

St. Thomas

SEPTEMBER 27, 2020 — TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Photo courtesy of the Archdiocese of Chicago; text courtesy of the Diocese of Joliet.

*Most Reverend
Ronald A. Hicks*

Installation as
the Sixth Bishop of
the Diocese of Joliet

Cathedral of
St. Raymond Nonnatus
Tuesday, September 29, 2020

"What a vibrant diocese—so many wonderful things going on in the name of the Lord—and to be a part of this and to be assigned here, what a beautiful call and gift."

— Bishop Ronald A. Hicks

The people of the Diocese of Joliet welcome Bishop Hicks and join him in prayer with all the faithful as they work together united in faith, hope, and charity.

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

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

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Parish Pastoral Council

Barbara Mambu, *Chair*

Mike McCormick

Alison Ohl

Brittany Tres

Commission Representatives

Carrie Wujek, *Faith & Spiritual Formation*

Susan Wood O'Leary, *Finance*

Deb Scheckel, *Parish Life*

Linda Bailey, *Service*

Barbara Mambu, *Stewardship*

Jeff Balsewicz, *Worship*

Ex-Officio

Fr. Philip Danaher, *Pastor*

Janet Simmons, *Recording Secretary*

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,

Political leaders are often criticized for changing their minds over certain policies. One of my pastors used to say that the Church changes its liturgical norms/rules like people change their socks. We would all like our political and religious leaders to be consistent.

That goes for God also. He would love it if His children whom He created out of love would be consistent in their love for God and God's holy people. Unfortunately, that isn't always the case.

In today's gospel, Jesus describes how a father asked his son to do something, which the son refused to do. But then, after the son changed his mind, he did what his father asked. The Sacrament of Reconciliation, which we celebrate every Saturday afternoon from 3:30-4:15 (or at other times by appointment), is a wonderful opportunity to show our faith in God's mercy as we ask for His forgiveness for the times we said "no" to Him. We also ask for His grace to help us change our ways, to change our lives — change for the good.

In today's second reading from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians, he describes how our Lord "humbled Himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." It is humbling to admit that we sometimes need to change our ways of thinking and acting. Yet, let us remember that, as God lifted Jesus up to glory, so too will He lift us up to the wonder and glory of His merciful love and support whenever we change our minds and say "yes" to God.

We are very much in need of volunteers to minister as outdoor greeters and ushers, not only with weekend liturgies, but also weekdays (8:30 am Mass, Monday-Friday). Please seriously consider helping with this very important ministry. While we are very grateful for the volunteers we have now, it would be great to have new faces welcoming and assisting worshipers to our liturgies. According to our parish website, one of the "Thirty Reasons You Know You Are At St. Thomas is "You are generous in sharing your time, talent and treasure." Please share the treasure of your time, along with your talent to be welcoming and friendly, by volunteering to be a greeter and/or usher for our liturgies.

In the Word,

Fr. Danaher



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Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 27, 2020

Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus.

— *Philippians 2:5*

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 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, we hear the story of the two sons . . . one who said he would do what his father asked, but didn't; and the other who said he wouldn't do what his father asked, but did. Conversion may not always be instantaneous, but its authenticity is revealed in action.

Readings for Today

First Reading — When the wicked turn away from their wickedness they have committed and do what is right, they shall surely live (Ezekiel 18:25-28).

Psalm — Remember your mercies, O Lord (Psalm 25).

Second Reading — Consider others as better than yourselves; look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others (Philippians 2:1-11 [1-5]).

Gospel — Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you (Matthew 21:28-32).

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:** Jb 1:6-22; Ps 17:1bcd-3, 6-7; Lk 9:46-50
Tuesday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a; Ps 138:1-5; Jn 1:47-51
Wednesday: Jb 9:1-12, 14-16; Ps 88:10bc-15; Lk 9:57-62
Thursday: Jb 19:21-27; Ps 27:7-9abc, 13-14; Lk 10:1-12
Friday: Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5; Ps 139:1-3, 7-10, 13-14ab; Mt 18:1-5
Saturday: Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Ps 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130; Lk 10:17-24
Sunday: Is 5:1-7; Ps 80:9, 12-16, 19-20; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43

Prayer

Eternal God,

*whose signature we see, if we dare to look,
in the creation of the universe,
help us this hour to look and to listen
for Your handwriting and Your voice in this place,
among these people.*

*Connect our temporary praise to Your timeless rhythms,
Your ageless melodies,
Your everlasting joyful noise.*

*Guide us now to focus upon You,
knowing that in You,
our distractions become new possibilities for action.*

*Breathe life into our singing, our praying,
our speaking, our listening, our touching,
that all these activities might become more than they are.*

*In our worship we reach out to You, O God,
knowing that You have already enfolded us in Your arms.*

In Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Presider Schedule October 3–4

Saturday, October 3

4:30 pm – Fr. Philip Danaher with Deacon Jim Breen

Sunday, October 4

9:30 am – Fr. Joseph Kappilumakkal with Deacon Joe Cuzzone

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 28, 2020

8:30 am Mass

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

8:30 am †Joe Gori, by Ann Mitchell

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

8:30 am †Tom Kearney, by Joe and Carolyn Cuzzone

Thursday, October 1, 2020

8:30 am †Antoinette Milazzo, by Carl Milazzo

Friday, October 2, 2020

8:30 am †Yvette Valladars, by The Noronha Family

Saturday, October 3, 2020

8:30 am †Yvonne Kotin, by The Noronha Family

4:30 pm *Mass of Anticipation*

†Susan, by Benita Williams

Sunday, October 4, 2020

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am For the People of St. Thomas

9:30 am †Stella Wiejaczka, by Ken and Maxine

†Jerome Frysztak, by Family

†Adeline Walicki, by Marie and Ken Wujcik

11:15 am †Vito Battisto, by The Battisto Family

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.

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/DioceseofJolietIL>.

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.



Lord God, you have given us the great day of rejoicing as the Church of Joliet celebrates the installation of our new Bishop, Ronald Hicks.

Shed upon your Church the rays of your glory, that, with Bishop Hicks, we may be seen as the gate of salvation open to all nations.

Let cries of joy and exultation ring out from our tents, to celebrate the wonder of Christ's resurrection.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Help Wanted at St. Thomas the Apostle

RECEPTIONIST

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.

FAITH FORMATION ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Job-Share Description – Part-time (12-25 hours per week), non-benefitted position

The Faith Formation Administrative Assistants support the four ministries of Faith Formation: Elementary Faith Formation (pre-K through Grade 5), Middle School Faith Formation (Grades 6-8), High School Youth/Young Adult Ministry, and Adult Faith Formation.

General Job Responsibilities

- Work closely and cooperatively with the other Faith Formation Assistant to perform job duties.
- Be the welcoming face and presence of St. Thomas faith formation.
- Maintain communication with the four faith formation directors so as to understand the needs of the program and to handle questions from parishioners, parents, catechists, and grade-level coordinators.
- Phone and in-person communication with the general public.
- Maintain religious education student files and adult faith formation participant files.
- Maintain the sacrament files.
- Maintain email contact groups.
- Prepare mailings.
- Provide support for faith formation volunteers.

The following task lists provide more detail to the general job responsibilities:

- Class registration responsibilities
 - Prepare registration packet based on input and modifications by the directors.
 - Process registrations which includes assignment to classes.
 - Maintain the database of classes, students, catechists/leaders.
 - Process tuition payments.
 - Document tuition due using ParishSoft.
 - Prepare tuition due reminder letters.
 - Prepare class attendance lists, medical binder, attendance master binder, allergies list and catechists directory.
- Assist the catechists, grade-level coordinators, and directors in gathering the materials they need for classes, catechist meetings, and sacrament meetings.
- Alert directors when office supplies are running low.
- Sacrament Responsibilities
 - Code all students preparing for the sacrament.
 - Verify that the necessary paperwork/information for reception of a sacrament has been received.
 - If necessary information has not been received, communicate with the family and alert director that the information is missing.
 - Record the appropriate sacrament information in the parish database per parish and diocesan requirements.
 - Create, mail, and process documents and forms for sacrament preparation.
 - Create worship aids and seating chart for sacramental celebrations and prayer services.
- Scripture Safari
 - Process enrollment and volunteer forms.
 - Generate name tags, class lists, and allergies list.
 - Assist with mailings to families.
- Create publicity for upcoming programs
- Maintain email lists for current and future programs
- Track attendance at parish programs that fall under the faith formation department
- Be willing to assist at the 'big' department events such as First Communion, Reconciliation, Confirmation, grade-level masses, family faith events, Scripture Safari, Easter Vigil, etc., as needed by the director responsible for that event.

Skills

- Excellent teamwork, dedication and flexibility
- General willingness to help with a servant leader attitude
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Willingness to learn new technology
- Organizational skills
- Ability to prioritize tasks
- Attention to detail
- Proofreading ability

If interested in either position, please submit resume to Kathy Ferguson, 1500 Brookdale Road, Naperville 60563, no later than October 7. Questions? Contact Kathy at mainoffice@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x100.

Faith and Formation Commission — Adult

C.A.R.E. CORNER

The Church soon found herself in great need of reform. In the face of the **abuses, calls for change** arose. Among those heralds was Martin Luther, a German priest who wrote a critique of questionable Church practices. Unfortunately those in the system who need to undergo transformation are often those who are the most unwilling to do so. As we know, beginning in 1517, many broke away from the Catholic Church and formed their own Christian communities, including Henry the VIII in England and Calvin in Switzerland. They **contested** some of the Church's long-held teachings and doctrines, so they simply **changed** them. Other reformers jumped on the bandwagon for **change**, which led to even further **fragmentation** of Christianity.

The Catholic Church eventually undertook necessary **changes** through the Council of Trent later in the 16th century. These **reforms** resulted in clearer teachings, better training for priestly candidates and the printing of Catholic bibles. But the Church in the West had **fractured** and we all remain **separated** from many of our brothers and sisters in Christ. All Christians today are **challenged** by the sheer number and diversity of Christian doctrines at large.

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

- Sign-up for a group now on the parish website at www.stapostle.org.
- Choose a group based on the time that works for you.
- Discussions will begin the first week in October and meet twice monthly until December.
- Get the book from your favorite source soon.*

**If acquiring the book is a hardship, please contact Peggy Goralski at pgoralski@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x123.*

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 so we can share materials with you. If you have any questions, please email Carrie Wujek at cawujek@gmail.com.



You Are Needed!

Our human need for community and connection is essential. St. Thomas currently has some opportunities to minister to others in the following areas. Some of these can be done remotely, if that fits your current comfort zone.

Adult Faith Formation: contact Chari Rosales at croales@stapostle.org

- Married couples who will mentor engaged couples as they prepare for the sacrament
- Baptism preparation for families requesting the sacrament

School-Age Faith Formation: contact Lorraine Katz at lkatz@stapostle.org or Peggy Goralski at pgoralski@stapostle.org

- Aides for Kindergarten and First grade
- Adults or teens to be present during RE class times to act as temperature takers, hall monitors and other similar tasks

High School Faith Formation: contact Dorothy Grantham at dgrantham@stapostle.org

- Freshmen/First Year Confirmation Small Group Leaders: co-leaders for the Journey 1 groups. Times: Sunday 12:30, 4:30 or 7:00 pm and Monday 7:00 pm
- 2nd Year Confirmation Leaders: one co-leader for a Sunday 7:15 pm class with a seasoned Confirmation leader, and two co-leaders for the Sunday 12:30 pm class.
- Greeters who will check in and take temperatures of youth arriving for groups and classes on Sunday and Monday

Faith and Formation Commission — Youth



St. Thomas the Apostle

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Do you remember your children enjoying children's liturgy of the word (preK–5th) during Liturgy of the Word while attending Mass? Materials are available for children each week to enjoy again in your home. Please contact Lorraine Katz at 630.355.8980, x109 or lkatz@stapostle.org to pick up a copy at the Church or receive a digital version.



Elementary RE Classes Have Begun!

It is not too late to register for Elementary RE classes. Go to the St. Thomas website to download forms or stop in at the Church Monday–Friday 9:00 am–3:00 pm to register your child for RE Classes or the homeschool option.

Is First Communion on your child's horizon? It involves two years of RE instruction. Register today. Contact Lorraine Katz at 630.355.8980, x109 or lkatz@stapostle.org with questions.

Substitute Catechists Needed for Elementary RE

Come share your talents with others! Elementary RE is looking for substitute catechists and aides for Tuesday afternoon 4:30–5:45 pm and Saturday 8:30–9:45 am classes. Share your faith with children of all ages. Class size is small (limited to 10) and safety precautions are practiced. Contact Lorraine Katz at 630.355.8980, x109 or lkatz@stapostle.org to sign up or discuss.

Our Lady of Fatima Rosary Rally October 10, 2020

Looking for an outdoor safe family faith activity? Come pray the rosary outside Saturday, October 10. Be at an outside prayer station at 11:45 am. No experience needed. Sign up by email to receive registration packet and information at fatimarosaryrally@gmail.com. Contact Lorraine Katz at 630.355.8980, x109 or lkatz@stapostle.org with questions.

Stay Tuned!

Support scouting and buy some popcorn! The Cub Scout pack 125 will be selling popcorn after all Masses the weekend of October 3–4, 2020, and October 10–11, 2020. Note, more than 70% of the proceeds supports the scouts directly. Sales will be conducted with social distancing to keep everyone safe.

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. That couldn't happen without the help and support of many others.

A big shout out goes to:

- Parents who were able to give this new way of doing RE a try, for your patience with the process and your commitment to the faith life of your children.
- Those catechists who volunteered to teach in-person RE classes: John and Jen Kennedy, Kathy and Elijah Powell, Sean Elliffe, Tanya Galer and Mary Wright.
- Those catechists who were so willing to teach RE via Zoom: Darlene Dionne-Karales, Mary Szczap, Vicki Agustsson, Chris Baker, Tim Berglund and Karen Curran.
- The volunteers who are willing to do behind the scenes 'stuff' to help our programs run smoothly: Bernie Salzig, John Growney and Carolyn Vondran.

Question of the week ...

Are you living your life in balance and taking some time to pray?



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.

Important Dates for Middle School RE

September 26, October 3, 17: Saturday middle school RE classes meet.
September 28, October 5, 19: Monday middle school RE classes meet.
September 26 and 28: Parent RE Open House for Zoom classes.

Middle school religious education sessions do not meet on October 10 or 12.



Teens with Character

Middle school students ... Teens with Character will meet on Sunday, October 4, from 4:30–6:00 pm at St. Thomas. Bring your facemask and join us. Games, faith sharing, checking in with each other are all part of the Teens with Character experience.

We would love to see you!

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!

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 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 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 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

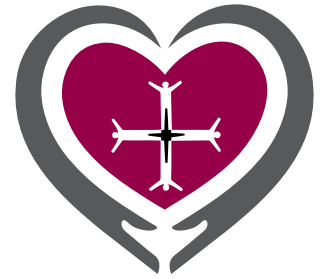
From the Office of the Parish Nurse

Wary of Using Public Bathrooms in the time of COVID-19?

Here are some quick tips to make your bathroom pit stop safer, based on the knowledge that coronavirus particles may linger both on surfaces and in the air. Though it's unknown if public toilets play any role in the transmission of COVID-19, it still makes sense to be cautious.

- When possible, use restrooms that are less trafficked, and wait to go in until a stall opens up.
- Wear a face covering (even if you are the only one there) remain physically distanced from other occupants (if present), and limit touching surfaces with bare hands. If you must touch something, use a paper towel, tissue, piece of toilet paper or disinfectant wipe.
- Close the toilet lid before flushing to prevent the release of potential virus-containing aerosol droplets. This may help protect others as well as yourself. For toilets without a lid or those that flush automatically, step away as quickly as possible.
- Wash your hands after, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water. If the faucet is not touchless, use a paper towel or tissue to turn it off so as not to recontaminate your hands.
- Dry your hands with a paper towel or tissue — not a hand dryer, which might spread aerosolized virus particles around.
- No soap available? Use that alcohol-based hand sanitizer that you should have with you at all times when you leave home. It should contain a minimum of 60 percent alcohol.
- If you have to touch the door handle when exiting, use a paper towel or tissue as a barrier.
- Lastly, spend as little time inside as possible — a public bathroom is not a place to linger.

Resource: October 2020 University of California, Berkeley Wellness Letter



PASTORAL CARE

St. Thomas the Apostle

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

"Comfort, comfort My people," says your God.

Isaiah 40:1

From the Behavioral Health Ministry St. Dymphna Mass, Patron Saint of Those Struggling with Emotional/Mental Illness

St. Dymphna is the patron saint of people living with emotional and mental illness. Her mother died when Dymphna was 17. Her father struggled with emotional and mental difficulties following his wife's death. These difficulties led to her martyrdom. Cures and miracles were attributed to her and as a result highly successful treatment centers are named for her.

The Behavioral Health Ministry is offering a Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle on Monday, October 26, 2020 at 7:00 pm to commemorate her courage and strength and for her plight to provide care and treatment for people with mental illness.

Please come to celebrate her life and to pray for those who struggle with emotional/mental illness and their families.

Sign up online at www.stapoaatl.org by Wednesday, October 21.

Please contact Susan Kearney at 630.355.8980, x108 or sdkearney@comcast.net with questions.



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

happiness

From Behavioral Health Team: The Art of Happiness

What is the key to happiness? Self-help books might say a combination of diet and exercise. Hollywood might tell you fame and beauty. The corporate world might say wealth and the corner office.

But the key is actually practicing happiness, just like you might practice a sport or an instrument. You can train your mind, brain and spirit to be happy in positive situations, just like you use coping skills in difficult situations.

Stop and Savor

If you want to be happy, then savoring is the way to get there, according to Fred Bryant, a psychology professor who has been studying happiness for 38 years. His definition for savoring: The capacity that humans have to notice, focus on and appreciate positive experiences — such as activities or moments in time where there are good feelings involved.

There is no shortage of research and information on how to deal with depression, trauma and other difficult circumstances in life, but much less on the positive experiences in life, whether it is a beautiful sunset, a promotion at work or the birth of a child.

Fred Bryant's tips for savoring

- Notice what's around you and take mental photographs so that you can revisit the experience and the positive feelings.
- Share experiences with others. They can often point out things you have overlooked, and vice versa, helping each of you to savor the experience even more.
- Enjoy experiences as they are, rather than thinking about what should have been.
- Prioritize time to do activities that are simply enjoyable.
- Don't wait for something good to happen: Look at what is already in your life whether it is an everyday occurrence or a major milestone.

Source: Loyola University Chicago, *The Art of Happiness* by Maura Sullivan Hill



Pastoral Care Resources

For Spiritual Support and Prayer, please contact the following individuals if you are in need of assistance:

Counseling

Jan, Pastoral Care Office
630.355.8980, x124
Diane, General Office
630.355.8980, x101

Health Resource

Parish Nurses
Felicia, 630.355.8980, x104
Jan, 630.355.8980, x124

Hospital/Pastoral Care Info

Edward Hospital has a pastoral care department with a Catholic Chaplain for an emergency anointing or a Eucharistic visit.

St. Thomas Pastoral Care visit

Jan, Pastoral Care Office
630.355.8980, x124
Diane, General Office
630.355.8980, x101

Please Continue Giving to St. Thomas

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

Service Commission — Outreach and Social Justice

Haiti Weekend

This is Haiti Weekend when 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 is visiting virtually via a video. There will be a “second collection” to benefit our Haiti Twinning Education and Medical activities (see below).



“Second Collection” Options

- Attend Mass and, as you are able, place your donation in the basket at the church exit.
- 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.
- Credit Card: Go to <https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1479/DirectDonate/76745>.

Education Project – Reliable Internet

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 proforma (\$8,500).

Medical Activities

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.

Brief Haiti Twinning History

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.

When Twinning began, there was only one public elementary school with four 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.

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.

Haiti Twinning Sponsor-a-Child

Some parishioners have been asking about the annual Haiti Twinning Sponsor-a-Child campaign that raises funds to help St. Thomas School and Ertha’s Elementary School with salaries for high quality teachers. The COVID pandemic that is severely limiting attendance at the Masses is forcing a different approach this year. The campaign will kick-off next weekend with more information in the bulletin. Stay tuned.

Education makes all the difference and quality teachers make all the difference in the quality of the education. It is the primary reason that more than 95% of the students at St. Thomas School and Ertha’s school pass the government tests. (The average pass rate in Haiti is about 50%).

OSJ Council Meeting A Prayer that Brings a Smile!

It was wonderful to see the OSJ ministry facilitators (via Zoom) at the recent OSJ Council meeting. Everyone was in good spirits! The facilitators are holding meetings via Zoom, checking in with ministry members, and for some of the ministries, continuing to provide Outreach Justice services — most notably Care Pantry and Hessed House. The work of justice does not stop!

The OSJ Council consists of the facilitators for each of the OSJ ministries; Linda Bailey, the OSJ rep to the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC); and Mike Ryder, Anne Schultz and Sally Meno from the OSJ Office. It is a magnificent group of people!

Anne Schultz wrote the prayer to open the meeting ... a delightful prayer that brings a smile.

Loving God,

Your abundant creation teems with marvelous beings.

A group of butterflies is called a kaleidoscope.

A group of penguins on land is called a waddle.

A group of peacocks is called an ostentation.

A group of compassionate, dedicated and spirit-filled people is called the St. Thomas the Apostle OSJ Council.

Our lives are enriched by walking the road of ministry with the Council. You have gifted them with curiosity, resolve and grace. The roads leading them to their respective ministries are varied and sometimes full of twists and forks in the road. We have been blessed to hear their stories and life experiences that have brought them to the work of Outreach Justice and Social Justice.

Guide our decisions, provide us with appropriate resources, hear our prayers, and when we grow weary, infuse our bodies, minds and spirits with your strength, your wisdom and your care. May we continue to see your face in each person we meet and may our hearts be open to intentional listening, challenging questions and the courage to get into what John Lewis described as “good and necessary trouble.”

May we be like a group of crocodiles, which is called a bask. We are your beloved daughters and sons, blessed with the faith that no matter what, we are able to bask in your love.

We ask all this in Your name, through the humanity of your son, Jesus, and with the spark and radiance of the Holy Spirit.

Amen



Haiti Twinning Sponsor-a-Child



St. Thomas High School

It Starts with Education

Education continues to make a difference. Over the 21 years of “Twinning”, St. Thomas added classroom after classroom to two elementary schools and the secondary school until the village had its first high school graduation in 2009. One graduate, Dr. Nickson Polyte, is now serving as the doctor at the Healthcare Clinic built by St. Thomas. St. Thomas High School is the highest rated school in the large Grand Anse Area. Please see Johanne Jeudy’s reflection on the importance of education in Duchity (other side of this page).

Quality Teachers Make All the Difference

The Sponsor-a-Child program continues to support quality teachers for Ertha’s Elementary School and St. Thomas Secondary/High School.



Last Year’s high school graduating class



Elementary school students in Duchity

Sponsor-a-Child Donations a bit different this pandemic year

Normally with your donation you select a picture(s) of a Duchity student for your refrigerator or other place as a reminder to pray for all the students in Duchity. This year, you can make a donation and receive pictures in the following ways:

Suggested Donation \$50 But any amount welcomed with gratitude.

- Drop off donation at St. Thomas (Gathering Area). **Select picture(s) from display in Gathering Area.**
- Checks written to “St. Thomas OSJ” with “SAC” 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. **Send note with check with address and number & gender of picture(s) needed. Pictures will be mailed.**
- On-line donation: Go to <https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1479/DirectDonate/57424>. **Email Mike Ryder (mryder@stapostle.org) with address and number & gender of picture(s) needed. Pictures will be mailed.**

Whether you are able to donate or not, please pray for the students in Duchity.



Haiti Twinning Sponsor-a-Child

Johanne Jeudy is from Ste. Marie-Madeleine Parish in Duchity, Haiti. She came to the US in 2009 as a high school youth with little English and lived with St. Thomas families. She graduated from St. Francis High School, Benedictine University, and earned a Master's degree from DePaul University in nursing. This Haiti Weekend, she reflected on her journey ... and the impact St. Thomas is having on education in the Duchity community. Below is a portion of her reflection.



"I am here today because of the education I received in Duchity at St. Thomas Secondary School. I remember thinking how will my mom be able to send us to school after we were done with 6th grade at Jean Claude's school. She was paying almost nothing for us to go there. Before St. Thomas and Ste. Marie Madeleine started twinning, there was no school past 6th grade in the village. Children were walking for many hours to Beaumont to continue their education. You can imagine how scary it was for these parents to send their kids so far all alone. Many students ended their education at 6th grade because parents could not afford to send them to other cities. Soon after Twinning began, the St. Thomas secondary school began ... and many young people, including me, were able to receive a higher education, get out of the poverty circle, and are able now to help their families and the community."

"The students in Duchity are so eager to learn and become something. They are studying with kerosene lamps and have no idea what the future will provide for them, but they are still going to school because they know that the only way to better their lives and the lives of their families is education."

"The people of Duchity continue to need your support, especially the young people to get an education."



Enthusiastic St. Thomas High School Students



Elementary school students ... Everyone has the answer!

**A Reflection from a
Haiti Twinning
Mission Team Member**

Warmth radiates on the rainiest of days in the smiles of the people.
Pride sparkles from the brightly clean clothes amid the mud and the dust.
Hope flows through the streets and paths of the mountain in the laughter of the children.

And yet they have so little.
If they had but a bit more, they would do so much more.
If we had but a bit less, it would hardly make a difference.

Register to Vote

If you need to register to vote, do so NOW!

Catholic Social Teaching

"We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable."

US Conference of Catholic Bishops

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3.

To register to vote in Illinois you must:

- Be a citizen of the United States.
- Be a resident of Illinois and of your election precinct at least 30 days before the next election.
- Be at least 18 years old on or before the next election.

On-Line Voter Registration by Saturday, October 17

- Need an Illinois driver's license or ID and a Social Security number to use Illinois' online voter registration system. (If you don't have an Illinois-issued ID, you can still register by mail to vote.)
- To register online, go to <https://ova.elections.il.gov/Step0.aspx>.

By-Mail Voter Registration postmarked by Tuesday October 6

- To access the voter registration form, go to <https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/SiteCollectionDocuments/sber19.pdf>.
- Registration forms should be mailed to: Election Division, 421 N. County Farm Road, Rm 1-600, Wheaton, IL 60187.
- If you do not receive a confirmation within 4 weeks of mailing or delivering the form, call the Election Division at 630.407.5600.

In Person Registration by October 6

- For DuPage and Will County residents only, at the Naperville Municipal Center, 400 S. Eagle St.
- Monday–Friday, 8:00 am–5:00 pm, no appointment necessary.
- Need two forms of identification, one of which must have your correct name and address on it. You do not need a photo ID to register.
- **Grace Period Registration:** Registering to vote or transferring a registration and voting during the "Grace Period" may be done in the Election Division office, 421 North County Farm Road, Wheaton, Illinois beginning 27 days prior until the day before an election.

Mail-In Ballot Process

For people who have requested a mail-in ballot, ballots will be sent out starting September 24. Voters can request a mail-in ballot through October 28, but election officials recommend voters apply earlier, preferably by October 15. Mail-in ballots must be postmarked by November 3, Election Day, and will be counted if received by November 17. Mail-In Ballots can also be dropped off at any of the early voting site locations...see information below.

In-Person Early Voting Process

Touchscreen Voting

Election workers verify the voter's registration status through a central database at the DuPage County Election Division. If the voter is not registered, they must register at the appropriate area in the location.

There are temporary and permanent locations throughout the county that open on October 19. A summary of locations, including addresses and hours, can be found online with this article at www.stapostle.org. The locations closest to St. Thomas are the Naperville Municipal Center, Islamic Center of Naperville on 75th Street, Fox Valley Mall and The Courtyard Banquets in Warrenville.

Paper Ballots

Paper Ballots are available during In-Person Early Voting ONLY at the DuPage Fairgrounds Early Voting Site, which is the only site to open for Early Voting on September 24.

For additional information, go to <https://www.dupageco.org/earlyvoting/>



Entertaining TV!

City Council Workshop – Tuesday September 29

The St. Thomas Housing Alliance Ministry has been advocating for more affordable housing in Naperville for at least four years. The Alliance has been working with the Naperville Housing Advisory Commission (HAC) and City Council.

The City Council is holding a ZOOM workshop to discuss the affordable housing recommendations (see below) presented to them by the Housing Advisory Commission. It promises to be an interesting session. The major item of discussion will be the Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance recommendation.

If you are curious as to how the Naperville City Council works and would like some insight on the specific city councilmen, councilwomen and the mayor, tune in ... even for a short time. As it is a ZOOM meeting, it provides an easy way to tune in ... and tune out, at your leisure.

The workshop is Tuesday, September 22, from 7:00–10:00 pm. Go to <https://www.naperville.il.us/government/city-of-naperville-government-meeting-listing/> and scroll down to find the agenda and the ZOOM link for access to the meeting.

Background

Naperville has been in violation of an Illinois law requiring 10% affordable housing for many years. The city is currently at 7.5%. The Housing Alliance worked with the Housing Advisory Commission to identify eight recommendations that were advanced to the City Council and considered at the August 4 City Council Meeting. After some debate, the Council agreed to convene a workshop on the recommendations in September.

Housing Advisory Recommendations to City Council

1. Develop working relationships with affordable housing developers.
2. Develop a strategy to leverage publicly owned land.
3. Develop a specific plan to preserve "Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing."
4. Establish additional resources to assist populations with special housing needs.
5. Create a specific staff position within the city to address housing issues.
6. Establish a rehabilitation loan fund to help low income senior homeowners make repairs.
7. Establish a housing trust fund to help veterans, seniors, populations with special housing needs and first responders (including nurses, police officers and firefighters) purchase a home.
8. Implement an inclusionary zoning ordinance that would require developers to include a percentage of affordable units in their projects or contribute to a fund to support affordable housing.

Stewardship and Administration

The Week Ahead

Monday, September 28

7:00–9:00 pm Confirmation Class, Ministry Center
7:15–8:30 pm Middle School RE, Ministry Center

Tuesday, September 29

10:00–11:00 am Care Pantry–Drive Around
4:30–5:45 pm RE at St. Thomas
7:00–9:00 pm Wellspring, Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, September 30

9:15–11:15 am Wednesday Bible Study–Zoom Meeting
7:00–9:00 pm Baptism Class–Zoom Meeting

Thursday, October 1

9:15–11:15 am Thursday Bible Study, Senior Center
6:30–8:30 pm Life Retreat Planning, Ministry Center
7:30–9:00 pm Thursday PM Bible Study, Senior Center

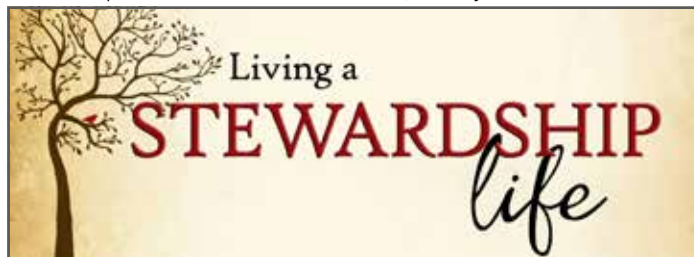
Friday, October 2

Saturday, October 3

8:30–11:45 am RE at All Saints Academy
3:30–4:15 pm Reconciliation, Galilee

Sunday, October 4

9:30–11:30 am RCIA, Gathering Area
12:30–2:00 pm Confirmation Classes, Ministry Center
2:00–3:00 pm Baptism, Church
4:30–6:00 pm Teens with Character, Ministry Center
4:30–6:00 pm Confirmation Classes, Ministry Center
7:00–9:00 pm Confirmation Classes, Ministry Center



When the pandemic hit back in March and our church had to shut down we asked you to continue to use your treasure to support the Parish. That could mean that your weekly contribution could be mailed or that you could set up giving electronically. Of course, those contributions were limited and our Finance Commission with all our departments worked very hard to anticipate what this year would look like. Budgets were decreased, keeping in mind that our parishioners and programs were of the utmost importance.

If you look at the weekly Financial Report in the bulletin, you will see that currently we are operating at a deficit. As of last week we were \$14,230 short of our weekly financial goal. The fiscal year is new, but this is not a good trend. Contributions to the Diocesan Appeal have only been 79.60% completed, but we are still committed to the Diocese and are required to pay 100%. Part of this is attributed to the decrease in attendance in person at Mass every week. Our attendance has leveled off, but the bills still appear.

Around this time every year we ask that you consider your contribution to St. Thomas. Now, more than ever, we ask of you to pray about your use of your treasure. That could mean you drop your weekly contribution in the baskets in the back of the church every week, you mail in your envelopes, or that you set up contributing electronically, by contacting the Business Office.

Last weekend's stewardship of financial gifts

Weekly Sunday Offertory

September 13, 2020	
Sunday Collection Offering*	\$14,639
Credit Card On-Line Giving	none this week
Automatic Direct Debit (5 th and 20 th each month)	none this week
Mailed in and stock donations	\$14,814
Total for the week	\$29,453
*Based on Collection Counters Reports prior to bank confirmation	
Fiscal Year (7/1 to 6/30)	\$356,351
Weekly Average 7/1/2019 to date	\$32,396
Offertory Goal Year to date	\$370,580
Over/short of goal to date	(\$14,230)
Goal for Fiscal Year 7/1 to 6/30	\$1,751,833
Percent of Annual Sunday Offertory Goal	20%
Remaining for Fiscal Year goal	\$1,395,482

This week, the Sunday collection is \$14,230 behind goal so far this year. Capital needs restricted gifts were \$367 this past week. We are grateful to those who recognize the need and responded.

Diocesan Appeal 2020

Parish Appeal Goal	\$174,600
Pledges Received	\$138,974
Percent of Goal pledged to date	79.60%
Unpaid pledges	\$16,905
Paid to Date	\$122,069
Percent of goal paid to date	69.91

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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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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 Email: sales@jspaluch.com



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