repacking, serving Pantry guests, and unloading delivery trucks. We hope to provide a volunteer opportunity for everyone, at every ability level." [Volunteer Orientation](#) June 12 2024 | 6 - 7pm



"Volunteers are a key part of operating our emergency warming shelter for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness. The volunteer opportunities for this shelter are **HERE**:  
<https://www.housingforward.org/get-involved/volunteer>



**Oak Park Community Migrant Resettlement Mission** <https://opmigrantresettlementmission.com/>

"A community-driven volunteer effort seeking to connect asylum-seekers currently in Oak Park to safe and secure long term housing as part of the next step on their journey." **Home goods wish list:**

<https://www.walmart.com/registry/ER/dc1bcd62-5907-4354-9f38-8fd9508e0918?page=2>

**"The Earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof..." Psalm 24:1**



**VOLUNTEERS** welcome at **St. Giles raised bed garden, to pick vegetables!**

**Can you come to the Saint Giles raised bed garden to pick vegetables?** The produce goes to the *Beyond Hunger* Food Pantry in Oak Park, or to Ascension Church, for *Saint Simon of Cyrene* Food Pantry in Austin. (Nearly 600 lbs. of vegetables grown/given in 2023!) For more information, contact **Mary Swiontoniowski** at [21132ms@gmail.com](mailto:21132ms@gmail.com).



ALLIANCE FOR GREAT LAKES

**ADOPT-A-BEACH**

<https://adopt.greatlakes.org/s/find-a-cleanup>

"Adopt-a-Beach cleanups are a fun, easy way to give back to your community and keep plastic pollution out of the Great Lakes. It's easy to get involved!"

- [Find and join a cleanup near you!](#)
- [Become a Team Leader](#) and host your own cleanups.
- [Learn more about Adopt-a-Beach.](#)

**...and more...**

OAK PARK YOUNG ADULTS  
PRESENT

# THEOLOGY ON TAP


**THURSDAY, JULY 25  
7PM**

Location: St. Edmund  
188 S. Oak Park Ave

## RACIAL JUSTICE IN THE CATHOLIC TRADITION

Featuring Shannon Wimp-Schmidt, author of "Fat Luther, Slim Pickings: A Black Catholic Celebration of Faith, Tradition, and Diversity." Shannon is also co-host of the podcast "Plaid Skirts and Basic Black".

*All Are  
Welcome!  
(21+)*



**\*\* What YOU can do in 2024 - help to ensure that every eligible person in this country is given the opportunity to VOTE! \*\***



**United States Election Assistance Commission: BE A POLL WORKER!**

**Students, including high school juniors and seniors** who are citizens, can earn \$250 by being a poll worker. (So can other citizen adults.) **You can earn \$250** for a long day on election day in November, **plus \$50 for a few hours of training beforehand.**

**\*\*If you are in high school, you will get an official excused absence on that day.\*\*** And you will learn first-hand about how democracy works! Learn more at: <https://www.eac.gov/help-america-vote>

**October 8 - Deadline for registration via mail or in-person**

**October 21 - Deadline for registration online**

**(If you will not be able to vote on November 5th, you can request a mail-in ballot or vote early.)**

**October 21 - First day to vote early.**

**October 31 - Deadline to request a mail-in ballot**

**November 5 - Mail-in ballots must be postmarked**



<https://votefwd.org/about-us>

Vote Forward is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization that empowers grassroots volunteers to send handwritten letters encouraging fellow Americans to vote. "Writing letters to voters is one of the most effective ways to help increase election turnout. And you can do it right from home!"