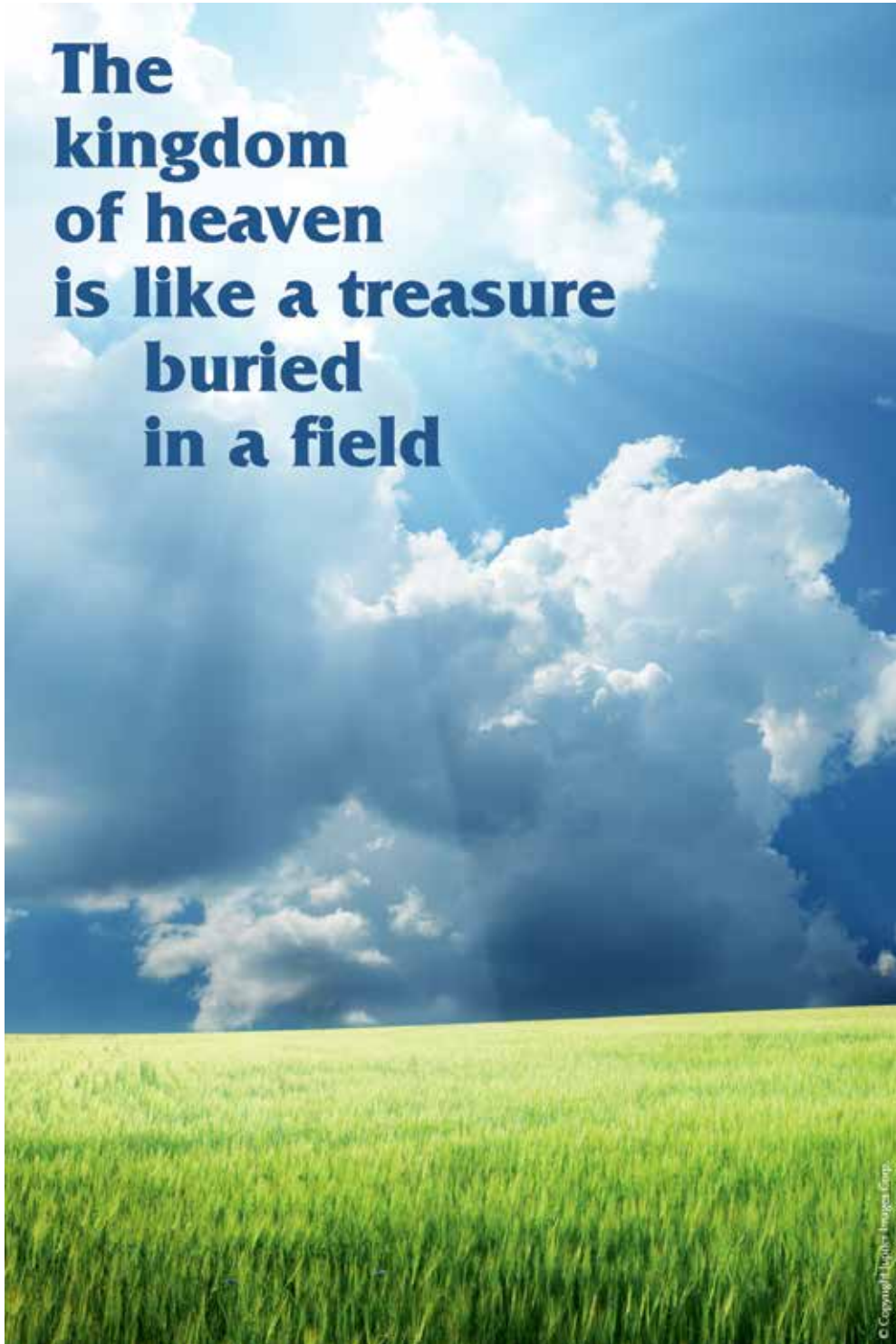


St. Thomas

JULY 26, 2020 — SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**The
kingdom
of heaven
is like a treasure
buried
in a field**



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

Parish Staff

Priests in Residence

Rev. Philip Danaher, *Pastor*, x102, pdanaher@stapostle.org

Rev. Joseph Kappilumakkal, CMI, *Parochial Vicar*, x103, jkapp@stapostle.org

Priests Assisting on Weekends

Rev. Bob Colaresi, O. Carm., *Weekend Associate*, robco@robco.org

Rev. Matt Lorenz, *Senior Vicar*, Archdiocese of Chicago

Permanent Deacons

Michael (Kathryn) Barrett — 630.355.8980, x145, meabarrett@att.net

Jim (Mary Jo) Breen — 630.486.3133, jimb4853@gmail.com

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

Larry (Susan) Kearney — 630.355.8980, x225, lkearney@comcast.net

Chuck (Sue) Lane — 630.355.8980, x223, chuck.lane2@icloud.com

Patrick (Mary Jo) Lennon — 630.901.3223, presence.now@gmail.com

Liturgy and Music

Jim Clauer, *Director of Liturgy and Music*, x111, jclauer@stapostle.org

Samantha Delke, *Associate Director of Liturgy and Music*, x120, sdelke@stapostle.org

Faith Formation

Melissa Santos, *Principal at All Saints Catholic Academy*, 630.961.6125

Patti Dougherty, *Director of Religious Education*, x109, pdougherty@stapostle.org

Peggy Goralski, *Director of Middle School Faith Formation*, x123, pgoralski@stapostle.org

Dorothy Grantham, *Director of Youth/Young Adult Ministry*, x117, dgrantham@stapostle.org

Chari Rosales, *Director of Adult Education and RCIA*, x138, croales@stapostle.org

Marge Coronado, *Faith Formation Administrative Assistant*, x118, mcoronado@stapostle.org

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Sally Meno, *OSJ Associate*, x137, smeno@stapostle.org

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Felicia Lawlor, * *Faith Community Nurse*, x104, flawlor@stapostle.org

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Kathy Ferguson, *Gen Office Administrative Asst.*, x100, mainoffice@stapostle.org

Casey Braun, * *Communications Coordinator*, x110, cbraun@stapostle.org

Elizabeth Fisher, * *Evening/Saturday Receptionist*

Mary Wright, * *Evening/Saturday Receptionist*

Mary Derwinski, * *Administration Asst.*, x143, mderwinski@stapostle.org

Sue Sportiello, * *Financial Asst.*, x143, ssportiello@stapostle.org

Marilyn DeMeo, * *Database Coordinator (T/Th)*, x107, mdemeo@stapostle.org

Bob Hartmann, * *Facility Manager*, x133, facility@stapostle.org

Parish Pastoral Council

Barbara Mambu, *Chair*

Alison Ohl

Todd Galer

Anne Scanlan

David Johanneson

Commission Representatives

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:

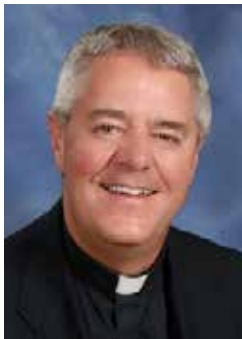
All Saints Catholic Academy

1155 Aurora Ave

Naperville, IL 60540

630.961.6125

in the word



with
fr danaher

Dear Parish Family,

In the first reading from the Book of Kings, God praised King Solomon because he did not ask for long life or riches for himself but instead asked for an understanding heart to help him govern God's people.

Unlike Solomon, a Confederate soldier who was seriously wounded in the Civil War, asked for such things as health, power and riches but was given none of those. In fact, he asked for many good things for himself but, as he wrote in the following prayer, received what he did not ask for.

"I asked God for strength, that I might achieve. I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey. I asked for health, that I might do great things. I was given infirmity, that I might do better things. I asked for riches, that I might be happy. I was given poverty, that I might be wise. I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men. I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God. I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life. I was given life, that I might enjoy all things. I got nothing that I asked for, but everything I had hoped for. Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered. I am, among all men, most richly blessed."

As we ask for such favors from God as good health and employment, let us also ask for His help to trust in His wisdom and His understanding heart.

Speaking of wisdom and understanding heart, this weekend we say good-bye to Patti Dougherty who shared God's wisdom and understanding heart with our parish family for many years, first in the Liturgy office and then in Religious Formation. While we are sad to see her leave our parish staff, we are very grateful for her years of dedicated service to God's holy people of St. Thomas and hope that she will enjoy her well-deserved retirement.

Jesus compared the kingdom of heaven to a treasure buried in a field. Patti, we will always treasure how you shared the good news of God's heavenly kingdom through your thoughts, words and actions. God bless.

In the Word, *Fr. Danaher*



Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 26, 2020

All things work for good for those who love God.

— Romans 8:28a

Liturgy Schedule

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 has resumed offering 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.

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

Solomon asks for a wise, discerning and understanding heart. In the Gospel Jesus talks about pearls/treasure — worth seeking at all costs! This offers us an opportunity to reflect on what really matters to us in life: what we seek, where we look for it and whether we nurture it when it appears. Open your hearts and ask for wisdom!

Readings for Today

First Reading — Solomon prays for an understanding heart (1 Kings 3:5, 7-12).

Psalm — Lord, I love your commands (Psalm 119).

Second Reading — All things work for good for those who love God (Romans 8:28-30).

Gospel — The one who knows of the kingdom of heaven brings new and old from the storeroom (Matthew 13:44-52 [44-46]).

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: Jer 13:1-11; Dt 32:18-21; Mt 13:31-35

Tuesday: Jer 14:17-22; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday: Jer 15:10, 16-21; Ps 34:2-11; Jn 11:19-27
or Lk 10:38-42

Thursday: Jer 18:1-6; Ps 146:1b-6ab; Mt 13:47-53

Friday: Jer 26:1-9; Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14; Mt 13:54-58

Saturday: Jer 26:11-16, 24; Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34;
Mt 14:1-12

Sunday: Is 55:1-3; Ps 145:8-9, 15-18; Rom 8:35, 37-39;
Mt 14:13-21

Prayer

God of All Life and Love,

We know that nothing and no one

is lost with your grace.

*Should great difficulty come upon us,
we believe that blessings will eventually come
from the apparent troubles of our lives.*

*When we look back on the hardships of life,
we marvel at how unexpected good has come
from such apparent setbacks and disappointments.*

*Lord, remove any heaviness of heart
that might weigh us down today,
and deepen within us the assurance
that ultimately all will be well ...*

because you are God.

Amen.

Presider Schedule August 1–2

Saturday, August 1

4:30 pm – Fr. Joseph Kappilumakkal

Sunday, August 2

9:30 am – Fr. Philip Danaher

Presider schedule is subject to change.

Liturgy Schedule and Mass Intentions

Please note, because we currently only have two weekend Masses, all the weekend intentions will be read at both Masses.

Monday, July 27, 2020

8:30 am Mass

Tuesday, July 28, 2020

8:30 am Mass

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

8:30 am †Shirley Shepard, by The William Mann Family

Thursday, July 30, 2020

8:30 am Mass

Friday, July 31, 2020

8:30 am Mass

Saturday, August 1, 2020

4:30 pm *Mass of Anticipation*

†Rita Armstrong, by Bob, Terri & Tony

†Lucille Wilkins, by Pat Wilkins

Sunday, August 2, 2020

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am For the People of St. Thomas

9:30 am †J. Robert Collins, by Bob and Donna McLaughlin

†Robert Bickel, by Karen Currier

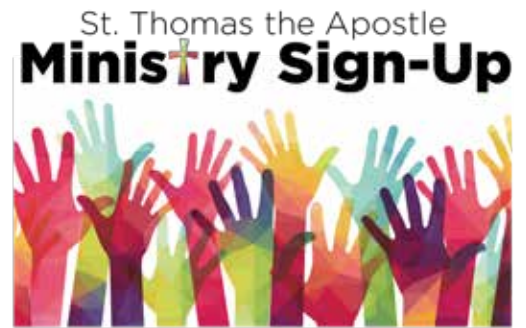
†Zbigniew Durnas, by Mom and Family

11:15 am †Danuta Cichočka, by Agata Chalupka and Family and
Mariola Szelemy and Family

Ministry Sign-up

As we have learned the past few months, even with the church building closed, there are so many ways that St. Thomas continued to be church, being the hands and feet of Christ to our faith community and in the world. We need to continue that spirit of service, perhaps now more than ever.

We need you. There are talents and gifts unique to you that are needed at St. Thomas. A wonderful way to use those talents and gifts would be to volunteer for a ministry. The brochure outlining the ministries at St. Thomas is updated and online. The actual sign-up process can also take place online. Consider sharing your gifts and talents with our faith community. We need you!



Exciting New Ministry Opportunities!

With COVID-19 we have had to re-imagine and revamp many things we do with Liturgy as our primary way of reaching parishioners is now via the internet. We began recording Masses beginning Sunday, March 22, and now are livestreaming our two weekend Masses for people to be able to watch from home live or watch at their convenience. Thanks to a generous donation, last weekend we began using a new professional camera that allows us to zoom, pan and show the congregation to provide an even better sense of connection for those watching at home. With this new technology comes the need for additional help. There are two new ministry options that are outlined below. If you would be interested in helping out with either of them, contact Jim Clauer, Director of Liturgy and Music, at 630.355.8980, x111 or jclauer@stapostle.org. One-on-one training will be provided. Both of these ministries would also be great for teens who know and enjoy technology.

Camera Operator (Videographer)

The main responsibility of this ministry is to operate the camera during Mass. You will zoom in and out, pan the camera to the correct area of focus during the Mass. If you have ever used a camcorder, you will have no trouble doing this, as it is basically all the same. There will be a minor secondary responsibility of starting and ending the livestream on the computer.

Multimedia Coordinator

The main responsibility of this ministry is to handle the slides we project on the screen before and during Mass. They will close out the pre-Mass slide show and queue up the slides we use during Mass. And then manually advance the slides used during Mass in-sync with the congregation using a wireless remote. On some occasions it may also mean playing a video. Basic PowerPoint knowledge is helpful, but not required.

Diocese of Joliet Announces Appointment of New Bishop, Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks

Pope Francis announced July 17, 2020, that he has named Bishop Ronald A. Hicks, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Chicago, as the sixth Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Joliet, IL. Pope Francis had previously accepted the resignation of Bishop Emeritus R. Daniel Conlon and had named Bishop Richard E. Pates as Apostolic Administrator of the diocese until a new bishop could be appointed.

Bishop Hicks, 52, will be installed at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus in Joliet, Ill. on September 29, 2020.

"The Diocese of Joliet is most grateful to Pope Francis for the appointment of Bishop Ronald Hicks as its sixth bishop," said Bishop Pates. "The bishop owns a reputation for pastoral leadership and is totally committed to the ongoing renewal of the Catholic Church. He is a worthy successor to Bishop Conlon and his predecessors."

About Bishop Hicks

Bishop Hicks, a native of Harvey, IL, grew up in South Holland, IL, where he attended St. Jude the Apostle Parish and Grade School. He graduated from Quigley Seminary South in 1985. He received his B.A. in Philosophy from Niles College of Loyola University Chicago in 1989 and his Master of Divinity degree in 1994 and his Doctor of Ministry degree in 2003, both from the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, IL.

Bishop Hicks served as an Associate Pastor at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Chicago from 1994 to 1996 and then at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Orland Hills, IL, from 1996 to 1999. From 1999 to 2005, he lived and ministered at St. Joseph College Seminary as the Dean of Formation.

In July 2005, with permission from Cardinal Francis George, Bishop Hicks moved from Chicago to El Salvador to begin his five-year term as Regional Director of Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH) in Central America. NPH is a home dedicated to caring for more than 3,400 orphaned and abandoned children in nine Latin American and Caribbean countries.

From 2010 to 2014, Bishop Hicks served as the Dean of Formation at Mundelein Seminary. During that time, he assisted with weekend Masses at St. Jerome Parish in Rogers Park, Chicago.

Bishop Hicks was appointed Vicar General of the Archdiocese by Cardinal Cupich on January 1, 2015. On September 17, 2018 he was ordained an Auxiliary Bishop at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago.



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

The Youth Ministry office is emailing various ideas and resources for both teens and parents to stay connected with faith at this unprecedented time. During this difficult time we are reminded that our Church does not stay just within the walls of St. Thomas. We are the Church. If you aren't receiving the Youth Ministry emails and newsletters, please contact Dorothy Grantham 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.

Question of the week ...

How has God been generous to you these past several months?



Religious Education Registration

Religious education registration materials for the 2020-2021 year are available online at <https://www.stapostle.org/religious-education/registration-forms/>. Return registration forms as soon as possible. Early registration helps us in our planning.

It's ministry sign-up time! Consider signing up for a ministry as a catechist or volunteer for religious education. Your gifts are needed!

Scripture Safari "Family" Style: Hidden Gifts

Everything is different this year, including Scripture Safari, our Vacation Bible School. Due to COVID-19 and the inability to keep children, and our youth and adult volunteers, totally safe, we are offering instead a Family event where you monitor your own family's safety outside. You will be able to choose an outdoor session offered on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday July 27, 28 or 29 with various time frames. Wednesday/Thursday are the rain dates. Email parishioner Ann Cotner at aecotner@yahoo.com for the sign-up link and more information.

Protecting God's Children Online workshop

Have you ever thought about taking the workshop, Protecting God's Children? Through October 31 this workshop is offered online for all volunteers over age 18. If you want to volunteer with our youth, consider taking it now. Go to www.virtusonline.org, click on the FIRST TIME REGISTRANT, follow the on-screen instructions. For assistance, please contact SafeEnvironment@dioceseofjoliet.org.

Camp Rock 2020

- What:** Camp Rock is a 4-day, 3-night camp for middle school students sponsored by Joyful Hope Presentations
- When:** August 6-9
- Who:** Any student currently in grades 6, 7 or 8
- Where:** Dickson Valley Camp, Newark, IL (near Plano, IL)
- Cost:** \$350
- Registration:** Go to www.camprock.me.
- Questions:** Contact John Lamperis at john@camprock.me.
- Activities:** Prayer, Bible study, Mass, swimming, canoeing, archery, campfire, indoor gym and climbing wall, hiking, sports, music, skits, crafts

First Eucharist Celebrations

St Thomas joyfully celebrates First Eucharist with our young parishioners throughout August. While we have some extra masses scheduled to accommodate the First Communicants, along with their immediate family and an additional four guests, some masses may have limited seating tickets available. Please feel free to join us at one of the following First Communion masses. Tickets will be available the Thursday before each mass through our website www.stapostle.org. We ask that you remember in prayer our First Communicants as their special day approaches. May God bless them as they meet Jesus in this most holy sacrament.

Saturday, August 1	10:30 am Mass
Saturday, August 8	10:30 am Mass
Sunday, August 9	9:30 am Mass and 11:30 am Mass
Saturday, August 15	10:30 am Mass
Sunday, August 16	9:30 am Mass and 11:30 am Mass

Faith and Formation Commission — Adult

C.A.R.E. CORNER

Over the course of the first three centuries, most Church leaders and Bishops were put to death for their faith in Christ. And yet, in spite of all the **struggles** of being targets of the empire, the Christian faith, though it existed mostly underground, grew exponentially throughout the entire geography of the Roman Empire and beyond. How was that even possible? We attribute that growth and expansion to the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Second and third generation Christians included some major players who continued to move the Church forward in spite of all the **challenges** of trying to exist within oppressive environments. Clement, the fourth Bishop of Rome, was a successor to Peter. Ignatius of Antioch coined the term “catholic” and used it to refer to the whole Church. He also was a tremendous encouragement to other Bishops as he was being led to Rome to be martyred. Polycarp, the Bishop of Smyrna, was also martyred for being a Christian. **Obstacles** for the Church continued to come. But so did the Christian witnesses. And that has remained true for the past 2,000 years.

Service Commission — Pastoral Care

From the Office of the Parish Nurse SAVE THE DATE

Remember ... Bullying: Facing the Bully Without & Within

The Wellspring presentation, Bullying, Session III, is coming back to St. Thomas the Apostle this summer. This session, Standing Strong Against Bullying, will provide participants with the skills and greater awareness to deal with the bully without and within, especially in the workplace.

This session will be co-led by Dr. Charlotte Dillon, a clinical psychologist who teaches that how we treat one another is a core value of Christian discipleship, and Dr. Beth Plachetka, a licensed clinical social worker, speaker and professional educator. Wellspring Educational Events are co-hosted by the Adult Faith Formation and the Pastoral Care Department of St. Thomas the Apostle.

Bullying: Standing Strong Against Bullying

A Zoom digital webinar

6:30–8:00 pm, August 18, 2020

Reservations Required to receive the Zoom account information for your media devices. To find out more, call Felicia Lawlor, Faith Community Nurse, at 630.355.8980, x104 or flawlor@stapostle.org.



From the Behavioral Health Ministry: Creating ‘Social Bubbles’ With Clear Rules Can Help People Socialize

- A social bubble is when two families or a small group of people agree to take similar COVID-19 precautions so that they can meet up socially.
- Forming social bubbles can allow people to socialize while reducing their risk for COVID-19 as states begin to ease restrictions.
- Social bubbles should follow current guidelines of gathering in groups of fewer than 10 people.
- Manage your social bubble with clear and honest conversations so that everyone can agree to the same rules.
- Younger people who don’t follow the guidelines can spread COVID-19 to others.

According to Dr. William Schaffner, an expert in infectious disease from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, “It’s actually a very clever idea. People are trying to take the national guidelines and adjust them to their own personal lives. Now we’re opening up, but you want to open up carefully, right? You would like to get out with your family and interact with friends. The question is, how do you do that safely? And that’s the notion of the bubble.”

“Let’s say we have a family with two children that wants to get together with another family with two children. The trick would be to have a conversation with that family to make sure that they’re on the same careful wavelength that you are. If both families have been careful, then you can get together. The children can play with each other, the grown-ups can have dinner and so on. You can be assured that everyone inside that bubble is on the same wavelength as far as wearing masks, social distancing and being careful. So, it considerably reduces the risk of having the COVID virus be part of your bubble.

“The larger it (the bubble) gets, the more chance for risk. So the conversations really have to be pretty clear. At least in our neck of the woods, the recommendation continues to be that we not gather together in groups larger than 10. And so there is admonishment: Don’t gather in large groups. If you gather in small groups (eg, a few people getting together for a poker party), that’s fine as long as you can be reasonably assured that you’re all together.”

Dr. John Whyte, chief medical officer at WebMD, medscape.com



Service Commission — Outreach and Social Justice

Ertha Mission Appeal

Ertha Papillon, a leader in our Haiti Twinning community (Ste. Marie-Madeleine, Duchity, Haiti), is our mission speaker for this summer. She will be here “virtually” next weekend, speaking on behalf of the school and orphanage she founded and directs for the poorest of the poor in the hills near Duchity. See this weekend’s bulletin insert (attached to the bulletin download) for more information on the school and orphanage.

If you would like to make a donation to Ertha’s school/orphanage, there are two ways:

1. Checks can be written to “St. Thomas OSJ” with “Ertha” in the memo and sent to St. Thomas OSJ – ATTN: MIKE (1500 Brookdale Rd. Naperville, 60563)
2. Go to www.stapostle.org and click “Please Give” box on the home page. Select “Click here to setup your on-line giving account”. You have the choice of setting up an account or “Quick Give.” Click the “funds” drop down list and select the “Ertha Mission Appeal” fund. (Shortcut url: <https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1479/DirectDonate/76238>.) Be aware there is a 3.4% credit card usage charge deducted from on-line donations.

Haiti Twinning Update

Kathy Fife is the Haiti Twinning Facilitator. She provided the following update on our relationship with Ste. Marie-Madeleine Parish in Duchity, Haiti.

COVID-19 Training picture

As we are experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic lifestyle changes, including face masks, social distancing and limited gatherings of people. We share these changes with our Haiti Twinning parish.

The Parish Twinning Program (PTPA) and Raising Haiti created the Haiti-CPR program to provide COVID-19 training. Ste. Marie-Madeleine received the program. It was very useful according to Fr. Emery, the Pastor. A group of 10 parishioners were selected to participate in the program. They received their training Friday, May 29. They also received kits to distribute to the community that included information brochures, handwashing stations, face masks and megaphones to use for training. They trained other teams of trainers that then went out into the community. To this point they have had some “suspicious cases” of the virus, but with no testing available they don’t really know.



pcH Medical Clinic

pcH in Duchity

In 2010, the Productive Cooperatives Haiti (pcH) selected the Duchity area to establish their socio-economic training program focused on agriculture, transformation of agricultural products and commercialization of the transformed products. Three agriculture co-ops were formed in the area and are still in existence.

pcH has further expanded its role in Duchity with a medical team that will supplement the care that the clinic in Duchity provides to the community. pcH is hosting a clinic one Friday each month. On another day of the month they hold a clinic in Gorgette, an outlying chapel of Ste. Marie-Madeleine. Both the Duchity Clinic and the pcH medical team charge a generally affordable fee. Those who cannot afford the fee are not charged.

Copier

St. Thomas parish provided the funds for Fr. Emery to purchase a much needed copier for use in the parish and in the schools. As an added benefit, Fr. Emery can provide copying services to the people in Duchity for a fee. The money will provide funds to be used in the parish operation.

Lakota Ministry Update

St. Thomas is in a "twinning" relationship with St. Agnes Parish on the Lakota Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Carol Redell is the facilitator for the ministry. Below is an update from Carol.

As far as the virus goes, there have been about 85 cases on the reservation and one death as of July 6. I think one of the reasons their numbers are low is that there is a curfew and the tribe has set up roadblocks at all the entrances discouraging people from entering the reservation. This has caused some controversy between the tribe and the governor of South Dakota, but it does seem to be keeping the members of the tribe relatively safe.

According to both Joyce and Father Edmund, they have resumed masses at Saint Agnes starting on May 29. They can only have 10 people at a time in the church (it is a very small church) so Saturday evening mass is for the elders and Sunday is for parishioners.

Funeral services have changed quite a bit. There are not supposed to be any public gatherings. Despite this there have been some funerals and the virus has spread that way.

The cause for the canonization of Black Elk continues. Documents have been sent to Rome, and they are awaiting word concerning the next steps that will be taken.

We were thinking of sending a team out to the reservation this summer. Obviously that can't happen now but we will continue to keep in touch and we will attempt to find new and creative ways to sustain and deepen our relationship with Saint Agnes.

Please continue to stay safe and take care of each other.
Carol

St. Thomas Cares Thank You

Betty lives with her 13-year-old son. She lost her job due to the virus. With her stimulus check she was able to pay rent and other bills. She filed for unemployment, but was still waiting for her first check. She was in danger of having her car repossessed.

My family would like to thank you for your assistance. During the COVID-19 pandemic, I lost my job and couldn't afford to pay the car payment. As a single parent and sole provider for my family, losing our vehicle would have been devastating. We will forever be grateful to your entire staff for all your help. May God continue to bless you all as you do the works of the Lord.

Outreach and Social Justice Office Open for Business!

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



A Prayer for Dismantling Racism

Pax Christi USA Anti-Racism Team

Dear God, in our efforts to dismantle racism, we understand that we struggle not merely

Dear God, in our efforts to dismantle racism, we understand that we struggle not merely against flesh and blood, but against powers and principalities — those institutions and systems that keep racism alive by perpetuating the lie that some members of the family are inferior and others superior.

Create in us a new mind and heart that will enable us to see brothers and sisters in the faces of those divided by racial categories.

Give us the grace and strength to rid ourselves of racial stereotypes that oppress some of us while providing entitlements to others.

Help us to create a Church and nation that embraces the hopes and fears of oppressed People of Color where we live, as well as those around the world.

Heal your family, God, and make us one with you, in union with our brother Jesus, and empowered by your Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help



Ertha Papillon Virtual Visit to St. Thomas Next Weekend

Each Summer St. Thomas hosts a mission speaker. This year's speaker is Ertha Papillon who founded and directs an elementary school and an orphanage in Trois-Bois, Haiti. She is a leader in our Haiti Twinning Parish in nearby Duchity. The virus has prevented her from being here in person. However, she will visit virtually via a video. Ertha has visited often and is always graciously received.



Ertha's Orphanage Children ... Thumbs Up!



Ertha's School ... Kindergarten Class

How You Can Help

1. Attend Mass and, as you are able, place your donation in the basket at the church exit.
2. **Checks** can be written to "St. Thomas OSJ" with "Ertha" in the memo and sent to St. Thomas OSJ – ATTN: MIKE (1500 Brookdale Rd. Naperville, 60563).
3. **Credit Card**: Go to www.stapostle.org and click "Please Give" box on the home page.
 - Select "Click here to setup your on-line giving account".
 - You have the choice of setting up an account or "Quick Give".
 - Click the "funds" drop down list and select the "Ertha Mission Appeal" fund.

(Shortcut url: <https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1479/DirectDonate/76238>.) Be aware that a credit card processing charge of 3.4% will be deducted from your Ertha Mission Appeal donation.

Thank You!

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Our Lady of Perpetual Help is the name of Ertha's Haitian Foundation that is the umbrella organization for her school and orphanage. In a very real sense, Ertha is a "lady of perpetual help". She has dedicated her life to serve the impoverished, malnourished, and orphaned children in her Trois-Bois community.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Elementary School

In 1998, Ertha began teaching 35 impoverished children in front of her home. There were 305 children attending school when the pandemic caused schools to close. They will reopen August 10 to complete the school year by October. The new year will begin in November. 99% of her students pass the national tests (the Haitian average is 50%). She has been approved for a grant of \$2,500 for the paving of the schoolyard but needs to complete the project before receiving the grant funds. Funds are needed for that.



School



Orphanage

MAR-DAV Orphanage

In 2006, a grandmother brought a newborn to Ertha to take care of as the child's mother died during childbirth. That was the beginning of the orphanage which now has 20 children. They range in age from 4 to 14. Within the last year, the director of orphanages in Jeremie has brought six children to the orphanage because she knows they will be safe and loved there. Continuing the operation of the orphanage is a constant struggle ... food for the children, salaries for the caretakers, including a nurse from the area. Other needs include finishing the second building to provide a dorm for the boys, a new stove, and a security fence.



Aliantine and Fabianne graduated from Ertha's Orphanage, from Ertha's School, and from St. Thomas high school with excellent grades. Aliantine has a sponsor for university nursing school. Fabianne needs a sponsor to continue her university agronomy education.

Stewardship and Administration

thank you

Please take the time to read the ads which make this bulletin possible. Help support these businesses, especially during this time, as they support St. Thomas the Apostle. Mention the bulletin when you patronize their establishments.

Let them know they are appreciated!

SUPPORT ST. THOMAS

Please, give

Please Continue Giving During COVID-19

We are reopening St. Thomas slowly under guidelines set for by the CDC and Diocese of Joliet. We are still limited to the number of worshipers and understand that many are unable to join us as they are in the at risk population or they simply aren't comfortable yet. There are two easy to use options to continue giving so you can support St. Thomas during this time:

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

You can also 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. We continue to pray you are healthy and remain so until we can ALL joyfully celebrate Mass together again.

Last weekend's stewardship of financial gifts

Weekly Sunday Offertory

July 12, 2020	
Sunday Collection Offering*	\$8,542
Credit Card On-Line Giving	none this week
Automatic Direct Debit (5 th and 20 th each month)	\$22,578
Mailed in and stock donations	\$7,568
Total for the week	\$38,688
*Based on Collection Counters Reports prior to bank confirmation	
Fiscal Year (7/1 to 6/30)	\$69,018
Weekly Average 7/1/2019 to date	\$34,509
Offertory Goal Year to date	\$67,609
Over/short of goal to date	\$1,409
Goal for Fiscal Year 7/1 to 6/30	\$1,757,833
Percent of Annual Sunday Offertory Goal	4%
Remaining for Fiscal Year goal	\$1,688,815

This week, the Sunday collection is \$1,409 ahead of goal so far this year. Capital needs restricted gifts were \$22 this past week. We are grateful to those who recognize the need and responded.

Diocesan Appeal 2020

Parish Appeal Goal	\$174,600
Pledges Received	\$134,024
Percent of Goal pledged to date	76.76%
Unpaid pledges	\$23,492
Paid to Date	\$110,532
Percent of goal paid to date	63.31

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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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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