

St. Thomas

MAY 10, 2020 — FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



I AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE.
NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME.

— John 14:6

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

1500 Brookdale Road, Naperville, IL 60563 | 630.355.8980 (Main Office) | 630.305.6318 (Religious Education) | 630.355.0521 (Fax)

Office Hours: 8:30 am to 8:30 pm, Monday–Thursday; 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Friday

email to mainoffice@stapostle.org or visit us at www.stapostle.org

Roman Catholic Diocese of Joliet-in-Illinois • Most. Rev. Richard E. Pates, Apostolic Administrator

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Alison Ohl

Todd Galer

Anne Scanlan

David Johanneson

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Linda Bailey, *Service*

Deb Scheckel, *Parish Life*

Jeff Balsewicz, *Worship*

Susan Wood O'Leary, *Stewardship*

Mary Beth Nagai, *Faith Formation*

Ex-Officio

Fr. Philip Danaher, *Pastor*

Rev. Joseph Kappilumakkal, *Parochial Vicar*

*indicates part-time staff

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Reconciliation is available Saturday, 3:30 to 4:15 pm, in the Reconciliation Room of the Chapel. Our priests are available during the week by appointment. Communal Penance services are held occasionally during the year.

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 to three 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 Ferguson in the Church Office a few months in advance to make arrangements.

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

Religious Education: Call 630.305.6318 to register.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults):

Any person wanting to learn more about the Catholic Faith, or to join our Catholic community should call the church at 630.355.8980.

Counseling Service: Contact Jan Olah, Pastoral Care 630.355.8980, x124.

Sunday Nursery: Nursery care is available for your child age one (walking) to four at the 9:30 and 11:15 am Masses. For more information call the church office.

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

630.961.6125

in the word



with
fr danaher

Dear Parish Family,

Today's gospel scene is the night of Holy Thursday just before Jesus was taken by Jewish leaders to be handed over to the Romans. In the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus told His disciples that night that his heart was sorrowful, troubled, even to the point of death. Today, in John's gospel, we heard Jesus encourage His disciples not to let their hearts be

troubled. Even though He knew what was about to happen to Him, Jesus was looking out for His followers.

While we might change our feelings toward other people over the years, e.g., lose contact with those who had been our friends, such is not the case with Jesus. He has never stopped looking out for his followers.

On this Mother's Day when many of us remember the women who made us important in their lives, let us praise and thank God for making us important in His life. Let us praise and thank God for His undying, His eternal loving presence in our lives; that He is always with us to help calm our hearts, especially during this COVID-19 pandemic, with His love that will never end.

You have probably heard by now that Pope Francis has accepted Bishop Conlon's resignation as Bishop of Joliet. Bishop Richard Pates, who has been Apostolic Administrator since Bishop Conlon's medical leave of absence in December, will continue in that position until the arrival of a new bishop. As we thank Bishop Conlon for his eight years of ministry to the diocese, let us also pray for God's continued blessings for our Holy Father in his search for a new bishop for our diocese. I found, and adapted, the following prayer from the Diocese of St. Cloud, Minnesota as they awaited a new bishop.

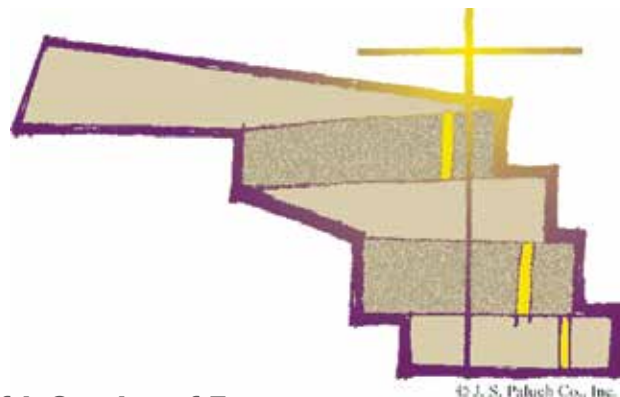
"Praise to you, Lord our God, our eternal shepherd and guide. In your faithfulness, grant to the Diocese of Joliet a shepherd whose watchful care and kindly zeal will continue the good work of his predecessors.

"In your love for us, give us a shepherd who will lead us in being Christ's heart of mercy, voice of hope and hands of justice. Help him to fill our minds and hearts with the truth of the Gospel, the power of the sacraments and the desire to build up your holy Church.

"We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen."

In the Word,

Fr. Danaher



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Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2020

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

— John 14:6

Liturgy Schedule

Cancelled until further notice

Daily

(Monday–Friday)

Communion Service: 6:30 am

Rosary: 8:10 am

Mass: 8:30 am

Divine Mercy Chaplet: 9:00 am

(Saturday)

Rosary: 8:10 am

Mass: 8:30 am

Divine Mercy Chaplet: 9:00 am

Weekend

Saturday Mass of Anticipation: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, and 11:15 am, 6:00 pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every First Friday

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 Kathy Ferguson in the General Office at 630.355.8980, x100



This year marks the 35th Anniversary of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church. Throughout this commemorative year, we as a parish family will explore the CHERISHED, CHARGED, CHALLENGED theme through liturgy, service and study.

Worship Commission — Liturgy and Music

Reflection on the Readings

Our Gospels for the next few weeks are taken from Jesus' farewell discourse at the Last Supper in John's Gospel. Today Jesus reassures that all we have to do is focus on knowing and believing in him, and we will find the way. It will not be easy to do, but that is why we have our community with us, to help us.

Readings for Today

First Reading — To meet their growing needs, the community chooses seven reputable men to serve the new Greek believers (Acts 6:1-7).

Psalm — Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you (Psalm 33).

Second Reading — We, like living stones, let ourselves be built into a spiritual house (1 Peter 2:4-9).

Gospel — "Show us the Father," Philip asks Jesus. To which Jesus replies: "Whoever sees me, sees the Father" (John 14:1-12).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115:1-4, 15-16; Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-13ab, 21; Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-5; Jn 15:1-8

Thursday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Ps 113:1-8; Jn 15:9-17

Friday: Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-10, 12; Jn 15:12-17

Saturday: Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-3, 5; Jn 15:18-21

Sunday: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Ps 66:1-7, 16, 20;
1 Pt 3:15-18 or 1 Pt 4:13-16; Jn 14:15-21 or
Jn 17:1-11a

We Miss you St. Thomas!

The church is not a building ... it is the people of God, the body of Christ, it is YOU!!

We miss seeing our St. Thomas family. You fill the space with your laughter, your smiles, your life and your love. The quiet Gathering Area. The empty pews. The vacant parking lot. All reminders that we are not together physically. But we are together spiritually. However, we all might need a little boost and are hoping you'll help us out.

How great would it be to see the familiar faces of St. Thomas, even if virtually? Help us do just that by sending in a photo of you and your family that we will put together in a video to share with all of St. Thomas. Send in a photo or yourself. Make a sign to say hello or fill with a quote. Snap a photo with your dog. Show us how you celebrate Mass. The photos will be as varied as our community but will unite us as we are all St. Thomas.

We will share the photos on our website and Facebook so by submitting them to us, you are giving us permission to do so. Please send photos to Casey Braun at cbraun@stapostle.org by Monday, May 11. We look forward to "seeing" you! Thank you!

Liturgy Schedule and Mass Intentions

Due to the cancellation of all Masses, the intentions below will be honored during the Mass that is being celebrated and recorded for our parishioners this weekend. The Mass will be made available on the St. Thomas website.

Monday, May 11, 2020

8:30 am For Those in Need of Food and Shelter

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

8:30 am †Vito Battisto, by The Battisto Family

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

8:30 am †Jim Rioux, by Ann Rioux

Thursday, May 14, 2020

8:30 am For Those Suffering with Mental Illness

Friday, May 15, 2020

8:30 am For The United States

Saturday, May 16, 2020

8:30 am For Small Businesses

4:30 pm *Mass of Anticipation*

†James Armstrong, by Bob, Terri and Tony

†Jim Wolff, by MaryAnn

Sunday, May 17, 2020

Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:00 am For All COVID-19 Patients

9:30 am For the People of St. Thomas

11:15 am †Philip Roddy, by Steve and Kristen Schneider and John and Kristina Boytim

6:00 pm For Pandemic to End Soon

In the Words of Pope Francis...

In 2017, Pope Francis gave a TED talk and offered a message entitled, "Why the Only Future Worth Building Includes Everyone." The words of Pope Francis, although spoken three years ago, can guide us today, even as we are living in the uncertainties of COVID-19.

"To Christians, the future does have a name, and its name is Hope. ... Hope is a humble, hidden seed of life that, with time, will develop into a large tree. It is like some invisible yeast that allows the whole dough to grow, that brings flavor to all aspects of life. And it can do so much, because a tiny flicker of light that feeds on hope is enough to shatter the shield of darkness. A single individual is enough for hope to exist, and that individual can be you. And then there will be another "you," and another "you," and it turns into an "us." And so, does hope begin when we have an "us?" No. Hope began with one "you." When there is an "us," there begins a revolution."

May we be the 'ones' who shatter the shield of darkness and ignite a revolution of hope.

Faith and Formation Commission — Adult

C.A.R.E. CORNER

As we saw last week, the disciples began to recognize and manifest some special gifts given from God to help them live a good and holy life. They exhibited knowledge of God, understanding and good judgment. They **moved forward** with courage and fortitude. Their approach to God was characterized by humility, understanding their place in relation to God. They lived in wonder and awe of the divine, and acted with reverence and piety. These gifts certainly benefited the early disciples and they can help us as well today. We refer to these as the gifts of the Holy Spirit (see Isaiah 11:1-2). And their purpose, according to Pope Francis, is “the building up of the Church in holiness.”

So, how do we get these gifts in order to receive their special spiritual benefits? The easiest way for us to be **filled** with the gift of divine Spirit is through the sacraments. When we were baptized — “born from above” — “born of water and Spirit” (John 3:3 and 5), the Holy Spirit affirmed us as a beloved child of God, which is what happened to Jesus at his own baptism (Luke 3:22). As part of our baptismal ceremony, we also were anointed and claimed as beloved children of God. We became members of the Body of Christ and were set on the path of life in the Spirit — a path of **passion** and **enthusiasm**.

Happy Mother's Day

*Loving God, we give thanks today for mothers!
Thank you for mothers who gave birth to us,
and women who have treated us as their own children.
You teach them how to be good mothers,
cherishing and protecting the children among us.
Help them mother lovingly, fairly, wisely and with great joy.
Help them raise their children to be the people they are born to be.*

*We need your comfort here today, Lord,
because some are missing mothers, some are missing children,
some are parted by distance or death.
Comfort those who longed to be biological mothers, and could not.
We pray for those here whose mothers have disappointed them;
we ask for grace in relationships where there is pain and bitterness,
for healing in relationships where there is abuse and violence.
Help our congregation be a space where people can feel mothered,
their gifts and talents appreciated and nurtured.*

*Finally, we pray today for mothers around the world;
mothers who cannot feed their children,
mothers who are homeless or without a homeland;
mothers who must teach their children about the dangers of bombs and bullets.
Help us create a world where mothers can raise their children in peace and plenty.
God of mothers, who created mothers, who came as a child and had a mother,
God our Mother,
loving us with a sweeter and deeper love than we have ever known,
hear our prayer this day, Amen.*

~ written by Carol Penner



Happy Mother's Day to mothers, grandmothers and all women who have nurtured children in any way.

Gentle God, we lift to you those who have given us life, those who have loved us, those who have blessed us, and those who have taught us, our mothers and the women who have nurtured us. May your blessing pour out upon the woman who gave us birth, and those beautiful, strong women of faith who have been mothers to us along our journey.

We lift to you the hearts of every mother who has watched her child die of hunger, every mother who has been a victim of abuse, every woman who stands in protest against a world that does not treat children with respect and dignity. We lift to you the prayer of every mother who has ever loved and lost.

We lift to you our Mother Earth. We lift to you our Mother Church. Help each one of us to be your blessing of love, a blessing straight from your heart. Amen.

*Excerpts taken from Mother's Day Prayer-©
2008-Rev. Jane Sommers*

Faith and Formation Commission — Youth

High School Community LIFE Night Zoom Meetings:

On Thursdays at 6:30 pm, throughout the stay-at-home period, we will be gathering by a Zoom meeting. If you are a teen and would like to join us, email Dorothy Grantham at ym@stapostle.org to be added to the invite.

Sunday Night YM Project Live

Join the largest Youth Group virtual meeting with great, inspirational National Speakers on Sunday Nights at 7:00 pm. Use this link to join: <https://projectym.com/live/>

Youth Ministry Newsletters and Informational Emails

During the stay-at-home order, the Youth Ministry office is emailing various ideas and resources for both teens and parents to stay connected with faith at this unprecedented time as well as some resources posted on our parish website. During this difficult time we are reminded that our Church does not stay just within the walls of St. Thomas. We are the Church. We take courage and strength through the Resurrection of Christ. We can be that light of Christ and we can be creative in doing just that. If you aren't receiving the Youth Ministry emails and newsletters, please contact Dorothy at ym@stapostle.org.

Young Adult

There are some good faith resources online for Young Adults. Continue to check out our parish website along with resources from the Diocese of Joliet <http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/yam/index.php>

Solidarity on Tap is offering virtual meetings: "Socializing meets Social Justice on a screen!" Use this link to check it out: <https://ignatiansolidarity.net/solidarity-on-tap/>

If you would like to be added to the Young Adult Ministry GroupMe, contact Dorothy Grantham at dgrantham@stapostle.org.

Charged...

As a way for the St. Thomas faith community to unpack our 'Cherished Charged Challenged' parish theme, parishioners were asked to reflect upon what they do to feel charged and plugged into their faith. As you read their various reflections over these weeks of Easter, perhaps you will discover something that increases your own 'battery life' and allows you to share that life with others.

"I think exercise and good food are important to feel charged up. I start each day stretching and thanking God for all the blessings in my life. I think about the coffee I'll make when I get downstairs and that helps me focus on getting up. When my family needs charging we might plan a nice meal or dessert or have a dance party or go for a bike ride or something outside. All of us need downtime to recharge so we keep that in mind and make sure there is occasionally time to do nothing in our schedules. Then we might watch a family show or just hang out do whatever." (Gina Howley)

"Growing up Catholic in Philippines, I always heard 'Love one another as I have loved you,' which is a consistent message I heard throughout my life. However, I never took it to heart until I had my own children. St. Thomas the Apostle gave our family many opportunities to be Christ-like to others through their Religious Education formation, call to action homilies and several outreach ministries. ... Some of the activities were hard to incorporate in our busy lives but allowing the Holy Spirit into our lives made our commitment to loving others easier as we make Christ the center of our lives. We are truly blessed to be able to answer the calling as we are charged by the Holy Spirit to love others by donating time, talent and treasure through the different ministries and liturgical teachings at St. Thomas the Apostle parish." (Lourdes Chew)

Just5Days Update

The Center for Ministry Development, which organizes Just5Days, announced that the Just5Days mission trip experiences are cancelled for this summer. Safety was their primary concern as they made the difficult decision to do this. This is such an impactful week for the middle school students who attend and the group that was registered to attend this year would have represented St. Thomas so very well. Many thanks to our middle school students for saying yes and to the St. Thomas faith community for supporting Just5Days and our middle school attendees with your prayers and affirmation. We are looking forward to Just5Days in 2021!

Looking Ahead

Religious education registration materials (Pre-K through Grade 8) for the 2020-2021 year will be available June 1.

Registration for Scripture Safari 2020 is postponed for now. Please watch the bulletin for more information once the scheduled week is confirmed.

Question of the week ...

When is it difficult for you to trust Jesus?



Service Commission — Pastoral Care

From the Behavioral Health Ministry: St. Thomas the Apostle is Community!

We recognize that these are trying times for everyone, and we want you to know you are not alone. During this time of social distancing and daily challenges due to the pandemic the need for support from our mental health providers may be necessary for maintaining a positive attitude in body, mind and spirit. Below are three resources that can provide assistance.



Gateway Psychological Services

Gateway Psychological Services, Ltd. is here to connect with you via its new way of operating remotely to provide services through telephone, FaceTime or HIPAA compliant Zoom video sessions. They have a team of available Christian therapists who can connect by telephone or video sessions to access the support and connection you may need without leaving the safety of your home. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 630.896.2337 or email: dr.cdillon@gatewaypsychologicalservices.com. You can also visit their website www.gatewaypsychologicalservices.com.

SamaraCare Counseling

SamaraCare offers teletherapy. If COVID-19 is exacerbating your stress level and reactivity, consider getting support from one of our therapists in the comfort and safety of your own home through teletherapy. Teletherapy sessions are proven to be as effective as in-person counseling. All you need is access to the Internet and a computer, tablet or smart phone with audio/video capabilities. You can meet with your counselor from the comfort and safety of your own home. To schedule an appointment, please go to www.samaracarecounseling.org/lets-get-started/ or call 630.357.2456

DuPage County Health Department

The DuPage County Health Department is also available to help. Please call 630.682.7400.

May 2020, Mental Health Awareness Month

Each year millions of Americans face the reality of living with a mental illness. During May, NAMI joins the national movement to raise awareness about mental health. Each year we fight stigma, provide support, educate the public and advocate for policies that support people with mental illness and their families.

You Are Not Alone

NAMI's "You are Not Alone" campaign features the lived experience of people affected by mental illness to fight stigma, inspire others and educate the broader public. Now more than ever before, it is important for the mental health community to come together and show the world that no one should ever feel alone. The campaign builds connection and increases awareness with the digital tools that make connection possible during a climate of physical distancing. Even in times of uncertainty, the NAMI community is always here, reminding everyone that you are not alone.

Source: NAMIdupage.org

CDC adds 6 new symptoms of COVID-19

By Pam Belluck, *The New York Times*

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has expanded its list of possible symptoms of the coronavirus, a step that reflects the broad variation and unpredictability in the way the illness can affect individual patients.

The Federal health agency changed its website to cite the following symptoms as possible indicators of COVID-19:

- chills
- repeated shaking with chills
- muscle pain
- headache
- sore throat
- new loss of taste or smell

The CDC added the six symptoms earlier this month after new recommendations were issued by an organization of public health epidemiologists that is responsible for defining which infectious diseases are tracked and reported to the agency.

The World Health Organization (WHO) says the most common symptoms are fever, dry cough and tiredness. Some patients may have aches and pains, sore throat or diarrhea which are usually mild and begin gradually.

Both agencies recommend that people seek emergency medical attention if they have trouble breathing or persistent pain or pressure in the chest.

The CDC also says that immediate medical attention should be sought if people experience sudden confusion, cannot be aroused or if their lips or face turn a bluish color.

Service Commission — Outreach and Social Justice

Outreach and Social Justice Office Open for Business!

The Outreach and Social Justice Office (Mike and Anne) will be able to access email and voicemail even with the St. Thomas building closed. Due to COVID-19, there is an increase in the number of area families (including parishioners) in need of food and financial assistance. If you are in need of help or if you are aware of anyone else in need of help, please call or email the OSJ Office. Do not hesitate to contact us in these challenging times. The SPIRIT is with you!

Mike: mryder@stapostle.org, 630.355.8980, x121
Anne: aschultz@stapostle.org, 630.355.8980, x113

St. Thomas Cares and Care Pantry Donations

Many organizations are in need of funds to allow them to help others in this extraordinary situation. Consider making a donation as you are able.

If you would like to make a donation to St. Thomas Cares, there are two ways:

1. Checks can be written to "St. Thomas OSJ" with "Care Pantry" in the memo and sent to St. Thomas OSJ – ATTN: ANNE (1500 Brookdale Rd., Naperville, IL 60563).
2. Go to www.stapostle.org and click "Please Give" box on the home page. Select "Click here to setup your online giving account." You have the choice of setting up an account or "Quick Give." Click the "funds" drop down list and select the "St. Thomas Cares" fund. (Shortcut url: <https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1479/Home/NewQuickGive>.)



St. Thomas Cares Karen's COVID-19 Story

Karen is homeless, but had a job doing promotional demos in stores. It didn't pay much, but allowed her to maintain motel living. She lost that job due to COVID-19. She was ineligible for unemployment as she was paid on a 1099. She and her little dog were living in her small car. With her stimulus check, she was able to get a motel for a couple weeks. She knew she'd have to go back to living in her car, but in the meantime, the car would not start. She had not registered with DuPage PADS because she was making it on her own. If she had been registered, she likely would have been provided a motel room during this crisis, like other DuPage PADS homeless. Currently DuPage PADS is not registering new clients. She is one of the homeless for whom there is no safety net in these times.

She was referred to St. Thomas by DuPage County. St. Thomas Cares had her car towed to Ogden Motorcar. They work with St. Thomas Cares in such situations at discounted rates. While the car was being repaired, St. Thomas Cares paid for three nights in the motel and provided food. St. Thomas Cares also re-contacted the county, and there is a possibility they will be able to provide some assistance. The car is now running again, and Karen can again live in her car as the need arises.



Bethany House of Hospitality

2020 Lenten Project

Continue to Fill Your Little Brown Box

Bethany House of Hospitality was and is still the beneficiary of this year's Lenten project. The current situation has prevented the collection of the little brown boxes with your donations. In the circumstances, please continue to fill the boxes with your change. When we are again able to meet and celebrate Mass at St. Thomas, we will collect the boxes.

Bethany House of Hospitality

Located in Chicago and sustained in some ways by a number of women's religious communities, Bethany House of Hospitality offers housing and support services to young immigrant women as they journey to independence. Bethany House residents are currently from El Salvador, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Guatemala, Somalia, Venezuela, Honduras, Saudi Arabia and Sudan.

Hesed House PADS

In pre-COVID-19 times, St. Thomas parishioners would have signed up to bring food, including casseroles and desserts, to St. Thomas on Thursday May 7. Members of the St. Thomas Hesed House PADS ministry would have picked up the food at 5:00 pm and transported it to Hesed House. Other volunteers, in three shifts, would have prepared and served dinner, made up lunch bags for the following day, and prepared and served breakfast on Friday morning. That did not happen last Thursday.

Although Hesed House had put many precautions into place, two confirmed cases indicated that it was only a matter of time before a major outbreak occurred. On Easter Monday, April 13, 200 homeless residents of Hesed House were bused to a Schaumburg hotel to prevent the spread of Coronavirus. They are still there. Below are excerpts from an Aurora-Beacon News article.

200 residents of Aurora homeless shelter bused to Schaumburg hotel to help prevent spread of coronavirus

The sudden but orderly transplant of Hesed House began at high noon on Monday, as its 200 homeless residents, expressing a mix of excitement and anxiety, began boarding a fleet of Kaneland School District buses that would take them from River Street in Aurora to their new temporary home at a Schaumburg hotel.

This mass migration of the state's second largest homeless shelter marked the first big Illinois shelter to make such a move, said Hesed House Executive Director Ryan Dowd, and will "serve as a model" for the others which may have to operate from empty hotels as the coronavirus pandemic plays out.

The buses left Aurora in half-hour intervals to give an awaiting crew in Schaumburg time to admit the hotel's new guests in an orderly way. There, each resident was assigned a room where they will stay in isolation for at least two weeks. Boxed meals paid for by the state will be delivered three times a day to their rooms and laundry will be picked up and cleaned for them, said Hesed House Managing Director Joe Jackson. These efforts are an attempt to prevent what officials say would be the inevitable spread of COVID-19 in such tight living quarters.

By 6:30 pm Monday, they seemed to have achieved it. "Nothing short of a miracle," is how Dowd described the move that had all 200 residents — many of them "wide-eyed" as they settled into their new rooms — enjoying a dinner of chicken drumsticks, wild rice and a roll.

Justice for Immigrants

Action Alert to Congress on Further COVID-19 Actions



The US Conference of Catholic Bishops has issued an Action Alert through the "Justice for Immigrants" Initiative. Please take the time to become more educated on the current issues and, if you are in agreement, consider taking the action below.

Although Congress has moved forward on legislation to help slow the spread and mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States, there are still many people who have been left out of safety and welfare. That includes the immigrants who are here legally among us.

We must do more to ensure that no one is left behind and that everyone is safe. As Catholics, we are called to be a Church for all God's children. We affirm the inherent dignity of every person and our duty as Christians to work for the common good of all God's people during this pandemic, while paying particular attention to the most vulnerable.

To learn more about COVID-19 impact on refugees and immigrants, go to <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/covid-19-resource-page/>. To send a message to your US Representative and Senators go to https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/gly4LurPX_dLYBgMKytEgg

Dear Senators and Representative:

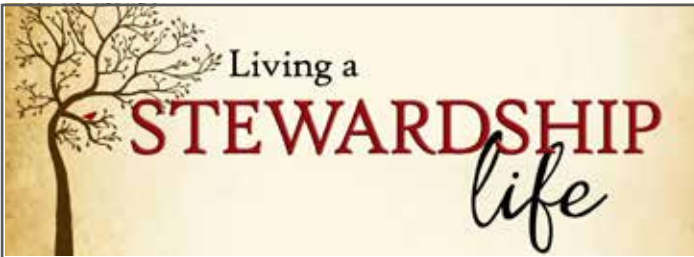
As a Catholic person of faith, I believe in protecting the God-given dignity of every human being and pursuing the common good during this global health emergency. Our teaching and the words of Jesus call us in this time of global pandemic to care in a special way for the most at-risk persons, including the unborn, the sick, children, refugees and immigrants and the elderly.

For the next COVID-19 Relief Package, we urge Congress to:

- 1. Provide COVID-19 testing and treatment for all, including immigrant communities; ensure that emergency Medicaid covers testing and treatment.*
- 2. Automatically extend work authorization and visa renewal deadlines for refugees and immigrants who are providing economic and recovery assistance to our country.*
- 3. Ensure that many hardworking struggling immigrant and refugee populations are eligible for cash rebate payments, including individuals who file taxes with an ITIN.*
- 4. Halt the implementation of the new public charge rules during the COVID-19 crisis.*
- 5. Protect asylum seekers and unaccompanied children (while assuring appropriate COVID-19 screening and treatment).*
- 6. Appropriate \$642 million in supplemental funding for the Office of Refugee Resettlement.*

I respectfully urge you to consider the above recommendations. Know you are in my thoughts and prayers at this critical moment in our nation's history.

Stewardship and Administration



Last month St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, a "must see" for many traveling to New York City, announced that it probably won't be able to "sustain operations in the coming weeks ahead" because it is "facing an expected shortfall of 6.5 million dollars." St. Patrick's receives no outside donations and has no endowment. It depends on such things as Mass donations and fundraising events. Sound familiar?

Our expectation is that when life returns to normal our Parish will be there just like before the pandemic affected our ability to come together. However, St. Thomas still has bills to pay, salaries to pay, and a building to maintain. St. Thomas will still be here, but how different will it look?

It may be difficult to share our treasure when our treasure is affected by loss or lessening of income, but even the widow in the Bible gave what she could. We also ask that you remember St. Thomas even though we can't physically be together. We can also use our time to pray that there is an end to the pandemic and that those who are ill recover.

A good editorial to read is Editorial: Our churches need our generous support to survive the pandemic, appearing in *America*, May 11, 2020 issue.

Last weekend's stewardship of financial gifts

Weekly Sunday Offertory

April 26, 2020	
Sunday Collection Offering*	\$0
Credit Card On-Line Giving	\$20,558
Automatic Direct Debit (5 th and 20 th each month)	none this week
Mailed in and stock donations	\$16,907
Total for the week	\$37,465
*Based on Collection Counters Reports prior to bank confirmation	
Fiscal Year (7/1 to 6/30)	\$1,599,089
Weekly Average 7/1/2019 to date	\$35,535
Offertory Goal Year to date	\$1,661,535
Over/short of goal to date	(\$62,446)
Goal for Fiscal Year 7/1 to 6/30	\$1,920,000
\$ of Annual Sunday Offertory Goal	83%
Remaining for Fiscal Year goal	\$320,911

This week, the Sunday collection is \$62,446 behind goal so far this year.

Diocesan Appeal 2020

Parish Appeal Goal	\$174,600
Pledges Received	\$120,937
% of Goal pledged to date	69.27
Unpaid pledges	\$35,436
Paid to Date	\$85,501
Percent of goal paid to date	48.97

Please Continue Giving During COVID-19

We miss you at Mass! Our weekend Masses are cancelled in response to directives from the Diocese of Joliet to reduce the risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus. We pray you are healthy and remain so until we can again joyfully celebrate Mass together. There are two easy to use options to continue giving so you can support St. Thomas during the social distancing period:

Option 1: Sign Up For Online Giving

THE EASIEST AND BEST OPTION! St. Thomas partners with Our Sunday Visitor (OSV) which gives an online interface where you can create a secure account to enter your credit card number and manage your giving.

Option 2: Mail Your Envelopes

Even though you weren't able to drop your donation envelopes in the collection basket, you can still mail your donation using one of the postage paid return envelopes in your envelope packet. Please note that St. Thomas continues to receive and check mail daily.

The parish address is:

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church
1500 Brookdale Road
Naperville, IL 60563

St. Thomas Is Grateful For You

We are very grateful for your continuing support, especially through this health crisis, to be the vibrant and engaging faith home you come to for spiritual nourishment. Let us continue to pray for the day when we can once again lift our voices to God in praise as a community of faith.



Checked These Listings Lately? Thank You to Our Advertisers!

Make it a habit to check these advertisers when you need a product or a service. And when you purchase, be sure to mention you saw their ad in the St. Thomas bulletin!

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		<p>Esser Hayes Insurance Group Inc. Insurance is Our Only Business Since 1939 With Excellent Companies & Competitive Rates 1811 High Grove • 355-2077</p>		



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<p>Free Estimates 897-1538</p>	 Siding - Windows - Doors & More Duanne Kleckner — Doug Kleckner	<p>Insurance work New windows Re-siding Use Local!</p>	 320 N. Mill St. Naperville, IL 60540 (630) 420-2886

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If you own a business or know of a local business that might like to support your local Catholic parish by advertising in its parish bulletin, please contact J.S. Paluch. Grow your business by advertising in the church bulletin and create strong connections with your target audience. Benefits include:

- GREAT COVERAGE - 97%** of all households attending church take at least one church bulletin home every Sunday.
- GREAT VALUE - 70%** of all households are aware of and look at the advertising in the church bulletin and 68% of households surveyed when making a choice between businesses are inclined to choose the one who advertised in the church bulletin.
- GREAT LOYALTY - 41%** of households do business with a company specifically because they are advertising in the church bulletin.
- GREAT PRODUCT - 62%** of households keep the church bulletin the entire week as reference.

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