All people shall see

the salvation of God

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.
St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church
1500 Brookdale Road, Naperville, IL 60563 e-mail: mainoffice@stapostle.org
630 355-8980 (Main Office) Visit us on the internet at www.stapostle.org
630 305-6318 (Religious Education)
630 355-0521 (Facsimilie)

Parish Staff
Priests
Rev. Don E. McLaughlin – Pastor, x102, dmclaughlin@stapostle.org
Rev. Rodolphe Arty, C.S.C. – Parochial Vicar, x 103, rarty@stapostle.org
Rev. Bob Colaresi, O. Carm. – Weekend Associate, robco@robco.org

Permanent Deacons
Rev. Mr. Michael (Kathryn) Barrett – x220, meabarrett@att.net
Rev. Mr. Jim (Mary Jo) Breen – 630.357.4853, jimb4853@yahoo.com
Rev. Mr. Larry (Susan) Kearney – x225, lrkearney@comcast.net
Rev. Mr. Chuck (Sue) Lane – x220, chucklane2@juno.com
Rev. Mr. Pat (Mary Jo) Lennon – x220, presence.now@gmail.com

Liturgy
Kate Cuddy – Director of Music and Liturgy, x112, kcuddy@stapostle.org
Scott Kinsley – Asst. Director of Music and Liturgy, x111, skinsley@stapostle.org
Lori Culberson – Liturgy Coordinator, x120, leuberson@stapostle.org
Theresa Sheliga* – Sacristan Coordinator, x116

Faith Formation
Sandy Renehan – Principal at All Saints Catholic Academy 630.961.6125
Patti Dougherty – Director of Religious Education, x109, pdougherty@stapostle.org
Brett Adams – Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, x117, badams@stapostle.org
Peggy Goralski – Associate Partner of Youth Ministry, x123, pgoralski@stapostle.org
Chari Rosales – Director of Adult Education & RCIA x138, crosales@stapostle.org
Nancy Cirmo – Religious Education Assistant, x118, ncirmo@stapostle.org

Outreach and Social Justice
Michael Ryder – Director of Outreach & Social Justice, x121, mryder@stapostle.org
Anne Schultz – OSJ Partner, x113, aschultz@stapostle.org
Sally Meno* – OSJ Financial, x106, smeno@stapostle.org

Pastoral Care
Jan Olah – Director of Pastoral Care, x124
Felicia Lawlor*, M.S., R.N. – Faith Community Nurse, x104, flawlor@stapostle.org
Rose Grumbine*, R.N., – Faith Community Nurse, x140, rgrumbine@stapostle.org

Administration
Janet Simmons – Finance/Business Officer, x106, jsimmons@stapostle.org
Diane McQueen – Gen Office Administrative Asst, x101, dmcqueen@stapostle.org
Kathy Ferguson – Gen Office Administrative Asst, x100, mainoffice@stapostle.org
Elizabeth Fisher* – Evening/Saturday Receptionist
Mary Wright* – Evening/Saturday Receptionist
Marge Coronado – Administration and R.E. Asst, x219, mcoronado@stapostle.org
Marilyn DeMeo* – Database Coordinator (T/Th), x107, mdevo@stapostle.org
Angie Tuttle – Bulletin and Web Editor, Liturgy Asst, x110, attuttle@stapostle.org
Bob Hartmann* – Facility Manager, x133, facility@stapostle.org

Pastoral Leadership Community
Christine Berta 579.4294 Nick Furlbondo 898.5224
Pam Foster 699.3044 Richard Strassburger 499.5676
Charles Haydon 369.2262

Commission Facilitators
Worship Kate Cuddy 355.8980
Parish Life
Faith Formation Chris Baker 548.1733
Administration Charles Haydon 369.2262
Service Carol Healy 961.0942
Finance Chairman Bruce Patterson 513.218.0006

*indicates part-time staff

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Reconciliation is available Saturday, 3:30 to 4:15 p.m., in the Reconciliation Room of the Chapel. Our priests are available during the week by appointment. Communal Penance services are held occasionally during 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 12:30 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 630.305.6318 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 630.355.8980.

Counseling Service
Call Samaritan Interfaith 630.357.2456 or Jan Olah, Pastoral Care 630.355.8980 x 124.

Sunday Nursery
Nursery care is available for your child age one (walking) to four at the 9:30 a.m. Mass. For more information call the church office.

Liturgy Schedule
Daily
(Monday — Friday)
Communion Service — 6:30 a.m.
Rosary — 8:10 a.m.
Mass — 8:30 a.m.
(Saturday)
Mass — 8:30 a.m.

Weekend
Saturday Vigil — 4:30 p.m.
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:15 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every first Friday, 9:00 — 9:30 a.m.
Today we Christians celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent. Our ancestors in faith, our Jewish brothers and sisters celebrate today as the first day of Chanukah or Hanukkah. Today we light the second candle in the Advent wreath; at sundown on Saturday evening they lit the first candle in the Menorah.

We Christians are well acquainted with the customs of Advent, especially the wreath and lighting of the four candles marking the four Sundays before we celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas. In the event you are not that aware of the custom and meaning of Hanukkah, I thought I would share with you a little information about this beautiful celebration.

Hanukkah is the Jewish annual festival of lights, celebrated for eight days that commemorates the heroic struggle of the Jews against pagan forces at the time of the religious persecutions by the Greco-Syrians in the Land of Israel. The lighting of the candles on the eight days of Hanukkah, one on the first day and one more on each succeeding day, is linked in the Talmud with the miracle of the cruse of oil. When the Jews, led by Judah Maccabee prevailed against the heathen foes, they found in the Temple only one undefiled cruse of oil intact with the seal of the high priest. This cruse contained sufficient oil for one day’s lighting of the Temple Menorah, but miraculously, its oil lasted for eight days lighting. The following year, they designated these eight days for giving thanks and praise to God. The rededication of the Temple after its defilement by pagan worship of Greek gods occurred in the year 165 before the common era. Today the celebration of Hanukkah encourages not only the Jewish people, but ALL people to fight against injustice and oppression.

In addition to the religious practices prescribed for the observance of Hanukkah, various games were introduced for the amusement of children during the time the Hanukkah lights are burning. Most notably, a spinning metal or wood top with Hebrew letters on the four sides meaning “a great miracle happened there”. The Hanukkah lights lit in synagogues as well as private homes these eight days, also symbolize the Jewish belief in the gradual progress of spiritual enlightenment, much like our own Christian belief in a personal conversion journey. By increasing the light, day by day, as Hanukkah proceeds, the Jewish people remind themselves that they must rededicate their lives to focus on what is most important, and each day that we perform acts of kindness, charity, and righteousness, we add more light into the world. We Christians, believing in Jesus as the light of the world do the same – bring more light into the world by our acts of kindness, charity, and justice. The Menorah, which a great deal of love and artistic expression has been lavished upon ever since the first century by the Jewish people, is a rich symbol of their faith.

I want to thank Bernie Newman, an Elder of Congregation Beth-Shalom in Naperville for his input so that I accurately described the history and meaning of Hanukkah for this article! And so, as we Christians continue our Advent journey to Christmas, let us rejoice with our ancestors in faith in their eight day celebration of light and the miraculous work of God that continues to this day in each of our lives!
Advent Reconciliation
St. Thomas will have a Reconciliation Service, December 12 at 7:00 p.m. The opportunity for individual confessions with a Priest or to speak to a prayer partner will conclude the service.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick
The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be offered next Sunday, December 16 at the 11:15 p.m. Mass.

Simbang Gabi
St Thomas will host one of the Filipino traditional “Simbang Gabi” Masses on December 16 at 6 p.m. All are welcome.

Pregnancy Blessing
A blessing for all expectant mothers and their families will be offered after each mass on the weekend of December 22 and 23.

Prepare the Way For Christmas—a family Christmas concert
with
John Angotti and friends

Friday, December 21, 7:30 pm
Wentz Concert Hall, Naperville

Set aside this time in your busy holiday calendar to enjoy a family Christmas concert with John Angotti and St. Thomas music makers! Tickets are $25, and are available NOW in the gathering area after Mass or at the Main Office during the week. Pre-event party is from 6:15 – 7:15 (cash bar).

Presider’s Schedule December 15/16
Saturday
4:30 pm, Fr. Don McLaughlin, Deacon Mike Barrett
Sunday
8:00 am, Fr. Bob Colaresi, Deacon Jim Breen
9:30 am, Fr. Don McLaughlin, Deacon Pat Lennon
11:15 am, Fr. Dof Arty
6:00 pm, (Simbang Gabi), Fr. Dindo Bilotte

Schedule is subject to change.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Monday, Dec 24
No 6:30am Communion Service
No 8:30am Mass

Christmas Eve Masses – Dec 24
4:00pm (church)* - Fr. Bob Colaresi
4:10pm (gym)* - Fr. Dof Arty
4:30pm (St. Patrick Residence) - Fr. Don McLaughlin
7:00pm (church)* - Fr. Matt Lorenz
9:30pm Choral Program
10:30pm Solemn Christmas Mass - Fr. Don McLaughlin

* The 4:00 and 4:10 Masses on Christmas Eve include gospel pageants and are geared toward families. The 7:00 Mass on Christmas Eve features high school and young adults.

Christmas Day Masses – Dec 25
9:00am – Fr. Dof Arty
11:00am – Fr. Don McLaughlin

No 6pm Mass in December
**Pray For Our Parish**

*Stir up within us,*  
*O God of peace and mercy,*  
a sincere desire for repentance,  
that, baptized with the Holy Spirit  
and enkindled by the fire of your love,  
we may bring to every circumstance and setting  
the justice, gentleness and peace  
that the incarnation of your Word  
has caused to sprout up  
and blossom upon the earth.*

*We ask this through,*  
*our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,*  
*who was, who is, and is to come,*  
one with you, *in the unity of the Holy Spirit,*  
*now and forever and ever.*  
*Amen.*

**Please Pray for our Men and Women**  
**Serving in the Military**

*Our parish community would like to recognize and remember the following individuals in prayer:*  

**U.S. Air Force**  
- Staff Sgt. Brooke Sica  
- Lt. Joseph Zito  
- A1C Maxwell Dempsey  
- Joseph Michalowicz  
- AB Jon Babiarz, Special Forces

**Air Force National Guard**  
- Senior Airman Jacob Bancaloe

**U.S. Army**  
- Lt. Alanna Casey  
- Capt. Matthew Haselhorst  
- Staff Sgt. Aaron Simms  
- Sgt. William Stuart  
- PFC Sean Wesley  
- 1st Lt. Chris Turley  
- SPC Eric Servatius  
- Matt Nelson  
- Warrant Officer Aviation Kyle Zimmerman

**U.S. Marine Corps**  
- Lt. Kevin Martin  
- John Osborne  
- Corporal Aaron Murphy  
- Jennifer Slown  
- Captain Brad Rothman  
- Pvt. Sonia Carrillo  
- Lance Corporal Oliver Buckley  
- Lt. Col. Miller-Ratcliffes  
- Lance Corporal Tommy Balducci

**U.S. Navy**  
- AT3 Amanda Schlarman  
- SN Joel Curry  
- Ensign Jason Coons  
- SR Jeffrey Bates  
- Alex Metzger  
- Airman Alex Dvorak

**U.S. Coast Guard**

*Call the parish office 630.355.8980 to include someone you love in the Military prayer list.*

**For the sick...**  
- Laura Newham  
- Ken Wallace  
- Lee Gibson, husband of Anne  
- Karen Gabrick, mother of Diane Fitzgerald  
- Rusty Allen, brother in-law  
  of Roberta & Rick Heller  
- Mark Spezio  
- Joseph Jones, father of Jackie

**For the deceased...**  
- Sophie Giachetti, aunt of Diane Barret  
- Richard E. Delany, father of Lauren Evans  
- Dave Kellogg, brother in-law  
  of Carl & Pauline Vandy

**Mass Intentions**

**Monday, December 10, 2012**  
8:30

**Tuesday, December 11, 2012**  
8:30 †Frank Gorman, by Bill & Shirley Mann

**Wednesday, December 12, 2012**  
8:30 †Robert Jack McKenna, by Dave McGuire

**Thursday, December 13, 2012**  
8:30 Special Intention for Muthler Family  
†Lorraine Boerger, by The Hummel Family

**Friday, December 14, 2012**  
8:30 †Bill Riordan

**Saturday, December 15, 2012**  
8:30 †Frank Gorman, by Gene & Carol Rades  
†Harley Mullins, by The Biel Family

**Sunday, December 16, 2012**  
8:00 †Soledad Lopez, by The Bautista Family  
9:30 For the People of St. Thomas  
11:15 †Mary Virginia Simon,  
  by Mr. & Mrs. David Hummel  
  †Sophie Giachetti, by Craig & Diane Barbret
How do kids learn to read and write? How do they learn to share, to behave and to treat others properly? We learn these things through practice and discipline. Many of us associate discipline with something negative; we may automatically equate it with punishment. But discipline simply means training and instruction. Most of what we learned in life came through training and instruction, through practice and discipline.

Kids usually want the approval of their parents so they ultimately respond in obedience. They typically take our discipline and still come back to us in love, even when our discipline is harsh. But God’s discipline is purposeful. The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us that the Lord disciplines those he loves and that God disciplines us for our good so we may share in his holiness. (Hebrews 12:6 and 10) God’s love disciplines us in order to purify and free us. But purity and freedom come with a cost. They require letting go of the impure. Discipline can be painful, but it’s often a necessary step toward positive change and transformation. Like children, we need to return to God in love in spite of His discipline. Then the kingdom of heaven will belong to us as well as to our children. Heavenly Father, help us to see the signs of your love along the paths on which you are leading us, even if those paths are difficult ones.

Faith and Formation Commission– Adult

The Winter Name of God
Monday, Dec 10
7:30—9:00 p.m.
St. Thomas Lighthouse

Labyrinth Prayer Walk
Are you longing for a quiet space and time away from all the hurry and stress of the holiday season? Are you hoping for some inner peace and sense of connection to God? Come… walk the sacred path of the labyrinth and unwind, resting in the awareness and love of God. For more information, contact Chari Rosales in the Adult Faith Formation Office at 630.355.8980 x138 or crosales@stapostle.org

Winter Art Class
“Pencil Drawing Fundamentals,” a 6-week art class taught by noted local artist Bob Sunyog is scheduled for Saturdays from 9am to noon in the St. Thomas Senior Center, beginning Jan. 12 thru Feb. 16, 2013. Registration forms and a supply list are available in the Gathering Area. This is an opportunity to enjoy and benefit from professional art instruction for only $70 – makes a great Christmas gift! Be sure to register early, as class size is limited to the first 12 applicants.

For more information, contact Anne Schultz at 355.8980 x113 or aschultz@stapostle.org.

Save these dates!
As you fill in your 2013 calendar, please give these dates your consideration:

Jan 9  ALPHA begins
Jan 11  Sophia’s Circle
        Native American Spirituality
Jan 13  Word of Love – All About Relationships
Jan 25-27  Men’s Retreat
Feb 4-6  Parish Mission
        Eucharist: Core of Our Catholic Faith
Feb 22-24  Women’s Retreat

Watch this space for details!

Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
Did you know that Paul wrote this letter from prison to encourage the early church to grow in the love of Christ? Paul’s challenge still applies today. What would you respond to Paul today?

C.A.R.E. CORNER

Did you know that Paul wrote this letter from prison to encourage the early church to grow in the love of Christ? Paul’s challenge still applies today. What would you respond to Paul today?
You are invited to make a donation toward Christmas flowers in recognition of a loved one. The names of these individuals will be on a display board at the Christmas Masses. A suggested donation of $10 should be sent in with the attached order form, or you may fill out an order envelope in the church office. Orders must be received by Sunday, Dec 19.

I would like to make a contribution towards Christmas flowers.

In Honor Of

__________________________________________

Please print

By: ______________________________________

__________________________________________

Phone # Amount enclosed

Please return this form or fill out an order envelope in the church office by Sunday, December 19.
Families: Take some time to discuss and reflect on the readings.

Question of the Week...

How will I lead someone to Jesus?

Let’s go Christmas Caroling!

All are welcome to go Christmas Caroling on Friday evening, December 7. Participants will gather at St. Thomas at 6:30 p.m. to practice songs for 15 minutes before walking to St. Patrick’s Residence to sing carols. The group will then return to St. Thomas for hot chocolate and snacks. (If you are able, please bring a plate of goodies to share.) Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Song sheets will be provided. Contact Patti Dougherty 630.355.8980 x 109 or pdougherty@stapostle.org with questions.

Advent Sale December 1 and 2

Help your child prepare for the gift of Jesus with an Advent Calendar or Advent Wreath. On December 1 and 2, after masses, there will be an Advent /Christmas Sale in the Gathering Area. Items will be available to help your child prepare for Christmas.

Besides Advent calendars and wreaths, there will be books and other various items for sale. Don’t forget St. Nicholas Feast Day, celebrated December 6. Tradition holds that kids who leave their shoes out by the door before they go to sleep the night before, will wake up to shoes filled with small treats given by St. Nicholas! Stop by and take a look!

Christmas Songs

Children in the St. Thomas Elementary Religious Education Program are singing Christmas songs in class. The students have received a paper with the words to the following songs: The Little Drummer Boy (Pre-K), Away in a Manager (K), Silent Night (1st), Hark The Herald Angels (2nd), We Three Kings (3rd), O Little Town of Bethlehem (4th) and Angels We Have Heard on High (5th).

Please use their song sheet at home to sing and prepare for the birth of Jesus!

Children’s Activity

Saturday, December 15, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
St. Thomas Ministry Center

Would you like a couple of hours to finish up some Christmas preparations? Children, Grade 1 and older, may be dropped off at St. Thomas to make a Christmas Rosary for gift giving. As Rosaries are made, the joyful mysteries will be prayed. A snack short movie is included.

Come a few minutes early to fill out a permission form. A small donation is appreciated to help cover the costs. Registration helpful by emailing Patti Dougherty pdougherty@stapostle.org or by calling church 630.355.8980 ext. 109.

Santa at Donut Sunday
THIS WEEKEND!

Santa will be at Donut Sunday on December 9. Parishioners, Rick and Gina Zimmermann will take pictures of your child/ren as in the past for you to purchase. Pictures will be available the following Sunday for pick up.

Of course you are welcome to bring your camera for pictures. Santa will be in the gym after the 8:00, 9:30 and 11:15 masses.

Angels Needed

Would you like to be a Tuition Angel for a family attending Religious Education classes? The economy has made it tough for some families to pay their RE tuition. If you can help the fees are: $120 for one child, $200 for two children or $260 for a family of three or more.

Checks are payable to St. Thomas the Apostle and you can write Tuition gift on the memo line. Please send in to the Religious Education Office and mark it to the attention of Patti Dougherty. Thanks for being a Tuition Angel!
Thank YOU—For a GRAND Care Pantry Christmas Party!

The Care Pantry Christmas Party, which took place this past Saturday, was a wonderful celebration for the St. Thomas Care Pantry families. For a morning, these families were able to have fun without worrying about the stresses of their lives. Many middle school students and adults worked to make this party possible. Thank you so much!

Teens With Character

The next St. Thomas Teens with Character meeting is Monday, December 17, 7:15 to 8:30 p.m., in the St. Thomas gym. The goals of Teens with Character are to have fun, build Christian fellowship, experience service, grow in faith, and become Christian leaders. All middle school students and friends are welcome!

Grandparents Day at St. Pat’s

Middle school students…do you want to spread some Christmas cheer? Come for Grandparents Day at St. Patrick’s Residence on Saturday, December 15, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. The group meets at St. Thomas and then walks over to St. Pat’s together. At St. Pat’s, volunteers will help residents get to and from mass, serve coffee and cookies, and bring smiles to many faces. Middle school students and friends are welcome.

Middle School Religious Education

Monday evening middle school religious education (RE) classes meet this Monday, December 10, at All Saints Catholic Academy. This is the last class before the Christmas holiday. Middle school RE classes will resume Saturday, January 12 and Monday, January 14.

Youth Minister’s Corner

If you’ve followed Notre Dame football this season, then you are familiar with Manti Te’o’s story. He is a defensive lineman for Notre Dame and has been hailed as the best defensive lineman in the country. Manti shared that he wasn’t sure that he would return to Notre Dame for the 2012 season. What made him change his mind was that he felt that he was called to return. Looking back on that decision, Te’o has shared that he knows that God was guiding him. And what a season Manti Te’o has had. I’m certain that he never could have dreamed of all that has unfolded since saying ‘yes’. He’s had a spectacular (record-setting) season, he’s felt the love and support of the whole Notre Dame community and the nation as he’s suffered personal tragedy, he’s in the running for the Heisman trophy, and, come January, Notre Dame will be playing in the National Championship game.

During these weeks of Advent, we hear stories of people who did the same thing Manti Te’o did—act on what they felt God was calling them to do. They walked by faith and not by sight. John the Baptist was led into the desert, Mary proclaimed her ‘yes’ to God in an angel’s presence, Elizabeth welcomed Mary and celebrated her pregnancy, and Joseph let his dreams direct his life. Much of it doesn’t make sense by human standards, but with God in the equation, beautiful things happen.

We all face situations where the way isn’t clear and the outcome uncertain…college decisions, job decisions, health decisions, leaving what’s comfortable and familiar, stretching ourselves to try something new… With God in the equation, beautiful things happen and we have our own unbelievable season.

Happy Advent!
Blessings,
Peggy

High School Faith Formation Dates

Dec 9: Sun Confirmation classes, St. Thomas, 12:30 pm
Dec 10: Mon Confirmation classes, All Saints, 7:15 pm
Dec 16: Sun Confirmation classes, St. Thomas, 12:30 pm
Dec 16: Journey Unplugged (optional opportunity for high school teens to gather), 7-8:30 pm

Confirmation—March 20

Wednesday, March 20, at 7:00 p.m.
Pray for our confirmation candidates!
You aren’t asked to do Everything!  Each weekend through the end of Advent, a myriad of St. Thomas outreach justice and social justice opportunities (as well as opportunities from other St. Thomas departments) will appear before you as you enter and leave Mass. And they will all be for good causes.

But please remember, you aren’t expected to do everything! If you are able, help where your heart is directing you … and make a difference where you can.

Thank you. The SPIRIT is with you
— OSJ Office

Lakota Winter Clothing Collection Continues

The winter coat collection continues for the Lakota Indian families in the St. Agnes parish area of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. New or gently used coats, hats, scarves, gloves and mittens, blankets, and sleeping bags are being collected. Please know that the donations are needed and will be appreciated. Containers for collection are located in the Gathering Area until Sunday, December 30.

Sisters of Notre Dame Baked Goods

The Sisters of Notre Dame will be at St. Thomas next weekend (December 15/16) after all Masses with their yummy pies, cakes, and tortes for your holiday celebrations.

The Sisters of Notre Dame minister to the poor in Chicago with a food pantry, soup kitchen, and after school program. They are the recipient of 40% of the food collected at St. Thomas’ Harvest Sunday.

Christmas Ham or Turkey Reminder

Now it is time for the Christmas ham or turkey collection (next weekend, December 15/16). The goal again, is to gather 900+ hams or turkeys. Historically the Christmas collection doesn’t go as well. Please help if you are able. When you buy the turkey or ham, give a thought and a prayer for the family that will enjoy it.

Thanksgiving Turkey Results

The Thanksgiving turkey collection goal was 900 and that goal was exceeded! Distribution was as follows: 765 went to the Aurora Marie Wilkinson Pantry that in turn distributed them to many other smaller pantries and churches. Hesed House Soup Kitchen received 15; St. Patrick’s Residence, 12; and the St. Nicholas Pantry, 50. The remaining 138 went to St. Thomas Care Pantry families and others that came to St. Thomas for food for a grand total of 980 turkeys! Thanks to all who were able to help.

St. Thomas parishioner John Przekwas once again provided a FedEx truck for the collection. Thank you FedEx! John and his daughter Mary have helped with this collection for many years.

Toys that Foster Peace (Pax Christi)

Research assures us that children who play with violent toys are more likely than children who don’t to:

- Accept violence as a way to resolve conflicts.
- Behave aggressively toward other children and animals.
- Negatively stereotype all people who come from a nationality, race, or religion that has been labeled enemy.
- Romanticize military life, combat, and war.

So let’s give them gifts that help make the world the peaceful place we all dream of. Let’s choose toys that:

- Encourage children to use their imaginations to create and build and solve problems.
- Help them discover and develop their talents.
- Enable them to learn new skills.
- Involve cooperation and team-work.

There are lots from which to choose, and many are inexpensive and don’t require batteries or electricity. Visit www.truceteachers.org, www.responsibleshopper.org, www.greenamerica.org, and www.globalexchange.org for more ideas.

The next Pax Christi meeting is Sunday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Thomas.
Haiti Twinning Christmas Card

Again this year throughout the Advent season, the St. Thomas Haiti Twinning Education Team is offering a Haitian Christmas card along with a picture of a Duchity student that you might send to your family and friends, perhaps in lieu of a gift. The gift of education to the children of Duchity is a gift that will last a lifetime. A donation of $50 is suggested, but any amount you are able to donate will be wonderful. A table will be in the Gathering Area the weekends of December 8/9 and 15/16.

This year the Duchity Education Fund goal is $40,000 … a reduction of $5,000 from last year. To date, just over $18,000 has been raised for the three schools helped by St. Thomas. That represents 45% of the goal. Thank you for your generosity to date!

Haiti Twinning Team 49 Mini-Report

Team 49 (Megan Hofbauer, Sally Meno, Mike Ryder) visited Duchity in October with a focus on education. Costs to operate the schools are increasing. Directors of the schools asked team members to talk with the children’s parents and deliver two messages: 1) St. Thomas can’t continue to support the schools at the same level year after year. (Support has been reduced each of the last two years.) 2) If the parents wanted the schools to remain the excellent schools that they are, the parents needed to take more responsibility for the school in terms of paying the tuition and fees and helping out at the schools.

The message was well received by the parents. During the discussions, parent after parent thanked St. Thomas for all that has been done for them. And the parents had messages for each other that they needed to work to keep their schools. Parents were assured that St. Thomas would continue to help as able. Hurricane Sandy’s crop devastation has made things even more difficult for the parents at this time.

“Movie Bingo”

Another way to benefit the Duchity Education Fund and have a fun-filled evening … Nuns4Fun, the group who brought you the popular “Late Nite Catechism” production, is coming to St. Thomas the Apostle on Saturday, February 2, at 7:30 p.m.! Their performance of “Movie Bingo” is sure to keep you laughing all night long. All proceeds will benefit the Duchity Education Fund! Tickets go on sale soon.

Reflections from Sleepers

Below are a few reflections from the 55 Sleep Out Saturday participants. They slept outside to raise awareness and funds to support families on the road from homelessness to self-sufficiency (through the St. Thomas Transitional Housing Ministry in partnership with Bridge Communities).

“I’m blessed with people who wouldn’t let me and my mom’s homelessness get this far.” (age 18, previously homeless)

“Before I started coming to SOS I failed to think there were homeless people in communities like Naperville or Geneva. These past two years have been eye-opening. Homelessness invades all communities and it is everyone’s duty to not judge but to be compassionate and caring. Thank you for the opportunity to experience living in a box, meeting new people and for becoming closer to God.” (age 18)

“I realize how I have been in denial about what the homeless are going through. I also thought as a parent what it would be like to try to put my children to bed in a car, cold, hungry and uncomfortable. It’s real now and I cannot be the same.” (age 48)

“I am amazed by the courage of those that sleep outside every night. It was a truly humbling experience.” (age 17)

“I can’t imagine sleeping in a car with 4 others year round. It helps me empathize with those less fortunate, and for that I am so grateful. I will continue to pray for and donate to organizations like this throughout my whole life.” (age 15)

TVDL Petition Update

Last weekend 156 parishioners signed the petitions to their Illinois senator and representative to support driver’s licenses for all during the current Illinois legislative Veto Session.
Pastoral Care

To all St. Thomas Visitors and Parishioners:

Health Ministry nurse volunteers are available after the 4:30 pm Saturday Mass and the 8:00, 9:30, and 11:15 a.m. Sunday Masses this weekend for Blood Pressure Screening and Education. The screening site is the Deacon’s office, the first office left as you exit the Church (West Wing). All are welcome; participants who are B/P curious, and those who are known hypertensive.

Call your Parish Nurses 630.355.8980 Felicia x 104 or Rose x 140, with questions, concerns or to schedule another time.

---

Christmas Swaddling Project
The St. Thomas Pro-Life Ministry is again providing the opportunity to fill a Swaddling Bag with baby clothes, blankets, socks, bibs, etc. You can pick up a bag in the Gathering Area. Bags will be delivered to Waterleaf Women’s Center. Thank you!

---

School Events — You know that you are in a Catholic school when you hear the strains of Silent Night and other beloved Christmas carols echoing from the music room in the middle of October. All Saints students from preschool through third grade have been busily preparing for their Christmas pageants for weeks now, and will present programs for moms and dads, grandparents, and siblings during December. Kindergarten students recently presented their program entitled ‘Our Little Saints Celebrate the Birth of Jesus’. In this beautiful musical journey, we learned that our wonderful God wanted to share His love with us. He had already given us the sun, the moon, the stars and all of the animals. But when you love someone so much, you want to give them all you can. God wanted to give us a really special gift. And so they presented the story of that starry Holy Christmas night when Jesus was born. Their voices joined in an angelic chorus as they sang the songs ‘O Come, Little Children’, ‘Silent Night’, ‘Today a Savior is Born’, ‘Were You There on That Christmas Night’, and ‘Angels We Have Heard On High’. Their program was about the real Christmas story — about the Love that was sent from above. God sent us all the love that He could when He sent us Jesus His Son.

Did You Know — Student Voices is ASCA’s answer to the typical student council format in other schools. Instead of a select few students who are elected, all junior high academy students are members of Student Voices. Through participation in this group, students are encouraged to be agents of change in our school community, in the Naperville local area, and stretching far outside of our boundaries. Student Voices recently collected buttons. Who knew that a button or safety pin could mean so much? Buttons and pins that were collected were supplied to organizations like SCARCE, who, in turn, will distribute the buttons and pins to other organizations in need, and Re: new which trains women in the art of sewing, and provides an opportunity for refugee women to create unique products like pillows, place mats and bags. Last year ASCA collected more than 14,000 buttons! These buttons are used to attach to clothing, purses, and other apparel items that are created, which brings more money at the local markets for the women who make them. This month, the group will be having a Christmas gift drive for the children of needy families. The students really get excited about bringing, wrapping, and giving these Christmas gifts.

Students are looking forward to planning the second annual talent show for junior high students to be held during Catholic Schools Week at the end of January.
Today’s Readings

First Reading — Take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God (Baruch 5:1-9).

Psalm — The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy (Psalm 126).

Second Reading — I am confident that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11).

Gospel — The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth (Luke 3:1-6).


Readings for the Week

Mon: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26
Tues: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14
Wed: Zee 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
Thurs: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
Fri: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
Sat: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80: 2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sun: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18


Carmelite & Colonial Spain: April 7 - 19
Focusing on the spirituality of Carmelite Sts. Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross. We visit Madrid, Toledo, Granada, Cordoba, Seville, Segovia, Salamanca, Avila, Alba de Tormes, and Fontiveros - Spain is a wonderful country, rich in history and heritage.

France: July 7 - 16: following the life & spirituality of St. Thérèse. Includes Lourdes, Normandy, Lisieux, American Cemetery at Normandy Beaches, Alençon, and Paris. A country of rich history and prophetic saints in the 19th century: Bernadette, Catherine Labouré and Thérèse.

Holy Land – in November or December – dates & prices still being worked out.
December Keynote Speaker
Wednesday, Dec 19 at 7:00 p.m.: "Living the Law of Attraction Seminar/Workshop"

A powerful force is at work in your life right now called the Law of Attraction. It is a universal law which brings that which you give attention, energy, and focus to...both the positive and the negative. It is attracting people, situations, potential employers, relationships and things into your life. Are you attracting what you DO want or too much of what you DON’T want?

In this exciting, interactive, high-content training program you will learn the three step process to deliberately activate your dreams and goals. To automatically raise your physical, emotional, and mental energy and to clarify your purpose and the intentions that drive your success.

Susan Reich will give you enough insight and understanding of this law for you to immediately become a Deliberate Attractor. To become consciously aware of the words and phrases we use and how those words could be sabotaging the manifestation of your desires. We, within ourselves, hold the resources to live our lives by design instead of by default.

Susan Reich is an expert in facilitating “Deliberate Law of Attraction Seminars,” a renowned training presentation devoted to helping individuals and organizations achieve greatness. For more than three decades, Susan has applied and studied the correlation between managing positive forces and bottom line results through attention, energy, and focus as it relates to the Universal Law of Attraction. Susan graduated as a life coach through CTI (Coaches Training Institute). As a student of Michael Losier’s Law of Attraction Certified Facilitator, she was accredited by Michael himself. Many have conquered their inner power through Susan’s high-content training seminars and classes by delivering the message that every individual has the ability to deliberately create positive results and overcome perceived negative challenges.

Fri, Dec 14, 9:30 am: Pamela Marte, a Certified Professional Career Coach, will share her 25 years of experience to help maximize the impressions you make and how to stand out from the crowd in her presentation, “Creating Your Personal Brand”, linking: appearance and the other’s perception, behavior and communication, attitude and actions. An outstanding interactive presentation.

Wed, Dec 19, 7 pm: KEYNOTE (See article at left)
NEXT MEETING JANUARY 4, 2013.