

St. Thomas

CHRISTMAS 2021



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,

There are times when we cannot face life alone. We need support from others, particularly from those who are familiar with our situations, whether it be

related to occupation, sickness or the death of a loved one. There are many who could not get by without the help of a support group, people who listen and offer their own experiences as a way to help.

From the beginning of time, God knew that we could not face life alone, that we would need His support. On Christmas, we celebrate the human birth of His Son, a Son who will listen to us, who will offer us His support, who can relate to us and our human situation because He loved us so much that He took on our human nature.

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

In the Word,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Danaher".

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Adjusted for COVID-19 restrictions

Daily

Mass: 8:30 am, Monday–Saturday

Weekend

Saturday Mass of Anticipation: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:30 am and 11:15 am

Saturday 4:30 pm Mass will be livestreamed. Holy Communion is distributed in the parking lot to those participating virtually. Recording of the Mass is available to watch on demand at www.stapostle.org

UPCOMING LITURGIES

Feast of the Holy Family

Sunday, December 26

8:00 am, 9:30 am* and 11:15 am Mass

No 4:30 pm Mass or 3:30 pm Reconciliation Saturday, December 25

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year

Friday, December 31

4:30 pm Mass*

Saturday, January 1

10:00 am Mass

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, January 2

8:00 am, 9:30 am* and 11:15 am Mass

No 4:30 pm Mass or 3:30 pm Reconciliation Saturday, January 1

**denotes that liturgy will be livestreamed; Holy Communion distribution in the parking lot for Masses. See <https://www.stapostle.org/things-to-know-before-returning-to-mass/> for information on safety procedures.*

Dispensation from Mass is still in effect in the Diocese of Joliet due to the pandemic.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The Office will be closed December 22–26, 30–January 2. There will be limited hours on the other days during the holidays. Please call ahead. Regular Office hours resume January 3.

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 and in family faith formation opportunities offered throughout the year. 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 Maureen Januszewski 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.

St. Thomas offices are open 8:30 am–4:30 pm Monday through Friday. The reception desk in the Gathering Area is staffed 9:00 am–8:00 pm Monday–Thursday; 9:00 am–4:30 pm Friday; and 9:00 am–1:00 pm Saturday. Schedule subject to change. You can call to check on times before coming. Please enter through Door A.

We have put Welcome Sundays on hold at this time.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Thomas the Apostle offers the Sacrament of Reconciliation before the Saturday, 4:30 pm Mass. Reconciliation takes place from 3:30–4:15 pm in the Reconciliation Room – found in the Chapel. 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 1:00 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 Maureen Januszewski 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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children's Liturgy of the Word will be starting soon during the 9:30 am Mass for Pre-K through fifth grade. Contact Lorraine Katz at lkatz@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x109 for more information or to volunteer.

Make Year-End Donations Before January 1

Parish families are reminded that year-end donations must be received or postmarked by Friday, December 31 to be counted as a tax deduction for 2021. Thanks for understanding that we must comply with IRS regulations.