



## Snap Judgements



By Dr. R. Pletsch

The life of our students can, at times, be very confusing. Even more when contradictions arise. Picture your grandfather telling you that he does not need the vaccine. But then the president says you must take the vaccine or you are a bad person. What if mom says don't go outside. I don't want you to contact Covid-19. Then dad calls you to help him outside. Who wins? Well that depends on the family dynamic.

Children always have their little antennas up and regardless if you discuss it as a family, over the last couple months, the 18 year old on trial in Kenosha has been declared a racist murderer and according to radio and TV reports, most believed that this young man was unprovoked and intentionally killed three black students. Then came the videos. Many have seen them and all of

a sudden the kids see a crowd chasing this 17 year old, including one with a pistol aimed at his head. Then they find out all three that were shot were white.

Many students have reportedly talked at school about this change and teachers are all over the board. Some even answered I just don't know -- yes, it is also a confusing time for teachers and parents.

Kids are always listening. It's just their understanding that changes over the years. You, as the adult, would be wise to not jump to conclusions on events like Kenosha. Snap judgements are easy to make, but not always founded in fact. You might change your idea as time goes on. Changing your opinion might be hard to explain why you said what you did before and not now.

This reminds me of numerous times as a principal I was called to handle situations. I let all involved have their say. The bleeding kid was not necessarily the instigator. Fairness was always more important than speed. Just a note, I am writing this on November 14th and have no idea what will transpire. I have no idea what the jury will decide.

Regardless of your feelings on this case, an important lesson for the students is to not make snap judgements. Assist your student and not form an opinion too quickly. There will be a day when Kenosha fades away, but will be replaced by some other event that will affect our children and ability to get along.

## Holiday Events At Science Museum



Photo by Heidi Peter/Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago

*Christmas Around the World and Holidays of Light* return to the Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, highlighting the rich customs of more than 50 countries and cultures through Jan. 3rd.

The exhibits celebrate the golden age of travel with themed décor and a spotlight on the *Pioneer Zephyr train* and *Take Flight's 727*, which have been newly reimagined. Guests can visit Santa and have a souvenir photo taken with him on select days.

Volunteers from Chicago's diverse communities use handmade décor and personal mementos to decorate a forest of trees and displays that line the Rotunda and main floor. Guests can learn why silver spiders are good luck, find out

which country celebrates the world's longest Christmas season, and view intricate origami ornaments.

Visitors may take a photo with the 45-foot Grand Tree, featuring more than 30,000 lights. A special tree commemorates the Chicago Sky's historic WNBA championship win. The *Holidays of Light* are showcased in display cases that contain symbolic objects used to celebrate Chinese New Year, Diwali, Kwanzaa, Ramadan, Hanukkah, Visakha Puja Day and St. Lucia Day.

Advance ticket reservations are required, book tickets online at [msichicago.org/holidays](http://msichicago.org/holidays). On Dec. 8th, Illinois residents can receive free Museum Entry. MSI is closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

## Archer Heights Library Plans Programs

The Archer Heights Branch Library, 5055 S. Archer has scheduled programs for children and adults.

Monday: Virtual Adult Graphic Novel BDC Dec. 13th, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. *Usagi Yojimbo: Book 1* by Stan Sakai.

Wednesday: MSI Science Club: Super humans Unite! Dec. 1st, 8th & 15th, 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. Attendance in all three sessions is strongly encouraged. Explore the science behind superhuman abilities through hands-on-activities. We will test the strength of magnetic field, engineer getaway vehicles, build 3-D hologram viewers and create your own superhuman identity. Ages 7 and up. Registration is

required. Pick up a grab and go bag of materials for all three sessions at the check-out desk when you register.

Polish Book Discussion Club. Join us in person for a discussion of *Kobieta w Watykanie* by Magdalena Wolinsko-Riedi. Dec. 15th, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Books can be checked out.

English Book Discussion Club. Join us in person for a discussion of *IQ* by Joe Ide. Dec. 22nd, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Book can be checked out.

Thursday: Reading Buddies Virtual Program, Nov. 18th. Kids beginning to read will have a place to practice their skills. Beginners read from 4:30 to 5 p.m. will practice with books like *Ride Otto, Ridel* by David Milgrim and *Are You Ready to Play Outside* by Mo Willems. Independents read from 5 to 5:30 p.m. and will practice with books like: *Meet Yasmin* by Saadia Faruqi and the *Mercy Watson* series by Kate DiCamillo. Online registration is required.

Saturday: Curious Kids Club, Nov. 27th and Dec. 11th, 3 to 3:45 p.m. Design an escape route for your turkey using ramps, hatches, included planes, levers, wedges, and pulleys. In December, learn how a circuit works by making a light up ornament using a battery, a light bulb, and copper tape. Ages 7 and up. Branch registration is required. Pick up a materials grab and go bag.

Paper Hairpins Craft Program Dec. 4th, 2 to 3 p.m. Join us in our community room to learn how to make beautiful paper flower hairpins. Pick up materials grab & go bag when you register.

Library hours are Monday and Wednesday from 12 to 8 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, [www.chipublib.org](http://www.chipublib.org)

## Shakespeare Play At Navy Pier

Chicago Shakespeare Theatre on Navy Pier will present "As You Like It", through Nov. 21st. The comedy features 20 songs made popular by the Beatles.

For ticket information, visit [chicagoshakes.com](http://chicagoshakes.com) or call (312) 595-5600.

## \$600,000 Grant For Gads Hill Center

Healthy Communities Foundation awarded Gads Hill Center with a multi-year \$600,000 grant that will provide support to help more than 7,500 people across the west and south sides of Chicago.

The support will allow Gads Hill Center to expand mental health services in- and out-of-school, addressing interrupted learning through after-school enrichment programs, providing resources to address food insecurity and evictions, bridging the digital divide by providing computers and internet access, and promoting the health and well-being of residents through resources and educational campaigns.

Mental health therapists report that children and youth demonstrate heightened symptoms of depression, anxiety, grief and loss, and social isolation and are not meeting developmental stages. Students are exhibiting

higher levels of suicidal ideation, cutting, panic attacks, low motivation, poor coping skills, and hopelessness.

From July 2020 through June 2021, nine of ten students experienced an increase in the severity of their symptoms and four of five students experienced new symptoms separate from their primary diagnosis. Mental health crisis calls to Gads Hill Center doubled during this period compared to the previous year prior to the pandemic.

Families who live on the west and south sides are some of the most vulnerable populations in Chicago. Low-income, Black, and Latinx individuals are disproportionately at risk for contracting COVID-19, job loss, disrupted education, homelessness, and food insecurity.

To learn more, visit [www.gadshillcenter.org](http://www.gadshillcenter.org).

## Construction Project For Nature Museum



### Nature Museum-Nature's PlaySpace-Exhibit

The Chicago Academy of Sciences / Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum announced a \$4 million construction project to build *Nature's PlaySpace*, a new, interactive experience designed to connect its youngest visitors to nature and science through exhibits, family events, conservation research and education programs.

Designed for children up to 6 years old, *Nature's PlaySpace* will feature a safe, kid-friendly play areas with two-story-high ceilings and will be bathed in natural light from east-facing win-

dows. The exhibit will feature natural environments and interactive features, including nature-based murals, exploration tunnels, a beaver lodge, a two-story treehouse with slides, and more.

The active natural play area will feature a water-based component where children can splash around while learning about rivers and streams, as well as specimens from the Museum's 165-year-old natural collections.

Additional information can be found at [www.naturemuseum.org](http://www.naturemuseum.org).

## Red Cross Seeks Heroes Nominations

The American Red Cross of Greater Chicago is accepting nominations to honor the heroes among us at its annual Heroes Breakfast in spring 2022. Every year the event honors local community members who have demonstrated heroism through extraordinary acts of courage or kindness. Visit [redcross.org/heroes](http://redcross.org/heroes) to fill out the online nomination form by Friday, Dec. 31st.

The act must have taken place during the 2021 calendar year or be on-going.

Honorees will be recognized during the 20th annual breakfast to be held in person at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan ave. on Wednesday, May 11th.

Categories are Community Impact, Disaster Relief, Education, Firefighter, Global Citizenship, Healthcare, Law Enforcement, Lifesaving Rescue, Military, Social Justice impact and Youth.

## Free Programs At City Colleges

City Colleges of Chicago is offering Future Ready which provides 60+ programs in select high-demand fields at no cost to eligible Chicagoans.

Eligibility includes: New to City Colleges credit classes or those that have been away for two or more Fall/Spring semesters and left CCC in good standing.

Interested in pursuing careers in fields as diverse as: healthcare, technology, transportation, distribution, and logistics, cannabis operations, auto tech, criminal justice, and more.

Undocumented students. This is a first-come, first-served opportunity, and seats are limited. Enrollment for Spring semester is now open.

To learn more and see the list of programs, go to: [www.ccc.edu/future](http://www.ccc.edu/future) ready.

## Brighton Library Has Reopened



Brighton Park Branch Library, 4314 S. Archer has reopened after 6 weeks of renovations with new carpeting, a fresh coat of paint and ivy removal from the building. The renovation provided an opportunity to re-evaluate the use the space to expand the children's and adult Spanish collections and create a separate Mystery Fiction collection.

In partnership with the Illinois Humanities Council as part of their Rememory: haunting trauma and historical fiction series, Brighton Park Branch is giving away free copies of "Beloved" by Toni Morrison in English and Spanish while supplies last. The December calendar of events will be available soon.

A Rules of the Road Review Course will be held in-person if five or more drivers apply. The review course combines an explanation of the driving exam with a practice written exam.

Registration is required at (312) 747-0666.

The Graphic Novel and Manga Club will meet in-person or by Zoom. This month's selections are Monstress, Vol. 1, Awakening, by Marjorie M. Liu and Witch Hat Atelier, Vol. 1, by Kamome Shirahama. Copies of both titles are available for pick up.

Join Brighton Park Branch for a virtual book discussion of "Say Nothing" by Patrick Radden Keefe. In December 1972, Jean McConville, a 38 year-old mother of 10, was dragged from her Belfast home by masked intruders, her children clinging to her legs. They never saw her again. Her abduction was one of the most notorious episodes of the vicious conflict known as The Troubles.

Hours are Monday and Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday noon until 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

## Holiday Events At Millennium Park

In-person holiday traditions return to Millennium Park, 201 E. Randolph St. with expanded programming and enhanced décor, daily from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Public art exhibitions in the Boeing Galleries continue through 2023. Plan your visit at [MillenniumPark.org](http://MillenniumPark.org).

The 108th Annual City of Chicago Christmas Tree in Millennium Park, will shine brightly near the intersection of Michigan ave. and Washington st. from Nov. 19th through Jan. 9th. This year's Tree Lighting Ceremony will be in-person on Nov. 19th starting at 6 p.m. Fireworks and a special concert will follow from 6:35 to 7:45pm headlined by singer-songwriter Brian McKnight.

Skating at the McCormick Tribune Ice Rink in Millennium Park will open daily from Nov. 19th through March 6th, teaching beginner and intermediate ice skating and hockey skills. Visit [MillenniumPark.org](http://MillenniumPark.org).

The Millennium Park Art Market in the Chase Promenade North tent will feature 30 local artists selling a variety of items including jewelry, pottery, drawing and painting on Friday, Nov. 19th at 3-8 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 20th at 12-8 p.m. and Sunday,

Nov. 21st at 12-5 p.m. The new Millennium Park Holiday Sing-Along (previously "Caroling at Cloud Gate") will celebrate Chicago's diverse holiday traditions on Fridays at 6 p.m., Nov. 26th - Dec. 17th and Sunday, Dec. 12th at 4 pm.

## Gunsaulus Academy Schedules Tours

Gunsaulus Scholastic Academy, 44th & Sacramento is dedicated to nurturing and developing a community of lifelong learners and leaders who empower themselves as global citizens.

Principal Kim will lead In Person Prospective Parent Tours on Fridays, Nov. 19th and Dec. 3rd from 5 to 6 p.m. and Virtual Tours on the same days from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Everyone in person must wear a mask regardless of age and vaccination status.

The application window for Magnet Elementary Schools will close on Dec. 15th, 2021. To apply online, visit [go.cps.edu](http://go.cps.edu). For further information, contact the main office at 773-535-7215.

Registration is required at [gunsaulus.org](http://gunsaulus.org).

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## Submissions For Parks “Night Out”

The Chicago Park District is looking to partner with organizations and talented individual artists to be a part of the 10th edition of the Mayor’s Night Out in the Parks cultural and arts programming event series. Applicants should apply at [www.nightoutintheparks.com](http://www.nightoutintheparks.com) by Dec. 8th. The 2022 season will run from June 1st to Dec. 31st.

The initiative will seek out proposals that highlight the outdoors and natural areas, flora, fauna, scientific practice and artistic inspiration in parks.

Applicants must meet the following requirements: Be a Chicago-based organization or artist; Program/event must be offered to the community for free; Partners must commit to building a relationship with the park; Organizations must have \$1 million general liability insurance naming the Chicago Park District an additional insured for all events; Have the ability to travel to and from a scheduled park with all equipment, performers and staff.

NOITP events where artists have physical interactions with the general public are subject to fingerprint clearance/background check; Must be flexible in terms of scheduling. NOITP events may happen seven days a week, mostly in the evening. If selected, you must confirm a performance schedule by mid-March, 2022.

Non-profit status is not a requirement for participants. Eligible neighborhood arts organizations and artists can apply at [www.nightoutintheparks.com](http://www.nightoutintheparks.com). All proposals are due by midnight, Wednesday, Dec. 8th.

Chicago Onscreen is accepting submissions for the 9th season of its film festival. Entries must be submitted by Nov. 21st, to [chicagoonscreen.com/submissions](http://chicagoonscreen.com/submissions). Filmmakers of all ages, skill level and professional experience are encouraged to submit work. Selected films will be screened in outdoor screenings in local parks from August 30th to Sept. 3rd..

## Sing-Along At Millennium Park



The new Millennium Park Holiday Sing-Along (previously “Caroling at Cloud Gate”) will invite Chicagoans and visitors to sing out and celebrate the city’s diverse holiday traditions on Fridays, Nov. 26th to Dec. 17th from 6 to 7 p.m. Winter programming will include pop-up performances through the Park in November and December.

### Chicago Jazz Festival Archive

The Jazz Institute of Chicago has been nurturing and promoting jazz in Chicago for 52 years as well as partnering with the city on developing and programming the Chicago-Jazz Festival since 1979.

In celebration, the “Chicago Jazz Festival Archive” - a repository of posters, photos, brochures, videos, and past line-ups is now available at [jazzinchicago.org](http://jazzinchicago.org).



## Rent In The ‘Burbs!

We invite you to visit this quiet residential community located near the forest preserves in Palos Hills. Scenic Tree is convenient to shopping and dining at Orland Park and Chicago Ridge, excellent school district, Moraine Valley Community College and Midway Airport.

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## Skating Rink Opens At Brookfield Zoo



Photos—credit CZS-Brookfield Zoo

Brookfield Zoo’s skating rink on the East Mall is now open on Saturdays and Sundays, Nov. 20th-21st, from noon to 4:30 p.m. It will also be open from 3 to 9 p.m. during the zoo’s 40th annual Holiday Magic, Nov. 26th-28th and Dec. 1st-5th, 8th-12th, 15th-19th, and 26th-31st.

Bring the family to circle the rink, and then stroll around the park to see everyone’s favorite animals.

The zoo’s 40-foot x 80-foot skating rink is not made of ice, but of a synthetic plastic known as Glice®, a material composed of heat-pressed layers of polymers, so no water or electricity is required for operation.

The cost for unlimited time for all skaters is \$7. A limited number of skates are available to rent for a \$5 fee. Skaters are welcome to bring their own skates.

Create the ultimate winter outing and venture to Brookfield Zoo on one of its remaining Fall Free Days, presented by Xfinity—Nov. 18th, and Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 25th), and December 6th-7th, 13th-14th, and 20th-21st. Many of the zoo’s cold-hardy animals, including the snow leopards, Bactrian camels, bison, Amur tiger, Mexican wolves, and Amur leopard can be seen in their outdoor habitats. Stop around Roosevelt Fountain to view the more than 700 community and corporate decorated trees (beginning Nov. 13th).

Admission is \$24.95 for adults, \$17.95 for children 3-11, and \$19.95 for seniors 65 and over. Parking is \$15, which applies on free days. For additional information, visit [CZS.org](http://CZS.org).

## Utility Relief For Low Income Families

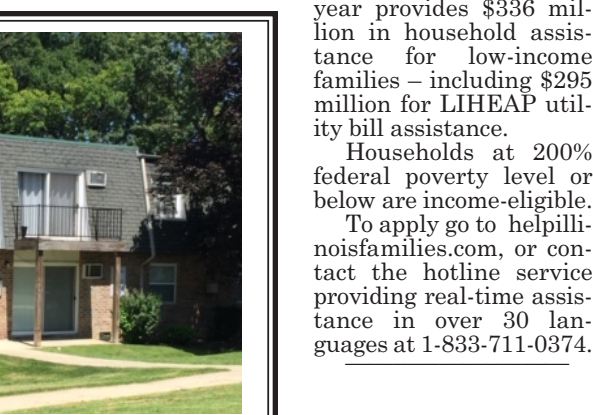
The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity reminded residents of utility relief available to low-income families. Through Governor Pritzker’s Help Illinois Families program, DCEO has launched over \$295 million in utility assistance programming available for low-income households and is accepting applications now through May 31, 2022, while funds remain.

Since the program first launched in September, over \$84 million in payments have been approved for 77,000 households through the Low-income Household Energy Assistance Program. More than \$200 million remains available to help cover the cost of heating and energy bills, including expanded benefits provided this year from \$750 to \$1,000 in payments available, on average per household.

The State of Illinois and partners at the Citizens Utility Board are urging residents to take advantage of LIHEAP while funds remain available, and to avoid delaying payments on billing while the annual shut-off moratorium is underway (Dec. 1 – March 31).

Launched in September of this year, the current 2021-2022 Help Illinois Families program year provides \$336 million in household assistance for low-income families – including \$295 million for LIHEAP utility bill assistance.

Households at 200% federal poverty level or below are income-eligible. To apply go to [helpillinoisfamilies.com](http://helpillinoisfamilies.com), or contact the hotline service providing real-time assistance in over 30 languages at 1-833-711-0374.



### Free Chicago Walking Tours

This November, 30 specially-built ChicagoLand ‘Experiences’ are available daily for free through the interactive tourism app, eAtlas.

The eAtlas smartphone app offers tour and treasure hunt Experiences, each of which have multiple points of interest and take 1 – 2 hours to complete. Each tour featured art, architecture, food or history.

eAtlas is awarding prizes to those who participate in the most eAtlas Experiences. The first-place winner will receive a weekend staycation at Renaissance Hotel with extras thrown in, valued at \$700 with meals and more. Visit [playeatlas.com](http://playeatlas.com) for more details.

### 8th Dist. Police Plan Zoom Meeting

The 8th District Police Department will conduct a virtual Zoom Community Conservation to create its 2022 Strategic Plan on Wednesday, Nov. 24th from 6 to 8 p.m.

Meeting ID 838 5494 4220 - passcode 280877. Call (312) 626-6799, if you are unable to join virtually. Register through EventBrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/183120908567>.

## Library Schedules Family Events

The Chicago Public Library has scheduled Online events via Zoom.

Live one-on-one homework help is also available online everyday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. through Brainfuse. Students in early elementary through advanced college prep can get help with: specific homework questions, improving study skills, writing papers, ACT and SAT test prep and learning English as a second language. Use Brainfuse on any connected device or at home with your library card.

Write About It! Writing Club for teens and adults will feature writing and poetry on Tuesdays, through Nov. 30th and Dec. 7th & 14th from 4 to 5 p.m. This event takes place on Zoom. Register by 10 a.m. the day before the event.

The Garfield Ridge Branch, 6348 S. Archer will conduct Time for Tots Storytime on Monday, Nov. 29th at 10:30 a.m. Registration is required for all programs.

Celebrate the art of reading by creating and sharing your own material! Whether you’re interested in poetry or prose, join writer Donna Pecore and the Budlong Woods Branch on Zoom for the Creative Writing Workshop on Friday, Nov. 19th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. To register for this workshop, or for further information about the work of this writing group, or inquire about the latest publication, *Love, Death, and Everything in Between*, contact Tom Stark at (312) 742-9590 or [tstark@chipublib.org](mailto:tstark@chipublib.org).

South Chicago’s Mr. Chris will perform an English and Spanish story time for kids 3 to 7 on Saturday, Nov. 20th from 11 to 11:30 a.m. This event, takes place on Zoom, register at least 24 hours in advance.

Join Ms. Katie from the McKinley Park Branch to read books, sing songs and enjoy rhymes geared towards children 0 to 5 on Mondays, through Dec. 20th from 6 to 6:30 p.m. This event takes place on Zoom, register by 12 p.m. the day of the event.

Wrightwood-Ashburn Teen Librarian Nate will conduct a writing club, Intro to Improv for Teens on Tuesday, Dec. 14th from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. This event takes place on Zoom, register at least 24 hours in advance.

Register for events at [chipublib.org](http://chipublib.org).

## Fall Events At Forest Preserve



Photo by Tom Lally.

### Blue-gray gnatcatcher at Bunker Bill.

The Cook County Forest Preserves will conduct an online program on bird watching, Thursday, Nov. 18th at 6 p.m.

Booking for year-round camping in a tent, RV or heated cabin is now available.

### Local Sites For Food Pantries

The Greater Chicago Food Depository maintains free local food pantries.

For more information, call (773) 247-3663.

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 2745 W. 44th st. (773) 523-1402. Service area zip: 60632. Hours: Thursday 4 to 6 p.m. 4th week of month; Friday 4 to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

New Life Centers of Chicago - Brighton Park, 4155 S. Rockwell (312) 736-2466. 3rd Tuesday of month, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

New Life Community Church-Midway, 5101 S. Keeler (773) 877-9957. 2nd Saturday of month. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Our Lady of Fatima, 2751 W. 38th pl. (773) 575-2458. Service area zip: 60632, 60608 and 60609, Saturday 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Blessed Sacrament Parish - Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 3528 S. Hermitage (773) 523-3917. Service area: 33rd st - 29th st., Western - Ashland. 1st, 3rd Monday of Month, 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Call before you go to confirm hours and requirements.

## Obituaries

**FRANCISCO CARRILLO** born in Chicago, passed away suddenly on Nov. 7th at the age of 26. He was the son of Modesto Carrillo and Margarita Medina; brother of Mireya and Angel; uncle of Victoria. Visitation was held Nov. 14th at Ocwieja-Robles Funeral Home, 4256 S. Mozart. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 15th at St. Johns Parish, 4555 S. Kedzie. Interment was at St. Casimir Cemetery.



**JOSE FRANCISCO GARCIA** passed away on Oct. 29th at the age of 62. Arrangements and visitation were held at Szykowny Funeral Home, 4901 S. Archer, Jonathan F Siedlecki, Owner/Director.



**AMBROSIA PEREZ RAMOS** passed away Nov. 9th at the age of 93. Arrangements and visitation was held at Szykowny Funeral Home, 4901 S. Archer, Jonathan F Siedlecki, Owner/Director. Funeral Mass was celebrated at Epiphany Church. Interment was at Maryhill Cemetery, Niles, Illinois

### Food Drive At Mariano Stores

Every November, former MLB Outfielder and Chicago native Curtis Granderson and his Grand Kids Foundation host a month-long national food insecurity campaign and fundraiser for children and families in need.

Through Nov. 30th, donations are accepted at Mariano’s stores for the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

For more information, visit <http://www.grand-giving.org/>

### New Statement For Social Security

Social Security has introduced a new look Statement, available online through the portal [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount) and by mail. Workers will be able to see their earnings information and estimates of future benefits.

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Saturday, 5-PM,  
Rosary: Sunday, 5:30 AM  
6 AM & 9:30 AM Sunday Masses  
**Weekday Schedule (Chapel)**  
Tue., Thurs., & Sat. 8 AM Mass

### Masses at St. Therese

Chinatown — 218 W. Alexander  
Sunday Masses 8AM in English & 10:30AM in English  
**Weekday Schedule**  
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