

# St. Thomas

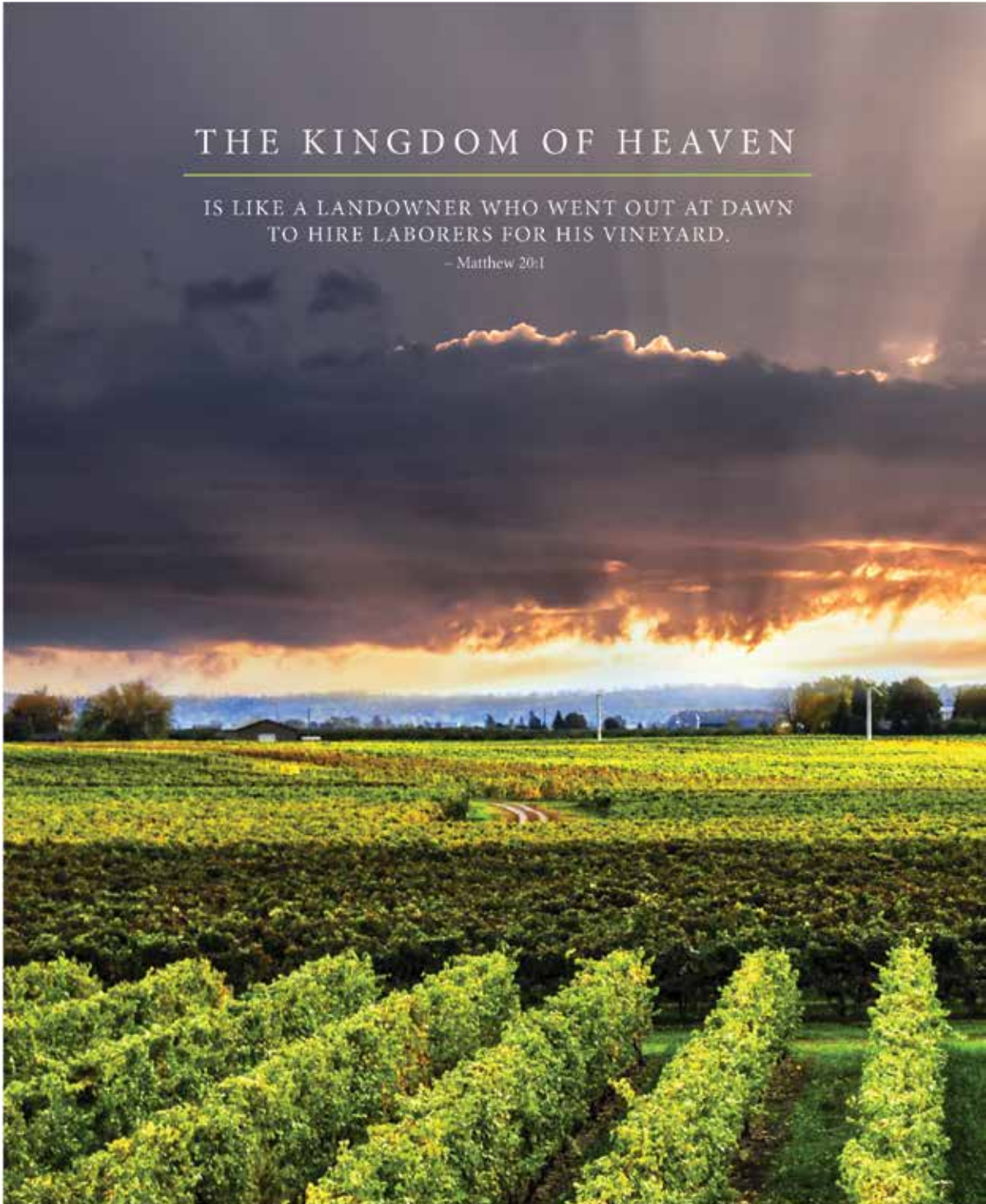
SEPTEMBER 20, 2020 — TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

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IS LIKE A LANDOWNER WHO WENT OUT AT DAWN  
TO HIRE LABORERS FOR HIS VINEYARD.

— Matthew 20:1



# 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](mailto:mainoffice@stapostle.org) or visit us at [www.stapostle.org](http://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](mailto:pdanaher@stapostle.org)

Rev. Joseph Kappilumakkal, CMI, *Parochial Vicar*, x103, [jkapp@stapostle.org](mailto:jkapp@stapostle.org)

### Priests Assisting on Weekends

Rev. Bob Colaresi, O. Carm., *Weekend Associate*, [robco@robco.org](mailto:robco@robco.org)

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

### Permanent Deacons

Michael (Kathryn) Barrett — 630.355.8980, x145, [meabarrett@gmail.com](mailto:meabarrett@gmail.com)

Jim (Mary Jo) Breen — 630.486.3133, [jimb4853@gmail.com](mailto:jimb4853@gmail.com)

Joe (Carolyn) Cuzzone — 630.355.8980, x224, [DeaconJoeCuzzone@gmail.com](mailto:DeaconJoeCuzzone@gmail.com)

Larry (Susan) Kearney — 630.355.8980, x225, [lkearney@comcast.net](mailto:lkearney@comcast.net)

Chuck (Sue) Lane — 630.355.8980, x223, [chuck.lane2@icloud.com](mailto:chuck.lane2@icloud.com)

Patrick (Mary Jo) Lennon — 630.901.3223, [presence.now@gmail.com](mailto:presence.now@gmail.com)

### Liturgy and Music

Jim Clauer, *Director of Liturgy and Music*, x111, [jclauer@stapostle.org](mailto:jclauer@stapostle.org)

Samantha Delke, *Associate Director of Liturgy and Music*, x120, [sdelke@stapostle.org](mailto:sdelke@stapostle.org)

### Faith Formation

Margie Marshall, *Principal at All Saints Catholic Academy*, 630.961.6125

Lorraine Katz, *Director of Religious Education*, x109, [lkatz@stapostle.org](mailto:lkatz@stapostle.org)

Peggy Goralski, *Director of Middle School Faith Formation*, x123, [pgoralski@stapostle.org](mailto:pgoralski@stapostle.org)

Dorothy Grantham, *Director of Youth/Young Adult Ministry*, x117, [dgrantham@stapostle.org](mailto:dgrantham@stapostle.org)

Chari Rosales, *Director of Adult Education and RCIA*, x138, [croales@stapostle.org](mailto:croales@stapostle.org)

Marge Coronado, *Faith Formation Administrative Assistant*, x118, [mcoronado@stapostle.org](mailto:mcoronado@stapostle.org)

### Outreach and Social Justice

Michael Ryder, *Director of Outreach and Social Justice*, x121, [mryder@stapostle.org](mailto:mryder@stapostle.org)

Anne Schultz, *OSJ Partner*, x113, [aschultz@stapostle.org](mailto:aschultz@stapostle.org)

Sally Meno, *OSJ Associate*, x137, [smeno@stapostle.org](mailto:smeno@stapostle.org)

### Pastoral Care

Jan Olah, *Director of Pastoral Care*, x124

Felicia Lawlor, \* *Faith Community Nurse*, x104, [flawlor@stapostle.org](mailto:flawlor@stapostle.org)

### Administration

Janet Simmons, *Finance/Business Officer*, x106, [jsimmons@stapostle.org](mailto:jsimmons@stapostle.org)

Diane McQueen, *Gen Office Administrative Asst.*, x101, [dmcqueen@stapostle.org](mailto:dmcqueen@stapostle.org)

Kathy Ferguson, *Gen Office Administrative Asst.*, x100, [mainoffice@stapostle.org](mailto:mainoffice@stapostle.org)

Casey Braun, \* *Communications Coordinator*, x110, [cbraun@stapostle.org](mailto:cbraun@stapostle.org)

Elizabeth Fisher, \* *Evening/Saturday Receptionist*

Mary Wright, \* *Evening/Saturday Receptionist*

Mary Derwinski, \* *Administration Asst.*, x143, [mderwinski@stapostle.org](mailto:mderwinski@stapostle.org)

Sue Sportiello, \* *Financial Asst.*, x143, [ssportiello@stapostle.org](mailto:ssportiello@stapostle.org)

Marilyn DeMeo, \* *Database Coordinator (T/Th)*, x107, [mdemeo@stapostle.org](mailto:mdemeo@stapostle.org)

Bob Hartmann, \* *Facility Manager*, x133, [facility@stapostle.org](mailto: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:

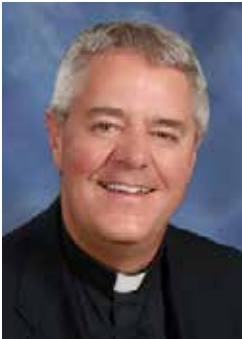
All Saints Catholic Academy

1155 Aurora Ave

Naperville, IL 60540

630.961.6125

# in the word



with  
fr danaher

Dear Parish Family,

Today's first reading from Isaiah is one of the choices for a scripture reading during a Penance Service. "Turn to the Lord for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your

ways and my thoughts above your thoughts."

Matthew's gospel often contains the words, "This was to fulfill what was said through the prophet. . ." when describing Jesus' ministry. Certainly when the Son of God lived with us, He fulfilled the words from Isaiah; that Jesus' thoughts and ways were not the same as the people with whom He lived, especially when it came to teaching about God's mercy and forgiveness. In fact, we could say that Jesus' teachings about mercy and forgiveness made no sense at all, at least in our eyes.

For example, what kind of responsible shepherd would abandon 99 sheep to look for one stray sheep? Yet, that's the example Jesus used in His story of the Good Shepherd; that God will do His best to encourage one stray sinner to repent, and that there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 who have no need of repentance.

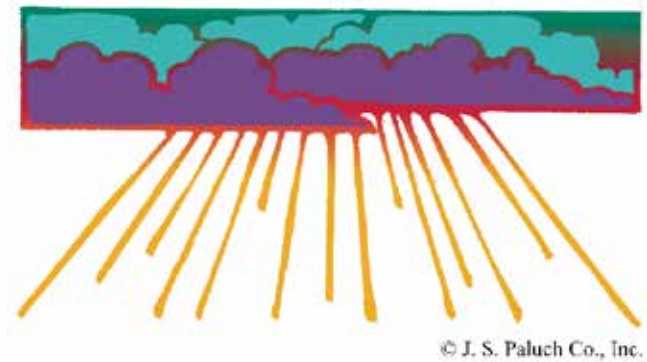
Father Andrew Greeley once said that he would be very reluctant to place limits on God's mercy. Those are the thoughts and ways of our God, One who refuses to place limits on His mercy, One who will always rejoice when we come back to Him when we ask for His pardon and peace.

*On Friday, September 18, we said good-bye to Marge Coronado who has been part of the staff of St. Thomas the Apostle for 20 years. Marge has been the support person of faith formation by taking care of all the youth through adult registrations, along with care of all the administrative requirements for the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation. Marge was the welcoming face to all new parishioners in faith formation. Marge will now fulfill that same role at St. Raphael's.*

*Thank you, Marge, for your ministry to God's holy people at St. Thomas. While we will miss you, we wish you nothing but the best in your new ministry.*

In the Word,

*Fr. Danaher*



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## Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 20, 2020

*Turn to the LORD for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving.*  
— Isaiah 55:7b

### 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](http://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](http://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.*

### 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

# Worship Commission — Liturgy and Music

## Reflection on the Readings

Today's readings remind us that with God, we are wise to expect the unexpected. Life is full of surprises, and sometimes, reversals. We may suffer injustice; things may seem unfair or out of balance; bad things happen when we least expect them. But, whatever happens to us, we can be confident that God is with us. Even more, a loving, generous God is actually pursuing us. God's love and compassion are always here ... though, sometimes just outside our line of vision. Realizing that can help us to see everything — and everyone — differently. Nothing is as it seems.

## Readings for Today

**First Reading** — Turn to the LORD who is generous in forgiving (Isaiah 55:6-9).

**Psalm** — The Lord is near to all who call upon him (Psalm 145).

**Second Reading** — Live your lives in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ (Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a).

**Gospel** — The last will be first, and the first will be last (Matthew 20:1-16a).

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:** Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13

**Tuesday:** Prv 21:1-6, 10-13; Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44; Lk 8:19-21

**Wednesday:** Prv 30:5-9; Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163; Lk 9:1-6

**Thursday:** Eccl 1:2-11; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17bc; Lk 9:7-9

**Friday:** Eccl 3:1-11; Ps 144:1b, 2abc, 3-4; Lk 9:18-22

**Saturday:** Eccl 11:9 — 12:8; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17; Lk 9:43b-45

**Sunday:** Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-9; Phil 2:1-11 [1-5]; Mt 21:28-32

## Prayer

*Though you are God,  
with all the influence and status that the name implies,  
you refused to pull rank,  
and parade your power among us.*

*Instead, you chose to step down into our experience,  
living among us, as one of us,  
with all the struggle and suffering  
that goes with being human.*

*More than that, you adopted the role of slave,  
washing feet, serving people of no reputation or social standing,  
and giving of yourself completely.*

*As incredible as it sounds,  
you are the God who serves,  
and we can respond in no other way  
than to give ourselves to you in praise.*

*Amen.*

*~ John van de Laar*

## Presider Schedule September 26–27

*Haiti Weekend*

**Saturday, September 26**

4:30 pm — Fr. Joseph Kappilumakkal with Deacon Joe Cuzzone

**Sunday, September 27**

9:30 am — Fr. Philip Danaher

*Presider schedule is subject to change.*

## Sunday 6:00 pm Mass

Due to COVID-19 and limited minister availability, the 6:00 pm Mass will not be returning in Fall this year. We will continue to monitor the situation and notify if something changes. The current Mass schedule of in-person and streamed Masses will continue.

## 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, September 21, 2020**

8:30 am †Elaine Riebling/Cosgrove, by Nick and Dee Huie

**Tuesday, September 22, 2020**

8:30 am †John Karakas, by Dick and Adela Auskalnis

**Wednesday, September 23, 2020**

8:30 am †Mark Goralski, by Peggy

**Thursday, September 24, 2020**

8:30 am †Mary Eckerson, by Kathy Singer

**Friday, September 25, 2020**

8:30 am †Maria Theresa Garcia, by Mark and Dottie Storto

**Saturday, September 26, 2020**

8:30 am †Jeffrey Wojda, by The Parrilli Family

4:30 pm *Mass of Anticipation*

†For the People of St. Thomas

**Sunday, September 27, 2020**

*Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8:00 am

9:30 am †Bill Mann, by Audrey Easton

11:15 am †Mark Volesky, by The Townshend Family

## Receptionist Needed at St. Thomas

Seeking one part-time individual to job share with our current receptionist for nights and Saturday receptionist duties. Must be at least 21 years of age, fluent in English (Spanish is helpful but not required) and able to work flexible hours. Good communication skills, friendly and welcoming demeanor also needed. Assist with clerical work and capable of directing in emergency evacuations and other duties, when needed. Training provided.

Submit resume to Kathy Ferguson, 1500 Brookdale Road, Naperville 60563, no later than September 25. Questions? Contact Kathy at [mainoffice@stapostle.org](mailto:mainoffice@stapostle.org) or 630.355.8980, x100.

## St. Thomas Office Hours

Starting September 8, the office hours at St. Thomas will be:

9:00 am–3:00 pm Monday–Friday

8:00 am–1:00 pm Saturdays in September and October

Evenings will vary according to needs

Please enter through Door A.

## WORSHIP Wednesday St. Thomas the Apostle

The Liturgy and Music Department at St. Thomas the Apostle is working to provide a new, virtual faith activity for the community. As the Youth Choir cannot resume this Fall, the orientation for these weekly services is geared toward children and families, but of course all children of God can benefit from Scripture, Prayer and Song. Each Wednesday, a video will be posted on the website of a short (less than 10 minutes) service of Word and Song, provided by varying members of the St. Thomas staff and community. These Worship Wednesdays will give a mid-week opportunity to gather in prayer, delve into scripture and unite in song. Please join us!



# Pet Blessing

St. Thomas' annual pet blessing will take place Sunday, October 4 at 1:00 pm in the south yard by the labyrinth, weather permitting. Because we cannot accommodate people inside with their animals while maintaining social distance, in the case of inclement weather, we will NOT have the pet blessing. Bring your furry, finned or flying friend for a prayer service and blessing in honor of St. Francis, the Patron Saint of Animals. All pets are welcome!

**Masks are required for humans.** Please don't have your pets patronize with other animals.

# Faith and Formation Commission — Adult

## C.A.R.E. CORNER

Medieval Europe's culture, religion and language were all Christian. But the late 1400s saw the rise of modern nations, each with its own language. All this led to a revival of classical art, literature and architecture, known as the Renaissance. But it also brought with it a focus on the secular world of so-called earthly wisdom. And when secularism crept in, it also **impacted** the Church. Our Church today continues to promote its tried and true beliefs, teachings and practices in spite of all the supposedly progressive and advanced ideas proposed by modern-day intellectuals and cultural influencers.

The Renaissance-era Church found itself with many ignorant clergy and greedy leaders who engaged in abuses of Church policies. Some were selling spiritual favors to fund their favorite building projects. We are all well aware of the clergy **abuse** scandals that we in the Church have been **enduring** in recent decades. As we know, those in positions of power have opportunities to **abuse** that power. And given that our clerics and theologians are only human, **conflict** has certainly been an unfortunate part of our entire Church history.

### The Faith and Spiritual Formation Commission Presents: St. Thomas Reads: Just Mercy

*"We are all more than the worst thing we have ever done."*

- Bryan Stevenson, Author of Just Mercy

- Discuss challenging issues surrounding the justice system in America.
- Engage with others from the safety and comfort of your home over Zoom.
- Groups will read the book together and discuss twice monthly until December.
- Get the book from your favorite source ASAP.\*

*\*If acquiring the book is a hardship, please contact Peggy Goralski at [pgoralski@stapostle.org](mailto:pgoralski@stapostle.org) or 630.355.8980, x123.*

#### Sessions will be held:

Sundays	7:00–8:30 pm	Oct. 4, 18; Nov. 1, 15; Dec. 6
Monday	4:00–5:30 pm	Oct. 5, 19; Nov. 2, 16; Dec. 7
Tuesdays	4:00–5:30 pm	Oct. 6, 20; Nov. 3, 17; Dec. 8
Wednesdays	7:00–8:30 pm	Oct. 7, 21; Nov. 4, 18; Dec. 9
Thursdays	10:00–11:30 am	Oct. 8, 22; Nov. 5, 19; Dec. 10
Thursdays	7:00–8:30 pm	Oct. 8, 22; Nov. 5, 19; Dec. 10

Sign up for a session at [www.stapostle.org](http://www.stapostle.org). Sessions limited to 12 people.

If you would like to do this as an individual independent study or are part of an already existing group that will do this study, please email Marie-Ange Ogoudou at [marieange.ogoudou@gmail.com](mailto:marieange.ogoudou@gmail.com) so we can share materials with you. If you have any questions, please email Carrie Wujek at [cawujek@gmail.com](mailto:cawujek@gmail.com).



## Bishop Hicks Installation

St. Thomas the Apostle parish and the Diocese of Joliet are overjoyed to invite all the people of the Diocese of Joliet and throughout the Church to join us in celebrating the installation of our new bishop, Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks, later this month.

On the eve of the Installation, Bishop Hicks will join our priests for a Vespers Service of Welcome at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus. This will begin at 7:00 pm on Monday, September 28, 2020.

Bishop Hicks will be installed as the sixth Bishop of Joliet by the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, the Most Reverend Archbishop Christophe Pierre, on Tuesday, September 29, 2020, at 10:00 am. The Installation Mass will also take place at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus.

Due to the gathering limitations in place during COVID-19, participation will be by invitation only. Both events will be livestreamed for all to join us virtually at <http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/> or <http://www.youtube.com/DioceseofJolietL>.

Bishop Hicks will begin his service to the Diocese of Joliet on Wednesday, September 30. The continued prayers of all in the Joliet Diocesan Community are welcome as we rejoice in the unfolding of our history.



# Catechetical Sunday

St. Thomas joins Catholic parishes across the country to celebrate Catechetical Sunday during the weekend of September 19 and 20. The work of our catechists and faith formation leaders, volunteers listed below, is vital to the life of the Church. We ask for your continued support through prayer, that the Holy Spirit grant them the grace they need in their service to our Church.

## A Catechist's Prayer

*Loving Father, pour forth your Holy Spirit upon me that I may be a good catechist of your Word, your Son, Jesus Christ.*

*Render my mind and heart so open, receptive and responsive to your Holy Spirit that, like Mary, I might become a living instrument of your Word to others. Help me to be a faithful witness to Gospel life so that your Church may become ever more alive.*

*Let the fire of your love so enkindle my heart that I may be an instrument of drawing others to love of you in the Church of your Son.*

*I ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Theresa Abecia	Jim Eber	John Kennedy	Linda Scarpino
Timo Abecia	Sean Elliffe	Julia Krupa	Tricia Serna
Vicki Agustsson	Melissa Ernst	Karen Lankisch	Meg Smith
Janet Bailey	Wanda Fattes	Olivia Lopez	Colleen Steffgen
Chris Baker	Ken Fivizzani	Barb Mambu	Hannah Steffgen
Jennifer Bennett	Colleen Fournier	Heather Marzano	Sharon Sugas
Tim Berglind	Tanya Galer	Dan Matern	Mary Szczap
Jennifer Berg	Kelly Giacolo	Gail Micheau	Nidhi Thomas
Sheleagh Bishop	Stefan Grantham	Emma Miles	Gerry Tice
Sandra Brasile	Peggy Goralski	Kelly Miles	Anne Valencia
Jennifer Burgess	Stefan Grantham	Meghan Miles	Carolyn Vondran
April Clamage	Patrica Grossert	Samantha Miles	Jacquie Vu
Elizabeth Colvin	John Growney	Amy Paul	Thuc Vu
Giada Colvin	Chuck Harper	Joe Pecoraro	Mari Walbridge
Sue Cornell-Ohl	Dana Hengstler	Cari Pellegrini	Lisa Wehr
Rick Cotner	Gina Howley	Caryn Phelan	Lauren Wierzbinski
Karen Curran	Joe Howley	Angela Pine	Kasia Williams
Susan Czochara	Martin Howley	Elijah Powell	Kristyn Wojciechowski
Cheryl Kasper	Judith Jacob	Kathy Powell	Martyna Woznica
Gerry Deneen	Gendy Jaramillo	Paul Reichel	Mary Wright
Darlene Dionne-Karales	Evan Jaramillo	Kathleen Reitman	Tony Wyklendt
Annalise Dum	Nicole Jones	Mary Ann Rempe	Zoraida Zarate
Trevor Dum	Rosemary Karl	John Rhoads	Ann Zediker
Dawn Eber	Larry Kearney	Kristen Rojas	John Zimnie
Fred Eber	Jen Kennedy	Bernie Salzig	

# Faith and Formation Commission — Youth



St. Thomas the Apostle

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children's Liturgy of the Word (pre k – 5<sup>th</sup>) starts this weekend. It is a wonderful way to share our faith with your children geared to their age. It is available digitally or can be picked up from the Church. Please contact Lorraine Katz for more information.



## Big Shout Out!

By the time you read this, the first middle school RE sessions will have taken place. That, in itself, might not seem noteworthy. However, this is no ordinary year and our religious education learning environment is not very ordinary either. In-person classes took place, Zoom RE classes took place, and families have embarked on the home study RE program. A big shout out goes to the many people making this possible ... parents, catechists, Zoom catechists and RE program volunteers.



Thanks so much!

## Important Dates for Middle School RE

<b>September 19, 26, October 3:</b>	Saturday middle school RE classes meet.
<b>September 21, 28, October 5:</b>	Monday middle school RE classes meet.
<b>September 26 and 28:</b>	Parent RE Open House for Zoom classes.

## RE Open House for Zoom classes

One of the advantages of a Zoom class is that 'guests' can come to class.

Middle school parents ... if your son or daughter is part of a middle school RE Zoom class, you are invited to visit class on Saturday, September 26 and Monday, September 28.

Join your son/daughter on Zoom for the last 10 minutes of class. Come and meet the catechist and the other students in class and see how we Zoom!

## Question of the week ...

What can you do this week to show mercy or make peace?



## Middle School Religious Education What Are They Learning?

Middle School Religious Education classes meet approximately 20 times from September through April. *The Catholic Connections Handbook for Middle Schoolers* is the middle school textbook, and it offers a comprehensive overview of the Catholic faith which takes middle school classes three years to unpack.

### Sixth Grade

As the RE year begins, sixth graders explore the ways that God is made known to us. These sessions introduce knowing and understanding the Scriptures and Tradition as sources of God's revelation. The core activities in these sessions cover basic teachings about God, the Holy Trinity, and God's plan for salvation.

### Seventh Grade

Seventh graders learn about the mission and structure of the Church, how the Holy Spirit moves in God's people and concrete ways that the Holy Spirit is present in the Church today. The weekly sessions explore how God's Spirit was present in the lives of the Apostles, examine various models that help to understand the meaning of Church, and look at how all the baptized participate in the mission of Christ to make disciples of all nations.

### Eighth Grade

Eighth graders begin the year learning about Christian morality and justice, which includes the moral principles embodied in the Ten Commandments, and how to apply Christian moral principles to various real-life situations. They will also be encouraged to use these principles in their own daily lives as they examine their own experiences and consider many of the moral dilemmas young people face.

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## Be a Part of Harvest Sunday ... Save the Date

Middle school families ... Harvest Sunday will look a bit different this year, but there is still a need for food and we still need your help. Mark your calendars for the week of October 25 (flyer delivery) and November 1 (food drop-off).

More information will be available in the coming weeks.



## High School RE Sign-ups

It is not too late for high school teens to enroll in our Journey Program for Confirmation Year 1 and 2. Those who have signed up already, talk to neighbors, friends and relatives and encourage them to sign up as well. Those who have yet to sign up, registrations may be downloaded from our website at [www.stapostle.org](http://www.stapostle.org) by clicking on "High School Youth Ministry" under the Religious Education tab.

### High School Freshmen/First Year (Journey 1) Small Group Leaders Still Needed

Adult leaders for freshmen small groups are still needed for the 2020-21 school year at the following times: Sunday 12:30, 4:30 and 7:15 pm and Monday at 7:00 pm here at St. Thomas. We are also looking for a couple of adults to help lead an online group. If you're interested in an opportunity to significantly impact the life and faith of a high school teen, then this is a great opportunity for you! If you're interested contact Dorothy at [dgrantham@stapostle.org](mailto:dgrantham@stapostle.org) or 630.355.8980, x117.

### High School Confirmation Catechists Still Needed

Adult leaders for the Second Year Confirmation youth are still needed at the following times: Sunday 12:30 pm and Sunday 7:15 pm, here at St. Thomas. Online leaders are needed as well. If you are interested in an opportunity to significantly impact the life and faith of a high school teen, then this is a great opportunity for you! If you're interested contact Dorothy at [dgrantham@stapostle.org](mailto:dgrantham@stapostle.org) or 630.355.8980, x117.

### High School Ministry Schedule At A Glance

#### September 27-28

Confirmation Classes meet

#### October 4-5

Freshmen Small Groups start

#### October 10-11

LIFE Retreat

#### October 17-18

LIFE Retreat

# Service Commission — Pastoral Care

From the Office of the Parish Nurse

## How is COVID-19 different from the flu?

*James J. Sejvar, MD*

Although COVID-19 has some symptoms in common with seasonal influenza, it can be more severe than the flu and deadlier. Between 24,000 and 60,000 people in the United States died from the flu last season, according to figures from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Worldwide, an average of 390,000 people die of the flu each year.

The coronavirus, on the other hand, has killed more than 130,000 people in the United States and more than 500,000 worldwide just through June this year, according to the coronavirus tracker established by Johns Hopkins University.

### Symptoms

- Fever, fatigue, cough, sore throat and achiness are common for both COVID-19 and the flu. Chills, dry cough, shortness of breath, a sudden loss of smell and taste, nausea or vomiting and diarrhea are more prevalent in COVID-19.
- Approximately 20 percent of patients with COVID-19 have moderate to severe symptoms. Of those patients, less than half a percent are hospitalized.
- The most common symptom in moderate cases is difficulty breathing. In more severe cases, patients have experienced strokes and heart attacks, and many have died . . . outcomes that may be linked to the virus' impact on blood vessels.
- In some cases, neurologic symptoms have been reported, including loss of taste and smell, delirium, dizziness, confusion, numbness in hands and feet, seizures, muscle weakness and Guillain-Barre Syndrome.

### Transmission

- The flu and the coronavirus are thought to spread primarily in droplets, released from the nose and mouth of an infected person. This can happen through talking, laughing, singing, sneezing or coughing when people are in close proximity. The risk of transmission decreases if you stay at least six feet apart from others, interact outdoors and wear masks.
- While less likely, you also can catch either virus by touching a surface an infected person has touched and then putting your hand to your mouth or nose, which can transfer germs to the respiratory tract.
- With COVID-19, many people seem to be contagious before they have symptoms; with the flu, people become contagious three to four days after symptoms begin. Wearing a mask can help protect you and others.

### Treatment

Rest, fluids and medication to reduce fever (such as acetaminophen) are standard treatments for both flu and COVID-19 cases that don't require hospitalization. If you have mild symptoms of COVID-19, you should take your temperature before taking each dose of fever reducer. Call your doctor if your temperature goes above 100.4 degrees or any other symptoms worsen. No vaccine currently exists for COVID-19. For the flu, a new vaccine is developed each year that matches that year's dominant strains of the virus. While a vaccine doesn't prevent the flu 100 percent of the time, it can prevent cases and reduce the illness' severity.

### Flu Season

Getting a flu shot is especially important this year for several reasons. First, the flu kills thousands of people each year. Second, you risk contracting COVID-19 in the hospital if you are admitted for severe flu symptoms. Finally, contracting the flu and COVID-19 simultaneously may result in more severe illness and may lower your defenses in combatting the coronavirus.

## Reach out to our Neighbors

A new opportunity to connect with our St. Patrick neighbors. The residents will love it!

The Difference is Love is the name of the project. Create a card for a resident and drop it off in a box provided at St. Patrick's.

You will be sharing joy with someone who needs it. Cards can be dropped off during lobby hours which are 9:00 am–3:00 pm, seven days a week.

If you have any questions, contact Jamie Wiatrak at [jamiewiatrak@gmail.com](mailto:jamiewiatrak@gmail.com)

*"Comfort, comfort My people," says your God.  
Isaiah 40:1*

## Safety Foremost for Prayer Shawls and Prayer Squares

If you or your loved one needs a prayer shawl or prayer square, and can wait for safety measures in place before receiving the spiritual gifting, please call Diane 630.355.8980, x 101 in the General Office (Monday-Friday) and leave your name, phone number and the name of the recipient. You will receive a call back within two to three days or earlier to receive a shawl or square.

Thank you for your understanding and patience.

~ Prayer Shawl Ministry

# Service Commission — Outreach and Social Justice

## Food Donations for Care Pantry

The “Drive-Thru Donations” days have been a great success. Thank you!

Bring donations to St. Thomas on Tuesday, September 22, from 9:00–11:00 am or 6:00–7:00 pm. Place the items in the trunk or the back of your vehicle, stay in your vehicle and we will remove the items for you. Items will be collected outside Door C, which is across from the labyrinth. As you start to drive around the building, you will see orange cones with instructions.



In order to serve our Care Pantry families in the best possible way, we are requesting items unavailable from the food bank and items we particularly need. Please bring only the items listed below.

- Pasta Sauce
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Beans-Black, Kidney, or Pinto
- Flour
- Sugar
- Ramen Noodles
- Small Cans of Soup
- Peanut Butter
- Meat Meal in a Can — Spaghetios Ravioli, etc.

Thank you for your support. Consider being a drop off location for people in your neighborhood and bringing a trunk load of food to St. Thomas.

## PATH Job Search Meeting

**Program Name:** Job Search Success: Is Your Attitude Impacting Your Altitude?

**Program Speaker:** Mr. Jim Fergle

**Meeting Date and Time:** September 22, 2020, 7:00 pm

The job search process can be a lonely and frustrating experience punctuated by moments of excitement, joy and disappointment. Throw in COVID-19 lockdowns and virtual interviewing and the job search becomes even more difficult and challenging. Based on feedback received from hiring managers and recruiters, many job seekers have failed to be successful because of a single factor ... Attitude.

Join us on September 22 when Jim Fergle, Manager of Job Search and Veteran Services at workNET DuPage, shares his ideas and observations about the importance of a positive attitude and how it changes everything. Jim will be focusing on those areas where Job Seekers ‘self-sabotage’ their efforts and those actions that can be taken to overcome these pitfalls in order to reflect confidence and power.

PATH Group programs are being conducted utilizing the Zoom platform and will require advance registration. Interested parties should contact [fred.c.johnson50@gmail.com](mailto:fred.c.johnson50@gmail.com) in order to receive the required e-mail link and associated registration information and/or register utilizing the enclosed link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_kYAXeMiNRc60Ktj3WDO1Qw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kYAXeMiNRc60Ktj3WDO1Qw). After registering, a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar will be sent to the registrant.

## 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.

SUPPORT ST. THOMAS

*Please, Give*



## Pax Christi Catholic Nonviolence Days of Action

2020 is the first year for the Catholic Nonviolence Days of Action (September 21–October 4). The theme is, “Making active nonviolence our way of life in the Church and the world.”

In solidarity with our 120+ sister organizations in the Pax Christi International network from around the world, Pax Christi USA invites us to pray, study, act and celebrate the power of nonviolence between September 21 (International Day of Peace) and October 2 (International Day of Nonviolence and Gandhi’s birthday). These dates fall within with the Season of Creation, which extends from September 1 (Day of Prayer for Creation) and October 4 (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi).

Visit <https://paxchristiusa.org/catholic-nonviolence-initiative/> and find some small way to participate in this incredible global effort.

# 40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

## St. Thomas Vigil Day

This year’s 40 Days for Life prayer vigil at Planned Parenthood begins on Thursday, September 23. The St. Thomas Knights of Columbus are organizing the parish’s participation in this event by taking Saturday, September 26 as St. Thomas’ day to stand in vigil as faithful witnesses (from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm).

To sign up for an hour or half hour, please contact Robert Hays at [jrhays2@bellsouth.net](mailto:jrhays2@bellsouth.net) or 678.435.4150. Robert can also answer any questions you might have. Prayer vigil location is Planned Parenthood (3051 E. New York St., Aurora) behind Waterleaf Women’s Center. Parking available at Waterleaf.

40 Days for Life is a beautiful opportunity to join others in peaceful prayer and keeping vigil. Through God, lives are changed during 40 Days for Life. When communities rally in this effort, God works miracles. The “no show” rate for abortion appointments increases dramatically while people are praying outside.

### Redeemer in the Womb

*Lord Jesus Christ, You took our human nature upon Yourself. You shared our life and death, our childhood and adulthood.*

*Lord Jesus, we ask You to bless and protect the children who today are in their mothers’ womb. Save them from the danger of abortion. Help all people to recognize in the preborn child a brother, a sister, saved by You, our Redeemer in the womb.*

---

## Waterleaf Miracle of the Month

“I’m going to talk to my boyfriend. I think we can make it work.”



The timing of her first pregnancy had” Ella” questioning everything. She told us that she is pro-life but considered abortion after both her father and boyfriend suggested it may be the best choice for her right now. Stating she did not feel right about this, Ella ultimately decided that abortion was NOT the path for her to take. “I don’t think I could live with myself if I had an abortion,” she told her patient advocate.

During Ella’s initial appointments, she indicated that adoption might be her best option, so she talked through this process with her resource specialist. At a subsequent ultrasound she was very excited to hear her baby’s heartbeat and stated how amazing it is to see the baby grow so quickly. Ella decided to forego adoption plans and continue as a parent.

Ella told us she hopes her relationship with her boyfriend will last, but she is prepared to go forward with this pregnancy no matter what. She has begun taking parenting classes under the supervision of the Aspire Resource and Education Department and has worked out a plan for insurance to cover her doctor care.

Keep Waterleaf and their patients, like Ella, in your prayers. Your support brings the gift of life.



Fr. Emery preaching during Mass

# Haiti Twinning Ste. Marie Madeleine St. Thomas the Apostle

## Haiti Twinning Mission Statement

To nurture our ongoing reciprocal relationship between the peoples of St. Thomas and Ste. Marie Madeleine, sharing our lives, talents, resources and prayers, resulting in spiritual growth and justice.

## Fr. Emery Menard Virtual Visit to St. Thomas Next Weekend

*Each September, St. Thomas celebrates our Haiti Twinning relationship with Ste. Marie Madeleine parish and the community of Duchity, high in the mountains of southwest Haiti. The virus has prevented Fr. Emery, Ste. Marie Madeleine Pastor, from being with us this year. However, he will visit virtually via a video. There will be a “second collection” (in person, check, on-line giving) to benefit our Haiti Twinning Education and Medical activities.*



Computer Classroom in need of Internet access



Healthcare clinic pharmacy in need of medications

# Haiti Weekend Collection

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 “Haiti” in the memo and sent to St. Thomas OSJ – ATTN: MIKE (1500 Brookdale Rd. Naperville, 60563). Note: Checks are preferable as there is a 3.4% charge for credit card donations.
3. **Credit Card**: Go to <https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1479/DirectDonate/76745>

# Thank You!



✗ Marks the location of the village of Duchity

# Haiti Twinning

## Ste. Marie Madeleine

## St. Thomas the Apostle

Haiti Twinning for St. Thomas began in 1999. Ste. Marie Madeleine was a new parish in the small village of Duchity, population 3,000, although there are over 15,000 people in the surrounding area.

## Education

When Twinning began, there was only one public elementary school with 4 teachers for 400 students. Ste. Marie Madeleine had no schools. Now the parish has an elementary school, a secondary school, and a high school. St. Thomas helped build many of the classrooms over the years.



St. Thomas Secondary/High School

## Reliable Internet Access Project

Duchity is near the top of the highest mountain in Haiti. There is no reliable internet access. Fr. Emery needs to travel partway down the mountain to receive email. Internet access would be extremely beneficial for the Ste. Marie Madeleine Schools. Fr. Emery has provided a Fortinet satellite solution pro-forma (\$8,500).

## Medical

When Twinning began, there was no healthcare Available in Duchity. St. Thomas began sending medical, dental, and eye care mission teams. In 2010, St. Thomas built the healthcare clinic. medical teams and eye care teams that include cataract surgery travel regularly to Duchity.



Centre de Sainte Bon Samaritain Healthcare Clinic

## Clinic Doctor & Medication Support

The clinic employs a full time doctor. Dr. Nickson Polyte is from Duchity and graduated from St. Thomas high school. He was sponsored through medical school by a St. Thomas parishioner. He has returned to serve his community. St. Thomas annually provides funds to support the doctor and to provide needed medications.

## 2020 World Day of Migrants and Refugees

September 27 is the 106<sup>th</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees. Below are excerpts from Pope Francis' message. To read the full message from Pope Francis, go to [www.stapostle.org](http://www.stapostle.org) and enter "Migrants and Refugees" in the Search Window or go to: [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/papa-francesco\\_20200513\\_world-migrants-day-2020.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/papa-francesco_20200513_world-migrants-day-2020.html).

During the flight into Egypt, the child Jesus experienced with his parents the tragic fate of the displaced and refugees, which is marked by fear, uncertainty and unease. Unfortunately, in our own times, millions of families can identify with this sad reality. Almost every day the television and papers carry news of refugees fleeing from hunger, war and other grave dangers, in search of security and a dignified life for themselves and for their families. In each of these people, forced to flee to safety, Jesus is present as he was at the time of Herod. In the faces of the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, strangers and prisoners, we are called to see the face of Christ who pleads with us to help.

We are called to respond to this pastoral challenge with the four verbs I indicated in my Message for this Day in 2018: welcome, protect, promote and integrate. To these words, I would now like to add another six pairs of verbs that deal with very practical actions and are linked together in a relationship of cause and effect.

**You have to know in order to understand.** We will be able to understand, for example, that the precariousness that we have come to experience as a result of this pandemic is a constant in the lives of displaced people.

**It is necessary to be close in order to serve.** Drawing close to others often means being willing to take risks, as so many doctors and nurses have taught us in recent months. This readiness to draw near and serve goes beyond a mere sense of duty.

**In order to be reconciled, we need to listen.** In today's world, messages multiply but the practice of listening is being lost. Yet it is only through humble and attentive listening that we can truly be reconciled.

**In order to grow, it is necessary to share.** To grow truly, we must grow together, sharing what we have, like the boy who offered Jesus five barley loaves and two fish ... yet they proved enough for five thousand people!

**We need to be involved in order to promote.** If we really want to promote those whom we assist, we must involve them and make them agents in their own redemption.

**It is necessary to cooperate in order to build.** Building the Kingdom of God is a duty common to all Christians, and for this reason it is necessary that we learn to cooperate, without yielding to the temptation to jealousy, discord, and division.

~ Pope Francis

### Protect Refugees

## Build Back the Resettlement Program

Pope Francis, in his World Day of Migrants and Refugees Message, reflects that Jesus was forced to flee to safety in the time of Herod. "In the faces of the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, strangers and prisoners, we are called to see the face of Christ who pleads with us to help."

### Resettlement Program History

In 2017, the US Resettlement Goal was 110,000 refugees during the Syrian crisis. That goal has been reduced every year since. The goal for 2020 is 18,000. Each year the goal is set through the process of "Presidential Determination" which requires the President to consult with the House and Senate Judiciary Committees before setting the goal.

Nearly two hundred organizations, including US Conference of Catholic Bishops and many Justice for Immigrants member organizations, have sent a letter to President Trump urging him to build back the U.S. resettlement program by setting a goal of 95,000 refugees for the coming year.

### Take Action

But more needs to be done. As Catholics, we recognize the inherent dignity of each person, and hear the call of Jesus, who was part of a refugee family, to welcome immigrants and refugees. Refugees contribute greatly to the United States in ordinary times and have continued to contribute as essential workers during the COVID-19 crisis, including 176,000 refugees serving in the healthcare field and 175,000 laboring as part of the food supply chain. Resettlement will continue to be done safely as all refugees must and do undergo medical checks for COVID-like symptoms prior to entering the United States and are required to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.

Join us by urging your Members of Congress to promote refugee resettlement and ensure the President allow refugees to be resettled in the United States. Ask your elected official to meaningfully engage to urge the Administration:

- To consult with the House and Senate Judiciary Committees regarding the refugee admissions goal for 2021 before September 30.
- To build back the refugee resettlement program by setting the goal at the historic average of 95,000 refugees allowed to be admitted this year.

Please educate yourself on this issue, and if you are in agreement, go to <https://www.voterveice.net/JFI/campaigns/76982/respond> to send a message to your US Senator and Representative. Thank for your consideration.

~ Immigration-Migration Initiative Ministry

# Stewardship and Administration

## The Week Ahead

### Monday, September 21

7:15–8:30 pm Middle School RE, Ministry Center

### Tuesday, September 22

10:00–11:00 am Care Pantry

4:30–5:45 pm Elementary RE at St. Thomas

### Wednesday, September 23

### Thursday, September 24

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

7:30–9:00 pm Thursday PM Bible Study, Senior Center

### Friday, September 25

### Saturday, September 26

8:30–11:45 am RE at All Saints Academy

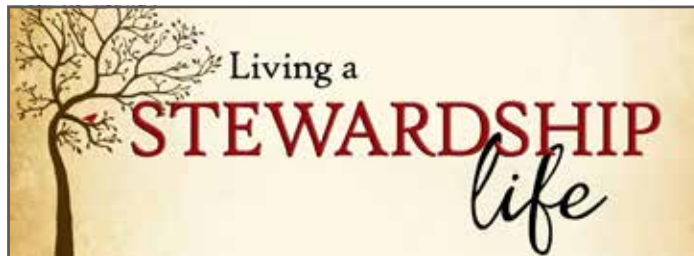
3:30–4:15 pm Reconciliation, Galilee

### Sunday, September 27

12:30–2:00 pm Confirmation Classes, Ministry Center

4:30–6:00 pm Confirmation Classes, Ministry Center

7:00–9:00 pm Confirmation Classes, Ministry Center



*"I feel safe to attend Mass. I am healthy enough to attend Mass. I am attending Mass in person every week. I see and appreciate the volunteers who check me in and who show me to my seat. I wish more Masses were available. I have time to help."*

If you can relate to any or all of those statements, then consider volunteering at Sunday Mass. We are always looking for volunteers. After a brief training session you can be assigned to a Mass to help out. The more volunteers we have, the more Masses we can offer every Sunday or even during the week. (Right now we can not offer Mass on Saturday morning). Please contact Samantha Delke at 630.355.8980, x120 or [sdelke@stapostle.org](mailto:sdelke@stapostle.org) to help.

And thank you for your gift of time.

## Help Wanted

Please see the St. Thomas website for full descriptions of the job opportunities listed below.

**Part-time Receptionist**, St. Thomas the Apostle, Naperville, Illinois

**Full-time Director of the Office of Child and Youth Protection**, Diocese of Joliet, Joliet, Illinois

## Last weekend's stewardship of financial gifts

### Weekly Sunday Offertory

September 6, 2020	
Sunday Collection Offering*	\$14,291
Credit Card On-Line Giving	none this week
Automatic Direct Debit (5 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> each month)	\$22,253
Mailed in and stock donations	\$4,911
Total for the week	\$41,455
<small>*Based on Collection Counters Reports prior to bank confirmation</small>	
Fiscal Year (7/1 to 6/30)	\$326,898
Weekly Average 7/1/2019 to date	\$32,690
Offertory Goal Year to date	\$336,891
Over/short of goal to date	(\$9,993)
Goal for Fiscal Year 7/1 to 6/30	\$1,751,833
Percent of Annual Sunday Offertory Goal	19%
Remaining for Fiscal Year goal	\$1,424,935

This week, the Sunday collection is \$9,993 behind goal so far this year. Capital needs restricted gifts were \$428 this past week. We are grateful to those who recognize the need and responded.

### Diocesan Appeal 2020

Parish Appeal Goal	\$174,600
Pledges Received	\$138,564
Percent of Goal pledged to date	79.36%
Unpaid pledges	\$17,720
Paid to Date	\$120,844
Percent of goal paid to date	69.21

*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!**

**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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