

St. Thomas

CHRISTMAS 2020



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

This stained glass depiction of the Nativity is part of the 2000 Jubilee mural in the St. Thomas Narthex.

in the word



with
fr danaher

Dear Parish Family,

In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul wrote the following: “Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy

Spirit that has been given to us.”

On Christmas Day, we celebrate the great love of God pouring out into our world when the Son of God came from heavenly glory to live with us, His lovable children. The Son of God lived with us to teach us to always have hope in God’s faithful love for the world.

God also has hope in us; that we will do our best to be the holy people whom He has called us to be; that we will do our best to share the glory of God on earth and peace to all on whom his favor rests.

May you and those you love have a very Merry Christmas.

In the Word,

Fr. Danaher

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Adjusted for COVID-19 restrictions

Daily

Mass: 8:30 am, Monday–Friday

In addition, the St. Thomas Deacons record a Daily Prayer Service that is available to watch on demand at www.stapostle.org

Weekend

Must sign up online to attend

Saturday Mass of Anticipation: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 9:30 am

Both weekend Masses will also be livestreamed and available to watch on demand at www.stapostle.org

Reconciliation

St. Thomas offers the Sacrament of Reconciliation before the Saturday 4:30 pm Mass. Reconciliation will be from 3:30–4:15 pm in the Galilee Room. Please check the website for full details.

UPCOMING LITURGIES

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 26

4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, December 27

9:30 am Mass

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

*Holy Day of Obligation**

Thursday, December 31

4:30 pm Mass

Friday, January 1

10:00 am Mass

**Due to the pandemic, Mass obligation is suspended indefinitely in the Diocese of Joliet*

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The Office will be closed December 24, 25, 31 and January 1. There will be limited hours on the other days during the holidays. Please call ahead. Regular Office hours resume January 4.

LITURGY AND MUSIC

Liturgy and Music at St. Thomas the Apostle provides the core of our community experience. Through lively, engaging and prayerful worship services, we all gather as the Body of Christ and are sent out to share the Good News!

FAITH FORMATION/RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Growing in faith and discipleship occurs naturally in a relaxed and Christ-centered environment where each person is accepted without judgment. We offer opportunities for faith formation for children, teenagers and adults. Children can experience faith formation in a classroom setting or in family faith formation sessions. Faith formation experiences help you maintain a rich prayer life, grow in your faith and make ministry a natural part of your life. Call 630.305.6318 for information.

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.

PASTORAL CARE

Sometimes life presents itself in ways which hasten the need for support and guidance from the caring community of the Church. St. Thomas Pastoral Care offers ministries of support, prayer and sacrament in response to the healing mission of the church. These ministries are inclusive of the Whole Person. Services include spiritual, behavioral health and physical care including education, blood pressure screening, blood drives, guest speakers and support groups.

OUTREACH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.

We are called to live the Gospel ... to put our faith into action. St. Thomas Outreach and Social Justice offers a myriad of opportunities for people of every age and ability to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our time ... working toward outreach justice and social justice.

STEWARDSHIP

Everything we have and all that we are is given to us by God. St. Thomas accepts stewardship donations with gratitude and great care.

JOIN ST. THOMAS

During this time of the Pandemic: If you would like to register with the parish, you may either contact Kathy Ferguson at 630.355.8980, x100 or email her at mainoffice@stapostle.org. You may also come to the St. Thomas Gathering Area through Door A and get a registration form and Welcome Folder from the receptionist, fill out the form and return it to us.

Our doors are open 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday through Friday and 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturdays. We have put Welcome Sundays on hold at this time.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Because of COVID-19, we are unable to use the Reconciliation Room of the Chapel. However, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is available Saturday, 3:30 to 4:15 pm, in the Galilee Room near the Welcome Center. Priests are available during the week by appointment. Communal Penance services are held during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

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 two Sundays each month at a 12:45 pm service. On selected dates, Baptisms are celebrated during weekend Mass. Parents are required to attend a Baptismal awareness and renewal session prior to the Baptism. Call Kathy at 630.355.8980, x100 to schedule class and baptism.

MATRIMONY

A couple planning on being married at St. Thomas should contact the church six months in advance. One year 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. Contact Diane McQueen at 630.355.8980, x101.

COUNSELING SERVICE

Call Jan Olah, Pastoral Care, at 630.355.8980, x124.

SUNDAY NURSERY

While we were happy to be able to provide nursery care, we are presently unable to do so because of the pandemic. We will be able to provide nursery care for your child age one (walking) to four at the 9:30 and 11:15 am Masses once we are able to open wide our doors for Sunday liturgies.

Make Year-End Donations Before January 1

Parish families are reminded that year-end donations must be received or postmarked by Thursday, December 31 to be counted as a tax deduction for 2020. Thanks for understanding that we must comply with IRS regulations.