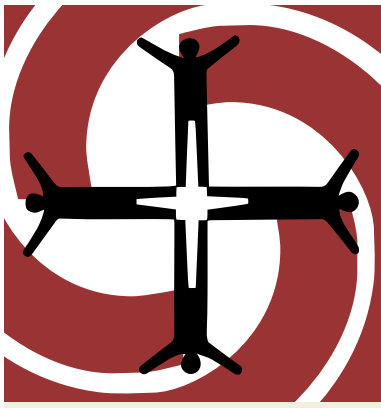




OCTOBER

4

2026

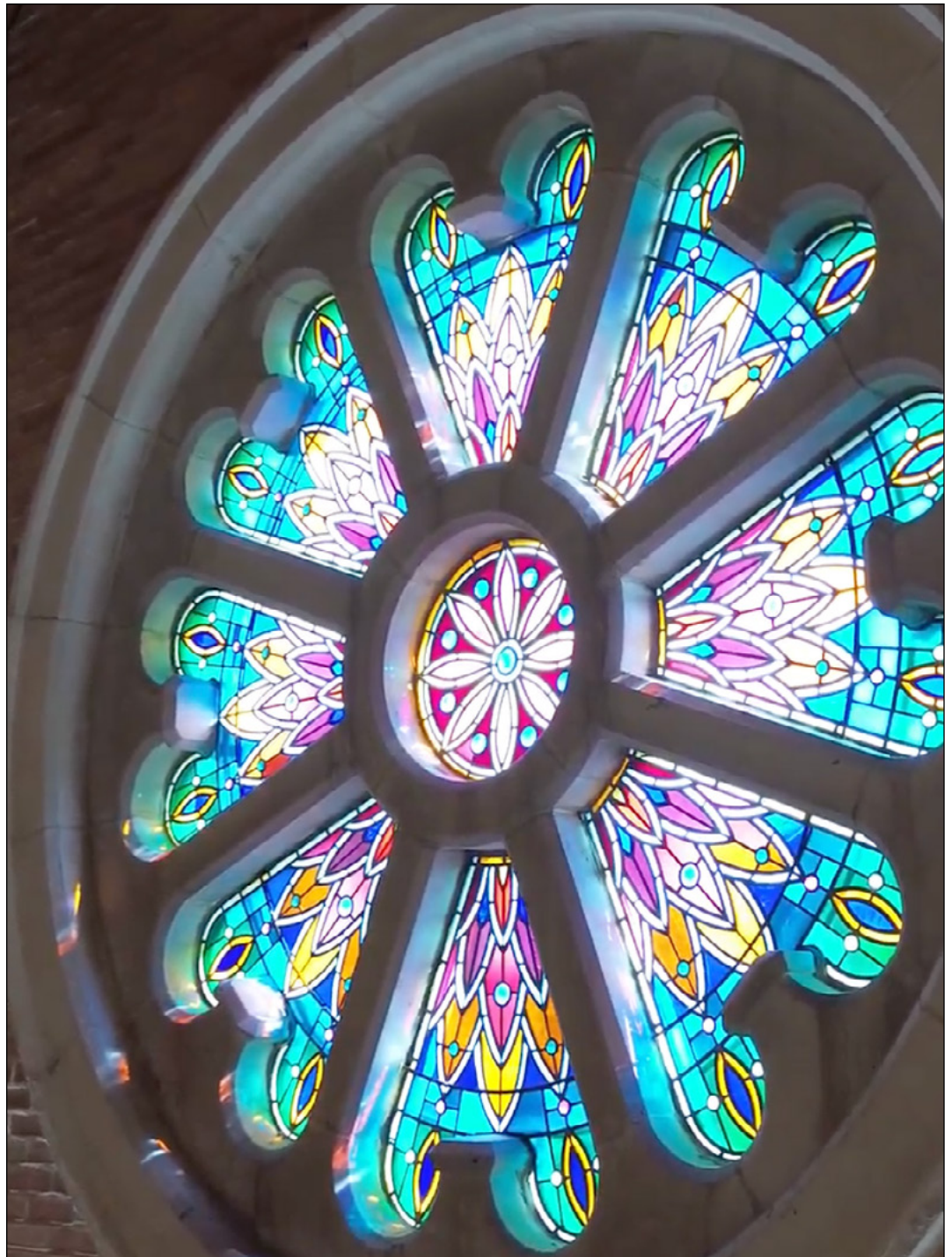
TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

*The vineyard of the Lord
is the house of Israel.*

Isaiah 5:7a

**ST. THOMAS THE
APOSTLE CATHOLIC
CHURCH MISSION
STATEMENT**

*Led by the Holy Spirit, rooted
in the Eucharist, St. Thomas
the Apostle strives to be an
inclusive servant community
– to be Christ in the World.
We bear the Good News
of God's unconditional love
to all generations through
worship, faith formation,
service, friendship and
witness.*



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Liturgy Schedule

Daily

Mass: 8:30 am, Monday–Saturday
followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet

Wednesdays

Communion Service: 6:30 am

Weekend

Saturday Mass of Anticipation: 4:30 pm
Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:15 am and 6:00 pm

Eucharistic Adoration

First Friday: 9:00 am–12:00 pm and
First Sunday: 7:00–8:00 pm

The Sunday 9:30 am Mass is livestreamed.

1500 Brookdale Road, Naperville, IL 60563 | 630.355.8980 (Main Office) | 630.355.0521 (Fax)

mainoffice@stapostle.org | stapostle.org | [Facebook](#) St.ThomasTheApostleCatholicChurchNaperville | [Instagram](#) @stthomasapostlenaperville

Liturgy and Music News

For more information on the activities listed below, please contact Scott Knisley in the Liturgy Office at sknisley@stapostle.org.

Eucharistic Adoration

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place Sunday, October 4, from 7:00–8:00 pm in the Church. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available during the Adoration October 4.

Transitus Service — October 3

As part of our celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, all are invited to the Transitus Prayer Service Saturday, October 3, at 6:15 pm. Transitus is a prayerful remembrance of St. Francis' passing from this life into eternal life. Each year, Franciscan communities around the world gather on the eve of his feast to remember his final hours through prayer, Scripture, reflection and song. The Transitus invites us to give thanks for the life and witness of St. Francis and to renew our own call to follow Christ with simplicity, compassion and peace. We are especially blessed to welcome several Franciscan Sisters who will join us for this beautiful celebration. All are welcome to come and pray with us as we celebrate the Feast of St. Francis.

Pet Blessing October 4

St. Thomas' annual pet blessing will take place Sunday, October 4, at 1:00 pm at the Labyrinth. Bring your furry, finned or flying friend for a prayer service and blessing in honor of St. Francis, the Patron Saint of Animals. All pets are welcome.

Pet Supplies Collection

Saint Francis had a special love for animals and all of creation. In that spirit, we invite you to support the Naperville Area Humane Society (NAHS) through a donation of needed supplies or with a monetary gift.

Most Needed Supplies: Clumping and non-clumping litter, Fancy Feast wet kitten food, paper towels and laundry detergent. For their full list and Amazon wish lists please visit <https://www.naperhumane.org/wish-list>

Drop-off dates: Bring wish list items during the weekend of October 3–4. Donations may be placed in the designated wire bin in the Gathering Area or brought to the Labyrinth during the Pet Blessing Sunday, October 4, at 1:00 pm. For monetary donations, please visit <https://www.naperhumane.org/donate> to make a gift.

NAHS will be pawsitively grateful for your generosity!

Daily Readings

Please visit the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website at bible.usccb.org for the daily readings.

Handbell Choir is Returning to St. Thomas!

We are seeking volunteers to ring bells for two special celebrations this season:

- Christ the King: Sunday, November 22, at the 11:15 am Mass
- Baptism of the Lord: Sunday, January 10, at the 11:15 am Mass

Rehearsals: Wednesdays from 5:00–6:30 pm

Who can join? Adults, young adults and teens are all welcome! Whether you've rung bells before, played another instrument or simply want to try something new, there is a place at the table for you!

Not able to commit to weekly rehearsals? We are also building a Substitute Ringer List to sub when regular members are away.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Jessica Koch, Associate Director of Liturgy and Music, at jkoch@stapostle.org. Come help us make a joyful noise!

Armchair Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Based on his 34 pilgrimages to the Holy Land, Fr. Bob is offering an armchair pilgrimage featuring slides, songs, explanations, lunch and Eucharist— no passport needed.

The event will be held Wednesday, October 21, from 9:30 am–3:00 pm at the Carmelite Spiritual Center. Register at www.carmelitespiritualcenter.org or 630.969.4141.

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. Join us!

Please give a warm welcome to: Benjamin Rodeghero

Would you like to become a parishioner? Call the Main Office at 630.355.8980.



The Saint Thomas the Apostle DMI Survey Opens October 4 **We Want to Hear From You!**

Please complete the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey today to come together in faith to forge a renewed path that brings hope and Christ's love into our community.

This first step involves assessing our unique strengths and opportunities. Share your feedback as the results will serve to strengthen St. Thomas the Apostle and better prepare us for the future!

A comprehensive report of the findings will be shared with you in the coming months

All parishioners 13 and over are welcomed and encouraged to take this survey.

Please scan the QR Code to get started or visit stapostle.org/the-saint-thomas-the-apostle-dmi-survey/

Thank you!



Called to Follow

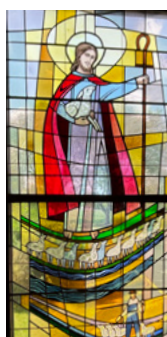
Following Jesus — Helping Others Follow Him

Jesus calls each of us to follow him — and to help others follow him, too. Join us at St. Thomas Wednesday, October 7, from 10:00 am–12:00 pm, with lunch following, for a special morning of Scripture, reflection, conversation and personal stories about our journeys as disciples.

At the heart of the morning is a simple conviction: It's not programs that make disciples. People make disciples.

Come reflect on your own journey with Christ and discover how God might use you to welcome, listen to, encourage and accompany someone else. All parishioners are welcome! We'd love to fill the Lighthouse with disciples who want to make disciples.

Scan the QR code to register.



Liturgy Schedule and Mass Intentions

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 4:30 pm *Mass of Anticipation*
†Peter Pham Cong Pham and Madeline Tho Nguyen by Anhhong Pham
- 8:00 am †Stella Wiejaczka by Ken Wiejaczka
- 9:30 am People of St. Thomas
- 11:15 am †Ella Navarro and Ernesto Cruz by Daisy Cruz
- 6:00 pm †Jim and Mary Ann Winn by Tammy

Monday October 5, 2026

- 8:30 am Healing for Ernesto Navarro by Daisy Cruz

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

- 8:30 am †Joseph Mathai by Kathy Geevarghese

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Our Lady of the Rosary

- 8:30 am †M.J. Thomas by the Mulaikal Family

Thursday, October 8, 2026

- 8:30 am †The Geevarghese Family by Kathy Geevarghese

Friday, October 9, 2026

- 8:30 am †Kevin Bauler by Sylvia Bauler

Saturday, October 10, 2026

- 8:30 am †James Abraham by Kathy Abraham
- 4:30 pm *Mass of Anticipation*
†Paul and Doris Michalec by Paul Mampreian
†Mary Mampreian by Paul Mampreian

Sunday October 11, 2026

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8:00 am †Yvonne by the Noronha Family
- 9:30 am †Kevin Bauler by Sylvia Bauler
†William Gayde by Voices of Faith
- 11:15 am People of St. Thomas
- 6:00 pm Fr. Peter Infanger by Maria Esparza

Presider Schedule for October 10–11

Saturday, October 10

- 4:30 pm — Fr. Peter Infanger

Sunday, October 11

- 8:00 am — Fr. John Regan, Deacon John Freund
- 9:30 am — Fr. Bob Colaresi, Deacon Joe Cuzzzone
- 11:15 am — Fr. John Regan
- 6:00 pm — Fr. Peter Infanger

Presider schedule subject to change.

Survey opens October 4



**St. Thomas the Apostle is on a journey
to become a Next Generation Parish!**

We want to hear from our parishioners!

Complete the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey today to come together in faith to forge a renewed path that brings hope and Christ's love into our community. This first step involves assessing our unique strengths and opportunities. Share your feedback as the results will serve to strengthen St. Thomas the Apostle and better prepare us for the future!

A comprehensive report of the findings will be shared with you in the coming months. All parishioners over 13 are welcomed and encouraged to take this survey.

Please scan the QR Code for the survey or visit stapostle.org/the-saint-thomas-the-apostle-dmi-survey/ for more information and to take the survey.



Thank You!!



FAITH FORMATION AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Chari Rosales, *Director, Adult*
x138, crosales@stapostle.org

Laura Kmec, *Family Ministry*
lkmec@stapostle.org

C.A.R.E CORNER

The Catholic Church exists because it was instituted by Jesus Christ. The subject matter of Jesus Christ could consume a very lengthy series of columns in and of itself. But since this is level 101, let's address some of our basic beliefs about Jesus. The Creeds are a good source of the basics as they are statements of what we believe as a global Church. As Christianity continued to spread after the death of Jesus, it was imperative to ensure that all Christians were on the same page when it came to their beliefs and practices. So members of the early Church put their foundational beliefs into writing, especially in the form of the Apostles' Creed, followed by an expanded version called the Nicene Creed.

Mother Church teaches us that Jesus was the only Son of God, eternally begotten by God, and therefore of the same substance as the God whom Jesus taught us to see as our Father. Jesus came down from heaven for the express purpose of our salvation. He came as a helpless and dependent infant, born of a human mother who gave him bodily existence. We call this event the Incarnation. In adulthood, due to his earthly mission to preach the kingdom of God present and at hand, he garnered the ire of the political powers of the time. And because of this, he suffered, died and was buried. But that wasn't the end of the story.

School of Prayer

Mary Wright will lead "Praying with Mary," the next installment of the School of Prayer Wednesday, October 21.

Choose either the morning session from 10:00–11:00 am or come for the evening presentation from 7:00–8:00 pm.

The Second Vatican Council names Mary as the Blessed Virgin and Mother of the Church. One of many Marian devotions is the Rosary, to which the month of October is dedicated. Learn the background and history of the Rosary, then pray the Glorious Mysteries and become acquainted with other ways to pray with Mary.

To assure your place please contact REAdmin@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x118.

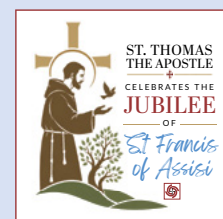


Celebrating Saint Francis

A Weekend of Prayer, Fellowship and Care for Creation

Join us as we celebrate the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi with a full weekend of prayer, fellowship, hospitality and care for God's creation.

- Saturday, October 3 | 4:30 pm | Church
Vigil Mass for Saint Francis followed by a reception in the Gathering Area
- Saturday, October 3 | 6:15 pm | Church
Transitus Commemoration
- Sunday, October 4
Donut Sunday with "Learn More, Pray More, Do More" stations
Mass for Saint Francis at 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:15 am and 6:00 pm



Blessing of Pets at 1:00 pm in the Labyrinth

In honor of Saint Francis and his love for all creation, parishioners and neighbors are invited to bring their pets for a special blessing.

The celebration will include a special prayer for pets who are sick. If your pet cannot attend, you are welcome to bring a photograph to hold during the prayer. Children may also bring a favorite stuffed animal to be blessed.

For everyone's safety, please bring pets appropriately leashed, crated or otherwise secured. Please see page 2 for details about the pet supplies collection.

Why Small Faith Communities Matter

"Staying committed to a life of prayer and mission is no small feat. In fact, it's something we can't really do on our own! Each of us needs authentic community – a place where we let our guard down and get real. A place we know we can find genuine encouragement and support as missionary disciples." ~ Andrea Jackson

Our St. Thomas Small Faith Communities have been known as Gatherings since 1999. In fact, one group has been meeting consistently ever since September of that year! Think about forming or joining one when they return in 2027.



Does God Talk to Me?

All are welcome to come explore this idea with guest speaker Ali Hoffman Sunday, October 4, from 4:00-5:30 pm at St. Thomas.



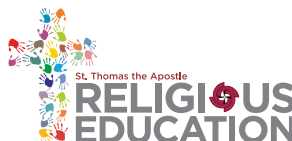
While Ali is coming specifically to reach our Middle School students, we are never too old to hear new ways to approach praying, hearing God's voice and reading Scripture. Join us in the Church and stay for the reception in the Gathering Area.

Cub Scout Popcorn

Buy some delicious popcorn and support Pack 125. Popcorn will be for sale after Masses this weekend, October 3-4. Thank you!

Stuffed Animal Blessing

St. Francis is remembered for his generosity to the poor, his willingness to minister to the lepers and for his love for animals and nature. He is the Catholic Church's patron saint of animals and the environment.



In honor of this special saint, Elementary Religious Education will be celebrating his feast with a "Stuffed Animal Blessing." Students are invited to bring to class their favorite stuffie for a blessing October 3 and 6.

Children's Liturgy of the Word.

Children's Liturgy of the Word has begun. During the Liturgy of the Word at 9:30 am Mass, the children PreK to Grade 3 are invited to gather separately to hear the Gospel story of the day proclaimed in language, activities, music and prayer appropriate to their age. There is no registration required.



Please contact Alison Chandler at achandler@stapostle.org with any questions.

Faith Formation

Elementary

Upcoming Saturday sessions:
October 3 (stuffed animal blessing), 10, 17

Upcoming Tuesday sessions:
October 6 (stuffed animal blessing), 13. No class October 20 due to a catechist meeting.

Full calendar can be found on the website. It's still not too late to register for classes. Please contact Jenni Kennedy at REAdmin@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x118 to register.

Please reach out to Alison Chandler at achandler@stapostle.org with any questions, suggestions or feedback.

Middle School Faith Formation

Upcoming Saturday sessions:
October 3, 10, 17

Upcoming Tuesday sessions:
October 6, 13

Join us for the Middle School Family event and Mass October 4 starting with dynamic speaker Ali Hoffman at 4:00 pm in the Church.

Please reach out to Ann Cotner at acotner@stapostle.org with any questions, suggestions, or feedback.

Confirmation Preparation

Upcoming Small Group Sessions:
October 4, November 15

High School Students

Join us for a 6-week small faith group experience. Meet weekly to learn from Scripture, tradition and each other in a Journey of the Sacred. Email Ann Cotner at acotner@stapostle.org if you are interested!

Watch for ways to get involved in Harvest Sunday!



OUTREACH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Peggy Goralski, *Director*,
x123, pgoralski@stapostle.org

Nicole Hanks, *Partner*,
x113, nhanks@stapostle.org

October Food Donations for Care Pantry

Bring donations to St. Thomas Tuesday, October 6, from 9:00–10:00 am or

5:00–6:00 pm. Items will be collected outside Door C, which is across from the labyrinth. Items most needed are:



- Flour
- Tuna
- Vegetables
- Side dishes (rice or noodles in microwavable pouch, instant potatoes, etc.)
- Meal in a Can (Spaghetti-O's, stew, chili, ravioli.)
- Pasta sauce
- Cereal
- Jelly
- Dish soap

Thank you so much for your support! Consider being a drop off location for people in your neighborhood and bringing a trunk load of food to St. Thomas.

Harvest Sunday Sign-Up Now Open

Harvest Sunday is November 1. Don't wait to sign up and secure your favorite volunteer role!



Harvest Sunday sign-up is now open and there are so many opportunities to get involved! For more information and to secure your volunteer spot, go to stapostle.org/harvest-sunday/.

Thank you for your continued support of this annual St. Thomas event that provides food to the hungry. Questions? Contact Nicole Hanks at 630.355.8980, x 113 or at nhanks@stapostle.org.

Otis' Dream

October 18, after 9:30 am Mass in the Lighthouse

As we prepare for the upcoming November election, the Outreach and Social Justice Office invites you to join us in watching the short film *Otis' Dream*. This powerful 14 minute story follows the true journey of Otis Moss, Sr. in rural Georgia in 1946. Otis was a Black World War 1 veteran who walked many miles and faced repeated barriers simply to cast his ballot at a time when attempting to vote could be dangerous.

Otis' Dream reminds us that the right to vote has often been won at great personal cost and that participation in our civic life is both a privilege and responsibility. As followers of Christ called to love our neighbors and seek justice, engaging thoughtfully and faithfully in the electoral process is one way we live out our faith in the world. Join us in the Lighthouse October 18 after the 9:30 am Mass for the video, a short discussion and refreshments.



Holiday Cards for Incarcerated Persons

"I was in prison and you came to visit me." ~ Matthew 25:36

St. Thomas Couriers of Compassion is partnering with Companions Journeying Together to collect unsigned Christmas cards and postage stamps for people incarcerated in Illinois. The cards help them stay connected with family and share some holiday cheer.

Donate now through October 19 in the Couriers basket in the Gathering Area.

- Place stamps in a separate envelope — not on card envelopes.
- Cards must be unsigned and free of glue, glitter, paint, crayon, adhesives, ribbon, cloth, stickers or string. No Mass or novena cards.

Card Signing: Tuesday, October 20, 9:30–11:30 am in the St. Thomas Senior Center. Refreshments provided.

To sign up or learn more, contact Suelynn Hanegraaf at 630.400.3400 or suelynn111@gmail.com, or Peggy Goralski at 630.355.8980, x123.

Free Job Search Webinar: AI in the Job Search

Looking for a new job or considering a career change? PATH (People Always Trusting Him) invites job seekers to a free webinar, "AI in the Job Search," with Conor Cunneen October 13 at 7:00 pm.

PATH is a faith-based ministry that helps job seekers build confidence, develop practical skills and find encouragement throughout the job-search process. Free resources include monthly webinars, résumé and LinkedIn guidance, interview coaching, networking strategies and faith-based support.

Scan the QR code to register or contact pathjobsearch@gmail.com for more information. PATH is a joint ministry of St. Thomas the Apostle Church and The Compass Church.





Harvest Sunday is our parish's response to the call of Christ to feed the hungry. This food drive allows St. Thomas and two other food pantries to supply food to those in need.

Volunteers of all Ages Needed

- Deliver flyers and collect bags of food from specific subdivision routes
- Collect food donations at Casey's Foods
- Sort and pack food at St. Thomas

Important Dates

October 24–28: Distribute neighborhood door hangers

November 1: Collect food at Casey's

November 1: Collect food from neighborhood routes

November 1, 2 (if necessary): Sort and box food

November 7: Pack trucks

How to Donate Food for Harvest Sunday

Curb Donation

If you receive a hanger on your door, place your donation at the curb by 11:00 am on Harvest Sunday, November 1.

Drive-Thru Donation

If you do not receive a door hanger, make a drive-thru donation at St. Thomas the Apostle Saturday, October 31, from 4:00–6:00 pm or on Harvest Sunday, November 1, from 9:00 am–3:30 pm.

Drive-thru donations can be made at door C — south side of the building.

Online Donation

Food donations through Amazon.com. Select St. Thomas Gift Registry Address using the QR code below.



See reverse side for specific volunteer role descriptions.



Volunteer Job Descriptions

To Volunteer

Go to stapostle.org and click on Harvest Sunday or scan the QR code. Once you sign up, detailed instructions will be emailed to you. Thank You!



Questions?

Contact Nicole Hanks at nhanks@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x113

Subdivision Routes in Naperville and Aurora

Volunteers are responsible for both hanger delivery and food pick-ups for their route (175-200 homes).

October 24-28

Deliver orange hanger to door knobs.

Sunday, November 1

Pick up bags of food at curb between 12:00 and 3:30 pm and deliver to St. Thomas.

Build Your Own Route

For neighborhoods outside of the routes we cover. Create your own route including as many homes as you would like. Volunteer is responsible for both hanger delivery and food pick-ups for their route.

Collect Food from Casey's Foods

Sunday, November 1: 9:00-11:00 am, 11:00 am-1:00 pm, 1:00-3:00 pm and 3:00-5:00 pm

Stand outside of Casey's Foods handing out door hangers as people enter and collect food donations as they exit. Transport food collected back to St Thomas.

Sort and Box Food at St. Thomas

Saturday, October 31: 4:00-6:00 pm

Accept drive thru donations from parishioners, put in gym.

Sunday, November 1: 12:00-2:00 pm, 2:00-4:00 pm

Accept drive thru donations from routes and parishioners, sort and pack food in gym.

Monday, November 2 (IF NEEDED): 9:00-11:00 am

Sort and pack food in gym.

Saturday, November 7

Load trucks with food for the Sisters of Notre Dame and St. Patrick's Church.

October is Respect Life Month

Each October, the Catholic Church in the United States observes Respect Life Month, a time to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life and our call to help build a culture that protects life from conception to natural death.

During Respect Life Month, we are reminded that every human life is sacred because every person is created in the image and likeness of God. As Catholics, we are called to protect and cherish life from the very beginning, including the life of the unborn child, who is already known and loved by God.

This call is not only about what we oppose, but also about how we love. To be a people of life means offering compassion and practical support to mothers, fathers and families who may be afraid, overwhelmed or alone. May our parish be a place where every person is welcomed, every life is valued and no one faces difficulty without the love of Christ.

We warmly invite you to join us for special prayer opportunities throughout October in honor of Respect Life Month. Copies of the Respect Life Novena are available — please take one home to enrich your personal prayer time. You are also welcome to join us each week in October as we pray the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Life, after the 8:30 am Mass.

Sacred Earth ... Sacred Lives Saints Who Loved Creation

Each week during the Season of Creation, our weekend bulletin will feature a saint whose life reflected deep reverence for God's creation. This week, as we close out the Season of Creation, we look to St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecologists, for inspiration.

In the early days of Francis' conversion journey, he would gaze on the San Damiano Cross in the broken-down chapel. That experience brought the love of the resurrected Christ alive in his heart. The mystical sense continued to expand on his walks in nature, creating a new family of creatures. He would preach to the birds, explaining how blessed they were to have feathers for clothes and wings to fly. That sense of humility was carried with him to his final year when he wrote "The Canticle of the Sun." Francis' love for creation showed up in his daily life. How are you called to experience a deeper relationship with creation? How can you live in a reciprocal relationship with creation? "What is yours to do?"

You can also find a display of these saints on the bulletin board in the main hallway.

Support Local Pregnancy Care Ministries

Every woman facing an unexpected pregnancy deserves compassionate support, practical assistance and hope. Two local organizations dedicated to serving mothers and their children are hosting special fundraising events this October. We invite you to consider attending one of these events or supporting their mission through a donation.

Caring Network Night for Life

The Caring Network for Life event will support the life-affirming work of Caring Network, one of the pregnancy resource centers supported through our parish's Christmas Swaddling Project. Caring Network operates nine pregnancy centers throughout the Chicagoland area, providing no-cost medical services and compassionate care for women facing unexpected pregnancies. The annual Night for Life Dinner will

Voting is Catholic Social Teaching



The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Every person has a fundamental right to life and a responsibility to speak out when systems and situations do not uphold the fullness of our inherent human dignity.

Lift up your voice by exercising your right to participate in our society and use that voice responsibly by advocating for policies that protect human dignity. The best way to exercise your right to participate in our society is to vote! Voter registration information and other useful information can be found at the following websites:

- [Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org)
- [dupagecounty.gov](https://www.dupagecounty.gov)
- [willcountyclerk.gov](https://www.willcountyclerk.gov)
- [BallotReady.org](https://www.ballotready.org)

If you have a problem getting to the polls to vote, please contact Pax Christi/St. Thomas by contacting Pax Christi members Nancy Oetter at nloetter@comcast.net or Mary Ann Rempe at marempe630@hotmail.com.

be held Thursday, October 22, from 6:00–8:30 pm at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace. There is no cost to attend, though guests will be invited to donate to support this important ministry. Registration information can be found at <https://v4app.fundeasy.com/events/attendance/919/event>.

Women's Care Center Luxury Bingo

The Luxury Bingo event benefits Women's Care Center and promises an enjoyable evening featuring bingo, food, beverages, fellowship and opportunities to support mothers and children in need. The event will be held Thursday, October 15, at Drury Lane Event Center in Oakbrook Terrace, beginning with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$150 per person. Registration information can be found at www.luxurybingochicago.com.

Saint Francis: Visionary of Life

“Hold fast to the memory of our father and brother, Francis, for the praise and glory of Him who made him great among us and glorified him in the sight of the angels.”¹

Saint Francis, the poor man of Assisi, is a powerful model for us in building a world and culture that is authentically pro-life. This 13th century saint was a visionary of the radiant goodness of human life.

Early in Saint Francis’ conversion, he was riding through the countryside and came across a person suffering from leprosy. Despite being repelled by the appearance and smell, he came down from his horse and kissed the hand of the leper, who returned his kiss of peace, filling Francis with joy. He could see the invaluable dignity of every person, even amidst utter poverty, the disfigurement of disease, and the stain of sin.

Saint Francis is well-known for his radical imitation of Christ and his love for all creation. This is evident in his prayer, “The Canticle of the Creatures,” which praises God for all He has created: the sun, moon, and stars; wind, water, and fire. Francis proclaims that the created world reveals the glory of God himself. This is particularly true for the human person, created in the image of God, whose life from conception to natural death is to be honored and protected. Among all creation, the human person has the unique capacity to praise God, highlighting the distinctive dignity of human life.

Strikingly, Francis uttered his “Canticle” while lying half-blind on his deathbed. In welcoming “Sister Death,” Francis could no longer physically see the beauty of creation, yet still he praised God for the created world around him.

Oftentimes we, too, are blinded to the goodness of life. Our vision may be blurred by hardships such as poverty, fragility, or suffering, all of which Saint Francis experienced in his earthly life. In the



face of such challenges, Saint Francis is a powerful intercessor, opening our heart and eyes to the gift of life even in the most trying circumstances. Francis had a particular devotion to the Lord’s own vulnerability—in the manger, in the Eucharist, and on the Cross—highlighting God’s presence in the most defenseless among us.

Pope Leo XIV has decreed that for 2026 “a special Year of Saint Francis shall be proclaimed, in which every faithful Christian, following the example of the Saint of Assisi, shall become a model of holiness of life and a constant witness of peace.”² The taking of innocent human life through abortion, assisted suicide, and other acts of violence destroys peace in our world.³ We are called to be witnesses of peace by boldly proclaiming the dignity of the human person and working for the protection of all human life.

In this Year of Saint Francis, may he help us to see the beauty of life in all of creation, in particular, in the weakest and most vulnerable among us. Together, let us pray for the protection of human life and the courage to defend it.

“Most High, glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me true faith, certain hope, and perfect charity, sense and knowledge, Lord, that I may carry out Your holy and true command.”⁴

- Saint Francis' "Prayer before the Crucifix"

¹ Angelo Cardinal De Donatis, “Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary on the occasion of the Eighth Centenary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi, by which a special Jubilee Year is proclaimed, with associated Plenary Indulgences, 16.01.2026,” (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2026).

² Ibid.

³ Pope Leo XIV, “Address to Participants in the ‘One Humanity, One Planet’ Conference,” January 31, 2026 (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2026).

⁴ Armstrong, Regis J., O.F.M. Cap., J. A. Wayne Hellmann, O.F.M. Conv., and William J. Short, O.F.M., eds., *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents – The Saint* (New York, NY: New City Press, 2001), 40.



Respect Life Month: A Litany for Every Life

God of Life, you created every person in your image and likeness and called your creation good. Help us to recognize your presence in every human life, especially in those whose dignity is overlooked, whose voices are unheard, or whose lives are threatened.

Response: *Lord, help us to cherish and protect every life.*

For children, born and unborn, whose lives are vulnerable and whose futures depend upon the love and care of others...

For mothers and fathers who struggle with poverty, fear, loneliness, or difficult circumstances, and for families who need our compassion and support...

For people who live in poverty, for those who are homeless or hungry, and for all who struggle to meet their most basic needs...

For immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and all who have left their homes seeking safety, freedom, and a better life...

For people of every race and culture who experience racism, discrimination, or violence because of the color of their skin or the place from which they come...

For our LGBTQ brothers and sisters, especially those who have experienced rejection, bullying, violence, or the pain of being told they do not belong...

For victims and survivors of gun violence, domestic violence, human trafficking, war, and every form of violence...

For people with disabilities, and for all whose gifts and abilities are sometimes overlooked or undervalued...

For people who are elderly, isolated, forgotten, or made to feel that their lives no longer have value...

For those who are sick, suffering, dying, or grieving, and for all who accompany them with tenderness and love...

For those who are imprisoned, for those returning to society, and for all who seek forgiveness, healing, and a second chance...

For those whose voices are silenced, whose stories are ignored, and whose suffering is hidden from us...

For ourselves, that we might never become indifferent to the suffering of another person, but recognize in every human face the image of God...

For the grace to move beyond simply speaking about the dignity of life and to become people who defend, accompany, welcome, and serve those whose lives are most vulnerable...

God of Life, you have entrusted us with one another. Open our eyes to those who are unseen, our ears to those whose voices are unheard, and our hearts to those who are pushed to the margins. May our words and actions proclaim the Gospel of Life—not only in what we say, but in how we love, welcome, accompany, and defend one another. *May every person know that they are created, cherished, and loved by God. May we become a people who cherish and protect every human life. Amen.*



PASTORAL CARE AND WELLNESS

Nancy Kratz, Ph.D., Director,
x104, nkratz@stapostle.org

Gary Rufo, Minister of Care Coordinator,
x124, grufu@stapostle.org

Jane Zimmerman, Pastoral Care Associate,
x108, jzimmerman@stapostle.org



A Loving Look at Loss Grief Support Group

Registration is still open for the next session of the St. Thomas Grief Support Group, Grief to Growth. The session begins October 11 and runs for six weeks on Sundays from 10:45 am–12:15 pm in the Resource Center.

For more information or to register, please contact Nancy Kratz, Ph.D., Director of Pastoral Care, at 630.355.8980, x104 or nkratz@stapostle.org. You can also see the Pastoral Care Grief Support webpage at stapostle.org for details.

Hope Café

The next drop-in HOPE Café is Wednesday, October 14, 10:30 am–12:00 pm. Join spiritual director Jane Zimmerman and take some time to quiet your heart and mind in fellowship with others who are traveling this journey of loss.

Call Jane at 630.355.8980, x108 for information.

Special Event

Fatima Rosary Rally, Saturday, October 10

2026 marks the 11th year St. Irene and St. Thomas are coming together to pray in the Fatima Public Rosary Prayer Rally, Saturday, October 10, at 12:00 pm.

As we pray the Joyful Mysteries, we will join with over 20,000 other Prayer Chains created across the country to honor the 107th Anniversary of Our Lady's Appearances.

All past participants will agree this 45-minute Prayer Event is a most blessed experience. There are 11 Prayer Stations to choose from, set up along a route connecting both parishes. We'll continue to pray the Rosario en español at Station #7 for anyone interested.

Please join us in responding to the pleas of Our Lord and Blessed Mother, as we pray for world peace, reparation of sins and conversion of sinners. For details on the event and to receive the Naperville prayer packet, email fatimarosaryrally@gmail.com or call Jeannette Clark at 630.292.9349.



Stations

1. St. Thomas Apostle Catholic Church (along Brookdale Rd. by electronic sign)
2. St. Patrick's (Residents only)
3. NWC-Raymond Dr. at Brookdale Rd.
4. NWC-Raymond Dr. at Redfield Rd.
5. NWC-Raymond Dr. at McDowell Rd.
6. NEC of Raymond Dr. and Ferry Rd.
7. Rosario en español is located at the NW corner of Curtis and Ferry Rd.
8. The NWC of Curtis and Townline Rd.
9. The NWC of Curtis and Warrenville Rd.
10. St. Irene Catholic Church (next to Activity Center along Warrenville Rd.)
11. Monarch Landing (Residents only)

Ministry News

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Thursday, October 15, in the Emmaus room. All are welcome to join this dedicated group. As always, prayer shawls, blankets, prayer squares and chemo caps are available to all in need. A good will offering to help offset supply costs is appreciated. For more information, please contact Nancy Kratz in the Pastoral Care office at 630.355.8980, x104 or nkratz@stapostle.org.

Fifty Plus PrimeTime October Event

Ever wonder about the legal questions that aging brings? Join elder attorney Mary Kay Furiasse of AZ Health and Elder Law Tuesday, October 20, from 10:00 am–12:00 pm in the Lighthouse. Mary Kay offers legal services within the concept of Life Care Planning. She'll explain trusts, POAs, how to plan for changes in life situations and other topics important as we get older.

This is potluck month. Please bring an appetizer, salad, side dish, entrée or dessert to serve 4-6 people. Beverages will be provided. To register please email Phyllis Wempe at PTregistration@hotmail.com or call 630.728.3227. All are welcome!



ADMINISTRATION AND STEWARDSHIP



Thank you for supporting St. Thomas the Apostle. To learn more about online giving, please visit our website and click on the Giving tab in the top menu bar.

Sunday Collection Report

Our Sunday Collection Report for the previous month is below. A monthly report reflects the relationship of the actual collection to the seasonally adjusted budgeted growth goal for each month and year to date.

Sunday Collection Report					
For August 2026					
Envelopes and loose cash	\$57,824				
Credit card online giving	\$21,071				
Automatic Direct Debit (5 th and 20 th each month)	\$45,972				
Donations from Charitable Giving Accounts	\$17,727				
Sunday Collection Offering – August 2026	\$142,594				
Sunday Collection Goal – August 2026	\$156,251				
Above/(Below) Goal for month	(\$13,657)				
Sunday Collection 7/1/26 through 8/31/26	\$290,389				
Sunday Goal for 7/1/26 through 8/31/26	\$302,683				
Over/(short) of Goal Year through 8/31/26	(\$12,294)				
2026 Diocesan Appeal as of 9/27/26					
	2026 YTD	2025 YTD	2026 vs 2025 YTD	2025 Final	2025 Final vs 2026 YTD
Parish Appeal Goal*	\$178,100	\$170,100	\$8,000	\$170,100	\$8,000
Parish Amount Pledged	\$228,064	\$201,843	\$26,221	\$240,755	(\$12,691)
Unpaid pledges	\$9,377	\$15,053	\$5,676	\$5,826	(\$3,551)
Paid to Date	\$218,686	\$186,790	\$31,896	\$234,929	(\$16,243)
Number of Appeal Donors	517	562	(45)	597	(80)
Rebate to St. Thomas (70% of funds raised above goal) Rebate used for St. Thomas Evangelization Goal	\$28,410			\$45,380	
*Our annual goal for the CMAA is higher this year than for 2025 because St. Thomas Sunday giving is up. Thank you for your generosity!					

The Week Ahead

Monday, October 5, 2025

6:30–8:30 pm ALPHA, Lighthouse
7:00–8:30 pm Baptism Prep Team, Galilee

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

9:00–10:00 am Care Pantry Donations, Outside
9:15–11:15 am PrimeTime Committee, Judea
3:45–4:30 pm Youth Choir, Church
4:30–5:45 pm RE K-5, Ministry Center
5:00–6:00 pm Care Pantry Donations, Outside
6:15–8:15 pm Welcome Committee, Emmaus
6:15–7:30 pm RE 6-8, Senior and Youth Centers
7:00–9:00 pm Choir Rehearsal, Church

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

9:15–11:15 am Wednesday Bible Study, Senior Center
6:00–7:30 pm Pax Christi, Cana
6:30–8:30 pm Worship Commission, Emmaus
7:00–8:30 pm St. Vincent de Paul, Senior Center
7:00–8:30 pm Miryam Rehearsal, Church

Thursday, October 8, 2026

9:15–11:15 am Thursday Bible Study, Senior Center
6:30–8:30 pm High School Community Night, Youth Center and Gym

Friday, October 9, 2026

Saturday, October 10, 2026

8:30–9:45 am RE PreK–8, All Saints Catholic Academy
9:00–10:30 am Saturday Men's Group, Judea
3:15–4:15 pm Sojourners Rehearsal, Church
3:30–4:15 pm Reconciliation, Chapel

Sunday, October 11, 2026

9:30–10:30 am Children's Liturgy of the Word, Ministry Center
1:00–2:00 pm Baptism, Church



PARISH INFORMATION



Welcome

Thank you for joining us.

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

1500 Brookdale Road
Naperville, IL 60563
630.355.8980 (Main Office)
630.305.6318 (RE) | 630.355.0521 (Fax)
mainoffice@stapostle.org | stapostle.org

Church Office and Building Hours

Regular hours are 8:30 am–4:30 pm
Monday through Thursday and
8:30 am–12:30 pm Friday.
The Welcome Desk in the
Gathering Area is staffed
8:30 am–8:00 pm Monday–Thursday;
8:30 am–12:30 pm Friday; and
9:00 am–1:00 pm Saturday.
Schedule subject to change.

Pastor

Rev. Peter Infanger
x102, pinfanger@stapostle.org

Priest in Residence

Rev. John Regan
x103, jregan@stapostle.org

Weekend Associate

Rev. Bob Colaresi, O. Carm.

Deacons

Joe (Carolyn) Cuzzone, 630.355.8980
x224, DeaconJoeCuzzone@gmail.com

John (Liz) Freund, 630.355.8980
x225, jfreund@stapostle.org

Staff (not listed elsewhere in the bulletin)

Administrative and Financial Assistant

Michelle Kuhn, x100,
mkuhn@stapostle.org

Administration Assistant

Mary Derwinski, x107,
mderwinski@stapostle.org

Communications and Promotions Director

Casey Braun, x110, cbraun@stapostle.org

Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship Director

Dorothy Grantham, x105,
dgrantham@stapostle.org

Evening/Saturday Receptionist

Elizabeth Fisher
nitecrew@stapostle.org

Facility Manager

Bob Hartmann, x133, facility@stapostle.org

Finance/Business Officer

David Schwalm, x106,
dschwalm@stapostle.org

Little Sheep Club Coordinator

Lisa Wehr, lwehr@stapostle.org

Main Office Administrative Assistant

Diane McQueen, x101,
dmcqueen@stapostle.org

Receptionist/Virtus Compliance Administrator

Mary Wright, x119, mwright@stapostle.org

Receptionist/Baptism Coordinator

Kathy Durante, x137,
kdurante@stapostle.org

Social Media and Marketing Assistant

Madalyn Eathington,
meathington@stapostle.org

Complete staff listing available at stapostle.org.

Parish Pastoral Council

Jason Durnas
Kathie Kapustka
Thomas Kennedy
Terry Sullivan, *Chair*

Commission Representatives

Lugenia Thomas, *Worship*
Anne Schultz, *Service*
Scott Mygind, *Finance & Administration*
Donna Cheesebrough, *Faith & Spiritual Growth*
Kathy Sander, *Parish Life*

Ex-Officio

Rev. Peter Infanger, *Pastor*
David Schwalm

Baptism: Parents are required to attend a Baptismal awareness and renewal session prior to the Baptism. Call Kathy Durante or Mary Wright, x137, a few months in advance to make arrangements.

Reconciliation: Reconciliation is available Saturday, 3:30–4:15 pm, in the Reconciliation Room of the Chapel. Our priests are available during the week by appointment.

Matrimony: A couple planning on being married at St. Thomas should contact the church nine months to a year in advance. Either the bride or groom, or their parents, must be a registered parishioner at least three months before setting a date. Call Diane McQueen, x101, to schedule.

Anointing: Call 630.355.8980.

Communion for the Homebound: Call 630.355.8980 to receive prayer/Eucharist from a Minister of Care.

Funerals: Call Lori Culberson, x120, for pre-planning or immediate need.

Religious Education: Call 630.355.8980 x109 for PreK–5; x121 for grades 6–8; and x118 for high school.

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults): Any person wanting to learn more about the Catholic Faith should call Chari Rosales, x138.

Counseling Resources: Call 630.355.8980.

Our Outreach Twinning Parishes:

St. Thomas the Apostle has an ongoing twinning relationship with the following parishes:

St. Marie Madeleine in Duchity, Haiti
St. Agnes on the Lakota Indian Reservation, Manderson, South Dakota
St. Nicholas in Aurora, Illinois

Our Parish School:

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1155 Aurora Ave
Naperville, IL 60540
ascacademy.org
630.961.6125
Margie Marshall, *Principal*

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