



# Holy Guardian Angels Parish

*From the Pastor's Desk*

*"And he sat down and called the Twelve and he said to them, 'If any one would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all . . . Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.'" (Mark 9:35,37)*

This Sunday's gospel is a paradox.

Although we might think that great people deserve to be treated with more care and concern than less great people, Christ tells us that this is not the case. Instead, great people are those people who treat *others*, especially the least advantaged among us, with care and concern.

Those who want to be "better" than others and subject them to their authority are missing the meaning of Christ's life and kingdom. Christ's life and kingdom are about mutual love and support for one another, especially for those who are most vulnerable.

We don't love and care for people because they are better than us. We love and care for people because they are meaningful to us and because they enhance our lives in some way.

All of us share in the same image of God and all of us are invited to be participants in God's caring love. Our participation in God's caring love makes God's community present in our earthly lives and prepares us to enter God's kingdom, which is a never-ending community of mutual self-giving care and support.

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We will have the opportunity to celebrate our parish community on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, which is the **Memorial Day of the Holy Guardian Angels**.

Prior to this event, the parish is asking parishioners to **donate cleaning supplies** for the victims of Hurricane Ida as well as of the flood in Tennessee. This is a symbolic way for us to echo the unseen assistance of our holy guardian angels. (A list of the cleaning supplies requested can be found at the back of our two churches and on our website at HGAParish.org.)

On **Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>**, we will meet in the afternoon at our South Campus, at **Saint Barbara Church**, for a period of **Adoration**, followed by a **Eucharistic Procession** from our South Campus to our North Campus, signifying our unity as one parish centered on the person of Jesus Christ, the Savior of all humankind.

After a period of **Benediction** in the **St. Louise de Marillac Church**, our 5pm Mass will be celebrated. Following **Mass** there will be a **light reception in the Colonnade Room**. We are asking parishioners to volunteer their time in setting up and taking down the reception – contact our **Office Manager, Delia Porras**, at our Parish Office (**708-485-2900**), if you are interested.

During the reception, parishioners will have an opportunity to work together in making **Christmas tree ornaments for the upcoming Tree Trimming Event at Brookfield Zoo** on November 4<sup>th</sup> at 2pm, at Brookfield Zoo. (More information about signups for this event will be available as we get closer to the date.)

This event is sponsored by the **Hitzeman family**, our long-time, fellow parishioners who provide the parish invaluable funeral services at the nearby **Hitzeman Funeral Home** on 31<sup>st</sup> Street, which prides itself on serving the community through five generations of family care.

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On Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, **Deacon Michael McLynn passed away** peacefully in his home, surrounded by his family, after receiving the Sacrament of Viaticum. Deacon Mike was 92 years old.

**Deacon Mike has been a part of our parish family for the last 57 years.** He came to the parish as the **Parish Custodian**, living on-site with his wife and **three daughters: Peggy, Rosemary, and Kathleen.**

He was available 24/7 to handle regular maintenance, cleaning, and landscaping for the parish and school grounds. It was not unusual for Deacon Mike to be interrupted after regular working hours or on holidays to address an unexpected crisis related to a severe snowfall or a plumbing, HVAC, or equipment malfunction. (One Christmas morning found Deacon Mike knee-deep in water from a broken water pipe in the school!) Deacon Mike never failed to address concerns that required his attention, no matter when they might arise.

Living on the parish campus, Deacon Mike and his family were very close to the different priests and religious sisters who lived at the parish over the years. He assisted them with household matters and often entertained them in his home.

Deacon Mike's close contact with the priests and religious sisters at the parish **led him to discover his own vocation to the ordained life.**

**In 1974, Deacon Mike entered the Diaconate and remained an active deacon for the next 39 years.** Deacon Mike was a hardworking and tireless minister. He had the honor and privilege, during his diaconate, of serving at a Mass celebrated by **Pope St. John Paul II**, when the pope visited **Chicago in 1979.**

Deacon Mike was generous, outgoing, and kind. He was a bright light in our parish and his light shines on through our history, in our minds, and in God's heavenly kingdom.

(A **visitation** for Deacon Mike will take place at the **St. Louise de Marillac Church on Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, from 4:30pm to 8pm.** A **Funeral Mass** will be celebrated for Deacon Mike at the SLM Church on **Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30am.**)

-Fr. Brian Kean