By your endurance you will gain your lives.

Luke 21:19
Pastoral Staff — Full Time
Rev. Joel Fortier – Pastor, jfortier@stapostle.org
Rev. Mark Cote – Associate Pastor, fr_mark_c@yahoo.com
Rev. Bob Colaresi, O. Carm. – Weekend Assistant
Rev. Mr. William Worden, D. Min. – Deacon, ext. 105
Rev. Mr. Chuck Lane – Deacon, ext. 220, chucklane2@juno.com
Rev. Mr. Jim Breen – Deacon, 630-357-4853, jimb4583@yahoo.com
Rev. Mr. Larry Kearney – Deacon, ext. 225, lrkearneny@comcast.net
Rev. Mr. Michael Barrett – Deacon, ext. 220, meabarrett@att.net
Jacob Chojnacki, Director of High School Ministry, ext. 123, jake@stapostle.org
Gerry Czerak – Business Manager, ext. 106, gczerak@stapostle.org
Corinne Seguin-Dart – Director of Junior High Youth Ministry, ext. 117, cseguin@stapostle.org
Patti Dougherty – Director of Religious Education, ext. 109, pdougherty@stapostle.org
Julie Frazier – Liturgy and Music, ext. 111, jfrazier@stapostle.org
Robert Frazier – Liturgy and Music, ext. 112, rfrrazier@stapostle.org
Jan Ohl – Director of Pastoral Care, ext. 124
Charis Rosales – Director of Adult Education & RCIA ext. 138, crosales@stapostle.org
Michael Ryder – Director of Outreach, ext. 121, mryder@stapostle.org

Pastoral Care Staff — Part Time
Felicia Lawlor, M.S., R.N., Faith Community Nurse, ext 104, flawlor@stapostle.org

Support Staff — Full Time
Nancy Cirmo – Religious Education Assistant, ext. 118, ncirmo@stapostle.org
Lori Culberson – Liturgical Assistant, ext. 120, lcuberson@stapostle.org
Kathy Ferguson - Receptionist, ext. 100, mainoffice@stapostle.org
Diane McQueen – Parish Assistant, ext. 101, dmcqueen@stapostle.org
Anne Schultz – Outreach & Adult Faith Formation Assistant, ext. 113, aschultz@stapostle.org
Angela Tuttle – Liturgy Assistant & Communications Coordinator, ext. 110, attuttle@stapostle.org

Support Staff — Part Time
Pat Berkhour – Evening/Saturday Receptionist, ext. 119, nitecrew@stapostle.org
Marge Coronado – Parish Assistant, ext. 101, mcoronado@stapostle.org
Marilyn DeMeo – Database Coordinator (T/Th), ext. 107, mdemeo@stapostle.org
Susan Francesconi, Coordinator of External Communications, sfrancesconi@stapostle.org
Jorge Gonzalez – Custodian
Sue Sportiello – Accounts Payable (M/W), ext. 107, ssportiello@stapostle.org
Ted McKeown - Facility Coordinator, ext. 133, facility@stapostle.org
Theresa Sheliga – Sacristan Coordinator, ext. 116
Lynne Vehlewald – Librarian, ext. 125, library@stapostle.org

Pastoral Leadership Community
Ivan Deatsch 236-6877
Pam Foster 585-8746
Guy Francesconi 778-8771
Julee Gard 898-8191

Commission Facilitators
Worship Matt Balda
Parish Life
Faith Formation Lorraine Katz 983-4842
Administration Dave Otto 717-6635
Service Phil Meno 778-0981
Stewardship

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday reconciliation is available after 8:30 a.m.
Mass, 3:30 to 4:15 p.m., or after the 4:30 p.m. Mass in the Reconciliation Room of the Chapel. Fr. Joel and Fr. Mark are available during the week by appointment. Communal Penance services are held occasionally throughout the year.

Sick and Home Bound
Call the Church Office to receive prayer/Eucharist from a priest, deacon or Minister of Care.

Baptism
Baptisms are usually celebrated 2-3 Sundays each month at a 1:45 p.m. service. On selected dates, Baptisms are celebrated at weekend Masses. Parents are required to attend an awareness and renewal evening prior to the Baptism. Call the Church Office a few months in advance to make arrangements.

Matrimony
A couple planning on being married at St. Thomas should contact the church six months in advance. One year is preferred. Either the bride or groom, or their parents, must be a registered parishioner for at least three months prior to calling to set a date.

Religious Education
Call the 305-6318 to register.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)
Any person wanting to learn more about the Catholic Faith, or to join our Catholic community should call the church at 355-8980.

Counseling Service
Call Samarian Interfaith 357-2456 or Jan Olah, Pastoral Care 355-8980 x 124.

Sunday Nursery
Nursery care is available for your child age one (must be walking) to four at the 9 & 10:45 a.m. Mass. For more information call the church office.

Liturgy Schedule

Daily
(Monday — Friday)
Rosary — 8:10 a.m.
Mass — 6:30 & 8:30 a.m.
(Saturday)
Mass — 8:30 a.m.

Weekend
Saturday Vigil — 4:30 p.m.
Sunday — 7:30, 9:00, 10:45 a.m., & 12:15 p.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every first Friday of the month 9 a.m. — Noon.
Dear Friends,

As we approach the end of our Liturgical Year, preparing for Thanksgiving and the post holiday, pre-Christmas rush, the Lord advises us to stand secure before the Lord and all the calamities of the earth.

The Lord keeps the future open for us. We are told that even as the earth and world come to an end, we are to stand with our heads held high, secure before all these things. Why? Because we are open, with confident joyful hope, to the future, a future filled with Christ’s saving love and healing rays. That is the dawn upon which we wait, even as we seem to be caught up in an anxious rush to the end.

That is certainly a note we need to hear and consider from all these points of view; the end times, global warming, the war, the Christmas shopping rush, and the changing, aging condition of our lives. We need to stand secure before all these things and the Lord, and we can do that if we are solidly rooted and grounded in the Lord, in the Spirit of God.

“But for you who fear my name, there will arise the sun of justice with its healing rays,” we hear in the first reading, and “By your perseverance you will secure your lives,” we hear in the gospel. What comforting and reassuring words as we face all the changes and challenges of life and the world.

Today we consider the need of the poor as we take up the Campaign for Human Development. It is one of the most effective ways we have to make a difference in changing our world. The funds are used as seed money in efforts that qualify to help people help themselves. It is not a hand out, but a hand up.

It’s in that Spirit that we also extend our hands in healing to our sisters and brothers, the healing rays and hands of Christ, as we pray at all our masses for healing for our members, our lives and all our relationships. The healing hand of Christ is upon us.

Together, because we believe and belong to a faith community such as ours, our lives are changed, healed, and made secure in the love and Spirit of Jesus. We can stand secure, rooted and grounded in the Eucharist before the Lord and each other as we face the future with confidence and hope.

May the peace of Christ, which is beyond all human understanding, keep guard over your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus!

In Christ’s love,

[Signature]

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 18, 2007

Sing praise to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and melodious song.

— Psalm 98:5
Worship Commission

Thanksgiving Day Mass
Our Thanksgiving Day Mass will be this Thursday, November 22 at 9:00 a.m. The music ministers will be a small adult group together with the Youth Choir. All are invited to bring a loaf of bread and a bottle of wine to this liturgy and place them on tables in the middle aisle of the church. There will be a special blessing for these domestic breads and wine during the eucharist. At the end of mass, each person retrieves their own items for their Thanksgiving Day meal. This year, the entire collection will be given to our Transitional Housing Ministry. We are helping three families who would otherwise be homeless, to live with dignity and become self sufficient.

Prays / Praise Audio Downloads
See our website, www.stapostle.org, for a complete set of audio downloads from our St. Thomas Prays / Praise series with John Angotti. The most recent one from this past Wednesday evening, November 14, will soon be posted. If you have not had the opportunity to attend some of these evenings, then treat yourself and listen to the downloads. The past three Praise Events (September, October and November) have explored the three parts of our parish theme: Believe, Belong, and Make a Difference.

Today’s Readings

First Reading — For those who fear the name of the Lord, the sun of justice with arise (Malachi 3:19-20a).
Psalm — The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice (Psalm 98).
Second Reading — Those who are living in idleness are urged to do their work quietly and earn their own living (2 Thessalonians 3:7-12).
Gospel — “Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he,’ and ‘The time has come.’ Do not follow them!” (Luke 21:5-19).

Readings for the Week
Mon: 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Lk 18:35-43
Tues: 2 Mc 6:18-31; Lk 19:1-10
Wed: 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Lk 19:11-28
Thurs: 1 Mc 2:15-29; Lk 19:41-44
Thanksgiving Day—Suggested:
Sir 50:22-24; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19
Fri: 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; Lk 19:45-48
Sat: 1 Mc 6:1-13; Lk 20:27-40
Sun: 2 Sm 5:1-3; Ps 122; Col 1:12-20; Lk 23:35-43

December St Thomas Prays/Praise and Reconciliation
Our next St. Thomas Prays/ Praise Night will be Wednesday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m. This particular evening will also be our Advent Reconciliation Service. The opportunity for individual confessions with a priest will follow an abbreviated praise event.

John Angotti Next Month
In December, John Angotti will be at the 9:00 and 10:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. masses on Sunday, December 9.

Advent Taizé Prayer
The next Taizé style prayer service will be Monday, December 3 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Lighthouse. Come begin the Advent Season with this unique style of peace-filled, meditative prayer.

Adopt-a-Tree for Christmas!
Spend fun time with your family or make it a project for your Gathering or ministry group. How about using it as a unique agenda for a committee meeting?

Adopt-a-Tree for Christmas!
There are about TWENTY artificial trees to be assembled in the sanctuary and all around the church on Monday, November 26 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. OR Saturday, December 1 at 9:00 a.m.
Call Alora Foley (630.778.6303) or Julie in the Liturgy Office (630.355.8980x111) TODAY to claim your tree or for more information.

At Home with the Word
Some At Home with the Word books will be available for purchase the next two weekends. The cost is $8. This book is a great tool for breaking open the Sunday scriptures at home, helping you to reflect further on God’s word and preparing us to celebrate the Sunday liturgy.

November 18, 2007 — Page 4
God of eternity,
not in fear do we face an uncertain future,
nor do we wait in idleness
for your purpose to unfold,
for your unfailing care embraces all time.
Let each new day be for us
a time to testify to the gospel
and make a difference with our lives.
Let the day on which the sun of righteousness dawns
find us bearing witness to your healing grace
and all-embracing love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

From: Prayers for Sundays and Seasons,
Liturgy Training Publications. www.ltp.org

For the sick…
Kathleen Hulmes, mother of Wendy Balda
Edward Oros, brother of Mary Ann Smith
Greg Meagan, husband of Kathryn
Donna Cricunas
Lucy Pierri
Sr. Margaret Mary Maloney

For the deceased…
Leona McMullin, mother of Ginny Lucado
Wilma McCarthy, mother of Frank Niederman
Ferdinand Gehrs, uncle of Ed Agustin
Mary Ro Schmitz, mother of Susan Lautenbach
and grandmother of Brad, Kyle & Brett
Josephine Fiscella, mother of Michael
Bill Smith, friend of Guy Francesconi
Brian McMillen, friend of Anne & Tom Claussen

For those recently married…
Theresa Knable & Brad Acheson

Thanksgiving Day Prayer
Heavenly Father,
on Thanksgiving Day
We turn our hearts to You and pray.
We give You thanks for all You’ve done
Especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son.
For beauty in nature, Your glory we see.
For joy and health, friends and family,
For daily provision, Your mercy and care.
These are the blessings You graciously share.
So today we offer this response of praise
With a promise to follow You all of our days.
Amen.

Mary Fairchild
How is it that Jesus’ disciples found peace in the midst of suffering for spreading the Good News? They must have been gifted with wonder and awe; an awareness of the glory of God. Scripture mentions several times how these early disciples devoted themselves to prayer, praised and rejoiced in the Lord and were filled with awe. With the Holy Spirit, they likely also received the seventh gift: the gift of reverence. They definitely exhibited a deeply held respect for God. They got rid of their possessions and took care of all members of their community. This was a sign of their trust and total reliance on God.

As Paul became stronger in his own discipleship, he could testify to a life lived “in the Spirit.” Paul was someone who suffered greatly in his defense of the Christian way. Yet he found no greater alternative than to be “guided by the Spirit.” To the people of Galatia, he listed the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Sounds nice, doesn’t it? So many good things are manifested in lives lived according to the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Christmas Card Project

Each year, Companions sends out thousands of Christmas cards to incarcerated men and women. St. Thomas will again participate in this project. Please bring your cards to the decorated box you will find in the Gathering Area by November 17. Here are the guidelines:

- Sign one or more Christmas cards. We will use Companions return address.
- Add a message if you wish but please do not be preachy.
- Attach a first class postage stamp to each envelope.
- Do **Not** seal.
- Do **Not** use stickers, glue or tape on the cards or envelopes.
- Do **Not** enclose anything.
- Please choose cards that represent a diverse population.

Winter Art Class

Do you like to sketch? Looking for a pleasant way to spend winter mornings? Noted artist Bob Sunyog is offering a six-session class in the St. Thomas Senior Center from 9:00 a.m. to Noon on Saturdays from January 12 through February 16, titled “Drawing Landscapes in Pencil.” Bob will provide step-by-step instructions in composition, perspective, and various techniques in drawing landscapes, trees, mountains, hills, rocks, buildings, boats, lakes and streams.

Class size is limited to 12. Registration packets, including a supplies list, can be found in the Gathering Area. Registrations and the $60 fee will be taken until the class is filled, and no later than December 15, and can be returned to Anne Schultz in the Outreach Office.
St. Thomas the Apostle Music Makers
featuring John Angotti
Invite you to...

Advent Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 9
5:00 p.m.
St. Thomas the Apostle Church

Annual, seasonal prayer concert featuring our
St. Thomas music groups, lectors, and dancers.
This year John Angotti will join us!
Make plans to include this peace-filled and inspiring service
into your busy holiday schedule.

Admission to the concert is a non-perishable food item
for the St. Thomas Food Pantry.
Religious Education

Come Celebrate Life at the EDGE!

On November 30, from 7 to 9:00 p.m. at All Saints Catholic Academy, Junior High youth are invited to “Celebrate Life” with speakers and activities. Come and enjoy good company and a good time. Permission slips and flyers are available in the Gathering Area and through the R.E. classes.

Kettle Korn Madness Comes to an End!

A warm thanks from the youth of St. Thomas to the entire community for the overwhelming and gracious support offered to the Kettle Korn project! Tallies have not been finalized to date. However, it is clear that the goal of $2000 is pretty darn close to becoming a hard-won reality. More important, are the many lessons learned:

- Play and hard work are not mutually exclusive.
- It feels great to make someone’s day!
- Being THERE is better than being NOWHERE.
- The attitude displayed daily is chosen by an individual!

To all the youth volunteers, the Diamante Family (Mr. Kettle himself), Mr. and Mrs. Wycklendt and Mrs. Hay- hip, hip, hooray! Lastly, to Mr. Hay who allowed us to see that fish do really fly!

Parent to Parent at Hill Middle School

On Monday, November 26 parents will gather to explore the seven traps which parents must help their children avoid. Please join the group for the seventh meeting in this series to unpack these very significant topics.

1. Wealth without work
2. Entertainment Without Conscience
3. Education without Character
4. Love Without Limits
5. Freedom Without Accountability
6. Adulthood Without Childhood
7. Life Without A Vision

Trec News

High School Youth Ministry

Harvest Sunday — Special Thanks to all the students who served! Many people will have food this year because of your sacrifice. Thank you all!

Quest is meeting tonight (Sunday)! As always, Quest starts at 7:30 p.m., right after our Encounter Mass.

APEX – we will NOT be meeting on the 21st, this coming Wednesday because of Thanksgiving break! But we will see you all on November 28!

November 25 – There is no Quest meeting, due to Thanksgiving break!

St. Nicholas Hosts Youth Mass

On December 12, St. Nicholas Parish in Aurora will host a 5:00 p.m. youth mass to honor the feast day of St. Mary of Guadeloupe. St. Thomas youth have been asked to take part in the liturgical movement and in the planning of the liturgy. This past summer our junior high youth worked with the St. Nicholas youth program on a very successful summer mission. Junior High and High School youth who are interested in participating in this opportunity are asked to call Ms. Seguin in religious education office at 305-6318. Be a part on this unique opportunity in faith formation!

REMINDER

NO classes for Pre-K through 5th grade on Tuesday, November 20 and Saturday, November 24 (Thanksgiving week).
News From All Saints Catholic Academy (ASCA)

Students Compete in Math Contest — On Saturday, October 20, 6th and 7th grade students from ASCA participated in the Montini Catholic Junior High Math Contest. In the team competition, both the 6th and 7th graders took second place. The sixth grade team members included Kyle Hand, Suk Won Lee, Spencer Miler, Sam Thomas and Ryan Wolfe. The 7th grade team members included Hannah Casey, Patrick Hawley, Samantha Hilger, Jong Won Lee, and Megan O'Hara. In addition, ASCA had several students who achieved success in the individual part of the contest. In the sixth grade, Kyle Hand took 1st place, Sam Thomas took 3rd place, and Ryan Wolfe took 6th place. In 7th grade, Patrick Hawley took 6th place. Congratulations to all participants!

Madre Angelina Visits — At the Wednesday, November 7 all-school Mass, All Saints had a group of special visitors. Madre Angelina, from the Hogar Del Pobre Orphanage in Celaya, Mexico, attended Mass and thanked the school for their generosity. A power point presentation was shown to the All Saints students so they could see the orphanage, the classrooms, the dining area, and the dormitories. The students at All Saints have helped the boys and girls at the orphanage by donating a variety of clothing items throughout the year, including a special Lenten collection. This week, students brought in their Halloween candy to be shipped back to Mexico. The partnership with Hogar Del Pobre Orphanage will continue throughout the school year.

All Saints Catholic Academy Has Limited Openings — All Saints Catholic Academy has a limited number of spaces available in selected grades for the second semester. If you are interested in a faith-based Catholic education, a curriculum that exceeds diocesan and state guidelines, and a family atmosphere, All Saints is the place for you. School tours and shadowing opportunities are available. Visit the website at www.ascacademy.org to learn more about the school. Contact Peggy Kobe, 630-961-6125, to schedule a school tour or arrange for your child to shadow for the day.

CHARACTER COUNTS!
Make everyday ethics your plan for a better world. Here’s a list of quick and easy ways to show good character — and make your corner of the planet a better place to be!

For today, analyze the cost of being right.
Offer someone your help before being asked.
Say something nice to every person you meet in one day.
Donate to an organization you believe in.
Ride, walk or carpool to work.
Buy coffee for the person behind you in line at your favorite café.
Pay for an extra toll at the toll booth for the person behind you.
Do your sibling’s or spouse’s chores for them.
Write a letter to a prisoner or soldier.
Tell your parents that they’ve done a great job.
Give someone a hug who really needs it.
Aurora Planned Parenthood Update
The protest against Planned Parenthood’s Aurora clinic that is now performing abortions continues:

- Sign up at www.familiesagainstplannedparenthood.org to receive news, updates, and urgent action alerts.
- Pray at the Aurora Clinic. St. Thomas parishioners are responsible for the 4th Wednesday each month during the hours of 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM. To sign up for November 21, please contact the STA OSJ office at 630.355.8980 or sign up on the above website.
- Participate in the next Protest Rally on Saturday, Dec 15, 2007 (9-10:30 a.m.). See the website for details.
- Peter Breen and other lawyers are preparing for a November 28 appeal at the Aurora zoning board. The high profile law firm of Mauk and Baker that specializes in zoning litigation is willing to take the case. The cost will be significant. If you want to donate to this endeavor that could realistically shut down PP Aurora, please visit http://thomasmoresociety.org/contact_thomas_more_society.htm or mail your tax deductible donation to: Thomas More Society, Pro-Life Law Center - 29 South LaSalle Street - Suite 440 - Chicago, IL 60603.

Diocesan Spring Missions:
Sucre, Bolivia and Quito, Ecuador
An information evening for prospective missionaries will be held Tuesday, November 20 at 7 p.m. at the St. Charles Pastoral Center, 402 S. Independence Blvd., Romeoville. The Diocese of Joliet is beginning preparations for the spring Missions to Sucre, Bolivia (April 5 to April 19, 2008) and to Quito, Ecuador (April 3 to April 17).

Bolivia Medical Team: surgeons all specialties, anesthesiologists or CRNA’s, nurses, PT’s, OT’s, a dentist.
Bolivia Construction Team: no special building skills required but are a definite plus.

Quito, Ecuador team: Internist, pediatrician, a family practitioner, nurses, pharmacist, dentist, help on several Construction projects - some of which do not require special skills.

Contact Jenilyn Ruhaak 815-834-4028, jenruh@dioceseofjoliet.org

Shopping for a Worthwhile Cause
Do your Christmas gift shopping and support artisans and producers in developing countries and in the US who are working to sustain themselves.

Saturday, December 1 – 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., and
Sunday, December 2 – 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
St. Thomas the Apostle Gathering Area
Sponsored by the Justice and Peace Ministry in cooperation with Catholic Relief Services.

A large variety of Fair Trade products from around the world (home décor, Christmas items, jewelry, toys, novelties, coffee, tea, chocolate) will be available.

Quilted items from Tutwiler, Mississippi and knitted scarves and small items made by residents of Warrenville Youth Center will also be featured.

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC)
New Facility Needs
FMSC will soon be opening their new Chicago facility located near the Route 59 Train Station. The site is starting from scratch and has many material needs. Some of the major needs are listed below and FMSC is also looking for discounts from contractors to finish the warehouse. If you are able to help, contact St. Thomas parishioner Bonnie Sullivan 630.585.0821, bonniesullivan@sbcglobal.net

WAREHOUSE: Racking, air compressor, stocked tool box, 30 stainless steel tables, strapping cart, 14 gram scales, 14 heat sealers, commercial dishwasher, 75 Rubbermaid tubs, 8 tape guns, battery charger, OFFICE: Computers, color printers, dry erase boards, laminator, furniture, conference table and chairs and typical office supplies.
GENERAL: Signage, trash cans, CD player, DVD player, Large Screen Television and janitor mop system.

Harvest Sunday – 360 Boxes of Food!
A HUGE thank you to Corrine and the Junior High youth and to Jake and the Quest youth. Harvest Sunday was a great success again this year. The food collected was unbagged, sorted, and boxed into 360 boxes. That’s 30 more than last year. 40% of the food went to St. Nicholas Parish Care Pantry. 40% to the Chicago Notre Dame Nuns Care Pantry. (It was quite a sight seeing those two tiny nuns driving that big truck!) 20% went to our Care Pantry.

St. Thomas Care Pantry & OSJ Office
In the hospital?

Call the parish office 355-8980 and one of our parish nurses or ministers of care will visit, bring Eucharist or assist you with your needs!

Counseling Service:

Call Samaritan Interfaith 357-2456 or Jan Olah, Pastoral Care 355-8980 x 124

Blood Drive

St. Thomas is sponsoring a blood drive with the Heartland Blood Center on Monday, November 19, from 3-7:30 pm in the gym.

Interested donors are asked to call the Parish Office at 355-8980 for scheduling.

Receive a premium Heartland Blood Center sweatshirt when you share the gift of life.

Thank you for your consideration.

Blessings… Felicia

Parish Nurse Notes:

November Is National Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month.

For complete information on the causes, signs, stages, history etc., the Alzheimer Association has abundant information on its web site, including a 30-page document on the statistical facts and figures of Alzheimer’s. See www.alz.org facts.

Briefly, Alzheimer’s disease is a progressive and fatal brain disease; it is the most common form of dementia; and it has no current cure. Alzheimer’s destroys brain cells, causing problems with memory, thinking and behavior severe enough to affect work, lifelong hobbies or social life. Alzheimer’s gets worse over time. Today, it is the seventh-leading cause of death in the United States.

Harvard Mental Health Letter states these facts:

• An estimated 5.1 million Americans currently have Alzheimer’s; including 4.9 million people age 65 or older.
• The direct and indirect costs of Alzheimer’s and other dementias total more than $148 billion annually.
• By 2030, the number of Americans with Alzheimer’s is expected to increase by more than 50%, to 7.7 million.

Caregivers, family and friends of Alzheimer individuals can access support groups at Alden courts of Waterford in Aurora and Sunrise Assisted Living in Naperville. The Alzheimer’s Association has a 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900 or www.alzheimers-illinois.org. Call the parish nurse office 630.355.8980 x 104 with questions.

Thank You, Audrey Casey

St. Thomas the Apostle wishes to sincerely thank and acknowledge the efforts of Parish Nurse, Audrey Casey, who has retired her position here at St. Thomas. She served the body, mind, and spirit of parishioners for three years with the intentional care of the spirit as her focus. We were blessed to have her selfless presence in the Faith Community Nursing Office. God bless Audrey and her family. Because Audrey has been called to other ministries within St. Thomas, there is a void in the FCN/Parish Nurse office that must be filled. Please see the web site for specific position details.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Gifting.

Our gifting of prayer shawls has made the 345 mark…..Many of those gifted have sent cards of appreciation and love.

One such note read: “You could not have sent a more appropriate or much needed gift as the prayer shawl. _____ and I had tears in our eyes when we read your nice note. It is very special and we both thank you for sending it. _____ is so cold since surgery and this is perfect for him”.

Another recipient reported that the shawl “goes EVERYWHERE with her, even to the doctor’s appointments”.

Shawls have been sent to five other countries: Africa, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Haiti, and nine other states in the US.

Please remember to pray for our talented knitters and crotchetiers. We need your continued support. If you know of someone who would benefit, please contact the Parish Nurse office @ extension 104.
Stewardship Commission

Stewardship... A Way of Life

Last Weekend’s stewardship of financial gifts...

- Weekly Sunday Offertory (week 20) $27,391
  - Envelopes 23,338
  - Loose 4,053
  - Automatic Direct Debit $13,011
  - Mailed in & stock donations $2,687
- Total for week $43,089
  *Based on Collection Counters Reports

Fiscal Year (7/1 to 6/30) to date: $709,545
Weekly Average 7/1/07 to date: $35,477
% of Annual Sunday Offertory Goal 37.90%
Sunday Offertory Goal YTD $720,000
Goal for Fiscal Year 7/1 to 6/30 $1,872,000
Remaining for Fiscal Year $1,162,455

Diocesan Appeal updated Results
Parish Appeal Goal $142,888
Pledges received at St. Thomas $124,250
% of Goal Pledge to date 87.0%
Remaining amount to goal: $18,638

End Of The Year Stock Sale

This time of the year is a wonderful opportunity to support St. Thomas by the gift of stock. This does not affect current asset strength or flow and will benefit both St. Thomas and the parishioner.

This may be done either by a transfer of a stock certificate or electronically.

Regardless of the method used all transfers of stock must go to the Diocese Finance Office. When transfer has been completed the Finance Office will send a notification to St. Thomas who will then acknowledge the receipt to the donor.

To obtain the forms and a receive a fuller explanation of the procedure, please contact the business office.

At Donut Sunday…

THIS weekend, November 18

Spotlight on Ministry

Marriage Enrichment

Come to Donut Sunday and check out this week’s featured Ministry… learn about Marriage Enrichment, learn about the people they serve, their activities, and ways you might be able to participate.
Parish Life Commission

S.A.M. Single Adult Ministry
Mon, Dec 3, SAM Planning meeting. All welcome
Thurs, Dec 6, We will provide a meal for Hesed House. Deliver your food dish to STA by 5:00 PM. Details will follow.
Sat. Dec 22, Spirit of Christmas, a spectacular and dazzling follies show at the Paramount in Aurora. Showtime is 7:00 p.m., Cost $40.50 to $45.50. Contact Betty by Nov. 26 to reserve seats. 420-0334 or msbkost@oco.net

Current Young Adult Ministry News:
“Current spreads the good news of Jesus by building a community of young adults that meet the social, spiritual, service, and support of all young adults.”

COMING EVENTS:
YACHT Club (Young Adult Catholics Hanging Together)
Our next YACHT Club is Tuesday, November 20 at Mullen’s Bar and Grill (3080 Warrenville Road, Lisle) starting at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Sarah Jarzemowski will be the presenter on “Health and Spirituality for Adult Catholics”. Drop by to, not only hear a great speaker on a great topic, but also get some good food at the same time! The cost is just $5 per person and whatever you order off the menu/bar!

The Pat-A-Cake
Parenting Ministry: (M.O.M.S)
The Pat-a-Cake Ministry cordially invites caretakers and their little ones to join the fun on Monday, November 19 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Nursery. The gathering includes prayer, snack, and playtime for all. Join this group as it begins a new chapter in the evolution of this very significant ministry!

Tues, Nov 20, 7:00 p.m. meeting in the Lighthouse, Speaker: Jim Breen. Dessert & coffee will be served.
Tues, Dec. 4, 1:00 p.m. Lunch at Warrenville Pancake House, 2 S. 505 Rt. 59. Call Barb Bigus at 357-8958 to make your reservation.
Thurs, Dec 13, 6:00 p.m. Christmas party Cress Creek Country Club. Dinner & dancing $30/person Cash Bar. Reserve by Dec 7. Send check and entrée choice to Dick Jaracz, please call for information call 630.355.3991. Checks payable to 50 & Holding.
Entrée Choice: Chicken Marsala or Salmon
The December 2007 St. Thomas the Apostle Jobs Ministry Meeting will be held on Thursday evening December 20, 2007 at 7:00 pm in the Lighthouse. Back by popular demand, Lillian D. Bjorseth’s presentation is titled “What You Say Before You Speak”. You speak volumes long before you open your mouth. In fact your potential employer decides 10 things about you within the first 10 seconds of seeing you. These decisions are based on your image, a combination of your appearance and behavior, and often play a big role in whether people want to hire and work with you...or not.

Please join Lillian on Thursday evening December 20, 2007 for a lively interactive and practical program that shows you how your clothing, style, and fit and posture, handshakes, eye contact and facial expressions affect the conscious and unconscious decisions others form about you.

It is our pleasure to welcome back Lillian Bjorseth, a nationally know communication and networking expert and prolific author. Lillian has helped tens of thousands of people build social capital and better relationships since starting Duoforce Enterprises Inc. in 1990. Her corporate experiences include AT &T and Nicor.

Please plan to attend this very informative meeting on Thursday evening December 20, 2007 at 7:00 pm.

Contact Jim Breen at jimb4853@yahoo.com for more information.

THE WEEK AHEAD...

Monday, Nov. 19
9:00am-12:00 p.m. Gathering Place Café, Gathering Area
10:30am-12:00 p.m. Pat-c-Cake Parents & Tots, Meeting Room 1
3:00—7:00 p.m. Blood Drive, Gym
4:15—5:15 p.m. Youth Choir, Church
6:30—7:30 p.m. Pre-Ministry Coffeehouse, Gathering Area
7:00—9:30 p.m. Just Faith, Resource Center
7:15—8:30 p.m. Jr. High R. E. at Hill Middle School
7:30—9:30 p.m. Finance Committee, Meeting Room 4
7:30—9:00 p.m. Jubilate Rehearsal, Church

Tuesday, Nov. 20
8:00—8:45 a.m. Wholistic Practices, Gym
9:00am-12:00 p.m. Gathering Place Café, Gathering Area
10:00—11:00 a.m. Care Pantry, Lighthouse
6:30—7:30 p.m. Pre-Ministry Coffeehouse, Gathering Area
7:00—9:30 p.m. Adult Basketball, Gym
7:00—10:00 p.m. Men’s Retreat Planning, Rectory Basement
7:30—9:00 p.m. Bible Time Line, Youth Center
7:30—9:30 p.m. 50 & Holding, Lighthouse
7:30—9:00 p.m. Celebration of the Arts, Room 4
7:30—9:30 p.m. Voices of Faith Rehearsal, Church

Wednesday, Nov. 21
9:00am-12:00 p.m. Gathering Place Café, Gathering Area
Building closes at Noon

Thursday, Nov. 22 — Happy Thanksgiving!
Mass at 9:00
Building Closed

Friday, Nov. 23
8:30 a.m. Mass
Offices Closed

Saturday, Nov. 24
9:00—10:30 a.m. Men’s Christian Fellowship, Lounge
2:00—4:15 p.m. Library Hours

Sunday, Nov. 25
9:00—11:30 a.m. RCIA, Senior Center
9:00am-12:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Word for Children thru 5th grade, Ministry Center
10:00—11:30 a.m. Puppet Practice, Resource Center
1:45—2:45 p.m. Baptisms, Church
6:30—7:30 p.m. Encounter Mass, Church

St. Thomas Offices will close for the Thanksgiving Holiday from Noon, Wednesday, Nov 21 through Friday, Nov 23.