The reign of God is like a farmer who sowed good seed
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
Rev. Matt Lorenz – PT Weekend Associate

Permanent Deacons
Michael (Kathryn) Barrett – x220, meabarrett@att.net
Jim (Mary Jo) Breen – 630.357.4853, jimb4853@gmail.com
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Pastoral Leadership Community (Parish Pastoral Council)
Ron Davis – Aileen Rominger
Mike Murray – Matt Smilak

Commission Representatives
Gail Jindrich – Worship and Liturgy
Chris Baker – Faith and Spiritual Formation
Joanne Bordage – Service and Outreach
Jeff Berta – Stewardship
Mike Myers – Finance Council/Administration

Ex-Officio
Fr. Don Arty – Parochial Vicar
Fr. Don McLaughlin – Pastor

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. Confessions are held occasionally during the week.

In the Hospital or 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 Vigil — 4:30 p.m.
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, and 11:15 a.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Every first Friday, 9:00 — 5:00 p.m.
I want to start my article today by first paying tribute to Theresa Sheliga, a 25 year member of St. Thomas the Apostle. For 23 of those 25 years, Theresa has been Sacristan Coordinator, a volunteer position that later turned into a part-time paid position. Theresa retired from being Sacristan Coordinator at the end of June. Some of Theresa’s duties included: keeping inventory of and ordering all the supplies that are needed to celebrate our weekday and weekend Masses and other liturgical celebrations; organizing and scheduling the volunteer weekday and weekend Sacristans (the folks who set up everything needed for each Mass), as well as the volunteers who clean the church (Temple Keepers) and those who wash and press the altar linens. There are many other things Theresa did behind the scenes to keep everything running smoothly, some of which most of us weren’t even aware of. With Theresa’s retirement, her duties have been assumed by the liturgy staff and some of the volunteers in the specific areas of ministry.

Theresa truly is a “fixture” at St. Thomas. I want to express my thanks to her for all that she has done the past 23 years caring for God’s house. Theresa, may the Lord bless you!

Second, I want to offer congratulations to parishioner Joe Cuzzzone and his wife Carolyn on Joe being accepted into the Diocese of Joliet Diaconate Aspirancy program for the class of 2018. During this time, Joe will attend classes on Monday and Thursday evenings and some Sundays at the Blanchette Catholic Center in Crest Hill. Wives are also encouraged to attend. Topics of these classes include: ministry and spirituality of the Diaconate; foundations of the Catholic faith; fundamental theology; introduction to Sacred Scripture – a section on the Old Testament, and one on the New Testament; Liturgy of the Hours; and cultural diversity. And all of these things are just in the first year!

Through interacting with his classmates, the instructors, and a spiritual director, Joe will further discern his vocation to the diaconate. Joe now joins St. Thomas parishioner Frank Szymanek in the journey to become a permanent deacon. Frank begins his third year of study and discernment. I would ask that you keep both Joe and Frank in your prayerful support. On a side note, Joe is following in the footsteps of his father Dominic who was a permanent deacon for our Diocese serving at Visitation Parish in Elmhurst parish prior to his death.

Welcome
Guests and Visitors!

We’re so glad you’re here and invite you to walk the path of faith with us. St. Thomas strives to provide a spiritual home where all are welcome, where the healing, reconciling, liberating love of God is shared by all. We believe the church is the sacrament of God’s saving presence in the world, join us!

Would you like to become a parishioner?

Call Kathy Ferguson in the General Office
630.355.8980x100
Worship Commission—Liturgy & Music

Why does St. Thomas switch back and forth between the Nicene Creed and the Apostles' Creed?

Both the Nicene Creed and the Apostles' Creed share the quality of being a creed of the Church. The word creed comes from the Latin word credo, meaning "I believe." The meaning of this word reflects the purpose of these statements: they are short, structured and succinct ways of expressing the beliefs of the faith. Now, for a little history...

The Apostles' Creed is one of the oldest creeds of Christianity, dating in an early form to the middle second century, with its' roots in the biblical traditions of the Gospels. The clearly Trinitarian structure was likely intended to counter the teachings of Marcion who denied that the God of the Old Testament was the same God revealed in Jesus the Christ. The Apostles' Creed has often been divided into 12 sections for catechesis and instruction for new converts or children.

The Nicene Creed was developed by the early Church largely in response to the teachings of Arius. Arianism taught that Jesus was not truly divine and of a different "substance" than God, which challenged the doctrine of the Trinity in the early church. The emperor Constantine called a Church Council at Nicaea in AD 325 to bring some unity to the church amid developing controversies and false teachings. The Council at Nicaea adopted an early form of the creed, the basic present form emerged from the Council of Constantinople in AD 381, and it was officially adopted by the Council of Chalcedon in AD 451.

The two creeds are interchangeable, and either one can be used at Liturgy at any time. However, there are times where one creed is more fitting than the other. For example, there is reason to use the Apostles' Creed during the seasons of Lent and Easter, when the Church celebrates the Baptism of new believers. In the ancient Roman Church, the Apostles' Creed was traditionally used to instruct the catechumens who were preparing for Baptism at Easter. Whereas, the Nicene Creed does a better job of stating the incarnation, and so it is more frequently used during the Christmas Season. Regardless of the creed that is used, both creeds serve the same purpose: to express belief in the faith of the Church.

Calling All Green Thumbs... Bring Your Gifts to the Altar!

The St Thomas Art and Environment Committee invites all parishioners to offer their garden flowers to enhance St. Thomas' beautiful worship space throughout the summer. The flowers can be a fresh cut arrangement in a vase or a lovely potted grouping. Please bring your arrangements in containers to church on any Friday throughout July and August between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. There will be a cart in the Gathering Area labeled FLOWERS FOR CHURCH SANCTUARY. Flowers will be placed in the sanctuary and will help us all remember the beauty and wonder of God's creation in our lives. Monday morning you can pick up your flowers from the cart in the Gathering Area after 9:00 a.m.

Please contact the Liturgy and Music Office if you have questions. Thank you for sharing!

Funeral Sacristans

St. Thomas is in need of Sacristans to assist at Funeral Liturgies. Sacristans are normally called two to three days prior to the funeral, and would generally serve about once a month. There is no formal schedule; you serve when you are able. Sacristans assist, prior to and during each Funeral Mass, by setting up the Sacristy and church with the necessary items for the celebration of the Funeral Mass. This ministry is most rewarding as it provides the opportunity to offer solace and support to the grieving loved ones and family of the deceased when they most need it. Training is provided. Contact the Liturgy and Music Office if you are interested.

Presider’s Schedule July 26/27
4:30 pm - Fr. Don McLaughlin
8:00 am - Fr. Don McLaughlin
9:30 am - Fr. Dof Arty, Deacon Larry Kearney
11:15 am - Fr. Bob Colaresi
NO 6:00 pm mass for the summer

Schedule is subject to change. Changes are posted to the St. Thomas website www.stapostle.org
Pray for Our Parish:
The sick...
Helen Singer, mother in-law of Kathy
Elena Griffin, mother of Lawrence & Elizabeth
Kathryn Horak, mother of Kathryn & Mike Barrett
Fred Eber, father of Jim & Dawn
Ron Kramer, brother of Fr. Richard Kramer
Judy Burns and Maureen Anderson,
friends of Elizabeth Fisher
Mary Anne Poepping,
grandmother of Jess & Jon Allured

The deceased...
Ken Phillips, husband of Jackie
Thomas J. Young, father of Maggie & Suzie
Lawrence Conor, father of Chris Rehak
Jo Goralski, mother of Mark & Peggy
Lucy Colaresi, mother of Fr. Bob Colaresi
Gene Griffin, father of Lawrence & Elizabeth
Daniel Johnson, grandson of Joan & Arnold Johnson

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
AB Jon Babiarz, Special Forces
Capt. Joseph Bennington (Reserve)

**Air Force National Guard**
Senior Airman Jacob Brancaleon

**U.S. Army**
Capt. Lynnea Jensen
Capt. J. Alan Casey
Staff Sgt. Aaron Simms
PFC Sean Wesley
Army Ranger Medic Jeremy See
Capt. Matthew Haselhorst

**U.S. Marine Corps**
Capt. Brad Rothman
Lt. Colin Miller-Ratcliffes
LCpl Brandyn Tagliavia
LCpl Oliver Buckley
LCpl Tommy Baldacci
Col. James Arthur Hogberg

**U.S. Navy**
Ens. Jason Coons
Alex Metzger
Airman Alex Dworak

**U.S. Coast Guard**
Ensign Connor Binnig

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

**Liturgy Schedule & Mass Intentions**
(Sixteenth Sunday Ordinary)

**Monday, July 21, 2014**
(Saint Lawrence of Brindisi,
Priest and Doctor of the Church)
6:30am Communion Service
8:30am †Jim Hill, by Joanne Wade

**Tuesday, July 22, 2014**
(Saint Mary Magdalene)
6:30am Communion Service
8:30am Mass of Thanksgiving, by Jim & Ann Rioux

**Wednesday, July 23, 2014**
(Saint Bridget, Religious)
6:30am Communion Service
8:30am †Will Worden, by Family
†Jerzy Sadanowicz, by Dave & Rita Kain

**Thursday, July 24, 2014**
(Saint Sharbel Makhluf, Priest)
6:30am Communion Service
8:30am †Peter Zubak

**Friday, July 25, 2014**
(Saint James, Apostle)
6:30am Communion Service
8:30am Joliet Diocesan Seminarians

**Saturday, July 26, 2014**
(Saint Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary)
8:30am †Anne Battisto, by Joseph Battisto
†Jim Hill, by Marguerite Folz
4:30pm Vigil: Seventeenth Sunday Ordinary
Special Intention for the Schmeyer Family
†Susan Kon, by Husband, Paul

**Sunday, July 27, 2014**
(Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)
8:00am For the People of St. Thomas
9:30am †Arcadio Salgado, by Bud & Mely Mallorca
†Dorothy Barta, by The Corrigan &
11:15am †Jerome Mancini, by Family
†Special Intention for Gabby Pethokoukis
for Healing, by The Pablik Family
The Gospel for the 1st and 21st Centuries

To prepare for next Sunday’s homily, read the Gospel several times during this week, and let your mind and spirit begin to nurture the seeds of God’s word.


Is there anything you value that you would sacrifice your worldly possessions to have? Saintly people, living out their faith, totally commit themselves sacrificing even their lives. Do you work to develop your belief in Jesus Christ by reading and serving others? Do you attend some of the faith enrichment programs at St. Thomas? Do you search, like the woman who lost a coin, until you find that treasure that is awaiting you?

Lay Leadership Formation Program

Are you ready to dive more deeply into the Catholic faith? Explore Scripture and Tradition? Study with leading scholars and ministers? Learn pastoral skills for today’s Church? Pray, reflect and grow spiritually? Then the Lay Leadership Formation Program may be for you. This two year, non-credit program begins this fall at Benedictine University in Lisle, and it involves academic courses once a week on Monday evenings, formation days monthly on Saturdays and two retreats. To learn more about the program and discern whether it is the right fit for you, please contact the Institute for Lay Formation at 1.847.837.4550 or ilf@usml.edu. This program is a collaboration between the Newman Institute of the Diocese of Joliet and the Institute of Lay Formation at St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, IL.

New Procedure for Ministers of Care Delivering Eucharist

For all Ministers of Care and anyone delivering Eucharist to a loved one:

Bishop Conlon has directed a new procedure for delivering Eucharist. The full procedure is available on the credenza in the Narthex and Gathering Area or in the Pastoral Care Office or General Office. For additional information, call Jan Olah in Pastoral Care 630.355.8980 x124.

Sharing Faith

“The Gospel is not the exclusive property of those who received it, but it is a gift to share, good news to report. And this gift-commitment is given not only to some, but to all the baptized...” (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Jan. 2011)

In other words – each one reach one. Each one of us has a part in the mission of the Church, which is to make disciples for Jesus Christ. The good news is, you don’t have to do it all by yourself. You are part is to gently invite anyone and everyone you know to meet and come to know Jesus Christ. The Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) process is open year-round to every person seeking to begin or further a relationship with Christ and his Church. If you, or someone you know, would like to take the first step in exploring a life of faith (no commitment required to begin!), please contact Chari Rosales in the Adult Faith Formation Office at 630.355.8980 x138 or crosales@stapostle.org.

C.A.R.E. CORNER

Our former pastor, Fr. Don Kenney used to say the devil’s favorite word is “hurry.” We lead busy lives, and if we stay busy, it will distract us from God. Our busyness affects all aspects of our lives. It affects our physical well-being. When we’re pressed for time, we turn to fast-food which is convenient but is usually nutritionally compromising. Busyness affects us intellectually. We’re all burdened with TMI (too much information) and stimulus overload and we can’t remember what we need to: there’s just too much to remember.

Busyness affects us emotionally, with the stress of being stretched thin taking its toll and making us feel frazzled. It affects us socially; our lifestyles reflect our busyness and our relationships suffer. And busyness affects us spiritually because we don’t have any time left over for God. And unfortunately, God usually ends up last on our “to-do” list. God often only gets what is left of us and it’s usually not much. Perhaps we’re all in need of a change in routine. That of course is the purpose of the Sabbath.
Families: Take some time to discuss and reflect on the readings.

Question of the Week...

How do you help God’s Kingdom grow?

Faith and Formation Commission—Youth

Registration forms for Religious Education are now available for grade levels: Pre-K through 8th Grade. Pick up a registration packet from the Faith Formation Office/Religious Education Office or in the Gathering Area or download the forms at www.stapostle.org. Register NOW to ensure class placement before the first class and to allow for adequate planning.

Catechists Needed

Elementary—Catechists are needed for the Tuesday and Saturday sessions for the coming year, especially in First, Second and Third Grades. Please contact Patti Dougherty in the Faith Formation / Religious Education office at 630.355.8980 ext. 109 or email pdougherty@stapostle.org if you are interested or have questions. On-going training and lessons are provided. This is a wonderful opportunity to continue your own faith journey and to share your gifts with God’s children.

Middle School—Planning has already started for the 2014-2015 religious education year. Religious education volunteers are the lifeblood of our program. Prayerfully consider being a middle school RE catechist. It is an amazing ministry putting you in touch with a wonderful group of students! For more information or to volunteer, contact Peggy Goralski at pgoralski@stapostle.org or 630-355-8980, x123.

Reflections from Just5Days

The members of our parish Just5Days middle school mission trip team returned safely from their week of service in the Quad Cities. As they reflected on their experience, here are some of their thoughts...

“I liked Just5Days because it taught me to help more people who need help.” (Katrina)

“Just5Days was a lot of fun and I loved working with the special needs children. I learned that these kids are so much more than their disabilities...” (Camryn)

“The Just5Days experience taught me a lot about helping others and being thankful for everything I have.” (Arianna)

“Just5Days really changed who I am. I worked with kids with disabilities and they were some of the nicest kids I have ever met.” (Kate)

Today’s Readings

First Reading — You taught your people that those who are just must likewise be kind (Wisdom 12:13, 16-19).
Psalm — Lord, you are good and forgiving (Psalm 86).
Second Reading — The Spirit comes to aid us in our weakness (Romans 8:26-27).
Gospel — Jesus proposes parables to the crowds, teaching them of the reign of God (Matthew 13:24-43 [24-30]).


Readings for the Week

Mon: Mi 6:1-4, 6-8; Ps 50:5-6, 8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 12:38-42
Tues: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 85:2-8; Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
Wed: Jer 1:1, 4-10; Ps 71:1-4a, 5-6ab, 15, 17; Mt 13:1-9
Thurs: Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13; Ps 26:6-7ab, 8-11; Mt 13:10-17
Fri: 2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1bc-6; Mt 20:20-28
Sat: Jer 7:1-11; Ps 84:3-6a, 8a, 11; Mt 13:24-30
Sun: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12; Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52 [44-46]
Vacation Bible School in Pine Ridge

Four women from St. Thomas—Madeline Arreguin, Jean Lane, Lorna Perry, and Carol Redell—traveled to Pine Ridge from Saturday, July 12 through Friday, July 18. The team helped with a three day Vacation Bible for the children of St. Agnes and Christ the King parishes.

The theme for the Vacation Bible School was the Saints. Day one, the children learned about St. Kateri Tekakwitha—whose Feast Day is July 14. St. Kateri, known as “Lily of the Mohawks”, is the only canonized Native American saint and is the Patroness of the Environment and Ecology. The Parish Hall at St. Agnes is named after St. Kateri.

The second day, the children learned about some of the most recognizable saints. Each chose their favorite saint, constructed “Saint Cards”, and shared with the class. On the final day, the children identified important people in their lives and discussed why they consider those people to be role models and lights for them... saints in their midst!

Youth Team Leaves for Duchity July 29

For the first time in a number of years, a Youth Team from St. Thomas will travel to St. Thomas’ Twinning parish, Ste. Marie-Madeleine, in Duchity Haiti. They depart on Tuesday, July 29 and return Monday, August 4. They will work with a youth team in Duchity and have been planning their activities with that team. Below is an excerpt from an email sent by St. Thomas youth to the Duchity youth.

Dear Youth of Ste. Marie Madeleine Church and St. Thomas School,

We are very excited to come out to Haiti to spend time with all of you and experience your culture. All the activities you talked about sound wonderful to us. We would love to work with you improving your community in activities like painting your school and helping renovate the basketball courts. Which of the activities were you the most interested in? The Pen Pal friendship is a great idea and we are looking forward to starting it when we get there. We are praying for the success of this trip and the relationship that will come of it.

The St. Thomas youth on the mission team are: Evan Jaramillo, Matt Grumbine, Daniel Grumbine, Hannah Micheau, Kaitlin Kennedy, and Marianna Guerrieri. The adults traveling with the team are Brett Adams (High School Youth Minister), Patti Dougherty (Religious Education Director), and Fr. Don McLaughlin. Please keep the team in your prayers as they make final preparations for the trip.

Note Karacel Walk for Wells

Last summer, Fr. Stan, the pastor of Alenga Parish in Alegna, Uganda spoke at all the Masses at St. Thomas. A priority continues to be the digging of wells to provide clean water. St. Thomas collected $10,000, enough to dig a new well. (See below). Note Karacel is the non-profit that supports his work. The Ryan family, St. Thomas parishioners, are very active in Note Karacel. There is still a need for additional wells.

A “Walk for Wells” is being held by Note Karacel:

WHAT: 1.75 Mile Walk
WHERE: Naperville River Walk Pavilion
WHEN: July 26, 2014, Registration: 8:00 am
Walk Begins: 9:00 am
COST: $20.00 per person
Register day of event or online and create a personal fundraising page @ www.NoteKaracel.org
For more information visit www.NoteKaracel.org or contact Trish at 630.803.8261
Save the Date for St. Thomas Parish Picnic — August 17

Cake Baking Contest — Do you have a family favorite cake recipe? Enter the Cake Baking Contest held during the Parish Picnic. There are two categories: Best Tasting will be judged by anonymous judges from the parish. The Most Creative will be awarded by popular vote. This contest is open to all ages and will have a special category for young (under 18) bakers. Ribbons will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and pictures of the cake and baker will be on display after the picnic. The Best Tasting cakes will be cut and available for purchase at the Bake Sale. The Most Creative cakes will be prizes for the cakewalk. Invite your family and friends to come vote for your entry.

Rules: Purchased cakes not accepted. Cakes should arrive by 11:00 am the day of the picnic. Best Tasting will be judged and cut by 1:00 pm. Most Creative voting will be open from noon until 1:30 pm. Co-Chairs are Eleanor Wegman and Phyllis Lucker. E-mail them at: e.wegman@att.net or palucker@hotmail.com by August 10 to reserve your place in the contest. Call Phyllis 630.544.6716 with questions. Remember, cookies, pies, bread, and cakes are also needed for the bake sale. Contact Betsy or Micki Casey at 630.416.7407 to donating something for the bake sale.

Step Up to the Games — All ages are invited to the picnic and in the past we have had games for the younger children. Several games are available and suitable for pre-teens and teens, however a co-chair is needed. Advance preparation is minimal, and we are currently recruiting volunteers to help you. Would you be interested in helping us provide entertainment for these young parishioners? Contact Mary Wright or Patti Dougherty at church if you would like to chair this activity.

Mark your calendar TODAY!

August 5, 3:00—7:30 p.m.
In the St. Thomas Gym

Watch future bulletins and flyers for detailed information, including:

Scholarship Opportunity for students ages 17-21!

Pick up a flyer with full details and a registration form in the Gathering Area or download from the St. Thomas website www.stapostle.org.

Student Saving Summer Scholarship program beginning right now! Blood donors between the ages of 17—21 are eligible to win one of FIVE $1000 scholarships. A student must make a minimum of ONE successful blood donation before August 31. ALSO... family and friends can donate on behalf of a student to increase the probability of winning.

YOU can start today by registering to give blood at the St. Thomas blood drive on August 5, ALSO... recruit friends and family to give in your name. If you are unable to make the St. Thomas blood drive on August 5, donations made be made at any of Heartland’s mobile blood drives or center locations.

Heartland Blood Centers is pleased to announce its first ever Students Saving Summer Scholarship program beginning right now! Blood donors between the ages of 17—21 are eligible to win one of FIVE $1000 scholarships. A student must make a minimum of ONE successful blood donation before August 31. ALSO... family and friends can donate on behalf of a student to increase the probability of winning.

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It’s not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.

Mother Teresa (1910-97), Catholic missionary to India
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A day to remember, because we will never forget.
Help us sign up our Chicagoland WWII veterans for an unforgettable day of honor in Washington, D.C. — at no charge to the veteran
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