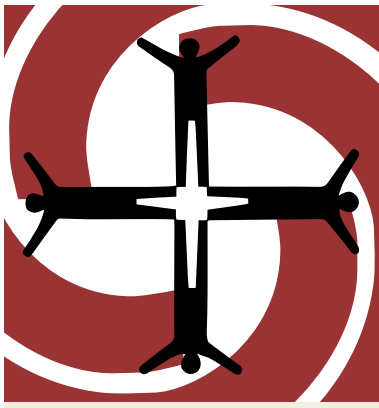




OCTOBER
18
2026

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

"Then repay to Caesar what
belongs to Caesar and to God
what belongs to God."

Matthew 22:21

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 | [f St.ThomasTheApostleCatholicChurchNaperville](#) | [@stthomasapostlenaperville](#)

Liturgy and Music News

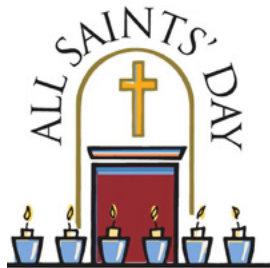
For more information on the activities listed below, please contact Scott Knisley in the Liturgy Office at sknisley@stapostle.org.

Save the Date ...

Lessons and Carols is Friday, December 11, at 7:00 pm.

All Saints

November 1, the Solemnity of All Saints, falls on a Sunday this year. On this day the Church honors all the saints of heaven, God's holy ones — known and unknown to us. We celebrate all the holy men and women who, throughout the ages, exemplified the faith; whose lives, in some way or another, mirrored the Paschal Mystery of Christ in profound ways. This solemnity honors all the saints; in particular those who are not individually recognized throughout the year. This day, coupled with the November 2 commemoration of all the faithful departed (All Souls), stands at the beginning of the month of November — a month in which we remember and pray for the dead.



All Souls Day

Our annual All Souls Day Liturgy will be held at St. Thomas Monday, November 2, at 7:00 pm. Those who have died this past year will be remembered in a special way. You are invited to participate by bringing a candle forward during the Prayer of the Faithful when your loved one's name is called (candles provided). You may also bring a picture or memento to place on the tables in front of the sanctuary in memory of your loved one. The liturgy will be followed by a reception in the Gathering Area. For more information, call Lori Culberson at 630.355.8980, x120.



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!

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

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!

Presider Schedule for October 24–25

Saturday, October 24

4:30 pm — Fr. Bob Colaresi, Deacon Joe Cuzzzone

Sunday, October 25

8:00 am — Fr. Peter Infanger

9:30 am — Fr. John Regan

11:15 am — Fr. Peter Infanger, Deacon John Freund

6:00 pm — Fr. John Regan

Presider schedule subject to change.

Stay Connected with St. Thomas All Week Long!

Follow us on Facebook at [St.ThomasTheApostleCatholicChurchNaperville](https://www.facebook.com/StThomasTheApostleCatholicChurchNaperville) and on Instagram [@stthomasapostlenaperville](https://www.instagram.com/stthomasapostlenaperville) for uplifting messages, parish event updates, behind-the-scenes moments, ministry highlights and more. Let's continue growing together in faith and community — follow us today and be part of the journey!





The St. Thomas the Apostle DMI Survey is Now Open We Want to Hear From You!

We are off to a great start after launching October 4!

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.

All parishioners 13 and over are welcomed and encouraged to take this survey. It's easy and it only takes 10-15 minutes. Just scan the QR code to get started or visit stapostle.org/the-saint-thomas-the-apostle-dmi-survey/

Paper copies of the survey are available at the front desk for those who need one. Just fill it out and drop it off in the box provided.

A comprehensive report of the findings will be shared with you in the coming months. Your input is important as the results will serve to strengthen St. Thomas the Apostle and better prepare us for the future!

Thank you!



Liturgy Schedule and Mass Intentions

Sunday, October 18, 2026

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 4:30 pm Mass of Anticipation
†Joe Mantranga by Voices of Faith
†Tim Danahy by John and Mary Pat DeYoung
- 8:00 am †Darrell Johnson by Ken Wiejaczka
9:30 am †Edythe and Joseph Caruso by Joe and Gloria Caruso
†Lloyd Novak by Tim and Geralyn Duez
- 11:15 am †Dennis Doll by Barbara Doll
6:00 pm People of St. Thomas

Monday, October 19, 2026

St. John de Brebeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, Companions and Martyrs

- 8:30 am †Nancy Basten by Kathy Edmunds

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

- 8:30 am †Bill and Niven Owings by Al Pinto

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

- 8:30 am †Marianne Olsen by Nick and Dee Huie

Thursday, October 22, 2026

St. John Paul II, Pope

- 8:30 am †Donald Hoffman by the Deneen Family

Friday, October 23, 2026

St. John of Capistrano, Priest

- 8:30 am †Mariano and Rosemary Rivera by Buddy and Mely Mallorca

Saturday, October 24, 2026

St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop, BVM

- 8:30 am †JoAnne Woodfork by Mary Bartusiak
4:30 pm Mass of Anticipation
People of St. Thomas

Sunday October 25, 2026

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8:00 am †Maxine Wiejaczka by Ken Wiejaczka
9:30 am †Genevieve and Mitchell Zoladz by Joe and Gloria Caruso
†Joe Predmore by the brother of Joan McKeown
- 11:15 am †Narsing Rao Vannela by Buddy and Mely Mallorca
6:00 pm Fr. John Regan by Maria Esparza

Homily Series

Mark your calendars and invite your friends for Part 2 of the series:

Discernment — Noticing God's Guidance in Our Lives!

- November 7–8: Prayerfully Decide
- November 14–15: Review and Refine
- November 14 at 5:40 pm: Pizza reception and Continuing the Conversation with Fr. Michael Rossmann, SJ

To revisit the homily messages Prepare the Heart and Gather Wisdom, and review the Reminders and Resources, go to the Homily Series page on our website: stapostle.org/st-thomas-the-apostle-homily-series/

We look forward to growing together!

Homily Series seeks to WELCOME newcomers to St. Thomas through personal invitation; DEEPEN discipleship by exploring a shared theme together; and STRENGTHEN our community with opportunities for connection.





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

Let's take a look at some of the other beliefs professed in our Creeds. It is baptism that brings us into the Church, a process that offers forgiveness of sin and claims us as members of the Body of Christ. We'll address baptism in more detail later when we cover all of the

sacraments. The Church also has a mechanism for the forgiveness of sins and again, we'll cover the process of reconciliation later when we focus on the sacraments. The Creed speaks of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, but also promises our resurrection from the dead.



Since we are made up of both a body and a soul, our bodies will be resurrected and our souls can enjoy eternal life with the Divine. All the holy ones who have gone before us and who enjoy eternal life make up what we call the "Communion of Saints." The first in prominence of these saints is Jesus' Mother Mary. In the past, this column ran a year-long series on Mary. We will not repeat most of what we believe regarding Mary in this current series. For now, it's important to remember that we hold Mary in high regard — just as Jesus did — and her role in salvation history is not a minor one.



Advent by Candlelight

Save the date — Wednesday, December 2 — for this year's annual intergenerational women's event where we take time out from the busyness of holiday preparations and take time to reflect on the true meaning of Advent. Mark your calendars now as you won't want to miss this evening of faith, fellowship and food. Watch for more information coming soon. In the meantime, if you are interested in joining the planning committee, or hosting a table, please contact Donna Cheesebrough at donnacheesebrough@hotmail.com.

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.

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

This I Believe – The Creeds

The heart of what we believe as Catholics is contained in the Creeds — both the Nicene and Apostles'. Look deeply into them from 7-9pm on Monday, October 19 to learn their origins and continued relevance for every believer.

Reserve your place with REAdmin@stapostle.org or call 630.355.8980 x138.

Welcome Our Director of Confirmation and Youth Ministry

Please welcome Len Bogacki to our parish community! Len brings a wealth of experience in youth ministry, education, community engagement and volunteer leadership. Most recently, he served with Scouting America's Three Fires Council, working with families, schools, churches, volunteers and community organizations throughout the Fox Valley area. He previously served as Director of Youth Ministries at River Glen Presbyterian Church, where he led youth programs, retreats, mission trips, service opportunities and volunteer teams. Len also taught English and journalism at Aurora Central Catholic High School and has extensive experience supporting and advocating for young people. He lives in Aurora with his wife, Nicole, and their dog, Brooks. We are excited to welcome Len to St. Thomas and look forward to the energy, experience and passion for serving young people and families that he brings to our community!



Welcome, Len! We are so glad you're here!



Pancake Breakfast

This Sunday, October 18

Start your Sunday with pancakes, good company and a great cause! All are welcome to join us in the Gym for a delicious pancake breakfast hosted by our high school teens.

This is a fun service opportunity for our teens and a chance for our parish community to support our high school ministry. Your generous donations help make it possible for our teens to attend Confirmation retreats, mission trips and conferences and to welcome engaging speakers throughout the year. Unable to attend but still want to support our teens? Please scan the QR code to make a donation.

Come hungry, bring your family and friends, and help our teens continue to grow in faith and community!



Faith Formation

Elementary

Upcoming Saturday sessions:
October 17, 24

Upcoming Tuesday sessions:
October 27. *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 17, November 7, 14

Upcoming Tuesday sessions:
October 27, November 3, 10, 17

Note there is no Saturday Middle School class October 24 (but PreK-5 is meeting). All Middle School students are welcome Tuesday, October 27, from 6:15-7:30 pm to help prepare for Harvest Sunday.

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

Confirmation Preparation

Upcoming Small Group Sessions:
November 15

Journey Night: November 14 after 4:30 pm Mass

All High School Students

All students in grades 9-12 are welcome for a night of food, games and prayer Thursday, October 29, from 7:00-8:30 pm at St. Thomas. The theme for this event is Halloween — more details to come soon!

CREW

Connect – Reflect – Energize – Witness

All students in grades 6-8 are welcome to join us Sunday, October 18, from 4:15-5:45 pm for our first event of the year.

We connect by doing ice breakers; reflect on Ecclesiastes, seasons and a time for everything; energize through relay races and games; and witness by attending Mass together and bringing our energy out into the world. We end with pizza and treats.

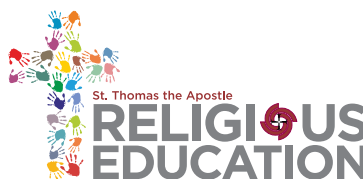
Please scan the QR code to RSVP so that we have enough food and supplies



Elementary Religious Education

The images on the cover of this week's bulletin show that we are off to a great start with the Religious Education year! We have been very busy with our lessons each week. We had our stuffy blessing for St. Francis Feast Day. The kindergarten and first graders celebrated their grade level Mass. The fourth graders received their Bibles. The fifth graders made and prayed the Rosary.

Please note there is no class Tuesday October 20.





OUTREACH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

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

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



Harvest Sunday Help Still Needed!

Thank you to those who have already secured their spot! Looking for a way to get involved? There are still a few routes available, some of which are in the neighborhoods nearest St. Thomas. Flyer delivery and food pick up from routes is where the most help is needed. To sign up for all Harvest Sunday opportunities, scan the QR code or 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.

Thank you!

Otis' Dream

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

Otis' Dream is a powerful short story that follows the true journey of Otis Moss, Sr. in rural Georgia in 1946 as he attempted to vote at a time when casting a ballot could be dangerous.

This video 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 for the video, a short discussion and refreshments October 18 after 9:30 am Mass in the Lighthouse.



Voting with Faith

Guidance from Fr. John and the Outreach and Social Justice Office

This week's bulletin includes two resources to support prayerful discernment before voting. Fr. John offers a summary and theological reflection on Faithful Citizenship, a document from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Outreach and Social Justice Office also provides a discernment process and questions to help guide your voting decisions.

Voting is one meaningful way we help build a society rooted in compassion, peace, and respect for the dignity of every person. Please take time to reflect, discern, and vote — your voice matters.

Respect Life Month: Cherishing Every Person

During Respect Life Month, the Church invites us to recognize and protect the God-given dignity of every person, from conception to natural death. This commitment includes concern for unborn children and their parents, but it does not end there. It calls us to stand with all whose lives are threatened, neglected or treated as disposable.

To respect life is to accompany families in crisis, welcome refugees and immigrants, care for people who are poor or without stable housing, oppose racism and violence, visit those who are sick or incarcerated, support people living with disabilities or mental illness and ensure that older adults and those nearing the end of life are treated with compassion. It also means working for peace and caring for creation so that present and future generations can flourish.

Respect for life is more than a position we hold — it is a way of seeing and serving. This month, let us ask: Who in our community feels unseen or alone? Then let us choose one concrete response — pray, listen, volunteer, advocate, give generously or offer practical help. In every act of mercy, we affirm a simple truth: every person is created in the image of God and is worthy of love, protection and belonging.

A Catholic Conscience in the Voting Booth

Reflections on Faithful Citizenship by Father John Regan

As another election approaches, Catholics may find themselves asking a familiar question: **How should my faith influence my vote?**

The Catholic Church does not tell us which candidate or political party deserves our vote. Nor does the Church tell us to leave our faith at the door when we enter the voting booth. Instead, the Church asks something more demanding: that we **form our consciences well and then vote according to those consciences.**

The U.S. bishops' *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* (2023) offers helpful guidance. Here are several principles I believe are important to keep in mind.

1. Our faith comes before our political party.

No political party fully represents Catholic teaching. Catholics should resist allowing a party, candidate, television network, website, or social-media feed to form our conscience for us.

Instead, we begin with Jesus Christ and ask: **What does our faith teach about the dignity of the human person and the common good?**

Sometimes Catholic teaching will affirm positions associated with one political party; sometimes it will challenge them. If our faith never makes us uncomfortable with our preferred political party, we might ask whether our faith is forming our politics—or our politics is forming our faith.

2. Not every issue carries the same moral weight.

Catholic voting is not simply making a list of ten issues and giving a candidate one point for each position that agrees with Church teaching.

Some moral issues involve actions that are intrinsically evil and can never be supported. Other issues involve prudential judgments about the best way to accomplish a morally necessary goal. Catholics can agree about the goal while legitimately disagreeing about the best policy for achieving it.

That distinction matters.



3. Abortion deserves particular attention.

The Church's teaching is unequivocal: **human life must be protected from conception until natural death.** Direct abortion is the taking of innocent human life and is always morally wrong.

The U.S. bishops have therefore stated that “the threat of abortion remains our pre-eminent priority” because it directly attacks life itself and because of the number of lives involved.

“Preeminent,” however, does not mean “only.”

Catholics cannot use concern for other issues to dismiss the grave moral reality of abortion. Neither can we use opposition to abortion as permission to ignore other serious threats to human dignity.

Being pro-life means defending unborn children. It also means supporting women facing difficult pregnancies and building communities in which mothers and families have the resources necessary to choose life and flourish.

4. The dignity of human life doesn't end at birth.

The same Catholic faith that calls us to defend an unborn child calls us to recognize Christ in people who are poor, hungry, homeless, imprisoned or marginalized.

Catholic social teaching requires us to consider racism, euthanasia, assisted suicide, the death penalty, war and violence, poverty, immigration, religious liberty, marriage and family life, health care, workers' rights, care for creation, and the needs of vulnerable people.

These issues are not morally identical. But neither are they optional concerns for disciples of Jesus.

The question is not simply, “**Which candidate agrees with me?**” It is, “**Which choices will best protect human dignity and advance the common good?**”

5. A candidate's position on one issue does not settle everything.

The bishops make an important observation: “*A candidate's position on a single issue is not sufficient to guarantee a voter's support.*”

A candidate's opposition to abortion, for example, does not require Catholics to overlook that candidate's positions, conduct, character or actions concerning other grave moral questions.

Likewise, a candidate's admirable positions concerning poverty, immigration, health care, racism or the environment do not remove the serious moral concern raised by that candidate's support for abortion. Catholic moral reasoning asks more of us than either conclusion.

6. Sometimes Catholics face genuinely difficult choices.

What happens when neither candidate reflects Catholic teaching?

That is not exactly an unusual situation!

The bishops acknowledge this difficulty. A Catholic may never vote for a candidate **because** that candidate supports an intrinsically evil action such as abortion. But a Catholic who rejects that position may sometimes conclude that other truly grave moral reasons justify voting for that candidate.

In some circumstances, Catholics may decide that they cannot in conscience support any candidate, or they may choose the candidate they believe is less likely to advance morally objectionable policies.

These decisions require **prudence**—not the freedom to ignore Church teaching, but the responsibility to apply it faithfully to complicated circumstances.

Faithful Catholics can sometimes reach different conclusions while sincerely trying to apply the same moral principles.

7. Bring your conscience—and God—into the voting booth.

Before voting, learn about the candidates. Go beyond campaign advertisements and partisan commentary.

Consider their positions, records, competence, integrity and character. Think about what they are actually capable of accomplishing.

Read Catholic teaching. Pray. Examine your own assumptions. And perhaps ask yourself a difficult question:

Am I allowing my faith to challenge and shape my politics, or am I allowing my politics to determine what I am willing to hear from my faith?

Voting is not about finding the “Catholic candidate.” There may not be one. And faithful citizenship does not mean finding a political party that agrees with us on everything and then asking our faith to bless our choice.

It means striving to be a **Catholic voter**: someone willing to let the Gospel challenge us, whose conscience is formed by our faith, who recognizes the dignity of every human life, who has a special

concern for the vulnerable, and who seeks the common good.

Because ultimately, our deepest allegiance belongs neither to a political party nor to a candidate.

It belongs to Jesus Christ.

**Praise be Jesus Christ. Now and Forever!
Father John**

A Prayer Before Voting

God of wisdom and truth, as I prepare to vote, quiet the voices of fear, anger, and division, and help me listen for your voice.

Form my conscience by your Word and the teaching of our faith. Give me the humility to let the Gospel challenge my own opinions and political loyalties.

Help me recognize the dignity of every human life, especially those who are most vulnerable, from conception until natural death.

Give me wisdom to consider the common good, prudence when choices are difficult, and courage to choose what most faithfully reflects your justice, mercy, and love.

May I enter the voting booth not first as a partisan, but as a disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Voting with a Well-Formed Conscience

A Catholic Social Teaching Reflection for Parishioners

As Catholics, we are called to participate in public life with faith, reason, prayer, and a well-formed conscience. The Church does not tell us which candidate to support. Instead, she gives us moral principles to help us discern which candidate, platform, and public record more closely reflect the Gospel and the dignity of every human person.



Begin with Catholic Social Teaching

Catholic Social Teaching provides a moral framework for public life. Important themes include the life and dignity of the human person, the common good, solidarity, subsidiarity, the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable, rights and responsibilities, the dignity of work and workers, care for creation, and the call to family, community, and participation.

Questions for Prayerful Discernment

- Which candidate most consistently protects the life and dignity of every person—from conception to natural death, and in every circumstance of vulnerability?
- Which candidate's positions best promote the common good rather than only individual or partisan interests?
- Which candidate shows concern for those who are poor, hungry, unhoused, elderly, disabled, imprisoned, unborn, migrants, refugees, or otherwise vulnerable?
- Which candidate respects religious freedom, family life, human rights, and the responsibilities we owe to one another?
- Which candidate supports just economic policies, the dignity of work, fair treatment of workers, and care for those who struggle to provide for their families?
- Which candidate is more likely to promote peace, reject violence, and work for reconciliation at home and abroad?
- Which candidate shows responsible care for God's creation and concern for future generations?
- Which candidate demonstrates honesty, humility, respect for others, and a willingness to serve rather than dominate?

Making a Moral Judgment

No candidate or party will perfectly reflect the fullness of Catholic teaching. Voters should avoid reducing Catholic moral teaching to a single party label or campaign slogan. At the same time, some issues involve grave threats to human life and dignity and must be weighed seriously. Catholics are called to examine each candidate's policies, character, record, and likely impact on the most vulnerable, then make the best prudential judgment possible before God.

A Simple Discernment Practice

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance.
2. Seek Truth: Read Scripture, Catholic Social Teaching, and Church teaching.
3. Listen especially to people whose lives are affected by the issues – the poor, migrants, the unborn, their mothers, workers, the elderly and others whose voices are overlooked.
4. Discern: Consider the moral importance of the issues, the candidates' positions and records, their character and integrity.
5. Vote with a conscience formed by faith, reason, truth, and charity.

Prayer: God of justice and mercy, guide us as we prepare to vote. Form our consciences in truth and compassion. Help us protect the dignity of every person, especially those who are poor, vulnerable, excluded, or unheard. Lead us to choose leaders who seek the common good, uphold peace, care for creation, and serve with honesty and humility. May our participation in public life help build a society of justice, solidarity, and hope. Amen.

Our Advocacy Doesn't End on Election Day



Voting is one act of faithful citizenship—not the last. After Election Day, we continue to pray, stay informed, contact public officials, serve people who are vulnerable, and advocate together for human dignity and the common good. Through respectful dialogue and persistent action, we help build a more just and compassionate society.

Day of the Dead Altar Decorating

Join members of the Immigration and Refugee Initiative Ministry and our neighbors from St. Nicholas as we gather to decorate a special Day of the Dead altar in memory of loved ones who have died. In Hispanic cultures, these altars — often called ofrendas — create a sacred and welcoming space for remembrance, using meaningful symbols and personal mementos to honor the lives and legacies of those who have gone before us. This beautiful tradition reminds us that the bonds of love, family, and community continue across generations.

Please join us Sunday, October 25, at 3:00 pm at St. Thomas for an afternoon of fellowship, reflection and shared remembrance as we prepare the altar together and learn more about this meaningful cultural tradition.



Knights of Columbus Men's Prayer Breakfast

When: Saturday, October 24

Where: St. Thomas Lighthouse

What: Rosary, morning Mass, breakfast and presentation by Fr. Bob Colaresi

Cost: No cost for admission, but reservation is helpful

RSVP: Scan the QR code, contact Diane in the Parish Office or email alan.cocconi@gmail.com



The morning begins with the rosary at 8:00 am, in the chapel, followed by morning Mass. Immediately after Mass, breakfast will be served in the Lighthouse and Fr. Bob will share his message. Come and enjoy a morning of prayer, food and faith sharing.

Holiday Cards for Incarcerated Persons

Couriers of Compassion Holiday Card Signing

Help is needed to sign holiday cards for those who are incarcerated. Join us Tuesday, October 20, from 9:30–11:30 am, in the Senior Center for a fun morning spreading some early holiday cheer and enjoying refreshments.

To sign up to help or to learn more about the Couriers of Compassion ministry, contact Suelynn Hanegraaf at 630.400.3400 or suelynn111@gmail.com, or Peggy Goralski at pgoralski@stapostle.org.



Truck being packed by the Lakota Ministry for the trip to the Pine Ridge Reservation (left). St. Thomas delivery team with Joyce Tibbits from St. Agnes

Lakota Children's Coat and Hygiene Collection Results

Thank you, St. Thomas community for your donation of 73 girls' coats, 92 boys' coats, boots, hats, scarves and gloves. This year's ask was slightly different, and although we didn't send coats or blankets to the Reservation this time around, we did collect 39 blankets and 10 sleeping bags. On Wednesday, September 30, John and Linda Zimmie arrived at the Pine Ridge Reservation to deliver 30 bags full of donated items. In addition to the physical items donated, a total of \$5,150 in monetary donations were sent to Lakota for the purchase of much needed children's hygiene items!

Many thanks to the Lakota Ministry volunteers who sorted and packed donations for the duration of the collection, and who eventually loaded the truck when it was time for the delivery team to head out. Speaking of the delivery team, a huge thank you to John and Linda for their offer to make the trip!

Thank you for commitment to this twinning relationship.



PASTORAL CARE AND WELLNESS

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

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

Jane Zimmerman, Pastoral Care Associate,
x108, jzimmerman@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 by Sunday, October 18. All are welcome!



Health Ministry St. Thomas Blood Drive November 14

Save the Date!
You're invited to donate and become a hero at our upcoming blood drive.

Did you know that every 2 seconds, someone in America requires a blood transfusion? From trauma patients to those battling cancer, your donation can make a lifesaving impact.



The St. Thomas blood drive will be held Saturday, November 14 from 9:00 am–1:30 pm. Scan the QR code to sign up or visit stapostle.org.

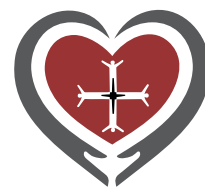
October 24–31 Celebrating Pastoral Care Week

In October, we celebrate Pastoral Care Week, which provides an opportunity for those working and serving in pastoral care to be recognized for their gifts and to celebrate our various ministries. Pastoral Care Ministries at St. Thomas are the Ministers of Care Ministry, PrimeTime Ministry, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Grief Ministry, Prayer Partners, Prayer Network, Rosary Ministry, Health Ministry, Behavioral Health Ministry and the Safety Committee.

All Pastoral Care volunteers are invited to join us for a special blessing at the Saturday, October 24, 4:30 pm Mass or the Sunday, October 25, 9:30 am Mass in celebration of the gifts you share at St. Thomas.

We thank you for your service and your servant's heart.

~ The Pastoral Care Staff: Nancy, Jane, Gary



PASTORAL CARE
St. Thomas the Apostle

Behavioral Health Ministry

Pope's October Prayer Intention: 'For Mental Health Ministry'

Pope Leo XIV dedicates his October prayer intention to mental health ministry, calling on the Church to listen without judging and accompany those who suffer without excluding them.

"Today we bring before you our brothers and sisters who struggle with challenges to their mental health, who suffer in solitude with anxiety, depression, or any other mental illness," he prays.

Pope Leo asks forgiveness for the times when Christians have looked the other way, contributing to stigma and discrimination against people with mental illnesses.

He prays that the Church may become "a safe space where everyone has a place — a community that accompanies and never excludes, that listens without judging and draws near without fear."

The Pope also remembers those who provide care, including professionals, family members and volunteers, asking God to give them strength and compassion.

"Send your Spirit upon us, that we may learn to welcome and integrate care for mental health into the life and ministry of our communities and of the whole Church," he concludes, "and thus become a living sign of your mercy, which never abandons and always restores."

Find more information and Pope Leo's video at www.vaticannews.va/en.html

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 September 2026					
Envelopes and loose cash	\$78,462				
Credit card online giving	\$25,921				
Automatic Direct Debit (5 th and 20 th each month)	\$45,667				
Donations from Charitable Giving Accounts	\$49,670				
Sunday Collection Offering — September 2026	\$199,719				
Sunday Collection Goal — September 2026	\$205,003				
Above/(Below) Goal for month	(\$5,284)				
Sunday Collection 7/1/26 through 9/30/26	\$490,108				
Sunday Goal for 7/1/26 through 9/30/26	\$507,686				
Over/(short) of Goal Year through 9/30/26	(\$17,578)				
2026 Diocesan Appeal as of 10/4/26					
	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	\$228,219	\$202,683	\$25,536	\$240,755	(\$12,536)
Unpaid pledges	\$9,187	\$14,029	\$4,842	\$5,826	(\$3,361)
Paid to Date	\$219,031	\$188,654	\$30,377	\$234,929	(\$15,898)
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	\$28,652			\$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 19, 2026

6:30–8:30 pm ALPHA, Lighthouse

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

9:30–11:30 am Couriers of Compassion, Senior Center
 10:00 am–12:00 pm PrimeTime, Lighthouse
 2:00–3:30 pm Buildings and Grounds, Judea
 3:45–4:30 pm Youth Choir, Church
 6:30–8:30 pm Welcome Committee, Resource Center
 7:00–8:00 pm Finance Committee, Youth Center
 7:00–8:30 pm Baptism Class, Gym
 7:00–8:30 pm Catechist Meeting K-5, Ministry Center
 7:00–9:00 pm Choir Rehearsal, Lighthouse and Church

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

9:15–11:15 am Wednesday Bible Study, Senior Center
 10:00–11:00 am School of Prayer, Senior Center
 7:00–8:00 pm School of Prayer, Senior Center
 7:00–8:30 pm PPC, Senior Center
 7:00–9:00 pm Small Group Experience, Lighthouse

Thursday, October 22, 2026

9:15–11:15 am Thursday Bible Study, Senior Center

Friday, October 23, 2026

Saturday, October 24, 2026

8:30–9:45 am RE PreK-8. All Saints Catholic Academy
 9:00–11:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast, Lighthouse
 9:00–10:30 am Saturday Men's Group, Judea
 3:15–4:15 pm Canticle Rehearsal, Church
 3:30–4:15 pm Reconciliation, Chapel

Sunday, October 25, 2026

9:30–10:30 am Children's Liturgy of the Word, Ministry Center
 1:00–2:00 pm Baptism, Church
 3:00–5:30 pm Event with St. Nicholas, Chapel
 7:00–8:30 pm HS Team, Youth Center

Blessed to Be a Blessing: I Am St. Thomas

Thank you to all parishioners who have completed and submitted your Commitment Form. For those parishioners who have not yet had the opportunity to submit their form, a final letter will be mailed to you with a personalized Commitment Form. We invite all faithful parishioners to complete a card as our parish goal is 100% participation! You may return your card by mailing it to the church, bringing it to Mass next Sunday or completing the Commitment Form online at stapostle.org. All cards need to be returned to the parish by Sunday, November 1.

As a friendly reminder, electronic giving is an easy, safe and secure way to support St. Thomas the Apostle. To set up a recurring weekly or monthly gift or to make a one-time donation directly from your bank account or credit card, please visit our website and follow the instructions. We are grateful for your support!

Blessed
to be a blessing



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:

All Saints Catholic Academy
1155 Aurora Ave
Naperville, IL 60540
ascacademy.org
630.961.6125
Margie Marshall, *Principal*

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Stay up to date with the latest happenings at St. Thomas by signing up for any of our emails at stapostle.org.

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